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**MAY  
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Uttar Pradesh



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Vasundhara Colony,  
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Rajasthan



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Burlington Chauraha,  
Vidhan Sabha Marg,  
Lucknow



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Madhya Pradesh

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## First Cherry Cargo Train

### Why in News?

In a **first-of-its-kind initiative** to transport perishable produce from Jammu and Kashmir, the Jammu Railway Division is set to **flag off its first Cherry Cargo Train**.

### Key Points

#### About the Cherry Cargo Train:

- ✦ It has been launched by the **Northern Railway, Jammu Division**, to create a reliable rail-based transportation channel for perishable agricultural goods.
- ✦ It is designed specifically to facilitate the shipment of **cherries** and similar produce to markets outside J&K.

#### Logistics and Route:

- ✦ The cargo will be transported from **Katra Railway Station** in Jammu and Kashmir to **Bandra Railway Station in Mumbai**.
- ✦ A Parcel Van (VP) will be attached to a regular goods train for this purpose.
  - ✍ VP is a request for the allocation of a full parcel van for the shipment of goods.
- ✦ The journey is expected to take **30 hours**, significantly reducing transit time compared to traditional road transport.

#### Stakeholders and Planning:

- ✦ This effort was finalized after **extensive consultations** between the **Northern Railway**, the **Horticulture Department of J&K**, and various **fruit grower associations**.

### Significance and Benefits of the Initiative

#### Benefits for Fruit Growers:

- ✦ The use of rail transport ensures that **perishable produce like cherries reaches markets faster**, thereby reducing the chances of spoilage and maintaining quality.
- ✦ It provides a **cost-effective alternative** to road transportation, benefiting small and medium-scale growers economically.

#### Impact on the Region:

- ✦ The initiative is expected to **boost the economy of J&K** by enhancing the market reach of its agricultural products.
- ✦ It will also help **reduce road traffic congestion and environmental pollution**, making it a sustainable option for future freight movement.
- ✦ If successful, this model could be replicated for other produce such as **apples, pears, and plums**, expanding its benefits further.

#### Kashmir's Cherry

- ✦ **Cherry is a crucial early-season fruit crop** in Kashmir, typically harvested during **May and June**.
- ✦ **J&K contributes approximately 95%** of India's total cherry production, making it the **leading producer** in the country.
- ✦ **Five main cherry varieties grown in Kashmir include:**
  - ✦ **Mishri** – the sweetest and most expensive.
  - ✦ **Double cherry** – widely cultivated for canning, juice, and jam.
  - ✦ **Makhmali, Black (Gol), and Awal Number** – locally popular.
- ✦ Cherry farming is an **important source of mid-year income** for fruit growers, especially before the apple harvest season.
- ✦ The crop is **extremely sensitive to weather conditions**, especially:
  - ✦ **Heavy rainfall** – which causes the fruit to crack and rot.
  - ✦ **Hailstorms and temperature drops** – which disrupt harvesting and reduce shelf life.



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## Kiru Hydroelectric Power Project (KHPP)

### Why in News?

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a chargesheet against former Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik and others in a **Kiru Hydroelectric Power Project (KHPP)** corruption case.

### Key Points

#### Kiru Hydroelectric Power Project (KHPP)

##### About:

- ✦ The KHPP is envisaged as a **Run-of-River scheme** and was **launched in 2019**.
- ✍ It is scheduled for **commercial operation by July 2025**.
- ✦ It is a strategically located hydroelectric initiative in the Kishtwar district of J&K, positioned **between the Kirthai II (upstream) and Kwar (downstream) power projects**.
- ✦ Developed at an estimated cost of **Rs 4,287 crore**, it is a key component of India's efforts to boost **renewable energy** infrastructure in the northern region.

##### Project Specifications:

- ✦ **Location:** Near the confluence of the **Chenab River** with **Singad and Bela streams**, close to **Patharnakki and Kiru villages**.
  - ✍ The Singad and Bela streams are tributaries that join the Chenab River near Patharnakki and Kiru villages in the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✦ **Total Capacity:** 624 MW, via four turbines (156 MW each) on left bank of the river
- ✦ **Reservoir Storage:** **41.5 million cubic meters**
- ✦ **Diversion Tunnel:** One **700 m-long**, horse-shoe-shaped tunnel for excess water discharge

##### Collaborative Efforts:

- ✦ The project is being developed by **Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Limited (CVPPPL)**, a joint venture comprising **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)**, **Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC)** and **Power Trading Corporation (PTC)**.

