

J&K before 2019
to be made JLK

'Reunite Jammu, Ladakh & Kashmir';
Fortify Bharat's Himalayan frontier



INKING THE TRUTH

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Editor-in-Chief

Bharat's Himalayan frontier must be strong in the lives of its people as well as in the infrastructure that connects its mountains. Dependable roads, functioning hospitals, viable livelihoods and accountable government give border communities a durable stake in the nation's future. Democratic confidence should be treated as part of the country's strategic strength.

India is changing the geography of opportunity through tunnels, highways, railways and bridges. The next task is to ensure that this connectivity produces lasting peace, responsive government and shared prosperity. Public investment will achieve more when the institutions serving these regions can plan together, act promptly and answer for results.

The demands for statehood in Jammu and Kashmir and greater elected authority in Ladakh present an opportunity to examine that institutional future. They invite a larger question: what constitutional, administrative and economic framework can serve every region fairly while strengthening Bharat's Himalayan frontier for generations?

My proposal is JLK: Jammu, Ladakh and Kashmir, reunited as a full-fledged Indian state within the Constitution of India, founded on equal citizenship, effective representation, regional dignity, accountable government and shared prosperity.

My position is explicit. I do not support restoration of Article 370, application of the Sixth Schedule to the proposed State, or statehood conditional on new regional constitutional exceptions. I support full statehood with the ordinary powers, responsibilities and accountability of an Indian state. Protection of people's rights, cultures and livelihoods should operate through the common Constitution, lawful reservations, ordinary legislation and competent public institutions.

This is a proposal for an integrated, future-ready Bharat. Its strategic purpose is to connect democratic participation with the practical capacity to sustain communities, maintain essential services and respond to disruption across difficult terrain. Its legitimacy must come from constitutional validity, public acceptance and measurable improvement in people's lives.

A democratic settlement with strategic purpose

This proposal is conceived as a lasting democratic settlement: one that gives citizens a stable framework, elected authority with clearly defined responsibilities and a development model suited to both densely populated valleys and remote mountain settlements. Its durability would depend on the confidence it earns. No reorganisation can place future constitutional choices beyond democratic consideration.

Its purpose would be a new beginning: an elected government answerable to the people, an economy connected to national opportunities, and public institutions capable of delivering justice and services across difficult terrain.

Alongside the reunification of Jammu, Ladakh and Kashmir, India may examine whether selected adjoining areas of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab would benefit from inclusion in an expanded Jammu region. ►P11

Environmental Credibility Under Scrutiny: Phyang villagers
accuse HIAL of diverting centuries-old irrigation stream

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: A serious question over environmental accountability in Ladakh has been raised by the Phyang Welfare Society, which has accused the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh (HIAL), associated with so-called climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, of diverting a centuries-old irrigation water stream towards barren land for an Ice Stupa project, allegedly causing hardship to farmers in Phyang and neighbouring Phey.

In a letter dated September 4, 2025, the society appealed to the administration to intervene and ensure that the watercourse is restored and permanently secured for

agricultural use, describing farming as the backbone of livelihoods in the two villages.

The allegation raises an uncomfortable question for an initiative associated with environmental innovation and climate adaptation: can a project promoted in the name of addressing water scarcity be allowed to proceed at the alleged cost of the traditional irrigation needs of local farming communities?

According to the society, the diversion deprived farmers of water required for agriculture. It further alleges that the Ice Stupa project failed to deliver the promised benefits to villagers, while the shortage of irrigation water compounded their difficulties.

The controversy is not entirely new. In 2018, a report documented objections from downstream farmers in Phey, which alleged that water from Phyang Nallah was being diverted during winter to create Ice Stupas, preventing them from using the water to irrigate their fields and



recharge groundwater. The report quoted local farmers expressing concern over the impact on agriculture.

The Phyang Welfare Society's letter refers to an order issued by the then District Magistrate on May 8, 2017, under Section 144, directing the restoration of the water

stream for agricultural purposes.

The society alleged that, despite the order, the stream had once again been diverted, causing fresh difficulties for farmers. It has urged the administration to take cognisance of the alleged violation and ensure that the watercourse remains available for agriculture.

If the allegations are substantiated, the issue would extend beyond a local dispute over water allocation to questions of compliance with administrative directions, protection of traditional irrigation rights and the accountability of projects operating in environmentally sensitive areas. For farmers in a cold-desert region ►P11

PM to launch 3,350-cr
projects in Ladakh today

LEH: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and dedicate to the nation five major development projects worth around ₹3,350 crore in Ladakh on 15 October 2026 via video conferencing. He will also address the gathering on the occasion. The five projects will strengthen connectivity, improve energy infrastructure, conserve cultural heritage and enhance water security in the region.

Prime Minister will inaugurate the New Passenger Terminal Building at Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport, Leh, built at a cost of ₹640 crore. Spread over 23,800 square metres, the modern terminal is designed to handle 35 lakh passengers annually. Incorporating ►P11

India, Russia hold 7th round
of 'Special Mechanism' talks



NEW DELHI: India and Russia on Wednesday held the seventh round of talks under the India-Russia Special Mechanism on Pakistan and Afghanistan in New Delhi, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation under their Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.

Ministry of External Affairs in a press release said that the talks were co-chaired by India's Deputy National Security Adviser Pavan Kapoor and Russia's Deputy Secretary of the Security Council Aleksandr Venediktov.

According to the press release, the two sides held wide-ranging discussions on issues of common interest, including their implications for international security.

"Both sides held wide-ranging discussions on issues of common interest, including their impact on international security. They reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen their ongoing cooperation under the aegis of 'India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership,'" the press release stated.

During his visit to New Delhi, Venediktov also called on National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, the Ministry said.

The latest round of talks comes amid continued engagement between New Delhi and Moscow on regional security and broader strategic issues.

Earlier on Wednesday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar described ►P11

केन्द्र शासित प्रदेश लद्दाख
UNION TERRITORY OF
LADAKH

A HISTORIC DAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF LADAKH

A GIANT LEAP TOWARDS CLIMATE-RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

INAUGURATION AND DEDICATION TO THE NATION OF

5 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS WORTH ₹3350 CRORE

BY

SHRI NARENDRA MODI

HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER

IN PRESENCE OF

SHRI VINAI KUMAR SAXENA

LT. GOVERNOR, UT OF LADAKH

15TH OCTOBER 2026

New Airport Terminal

With 4 times area than the existing terminal, new terminal building will serve 35 lakh passengers annually

Nimoo-Padum-Darcha Road

Reduction of travel time between Leh and Zaskar to 4 hours from 12 hours, giving boost to socio-economic progress of the region

Petroglyph Conservation Park

It will help preserve 5,000 years old rich cultural heritage and unique identity of Ladakh

Hanu Hydro Electricity Project & Transmission Line

It will strengthen energy security and improve power transmission

40 Amrit Him Sarovars

Long term water security and improved agricultural sustainability

New Passenger Terminal, KBR Airport, Leh

298-km Nimoo-Padum-Darcha Road

India's First Petroglyph Conservation Park, Leh

The Hanu Hydro Electricity Project & Dha-Hanu-Khaltsi Transmission Line

40 Water Bodies Under Project Amrit Him Sarovars

LIVE TELECAST ON DD NEWS 12:00 NOON ONWARDS