

Meet the Civil Engineer Helping Build One of the Most Challenging Tunneling Projects in the Himalayas

Bineshian Hoss' career as a Civil Engineer has taken him to the four corners of the globe. After over 20 years working in design and construction roles, his latest post would challenge even the most experienced engineer – constructing a 300-kilometre tunnel in India's Himalayan Range.

Rumoured to be the highest railway bridge in the world, the J&K Railway Project is also the largest project ever recorded in India, connecting the Jammu and Kashmir regions, across the mysterious, untouched majesty of the Himalayas.

The early days of the project, which includes 103 tunnels and 62 bridges, have an estimated 15-year completion date – four, of which, Bineshian has been central part of, as Head of Consultancy and Engineering with Swiss company, [Amberg Engineering](#).

“Most areas don't even have road access, so the evolution of the project is slow. It has to be. India is new to tunneling, both in knowledge and infrastructure. It's maturing as the years go on, thankfully,” Bineshian shares.

Tunneling is now considered as much science as, it is, art. And within the “young fold Himalayan Mountains”, there's a high degree of rock strata through which the tunnel is being bored.

“Road accessibility, geology of the Himalayas, potential landslides, and insurgency constantly plague our momentum.”

Bineshian is part of a revolving team of dozens of Engineers working on the the J&K Railway Project. As it stands, the completion date is loosely set for 2024.

“It's certainly not a project for the faint of heart.”

Bineshian doesn't fall into this category, always embracing the next journey his career takes him.

While his Masters and Doctorate in Civil-Geotechnical Engineering led him to Western Australia, it was an invitation to keynote at an industry lecture in Hahndorf that introduced him to life in Adelaide.

“I believe it's the best city in Australia. The weather is perfect, the people are friendly and respectful to their community. It's like no other city I've been to before,” he says.

This spurred an immersive research period where he explored Adelaide's key industries, economy and easy travel to countries he'd frequented.

“I liked how central it was. And given I have a young son, its safety and friendliness was important, too. It needed to fulfill all those lifestyle perks, while still being easy for me to travel in and out of,” he explains.

Shortly after this, Adelaide became Bineshian’s adopted home.

For the best part of a decade, he lived in Aberfoyle Park. Nowadays, he returns every quarter, given the demanding nature of the project J&K Railway Project.

“I have to be on the ground in India a lot, especially over the past four years. But, Adelaide is still my base.”

If Bineshian could have his way, he’d return to Adelaide full-time.

“For a Civil Engineer, there’s just not enough work in Adelaide. I *have* to work overseas. I either change my profession or live the way I do... where I can have the best of both worlds.”

But Bineshian is hopeful that, in a few years time, there will be opportunities within the transportation sector.

“Every time I return home, there’s a new building in development. Hopefully, I’ll be one of the local engineers they turn to when we need bridges, highways and tunnels,” Bineshian says.

“If only I was a wine maker,” he laughs.

Bineshian is one of the growing number of expats who keep Adelaide within reach. The *lifestyle* is the shared consensus regarding the gravitational pull of Adelaide.

“Adelaide has great potential to develop fast, particularly with infrastructure. There’s a lot of movement in the city, and I’d love to see the transport sector growing next.”

And Bineshian believes developments in the transport will position Adelaide as “the world’s best city” – an optimistic title, he acknowledges. But he believes with the development “Adelaide deserves”, it’ll be a global leader.

And we know who will put up his hand to pioneer a project with such vision. To fulfill his dream, of course... to live *and* work in Adelaide.