

Z-Morh Tunnel

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About Z-Morh Tunnel:

- It is a **2-lane road tunnel between Gagangir and Sonamarg on the Srinagar-Leh Highway in Jammu and Kashmir.**
- The name “Z-Morh” refers to the Z-shaped road section near the construction site.
- **Why was the tunnel needed?**
 - The area where the tunnel is being constructed sits at **an altitude of over 8,500 ft** and is prone to snow avalanches, which make the **road to Sonamarg impassable during most parts of the winter.**
- **Features:**
 - **Length: 6.5 km**
 - The tunnel is designed for the flow of **1,000 vehicles an hour** at an approved maximum speed of 80 km per hour.
 - **No toll tax** will be collected from vehicles using the tunnel.
 - In addition to the main tunnel, it includes a **parallel 6.426 km long Escape Tunnel and a 0.6 km long Ventilation Tunnel.**

- **Intelligent Traffic Management System** has been installed in Z-Morh Tunnel which will make it easier to control traffic. Along with this, traffic will be facilitated through the dedicated escape tunnel.
 - **Strategic Importance:**
 - In addition to providing **all-weather access to Sonamarg**, the tunnel is **vital for ensuring year-round connectivity to Ladakh**. This is particularly important for the **movement of military personnel** to border areas.
 - **Along with the 14.15 km Zojila Tunnel to its east**, it **aims to enhance** the Indian **military's capabilities in Kashmir and Ladakh along** both the Line of Control (**LOC**) to the north and the Line of Actual Control (**LAC**) further east.
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Q1: What is the Zojila Tunnel?

The 14.15 km Zoji La Tunnel is an under construction 2 lane road project between Sonamarg and Drass on the Srinagar-Leh Highway in Jammu and Kashmir. It aims to ensure all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Sonmarg and Kargil in Ladakh.

Source: TH

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