

LG approves New LAHDC Rules 2026, paving way for proprietary rights over Nautor Land

Rules to provide legal certainty to genuine Nautor landholders and enable eligible land to be utilised as a financial asset

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH: The Union Territory of Ladakh, under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena, has taken another historic step towards resolving a long-pending and contentious issue of regularising and granting ownership of “Nautor” Land in Ladakh, with the Lieutenant Governor today approving the landmark Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Nautor Regularisation) Rules, 2026.

The Rules provide a comprehensive framework for granting proprietary rights/ownership of up to 10



acres of eligible Nautor land holdings to the occupants, across all seven districts of Ladakh. For Nautor land beyond the 10-acre limit, the proprietary rights may be allotted on a leasehold basis, in accordance with the Rules. The Rules offer a one-time regularisation mechanism for Nautor land, occupied before the repeal of the J&K Tenancy Act,

1980, on October 27, 2020. Any possession of Nautor land after this cut-off date will be ineligible for regularisation.

Nautor land refers to barren or wasteland, owned by the government that was earlier allotted to individuals for cultivation or other productive use. More than 60,000 acres of land in the UT of Ladakh is presently recorded in revenue records as Nautor holdings.

Till now, the absence of a clear and uniform legal framework has restricted the effective utilisation of Nautor land till now. In particular, landholders with limited or non-proprietary rights were unable to use the land as a financial asset, including for purposes such as obtaining loans against it. At the same time, the absence of uniform rules also posed a threat of claims and disputes over government/Council land.

According to the Rules, the authority to allot Nautor land is now vested in LAHDCs in all seven districts. “Under Section 42 of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development

Centre reviews avalanche, flood readiness in Himalayas

NEW DELHI: Ladakh’s preparedness to deal with Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) and snow avalanches came under the Centre’s review on Thursday, with Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan calling for proactive monitoring of vulnerable areas, faster dissemination of warnings and stronger evacuation and response mechanisms across the Himalayan region.

The review covered Himalayan states and Union Territories, with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) saying the meeting took stock of early warning systems, monitoring of vulnerable glacial lakes and snow-covered areas, identification of high-risk locations and flow paths, timely dissemination of alerts, evacuation preparedness and response mechanisms. Chief Secretaries and representatives of the



Apex Body defers Kargil-Leh “Pad Yatra” ahead of Sept 9 MHA talks

Leaders put legislature, Article 371, compensation, case withdrawals and inquiry commission report at centre, warns of escalation over further delay

LEH: The Leh Apex Body (LAB) has temporarily postponed its proposed Pad Yatra from Kargil to Leh, which was scheduled to begin on September 10, following the announcement of a fresh round of talks between Ladakh leaders and the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on September 9.

Addressing a press conference in Leh, LAB leaders said the decision was taken to give the upcoming Sub-Committee-level talks an opportunity to produce a meaningful outcome on Ladakh’s long-pending demands. However, they made it clear that the Pad Yatra has not been called off and could be revived in a different form if the talks fail to deliver. LAB co-chairman

Sonom Wangchuk said the proposed two-week-long march from Kargil towards Leh had been postponed in view of the September 9 meeting. He said that if the talks result in substantial progress, there may be no need for an extensive agitation; but if the dialogue ends in “delay” or fails to produce concrete action, the planned mobilisation will be intensified.

According to Wangchuk, the Pad Yatra would instead be organised around five days before September 24, the first anniversary of last year’s violent protests, and could take the form of marches originating from different directions. He appealed to people across India who support Ladakh, its environment and the region’s border communities to participate if the agitation is resumed.

The LAB leadership said the outcome of the September 9 talks would be judged particularly against the commitments and decisions taken on May 22, with Wangchuk stressing that the administration would be expected to come prepared with a detailed draft on the proposed Ladakh Assembly and its powers.

LAB Chairman Tsering Dorjee Lakruk welcomed the announcement of the MHA talks but cautioned that the mere holding of another meeting would not be enough.

He said the two principal issues—legislature at the UT level and constitutional safeguards under Article 371—would remain central to the discussions. If the government comes forward with a constructive, result-oriented approach, the LAB would welcome it, he said, but warned that the organisation would intensify its agitation if the talks fail to produce tangible progress.

“We don’t know what result will come out,” Lakruk said, while making it

His Holiness leaves Ladakh, returns to Dharamshala



LEH: Tibetan spiritual leader the 14th Dalai Lama departed Leh on Friday, bringing to a close an extended two-month-and-

UT admin hikes artisan trainee stipend 275%, nearly 1,000 to benefit

LEH: In a major push to make traditional crafts a more viable livelihood for Ladakh’s youth, the UT Administration has substantially increased the daily stipend paid to trainees at Handloom and Handicrafts Training Centres from Rs 40 to Rs 150, marking a 275 per cent hike.

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena announced the decision, saying it would directly benefit nearly 1,000 trainees across Leh and Kargil who are undergoing training in traditional crafts and skills.

The enhanced stipend is expected to provide greater financial support to young trainees while also encouraging more people to take up traditional handicrafts as a source of livelihood. The initiative covers training in skills including carpet making, Pabu shoemaking, wood carving, weaving, knitting and tailoring.

