Border Infrastructure

What is the issue?

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Though India’s infrastructure development along the border with China has picked up, there has been some serious roll backs.

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What is the status of Mountain Strike Corps?

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- The Mountain Strike corps is **India’s first dedicated strike corps** for mountain operations.
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- It focuses on the eastern end of the contested border to bolster India’s defence of Arunachal Pradesh.
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- They can also be used in any mountainous region, which means all the northern borders.
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- It was originally supposed to have three full divisions.
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- It has been scaled down to two, of which just one division has been raised until now.
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- With two divisions, the 17 Corps would have about 60,000 men, against the original plan of over 90,000.
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What is the present status of other infrastructures?

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- All 61 India-China Border Roads (ICBR) included in the Border Roads Development Board (BRDB) programme were planned to be completed by

2012.
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- However, only 15 roads had been completed by 2012.
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- Out of the balance, 46 roads, only 7 roads were completed by March 2016, extending the Planned Date of Completion (PDC) of balance roads to 2021.
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- However a 9.2-km **Dhola-Sadiya bridge** was recently constructed.
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- It will cut down the distance between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh by 165 km.
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- India is also constructing some critical bridges in the northeast which will cut down time for troop movement.
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Quick Fact

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Cabinet Committee on Security

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- The **Cabinet Committee on Security** (CCS) of the Central Government of India decides on India's defence expenditure, matters of National Security,and makes significant appointments.
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- CCS is chaired by the Prime Minister of India and comprises the Minister of Defence, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Home Affairs, and the Minister of External Affairs.
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Source: The Hindu

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