

- As of now, there are 12 points of dispute along their borders. These include the areas of Upper Tarabari, Gazang reserve forest, Hahim, Langpih, Borduar, Boklapara, Nongwah, Matamur, KhanaparaPilangkata, Deshdemoreah Block I and Block II, Khanduli and Retacherra.

Efforts to solve the dispute:

- Both Assam and Meghalaya have constituted border dispute settlement committees.
- Recently, Assam Chief Minister and his Meghalaya counterpart decided to set up two regional committees to resolve the border disputes in a phased manner.

Assam and border issues:

- The states of the Northeast were largely carved out of Assam, which has border disputes with several states. Assam's border disputes with Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland are pending in the Supreme Court.
- Assam's border disputes with Meghalaya and Mizoram are currently in the phase of resolution through negotiations. The border dispute with Mizoram recently turned violent, leading to intervention from the Centre.

BOUNDARY DISPUTE ALONG THE MANIPUR-NAGALAND BORDER:

In news: Southern Angami Public Organisation (SAPO), a tribal body of Nagaland, has announced bandh from March 24 over Manipur's failure in withdrawing armed personnel and permanent structures from the disputed Kezoltsa area.

Impact of the Bandh:

- The National Highway-2, which connects the two states and is a lifeline for Manipur, runs through the area.
- The bandh is likely to cause inconvenience to the travellers to Manipur and transportation of essential commodities to the state.

What's the dispute all about? At the root is an old land ownership dispute between three Naga tribes — the Angamis of Nagaland, and the Maos and Marams of Manipur.

- Kezoltsa is a thickly forested area on the periphery of the picturesque Dzukou Valley, bordering Nagaland and Manipur.
- Dzukou Valley, spread over the two states, has traditionally been a bone of contention between the Mao Nagas of Senapati (Manipur) and the southern Angami Nagas of Kohima (Nagaland).

The dispute: current context:

- Kezoltsa (also called Kozuru/Kazing) is not a part of Dzukou Valley, but has become a flashpoint in recent times with both the Marams and Maos claiming it belongs to Manipur's Senapati district.
- The Angamis say it is part of the Angami tribal ancestral land, and was "unfairly" made a part of Manipur by the British in the colonial era.

What next?

- The claim that the entire Dzukou Valley belongs to Nagaland is made by Southern Angami Public Organisation, not by the Nagaland state.
- If the need arose, the Centre may play the part of mediator in resolving the issue.

ARMED FORCES SPECIAL POWERS ACT (AFSPA) 1958

In news- Recently, the Union Government has partially withdrawn the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), 1958 from parts of three Northeast states— Assam, Nagaland and Manipur.

- **AFSPA is a series of acts created by the Indian Parliament** that empowers armed forces to maintain public order in disturbed areas.
- The **act gives forces the power to arrest any person without warrant** only on the basis of suspicion, enter or search premises without warrant and ban the possession of firearms.
- The Central Government, or the Governor of the State or Administrator of the UT can declare the whole or part of the State or UT as a **disturbed area**.