

SHINKU LA TUNNEL

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Context:

The Border Roads Organisation will construct the world's highest tunnel at Shinku La Pass at 16,580 feet to connect Himachal to Zaskar valley in Ladakh.

Background:

The developments come at a time when the military standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh has entered its fifth year, with no indication of a resolution to the outstanding problems along the contested Line of Actual Control (LAC).

About SHINKU LA TUNNEL :

The Shinku La tunnel is a significant infrastructure project aimed at enhancing connectivity in the border areas of Ladakh.

Location and Altitude:

1. The tunnel will be constructed at an altitude of over 16,500 feet.
2. It is situated on the Nimu-Padam-Darcha Road link, which connects Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh.
3. The construction of this tunnel is expected to be completed by 2025.

Purpose:

1. The primary purpose of the Shinku La tunnel is to provide all-weather connectivity to the border areas of Ladakh.
2. It will facilitate the swift movement of troops and heavy weaponry to forward areas.

Significance:

1. It will provide the Indian military access to the border areas of Ladakh from the Himachal side
2. The completion of this project will improve the financial condition of Zaskar Valley residents by giving impetus to tourism.
3. It will significantly enhance connectivity and security in the region.

World Record:

1. Upon completion, the Shinku La tunnel will become the longest high-altitude highway tunnel in the world.
2. It is also referred to as the world's highest tunnel, connecting Himachal Pradesh to Ladakh at an impressive elevation of 16,580 feet.