



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Valley gets closer

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Context

- Chenab Bridge, the **world's tallest railway bridge**, set to be inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in **J&K's Reasi district** on Friday. The bridge is **part of the Udhampur Srinagar-Baramulla rail link**, which will provide **direct connectivity to Kashmir Valley**.



- Built at a cost of around Rs 1,400 crore, the Chenab bridge is the **highest rail and arch bridge in the world** with a dock height of 359 meters from the river bed, 35 meters taller than Paris's iconic Eiffel Tower.

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- Built between Bakkal and Kauri in Reasi district, the bridge falls in **zone-V, a major seismic zone** with a fractured geology. One of the **biggest challenges was to build the bridge without obstructing the flow of the Chenab river.**
- In the absence of any road link, carrying heavy machinery and material to the site was another big challenge.
- It is designed to have a **lifespan of 120 years** and handle train speeds upto 100 km per hour. It can **withstand earthquakes up to a magnitude of 8** on the Richter Scale.
- Its steel structure can withstand temperatures **up to -20 degree C** and wind speeds up to 266 km per hour.