



## Z-Morh Tunnel | Jammu & Kashmir | 13 Jan 2025

Why in News?

The **Z-Morh Tunnel**, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **13th January, 2025**, is a **6.5-kilometer-long, two-lane road tunnel** connecting **Gagangir in Ganderbal district to Sonamarg in Jammu and Kashmir**.

- Situated at an altitude of **8,650 feet**, the tunnel is designed to provide **all-weather connectivity**.

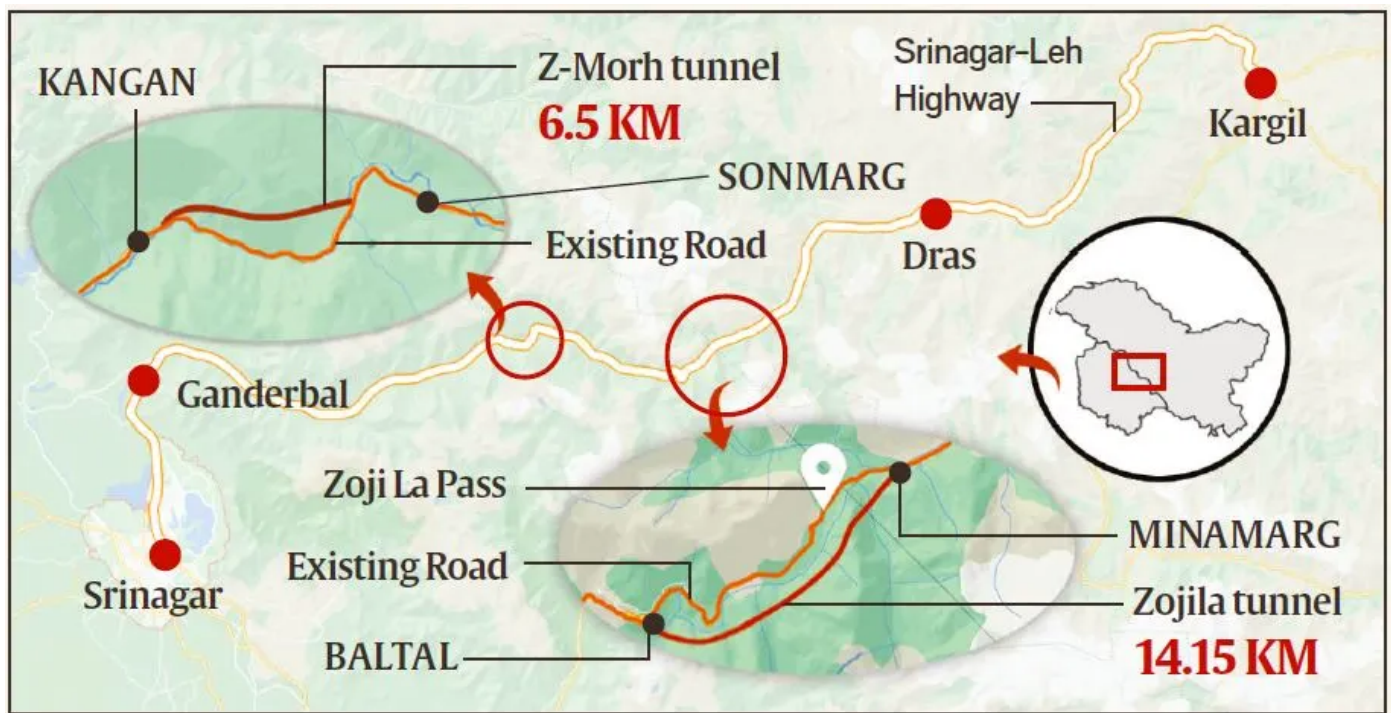
### Key Points

- The tunnel is strategically located on the **Srinagar-Leh National Highway**, facilitating year-round access to the **Ladakh region**, which was previously hindered by **seasonal road closures** due to **heavy snowfall and avalanches**.
  - Constructed at a cost of **₹2,400 crore**, the Z-Morh Tunnel comprises a **6.4-kilometer main tunnel**, an egress tunnel, and approach roads.
  - It features a **two-lane bi-directional road** with a **parallel 7.5-meter-wide escape passage** for emergencies.
- Beyond enhancing civilian travel, the tunnel holds **significant strategic importance** for **defense logistics**, ensuring **uninterrupted connectivity to the Ladakh region**, which is in proximity to the **China border**.
- **Benefits:**
  - The tunnel is expected to **boost tourism in Sonamarg**, known for attractions like the **Thajiwas Glacier** and activities such as **whitewater rafting** on the **Sind River**.
  - By providing **all-weather access**, the tunnel is anticipated to **stimulate economic growth** in the region, facilitating trade and improving the **quality of life for residents**.
  - The tunnel is part of the larger **Zojila Tunnel project**, aimed at ensuring all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Ladakh.

### Zoji La Tunnel

- The Zojila tunnel project was **launched in 2018**.
- The tunnel is **Asia's longest** and **strategic bi-directional tunnel**, which will provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh.
- 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.
- Zojila pass remains closed during winters due to heavy snowfall, cutting off Ladakh region from Kashmir.

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