

River of Opportunities: Careers in Inland Cruise Tourism

Ranjana Singh

India's river cruise tourism is making impressive waves with 19.4% increase in voyages on National Waterways rising from 371 in 2023–24 to 443 in 2024–25. This sharp growth is a clear indicator of the expanding popularity and operational efficiency of inland cruises in India's vast river systems.

Spearheaded by the Cruise Bharat Mission, the Government of India is charting an ambitious course to transform inland waterways into vibrant cruise routes. By 2027, 51 new river cruise circuits are set to be developed across 47 National Waterways spanning 14 states and 3 Union Territories. This mission also aims to triple the number of river cruise passengers—from 0.5 million to 1.5 million—within the next two years, while emphasising eco-friendly tourism practices and the use of green vessels.

Growth Trajectory of India's River Cruise Tourism

The growth of this sector is being driven by the proactive efforts of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. From just five vessels operating on three waterways in 2013–14, the cruise network has grown to 25

vessels navigating 13 National Waterways in 2024–25— thanks to significant infrastructure upgrades such as cruise terminals, 24/7 navigation aids, pilotage services, and shore-side facilities that enhance passenger comfort and operator confidence alike.

In a major boost to India's international appeal, the globally renowned luxury cruise company, Viking Cruises, has announced its foray into the Indian market with the Viking Brahmputra, an 80-guest luxury vessel that will be indigenously built by Hooghly Cochin Shipyard Limited in Kolkata and operate on National Waterway-2. This launch, scheduled for late 2027, is a strong signal of global interest in India's river cruise potential.

Milestones like the record-setting MV Ganga Vilas— the world's longest river cruise covering 3,200 km from Varanasi to Dibrugarh through 27 river systems across five Indian states and Bangladesh— have further spotlighted India on the global cruise map. Popular cruise destinations such as the Sundarbans in West Bengal, Brahmputra in Assam, and Alappuzha in Kerala are also drawing growing numbers of domestic and international tourists.

To support this growth, IWAI is working hand-in-hand with several state governments. Partnerships with Gujarat

and Madhya Pradesh for cruise operations on the Narmada, with the Delhi Government for ferry and cruise services on the Yamuna, and with Jammu and Kashmir for sustainable river tourism on the Jhelum, Ravi, and Chenab are opening new frontiers. Major cruise terminals are also under development in Varanasi, Guwahati, Kolkata, and Patna, with additional terminals planned in the Northeast at Silghat, Biswanath Ghat, Neamati, and Guijan by 2027.

Career Opportunities

As the nation's rivers transform into luxurious and sustainable travel corridors, cruise tourism is not just redefining how we travel— it's also opening a sea of career opportunities for India's youth. Cruise tourism is a multi-disciplinary industry. Whether your background is in hospitality, engineering, environmental studies, arts, or marketing, there's room for you aboard this booming sector.

Hospitality & Guest Services: For those with a background in hotel management or tourism, the cruise industry offers an exciting extension of the hospitality sector— only this time, your workplace floats. Cruise ships, often described as luxury resorts on water, demand high standards of guest service and seamless

operations. Professionals in this domain ensure that every aspect of a passenger's experience is smooth, enjoyable, and memorable. Key roles include Cruise Managers who oversee onboard services, Guest Relations Executives who serve as the face of the voyage, Food and Beverage Managers ensuring culinary excellence, and Housekeeping Supervisors maintaining immaculate environments. Onboard Concierges cater to guest requests with finesse, while Spa, Wellness, and Fitness Trainers add a touch of rejuvenation to the journey. Success in these roles calls for strong communication skills, an eye for detail, a customer-first attitude, and, increasingly, multilingual abilities to cater to international guests.

Guiding & Cultural Interpretation: For students of history, tourism studies, languages, or performing arts, this sector offers a unique platform to turn knowledge into immersive guest experiences. Whether you're guiding a group through the spiritual ghats of Varanasi, interpreting the biodiversity of the Sundarbans, or

Continued on page 4

Follow us



@Employ_News

Follow us



@EmploymentNews

Continued from page 1

River of Opportunities...

curating cultural performances onboard, your role becomes central to how travellers engage with India. Positions like onboard tour guides, heritage interpreters, and excursion coordinators allow you to bridge worlds and craft meaningful connections. A strong command over regional histories, communication skills, and multilingual proficiency can set you apart in this domain—making every cruise an unforgettable voyage of discovery for travelers.

