

Public Private Dialogue on

# India-Bangladesh Cross-border Tourism and Cruise Operations

**29**  
**APRIL, 2021**  
**Thursday**  
**11:00 am - 01:00 pm**  
**(IST)**



**Bipul Chatterjee**  
Executive Director  
CUTS International  
**Moderator**



**Amita Prasad**  
Chairperson, Inland Waterways  
Authority of India  
**Special Address**



**Commodore Golam Sadeq**  
Chairperson, Bangladesh Inland  
Water Transport Authority  
**Special Address**



**Taufiq Rahman**  
Chief Executive  
Journey Plus, Bangladesh



**Raj Singh**  
Director, M/S Heritage River  
Cruises Private Limited



**Shanti Doley**  
Director, Brahmaputra Cruise  
Private Limited



**Samudra Gupta Kashyap**  
State Information Commissioner,  
Government of Assam



**Biswajit Chakrabarty**  
Director, North East Advisory  
Council, Federation of Indian  
Chambers of Commerce and  
Industry



**Enamul Mazid Khan Siddique**  
Head of Climate Justice and Natural  
Resource Rights, Oxfam Bangladesh  
**Vote of Thanks**

## Themes

- How cross-border tourism and cruise operations can be increased, what are gaps in current policies and standard operating procedures and how those gaps can be filled with sustainable interventions?
- How sustainable and inclusive practices can be implemented with cruise operators in India and Bangladesh with an objective of improving the livelihood options of local communities so that conflicts on access to water resources can be reduced?

CUTS International is organizing a Public Private Dialogue (virtually) emphasising on the importance of the cross-border trade, tourism and cruise operations between India and Bangladesh. This dialogue is being organized under a regional programme titled "Trans-boundary Rivers of South Asia" (TROSA), which is supported by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and managed by Oxfam Novib. The project aims to reduce poverty of marginalized and vulnerable river basin communities through increased access to, and control over, water resources, over which their livelihoods depend. The details of the project can be accessed [here](https://tinyurl.com/3pedxh7h).

## Objectives of the dialogue

1. Critical discussion and deliberations on concerns of the private sector, cruise operators, local communities and other actors with respect to the sustainable use of trans-boundary water resources;
2. Private sector should start engaging with/providing dialogue spaces to the communities on the issues of water governance (special focus on women and indigenous community);
3. Increased awareness among relevant stakeholders about potential benefits and challenges of cross-border tourism and cruise operations between India and Bangladesh.

