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Railways Raises Speed Limit to 100 kmph on USBRL's Katra-Banihal Section

20 August 2026 ·

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Railways Raises Speed Limit to 100 kmph on USBRL's Katra-Banihal Section

20 August 2026 · 1 min read ·

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

*The Railway Ministry approved raising the maximum permissible speed on the **111 km Katra-Banihal section** of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)** to **100 kmph**, up from the earlier 75-85 kmph, after the stretch cleared required safety inspections.*

About the Section

The Katra-Banihal stretch traverses the geologically challenging **Pir Panjal range**, passing through the **Chenab Railway Bridge**, the world's highest railway bridge, and the **Anji Khad Bridge**, India's first cable-stayed rail bridge. The speed upgrade follows extensive track and structural stability certification given the terrain's seismic and slope-stability sensitivity.

Why This Matters

USBRL is the flagship rail-connectivity project integrating the Kashmir Valley with the Indian rail network, with implications for freight movement, tourism access, troop and emergency-supply mobility, and everyday commuter travel between Jammu and Srinagar. A higher permissible speed directly reduces end-to-end travel time on this corridor.

UPSC Relevance

This is a strong GS1 (physical geography, Himalayan/Pir Panjal terrain engineering) and GS3 (transport infrastructure, strategic connectivity) topic. A useful Mains angle discusses USBRL's role in Jammu & Kashmir's economic integration, tourism promotion, and strategic connectivity to the Kashmir Valley.

 FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGE PEDIA**USBRL KATRA-BANIHAL SPEED UPGRADE:**

Section length: 111 km; new speed limit: 100 kmph (up from 75-85 kmph)

Passes through: Chenab Railway Bridge (world's highest railway bridge) and Anji Khad Bridge (India's first cable-stayed rail bridge)

Part of: Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

The Chenab Bridge stands about 359 metres above the riverbed, higher than the Eiffel Tower

Sources: Northern Railway, Daily Excelsior

Source: Railways Raises Speed Limit to 100 kmph on USBRL's Katra-Banihal Section — Ujjayi.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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