

Jammu & Kashmir Digest

A Review of Developments in J&K



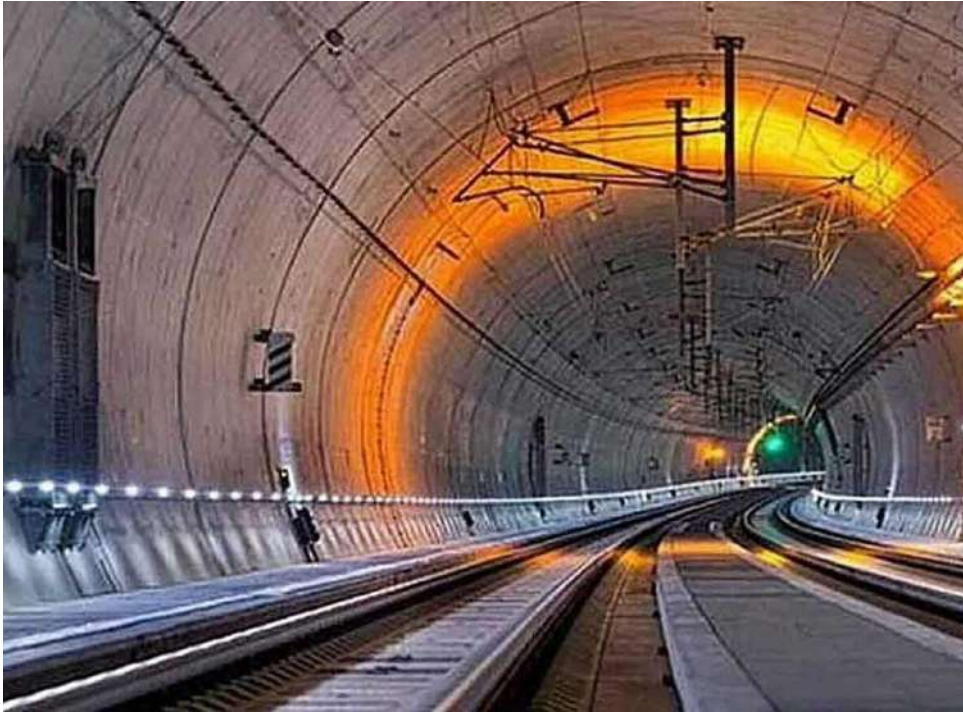
MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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- Valley to be Connected by Train with Rest of India Soon
- Two Israeli Centres of Excellence to Develop Agriculture in J&K
- An Affordable Solar-Powered Luxury Car Built by a Maths Teacher

More News and Analyses



- Representation Photo

The Kashmir Valley is expected to be connected to the rest of India by train as the Railways has completed a significant portion of work on the longest rail tunnel in the country in the Ramban sector of the Jammu region.

The project manager of the tunnel has reportedly said that a substantial section of the rail tunnel, which is 12.75km long in the Udhampur-Baramulla-Srinagar Rail (UBSR) link in Jammu and Kashmir, has been completed.

The all-weather, cost-effective connectivity shall prove to be a boon for the economy of the Union Territory and would catalyze industrialization, with easy movement of raw materials, promotion of trade, as well as tourism and employment generation.

Constructing the railway route to the region has posed various engineering challenges. The 345km long track passes through major earthquake zones and is subjected to extreme cold and heat and highly inhospitable terrain. The project holds great significance for security and socio-economic development.

