

**"It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation."**

—Herman Melville

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*Inking the Truth*

## Ladakh UT brings time-bound public services under Guarantee Act, ensuring faster and transparent delivery to citizens

**Building approvals, licences, registrations among services notified with fixed timelines; move aimed at strengthening accountability and citizen-centric governance**

**YASH KHAJURIA**

**LEH:** Making governance more responsive, transparent and citizen-friendly, the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh has notified a comprehensive list of public services along with fixed timelines, designated officers and appellate authorities under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Services Guarantee Act, 2011, as applicable to Ladakh.

The notification, issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), empowers citizens to seek timely delivery of essential government services and provides a mechanism for appeal in case of delays. The move reflects the administration's commitment to ensuring accountability at every level and reducing procedural delays in delivery of public services.

SERVICES NOTIFIED WITH TIMELINES			
<b>HOUSING &amp; URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT</b> • Building Plan Approval • Occupancy Certificate • Trade Licence	<b>15 DAYS</b>	<b>FIRE &amp; RESCUE SERVICES DEPARTMENT</b> • Fire Licence	<b>20 DAYS</b>
	<b>5 DAYS</b>		<b>30 DAYS</b>
<b>INDUSTRIES &amp; COMMERCE DEPARTMENT</b> • Registration of Societies under Societies Registration Act, 1860	<b>30 DAYS</b>	<b>TOURISM &amp; CULTURE DEPARTMENT</b> • Registration of Accommodation Unit • Registration of Tour Operators	<b>15 DAYS</b>
	<b>15 DAYS</b>		<b>15 DAYS</b>
<b>LEGAL METROLOGY DEPARTMENT</b> • Dealer Licence (Weights & Measures) • Repairer Licence (Weights & Measures)	<b>15 DAYS</b>	<b>COOPERATIVE DEPARTMENT</b> • Registration of Cooperative Societies	<b>30 DAYS</b>
	<b>15 DAYS</b>		<b>30 DAYS</b>
<b>AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT</b> • Fertilizer Licence • Seed Licence	<b>15 WORKING DAYS</b>	<b>PUBLIC WORKS (R&amp;B) DEPARTMENT</b> • Road Cutting Permission	<b>22-25 DAYS</b>
	<b>15 WORKING DAYS</b>		<b>22-25 DAYS</b>

**BENEFITS TO CITIZENS**

- ✓ Faster delivery of essential services
- ✓ Greater transparency and accountability
- ✓ Reduces delays in approvals and licences
- ✓ Supports entrepreneurs, businesses and general public
- ✓ Strengthens ease of living and doing business in Ladakh

**APPEAL MECHANISM**

First Appellate Authority and Second Appellate Authority have been designated for each service to address grievances in case of delay or non-delivery.

The order, issued under the powers conferred by Section 4 read with Section 8 of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Services Guarantee Act, 2011, identifies services across multiple departments, including Housing & Urban Development, Industries & Commerce, Legal Metrology, Agriculture, Fire & Rescue Services, State Taxes, Geology & Mining, Tourism & Culture, Cooperatives and Public Works (R&B).

Under the newly notified framework, several frequently availed services have been assigned clear deadlines. In the Housing & Urban Development Department, approval of building plans will now be processed within 15 days, while issuance of occupancy certificates will have a timeline of five days. Trade licences will be issued within 20 days.

The project is aimed at providing a high-quality alternative corridor between two vital national highways, NH-01 and NH-03, while addressing the increasing pressure on Leh's existing road network due to rising vehicular movement, tourism activities and commercial transportation.

## Major Road Infrastructure Push to Transform Connectivity in Ladakh

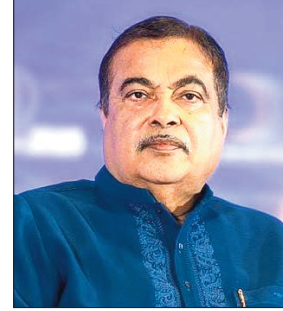
### MoRTH approves Rs 990.51 Cr Leh Bypass Project, LG Saxena thanks Nitin Gadkari

**EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

**LEH:** In a major boost to Ladakh's road infrastructure and regional connectivity, the construction of the Leh Bypass (Southern Alignment) has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 990.51 crore, marking a significant milestone in the development of a modern and efficient transportation network in the Union Territory.

