

(FACTSHEET)

ATAL TUNNEL – World’s Longest Highway Tunnel

(Ministry of Defence)

March 24, 2022

“Atal Tunnel is going to be the lifeline of a large part of Himachal Pradesh as well as the new Union Territory of Leh-Ladakh. Now, this vast area of Himachal Pradesh and Leh-Ladakh will always be connected to the rest of the country and will move faster on the path of development.”

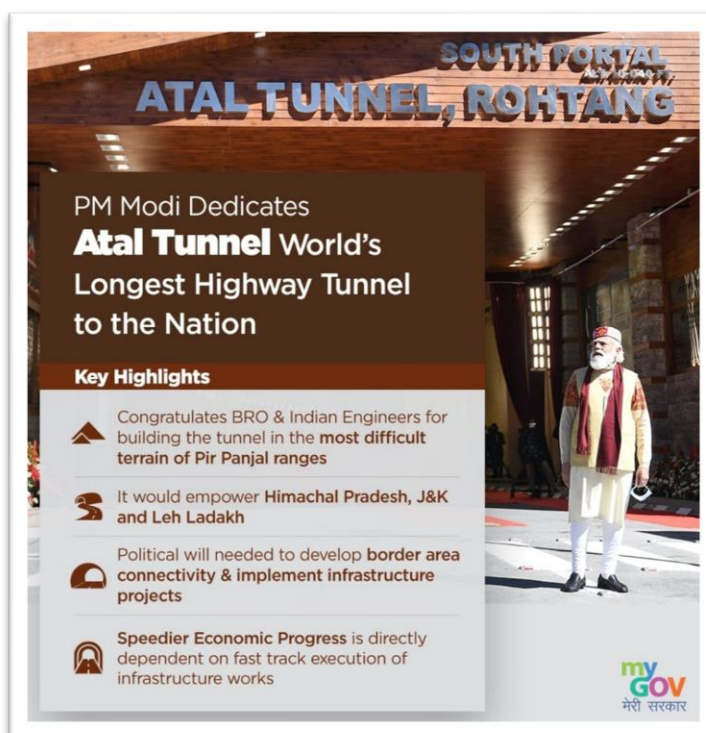
- [Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#)¹

[Atal Tunnel](#)² was dedicated to the Nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 03, 2020. The 9.02-kilometer long strategically significant Atal Tunnel, that runs under the Rohtang Pass was constructed on the Manali - Leh Highway in the state of Himachal Pradesh under the challenging conditions of freezing temperatures in extremely difficult terrain.

Background:

The historic decision to construct a strategic tunnel below the Rohtang Pass was taken on June 03, 2000 when late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister.

The foundation stone for the Access Road to the South Portal of the tunnel was laid on May 26, 2002. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) worked relentlessly to overcome major geological, terrain and weather challenges that included the most difficult stretch of the 587-metre Seri Nalah Fault Zone. The breakthrough from both ends was achieved on October 15, 2017. The Union Cabinet met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi



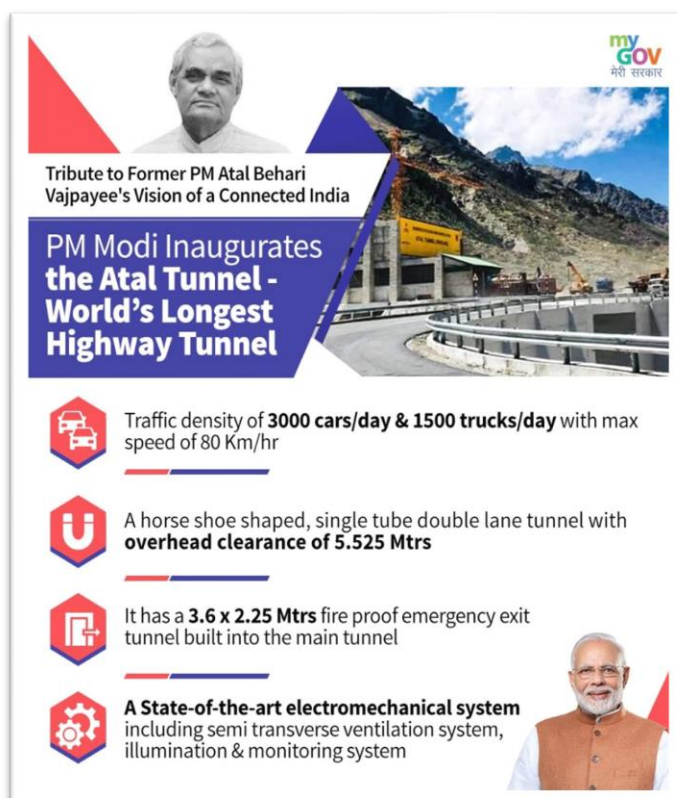
¹ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1661271>

