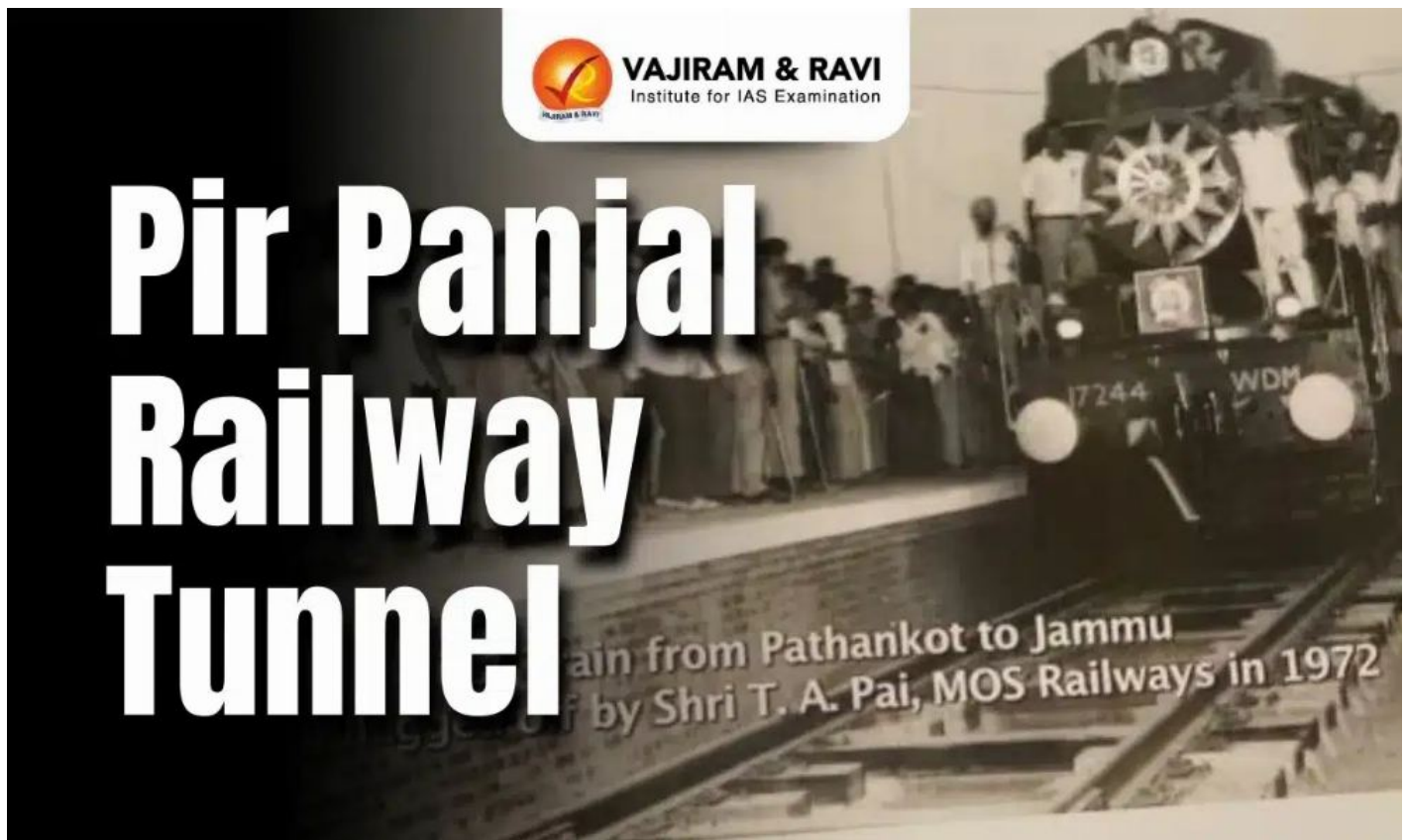


Pir Panjal Railway Tunnel

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Pir Panjal Railway Tunnel Latest News

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) is a historic infrastructure project enhancing Jammu & Kashmir's connectivity with mainland India. Its completion, marked by the Katra-Sangaldan section, ensures year-round, faster rail access to the Kashmir Valley.

About Pir Panjal Railway Tunnel

- The **Pir Panjal Railway Tunnel**, also known as the **Banihal Railway Tunnel**, is currently **India's longest transportation railway tunnel**, measuring **11.2 kilometres** in length.
- It is part of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)** and connects **Quazigund in the Kashmir Valley** with **Banihal in Jammu**, passing under the **Pir Panjal mountain range**.
- It is the only **broad-gauge mountain railway tunnel** in the country and part of the USBRL's **202-km core segment**.
- The **Pir Panjal Range**, part of the **Lesser Himalayas**, spans across **Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir**.

- **Key peaks:** Notable peaks include **Indrasan (6,221 m)** and **Deo Tibba (6,001 m)**.
- **Hydrological significance:** It separates the **Beas and Ravi Rivers** from the **Chenab River** and is the origin zone for tributaries of the **Jhelum and Indus Rivers**.
- **Strategic passes:**
 - The **Mughal Road** traverses the **Pir Panjal Pass (3,490 m)** to link **Poonch and Rajouri with Srinagar**.
 - The **Jawahar Tunnel (2.5 km)** under **Banihal Pass** connects **Banihal to Qazigund**.
- **Tourism and History:** The region hosts famous destinations like **Gulmarg**, and was historically an ancient **trade route** connecting **Kashmir with mainland India**.

Source: IE

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/pir-panjal-railway-tunnel/>

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