The strategically important project involves the development of a two-lane highway with paved shoulders, stretching from NH-01 near Phyang Village (HPCL Plant) to Upshi on the Leh-Manali Highway (NH-03).

The project is aimed at providing a high-quality alternative corridor between two vital national highways, NH-01 and NH-03, while addressing the increasing pressure on Leh's existing road network due to rising vehicular



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Nitin Gadkari.

greater importance as Ladakh continues to witness a steady increase in tourist arrivals, leading to a substantial rise in vehicular movement, particularly during the peak tourism season.

Welcoming the approval of the major road infrastructure initiative, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh expressed gratitude to Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari for his continued support towards Ladakh's development.

In a post on social media platform X, the LG stated: "Thank you Hon'ble Minister, Shri @nitin\_gadkari ji, for your unwavering support toward Ladakh's development. These massive road infrastructure projects will significantly ease traffic congestion in Leh city, ensure swift vehicular movement and would offer a huge relief for local residents and the growing number of tourists visiting our P11

## CS Kundra reviews dev projects, public grievances in Changthang



**EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

**LEH:** Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh, Ashish Kundra undertook a two-day tour of Changthang district to assess the progress of developmental works, inspect key public infrastructure projects, and interact with residents across several remote villages, including Korzok, Puga, and Khar-nak.

The Chief Secretary was accompanied by Administrative Secretary, School Education Department, Bhanu Prabha; Administrative Secretary, Public Works Department, Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary; Deputy Commissioner, Changthang, Nitish Kumar; Superintendent of Police, Changthang, Abbas Jafari; Chief Engineer, Power Development Department, Tsewang Paljor; Assistant Director, Sheep Husbandry Department, Dr. Asif; Consultant/OSD, Moses Kunzang along with other concerned officers.

On the first day of the tour, the Chief Secretary visited Korzok village, where he held an interaction with local representatives and members of the public. A delegation led by

former Councillor Karma Namdak highlighted several issues concerning the village, including poor telecommunications connectivity, the need to establish a Tsangda system, enhancement of employment opportunities at J&K Bank, and early completion of the under-construction primary school.

Another delegation representing the Tibetan Refugee communities of Sumdho and Chumur requested the construction of a community hall and raised other developmental concerns on their settlements.

During the visit, the Chief Secretary also inspected the ongoing construction of the PWD Rest House at Korzok and reviewed the progress of the project. He directed the concerned executing agencies to ensure timely completion while maintaining the prescribed quality standards.

On the second day, Ashish Kundra visited the Primary Health Centre (PHC), Korzok, where he interacted with the medical staff and enquired about the availability of health-care services. P11

## Tourist arrivals in Ladakh continue to surge; foreigners doubled in June this year

**EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

**LEH:** The massive tourism surge in Ladakh continues to witness an impressive upward trajectory, with foreign tourist arrivals almost doubling in June this year, compared to the previous year. Compared to 3349 foreign tourists visiting Ladakh in June 2025, the number of foreign visitors has gone up to 6680 in June 2026, registering a jump of 99.46%, reflecting Ladakh's increasing popularity among international travellers seeking high-altitude adventure, culture, spirituality and sustainable tourism experiences.

Among international visitors, Israel continues to emerge as the largest source

**LG attributes sustained tourism growth to targeted tourism reforms and infrastructure growth**



Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena.

market for Ladakh, followed by Thailand, the United States, Vietnam, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, Malaysia, Australia, Taiwan, Russia, Italy, South Korea, Spain and several other European and Southeast Asian countries, demonstrating Ladakh's growing recognition as a globally preferred destination for adventure, nature and cultural tourism.

Apart from the foreign visitors, the overall tourist arrivals in Ladakh in June 2026 have gone up to 1,07,740, representing a healthy growth of 43.48 per cent over June 2025, when 75,089 tourists had visited Ladakh.

In the first six months,

the success of sustained efforts undertaken by the UT Administration under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena, to strengthen tourism infrastructure, diversify tourism products and create a more tourist-friendly ecosystem. LG Vinai Kumar Saxena said that the encouraging growth in tourist arrivals reflected the success of the Administration's P11

## Air Chief Marshal reviews IAF operational preparedness at forward posts

**EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

**LEH:** Air Chief Marshal AP Singh on Wednesday concluded his visit to the forward areas of the Ladakh sector, reviewing the operational preparedness of Indian Air Force units deployed in the strategically vital region.

