



Defense Minister Unveils Border Projects

Why in News?

Recently, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated **35 projects** in Uttarakhand to **strengthen the country's border security**.

Key Points

- The projects were constructed by the **Border Roads Organization (BRO)** at a cost of Rs 670 crore, these **projects consist of roads, bridges, and tunnels aimed at enhancing connectivity, defense readiness and socio-economic development**.
- The minister appreciated the important role played by BRO in **connecting geographically and socially isolated communities to national connectivity**.
- According to the defense minister, the increasing natural disasters in border countries due to climate change pose a serious national security issue.
 - He acknowledged the **exceptional support** extended **by the Border Roads Organization** in Uttarakhand and lauded the **teamwork displayed by various agencies during the crisis**.
 - He highlighted **the change in attitudes towards compensation professionals (CPLs)**, acknowledging their **vital role in the organisation**.

Border Road Organisation

- It was formed on 7 May **1960** to secure India's borders and develop infrastructure in remote areas of the north and north-east states of the country.
 - This includes infrastructure operations in **19 states and 3 union territories** (including Andaman and Nicobar Islands) and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka.
- In order to ensure coordination and expeditious execution of projects, the Government of India set up the **Border Roads Development Board (BRDB)** with the **Prime Minister as Chairman** of the Board and Defence Minister as Deputy Chairman.
- BRO is also tasked with maintaining this infrastructure including operations such as snow clearance. BRO is instrumental in significantly upgrading and building new India-China Border Roads.
- Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan is the **28th Director General (DG)** of the Border Roads Organisation.
- The organisation motto is **Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam** (everything is achievable through hardwork).