

‘Water aerodrome plan gets govt nod’

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THE CIVIL aviation ministry has approved a proposal for setting up of water aerodromes in the country, with Chilika Lake in Odisha, Sardar Sarovar Dam and Sabarmati River Front in Gujarat being identified in the first phase for development of such facilities, an official said on Saturday.

The proposal was cleared by Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu on Friday.

The DGCA issued regulations in June this year, prescribing procedures and requirement for licencing of water aerodromes.

Since there is no historical data on the market and demand from any airlines, the project will be done as a pilot project,

the ministry official said. The development would pave the way for operation of amphibian planes (both in land and water) to enhance air connectivity. Under the proposal, water aerodrome would be set up near locations of tourist and religious importance.

The Airports Authority of India has already identified the sites in Odisha, Gujarat, Assam, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh where water aerodrome would be developed.

“In the first phase, Chilika Lake in Odisha, Sardar Sarovar Dam and Sabarmati River Front in Gujarat have been identified for development of water aerodromes,” the official said. Prabhu on Saturday tweeted a news report, titled ‘In a step towards sea-planes, government clears ‘water aerodrome’ rules’.