



# Tunnels in Jammu & Kashmir

## Why in News

The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways will lay the foundation stone of various **National Highway (NH) Projects** and will review and inspect **Z-Morh and Zojila Tunnel** in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

## Key Points

- **Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Tunnel:** The **Chenani-Nashri Tunnel** renamed as Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Tunnel.
  - It is **not only India's longest highway tunnel (9 km long)** but also **Asia's longest bi-directional highway tunnel**.
  - It is located in the lower Himalayan mountain range, between Udhampur and Ramban in Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Banihal Qazigund Tunnel:** It is the 8.5 km road tunnel at elevation of 1,790 m in the **Pir Panjal range** in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir **connecting Banihal and Qazigund**.
- **Jawahar Tunnel:** It is also called **Banihal Tunnel or Banihal Pass**. The length of the tunnel is 2.85 km.
  - It is situated between Banihāl and Qazigund on NH 1A that has been renumbered NH 44.
  - The tunnel facilitates round-the-year road **connectivity between Srinagar and Jammu**.
- **Nandni Tunnels:** These tunnels are the series of four highway tunnels built under **Nandni wildlife sanctuary** on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Udhampur district.
  - At a combined length of 1.4 km, the tunnels have reduced the distance and travel time between Jammu and Srinagar.
- **Pir Panjal Railway Tunnel:** It is India's longest transportation railway tunnel measuring 11.2 km long.
  - The tunnel link, which is the only broad gauge mountain railway in India, stretches through the **Pir Panjal mountain range** between **Qazigund and Baramulla**.
  - The tunnel section is a part of the 202km **Udhampur - Srinagar - Baramulla rail link project** undertaken by the Northern Railways.
- **Z-Morh Tunnel:** It is an under construction tunnel, 20 km away from the Zojila Pass, on Srinagar-Kargil-Leh highway.
  - The 6.5 km long tunnel will connect **Gagangir directly to Sonamarg** in Kashmir.
- **Zojila Tunnel:** It is an under construction tunnel **located to the north-east of Srinagar, on the Srinagar- Leh section of the NH 1**.
  - The 14.2 km road tunnel between Baltal and Minamarg.
  - The Zojila Tunnel will be **Asia's longest road tunnel**, to be built at an **altitude of 11,578 m above sea level**.
  - It will ensure safer, all weather year round connectivity between Leh, Kargil and Srinagar.
- **Nilgrar Tunnels:**

- The **Nilgrar-I** is a **twin tube tunnel** of 433 m length each.
- The Nilgrar twin tunnel-II is of 1.95 Km length each.
- Nilgrar-I and Nilgrar-II tunnels are part of the 18 Km long approach road to Zojila west portal.
  - Zojila tunnel will provide connectivity to Ladakh region Kargil, Drass and Leh.
- **Chattergala Tunnel**: It is an under construction road tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir.
  - The tunnel will be 6.8 km long and **will connect Kathua and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir** via basohli-bani through Chattergala.

**Source: PIB**

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