



Army Opens Himalayan Battlefields to Boost Tourism

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](#).

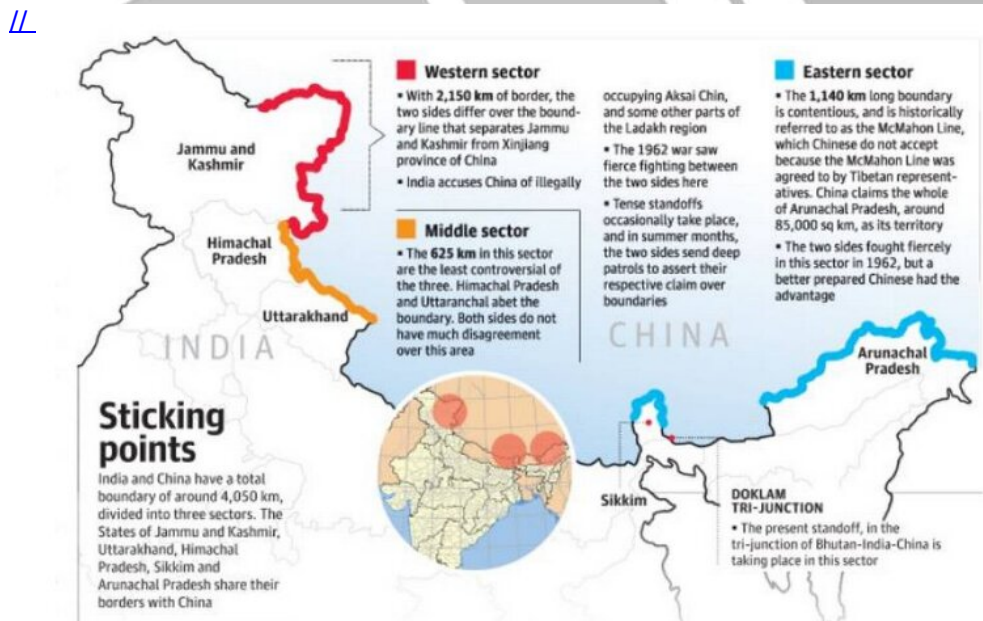
Key Points

▪ 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](#).

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