**Syllabus subtopic:** India and its neighbourhood- relations.

**News:** The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Bangladesh** on the withdrawal of 1.82 cusecs (cubic feet per second) of water from the **Feni river** by India for a drinking water supply scheme for **Sabroom town in Tripura**.

**Prelims focus:** Feni river, origin and tributaries.

**Mains focus:** Significance and the need for MoU.

**About Feni river:**

- The Feni river forms part of the India-Bangladesh border.
- It originates in the South Tripura district, passes through Sabroom town on the Indian side, and meets the Bay of Bengal after it flows into Bangladesh.

**About the dispute:**

There has been no water-sharing agreement between the countries on the Feni previously.

The dispute over the sharing of the river water has been long-standing. It was taken up between India and Pakistan (before the independence of Bangladesh) in 1958 during a Secretary-level meeting in New Delhi.

**Recent developments and significance of the MoU:**

In **August 2019**, India and Bangladesh held a water secretary-level meeting of the **Joint Rivers Commission (JRC)** in Dhaka, where it was agreed to collect data and prepare water-sharing agreements for seven rivers — Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla, Dudhkumar, and Feni.

The MoU stands to benefit **Sabroom town on the southern tip of Tripura**. The present supply of drinking water to Sabroom town is inadequate. **The groundwater in this region has high iron content.** Implementation of this scheme would benefit over 7000 population of Sabroom town.