



## PROTECTED AREA REGIME: NATIONAL ISSUE (INTERNAL SECURITY)

**NEWS:** Centre reimposes Protected Area Regime in 3 Northeastern states, including Manipur

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The Union Home Ministry has reimposed the **Protected Area Regime (PAR)** in the northeastern states of **Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland** due to rising security concerns. This move comes in light of an increased foreign influx from neighboring countries, emphasizing the government's focus on safeguarding sensitive regions in the context of strategic and security challenges.

### Reimposition of Protected Area Regime (PAR) in Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland

#### What is the Protected Area Regime (PAR)?

The PAR is a set of regulations under the **Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958**, designed to control the entry of foreign nationals into areas deemed sensitive for strategic, security, or socio-political reasons. It is applicable to specific regions in India, especially those close to **international borders** or regions facing **ethnic tensions** or **insurgency**.

#### Key Features of PAR:

##### 1. Restricted Access:

- Foreigners are prohibited from visiting areas under the PAR without prior approval.
- Entry is granted through a **Protected Area Permit (PAP)** issued by the Government of India.

##### 2. Rationale for Restrictions:

- The areas covered under PAR are often close to **international borders** or marked by **political instability, insurgency**, or other security concerns.
- The regime ensures **monitoring of foreign movements**, reducing the risk of external interference or unlawful activities.

##### 3. Monitoring Mechanism:

- The PAP system allows authorities to track and regulate foreign visitors to ensure national security and maintain local stability.

#### Regions Covered by PAR:

- Northeastern states like **Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland**, parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and other strategically sensitive areas.



- States covered under PAR are typically located near borders with countries like **China, Myanmar, Bangladesh**, or areas with active insurgent groups.

## Relaxations and Reimpositions of PAR:

### 1. Relaxation for Tourism (2010):

- In 2010, the government temporarily relaxed PAR in Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland to boost tourism and economic activities in these states.
- The decision was aimed at fostering connectivity and promoting the unique culture and natural beauty of the northeast.

### 2. Reimposition due to Security Concerns (2024):

- The reimposition of PAR was necessitated by an increased **foreign influx from neighboring countries**, possibly contributing to ethnic tensions or political instability.
- Recent influxes could exacerbate existing **security challenges**, such as cross-border insurgency and illegal immigration.

## Implications of Reimposing PAR:

### 1. Security and Border Management:

- Tightened restrictions help address threats like cross-border **terrorism, illegal immigration**, and **smuggling**.
- It ensures better **control over foreign visitors** and safeguards the sovereignty of border regions.

### 2. Economic and Social Impact:

- Reimposition might limit tourism opportunities, potentially affecting the local economy.
- However, ensuring stability is seen as a higher priority for long-term development.

### 3. Federal and Regional Implications:

- Northeastern states often experience **ethnic diversity** and **geopolitical vulnerabilities**, necessitating enhanced coordination between state and central governments.

## Historical and Strategic Importance:

- The northeastern states are of significant strategic importance due to their location near **international borders with Myanmar, Bangladesh, and China**.



- These areas often face insurgency, making the regulation of foreign movements crucial for maintaining **internal security** and fostering peace.



## Centre reimposes PAP in Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland

### Conclusion:

The reimposition of the **Protected Area Regime (PAR)** underscores the government's commitment to addressing rising security concerns in **sensitive northeastern states**. While it might temporarily hinder tourism, the decision aligns with broader objectives of safeguarding **national security**, managing cross-border issues, and stabilizing regions prone to **ethnic and political volatility**.

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