



Reimposition of Protected Area Regime

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

The Union Home Ministry has reimposed the **Protected Area Regime (PAR) in Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland** due to rising security concerns **over foreign influx from neighboring countries**.

- The decision highlights the government's renewed focus on **monitoring foreign movements** and addressing security issues in these sensitive regions.

What is the Protected Area Regime?

- **About:** The PAR is a set of regulations established under the **Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958**, which is aimed at **regulating foreign visitors to areas that are considered strategically important** or vulnerable to external threats, particularly in the [northeastern states](#) and other border regions of India.
- **Key Features of the PAR:**
 - **Restricted Access:** Foreigners are not allowed to visit areas under the PAR without prior government approval.
 - To enter these areas, they must apply for and obtain a **Protected Area Permit (PAP)**, which allows authorities to monitor the movement of foreign nationals in sensitive regions.
 - The areas covered by the PAR are deemed sensitive due to their proximity to international borders or because of ethnic tensions, insurgency, or political instability.
 - **Relaxations and Reimposition:** In the past, there have been temporary relaxations to **encourage tourism in some regions**, like in Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland, where the PAR was relaxed in 2010 for promoting tourism.
 - However, such relaxations were reversed when security concerns arose, as seen with the recent reimposition of the PAR in these states.

Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958

- The Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958, issued under the **Foreigners Act, 1946**, is a key regulatory framework designed to **control the movement of foreigners in sensitive regions of India**.
- It defines the **'Inner Line'**, a boundary from Jammu and Kashmir to Mizoram, beyond which foreign travelers are required to obtain a special permit.
 - The regions located between the **Inner Line and the International Border of a state are known as Protected Areas**.
 - Foreigners can enter these areas only with a PAP. Examples of Protected Areas include the whole of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Sikkim (which is partly in Protected Areas and partly in Restricted Areas).
 - Additionally, parts of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand are designated as Protected Areas.
 - The **areas that lie between the Inner Line and the territories occupied by**

indigenous tribes are known as Restricted Areas. Entry into these regions is prohibited without prior permission (**Restricted Area Permit**).

- Examples of Restricted Areas include the entire Andaman and Nicobar Islands Union Territory and a part of the state of Sikkim.

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/reimposition-of-protected-area-regime>

