



Sonamura-Daudkandi Inland Waterway Route

Why in News

Recently, **Sonamura-Daudkandi** inland waterway route between India and Bangladesh was operationalised.

- Daudkandi is in Bangladesh, while Sonamura is in Tripura, India.

Key Points

- **Sonamura-Daudkandi Route:** The inland waterway route **over river Gumati** was included in the list of [Indo-Bangla Protocol \(IBP\) routes](#) in May 2020.
 - It connects **Tripura with the National Waterways of India** through Bangladesh.
- **Benefit of the Route:**
 - It will improve the connectivity of Tripura and the adjoining States with Indian and Bangladesh's economic centers and will help the hinterland of both the countries.
 - It will open up new avenues for economic development in both the countries.
- **Protocol on Transit and Trade:** Bangladesh and India have a long standing and time-tested Protocol on Transit and Trade through [inland waterways](#).
 - It provides inland waterways connectivity between the two countries, particularly with the North Eastern Region of India and also enhances bilateral trade.
 - This Protocol was first signed in 1972.
 - It was last renewed in for five years with a provision for its automatic renewal for a further period of five years.

Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Routes

- As per the **IBP on Inland Water Transit & Trade**, inland vessels of one country can transit through the specified routes of the other country.
- The existing protocol routes are:
 - Kolkata-Pandu-Kolkata
 - Kolkata-Karimganj - Kolkata
 - Rajshahi-Dhulian-Rajshahi
 - Pandu-Karimganj-Pandu
 - Sonamura-Daudkandi
- Under the Protocol, **50:50 cargo sharing** by Indian and Bangladeshi vessels is permitted both for transit and inter country trade.
- [Inland Waterways Authority of India \(IWAI\)](#) is the Competent Authority on Indian side.

River Gumati

- It is the **largest and longest river of Tripura** with a cumulative length of 180 km.
- **Dumbur dam** is built over the river.

- The river meets with river **Meghna** in Bangladesh.

Source: IE

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