

Strategic Bridges in Jammu and Kashmir

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The Defence Minister dedicated six major bridges to the nation ushering in a new revolution in the connectivity of roads and bridges in sensitive border areas close to the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir.

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The bridges of strategic importance were completed by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** in a record time. The two bridges on the **Tarnah Nallah in Kathua District** and four bridges located on **Akhnoor-Pallanwala road in Akhnoor/Jammu district** have spans ranging from **30 to 300 metres** and were constructed at a total cost of Rs 43 crores. These bridges constructed by **Project Sampark** of the BRO will facilitate movement of Armed Forces in this strategically important sector and will also contribute towards the overall economic growth of remote border areas.

The bridges were constructed through the **segmental technique of construction** and it would be an **alternate route to NH 44 from Pathankot to Jammu** benefiting four lakh people in 217 villages. Over the last two years, with the use of latest technologies and state-of-the-art equipment the BRO has done cutting of over 2,200 kilometres, about 4,200 kilometres of roads surfacing and about 5,800 metres of permanent bridges have been constructed.

Continued construction of roads and bridges in the border areas of the country with total commitment by BRO would help in realisation of the efforts of the Government to reach to the remotest areas. Roads are the lifeline of any nation. Roads in the border areas are not only strategic strengths, but also act to connect remote areas with the mainstream. In

this way, be it a **strategic necessity of the Armed Forces or other development work related to health, education, trade,** all these are possible only with connectivity.