

# Nyoma ALG transforms into high-altitude fighter base



LCA Tejas at Leh during trials (Photo: Vayu)

In an effort towards bolstering its military prowess, the Ministry of Defence has decided to elevate the Nyoma Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) in eastern Ladakh into a fully functional operational base, capable of facilitating fighter aircraft take-offs.

This endeavor, slated to be completed within a span of less than 20 months, involves the construction of a concrete runway spanning 2.7 km, accompanied by essential ancillary infrastructure. Sources within the defence and security establishment have revealed that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is anticipated to conduct an inspection of the ongoing work in the coming month.

Situated at a staggering altitude of 13,700 ft, Nyoma holds the distinction of being the world's highest airfield. This unique feature mandates adaptations to fighter engines, enabling them to perform optimally at such elevations. Currently designated as an ALG, Nyoma's existing runway comprises mud, restricting its utility to specialised transport aircraft and helicopters. However, with the imminent completion of the new runway, the operational capabilities will extend to accommodate heavier transport aircraft. This development is poised to significantly enhance India's military strategic depth.

## About Nyoma ALG

The Nyoma ALG played a pivotal role in the face-off with China, as the deployment of C130Js facilitated swift mobilisation of personnel, heavy armament and equipment along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) during the heightened tensions in 2020.



10 years ago in August 2013, an IAF C-130J did a maiden landing at Daulat Beg Oldi, the world's highest airstrip (16614 feet). (Photos: IAF)