'Namo Yamuna' cruise: Delhi's first recreational boat on the Yamuna

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News

Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta launched the 'Namo Yamuna' river cruise (river safari) service on the Yamuna at Sonia Vihar, Delhi, on 10 November 2026. Reports describe it as the capital's first recreational cruise service on the Yamuna. It runs on a pilot stretch of about 4 km between Sonia Vihar and Jagatpur (part of National Waterway-110), upstream of the Wazirabad barrage, in 35–45 minutes. A 30-seat electric vessel is used, with zero-discharge bio-toilets; a second boat is due by February–March 2027. The fare is ₹500, plus a ₹50 entry fee. It was developed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) with the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC), Delhi Jal Board and Delhi's Irrigation and Flood Control Department; the IWAI–Delhi agencies MoU was signed in March 2025. The service will be suspended during the monsoon (1 July–30 September).

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Service	Namo Yamuna River Cruise (Safari)
Launch	10 November 2026, Sonia Vihar, Delhi
Launched by	Sarbananda Sonowal (Union Minister), Rekha Gupta (Delhi CM)

Point	Details
Route	Sonia Vihar–Jagatpur, upstream of Wazirabad barrage, about 4 km (NW-110)
Vessel	30-seat electric boat, bio-toilets
Fare	₹500 + ₹50 entry; 35–45 minutes
Agencies	IWAI (developer), DDA, DTTDC, Delhi Jal Board; MoU March 2025
Suspension	1 July–30 September (monsoon)

Background

- Geography: The Yamuna rises from the Yamunotri glacier on the Bandarpunch range in Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand. It flows along the Himachal–Uttarakhand and Haryana–UP borders, past Delhi, Mathura and Agra, and joins the Ganga at Prayagraj (Triveni Sangam); it is about 1,376 km long. The Tons is its major Himalayan tributary; from the peninsula the Chambal, Sindh, Betwa and Ken join it – the Chambal being the longest.
- Waterways: The National Waterways Act, 2016 declared 106 new waterways, taking the total to 111; the Yamuna is National Waterway-110. NW-1 (Ganga–Bhagirathi–Hooghly, Prayagraj–Haldia) is the longest. IWAI, which develops inland waterways, was set up in 1986 and is headquartered at Noida.
- Environment: Delhi's 22-km stretch is under 2% of the Yamuna's length, yet CPCB reports attribute a large share of the river's pollution to it. The cruise starts upstream of Wazirabad, where the water is relatively cleaner. Toxic foam is often seen near the Okhla barrage in winter.

Tamil Nadu link: The Buckingham Canal is part of National Waterway-4, which covers the Kakinada–Puducherry canals along with stretches of the Godavari and Krishna; its southern stretch runs along Tamil Nadu's coast through Chennai.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Service: Namo Yamuna River Cruise (Safari); Launch: 10 November 2026, Sonia Vihar, Delhi; Launched by: Sarbananda Sonowal (Union Minister), Rekha Gupta (Delhi CM); Route: Sonia Vihar–Jagatpur, upstream of Wazirabad barrage, about 4 km (NW-110).

What is the background to this news?

Geography: The Yamuna rises from the Yamunotri glacier on the Bandarpunch range in Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand. It flows along the Himachal–Uttarakhand and Haryana–UP borders, past Delhi, Mathura and Agra, and joins the Ganga at Prayagraj (Triveni Sangam); it is about 1,376 km long.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. The Yamuna, on which the 'Namo Yamuna' cruise was launched in Delhi, rises at the Yamunotri glacier. In which State is it?

A) Himachal Pradesh

B) Uttarakhand

C) Haryana

D) Jammu and Kashmir

Answer: B – Explanation: Uttarakhand – Uttarkashi district, on the Bandarpunch range. Yamunotri is one of the 'Char Dham' pilgrim sites.

2. Which is the longest tributary of the Yamuna?

A) Chambal

B) Tons

C) Hindon

D) Sindh

Answer: A – Explanation: Chambal – rises in the Janapav hills of MP and joins the Yamuna near Etawah, UP; it is a sanctuary for gharials.

3. At which city does the Yamuna meet the Ganga?

A) Varanasi

B) Haridwar

C) Prayagraj

D) Patna

Answer: C – Explanation: Prayagraj – the Triveni Sangam (Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati), the site of the Kumbh Mela.

4. Where is the headquarters of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), which developed the Yamuna cruise with Delhi agencies?

A) Noida

B) Kolkata

C) Patna

D) New Delhi

Answer: A – Explanation: Noida (UP) – a statutory body set up in 1986 under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

5. The Buckingham Canal, which passes through Chennai, is part of which National Waterway?

A) NW-1

B) NW-4

C) NW-3

D) NW-2

Answer: B – Explanation: NW-4 – Kakinada–Puducherry canals with the Godavari and Krishna. NW-1 is the Ganga, NW-2 the Brahmaputra, NW-3 Keralam's West Coast Canal.

Sources: The Tribune; ThePrint; Millennium Post; UNI; Outlook Traveller; Business Today (PTI); Asianet Newsable; National Waterways Act, 2016; IWAI. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.