



Rishikesh-Karnaprayag Rail Link Project

Why in News?

On 16 April 2025, the **Union Railway Minister** and **Chief Minister of Uttarakhand** witnessed the breakthrough program of **India's longest rail tunnel at Janasu, Uttarakhand**.

Key Points

- **Part of Rishikesh-Karnaprayag Rail Project:**
 - The 14.57-km-long Tunnel 8 lies between Devprayag and Janasu and forms a key part of the 125-km [Rishikesh-Karnaprayag Broad Gauge Rail Line](#).
 - This project aims to **enhance connectivity** across five Himalayan districts—**Devprayag, Srinagar, Rudraprayag, Gauchar, and Karnaprayag**.
 - The project uses [Tunnel Boring Machine \(TBM\) technology](#) for the first time in mountainous regions of India.
- **Technical and Logistical Challenges Overcome:**
 - TBM components weighing 165 MT were transported from [Mundra Port](#) across narrow Himalayan roads and old bridges.
 - The tunnel passes through [Seismic Zone IV](#), demanding advanced design and geological probing due to tectonic activity.
- **Impact and Broader Significance:**
 - Over 83% of the 125-km alignment runs through tunnels, involving a total of 213 km of tunnelling across main and escape routes.
 - Once completed, the **project will reduce travel time**, ensure all-weather access, and boost tourism and regional economy in Uttarakhand.
 - It also represents a major leap toward realising the [Char Dham Rail Connectivity Initiative](#) under the government's [Viksit Bharat 2047 vision](#).

Vision India@2047

- **The Project:**
 - Vision India@2047 is a project initiated by the [NITI Aayog](#), the apex policy think tank of India, to create a blueprint for India's development in the next 25 years.
 - The project aims to **make India a global leader in innovation and technology**, a model of human development and social welfare, and a champion of environmental sustainability.
- **Objectives:**
 - Achieving a **USD 30 trillion economy** with a **per-capita income of USD 18,000-20,000** and strong public finances and a robust financial sector.
 - **Building world-class infrastructure** and facilities in both rural and urban areas.
 - Eliminating unnecessary interference by the government in the lives of citizens and promoting digital economy and governance.
 - Developing 3-4 global champions in every sector by merger or restructuring and boosting indigenous industry and innovation.
 - **Becoming self-reliant** in defence and space sectors and enhancing India's role in the world.

- **Fostering green growth** and climate action by increasing renewable energy capacity and reducing carbon emissions.
- Empowering the youth with skills and education and creating more employment opportunities.
- Partnering with foreign R&D organizations to build top 10 labs in the country and bringing at least 10 Indian institutions among the top 100 globally.

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