



## **Place in News - Kokrajhar–Gelephu Special Railway Project (SRP)**

**Context:** The proposed 69-km Kokrajhar–Gelephu rail line, which represents India’s inaugural railway connection to Bhutan, has been designated as a Special Railway Project (SRP) by the Indian Railways.



### **About Kokrajhar–Gelephu Special Railway Project (SRP):**

- A cross-border railway initiative linking Kokrajhar in Assam (India) with Gelephu in Bhutan.
- Its objective is to provide Bhutan with its first railway connectivity and to strengthen bilateral relations.



**Organisation involved:**

- The project is being executed by the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) in accordance with the Railways Act of 1989.
- It is supported by the Government of India in line with the Act East Policy.

**Aim:**

- **Strategic importance:** To enhance cross-border connectivity with Bhutan.
- **Economic growth:** To facilitate trade, tourism, and interpersonal connections.
- **Security:** To bolster India's frontier infrastructure in the Northeast.

**Features:**

- **Project cost:** Approximately ₹3,500 crore.
- **Stations:** Six new stations – Balajan, Garubhasa, Runikhata, Shantipur, Dadgiri, and Gelephu.
- **Road connectivity:** One Road Over the Bridge and 39 roads under Bridges.
- **Viaducts:** Two viaducts, each 11 metres high, to ensure safe passage through challenging terrain.



**Significance:**

- **First rail link for Bhutan:** A historic milestone in Bhutan's infrastructure advancement.
- **Boost to Act East Policy:** Enhances Northeast India's integration with South Asia.
- **Regional trade hub:** Enables quicker movement of goods between India and Bhutan.