The decision follows the LG’s visit to a Handloom and Handicrafts Training Centre at Hanley on June 1, during which the issue of the low stipend being paid to trainee artisans was brought to his notice. Subsequently, at a review meet-

ing held on June 15, Saxena directed the Industries Department to examine the feasibility of raising the stipend to Rs 150 per day.

The eventual approval of the enhanced stipend represents a significant increase in financial assistance for trainees, particularly those seeking to acquire skills rooted in Ladakh’s traditional craft heritage.

Saxena said the initiative was inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s call to empower local artisans, strengthen traditional crafts and promote the vision of a self-reliant

CAMPA approves conservation push, CS Kundra stresses winter deadlines, community benefits

LEH: The UT Ladakh administration has pushed for faster and more community-focused implementation of conservation works under CAMPA, with Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra directing departments to begin tendering without delay and ensure that approved benefits reach intended beneficiaries within defined timelines.



Annual Plan of Operations (APO) 2026-27, laying particular emphasis on works that need to be completed before the onset of winter.

The meeting, which brought together senior offi-

cials from the Forest, Wildlife, Tourism, Finance, Planning and Health departments, reviewed a broad portfolio of interventions ranging from human-wildlife conflict mitigation and crop protection to waste management, eco-tourism, community livelihoods, environmental education and wildlife conservation.

At the outset, Wildlife Warden Mandeep Mittal, IFS, presented the agenda, including ratification of the previous meeting’s minutes, proposals approved during the intervening period and the CAMPA APO 2026-27. Division-wise allocation of funds and

SSP announces orientation programme for Ladakh Police Constable Recrtt



LEH: SSP Leh Fulzele Piyush Nirakar today announced a 14-day district-wise orientation programme from September 7 to 20 at the AstroTurf Stadium, Spituk, to help Ladakh’s youth prepare for the upcoming Ladakh Police Constable Recruitment Examination under the LPSSRB notification.

He said, “The programme will provide professional training in physical standards and examination components, including running, push-ups

All EU nations keen to bring India-EU FTA into force at earliest: Goyal

MUMBAI: All 27 European Union (EU) countries are keen to complete the formalities and bring the India-EU free trade agreement (FTA) into force at the earliest, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday.

Addressing the India-Belgium High-Level Dialogue on the India-EU FTA in Mumbai, Goyal said the agreement, which had been in the making for 25 years before negotiations were concluded, would bring together 2 billion people, representing a quarter of global GDP, a third of world trade and a market worth USD 24 trillion. Goyal said Belgium’s world-class microelectronics



research could be combined with India’s scale, skills and talent to build a design-to-fabrication ecosystem for semiconductors.

He also said India’s Green Hydrogen Mission could help power Europe by leveraging the bunkering and green shipping infrastructure at Antwerp-Bruges, and called for deeper cooperation in the sector. Highlighting opportunities in

ISRO successfully puts India’s first GI Satellite EOS-05 in orbit

BENGALURU: geosynchronous orbit, marking a major technological leap for the country’s Earth-observation programme and giving ISRO a morale boost after its first orbital mission of the year ended in failure.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the GSVL-F17 mission as an “outstanding achievement”, while Congress leader Jairam Ramesh congratulated ISRO but used the occasion to question what he called a “radical role reconfiguration” of the space agency at the instance of the Prime Minister’s Office.

The 51.7-metre-tall GSVL-F17 lifted off from the second launch pad at Sri-

harikota at 2.55 am, carrying the 2,367-kg EOS-05. The rocket subsequently placed the satellite in its intended sub-geosynchronous transfer orbit.

EOS-05 was injected into an orbit with a perigee of 171 km, an apogee of 31,026 km and an inclination of 19.28 degrees. A series of manoeuvres using onboard thrusters will now take it to its final orbit.

The mission assumes significance as EOS-05 is India’s first imaging satellite meant to operate from geosynchronous orbit. Most of India’s operational Earth-observation satellites have been deployed in low-Earth or

First ‘Drass District Festival’ opens with focus on tourism, ecology and heritage



DRASS: The first-ever Drass District Festival 2026 was inaugurated on Friday with a focus on developing the newly established district as a destination for cultural, eco and adventure tourism while safeguarding

its fragile ecosystem and heritage.

Deputy Commissioner Drass Kacho Imtiyaz Ahmed, who inaugurated the two-day festival, said promoting tourism in the region must go hand in hand with the conservation of its natural environment and cultural traditions.

Addressing the gathering, Kacho Imtiyaz Ahmed stressed the need to promote Drass’s tourism potential in a manner that preserves its distinctive environment and heritage. He emphasised the region’s prospects for cultural, eco and adventure tourism.

espato

Good Food

Crispy Outside

SOFT INSIDE

Always Delicious!

100% PURE VEGETARIAN

MASALA DOSA

TRADITIONAL TASTE. PERFECTLY MADE!

COOKED IN DESI GHEE

NO MAIDA NO PALM OIL

FRESH & HYGIENIC

QUALITY YOU CAN TRUST

PERFECT CHOICE FOR EVERY FOOD LOVER

EXCHANGE ROAD JAMMU

SEC 2 CHANNI HIMMAT

NH DHAMMI NAGROTA

NH KARTHOLI BARI BRAHMANA

FOLLOW US ON

espatofoods

espatofoods

www.espatofoods.com

100% PURE VEG