



Vibrant Villages Programme

Prelims: ITPB, Vibrant Villages Programme, Shinku-La tunnel, LAC, Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Mains: Infra Push for the Bordering Villages.

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved raising of **seven new** [ITBP \(Indo-Tibetan Border Police\) battalions](#) and allocated Rs 4,800 crore under the **Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)** to bolster the social and security framework along the China border.

- The Cabinet has also cleared a 4.1-km Shinku-La tunnel on the Manali-Darcha-Padum-Nimmu axis to allow **all-weather connectivity to Ladakh**.

What is the Significance?

- It is aimed at **strengthening the security grid on the [Line of Actual Control \(LAC\)](#)**. It will also provide a window for the ITBP to rest, recuperate and train its personnel.
- The decision to raise additional battalions was taken keeping an eye **on the need for effective monitoring in the border areas and the battalion**.
- The government's decision to approve a financial package for border villages and upgrade security comes at a time **when issues with China are still to be resolved along the LAC** in Ladakh. PLA troops are still squatting in the Depsang Plains and Demchok. China is also upgrading its infrastructure along the LAC.

What is the Vibrant Villages Programme?

- **About:**
 - 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 Border Area Development Programme**.
- **Objective:**
 - The scheme aids to identify and develop the economic drivers based on local, natural, human and other resources of the border villages on the northern border;
 - Development of growth centres on **'hub and spoke model'** through promotion of social entrepreneurship, empowerment of youth and women through skill development and entrepreneurship;
 - Leveraging the **tourism potential through promotion of local**, cultural, traditional

- knowledge and heritage;
- Development of **sustainable eco-agri businesses** on the concept of '**one village-one product**' through community-based organisations, cooperatives, NGOs.

What are the Key Points of the Shinku-La tunnel?

- It is a 4.1-km tunnel on the **Nimu-Padam-Darcha Road link** to provide all-weather connectivity to the **border areas of Ladakh**.
- The tunnel will be completed by December 2025.
- It is very important as far as the security and safety of the country is concerned.
- It will also help in the movement of security forces in that region.

Source: TH

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