



**LEAD**  
**IMPACT**  
*FELLOWSHIP*

LJK Economic Growth And  
Development Dialogue

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Drive Change. Enable Transformation.



# ABOUT LEAD

**LEAD (LJK Economic Growth & Development Dialogue)** is an independent development think-tank working to drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth across the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Initiated in the post-reorganisation context of the Union Territories, **LEAD brings together practitioners, academicians, sector experts, and policymakers** to facilitate dialogue that leads to evidence-based and actionable solutions.

LEAD's approach is rooted in the belief that sustainable development requires both dialogue and action. By combining structured discussions with on-ground initiatives, LEAD is working to create a cohesive development ecosystem that enables sustained and transformative growth across the region.

## AREAS OF WORK



### Startups & Entrepreneurship Development

Cultivating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among LJK's youth, empowering them to build sustainable enterprises and contribute to regional economic growth.



### Research & Policy

Integrating data, ground realities, and expert insights to identify practical solutions — from policy recommendations and pilot projects to multi-stakeholder alignment for systemic impact.



### Grassroot Development

Working closely with credible NGOs, community groups, and local stakeholders to identify and implement impactful projects that empower local communities.



### Investment Promotion

Providing comprehensive assistance to investors, from research to post-investment care, ensuring seamless establishment and growth in LJK.



## REACH & IMPACT



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### Sectors

Tourism, Manufacturing, Agriculture, Handloom & Handicraft and others



13

### MoU Partners

IIM-J, IIT-J, UoJ, CUJ, SKUAST-J, JKTPo, JKSC, CLUJ, CIBS, UoL, NAREDCO, CUH, GJUST



50+

### Events & Workshops

Programmes on Skill Development, Grassroot Development, Capacity Building



100+

### Volunteers

Work collectively to achieve our vision and objectives across LJK



1000+

### Beneficiaries

Reached through LEAD's livelihood and impact initiatives.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh and Vice President of India Jagdeep Thakkar with the LEAD Team in Kathua.



Lt. Gov. Ladakh, Sh. Kavinder Gupta at LEAD Impact Conclave, Jammu



Industry Policy discussion with Union Minister of Industries & Commerce Sh. Piyush Goyal and LEAD Members



Lt. Gov. J&K, Shri Manoj Sinha at LEAD's Mahotsav-JKL

# LEAD IMPACT FELLOWSHIP - INTRODUCTION

The **LEAD Impact Fellowship** is a field-based social leadership development program where participants engage directly with real-world challenges and work **towards creating tangible, on-ground impact**.

**Anchored in the lived realities of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh**, it is designed as a rigorous, field-embedded journey that builds individuals capable of taking **genuine ownership of complex, multi-stakeholder development challenges**.

The fellowship places participants within ongoing development initiatives, enabling them to work closely with **communities, institutions, grassroots organisations, and policymakers**, and **translate intent into meaningful, sustained action**.



## Duration

60 Weeks (~14 months)



## Honorarium & Allowances

₹25,000 pm + HRA + Travel



## Eligibility

Under 29 years of age with at least a graduation degree  
(Final-year UG/PG students are also welcome)



## Requirements

Applicants should show Interest in development, entrepreneurship, research, or public policy. With strong analytical, communication, and organizational skills. Willing to work in dynamic, field-based environments

## How to Apply ?

To apply, kindly visit to Fellowship Section of [www.leadljk.in](http://www.leadljk.in)



Scan to Apply



## APPLICATION TIMELINE



**01 May 2026**

Applications open.



**10 June 2026**

Application deadline.



**By 15 June 2026**

Interviews of shortlisted candidates.



**By 15 July 2026**

Fellowship offers sent to successful candidates after selection Round 2 & 3.



**01 August 2026**

Fellowship Starts



**End of September 2027**

Fellowships ends



Participants during LEAD's Homestay Business Workshop



Senior Mentor guiding young entrepreneurs during InnoLEAD Startup Masterclass



LEAD Director Sh. Manish Ahluwalia interacting with investors at JK Business Summit, Mumbai.

# WHY JOIN LEAD IMPACT FELLOWSHIP ?

Today, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh stand at a crucial juncture. As the region moves towards a new development trajectory, there is a unique opportunity to build long-term, sustainable systems from the ground up.

Through our work across **livelihoods, entrepreneurship, market linkages, NGO capacity building, and research**, LEAD has been actively shaping a collaborative development ecosystem in the region. These interventions hold potential to create lasting impact at scale.

The **LEAD Impact Fellowship** offers individuals a chance to be embedded within these initiatives and working closely with communities, institutions, and sector experts to build and scale real-world solutions.

The fellowship is designed for those who want to gain **hands-on experience of working on transformative social initiatives** and become part of a growing pool of individuals committed to the **long-term transformation of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh**.

## FEATURES



### FIELD-BASED LEARNING

Learn by doing through immersive field experiences.



