



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Zoji La Tunnel Achieves Breakthrough, Bringing All-Weather Kashmir–Ladakh Connectivity Closer

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India achieved a major milestone in the construction of the Zoji La Tunnel as the final breakthrough connected both ends of the tunnel beneath the Himalayas. Once completed, the tunnel will ensure year-round connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh, reduce travel time, improve tourism, strengthen regional development, and enhance strategic military mobility in the border region.?

Important Points:

The Zoji La Tunnel achieved its final breakthrough milestone in June 2026.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari triggered the final breakthrough blast.

The tunnel is being constructed beneath the Zoji La Pass in the Himalayas.

It will provide all-weather road connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh.

The tunnel is approximately 13.15 km long and is considered the world's longest single-tube bi-directional road tunnel at such a high altitude.

The project will significantly reduce travel time across the Zoji La sector.

The tunnel is strategically important for the movement of defence forces and supplies to Ladakh.

The project is expected to boost tourism, trade, and economic activities in the region.

The tunnel remains one of India's most challenging high-altitude infrastructure projects.

About Zoji La Tunnel:

Location: Between Sonamarg (Jamm& Kashmir) and Dras (Ladakh).

Route: National Highway-1 (NH-1).

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Executing Agency: National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).

Construction Started: 15 October 2020.

Tunnel Type: Single-tube, bi-directional road tunnel.

Altitude: Around 11,500–12,000 feet above sea level.

About NHIDCL:

NHIDCL stands for National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited.

Established: 2014.

Ministry: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

It is responsible for the development of national highways and strategic infrastructure projects in difficult terrains, including the Himalayan region.

Related Tunnel Projects:

Z-Morh Tunnel was inaugurated in 2025 to provide all-weather connectivity to Sonamarg.

The Zoji La Tunnel and Z-Morh Tunnel together will ensure year-round access between Kashmir and Ladakh.

Exam Focus Points (Quick Revision Notes):

Project ? Zoji La Tunnel

Location ? Between Sonamarg and Dras

Connects ? Kashmir and Ladakh

Breakthrough Achieved ? June 2026

Union Minister Associated ? Nitin Gadkari

Executing Agency ? NHIDCL

NHIDCL Full Form ? National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited

Construction Started ? 15 October 2020

Tunnel Type ? Single-Tube Bi-Directional Road Tunnel

Length ? Approximately 13.15 km

Significance ? All-Weather Connectivity to Ladakh

Strategic Importance ? Defence Logistics and Border Connectivity

Related Project ? Z-Morh Tunnel

Ministry ? Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

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