Centre amends Ladakh hill devp councils' structure, electoral rules

The number of elected seats in each council will be now determined by the Ladakh administration

Press Trust of India
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NEW DELHI : The central government has amended the legal terminology, administrative structure and electoral provisions governing the Autonomous Hill Development Councils in Ladakh to align them with the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which led to the creation of the Union territory of Ladakh.

Under the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Amendment) Regulation, the number of elected seats in each council will be determined by the Ladakh administration, with a minimum of seven and a maximum of 24 seats.The administration can nominate up to four members from among women and unrepresented communities, subject to the one-sixth limit of the population, the regulation states.The sitting Lok Sabha Member of Parliament representing Ladakh will be an ex-officio member of the councils constituted for each district.Each council will have a term of five years from the date appointed for its first meeting, unless dissolved earlier. The term can be extended if holding elections is considered impracticable.

The regulation also replaces references to state and governor with Union territory of Ladakh and administrator, respectively.

The regulation establishes that the State Election Commission for the Union territory of Ladakh will have superintendence, direction, and control over council elections and electoral rolls. Election disputes can be settled by filing election petitions directly before the high court of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh within 45 days of result.

It defines the "district" areas under the act to include Leh, Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Kargil, Zanskar, and Drass, along with any newly-created districts.

The councils will have the powers of panchayat at district level. They will be deemed to be district-level panchayats for exercising powers under Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989.

Ladakh bodies' rejection of MHA draft within 2 hours 'unfortunate': Chief secy

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SRINAGAR : A day after Ladakh bodies rejected the draft proposed by the Union ministry of home affairs (MHA), Ladakh chief secretary Ashish Kundra on Saturday termed it "unfortunate" that the Ladakh leadership rejected the draft proposal within two hours.

The Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) have held several rounds of talks with the MHA. The Ladakh leadership has been demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule, but talks have remained inconclusive.

"During negotiations on the Sixth Schedule, it was explained that this provision applies to states, particularly in the northeastern region, where a minority tribe needs protection against any discriminatory action by a majority tribe. Therefore, the Sixth Schedule has a different geographical, historical and cultural context, and its relevance in the case of Ladakh is not particularly significant in the same way," Kundra said at a press conference in Leh.

He said that when the meeting was held on October 15, the people of Ladakh wanted to see the documents and understand what kind of structure would be created. "After considerable deliberation, the MHA provided a 32-page document to the leaders of Ladakh on the morning of October 16. I want to make one thing very clear through you: the constitutional amendment and the kind of democratic structure the people of Ladakh want will emerge through discussion and deliberation. We do not want to submit a draft unilaterally. We want a framework that has the broad agreement of Ladakh's leadership. Naturally, nobody can read a 32-page document immediately and provide a response. We suggested that the leaders study it and that another meeting be convened after a week or 10 to 15 days," he said.

Kundra said the Ladakh leadership suggested holding the meeting the very next day.

> They should find out what people of Ladakh want. The expectation was that they would study the draft provided by us. But that didn't happen.
>
> **ASHISH KUNDRA ,** Ladakh chief secretary

"We conveyed to them (Ladakh leaders) to take some time to discuss the document in detail among themselves and consult the people they represent. They should find out what the people of Ladakh want. We had provided them with the draft. The expectation was that they would study it. Unfortunately, that is not what happened," Kundra said.

He said that a separate three-page document was also provided to them. "It was not a draft document but an MoU setting out the matters on which the negotiating sides were agreeing. The MoU contained several provisions." Kundra said that anything like Article 370 has already been abrogated, so there is no point in bringing that provision back in this manner.

"Unfortunately, I was deeply disturbed by what happened. I was surprised to see that within two hours of receiving the papers, they were 'rubbished'. It was said that nothing had been offered and that there were no provisions for constitutional safeguards," Kundra said.

He said that the discussion became stuck on just one issue: who will write the annual confidential report (ACR) of the chief secretary.

"We explained that the question of who would write the chief secretary's ACR is dealt with under the Transaction of Business Rules. It does not form part of a constitutional amendment or the legislation establishing the body."

He said that the government of India is fully committed to finding a political solution at the earliest and creating a democratically elected body that fulfills the aspirations of the people of Ladakh.



Tourists play with snow at zero point Zojila on the Srinagar-Leh national highway on Saturday. PTI

{ RELIEF TO PANGI VALLEY } CHAMBA

Snow cleared, Sach Pass reopens after two days

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DHARAMSHALA : Sach Pass, a vital road link which connects Pangi valley with the district headquarters in Chamba, has been cleared for the movement of small 4×4 vehicles, officials said on Saturday.

