



BRO Opens Rohtang Pass

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Why in News

The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has opened the Rohtang Pass, three weeks in advance, for transporting essential supplies and relief materials to Lahaul and Spiti districts of Himachal Pradesh amid the lockdown due to **Covid-19**.

Key Points

- The pass is at 13,058 feet on the **eastern Pir Panjal Range of the Himalayas**.
- The Pass connects **Leh and Manali**. The road serves as the **only mode of connectivity between the tribal population of Lahaul Valley** in Himachal Pradesh and the rest of the country.
- It is also a crucial lifeline for the **Army troops deployed on the eastern border in the Ladakh region**.
- The pass remains **snow-bound for almost six months**, from mid-November to mid-May, isolating Lahaul and Spiti districts from the rest of the country.
 - The valley depends on **air traffic for external logistics and supplies during winters**.
- **Atal tunnel under Rohtang Pass:**
 - It is a **8.8-kilometre long tunnel** and will be the **world's longest tunnel** above an altitude of 3,000 metres.
 - It will reduce the **distance between Manali and Leh by 46 kilometres and saves transport costs**.
 - It will provide **all weather connectivity** to remote border areas of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh which otherwise remained cut off from the rest of the country for about six months during winters.

Pass	Link/Features
Banihal Pass	Kashmir Valley with the outer Himalaya and the plains to the south.
Bara-Lacha-La Pass	Lahaul district in Himachal Pradesh with Leh district in Ladakh.
Fotu La Pass	Leh with Kargil of Ladakh
Rohtang Pass	Kullu Valley with the Lahaul and Spiti Valleys of Himachal Pradesh.
Shipki La Pass	Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh with Autonomous Region of Tibet, China.
Jelep La Pass	Sikkim with Autonomous Region of Tibet, China.
Nathu La Pass	Sikkim with Autonomous Region of Tibet, China.
Lipu Lekh Pass	Chaudans valley of India with Autonomous Region of Tibet, China. It is located close to the tri junction of Uttarakhand (India), China and Nepal.
Khardung La	Ladakh with Siachen glacier. It is the highest motorable pass in the world.
Bom di La	It is in Arunachal Pradesh

Border Roads Organisation

- 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.

Source: TH