

6. Depopulation in Border Areas of Arunachal Pradesh

Prelims Syllabus: Governance - Policies

Mains Syllabus: GS-III Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to Internal Security.

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.

Key Points:

- McMahon Line is the boundary between India and China.
- Arunachal Pradesh shares its borders with China, Myanmar and Bhutan.
- There are several instances of intrusion by people from Tibet across the McMahon Line into districts of Arunachal Pradesh bordering China have been reported.
- 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.
- Even 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.

About Border Area Development Programme:

- Border Area Development Programme (BADP) was started 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.