##### Significance of the Project

- ✦ Apart from helping address the energy demand across northern India and the state's rural areas, it could **aid small-scale and cottage industries**.
- ✦ The project is **expected to contribute to employment generation** and the development of local infrastructure.

**Note:** A **run-of-river dam** is one in which the flow of water in the river downstream of the dam is the same as the flow of water upstream of the dam.

#### Chenab River

- ✦ The **Chenab River** originates in the **upper Himalayas** of Himachal Pradesh, formed at **Tandi** by the confluence of the **Chandra** and **Bhaga** rivers.
- ✦ **Key tributaries of Chenab River include** the **Thirot, Sohal, Bhut Nallah, Liddrari, and Marusadar**.
- ✦ The river flows through **J&K**, continues into **Punjab in Pakistan**, and eventually joins the **Indus River**.
- ✦ **Major Hydroelectric Projects on the Chenab:**
  - ✦ **Ratle Hydroelectric Project**
  - ✦ **Pakal Dul Hydropower Project**
  - ✦ **Salal Dam (Reasi)**
  - ✦ **Dul Hasti Project (Kishtwar)**
  - ✦ **Pakal Dul Dam (under construction)** – on the **Marusadar tributary (Kishtwar)**

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## J&K Invokes Public Safety Act 1978

### Why in News?

The J&K Police have invoked the **Public Safety Act (PSA), 1978** against several individuals in Srinagar, citing their **role in subversive activities** and **threats to national security and public order**.

- ⚡ This large-scale detention coincides with ongoing raids by the **State Investigation Agency (SIA)** in the region.

### Key Points

#### Public Safety Act (PSA), 1978

##### ⚡ About:

- ✦ PSA is a **preventive detention law** originally enacted by the former J&K State Legislature and is now enforced in the Union Territory of J&K.
- ✦ Its core objective is to **authorise the detention of individuals in order to prevent acts** that could **threaten state security** or **disrupt public order**.

- ✦ It is very similar to the **National Security Act, 1980** that is used by other state governments for preventive detention.

#### 💡 Key Provisions:

##### ✦ Detention Without Trial:

- 📌 The PSA allows for the detention of a person **without a formal charge and without trial**.
- 📌 It may be invoked against an individual already in police custody or immediately upon their release on bail by a court of law.
- 📌 Unlike in normal circumstances, a person who is detained under the PSA **need not be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours** as a mandatory provision.

##### ✦ Right to File Bail Application:

- 📌 The detained person **does not have the right to move a bail application** before the court, and cannot engage any lawyer to represent him or her before the detaining authority.

##### ✦ Section 8 of the PSA:

- 📌 It defines the grounds for detention and empowers the authorities to detain people acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order.

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### ✦ No Distinction Between Offences:

- It allows detention for up to **1 year for disturbance of public order** and **2 years for actions prejudicial** to the security of the State.

### 💡 Challenging the Detention:

- ✦ The only legal remedy against an administrative preventive detention order under the PSA is through a **habeas corpus** petition, typically filed by the detainee's relatives.
- ✦ Both the **High Court** and the **Supreme Court** have the authority to hear such petitions and may quash the detention order if found unlawful.
  - However, even if the court sets aside the order, the government retains the power to issue a fresh detention order under the PSA.
- ✦ Notably, officials who issue such orders are granted legal immunity, and **no prosecution or legal proceedings can be initiated** against them for exercising this power.

