



Place in News - Lipulekh Pass

Context: During the SCO Summit 2025 in Tianjin, the Prime Minister of Nepal addressed the issue of Lipulekh Pass with Chinese President Xi Jinping, reaffirming Nepal's territorial claim.



About Lipulekh Pass:

- A high-altitude mountain pass located in the Himalayas, historically utilized for trade and pilgrimage between India and Tibet (China).

Location: Found in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand, India, near the trijunction of India, Nepal, and China in the Kumaon region.

Altitude: Approximately 5,334 meters (17,500 feet) above sea level, making it one of the highest and most strategically significant passes in the area.



Features:

- Serves as a gateway for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra pilgrimage.
- Functions as an essential trade route between India and Tibet.
- Established as India's inaugural border trade post with China in 1992, followed by Shipki La (1994) and Nathu La (2006).
- Renowned for its rugged landscape and strategic location within the Himalayas.

Significance:

- Possesses geopolitical importance due to its proximity to the trijunction.
- Crucial for Indo–China trade and border management.
- A focal point in the India–Nepal boundary dispute, particularly following Nepal's 2020 map claim.

Issue surrounding Lipulekh Pass:

- India regards Lipulekh, Kalapani, and Limpiyadhura as part of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district and has exercised administrative control over these areas for many years.
- Nepal asserts that this territory belongs to it and published a new political map in 2020 that includes these regions, enshrining it in its constitution.
- China, while engaging in trade with India through Lipulekh, views it as a bilateral dispute between India and Nepal and refrains from direct involvement.