

Sela tunnel

July 23, 2021

In news- The last blast of the escape tube of under-construction Sela Tunnel was conducted by Director General Border Roads (DGBR) through video conferencing recently.

About the tunnel-

- The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Sela Tunnel on February 09, 2019 to **provide all weather connectivity between Guwahati in Assam and Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh** through the **Balipara-Chariduar-Tawang Road**.
- The construction of the tunnel started on April 01, 2019 with the first blast taking place on October 31, 2019.
- On completion, it will be the **longest bi-lane road tunnel in the world** at an altitude above 13,000 feet on **NH 13** component of Trans-Arunachal Highway system.
- The project provides for two tunnels of 1,790 m and 475 m lengths and an escape tube of 980 m.
- This unique tunnel constructed using the latest **New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM)**, is much below the snow line allowing all weather travel without the challenges of snow clearance.
- It will **reduce travel time and ensure speedier movement across the Sela Pass**.
- In case of natural calamities and adverse weather, it can prove to be a **vital link for evacuation of personnel**.
- It has a target completion date of Feb 2022.
- It is being **constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) under Project Vartak**.