However, the drivers have been advised to exercise extreme caution while travelling through the pass due to the risk of skidding on frozen water and icy road surfaces. The road was closed on October 15 following the heavy snowfall in high altitude areas of the hill state.

The reopening brings much-needed relief to Pangi residents, who face long and difficult journeys whenever the mountain route is blocked. During such closures, they have to take a detour via Manali or Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir.

Situated at an altitude of 14,500 feet, Sach Pass connects Chamba with the remote Pangi valley and remains closed for nearly seven months each year due to heavy snowfall.

The closure of Sach Pass during winter months cuts off the Pangi valley from the district headquarters, Chamba.

It forces the residents of Pangi to undertake a long and arduous journey, covering 750km via Jammu and Kullu to reach the district headquarters.

Dry weather to prevail: IMD

Meanwhile, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Shimla, dry weather is expected to prevail across Himachal from October 17 to 23 and the maximum temperatures are also likely to rise during the next four to five days.

On Saturday, Kukumseri in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul-Spiti district recorded the state's lowest minimum temperature at -1.1°C. It was followed by Keylong at -0.7°C and Tabo at 0.2°C.

Maximum temperatures across the state remained normal on Saturday, with Una continuing to be the hottest place at 32.2°C.

Shimla recorded a maximum temperature of 20.8°C, while Dharamshala and Manali recorded 25°C and 19.5°C, respectively.

HC rejects plea seeking nod to construct hotel in Shimla's green belt

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DHARAMSHALA : The high court of Himachal Pradesh has dismissed a long pending petition seeking permission to construct a three-storey hotel with a parking floor in Chhota Shimla.

The HC observed that planning approval granted in 1997 did not automatically entitle the petitioners to undertake construction without the mandatory building permission from the municipal corporation (MC).

Justice Sandeep Sharma, in a judgment pronounced on October 16, observed that the petitioners could not rely on the approval granted by the town and country planning (TCP) department in September 1997, as the Shimla MC had never sanctioned the building plans. The land in question was subsequently brought under the green belt and core area through government notifications issued in 2000.

The court held that the earlier approval, which was subject to obtaining building permission from the local authority, could not be used to claim a right to construct in an area where restrictions had subsequently been imposed in the public interest. The court order stated that though sanction granted by the TCP department (through September 2, 1997 order) was subject to further permission by the MC, which never came to be granted, but even otherwise, area, within which construction is proposed by the petitioners, came to be declared as green belt/core area through notifications issued on December 7, 2000 and August 11, 2000.

"Since prior to issuance of notifications, no building permission, if any, in terms of the condition contained in September 2, 1997 order stood granted by the MC, permission granted by the TCP can be said to have lost its relevance, rather in the changed circumstances, petitioners are required to make a fresh application, if permissible, to raise construction in the green/core area to the competent authority. Consequently, this court finds no merit in the present petition and accordingly, the same is dismissed being devoid of merit," it added.

The petitioners had approached the court after the MC refused to grant building permission in June 1998, citing the absence of clear land title. Although the TCP department had approved their plans for construction on land, the required municipal sanction was never granted. The petitioners subsequently challenged the authorities' decisions and sought directions for the grant of construction permission, arguing that the approval issued in 1997 had created a right in their favour. The court observed that the petitioners had failed to fulfil the conditions of the 1997 approval, particularly the requirement to obtain building permission from the MC.

Therefore, the TCP department's approval did not give them a legal right to construct the hotel. The court held that since the land was subsequently declared a green belt/core area and no construction permission had been granted, the earlier approval could not override the restrictions. It said the notifications were issued in the public interest, which must prevail over private interests.

NURPUR POLICE FREEZE ASSETS WORTH ₹74L UNDER NDPS ACT

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DHARAMSHALA : Nurpur police have frozen assets worth ₹74.12 lakh under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, officials said on Saturday.

The assets comprise a two-storey residential building-cum-shopping complex containing seven shops, situated at Labh village, Jawali tehsil in Kangra district, with an assessed value of approximately ₹68.99 lakh and a tractor bearing registration number HP38F6433, purchased in 2019 for approximately ₹5.13 lakh. According to police, following the arrest of an accused in a case involving a commercial quantity of narcotic substances, a financial investigation was conducted into assets associated with him, examining their acquisition and the sources of funds used to purchase them.

