



Project Dantak

Why in News

Recently, **Project DANTAK** which is one of the oldest Projects of the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** commemorated its **Diamond Jubilee in Bhutan**.

- Over 1,200 DANTAK personnel laid down their lives while constructing important infrastructure in Bhutan.



Key Points

▪ About:

- Project DANTAK was **established on 24th April 1961**.
- It was a result of the visionary leadership of **the third King of Bhutan and then Prime Minister of India Jawahar Lal Nehru**.
- DANTAK was tasked **to construct the pioneering motorable roads**.

▪ Achievements:

◦ Road Connectivity:

- Over the years, the Project has completed approximately 1600 km of blacktopped roads and 120 km of tracks in Bhutan with 5000 meters of bridges over them.

◦ Other Projects Executed:

- Include the construction of Paro Airport, Yonphula Airfield, Thimphu – Trashigang Highway, Telecommunication & Hydro Power Infrastructure, Sherubtse College, Kanglung and India House Estate.
- **Medical and Education Facilities:**
 - The medical and education facilities established by DANTAK in far flung areas were often the first in those locations.
- **Food Outlets:**
 - The food outlets along the road introduced the Bhutanese to Indian delicacies and developed a sweet tooth in them.
- **Indo-Bhutan Relationship:**
 - **Indo-Bhutan Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1949:**
 - The Treaty provides for, among other things, **perpetual peace and friendship, free trade and commerce and equal justice** to each other's citizens.
 - In **2007**, the **treaty was re-negotiated**, and provisions were included to encourage Bhutan's sovereignty, abolishing the need to take India's guidance on foreign policy.
 - **Multilateral Partnership:**
 - Both of them share multilateral forums such as [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation \(SAARC\)](#), [BBIN \(Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal\)](#), [BIMSTEC \(Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation\)](#) etc.
 - **Economic Partnership:**
 - **Mutually beneficial hydro-power cooperation** with Bhutan forms the core of bilateral economic cooperation.
 - The **720 MW Mangdechhu** was commissioned in August 2019. HEPs namely, 1200 MW Punatsangchhu-I, 1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II and Kholongchhu HEP (600 MWs) are under various stages of implementation.
 - **India is Bhutan's largest trading partner.**

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.
- **Some Recent Achievements:**
 - [Atal Tunnel](#): It is located in Himachal Pradesh's Rohtang pass. It connects Solang Valley near Manali to Sissu in Lahaul and Spiti district.
 - **Nechiphu Tunnel**: Foundation stone was laid on the Balipara-Charduar-Tawang (BCT) road in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.
 - [Daporijo Bridge](#): It is over Subansiri river in Arunachal Pradesh.
 - [Kasowal Bridge](#): It is over Ravi river. It connects Kasowal enclave in Punjab along the India - Pakistan border to the rest of the country.
 - [Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie Road](#): It connects Leh via the villages of Darbuk and Shyok at southern Shyok River Valley, with the Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) post near the northern border.
 - **Barsi Bridge (longest bridge on Manali-Leh highway)**: It is built on Bagga river, which joins with Chandra river at Tandi in Lahaul to flow down into Jammu & Kashmir as the Chenab.

Source: TH

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