India plans the world's highest railway station at Taglang (Tanglang) La, Ladakh – on the Bilaspur–Manali–Leh line

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News

Reports on 5 Nov 2026 (citing The Times of India) said the Railway Ministry has completed the survey and prepared the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the 489-km broad-gauge Bilaspur–Manali–Leh rail line. A station is planned beneath Ladakh's Tanglang (Taglang) La pass at about 5,256 m (17,244 ft) – about 188 m higher than China's Tanggula station (about 5,068 m), now the world's highest. The estimated cost is about ₹1.31 lakh crore and about 270 km of the line would run through tunnels. The project is still at the planning stage – financing, engineering assessments and clearances are yet to come.

Key facts

Line	Bilaspur (Himachal)–Manali–Leh (Ladakh); 489 km; broad gauge
Planned station	Beneath Tanglang La pass, about 5,256 m (17,244 ft)
Current record	Tanggula station, Qinghai–Tibet Railway, China – about 5,068 m
Cost / tunnels	About ₹1.31 lakh crore; about 270 km in tunnels
En-route stations	Sundernagar, Mandi, Manali, Keylong, Sarchu, Pang, Rumtse, Upshi
Status	DPR ready; construction not yet sanctioned

Background

- Geography: Tanglang La (about 5,328 m) is a pass in Leh district of Ladakh on the Leh–Manali highway (NH-3). In Tibetan/Ladakhi, 'La' means a mountain pass – e.g. Khardung La, Zoji La, Bara-lacha La.
- The Qinghai–Tibet Railway (China) links Xining with Lhasa; its Golmud–Lhasa section opened in 2006. Its Tanggula station is now the world's highest railway station.
- Strategic value: the mountain roads to Ladakh are blocked by snow for months in winter; the line would allow all-weather, faster and cheaper movement of troops, fuel and supplies to this frontier region.
- Mandi and Manali on the route lie on the Beas river; Bilaspur (Himachal) is on the Gobind Sagar reservoir of the Bhakra dam on the Sutlej.

Tamil Nadu link: Kanniyakumari is the southernmost railway station of Indian Railways. The Mettupalayam–Udhagamandalam Nilgiri Mountain Railway (a rack railway) was added in 2005 to UNESCO's World Heritage Site 'Mountain Railways of India'.

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