



State-of-the-Art Cruise at Mahakumbh's Grandeur

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government is preparing for [Mahakumbh 2025](#), adding a new attraction, the Nishadraj cruise.

Key Points

- **Launch of Nishadraj Cruise:**
 - The Nishadraj cruise, managed by the [Inland Waterways Authority of India \(IWAI\)](#), has begun its **journey from Varanasi to Prayagraj**.
 - The **cruise is equipped with modern amenities**, reflecting the state's commitment to innovation and excellence.
 - There is ongoing **coordination between the Prayagraj Mela Authority** and the **Varanasi administration** for the cruise's journey.
- Inauguration:
 - The **Prime Minister is scheduled to visit Mahakumbh on 13th December 2024**.
 - At [Shrungverpur Dham](#), the PM will **unveil statues of Lord Ram** and Nishadraj before boarding the Nishadraj cruise for a journey from Arail to **the Sangam**.
 - Upon reaching the Sangam, he will perform a ritual bath and pay homage to the sacred [Ganga River](#).
 - The itinerary includes a Ganga Aarti, visits to the Bade Hanuman Temple and Akshayavat, and interactions with prominent saints and spiritual leaders at the Parade Ground.

Inland Waterways Authority of India

- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is a **statutory body** under the **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) Act, 1985**.
- It was established in **1986** under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** for development and regulation of inland waterways for shipping and navigation.
- It is **headquartered in Noida, Uttar Pradesh** and its main function is to build necessary infrastructure in inland waterways, surveying economic feasibility of new projects and also carrying out administration and regulation.
- As per the **National Waterways Act, 2016**, **111 waterways** have been declared as National Waterways.