



Shaksgam Valley Dispute

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News Context: China recently rejected India's protest over infrastructure construction in the Shaksgam Valley, claiming the territory as part of its Xinjiang province.

- **The Legal Standing:** Shaksgam Valley (approx. 5,180 sq. km) is part of **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK)**. It was "illegally ceded" by Pakistan to China under the **1963 Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement**.
- **India's Position:** India has never recognized this agreement. India maintains that the entire UT of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh is an inalienable part of India.
- **Strategic Importance:** It lies north of the **Siachen Glacier**. Chinese road construction here bridges the gap between the Karakoram Highway and the Tibet-Xinjiang Highway (G219), potentially creating a "pincer" threat to Indian positions in Ladakh.