



## New Road to Kailash Mansarovar

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### Why in News

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Recently, the **Defence Minister of India** has inaugurated a new **80-km road in Uttarakhand** connecting the **Line of Actual Control** (LAC) and opening a new route for **Kailash Mansarovar yatra** via **Lipulekh Pass (China border)**.

It is scheduled to be completed by December 2022 and will significantly reduce the travel time for pilgrims.

### Key Points

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- The Link Road is named as the **Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra Route** under which the **Border Roads Organisation** (BRO) achieved road connectivity from **Dharchula (Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand) to Lipulekh**.
  - Lipulekh Pass also known as **Lipu-Lekh Pass/Qiangla or Tri-Corner** is a high altitude mountain pass situated in the **western Himalayas** with a height of 5,334 metre or 17,500 feet.
  - It is an **International mountain pass** between **India, China and Nepal**.
- The road was made under directions of the **China Study Group** (CSG) and is funded by **Indo-China Border Road** (ICBR).
- It was approved by the **Cabinet Committee on Security** (CCS) in **2005**.
- The last 5-km of the road could not be finished due to a **temporary ban** placed on the **last-mile connectivity** in 2016 by the **Director General Military Operations**, which is yet to be lifted.

- **Advantages:**

- It is the **shortest and cheapest route** with just **one-fifth distance** of road travel as compared to other old routes. The other route is via Sikkim.
- There is **no air travel involved** and the **majority of the travel (84%) is in India** and only 16% in China compared to other routes where 80% road travel is in China.
- Except for a 5-km trek, **whole travel will be on vehicles** reducing the 5-day trek to 2- days road travel.

## **Kailash Mansarovar**

- To Hindus it is the **earthly embodiment** of the dominant mountain of heaven, Meru, and the residence of **Lord Shiva** and his consort Goddess Parvati.
- The Kailash range's supreme peak lies in the **Chinese-occupied Tibet** at the height of **6,675 meters**.
- The pilgrimage to **Kailash** and to the sacred **Mansarovar** lake that lies 30 km to its south, is run exclusively by a government organization, the **Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN)**.

The organization works in collaboration with the Government of India's Ministry of External Affairs and the Government of China.

**Source: TH**