

## Get ready for 'Dal Lake' feel in Delhi: Baansera Park set for Kashmir-style houseboat as DDA fast-tracks Rs 4cr plan



Delhi's Baansera Park is set to welcome a Rs 4-crore, 60-foot-long houseboat, designed like a traditional Kashmiri vessel with Persian carvings

NEW DELHI: Delhi Development Authority's Baansera Park, a hub of recreational activities, is set to soon get a Rs 4-crore houseboat complete with leisure and entertainment facilities. Designed to resemble a traditional

Kashmiri houseboat and intricately carved in Persian style, the 60-foot-long structure will be permanently fixed to the ground near the park's eatery and is expected to have a lifespan of nearly 50 years.

According to officials, the houseboat will include a multi-purpose hall, lobby, pantry, store, eating and deck areas at the front and rear, and toilet facilities. The middle deck will have a glazed meeting hall to accommodate 15 people for corporate meetings and other events, along with a balcony and store. Access to the boat will be provided through staircases on both sides.

### DDA Puts Its Houseboat Plan On Fast Track

To fast-track the project, the authority has started a tendering process to appoint an agency to build the houseboat. Work is scheduled to be completed within six months from the date the tender is awarded. The contractor has to submit final structural drawings vetted by selected institutes within 30 days of the award of work, or before the commencement of the structural activity, whichever is earlier.

"The scope of work includes architectural, structural and services design, including its the houseboat's foundation, structural steel superstructure, wooden cladding systems, plumbing and drainage systems," according to the tender proposal. The entire construction will use several varieties of wood: deodar at the base, a superstructure made of cedar wood and intricate walnut wood carvings. Ceilings and interior wall panels will be finished using chinar wood. The foundation at the plinth level will be a concrete structure to provide stability. From railings and columns to mehrab arches and exterior wall panels, everything will be intricately carved by expert artisans in the Persian style, the official said, adding that the cedar wood windows will

feature carved sash designs with glass panes. The wood used in the structure will be properly seasoned to prevent warping and joints sealed with natural resin or other suitable all-weather sealants to ensure durability. The structure will be coated with two layers of fire-retardant paint on cleaned wood. The roof will feature eco-friendly, lightweight calcium silicate false ceiling tiles, while wooden railings and door frames will be installed in deck areas. Flooring at the base level will be done using engineered wood, while walls will be finished with fire-resistant boards and wooden panels. Backsplashes will be made of ceramic tiles and doors of fire-resistant engineered wood. The project is part of restoration and rejuvenation of the Yamuna floodplain stretch from Nizamuddin Bridge to DND Flyway on the western bank. Baansera Park has had a steady expansion of recreational facilities in recent years. In Nov 2024, the authority opened Cafe Bamboo Oasis to the public and added a tethered hot-air balloon on Dec 1, 2025. The park hosts cultural events, including the upcoming Palash Festival.