

Myanmar has indefinitely deferred signing an agreement with India to streamline the free movement of people within 16 km along the border.

- India is keen to sign the agreement but Myanmar — citing “domestic compulsions” — has asked for more time for the agreement to be sealed.
- The memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been deferred twice in the past seven months.
- as per the proposal, there would have been no restrictions on the movement of people across the borders.
- The domiciles were to be allotted border passes and those going across for agriculture, work or to meet relatives should carry the pass at all times.
- both the countries intend to put a system in place after India raised the issue of movement of extremists and smugglers freely across the border.

Recent developments

- On January 3, the Union Cabinet approved the agreement between India and Myanmar on land border crossing to enhance economic interaction between people of the two countries.
- To give it shape, the Centre had asked four States — Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram — that share the unfenced border with Myanmar to distribute “border pass” to all the residents living within 16 km from the border.