### National Security Act, 1980 & Preventive Detention

- 💡 The NSA is a **preventive detention law** enacted in **1980** to maintain **public order** and **national security**.
- 💡 **Preventive Detention** involves the **detainment (containment) of a person** in order to keep him/her from committing future crimes and/or from escaping future prosecution.
  - ✦ **Article 22 (3) (b)** of the Constitution allows for preventive detention and **restriction on personal liberty** for reasons of state security and public order.
  - ✦ **Article 22(4)** states that no law providing for preventive detention **shall authorize the detention of a person** for a longer period than three months.
  - ✦ The detention of a person cannot exceed **three months** unless an advisory board reports sufficient cause for extended detention.
  - ✦ **Grounds for Preventive Detention:**
    - State security
    - Public order
    - Foreign Affairs, etc.

### Habeas Corpus

- 💡 It is a Latin term which literally means '**to have the body of**'. This writ is a **bulwark of individual liberty** against arbitrary detention.
- 💡 It can be issued against **both public authorities as well as private individuals**.
- 💡 The writ, on the other hand, is **not issued where the:**
  - ✦ detention is lawful,
  - ✦ the proceeding is for contempt of a legislature or a court,
  - ✦ detention is by a competent court, and
  - ✦ detention is outside the jurisdiction of the court.

## Operation Keller

### Why in News?

The Army gunned down three **Kashmiri terrorists** affiliated with the **Pakistan-backed banned group Lashkar-e-Taiba** during a **counterterrorism operation** in Keller, Shopian district of Kashmir.

### Key Points

#### 💡 About the Counterterror Operation:

- ✦ Based on intelligence inputs from the **Rashtriya Rifles**, the Army launched "**Operation Keller**" in the dense forested Shoekal Keller area of Shopian.
- ✦ Army and **paramilitary forces** quickly sealed off the area, triggering a fierce gunfight that ended with all three terrorists killed.
- ✦ The Army stated that the operation is still ongoing.
  - This was the second terrorist encounter in Kashmir in 2025.
  - Earlier, on 16 March, **J&K Police killed a Pakistani terrorist in the Handwara forests**, about 100 km north of Srinagar.

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### Wider Military Context:

- ✦ Security forces remain on high alert following **Operation Sindoor** launched by India on 7 May 2025.
- ✦ Under the operation, India carried out airstrikes on nine terrorist camps in **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)** and Pakistan.
- ✦ These strikes came roughly two weeks after the **Pahalgam massacre**, escalating Indo-Pak tensions.

#### The Rashtriya Rifles

- It is a **counter-insurgency force** in India, **formed in 1990**, to deal with **internal security** in the Jammu and Kashmir region.
- They maintain public order by drawing powers from the **Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1990 (AFSPA)**.
- The force operates under the **Ministry of Defence**. The Indian Army describes RR as their “specialist elite force to combat insurgency”.
- The RR is headquartered at **Northern Command in Udhampur** and commanded by an **Additional Director General of Rashtriya Rifles (ADG RR)**.

## Pakal Dul Hydropower Project

### Why in News?

The Central government has taken a significant step by fast-tracking approval for the **electricity transmission line** of the **1,000 MW Pakal Dul hydropower project** in **Kishtwar district** of Jammu and Kashmir.

### Key Points

#### About the Project:

- ✦ The Ministry of Power approved the Pakal Dul transmission line in 40 days.
- ✦ This accelerated clearance reflects the government’s urgency to **harness more water** from the **Indus River Basin** for domestic use.
- ✦ Authorities expect to **commission the 1,000 MW project by September 2026**.
  - ✍ The transmission line will pass through 21 villages in Kishtwar district.
- ✦ **Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited (CVPPL)**, a subsidiary of **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)**, will implement the Pakal Dul project.

