

Chungthang-Lachen road and Taram Chu Bridge

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Infrastructure

Why in News?

Recently, the Minister of State for Defence inaugurated the Chungthang-Lachen axis and the Taram Chu Bridge, restored by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in North Sikkim under Project Swastik.

Chungthang-Lachen Road

- **Connectivity** - The road route ***connects Chungthang, in North Sikkim, to Lachen***, a remote, high-altitude town near the international border.
- **Strategic Linkage** - Lachen connects North Sikkim's Gurudongmar Lake (5 km south of the China Border) and the Thangu Valley.
- **Restoration** - It is part of post-disaster recovery due to
 - Devastating cloud bursts in May-June 2025,
 - Cyclone Remal in June 2024 and
 - The Glacial Lake Outburst Flood in October 2023.
- The BRO restored 28km of the Chungthang-Lachen road.
- **Clearance** - To re-establish the 28-km link, the BRO cleared 96 landslides and completed 8 kilometres of fresh formation cutting through treacherous terrain.

Taram Chu Bridge Restoration

- It is a ***400-foot Bailey suspension bridge above the Taram Chu water body***.
- It links Chungthang with Lachen via the Chungthang-Lachen Road.
- **Operational Capacity** - Designed for both civilian and military use, and strategic logistics to forward border areas.

- **Aim** - To overcome ***mountainous terrain challenges in Sikkim*** and ensure connectivity to remote valleys and forward areas.
- **Implemented by** - Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- **Nodal Ministry** - The Ministry of Defence.
- **Initiated in** - 1960 as Project DRAGON; renamed Project Swastik in 1963.
- **Major Works** - Maintains over 1,412 km of roads and 80 major bridges.
- Constructed Western Sikkim Highway, NH 310A and NH 310AG.
- Overcame GLOFs, cloudbursts, and floods in the Teesta River caused by the 2023 South Lhonak Lake breach.
- **Progress** - *In 2025, Project Swastik Marked 65 Years of Service.*

References

1. [PIB | Chungthang-Lachen Road and Taram Chu Bridge](#)
2. [DD News | Chungthang-Lachen Road and Taram Chu Bridge](#)
3. [PIB | Project Swastik](#)

