# 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**

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