



Major Infrastructure Projects in J&K

Why in News?

The recent militant attack has put a spotlight on ongoing infrastructure projects in [Jammu & Kashmir](#), with contractors assessing risks but not yet raising alarm.

Key Points

▪ Ongoing Mega Projects in J&K:

- The Centre is executing **51 mega projects in Jammu & Kashmir**, initially estimated at Rs 76,000 crore, but costs have risen by **56% to Rs 1.16 trillion**, as per the [Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation \(MoSPI\)](#).
- **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL):**
 - It is a **Rs 42,500 crore** project and connects Kashmir Valley with India, stalled since 1995. It features the world's highest rail bridge over the [Chenab River](#), crucial for regional integration, economic growth, and defense mobility.
- **J&K Rail Link Project Dharam:**
 - The [Dharam-Banihal](#) section of the [Jammu & Kashmir Rail Link Project](#) is part of the Katra-Banihal section of the [Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link \(USBRL\) Project](#).
 - The project is a national initiative to connect the Kashmir Valley to the rest of India by rail. The Dharam-Banihal section includes a [Tunnel Communication System](#) that provides uninterrupted radio communication between handheld devices and base stations.
- **National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL):**
 - [NHIDCL](#) is a government-owned company established in 2014 for the development & maintenance of **National Highways & Strategic Roads of India**.
 - It operates as a nodal agency of the [Ministry of Road Transport and Highways \(MoRTH\)](#).

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PAVING THE WAY

■ 51 mega infrastructure projects, initially valued at **₹76,000 crore**, now cost **₹1.16 trillion**

■ Projects include the Udampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link, nearing completion at **₹42,500 crore**

■ Contractors report no significant impact on operations after recent attacks in J&K

■ Major firms involved include Megha Engineering, Afcons Infrastructure, L&T, and Patel Engineering

■ Local workforce involvement seen as key to mitigating security risks

Z-Morh Tunnel

- A **6.4 km-long tunnel** connecting the **Sonamarg health resort** with Kangan town, Ganderbal district.
- Located near Gagangir village, the tunnel's name is derived from the **Z-shaped road** stretch where it is constructed.
- It will provide all-weather connectivity to Sonamarg, a major tourist destination on the **Srinagar-Leh highway**.