



Uttarakhand Repopulation Measures

Why in News?

Recently, [Uttarakhand's Rural Development and Migration Prevention Commission](#) submitted a report to the Chief Minister revealing that **11 villages near the Indo-China border** have no residents remaining.

Key Points

- The report was submitted following a **ground survey of 137 border villages** in 2023.
 - Out Of the 11 villages, six are in **Pithoragarh district**- Gumkana, Lum, Khimling, Sagri Dhakdhauna, Sumatu, and Poting.
 - Three are in **Chamoli district**- Rewal Chak Kurkuti, Fagti, and Lamtol and two are in **Uttarkashi district**- Nelang and Jadung.
- The report submitted by the commission comprises several suggestions for the government, such as:
 - Promoting border tourism in those areas by **relaxing accessibility norms**.
 - **Providing 200 days' employment instead of 100 days** under the [MGNREGA program](#) in the border villages.
 - Develop the places situated near the 51 border villages identified as '[Vibrant Villages](#)' by the Centre.

Vibrant Villages Programme

- It is a **Centrally sponsored scheme**, announced in the **Union Budget 2022-23 (to 2025-26)** for development of villages on the **northern border, thus improving the quality of life of people living** in identified border villages.
- It will cover the border areas of **Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Ladakh**.
- It will cover 2,963 villages with 663 of them to be covered in the first phase.
- Vibrant Village Action Plans will be created by the district administration with the help of Gram Panchayats.
- There will **not be overlap with the Border Area Development Programme**.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) Scheme

- Launched in **2005** by the Ministry of Rural Development, MGNREGA stands as one of the **world's largest work guarantee programs**.
- This initiative provides a legal guarantee, ensuring a **hundred days of employment each financial year** for adult members of any rural household.
 - Participants engage in unskilled manual work related to public projects, earning the statutory minimum wage.

