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Depopulation in Border Areas of Arunachal Pradesh

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Why in News

The Arunachal Pradesh government has sought **pilot development projects to stop people living along its international borders, specifically with China**, from migrating to faraway urban centres in the State.

Arunachal Pradesh shares a **1,080 km border with China, 440 km with Myanmar** and **160 km with Bhutan**.



Key Points

- The several instances of **intrusion by people from Tibet across the McMahon Line into districts of Arunachal Pradesh bordering China** have been reported.
McMahon Line is the boundary between India and China.
- Following the intrusion, the **depopulation in border villages of Arunachal Pradesh** have been observed. It is considered as a **security threat**, as it is easier for foreign armies to occupy vacant villages.

- Though possible facilities are being provided to border villagers under the **Border Area Development Programme** the state government of Arunachal Pradesh has **advocated selection of 10 census towns along the India-China border** as pilot projects for infrastructure development.
- The State government has also proposed a special package of ₹4.60 crores to the Union Home Ministry for development of infrastructure in the border areas.
- The above development is expected to dissuade people from migrating for livelihood.

Border Area Development Programme

- Border Area Development Programme (BADP) was started in the year **1986-87** for balanced development of border areas of states bordering Pakistan, namely, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Gujarat, and Rajasthan. **It was subsequently extended to all the land borders.**
- The programme is administered by the **Department of Border Management of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).**
- States are provided a **100% non-lapsable Special Central Assistance fund** under BADP to meet the special developmental needs and well being of the people living in remote and inaccessible areas situated near the international border.
- The programme was amended in 2015 to provide the provision for third party inspection and quality control mechanism under MHA for random inspections of the BADP schemes.

Source:TH