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Land Port Management System to Digitise India's Border Trade

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ECONOMY**SECURITY & DEFENCE****GS3****GS2**

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WHY IN NEWS

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs is launching the **Land Port Management System (LPMS)**, a unified digital platform that integrates operations across India's **15 land ports**. The system aims to bring border trade and passenger movement in line with the digitised processes of airports and seaports, combining **trade facilitation with border security**, and is operated by the **Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)**.

WHAT THE LPMS DOES

The LPMS is a single-window digital platform that brings together the multiple agencies operating at a land port (customs, immigration, security, traders) onto one system.

FEATURE	DETAIL
Single-window clearance	One platform for customs, immigration and security processes
Slot booking and tracking	Scheduling and real-time tracking of cargo movement
Digital payments	Online fee and charge payments
Integration	Links with ICEGATE (customs) and the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)
Goal	Reduce dwell times and paperwork; improve transparency

By digitising what has often been a paper-heavy, slow process, the LPMS seeks to cut the time goods spend waiting at the border and reduce opportunities for leakage.

THE LAND PORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (LPAI)

ASPECT	DETAIL
Nature	Statutory body
Parent	Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs
Mandate	Develop, manage and regulate India's land ports (Integrated Check Posts)
Land ports	15 operational

India's **15 land ports** sit on borders with five neighbours:

NEIGHBOUR	EXAMPLES OF LAND PORTS
Bangladesh	Petrapole (India's largest), Agartala, Dawki, Sutarkandi
Nepal	Raxaul, Rupaidiha, Jogbani
Pakistan	Attari, Dera Baba Nanak
Bhutan	Darranga
Myanmar	Moreh

Petrapole (on the India-Bangladesh border) is India's largest land port by trade.

WHY IT MATTERS

Land ports are where much of India's overland trade with its neighbours happens. Digitising them serves three goals at once:

- **Trade facilitation:** faster clearances support India's **Act East Policy** and neighbourhood connectivity.
- **Border security:** integrated, traceable systems improve oversight at sensitive borders.
- **Logistics efficiency:** linking with **ULIP** and the broader **PM GatiShakti** framework reduces costs across the supply chain.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Prelims

- **Land Port Management System (LPMS):** launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs; integrates **15 land ports**
- Operated by the **Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)**, a statutory body under the **Department of Border Management, MHA**
- Integrates with **ICEGATE** (customs) and the **Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)**
- **Petrapole** (India-Bangladesh) is India's largest land port
- Land ports border Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan and Myanmar

Mains Angles

- 1 **GS3 Trade Facilitation:** Examine how digitising land ports advances trade facilitation and supports the Act East Policy.
- 2 **GS3 Internal Security:** Discuss the convergence of trade facilitation and border security at India's land ports.
- 3 **GS2 Neighbourhood:** Assess the role of land-port infrastructure in India's neighbourhood connectivity.

FACTS CORNER

FACT	DETAIL
System	Land Port Management System (LPMS)
Launched by	Ministry of Home Affairs
Operated by	Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)
LPAI parent	Department of Border Management, MHA
Land ports	15 operational
Integration	ICEGATE (customs) + ULIP
Largest land port	Petrapole (India-Bangladesh)
Neighbours covered	Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan, Myanmar

Sources: Ministry of Home Affairs, LPAI, PIB

Source: Land Port Management System to Digitise India's Border Trade — Ujjyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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