This route will also see the construction of the world's highest railway bridge and India's first cable-stayed Railway Bridge. — [IANS](#)

INFRASTRUCTURE SECTION

VALLEY TO BE CONNECTED BY TRAIN WITH REST OF INDIA SOON

LONGEST RAIL TUNNEL IN COUNTRY



- India Infra Hub

TUNNELING IN THE HIMALAYAS

The challenge of constructing the rail tunnel in the Himalayan region has been quite challenging. The pouring of overt gantry concrete from an upward gradient to a downward gradient is a problem. According to Afcons General Manager Chandra Shekhar Dixit, the pouring rate of overt gantry concrete should not be more than 5.8 cum/hr, or there will be chances of the bulging of the gantry, which may lead to misalignment. Therefore, “the team effectively ensured an accurate pouring rate,” he said. — [Kashmir Life](#)



Representation pic from News Bharati

AGRICULTURE SECTION

TWO ISRAELI
CENTRES OF
EXCELLENCE
TO DEVELOP
AGRICULTURE
IN J&K

PROGRESS SINCE ART. 370 ABROGATION

**53.8% GROWTH IN COLD
STORAGE IN TWO YEARS**



Pic for *The Hindu* by Fayaz Kabli

Israel is gearing up to establish two Centres of Excellence (CoE) – one each in the Jammu Division and Kashmir Valley – under the Indo-Israel Agricultural Project.

Mr. Yair Eshel, the Israeli Agricultural Attaché to India, travelled to visit the agricultural tracts in Jammu and Kashmir to prepare a list of suitable locations to set up the CoE.

According to the Defence Attaché, “Jammu and Kashmir has a lot of potential. We (Israelis) are ready to share our advanced technology with the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir.” Mr. Eshel further explained that his fellow citizens desire to see J&K prosper.

This announcement resulted in great jubilation among J&K’s agricultural department, particularly its Director, Mr. K.K. Sharma. This is a significant milestone in terms of foreign investment by Israel after the August 2019 constitutional reforms.

Furthermore, Mr. Ravinder Rana, BJP’s J&K Chief, hailed Israel as India’s trusted partner and their deepening cooperation. He even added that Tel Aviv’s interest in J&K’s agricultural development indicates a ‘stern’ message to Pakistan. – *India Today, Kashmir Observer*

The development of cold storage infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir has grown by 53.8 percent since the abrogation of Article 370.

Replying to a question in Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar on 9 December said 21 cold storages with a capacity of 99,555 tonnes have been constructed in the Union Territory over the last two years. — *The Hindu*



Bilal Ahmed spent over a decade to make his dream car. – Economic Times

Bilal Ahmed, a mathematics teacher at an institution in Srinagar, has built a solar-powered luxury car after working on this project for over a decade. His creation aimed to make access to luxury cars affordable for ordinary customers which were sustainable. In addition, he seeks to reduce carbon emissions and energy consumption through this innovation. It is understood to be the valley's first solar car. The monocrystalline solar panels installed in the car, from the bonnet to the windshield, will give its users higher efficiency even on days when there is little sunlight. Mr. Ahmed worked on this project without receiving external funding after closely studying car models available during the 1950s and establishing networks with field experts.

Other additional features of the car include its brake system, which will “rejuvenate the power to its batteries to save energy,” and the panels will change their direction depending on the sun’s movement, operated by a remote control. He also added that “The car has got the features at par with other luxury cars...Mercedes, Ferrari, and BMW are just a dream for common person. Only a few people can afford it while it remains a dream for others to drive such cars and roam in them. I thought of making something to give a luxurious feel to the people as well.” – [euronews](#), [DailyExcelsior.Com](#)

SCIENCE & TECH SECTION

AN AFFORDABLE
SOLAR-POWERED
LUXURY CAR
BUILT BY A
MATHS TEACHER

PM HAILS J&K INITIATIVE

TERRORISM VICTIMS’ QUOTA IN MBBS, BDS

After nearly three decades, MBBS and BDS institutions will allocate quotas in their ‘central pool’ for victims of terrorism in J&K. A total of 265 post-graduate medical seats will be opened across 20 district government hospitals for this purpose.

Students who will avail of this policy benefit include those who have been orphaned, lost the sole breadwinner in families, and whose parents were wounded or disabled in terror attacks. Candidates who have been handicapped or injured due to such events can also potentially claim reservations.

PM Modi hailed this policy announcement by tweeting, “This is an important effort at empowering the youth and furthering medical infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir!” – [PM India](#), [Free Press Journal](#)