



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

Why in News?

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

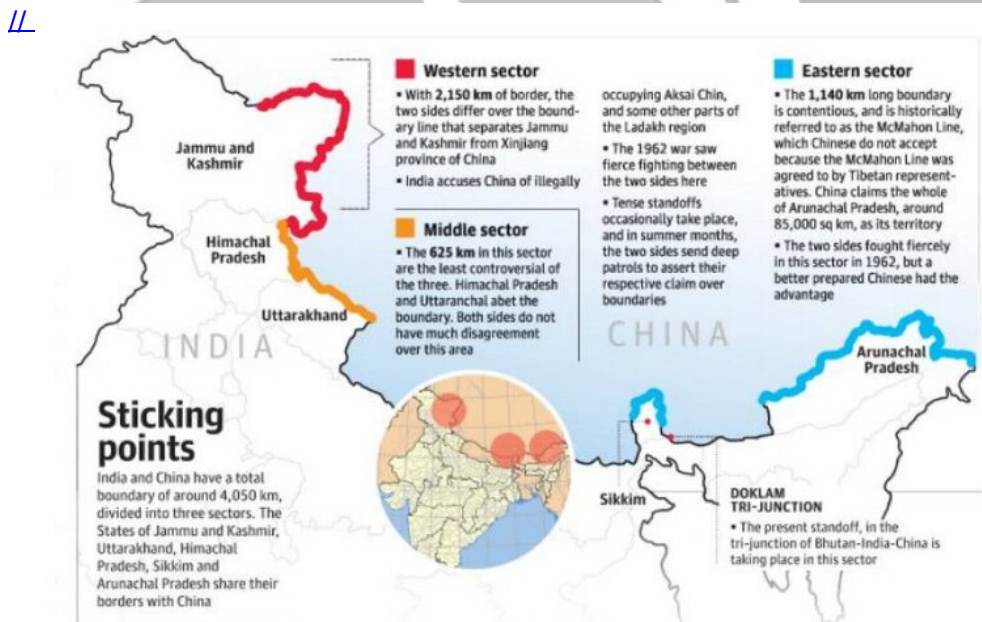
Key Points

▪ 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 [Kargil conflict, 1999](#) took place.
 - Tourists are now allowed to visit [Tiger Hill](#), 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 [Dalai Lama 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 [Aksai Chin \(occupied by China\)](#). 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 [Bum La pass](#).
 - 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 [it has also done with Bhutan](#).

Purple Revolution | Jammu & Kashmir | 12 Sep 2024

Why in News?

The [Lavender cultivation](#) success in Jammu and Kashmir exemplifies the powerful collaboration between research institutions, industry, and [youth entrepreneurship](#), offering a path to [boost farmers' income](#) and enhance the [rural economy](#).

Key Points

- **Aroma Mission and Lavender Cultivation:**
 - [Council of Scientific and Industrial Research \(CSIR\)](#) launched the [Jammu and Kashmir Aroma Arogya Gram \(JAAG\)](#) project to promote alternative crops like [medicinal and aromatic plants \(MAPs\)](#).
 - The [Aroma Mission](#) 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 [Republic Day tableau at Kartavya Path](#).
 - 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 agro-economy** 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 **CSIR-Aroma Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (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