Z-Morh Tunnel

Why in News?

The Z-Morh tunnel is to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister on January 13, 2025 that was started in 2018.

- **Z-Morh tunnel** – It is named after the *Z-shaped stretch of road* that the tunnel has replaced (Z-Morh translates to "Z-turn" in English)
- **Aim** – To provide *all-weather connectivity* to the Sonamarg tourist town.
- **Location -** Between Gagangir and Sonamarg in ***Jammu and Kashmir***.
- **Construction** – It is built under the Mountain glacier of *Thajiwas Glacier* between Gagangir and Sonamarg.
- **Need** - At present, the Gagangir-Sonamarg stretch of the road gets blocked by heavy snowfall and avalanches that hit the area every year.
- **Features** – It is a *6.5 km long 2-lane road tunnel* and the main tunnel is 10.8 metres long, with a modified
    - **Horseshoe shaped tunnel** – 7.5 metres.
    - **D-shaped ventilation tunnel** – 8.3 metres.
- **Advantage** - It takes *only 15 minutes to travel* the 6.5 km long tunnel compared to hours over the zig-zag road up and down the hills.
- **Significance** - It is to become the 1st strategic corridor between Kashmir and Ladakh.
- It will also enhance military logistics and boost tourism and the economy.
- It will help the employment of local youth and boost tourism and allied activities in the area.



Z-Morh Tunnel together with the adjacent Zoji-La Tunnel, on the Srinagar-Leh

Highway will provide year-round weather-proof connectivity to Baltal (Amarnath cave), Kargil and other places in the Ladakh region.

***Zojila Tunnel**, which is under construction will be the longest tunnel in Asia, which cut through the Himalayan range at Zojila Pass to reach the Kargil district in Ladakh.*

Reference

The Hindu| Z-Morh Tunnel for Winter Tourism