### WORK ON REAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Contribute to ongoing projects creating tangible impact.



### MULTI-SECTOR EXPOSURE

Engage across diverse sectors to understand interconnected challenges.



### INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Collaborate with communities, organisations, and policymakers.



### SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND MENTORSHIP

Strengthen your skills with guidance from sector experts.



### HANDS-ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Plan, execute and scale solutions on the ground.



### NETWORKING AND ECOSYSTEM EXPOSURE

Connect with changemakers and organisations across the region.



### LEADERSHIP AND CAREER PATHWAYS

Build the foundation for a meaningful career in development.



Comm/Secretary, Tourism, J&K, Yasha Mudgal speaking at SUYOG: Opportunity Summit held at IIM Jammu



DC, Kishtwar, Dr. Devyansh Yadav distributing Walnut Saplings during Vasundhara Plantation initiative in Kishtwar



Livelihood Generation initiative of LEAD at Shri Chandi Mata Machail promoting local millet based prasad.

# FELLOWSHIP WORK DOMAINS

The LEAD Impact Fellowship is structured across four core domains, each representing a critical pillar of the development ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Each fellow will be assigned to one domain and will work deeply within it throughout the fellowship.

## 01 Livelihood Generation & Value Chain Development

Fellows will work on taking livelihood generation initiatives, focusing on:



- Designing and piloting context-specific livelihood interventions across Ladakh and J&K.
- Supporting creation cluster-based plantations models under LEAD's Project Vasundhara
- Facilitate capacity-building sessions for producers and community groups
- Support market linkages and buyer connections for local products

## 02 Entrepreneurship & Startup Ecosystem

Fellows will contribute to building a strong regional entrepreneurship ecosystem by:



- Identifying and supporting aspiring entrepreneurs
- Connecting startups with incubation, mentorship, and funding opportunities
- Strengthening market linkages for local products and enterprises
- Supporting branding, packaging, and cooperative ecosystem development

## 03 Research & Policy

Fellows will engage in evidence-based research and policy work, including:



- Conducting field research, surveys, and development studies
- Preparing policy briefs, reports, and documentation outputs
- Supporting collaborations with academic and research institutions
- Documenting cultural narratives, heritage, and local knowledge systems

## 04 NGO Capacity Building & Impact Initiatives

Fellows will work to strengthen social impact ecosystem by:



- Mapping and engaging with NGOs and community organisations
- Supporting proposal development and CSR linkages
- Facilitating platforms such as Impact Conclave
- Strengthening institutional capacity and collaboration ecosystems