² <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Atal-Tunnel-certified-by-World-Book-of-Records-as-World%26%2339%3Bs-Longest-Highway-Tunnel&id=435215>

on 24th December 2019 and decided to name the Rohtang Tunnel as Atal Tunnel to honour the contribution made by the former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Key Highlights of Atal Tunnel:

- Atal Tunnel is the longest highway tunnel in the World.
- The 9.02-Km long tunnel connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley throughout the year. Earlier the valley was cut off for about six months each year owing to heavy snowfall.
- The tunnel is built with ultra-modern specifications in the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas at an altitude of 3000 Mtrs (10,000 Feet) from the Mean Sea Level (MSL).
- The tunnel reduces the road distance by 46 Kms between Manali and Leh and the travel time by about 4 to 5 hours.
- The South Portal (SP) of Atal Tunnel is located at a distance of 25 kilometres from Manali at an altitude of 3060 Mtrs, while the North Portal (NP) of the tunnel is located near village Teling, Sissu, in Lahaul Valley at an altitude of 3071 Mtrs.
- It is horse shoe shaped, single tube double lane tunnel with a roadway of 8 Mtrs.



- It has an overhead clearance of 5.525 Mtrs.
- It is 10.5-metre wide and has a 3.6 x 2.25 Mtrs fire proof emergency egress tunnel built into the main tunnel itself.
- Atal Tunnel has been designed for traffic density of 3000 cars per day and 1500 trucks per day with max speed of 80 km/hr.
- It has the state of the art electromechanical system including semi transverse ventilation system, SCADA controlled firefighting, illumination and monitoring system.

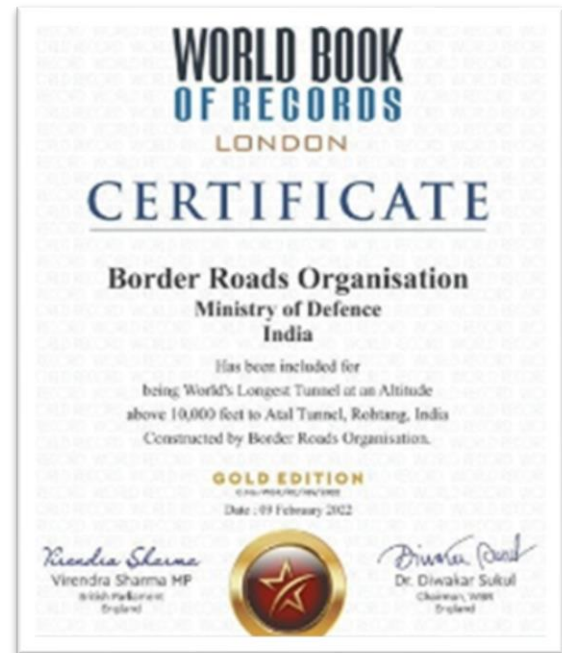
Safety Features³ of Atal Tunnel

- Tunnel entry barriers at both portals.
- Telephone connections at every 150 Mtrs for emergency communication.
- Fire hydrant mechanisms at every 60 Mtrs.
- Auto incident detection system with CCTV cameras at every 250 Mtrs.
- Air quality monitoring at every 1 Km.
- Evacuation lighting / exit signs at every 25 Mtrs.
- Broadcasting system throughout the tunnel.
- Fire rated Dampers at every 50 Mtrs.
- Cameras at every 60 Mtrs.

