

## Table of Contents

Abstract	i-v
Declaration	vi
Certificate	vii
Acknowledgement	viii-ix
Table of Contents	x-xiv
List of Tables	xv-xviii
List of Figures	xix-xx
Glossary of Terms/Acronym	xxi-xxii
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Overview of the Logistics Sector	1
1.1.1 Introduction to Logistics Management	1
1.1.2 Contribution of Logistics Sector to world economy	2
1.1.3 Global, national and regional Logistics policies	3
1.1.4 Introduction to transportation and transport infrastructure	7
1.1.5 Overview of the modes of transportation	9
1.1.6 Cost implications for transportation modes	10
1.1.7 Introduction to integrated logistics and freight optimization models	11
1.2 Overview of water transportation	12
1.2.1 Evolution of water transport and its role in global trade	13
1.2.2 Challenges in sea transport	13
1.2.3 Inland water transportation and its significance	14
1.2.4 Inland water transport supporting infrastructure	15
1.2.5 Transport Economics for the sector	16
1.3 Overview of Inland water transportation in India	17

1.3.1 National waterways and its classification	18
1.3.2 Key trade and transport routes	21
1.3.3 Major inland water ports and supporting infrastructure	24
1.3.4 Stakeholders in transportation decisions	25
1.3.5 Ministry of Ports, Shipping and waterways	26
1.3.6 Inland Waterway Authority of India (IWAI)	27
1.3.7 Major projects and developmental initiatives	28
1.3.8 Prospects of the sector in fostering trade and commerce	30
1.4 Overview of Inland water infrastructure in Assam	31
1.4.1 Major waterways and routes	31
1.4.2 Inland water ports along the major waterways	34
1.4.3 Transport policies and trade protocols	34
1.4.4 IWAI Divisional offices and port infrastructure	35
1.4.5 Assam Inland Water Transport	36
1.4.6 Opportunities and Challenges	37
1.4.7 Major developmental initiatives	40
1.4.8 Partners supporting the sector	42
1.5 Chapterization of the Study	42
2. Literature Review	44
2.1 Water Transport in terms of economic advantage	45
2.2 Key Challenges of Inland Waterway Transport	45
2.3 Inland Waterway Transport- Global and National Perspective	46
2.4 Inland Water Transport- Regional and Assam studies	47
2.5 Water Transport optimization measures- worldwide	48
2.6 Multi Criteria Decision Techniques for Ranking	48
2.7 Port Ranking and its antecedents	50

2.8 The Research Gap	51
3. Objectives, Scope and Limitation	53
3.1 Need of the Study	53
3.2 Objectives of the study	54
3.3 Scope of the study	55
3.3.1 Geographical Scope	56
3.3.2 Academic Scope	56
3.3.3 Timelines under consideration	57
3.4 Limitations of the study	57
4. Research Methodology	60
4.1 About the study	60
4.2 Research Methodology	60
4.2.1 Inland Water Port Ranking Exercise	60
4.2.1.1 Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) for port ranking	61
4.2.1.2 Selection of inland water ports for study	62
4.2.1.3 Criteria and Sub-criteria identification	63
4.2.1.4 Sources of data	66
4.2.1.4.1 Government organization/agencies	67
4.2.1.4.2 Shippers/Shipping agents	68
4.2.1.4.3 Academia	68
4.2.1.5 Data collection period	68
4.2.1.6 Extent of data collection	69
4.2.1.7 Tools for data collection	69
4.2.1.8 AHP tool for data analysis	70
4.2.2 Identification of dry port location	72
4.2.2.1 Hub and Spoke Network design	74

4.2.2.2 Parameters for the Hub and Spoke (HS) Model	75
4.2.2.3 Hub and Spoke Theoretical Framework	75
4.2.2.4 Data and Assumptions	77
4.2.3 Optimization of the port network system	77
4.2.3.1 Optimization of the port network system	78
5. Identification And Ranking of Key Inland Water Ports	79
5.1 Identification of the inland water ports	79
5.1.1 Brief Description of the selected ports	79
5.2 Profile of the Respondents for AHP questionnaire	82
5.3 Pairwise Comparison Matrices	83
5.3.1 Sub criteria weightage calculation	84
5.3.1.1 Pairwise Comparison for Sub criteria of Criterion 1 Port Geographical Location	84
5.3.1.2 Pairwise Comparison for Sub criteria of Criterion 2 Port Physical Conditions	86
5.3.1.3 Pairwise Comparison for Sub criteria of Criterion 3 Port Infrastructure	87
5.3.1.4 Pairwise Comparison for Sub criteria of Criterion 4 Port Costs	88
5.3.1.5 Pairwise Comparison for Sub criteria of Criterion 5 Port Efficiency & Perf.	89
5.3.2 Main Criteria weightage calculation	91
5.3.3 Consistency ratio calculation	92
5.4 Calculation of global weights	95
5.5 Comparison among the selected ports in terms of Sub Criteria	97
5.5.1 Stakeholder rating-based sub criteria	99
5.5.2 Distance based sub criteria	100
5.5.3 Area based sub criteria	101
5.5.4 Time based sub criteria	102
5.5.5 Cost based sub criteria	102
5.5.6 Specific data-based sub criteria	103

5.6 Computation of weighted scores for each of the selected inland water ports	107
5.7 Ranking of the key inland water ports	108
6. Identification of Dry Port Location and Optimization of the Network	109
6.1 Preliminary identification of hubs and spokes	109
6.1.1 Selection of feeder inland water ports along Brahmaputra and Barak	109
6.1.2 Consideration of prospective hub locations (dry ports)	109
6.1.3 Identification of hubs (dry ports)	110
6.2 Distance Matrix for the port network system	110
6.3 Optimisation of the network	112
6.3.1 One (1) Hub Scenario Model	112
6.3.2 Two (2) Hub Scenario Model	113
6.3.3 Three (3) Hub Scenario Model	114
6.4 Identification of optimal port locations for the network	115
6.5 Hub and spoke network for the optimized configuration	116
7. Findings And Discussion	117
7.1 Key findings and discussion w.r.t. Objective 1	117
7.2 Key findings and discussion w.r.t. Objective 2 and Objective 3	119
7.3 Implication of the study	120
7.3.1 Academic and Research Implication	120
7.3.2 Managerial and Policy Implication	121
7.4 Recommendations	122
7.4.1 Recommendations from research findings	122
7.4.2 Recommendations from observation	123
7.5 Conclusion	124
7.5.1 Contribution of the study	124
7.5.1.1 Contribution to body of knowledge	124

7.5.1.2 Contribution to practice	125
7.5.2 Scope for future study	125
Bibliography	
List of publications and conference presentations	
Appendix	