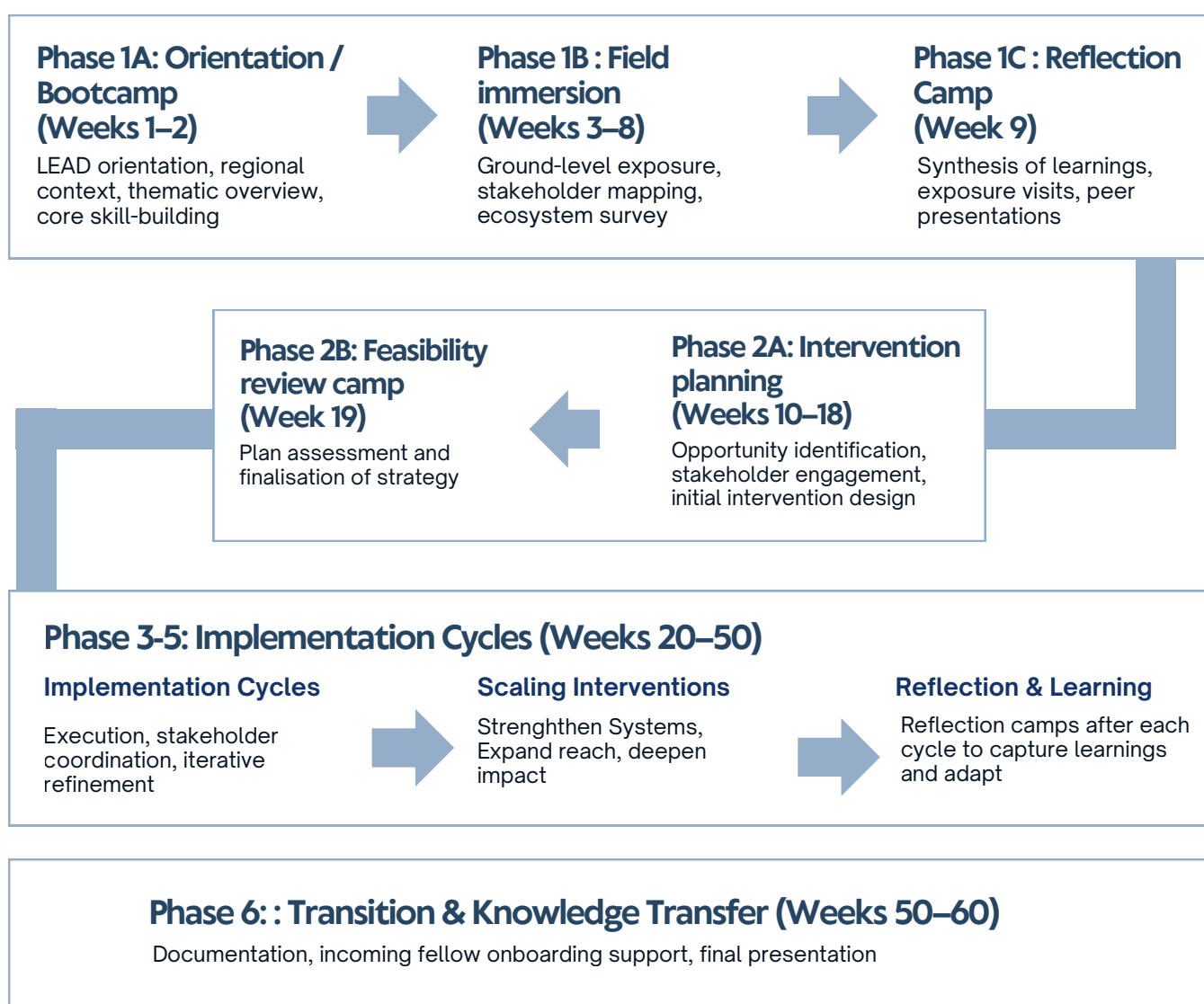


LEAD Facilitating educational visit of IIT Jammu students to Purmandal Heritage Site as part of our Vasudha Project



LEAD's LJK Store initiative promoting local products of Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir. Store hosts more than 200 products from over 50 farmers and producers' group.

# PROGRAM SCHEDULE (60 WEEKS)



## FELLOW SUPPORT ECOSYSTEM



### MENTORSHIP

Each fellow is paired with a relevant sector expert for strategic guidance, problem-solving, and intervention design.

**Monthly mentor interactions are documented.**



### MONTHLY LEARNING LABS

Cross-thematic sessions with domain experts to build clarity, broaden exposure, and encourage shared learning.

**Each lab produces a brief synthesis note for LEAD's knowledge repository.**



### QUARTERLY REVIEWS

Formal check-ins to assess progress, address challenges, and realign plans, based on self-assessment and feedback.

**Also used for stipend retention decisions.**



### PEER LEARNING & COHORT CULTURE

Fellows collaborate, share experiences, and build strong professional networks.

**Twice-weekly stand-ups ensure coordination, with reflection camps for deeper peer exchange.**

# SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process for the LEAD Impact Fellowship is designed to identify motivated, capable, and mission-aligned individuals who can effectively engage with development challenges in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The process will be conducted in three stages:

01



## Application & CV Screening

Interested candidates will submit an application form along with their CV, detailing their academic background, experience, and motivation for joining the fellowship.

Applications will be assessed based on:

- Alignment with the fellowship's objectives
- Demonstrated interest in development, policy, or social impact
- Clarity of thought and motivation
- Relevant experience or initiative-taking

02



## Online Interview

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an online interview to evaluate:

- Motivation & commitment to work in development sector
- Analytical thinking and problem-solving ability
- Communication skills

03



## Physical (In-Person) Interview

Final shortlisted candidates will be invited for an in-person interaction, which may include:

- Detailed discussions on their interests and approach
- Case-based or situation-based evaluation
- Assessment of collaboration, adaptability, and leadership potential

### Final Selection

Candidates will be selected based on their overall performance across all stages. The process ensures the selection of individuals who are not only capable but also deeply committed to contributing to the development of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

## POST-FELLOWSHIP PATHWAYS

Upon successful completion, fellows transition into diverse, high-impact roles. LEAD actively supports this through mentorship, network access, references, and a strong portfolio of work.

- **Leadership within LEAD** : High-performing fellows may be offered programme or leadership roles within LEAD, taking forward the initiatives they have built and building institutional depth in specific thematic areas.
- **Development & Policy Careers** : The field exposure, evidence generation, and stakeholder engagement experience positions fellows strongly for roles with development organisations, NGOs, policy think tanks, government advisory bodies, and bilateral or multilateral programmes.
- **Entrepreneurship & Social Enterprise** : Fellows with firsthand knowledge of market gaps, community networks, and implementation challenges are well-equipped to found ventures in livelihoods, rural services, market linkages, or social enterprise.
- **Higher Education & Research** : The fellowship builds a strong portfolio for those pursuing postgraduate study in public policy, development management, social work, or related disciplines, whether in Bharat or internationally.



Empowering **Young Changemakers** to co-create sustainable & impactful interventions across Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir



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Division of: Vibrant Motivation and Development Foundation  
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