Accompanied by Mrs. Sarita Singh, President of the Air Force Families Welfare Association (AFFWA), the CAS visited Ladakh from July 3 to July 8, 2026, to assess the readiness, infrastructure development and welfare measures for personnel serving in the challenging high-altitude environment.

On arrival at Air Force Station Leh, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh and Mrs. Sarita



Singh were received by Air Vice Marshal Anand Sondhi, Air Officer Commanding, Jammu & Kashmir (Ladakh), and Air Commodore Ajay Rathi, Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station Leh. During the visit, the CAS interacted with air warriors

stationed at forward locations and reviewed the operational preparedness of various units. He appreciated the high level of coordination, jointness and synergy being the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army in maintaining a robust P11

## GOC Fire & Fury Corps visits 'Forever in Ops Division', forward areas

**EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

**LEH:** Lieutenant General Madanraj Pande, General Officer Commanding (GOC), Fire & Fury Corps, visited the Forever in Operations Division and forward areas of the Dras, Kargil and Biamah sectors to review operational preparedness and assess the combat readiness of troops deployed in the challenging high-altitude environment.

During his visit, the Corps Commander undertook a detailed assessment of the operational posture, preparedness levels and capabilities of formations deployed in these strategically significant sectors. The visit provided an opportunity to interact closely with troops



stationed along the forward areas and gain first-hand insight into the challenges faced by soldiers operating in extreme climatic and geographical conditions.

Addressing the troops, Lt Gen Madanraj Pande appreciated their exceptional dedication, professionalism and

unwavering commitment towards safeguarding the nation's borders. He commended the soldiers for their grit, resilience and high morale while carrying out operational responsibilities in one of the most demanding terrains. The GOC Fire & Fury Corps P11

## DPS Leh holds friendly sports meet during Parent-Teacher Meeting



**EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

**LEH:** With the inspiring theme of "Togetherness Through Sports," DPS, Leh organized friendly Volleyball and Tug of War matches during the Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM). The event beautifully

reflected the belief that when hearts unite, victories extend far beyond the playing field.

It served as a wonderful platform to strengthen the bond between parents, teachers, and the school community while promoting the values of

unity, teamwork, mutual respect and healthy competition.

The event was held under the support of management and the visionary leadership of Principal, Dr. (Hons.) Sonal Mediratta, whose unwavering commitment to holistic edu-

cation continues to inspire excellence in every sphere of school life. A strong believer in meaningful parent-school partnerships, she encourages initiatives that nurture confidence, collaboration, and character, creating an environment where every child is empowered and every parent feels valued.

The friendly volleyball match showcased remarkable coordination, teamwork, and sportsmanship, while the tug of war filled the campus with excitement, laughter, and enthusiastic cheers. Parents and teachers participated wholeheartedly, making the event a memorable celebration of collaboration and community spirit.

The vibrant atmosphere resonated with encouragement and joy, proving that the greatest victories are P11

## Scores of women block Baroo Road, admin assures action

### Kaksar residents stage protest, seek restoration of water supply

**HABEEL SAGAR**

**KARGIL:** Hundreds of women from Kaksar village along the Line of Control (LoC) staged a road blockade on Wednesday, demanding immediate restoration of drinking water supply after alleging that the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) distribution system had failed, leaving the village without adequate potable water.

The protesters blocked the Baroo road, accusing the authorities of failing to resolve the prolonged water crisis despite repeated appeals. They said the disruption in supply had severely affected households, forcing residents to struggle for



drinking water and other essential domestic needs.

Raising slogans against the departments concerned, the women called for urgent intervention to restore the water supply and prevent further hardship. The demonstration continued

until senior civil and police officials reached the site to engage with the agitating residents.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kargil, Additional Assistant Development Commissioner (AADC), Deputy P11

## US launches fresh strikes against Iran

**TEHRAN:** The US on Wednesday said it has launched fresh 'strikes' against Iran, saying these are in retaliation to Tehran's attack on commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian media reported explosions in the port city of Sirik, Bandar Abbas and on Qeshm Island early Wednesday.

Iranian military leaders vowed a 'crushing response' to the attack, adding that they would not allow foreign interference in the management of the Strait of Hormuz. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) later said that it had targeted 85 US military sites in Bahrain and Kuwait in response to the US attacks.

MB Ghalibaf, Speaker of the Iranian P11