

# Jammu & Kashmir Digest

A Review of Developments in J&K



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- **World's Highest Rail Bridge Inaugurated**
- **Skill-Based Vocational Courses Now in J&K Schools**
- **The Last Rose Water Maker in Kashmir**

**More News and Analyses**



## DEVELOPMENT SECTION

# THE WORLD'S HIGHEST RAIL BRIDGE INAUGURATED

### TOP STORY

On 13 August 2022, the golden joint of the world's highest single-arch railway bridge, the Chenab Railway Bridge, was inaugurated amid much enthusiasm and celebration. This joint is the key to linking two ends of the bridge's deck.

Constructed over the Chenab River, this bridge will, for the first time since India's independence, connect Srinagar to the rest of the country after its completion. Its total cost is worth Rs. 1,450 crores.

Situated 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower, it will act as a critical component in the Kashmir Railway Project, specifically, the 111-kilometre journey from Katra to Banihal.

Although the initial work on the railway bridge began in 2004, it was halted briefly from 2008 to 2009 in view of the safety protocols.

The engineers also ensured that the bridge would be suitable to withstand the seismic conditions in the zone 5 category. Technical expertise from experts based in renowned institutions like IIT-Delhi, DRDO, and GSI was sought.

The first train is due to pass through the bridge by December 2024. –[Live Mint](#), [Hindustan Times](#), [DailyExcelsior.Com](#)

### CHENAB BRIDGE HIGHER THAN EIFFEL

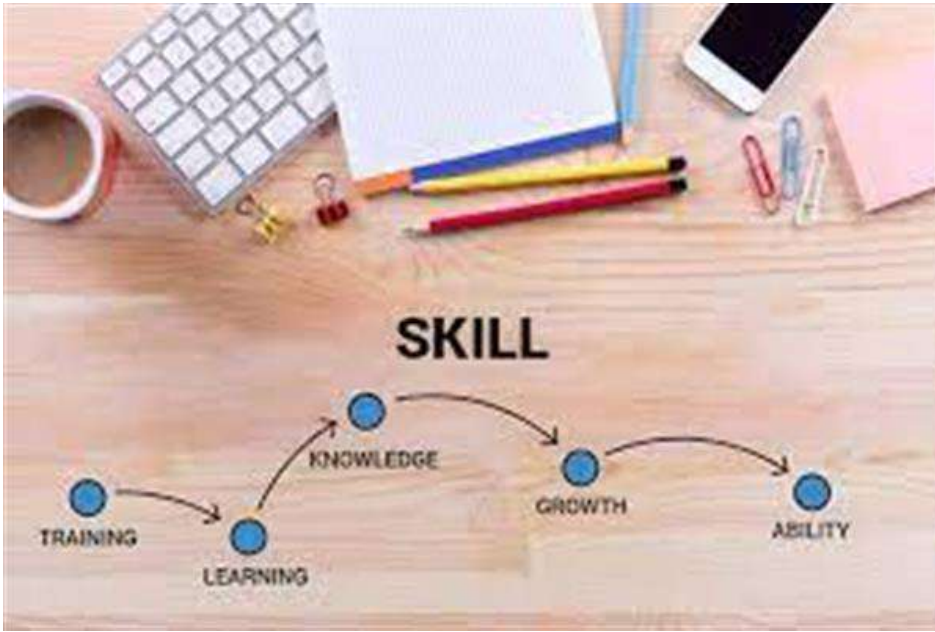


## INTERESTING FACTS

- The bridge is 1,315m long.
- It is 35m higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris.
- It took over 1,300 workers to complete the bridge.
- The arch of the bridge has steel boxes.
- The overall weight of the arch is 10,619 MT.
- The bridge can withstand high wind speed up to 266km/hr.
- Nearly, INR 1,486 crores spent on construction.

*The Times of India*





# YOUTH SECTION

SKILL-BASED  
VOCATIONAL  
COURSES  
NOW IN J&K  
SCHOOLS

## ACE FENCERS



Shreya Gupta and Kritarthi Kotwal showing their medals in London in August 2022

## J&K's SHREYA, KRITARTHI MAKE NATION PROUD

Commonwealth Fencing Championship held in London in August 2022 saw two J&K locals, Shreya Gupta and Kritarthi Kotwal, winning a bronze medal in the junior team league. They defeated Wales by a margin of 45-37. They secured India its first medal in this category. It was the second bronze medal in this championship for Gupta, and she is considered an 'ace' fencer. As for Kotwal, it was her debut performance. — [DailyExcelsior.Com](http://DailyExcelsior.Com)

In order to harness the talent of students, several skills-based programmes under the National Educational Policy (NEP) are in the offing to empower the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier, the skill-oriented and skilled-based courses were being taught in ITIs and polytechnic colleges only, but as per the NEP-2020, the skill-based vocational education will also be imparted in the Union Territory's schools and colleges.

Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department of the Government of J &K, Rohit Kansal, has said some of the skill-based courses selected by the degree colleges include Dairy Farming, Poultry Farming, Apiculture, Commercial Medicinal and Medical Plants, Web Developing, Processing of Fruits and Vegetables, Documentary Filmmaking, Retail Management, Computer Hardware and Networking, and Software Development.

To teach the skill-based programmes, special shorter local teacher education programmes will be available at Board for IT Education Standards (BITES), District Institute for Education (DIETS), or at school complexes themselves. In addition, eminent local persons can also be hired to teach at schools as 'master instructors' to promote knowledge and skills of local art, music, agriculture, business, carpentry, sports, and other vocational crafts. — [Rising Kashmir](http://RisingKashmir)



Abdul Aziz Kozgar, owner of probably the last handmade rose water distillery in Srinagar, looks out of his shop wistfully for prospective customers. As artificial rose water is available in the marketplace, the demand for his traditional hand-made rose water has declined in recent years. — *Times of India*

Arq-I-Gulab Waan (Sweet Rose), is Kashmir Valley’s only remaining rose water distillery, situated in the Fateh Kadal locality, a stone’s throw away from the Khanqah-e-Moula shrine in Srinagar. Over a century old, this historical store is currently in the able hands of Mr. Abdul Aziz Kozgar, who has been involved in this enterprise since his childhood.

Over 500 years of Kashmiri history, including pictures of Sufi saints decorates his family-run business, holding fond memories and reverence for his grandfather, Mr. Habibullah Kozgar, who laid the foundational stones around 1820.

The patriarch of the family had launched the distillery after importing decanters and jars, among other necessary materials from France and the UK.

Preserving the intrinsically traditional method of procuring rose water, the current owner, has chosen to only use Koshur Gulab (Kashmiri Rose), refraining from using machines for this purpose. He has elaborated on the numerous advantageous of applying or consuming rose water.

Besides being beneficial as an anti-inflammatory and an antiseptic product, it is also widely used across South Asian delicacies, including Gulab Jamun, Kashmiri Kahwa, and as a coolant. — *Moneycontrol*

## HERITAGE SECTION

### THE ‘LAST’ ROSE WATER MAKER IN KASHMIR

#### ARQ-I-GULAB WAN DISTILLERY



“You will not get this kind of shop in Kashmir because this trade (of handmade rose water) was started by our forefathers 400 to 500 years ago,” says Mr. Kozgar. “As of now, I prepare several syrups like Arq-e-Chandan, Kaah Zabaan, Arq-e-Badiyaan and Arq-e-Neelofar. They are quick remedies for body heat and are soothing for a burning stomach and kidneys.”— *Arab News and The Citizen*

