

Shinkun La Tunnel

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About Shinkun La Tunnel:

- It is an upcoming **motorable tunnel** under the 16,580 feet high **Shinku-La pass** between Himachal's Lahaul valley and Ladakh's Zaskar valley.
- It is located on the Nimu-Padam-Darcha Road link.
- The **length** of the tunnel will be **4.1 km**.
- **After completion**, the Shinku-la tunnel will **be the longest high altitude highway tunnel** in the world.
- The **Border Roads Organization (BRO)** will **construct** the tunnel at a cost of Rs. 1,681.5 crores.
- It will **provide all-weather road connectivity to Ladakh**, and this will be the shortest route to the border areas of Ladakh.
- It is expected to **streamline the transportation of heavy machinery to strategic locations such as Kargil, Siachen, and the Line of Control (LOC)**, reducing travel distances by approximately 100 km.
- The traffic movement in the tunnel will **not be vulnerable to long-range artillery shelling** or missile firings, either by China or Pakistan.

Key Facts about Border Roads Organisation (BRO):

- It is a **road construction executive force** in India that provides support to the Indian Armed Forces.
 - **Establishment:** 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.
 - It **develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries.**
 - This includes infrastructure operations in 19 states and three union territories (including Andaman and Nicobar Islands) and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Tajikistan, and Sri Lanka.
 - **Officers and personnel from the General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) form the parent cadre** of the BRO.
 - It is also **staffed by officers and troops drawn from the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers** on extra regimental employment (on deputation).
 - BRO is also included in the Order of Battle of the Armed Forces, ensuring their support at any time.
 - **Motto of the organization: Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam** (everything is achievable through hardwork).
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Q1: What is the Line of Control (LOC)?

LoC is a geographical line lying between India and Pakistan's controlled parts of the former (under the British) Jammu and Kashmir and controlled by the army. This line is not actually a legally recognized international boundary but prevails as per de facto. After the Simla Agreement signed in July 1972, this line was officially renamed as "Line of Control" from "the Cease-fire Line".

Source: BRO to complete 2 roads near China border, start work on world's highest tunnel

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/shinkun-la-tunnel/>

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