

# UP set to have inland waterways authority

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Lucknow:** In a significant move to develop water transport and tourism in UP, the state govt approved the formation of the Uttar Pradesh Inland Waterways Authority.

To ensure the smooth functioning of this authority, the 'Uttar Pradesh Waterways Authority Rules 2025' were promulgated, with the cabinet's nod to the regulations.

Notably, India designated 111 national waterways, with UP having 11 of them, including the Ganga and Yamuna. The newly established authority aims to make transportation along these waterways more cost-effective and convenient. Govt expects that enhancing the water transport system will ease the burden on other modes of transport while stimulating business activities.

The authority will be led by the transport minister appointed by the CM or by an expert in inland waterways, shipping, navigation, ports and maritime affairs. The sta-

te govt will also appoint a vice-chairperson from among the experts. Besides, the ACS or principal secretary of finance, public works, tourism and culture, irrigation and water resources and forest and environment department will serve as ex-officio members. A representative nominated by the chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) will also be a member. The transport commissioner of UP will serve as the CEO of the authority.

The authority includes several key provisions, such as powers and responsibilities of the chairperson and vice-chairperson, residential arrangements, travel allowances, meeting procedures, quorum, formation of advisory committees, operational processes, tenure of members, expert panels, budget regulations, accounting and auditing rules.

Additionally, it covers provisions related to annual financial reports, reserve funds and access to land and property.