



Kasowal Bridge on River Ravi

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Why in News

The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has constructed a **permanent bridge on the Ravi river** to connect Kasowal enclave in Punjab along the India - Pakistan border to the rest of the country.

The 484-meter bridge was built under the **Project Chetak** of BRO.

Key Points

- **Project Chetak**
 - This project of the BRO was **raised in June 1962** at Dehradun for construction of Joshimath-Malari-Rinkin road.
 - In 1980, the project was re-raised for expanding and improving the road networks and ditch-cum-bunds.
 - The jurisdiction of the project is **spread across the states of Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab.**

- **Ravi River**

- It is **one of the five tributaries of the Indus River** that give the Punjab (meaning “Five Rivers”) its name. **Other tributaries** are: Jhelum, Chenab, Beas and Sutlej.
- **Transboundary River:** It rises in the Himalayas in Himachal Pradesh (India) and flows to the Pakistani border and along it for more than 80 km before entering Pakistan’s Punjab province.
- **Sharing of Water:** The **Indus Waters Treaty in 1960** allocated the water of the **Eastern rivers - Sutlej, Beas and Ravi** - to India for **unrestricted use**. Pakistan has rights of unrestricted use of the waters of the **Indus and its western tributaries (Jhelum and Chenab)**.
 - India has also been permitted to make from the Western River, domestic non-consumptive uses, uses for run-of-the river hydroelectric plants and specified agricultural use and construction of storage works.
- **Important Projects: Ujh Multipurpose Project** (River Ujh is a tributary of the Ravi), Shahpurkandi Dam Project



Border Roads Organisation

- It 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.

Source: HT