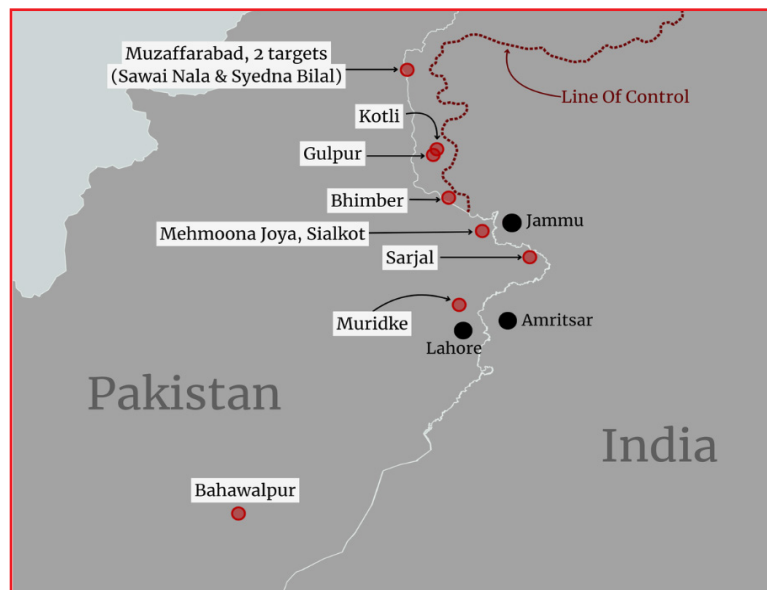
#### India’s Highest Dam on Indus System:

- ✦ Located on the **Marusudar River**, a tributary of **the Chenab**, the Pakal Dul project will feature **India’s tallest dam** on the Indus system at 167 meters.
- ✦ The dam also promises a much larger storage capacity compared to previous hydropower projects in the region.

## Operation Sindoor

### Why in News?

India retaliated against the **April 2025 Pahalgam terrorist attack** by launching **Operation Sindoor**, targeting nine terrorist infrastructure sites across Pakistan and **Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK)**.



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### Key Points

#### Operation Sindoor:

- ✦ It was executed through the coordinated efforts of the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**, conducted from Indian territory.
- ✦ Unlike past operations with aggressive names meant to project strength, this operation's name was chosen as a personal tribute to the victims, particularly the widows of the Pahalgam attack.
- ✦ Intelligence and probe agencies confirmed that the targeted camps were linked to banned terrorist groups including **Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM)**, **Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)**, and **Hizbul Mujahideen**.

## Baglihar Dam

### Why in News?

In a significant move, India has blocked the flow of water to Pakistan through the **Baglihar Dam** on the **Chenab River** and is planning to take similar action at the **Kishanganga Dam** on the **Jhelum River**.

### Key Points

#### About Baglihar Dam:

- ✦ The Baglihar Dam, officially known as the **Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project**, is a **run-of-the-river hydroelectric facility** located on the **Chenab River** in **Doda district, Jammu and Kashmir**.
- ✦ The dam is a **concrete gravity structure**, measuring 144.5 metres in height and 363 metres in length, with a total volume of 1.9 million cubic metres.
  - ✍ It creates a **reservoir** with a **storage capacity** of approximately **475 million cubic metres**.
  - ✍ The **underground powerhouse** spans 221 metres in length, 24 metres in width, and 51 metres in height.

- ✦ Project planning began in 1992, received official approval in 1996, and **construction started in 1999**.
- ✦ The project was implemented in two phases, each with an installed capacity of 450 MW.
- ✦ The **first phase** was **completed in 2004**, and the **second phase** was **commissioned on 10 October 2008**.
- ✦ The dam currently has a total installed capacity of 900 MW.

#### Kishanganga Dam:

- ✦ The Kishanganga project is located **5 km north of Bandipore in Jammu and Kashmir, India**.
- ✦ It is a run-of-the-river project that includes a **37 m tall concrete-face rock-fill dam**.
- ✦ It requires diverting water from the **Kishanganga River** through a tunnel to a power plant in the Jhelum River basin.
  - ✍ It will have an installed capacity of 330 MW.
  - ✍ The construction of this hydroelectric project began in 2007.
- ✦ Pakistan objected to the project arguing that it will affect the flow of the Kishanganga River (called the Neelum River in Pakistan).
- ✦ In 2013, The **Hague's Permanent Court of Arbitration (CoA)** ruled that India could divert all the water with certain conditions.

### Jhelum River

#### About:

- ✦ The Jhelum River flows through **northwestern India and northern and eastern Pakistan**, serving as a **major tributary of the Indus River**.
- ✦ Known as Vyeth in Kashmiri, Vitasta in Sanskrit, and Hydaspes in Greek, it is the principal river of the Kashmir Valley.
- ✦ Among the five rivers of Punjab, it is the largest and westernmost, flowing through Jhelum District in northern Punjab, Pakistan.

