

# Martian/Lunar analogue research station in India: Ladakh as a potential site

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*India has a rich geographical landscape suitable for creating extra-terrestrial analogue habitats, which are crucial for supporting prolonged space missions and addressing the challenges of sustaining human life outside of Earth. It is also imperative that these habitats are analogous, both in design and proposed locations, as accurately as possible for meaningful lessons and research. India has set ambitious targets for its space program, which necessitates the construction of terrestrial research stations that can simulate extra-terrestrial conditions. We believe this is an opportune time to establish an analogue research station in Ladakh, that will benefit a diverse group of researchers. It can potentially become a shot in the arm for the Indian human space program. Apart from research, the tourism boost that such a site can give will also benefit local communities.*

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INDIA has set ambitious targets for space. The 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Space Policy (ISP) 2023, which was