



Anji Khad Bridge | Jammu & Kashmir | 18 Jan 2025

Why in News?

Recently, [Indian Railways](#) completed [the Anji Khad Bridge](#), India's first [cable-stayed rail bridge](#), located in the **Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir**.

- It is a key component of the [Udampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link \(USBRL\) Project](#), designed to enhance regional connectivity and drive economic growth.

Key Points

- **About the Bridge:**
 - The bridge spans **725.5 meters** with a **331-meter-high pylon**, built to withstand winds up to **213 km/h** and support trains traveling at **100 km/h**.
 - It utilizes **96 cables** of varying lengths (82 to 295 meters) and an **innovative hybrid foundation** to stabilize the mountain slopes.
 - It used **DOKA Jump Form Shuttering, Pump Concreting, and a Tower Crane Technique** to improve efficiency, reducing construction time **by 30%**.
 - The DOKA Jump Form Shuttering Technique is used for **constructing vertical concrete structures** like high-rises, bridges, and towers.
 - The bridge will enhance [tourism](#), **boost local economic growth**, and **improve transportation in the region**.
- **Challenging Terrain:**
 - The **Himalayan location posed challenges** due to complex geology, [seismic activity](#), and fragile features like faults, folds, and thrusts.
 - [IIT Roorkee](#) and [IIT Delhi](#) conducted site-specific studies to assess conditions and ensure the feasibility of construction.

Promoting Kashmir's Rich Cultural Heritage | Jammu & Kashmir | 18 Jan 2025

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The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, distributed **10 Kani looms** and **25 sets of specialized Namdah (traditional Kashmiri felted carpet)** tools to local artisans free of cost.

Key Points

- **Government's Strategic Initiative:**
 - The initiative is part of **ongoing efforts to sustain Kashmir's centuries-old craft traditions**.

- It ensures artisans have **access to essential resources** while opening **opportunities to expand into global markets.**
- **Benefits for Artisans:**
 - The distribution of Kani looms and Namdah tool kits **aims to improve artisans' craftsmanship quality and efficiency.**
 - It empowers artisans to create high-quality traditional products and boosts their competitiveness.

Namdah

- **Origin and Introduction:**
 - Namdah Art **began in the 16th century when Mughal Emperor Akbar** desired **protective coverings** for his horses.
 - It was **introduced to Kashmir by Sufi saint Shah-e-Hamdan.**
- **Creation and Materials:**
 - Namdah is a type of traditional **Kashmiri felted carpet** made using **sheep wool.**
 - The wool is compressed and matted together; a process known as felting, giving it a distinct texture.
- **Manufacturing Process:**
 - Namdah carpets are typically created by layering multiple wool layers on top of each other.
 - Each layer is sprinkled with water and pressed using a tool called a '**pinjra**' (**woven willow wicker**).
 - The layers are compressed to create a solid and durable carpet.

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