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### 💡 River Course and Origin:

- ✦ **Origin:** The Jhelum originates from the **Verinag Spring in Anantnag**, located at the base of the **Pir Panjal range** in Jammu and Kashmir.

✍ It flows northwestward through the Vale of Kashmir, entering **Wular Lake** near Srinagar, which helps regulate its flow.

✍ After Wular, the river carves a deep and narrow gorge as it moves towards Pakistan.

✍ Eventually, **it merges with the Chenab River near Trimmu**, in Pakistan's Punjab province.

- ✦ **Total Length:** Approximately 725 km (450 miles).

### 💡 Major Tributaries:

- ✦ The **Kishanganga (Neelum) River is the largest tributary**, joining the Jhelum near Muzaffarabad.

- ✦ The **Kunhar River**, the second-largest tributary, links Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Pakistan near the Kohala Bridge in the Kaghan Valley.

- ✦ **Other important tributaries include:**

✍ Sandran River  
✍ Bringi River  
✍ Arapath River  
✍ Watlara River  
✍ Lidder River  
✍ Veshaw River

## Haj Pilgrims

### Why in News?

The **first batch** of **Haj pilgrims** from **Jammu and Kashmir** flew out of Sheikh-ul-Alam International Airport, Srinagar.

### Key Points

#### 💡 Pilgrim Statistics:

- ✦ Around 3,622 pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir will perform the **Haj pilgrimage** this year.
- ✍ The first batch comprised 178 pilgrims who boarded a **direct flight to Saudi Arabia**.

#### 💡 Hajj Pilgrimage:

- ✦ The Hajj is a religious **pilgrimage** to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia that is **mandatory for all able-bodied Muslims** who can afford it. It is **one of the Five Pillars of Islam** and is considered a central part of Muslim religious life.

#### ✦ Five Pillars:

✍ **Shahada (Faith):** The declaration of faith in the oneness of God and the acceptance of Muhammad as God's prophet.

✍ **Salah (Prayer):** Performing the five daily prayers facing the Kaaba in Mecca.

✍ **Zakat (Charity):** Giving a portion of one's wealth to those in need.

✍ **Sawm (Fasting):** Fasting during the month of Ramadan.

✍ **Hajj (Pilgrimage):** Making a pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca at least once in a lifetime if one is physically and financially able.

- ✦ The Hajj takes place during the **Islamic month of Dhu al-Hijjah and involves several rituals**.

✍ Dhu al-Hijjah is the **twelfth and final month of the Islamic calendar**. It is considered one of the most sacred months in the Islamic year and is seen as a **time of renewal, spiritual growth, and reflection**, and is considered an important time to **strive for greater closeness with God**.

- ✦ Participating in the Hajj is seen as a **way to demonstrate one's devotion to God and to earn spiritual merit**, and it is a source of great pride and inspiration for many Muslims.

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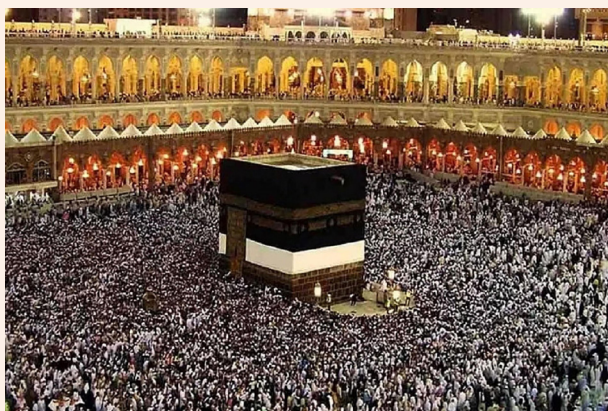


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### Haj pilgrimage for the Indian Pilgrims

