



Government to Spend Money on Roads Along China Border

Why in News?

According to the sources, The government is likely to spend over **Rs. 2 crore on each kilometre of road to be constructed along the China border in Uttarakhand and Sikkim under the [Vibrant Village Programme \(VVP\)](#).**

Key Points

- The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has sanctioned 113 roads under the VVP in **Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim, to improve connectivity in areas along the China border.**
 - While 105 roads have been sanctioned in Arunachal Pradesh, **five roads in Uttarakhand** and three roads in Sikkim have also been approved.
- According to the MHA's sanction letter, 43.96 km of roads are to be built at a cost of Rs. 119 crore at **Pithoragarh district in Uttarakhand.**
 - Each kilometre of road is expected to cost Rs. 2.7 crore. Once constructed, the "asset" will have to be maintained by the State government.
 - In **Sikkim**, around 18.73 km of roads and 350 metres of steel bridges have been sanctioned under the VVP at the **Chungthang and Mangan block** in north Sikkim at a cost of Rs. 96 crore.
 - Each kilometre of road construction will cost Rs. 2.4 crore.

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.**