

Mumbai to host 'waterways to wonder' cruise tourism conference

The Mumbai Port Trust, in association with the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and the Indian Ports Association (IPA), will host 'Waterways to Wonder: Unlocking Cruise Tourism' on Monday, August 18, in Mumbai.

The half-day conference will bring together key dignitaries from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation, and stakeholders from the cruise and maritime sectors to explore India's cruise tourism potential.

According to the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the event will focus on strategic policy frameworks, regulatory mechanisms, cruise itineraries, terminal best practices, smart operations, and sustainable port strategies aimed at positioning India as a global hub for cruise tourism.

Highlights of the conference include:

- Keynote Address: By Vijay Kumar, Chairman, IWAI, and Nodal Officer of NAVIC Cell 4, which promotes integrated ocean, river, and ferry tourism circuits.
- NAVIC Cell 4 Session: Showcasing achievements and reforms in cruise and ferry services.
- Panel Discussion: Featuring industry leaders such as Vikas Narwal (MD, IPA), A.K. Bansal (Chief Engineer, IWAI), Opesh Sharma (Director–Cruise, MoPSW), Vikas Malviya (Director, Nordic Cruiseline Pvt Ltd), and representatives from Antara Cruises/Heritage River Journeys Pvt Ltd, among others.

The panel will deliberate on operational strategies, infrastructure development, and enhancing passenger experiences in the Indian cruise sector.

The conference will conclude with a presentation on India Maritime Week 2025, scheduled for October, which will spotlight developments, investment opportunities, and global collaborations in the maritime industry.