



## Zojila Pass and Razdan Pass Reopen After Short Winter Closure

### Why in News?

The [Border Roads Organisation \(BRO\)](#) has announced that the **strategic Zoji La Pass**, located at an altitude of **11,650 feet** in the [Greater Himalayan Range](#), has been reopened after a winter closure.

- Similarly, the Razdan Pass, which connects the Gurez sector to the Kashmir Valley, has also been reopened after a brief winter closure.
- Snow clearance operations were undertaken by Project Beacon and Vijayak from both sides of the pass.

### What is the Significance of Zoji La 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**.
- Zoji La pass remains closed during winters due to heavy snowfall, **cutting off Ladakh region from Kashmir**.
- In 2018, the **Zoji La 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**.

### What are the Other Important Passes in India?

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# MAJOR PASSES IN INDIA



## FACTS

- **Umling La** pass located in Eastern Ladakh has recently become the **world's highest motorable pass** (Project Himank).
- **Lipu Lekh Pass** is located close to the **tri junction of Uttarakhand (India), China and Nepal**.
- **Nathu La** (Sikkim) is situated on the **Indo-Tibetan border**. It is **one of the three open trading passes** between India and China (other two: **Shipki La** and **Lipu Lekh Pass**).
- **Naku La**, located in Sikkim, was recently in news due to the **Indo-China face-off along the LAC at the pass**.
- **Zoji La** links Leh with Srinagar and is known as the "**Mountain Pass of Blizzards**". The Zojila tunnel is **Asia's longest tunnel**.
- **Dungri La** (or **Mana**) Pass connects India and Tibet. It is **located in the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve** of the Zaskar mountain range (Uttarakhand). Even Indian nationals **need prior permits from the Army** to travel through this pass.
- **Rohtang Pass** (Himachal Pradesh) is situated in the **Pir Panjal Range** of the great Himalayas and **connects Kullu Valley with Lahaul and Spiti Valleys**.
- The widest gap of Western Ghats is at **Palakkad (or Pal Ghat)** in Kerala adjoining Tamil Nadu.



## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q. Siachen Glacier is situated to the (2020)**

- (a)** East of Aksai Chin
- (b)** East of Leh
- (c)** North of Gilgit
- (d)** North of Nubra Valley

**Ans: (d)**

[Source: TH](#)

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