Marine Engineering & Navigation: As cruise traffic increases along India's extensive inland waterways, there's a growing demand for marine engineers, deck officers, navigation specialists, and river pilots. These professionals ensure vessels run safely and efficiently, adapting to the unique challenges of riverine ecosystems. With qualifications in marine engineering, nautical science, or naval architecture, you'll work on tasks ranging from engine maintenance and navigation control to logistics and port coordination.

Sustainability & Eco-Tourism

Experts: With the Cruise Bharat Mission strongly emphasizing green tourism, sustainability professionals are becoming vital to the industry's growth. If your academic path lies in environmental science, sustainable development, or marine ecology, you'll find meaningful opportunities in this space. From developing low-emission cruise vessels to managing onboard waste and ensuring compliance with eco-friendly tourism standards, your work will directly influence how responsibly the sector expands. Roles such as Environmental Officers, Waste Management Coordinators, and Eco-tourism Planners let you bring together science, policy, and passion—contributing to a cruise industry that thrives without compromising the environment.

Marketing, Branding & Experience Design: Cruise companies need creative minds to shape their identity and connect with audiences. If you're trained in marketing, communication, digital media, or design, the cruise industry offers vibrant roles in brand building, digital marketing, customer engagement, and

experience design. Whether you're curating Instagrammable journeys, creating destination videos, or designing loyalty programs, your job will be to craft emotional and visual appeal that draws travelers in. As competition heats up among domestic and international cruise operators, creative professionals who can blend culture, technology, and storytelling will be the new navigators of this journey.

Shipbuilding & Infrastructure Development: Behind every smooth sail is a strong infrastructure system—and engineers are at the helm of building it. With cruise terminals being developed in cities like Varanasi, Guwahati, Kolkata, and Patna, and vessels like Viking Brahmputra being built indigenously, there's a growing demand for civil engineers, mechanical engineers, and naval architects. Your work may involve designing cruise terminals, ensuring waterway navigability, maintaining port facilities, or contributing to vessel construction and retrofitting.

Where to Study & Train

- For those drawn to the service and experience side of cruising, pursuing hospitality and tourism programs at Institutes of Hotel Management (IHMs) under the National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology (NCHMCT), or at the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITM), can provide a solid foundation.
- Aspiring marine engineers, navigators, or deck officers can set sail with specialised degrees from institutions like the Indian Maritime University (IMU), Tolani Maritime Institute, or MERI Kolkata—all of which offer industry-aligned training in marine and nautical sciences.
- If sustainability and ecological stewardship are your calling, institutions such as the TERI School of Advanced Studies and the National Institute of Environmental Studies offer programs focused on environmental science and sustainable development.
- Those with a creative or strategic bent can find their fit in marketing, branding, and experience design through institutes like the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), the National Institute of Design (NID), MICA, Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, or Delhi University, which offer strong curricula in design thinking, marketing, and communications.
- Additionally, short-term industry-specific courses in cruise line operations, river navigation, and port management are offered by various private training institutes.
- Adding a foreign language diploma—especially in widely spoken tourist languages such as French, Spanish, or German—can further enhance your profile, especially if you're eyeing a career in guiding or international guest services.
- Whatever your background or interest, there's a stream of opportunity waiting for you in the rising tide of India's river cruise tourism boom.

(The author is an educationist and career counselor. Views expressed are personal.)

Tata Memorial Centre

Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC)

Sector-22, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai-410210

Grant-in Aid Institution of Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Advertisement No.: ACTREC/ADVT/A-11/A-12/2025

22/07/2025

ACTREC invites applications for the following posts as approved by competent authority:

Sr. No.	Name of the post
1	Assistant Professor 'E' (Pathology) (1-UR)
2	Consultant 'D' (Pathology) (2-UR)
3	Scientific Officer 'E' (Transplant Immunology and Immunogenetics Laboratory) (1-UR)
4	Scientific Officer 'C' (Center for Cancer Epidemiology) (1-OBC)
5	Scientific Officer 'C' (Information Technology - Networking) (1-OBC)
6	Scientific Assistant 'B' (Nuclear Medicine) (1-UR, 1-SC, 1-OBC)
7	Scientific Assistant 'B' (Cancer Cytogenetic Lab) (1-OBC)
8	Scientific Assistant 'B' (Animal Sciences) (1-UR)
9	Co-ordinator 'B' (Medical Purchase/Stores) (1-OBC)
10	Co-ordinator 'B' (Medical Administration) (1-SC)
11	Technician 'A' (CRI Labs) (4-UR)

Online registration of applications made available from 22/07/2025 to 22/08/2025. Last date for online application is 22/08/2025 up to 05.30 p.m. (Indian Standard Time).

