



Zojila Pass and Razdan Pass Reopen After Short Winter Closure

Why in News?

The [Border Roads Organisation \(BRO\)](#) has announced that the **strategic Zoji La Pass**, located at an altitude of **11,650 feet** in the [Greater Himalayan Range](#), has been reopened after a winter closure.

- Similarly, the Razdan Pass, which connects the Gurez sector to the Kashmir Valley, has also been reopened after a brief winter closure.
- Snow clearance operations were undertaken by Project Beacon and Vijayak from both sides of the pass.

What is the Significance of Zoji La Pass?

- Zoji La is a **high mountain pass located in the Kargil district of Ladakh**.
- The pass links **Leh and Srinagar** and provides an important link between **Union Territories of Ladakh and Kashmir**.
- Zoji La pass remains closed during winters due to heavy snowfall, **cutting off Ladakh region from Kashmir**.
- In 2018, the **Zoji La tunnel project was launched**. The **tunnel is Asia's longest and strategic bi-directional tunnel**, which will provide all-weather connectivity between **Srinagar, Kargil and Leh**.

What are the Other Important Passes in India?

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MAJOR PASSES IN INDIA



FACTS

- Umling La pass located in Eastern Ladakh has recently become the world's highest motorable pass (Project Himank).
- Lipu Lekh Pass is located close to the tri junction of Uttarakhand (India), China and Nepal.
- Nathu La (Sikkim) is situated on the Indo-Tibetan border. It is one of the three open trading passes between India and China (other two: Shipki La and Lipu Lekh Pass).
- Naku La, located in Sikkim, was recently in news due to the Indo-China face-off along the LAC at the pass.
- Zoji La links Leh with Srinagar and is known as the "Mountain Pass of Blizzards". The Zojila tunnel is Asia's longest tunnel.
- Dungri La (or Mana) Pass connects India and Tibet. It is located in the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve of the Zaskar mountain range (Uttarakhand). Even Indian nationals need prior permits from the Army to travel through this pass.
- Rohtang Pass (Himachal Pradesh) is situated in the Pir Panjal Range of the great Himalayas and connects Kullu Valley with Lahaul and Spiti Valleys.
- The widest gap of Western Ghats is at Palakkad (or Pal Ghat) in Kerala adjoining Tamil Nadu.



Drishti IAS

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. Siachen Glacier is situated to the (2020)

- (a) East of Aksai Chin
- (b) East of Leh
- (c) North of Gilgit
- (d) North of Nubra Valley

Ans: (d)

[Source: TH](#)

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