Achievement

Atal Tunnel has officially been certified by World Book of Records, as the 'World's Longest Highway Tunnel⁴ above 10,000 Feet', during a landmark ceremony on February 09, 2022, in New Delhi.

Director General of Border Roads Organisation⁵ (BRO), Lieutenant General Rajeev Chaudhry received the award for the stupendous achievement of the organization in constructing this engineering marvel connecting Manali to the Lahaul-Spiti Valley. World Book of Records in the United Kingdom, is an organisation that catalogues and verifies extraordinary records across the world with authentic certification.



Benefits of Atal Tunnel

Ladakh, a cold desert in the north of India covers a vast area and had been very remote and inaccessible. There are only two ways to reach the desert, one from Kashmir via Kargil, the other one from Himachal Pradesh via Rohtang Pass. Rohtang is a high altitude pass and due to intense snowfall, the road remains closed for almost six months in a year. Thus, during the winter, the only available connection for the people of Ladakh remained through Kashmir.

The Atal Tunnel passes right below the Rohtang Pass. Today, there is a motorable road to Ladakh throughout the year. This unlocks immense potential for the people of Ladakh and development of the region.

Further, farmers, horticulturalists and youth from Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh will now have easy access to the capital of Delhi and other markets.

³ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1660559>

⁴ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1796961>

⁵ <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Atal-Tunnel-certified-by-World-Book-of-Records-as-World%26%2339%3Bs-Longest-Highway-Tunnel&id=435215>

Atal tunnel will also aid the security forces in ensuring regular supplies to them and also in their patrolling.

Atal Tunnel has also been a boon for the residents of Lahaul & Spiti District in Himachal Pradesh. The region has seen an unprecedented increase in the arrival of tourists, and in a little more than a year, the valley and the state have witnessed growth in the socio-economic domains.

References:

- <http://bro.gov.in/WriteReadData/linkimages/9390242669-t2.pdf>
- <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1661260>
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1660559>
- <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Atal-Tunnel-certified-by-World-Book-of-Records-as-World%26%2339%3Bs-Longest-Highway-Tunnel&id=435215>
- <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1661271>
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1796961>

Videos link

- [PM Modi's speech at inauguration of Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh](#)

Tweets

- https://twitter.com/AmitShah/status/1312330464355471362?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etw eetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1312330464355471362%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1 &ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fpib.gov.in%2FPressReleasePage.aspx%3FPRID%3D1661364
- https://twitter.com/PIB_Guwahati/status/1312376080553058304?s=20&t=9jO6_5c9vs3hnJwhbgXlJA
- https://twitter.com/PIB_India/status/1311576566871146496?s=20&t=9jO6_5c9vs3hnJwhbgXlJA
- https://twitter.com/PIB_India/status/1491403900209221634?s=20&t=9jO6_5c9vs3hnJwhbgXlJA
- https://twitter.com/pib_india/status/1311576566871146496
- <https://twitter.com/AmitShah/status/1312330009202192385?s=20&t=PAEBbrtPY6UJqE0z7M4Juw>
- <https://twitter.com/AmitShah/status/1312330143801647104?s=20&t=ibsvt4MoNxno2bz7ylsZcg>
- <https://twitter.com/AmitShah/status/1312330009202192385?s=20&t=XY4MW6Ose-heb7BEeFqhLA>
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1660559>
- <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=Atal-Tunnel-certified-by-World-Book-of-Records-as-World%26%2339%3Bs-Longest-Highway-Tunnel&id=435215>

AG/HP/RC/PPD/SS