

Rishikesh-Karnaprayag Rail Link Project

Prelims - *Current events of National Importance.*

Mains (GS III) - *Infrastructure.*

Why in news?

Recently, the Railway Minister observed the completion of India's longest rail tunnel, Tunnel No. 8, located between Devprayag and Janasu, part of the Rishikesh-Karnaprayag Rail Link Project in Uttarakhand.

- It is set to become the India's ***longest transport tunnel***, surpassing existing rail and road tunnels in ***Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh***.
- **Completion expected by** - 2026-27.
- **Agency** - Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways.
 - Achieved breakthrough using a German-made tunnel boring machine (TBM) named '***Shakti***'.
- This initiative aims to enhance access to the Char Dham pilgrimage sites of ***Yamunotri, Gangotri, Badrinath, and Kedarnath***, located in the Garhwal region of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand.
- The railway line spans approximately 125.20 kilometers and will feature 12 stations, 35 bridges, and 17 tunnels.
- Notably, it includes a significant 15.1-kilometer tunnel connecting ***Devprayag and Lachmoli***.
- Additionally, this rail project is part of a broader Indian geostrategic effort to develop infrastructure along the India-China border.
- The progress of the project is being tracked through the Government of India's ***PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation)*** portal.

Reference

[The Hindu | Rishikesh-Karnaprayag rail link project](#)