For more details please visit our website <https://actrec.gov.in>

It is mandatory to submit ONLINE application.

Any addendum or corrigendum to this advertisement will be uploaded on above website.

Chief Administrative Officer, ACTREC
EN 18/102

CBC 48160/12/0001/2526

Government of India
Ministry of Defence

Department of Defence Production
Directorate General of Quality Assurance
Chief Quality Assurance Establishment (Naval Stores)

DQAN/NMRL Complex, 8th Floor, Naval Dockyard, Tiger Gate, Mumbai - 400023

1. Recruitment to Group 'C' post was advertised vide Advertisement Number CBC 10203/11/0001/2425 (EN 10/13) published in Employment News dated 08 to 14 Jun 2024. The examination for shortlisted candidates was undertaken on 18 Mar 2025. The recruitment result has been approved by competent authority. The result is as follows:-

(a) To the post of Senior Store Keeper

Sl. No.	Roll No.	Name	Date of Birth	Gender	Category	Marks Obtained	Remarks
Selected Panel							
(i)	34	Babu Lal Meena	05 Apr 95	Male	ST/ Department	70	RAUV*
(ii)	158	EN Haribabu	19 Jun 78	Male	Gen/ Ex-Serviceman	60	--
Reserve Panel							
(i)	64	Vishal Singh	01 May 91	Male	UR/ Department	56	--
(ii)	82	Akash Shankar Uthale	10 Oct 97	Male	UR	56	--
(iii)	77	Rohit Yadav	26 Feb 98	Male	UR	48	--
(iv)	94	Vaibhav Narayan Gaikwad	09 Mar 93	Male	UR/ Department	39	--
(v)	65	Deepak	15 Oct 99	Male	UR	28	--

(b) To the post of Stenographer-II

Sl. No.	Roll No.	Name	Date of Birth	Gender	Category	Marks Obtained	Remarks
Selected Panel							
(i)	106	Rimsha Aljaj Kudalkar	11 Jun 05	Female	UR	74	--
Reserve Panel							
(i)	32	Sneha Kenson	11 Oct 01	Female	OBC	60	RAUV*

(c) To the post of Multi-Tasking Staff (Office)

Sl. No.	Roll No.	Name	Date of Birth	Gender	Category	Marks Obtained	Remarks
Selected Panel							
(i)	991	Mayank Gajanan Ramtekkar	25 Sep 00	Male	UR	76	--
(ii)	988	Vishnu Kumar	30 Jun 04	Male	EWS	76	--
(iii)	1340	Pradnyesh Prakash Dhanavade	01 Jan 97	Male	OBC/ PwBD (D, HH)	41	RAUV*
Reserve Panel							
(i)	1007	Ayesha Shoeb Balbale	19 Feb 00	Female	EWS	71	--
(ii)	875	Kadam Dhanshree Santosh	28 Dec 02	Female	UR	70	--
(iii)	1221	Munni Ram Jajhra	10 Jun 03	Male	UR	67	--
(iv)	858	Divya Banna	27 Aug 99	Female	UR	61	--
(v)	978	Jadhav Ganesh Kusheba	02 Nov 99	Male	EWS	48	--
(vi)	627	Vikas Sharma	15 Aug 05	Male	EWS	39	--
(vii)	02	Sabia Arif Baig	06 Nov 99	Female	UR/ PwBD (D, HH)	31	--
(viii)	1444	Dayachand	12 Sep 95	Male	UR/ PwBD (D, HH)	22	--
(ix)	18	Priya Kumari Chaudhary	22 Jul 99	Female	SC/ PwBD (D, HH)	17	RAUV*

(d) To the post of Tasking Staff (Sanitary)

Sl. No.	Roll No.	Name	Date of Birth	Gender	Category	Marks Obtained	Remarks
Selected Panel							
(i)	80	Sumit	14 Dec 01	Male	EWS	66	--
Reserve Panel							
(i)	72	Tarade Tejas Balu	27 Aug 02	Male	EWS	37	--
(ii)	79	Sandesh Gajanan Date	04 Jan 00	Male	EWS	32	--
(iii)	75	Nawal Singh	20 Jan 01	Male	EWS	19	--

*RAUV- Recommended against Un-reserved Vacancy
CBC 10203/11/0001/2526

EN 18/93