



Maitri Setu

Source: ET

Why in News?

The Maitri Setu, also known as the [India-Bangladesh friendship bridge](#), is set to open by September, connecting India's [landlocked Northeast](#) to the Bay of Bengal.



What are the Key Facts about the Maitri-Setu?

▪ About:

- The bridge is **1.9 kilometres long** and connects [Sabroom in Tripura](#) with **Ramgarh in Bangladesh**.
- Maitri Setu is constructed over the **Feni River**, which acts as a **boundary** between India (in Tripura) and Bangladesh.
- The name '**Maitri Setu**' signifies the **strengthening of bilateral relations** and friendly ties between India and Bangladesh.
- It is a **pre-stressed concrete bridge** with a single-span structure that facilitates smooth traffic and cargo flow.
- The construction of the bridge has been supervised by the **National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL)**.
 - NHIDCL is a **government-owned company** established in 2014 for the **development & maintenance of National Highways & Strategic Roads** of India. It operates as a **nodal agency** of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

▪ **Significance:**

- The bridge will play a **central role** in allowing India to transport goods from **West Bengal to Northeast India** through the **Chittagong and Mongla Ports** in Bangladesh.
 - **Cargo movement** through the bridge is **strategically important** as Bangladesh's Chittagong port is just 80km from Tripura's Sabroom.
- It would serve as a new trade corridor between the two countries, helping in the development of **Northeastern states**. It will also enhance **people-to-people connect between India's northeast and Bangladesh**.
- Bangladesh is the **biggest trade partner** of India in South Asia and an integral part of India's [Act East Policy](#).
 - The completion of Maitri Setu bridge will strengthen **India's strategic ties** as well as **bilateral trade** with Bangladesh.
- The **new maritime route** from **Kolkata to Chittagong** will provide the quickest way for the movement of goods and an **alternative to the** [Sittwe Port-Kaladan route](#).

Key Facts about Feni River

- It **originates** in the **South Tripura district**, passes through Sabroom town in India, and flows into Bangladesh before **meeting the Bay of Bengal**.
- The river is **116 kilometres long** from its source to the Bay of Bengal.
- Some **notable tributaries** of the Feni River include the **Muhuri River, Raidak River, Chandkhira River, Ryang River, and** [Kushiyara River](#).

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. With reference to river Teesta, consider the following statements: (2017)

1. The source of river Teesta is the same as that of Brahmaputra but it flows through Sikkim.
2. River Rangeet originates in Sikkim and it is a tributary of river Teesta.
3. River Teesta flows into Bay of Bengal on the border of India and Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)