

China's new key highway in Tibet

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In news: China has built a key highway through Brahmaputra Gorge in Tibet near Arunachal.

More about the tunnel-

- The strategic highway including a 2km mountain tunnel is through the **Yarlung Zangbo Grand Canyon (Brahmaputra Canyon)**, known as the **world's deepest gorge**.
- The 67.22-km road connects **Pad Township in the city of Nyingchi and Medog County**, cutting travel time by eight hours.
- Medog is the last county in Tibet, which is located close to the Arunachal Pradesh border.
- Its likely terminus is **Baibung county** (known as Drepung in Tibetan), close to the Indian village of Bishing in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The **village of Bishing** is located in Arunachal's Gelling circle, which **touches the McMahon Line**, the de-facto Sino-India border in the region.
- It is the **second significant passageway to Medog**, following the **first one connecting the county and Zhamog Township, Bomi County**.
- The highway project was started in 2014, with an estimated investment of about USD 310 million.
- China has cleared a plan to build a mega-dam over the Canyon by the country's Parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC).
- Engineers have expressed concern about the **threats posed by landslides and barrier lakes to the dam**.
- Across the border, India is also building a 150-km-long **Yingkiong-Bushing national highway in the Upper Siang district** of Arunachal Pradesh.