

# River Cruise Tourism in IBP Route



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## Indo Bangla Protocol Route - Mapping

### Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route - Mapping



❖ IBP Route connects NW 1 with NW 2 and NW 16 and provides an alternative route to congested Siliguri corridor.

Following are circuits identified for river cruise operation on IBP Route

- Mongla circuit
- Barisal circuit
- Narayanganj circuit

*River Tourism Internationally*



*Danube River*



*Nile River*



Indian River Cruise

*River Tourism in India*



Lakshadweep



Goa



Kerala

### *IWAI Vision on River Cruise Tourism*

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- ❖ India is being developed as a Cruise Shipping destination as per Maritime India Vision 2030 with joint cooperation with Government of Bangladesh, river cruise tourism on IBP route is being promoted to connect the tourism places on river Ganga, Brahmaputra and other rivers in Bangladesh.
- ❖ It would allow Indian cruise vessels to ply on Bangladesh waters and explore heritages sites along the stretch of IBP route.
- ❖ IWAI is committed to provide navigable channel for movement of river cruise in National waterways and IBP Route.
- ❖ IWAI would provide necessary terminal infrastructure for Development of River Cruise Tourism.

# SOP - Development of River Cruise Tourism

## River Cruise tourism through Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route



01

### Overview

- SOP of MoU on Passenger and Cruise service on the Coastal and Protocol routes between India and Bangladesh signed on 25th October 2018

02

### Scope

- Enhance bilateral movement of passenger, tourist and cruise;
- Enhance credibility, accuracy, efficiency and transparency; and
- Minimize unnecessary hindrance in service and operation

03

### Applicability

- Applicable to vessels engaged on passenger & cruise services registered under Inland Vessels Act 1917 and Merchant Shipping Act 1958 – for Indian vessels, and Inland Shipping Ordinance, 1976 and Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1983 – for Bangladesh vessels

04

### Movement

- Flag off of First vessel on 29th March 2019
- RV Bengal Ganga from Kolkata to Dhaka and back
- MV Madhumoti from Dhaka to Kolkata and back

## Cruise vessels Movement

*Inaugural cruise operation between Kolkata and Dhaka on Indo- Bangladesh protocol route*

**Indian  
Flag**



**RV Bengal Ganga – 56 PAX**

RV Bengal Ganga flagged off from Kolkata on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and scheduled to reach Dhaka on 07<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**Bangladesh  
Flag**



**MV Madhumoti – 28 PAX**

MV Madhumoti flagged off from Dhaka on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and reached Kolkata on 01<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and sailed back to Dhaka on 04<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**Cruise movement on IBP  
route from NW-2**

*Cruise movement on Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route (from Pandu on NW -2 to Narayanganj, Bangladesh)*



*MV Mahabaahu for cruise operation- from Pandu to Narayanganj (from 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019)*



*MV Mahabaahu berthed at Narayanganj River port's VIP jetty*



**Prominent Location – Indo  
Bangla Protocol Route**

### *World Heritage Sites in between Guwahati & Kolkata River Cruise Route*

❖ *Three UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the Manas National Park in Assam, Mosque City of Bagerhat in Bangladesh, and the Sundarbans among others*



Manas National Park - Assam



Sixty Dome Mosque - Bangladesh



Sundarbans – West Bengal



Prominent Location – Indo  
Bangla Protocol Route

*Some of Tourists Locations in hinterland of IBP*



Bali Island in Sundarban



Kochikhali Forest – West  
Bengal



Lalbagh Fort - Bangladesh

### *River Cruise Tourism - Impact on Local Community of both Countries*

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- ❖ Would generate employment to the people of both countries in the form of cruise crew, jetty operators, language translator, local tourist guide, local cultural artists, small boat operators etc.
- ❖ Would also provide employment to local woman population in the sector of local food joints etc.
- ❖ Would be helpful for cultural enhancement as well as regional integration.
- ❖ Would provide skilled/non skilled employment through training of local boat operators, hoteliers and restaurants operators to handle international tourists.
- ❖ Would benefit the local markets i.e. handicrafts to some extent.

## Opportunities Galore – IBP Route

### River Cruise Tourism on IBP



01

**Diverse tourism opportunities connecting NW 1, IBP & NW 2 National Waterways & IBP route flow through geographies with rich Cultural and Wild life heritage**

02

**Significant Untapped potential on Indo Bangla Protocol Route River cruise tourism has been explored to a limited extent and has significant untapped potential by connecting Kolkata to Assam through IBP**

03

**Synergized efforts among stakeholders of both countries Stakeholders encompassing Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Shipping (IWAI), Ministry of Home Affairs (Immigration), State Govts., Cruise operators and Tourism companies need to synergize the efforts to promote River Cruise tourism**

04

**Employment Generation Development of river cruise tourism will generate direct and indirect employment opportunities in Tourism, Shipping, Vessel construction and Hospitality sectors.**

## *River Cruise Tourism - Easing of River Cruise in India*

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There is a need for easing:-

1. Security issues relating to river cruise tourism
2. Immigration checks for passengers and crew
3. Custom clearance without any delays
4. Health clearance for all foreign tourist arriving in India on river cruises

Maritime India Vision has prioritise three areas i.e. Promoting Cargo Handling, Urban Transport through waterways and River Cruise Tourism



*The Journey begins .....*

