

Army Opens Himalayan Battlefields to Boost Tourism | Jammu & Kashmir | 12 Sep 2024

Why in News?

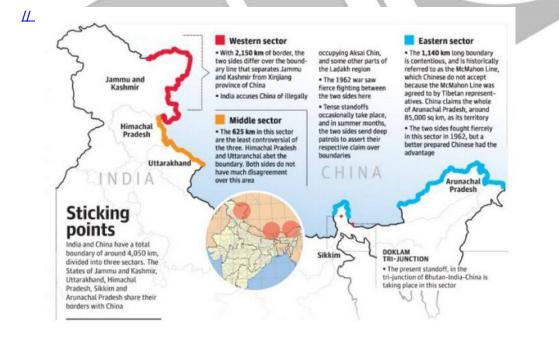
Recently, in a move to enhance <u>border tourism</u> and match <u>China's infrastructure</u> efforts along the <u>Line</u> <u>of Actual Control (LAC)</u>, the Indian Army has opened up **historic battlefield** locations in the <u>Himalayas</u> for tourists.

Key Points

Tourism Infrastructure Development:

- India has identified **100 additional villages** along the **LAC** to create infrastructure for tourism as part of a **multi-pronged approach** to counter China's efforts in the region.
- The Army is opening up Himalayan locations where key battles, such as the <u>Kargil</u> <u>conflict,1999</u> took place.
 - Tourists are now allowed to visit <u>Tiger Hill</u>, a critical site during the Kargil war.
- Border Security and Deterrence:
 - According to the Army, opening these inaccessible areas and developing infrastructure in border regions will act as a deterrent to claims on undemarcated borders with China.
 - A **pilot project** for tourism is being set up in **Zemithang**, the **last Indian village near the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh.** This is the route through which the 14th <u>Dalai Lama</u>

entered India in 1959.



- Line of Actual Control: It is divided into three sectors.
 - The eastern sector which spans Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim (1346 km).

- The middle sector in **Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh** (545 km).
- The western sector in **Ladakh** (1597 km).
- The alignment of the LAC in the eastern sector is along the McMahon Line of 1914.
- Case of Arunachal Pradesh: India's claim line is different from that of the LAC. It is the line seen in the official boundary marked on the maps as released by the Survey of India, including <u>Aksai</u> <u>Chin (occupied by China)</u>. The state of Arunachal Pradesh is an 'integral and inalienable' part of India.
 - In China's case, LAC corresponds mostly to its claim line, but in the eastern sector, it claims the entire Arunachal Pradesh as South Tibet.
- China's Intention: There have been reports of Chinese construction of villages in Arunachal Pradesh, 5 kilometres from the <u>Bum La pass</u>.
 - The construction of the village has been seen by analysts as a move to bolster China's claim to the area, and part of a broader recent push by China to build civilian settlements in disputed frontier areas, which <u>it has also done with Bhutan</u>.

Purple Revolution | Jammu & Kashmir | 12 Sep 2024

Why in News?

The <u>Lavender cultivation</u> success in Jammu and Kashmir exemplifies the powerful collaboration between research institutions, industry, and <u>youth entrepreneurship</u>, offering a path to <u>boost farmers' income</u> and enhance the <u>rural economy</u>.

Key Points

- Aroma Mission and Lavender Cultivation:
 - <u>Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)</u> launched the <u>Jammu and Kashmir</u> <u>Aroma Arogya Gram (JAAG)</u> project to promote alternative crops like <u>medicinal and</u> <u>aromatic plants (MAPs).</u>
 - The <u>Aroma Mission</u> **introduced** lavender cultivation **to boost farmers' income** and create employment.
 - Farmers received free planting material, training, and support in cultivation, processing, and marketing.
 - Originating in **Bhaderwah**, **Doda**, **lavender cultivation** has spread to other J&K districts and states like Uttarakhand, **Himachal Pradesh**, **Arunachal Pradesh**, **and Nagaland**.

Economic Impact:

- Over 1,300 hectares in J&K are under lavender cultivation, with significant progress in districts like Udhampur, Poonch, and Rajouri.
- Lavender farms have gained national recognition and **boosted tourism**, as seen in the <u>Republic Day tableau at Kartavya Path</u>.
- In 2024, Doda district extracted 100 kg of lavender oil and harvested 10 quintals of dry flowers, generating significant revenue for farmers.

Agricultural Challenges in J&K:

- Agriculture employs 65% of the population and contributes 27% to J&K's economy.
- The region faced challenges like **difficult terrain**, **monkey menace**, **and poor accessibility**, **limiting land utilization for traditional crops** (rice, maize, wheat, pulses).

Future Prospects:

- Lavender farming opens opportunities in value-added medicinal and cosmetic products.
- The initiative is a model for rural entrepreneurship, fostering growth in India's path to

becoming a developed nation.

Purple Revolution

- Purple revolution is also known as Lavender Revolution and aims to promote the indigenous aromatic crop-based <u>agro-economy</u> by shifting from foreign aromatics to homegrown kinds.
- First-time producers were offered free lavender seedlings as part of the goal, and those who had previously produced lavender were paid Rs. 5-6 per plant.
- The <u>CSIR-Aroma Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine</u> (IIIM)'s Initiative has begun lavender cultivation in the **Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir.**
- Lavender farming is done in nearly all of Jammu and Kashmir's 20 districts.
 - Particularly, the districts of Kathua, Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Srinagar, Bandipora, Budgam, Ganderbal, Anantnag, Kulgam, Baramulla etc. have made huge progress in this direction.

Lavender Cultivation:

- Native to Europe, lavender was introduced in the temperate regions of Jammu & Kashmir by the **CSIR Aroma Mission.**
- It is a small, perennial aromatic herb shrub used in fragrance, specialty food, and alternative medicine industries.
- Propagation Methods:
 - Seeds
 - Rooted cuttings
 - Tissue culture
 - Layering
- Soil:
 - Grows well in light, well-aerated soil rich in organic matter.
 - Thrives in neutral to alkaline soil that is free-draining.
 - Sensitive to waterlogging but can grow in poor or eroded soil.

• Rainfall:

• Performs well with an annual rainfall range between 300 to 1400 mm.

• Climate:

- A hardy temperate plant, tolerant to drought and frost.
- Prefers cool winters and cool summers with ample sunlight.
- Can be cultivated in areas with snowfall and hilly terrain.

• Applications:

- Food and flavouring
- Pharmaceutical and therapeutic uses
- Cosmetic products
- Industrial purposes

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