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Delhi Unveils Yamuna Cruise and 12-km Chhath Ghat Plan

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Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta marked Independence Day with the announcement of a series of tourism initiatives aimed at enhancing the capital's cultural, spiritual, and heritage profile.

Speaking at the celebration, Chief Minister Gupta outlined three major projects: a 12-kilometre Chhath Ghat along the Yamuna, a state-of-the-art river cruise service, and a heritage tourism circuit connecting the city's key historical landmarks.

“Delhi’s rich history, spiritual traditions, and modern aspirations make it a city like no other,” Gupta said. “These tourism projects will strengthen our economy and provide every visitor with a deeper connection to our capital.”

The proposed heritage circuit will connect forts, monuments, museums, and cultural centres through a single route. The initiative is expected to improve navigation for visitors, encourage longer stays, and offer tourists an integrated cultural experience. Officials say the route will highlight Delhi’s historical significance while improving access to less-visited sites.

The government’s plan for a modern river cruise along the Yamuna includes viewing decks for passengers to enjoy the city’s riverfront and major cultural sites. Evening Aarti ceremonies, inspired by traditional river rituals across India, will be held regularly on the riverbanks to attract both domestic and international visitors.

Among the largest of its kind in the country, the planned Chhath Ghat will stretch 12 kilometres along the Yamuna. It will serve as a significant venue for spiritual gatherings, especially during Chhath Puja and other religious festivals, which draw large numbers of devotees. Authorities expect the site to become a focal point for both cultural celebration and tourism activity.

According to the Chief Minister’s office, the projects will be rolled out in stages, allowing for infrastructure readiness and sustainable development. The phased approach is expected to ensure minimal disruption to existing public spaces while creating lasting benefits for the tourism sector.

Gupta emphasised that these initiatives are part of a broader vision to make Delhi a global cultural and spiritual hub. “With small but strong steps, we will create an independent, developed Delhi, one that the world will admire as a proud symbol of our nation’s potential,” she said.

Once complete, the projects are expected to boost the local economy, generate employment opportunities, and enhance Delhi’s standing as a major tourism destination in India.