

Rohtang tunnel

July 24, 2020

Recently the Prime Minister named the **Rohtang passageway as Atal Tunnel** to mark the 95th birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajapayee.

About the tunnel

- **The foundation stone for the project was laid on July 28, 2010.**
- The tunnel **connects Manali in Himachal Pradesh with Leh, Ladakh**, and Jammu Kashmir
- Being constructed in Pir Panjal range, it will will reduce the distance between Manali and Leh by 46 kilometres
- The Tunnel will also provide all-weather connectivity to remote border areas of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh.
- The tunnel is expected to be ready for an official inauguration by September 2020.
- Upon completion, the 8.8 km-long **tunnel will be the world's longest highway tunnel at an altitude** of above 10,000 feet (3,000 metres).



- It is a 10.5 m-wide single tube, a bi-lane tunnel with a fireproof emergency tunnel built into the main tunnel itself. The 10.5-m width includes a 1-metre footpath on both sides.
- It is being **operated by Border Roads Organisation**
- Following are the various services available inside the tunnel:
 1. Telephone every 150 metres
 2. Fire hydrant every 60 metres
 3. Emergency exit every 500 metres
 4. Turning cavern every 2.2. km
 5. Air Quality monitoring every 1 km

6. Broadcasting system
7. Automatic incident detection system with CCTV every 250 metres