- 💡 Haj pilgrimage for the Indian Pilgrims is conducted either through **Haj Committee of India (HCoI)**, which is a **statutory organization** under the administrative control of Ministry of Minority Affairs or through the **Haj Group Organisers (HGOs)** duly approved by Ministry.
  - ✦ The **Ministry of Minority Affairs is the nodal ministry** to conduct Haj pilgrimage in India.
- 💡 The **Haj Committee of India (HCI)** was established in 2002 under the **Haj Committee Act, 2002**.
  - ✦ All aspects of the arrangements for the HCI pilgrims in Saudi Arabia are coordinated by the **Consulate General of India (CGI), Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**.
- 💡 India signed the **Haj 2023 bilateral agreement** with **Saudi Arabia**. According to the agreement, a **total of 1,75,025 Indian Haj pilgrims will be able to perform Haj**, reportedly the highest in history.



## Zojila Pass Now Open for Tourists

### Why in News?

The **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)** has opened the **Siachen base camp** to tourists, following the early reopening of the strategic **Zojila Pass**. Visitors do **not require prior authorisation** or a **no-objection certificate (NOC)** to access the site.

- 💡 LAHDC also announced that the **Galwan Valley** will be opened to tourists for the first time from June 15, 2025.



### Key Points

- 💡 **Galwan Valley:**
  - ✦ The valley will be accessible via **Shyok village**, a key route in the region.
  - 📌 The decision marks a historic development as this is the first-ever public access to Galwan Valley, a sensitive military zone.
  - ✦ The opening is timed to coincide with the fifth anniversary of the **2020 Galwan Valley clashes**, underscoring the area's symbolic significance.
- 💡 **Zojila Pass:**
  - ✦ 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**.
  - 📌 It is vital for the movement of goods and personnel, especially for security forces stationed in Ladakh.
  - ✦ Zoji la is known as the **"Mountain Pass of Blizzards"**.
  - ✦ Zojila pass remains closed during winters due to **heavy snowfall, cutting off Ladakh region from Kashmir**.

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- ✦ In 2018, the **Zojila tunnel** project was launched. The **tunnel** is **Asia's longest and strategic bi-directional tunnel**, which will provide all-weather **connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh**.
- ✦ The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** reopened Zojila Pass for traffic.

### Galwan Valley

#### Geographic Location:

- ✦ Galwan Valley lies **between steep mountain ranges** through which the Galwan River flows.
- ✦ The **Galwan River originates in Aksai Chin (under Chinese control)** and flows westward into Ladakh, where it **merges with the Shyok River** on the Indian side of the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**.
- ✦ The valley serves as a **crucial corridor between western Ladakh and eastern Aksai Chin**.

#### Chinese Control:

- ✦ Aksai Chin, where the river begins, is administered by China as part of its **Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region**.

#### Proximity to Key Roads:

- ✦ On the Indian side, the valley is close to the **Darbuk–Shyok–Daulat Beg Oldie (DSDBO) road**, a strategic supply route.
- ✦ On the Chinese side, it lies near the G219 highway, a major road connecting Xinjiang and Tibet.

### Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

- ✦ BRO was **conceived and raised in 1960 by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** for coordinating the **speedy development of a network of roads in the North and the North Eastern border regions** of the country.
- ✦ It works under the **administrative control of the Ministry of Defence**.
- ✦ It has diversified into a large spectrum of construction and development works **comprising airfields, building projects, defence works and tunneling** and has endeared itself to the people.
- ✦ Important programmes:
  - ✦ In 2023-24, the BRO completed 125 infrastructure projects, including the construction of the **Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh** on Balipara-Chardwar-Tawang Road.
  - ✦ The BRO will soon start construction on the 4.10-km long **Shinkun La Tunnel**, which will become the **world's highest tunnel at 15,800 ft** once completed, **bypassing China's Mila Tunnel at 15,590 ft**.

### Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)

#### About:

- ✦ LAHDC was **established under the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Act, 1995**.
- ✦ The creation of LAHDC introduced **democratic decentralization of the planning process**, enabling grassroots participation in decision-making.

#### Significance:

- ✦ Given Ladakh's challenging terrain and remote locations, the need for public involvement in planning and development was particularly critical.
- ✦ LAHDC's structure allows for **locally informed policies that address the unique needs of the region**.



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**Key Points**

**Details**


**Summary**

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## Key Points

## Details

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