

Zojila Pass

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Context- The crucial Zojila Pass, which is situated on the Greater Himalayan Range at an elevation of 11,650 feet and serves as a gateway between Jammu & Kashmir and the Union Territories of Ladakh, was opened on Thursday by the Border Roads Organization (BRO).

About Zoji La Pass

- Zoji La is a high mountain pass located in the Kargil district of Ladakh.
- The pass connects Leh and Srinagar and serves as an important connection between Kashmir and the Union Territories of Ladakh.
- The “Mountain Pass of Blizzards” is Zoji la.
- Due to heavy snowfall in the winter, the Zojila pass remains closed, separating Kashmir from Ladakh.
- The Zojila tunnel project was started in 2018. The tunnel, Asia’s longest and most important bidirectional tunnel, will connect Srinagar, Kargil, and Leh in any weather.

About Border Road Organisation [BRO]

- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru initiated BRO in 1960 to coordinate the rapid development of a road network in the North and the North Eastern border regions of the country.
- The Ministry of Defense is in charge of its administration.
- It has earned the trust of the people by expanding into a wide range of construction and development projects, including airfields, building projects, defense projects, and tunneling.

- BRO was initially administered by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- However, it has been managed by the Ministry of Defence since 2015 and is operational in 21 Indian states and one union territory.
- BRO Raising Day is celebrated on May 7 every year.
- The organization's composition consists of Officers and troops who are selected from the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers, Army Service Corps, Military Police, and other personnel.
- It is also functional in our friendly countries like Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka. The Organization was formed on May 7, 1960, to maintain and develop.

- **Objective**

- To ensure that the armed forces' strategic, cost-effective, and time-conscious needs are met without any hiccups;
- To achieve an international level of quality excellence and time consciousness;
- To apply their expertise to any project of national or transnational development;
- To use information technology to its full potential and to its advantage in various infrastructure projects;
- To demonstrate the highest level of proficiency in every construction;
- To improve the quality of life and livelihood in border areas by providing them with means of easy transportation, accessibility, and connectivity.