Based on the findings of the investigation, proceedings were initiated under the relevant provisions of the NDPS Act to freeze the identified assets, police said.

According to a spokesperson, following the financial investigation, Jawali police station issued a freezing order on September, 18, 2026 under Section 68F(1) of the NDPS Act and forwarded it to the competent authority, New Delhi, for confirmation. Subsequently, on October 15, 2026, the competent authority and administrator, SAFEM(FOP)A and NDPS Act, New Delhi, passed an order under Section 68F(2) of the NDPS Act, confirming the freezing of the identified assets.

During the proceedings before the competent authority, adequate documentary evidence, including relevant income-tax returns, bank statements and supporting records establishing the source of funds used to purchase the tractor in 2019, was not furnished.

1,000-page chargesheet filed against 15 accused in Kishtwar minor's rape-death

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JAMMU : The special investigation team (SIT) of the crime branch on Saturday filed a chargesheet against 15 accused in connection with the alleged rape and death of a 15-year-old girl in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, an official said.

The chargesheet, comprising more than 1,000 pages, cites 143 witnesses and invokes the applicable provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, the official said.

The tribal girl was allegedly subjected to repeated sexual assault by a teacher in her school over months, resulting in her pregnancy. She died following an alleged attempt to terminate the pregnancy in the Chatroo area on August 20.

> THE TRIBAL GIRL WAS ALLEGEDLY SUBJECTED TO REPEATED SEXUAL ASSAULT BY A TEACHER IN HER SCHOOL

The chargesheet was filed within 60 days of the SIT taking over the investigation of the case on August 29, the official said, adding that the document was presented before the court of the munsiff judge, Kishtwar, who is holding charge as the principal district and sessions judge, Kishtwar, as the regular presiding officer is on leave.

The official said the 15 accused include the teacher, several health workers who allegedly assisted in the attempted abortion and others accused of trying to broker a compromise with the victim's family to save the main accused.

The case was initially registered at the Chatroo police station following the girl's death. A week later, amid widespread protests, the investigation was transferred to the special crime wing, Jammu. By then, police had already arrested nine accused, including the teacher and his brother.

Immediately after taking over the case, inspector general of police, crime, Sarah Rizvi, constituted the SIT headed by senior superintendent of police, special crime wing, Jammu, Sanjay Kumar Parihar, a spokesperson of the crime branch said.

"The team undertook a detailed examination of the evidence and carried out the investigation through coordinated and sustained professional efforts, culminating in the filing of the chargesheet within the stipulated period," the official said.

The crime branch said further investigative action, including the filing of a supplementary chargesheet, may be undertaken if additional evidence emerges, in accordance with law.

The accused teacher was dismissed from service, while the contracts of two sanitation workers at the Kishtwar district hospital were terminated following their arrests in connection with the case. Several others, including a teacher and a doctor, were placed under suspension pending an inquiry.

{ AS J&K GOVT COMPLETES 2 YEARS }

AIP SLAMS NC GOVT OVER 'FAILED PROMISES'

SRINAGAR : As the Omar Abdullah-led government completes two years in office, Awami Itihaad Party (AIP) chief spokesperson Inam Un Nabi has accused the National Conference (NC) of betraying the public mandate, saying its electoral promises have failed to translate into visible change on the ground.

"Despite receiving a huge mandate, there is no governance visible on the ground. People voted for the NC in the hope that it would deliver on their political aspirations and address their everyday concerns. Two years later, they are still waiting," Nabi said. He said the NC had promised to pursue the restoration of Article 370 and Article 35A through peaceful and democratic means, but had failed to demonstrate a sustained political struggle towards that objective. "The promises made during elections have largely disappeared after assuming office. Where is the promised peaceful struggle for Article 370 and 35A?" he asked.

On reservation rationalisation, Nabi said the party had promised immediate action, yet the issue remained unresolved as the government entered its third year. He also questioned the gap between the promise of 200 units of free electricity and the reported 6% tariff hike, saying households had been left facing higher costs instead of the relief they were promised. HTC

{ LADAKH LG LAYS FOUNDATION STONES } UNDER PROJECT HIM SAROVAR

2 water bodies with 70L-litre capacity to address acute water crisis in Kargil

Press Trust of India
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Ladakh LG Vinai Kumar Saxena interacting with officials in Kargil on Saturday. HT

KARGIL/JAMMU: Ladakh lieutenant governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has laid the foundation stones for two water bodies at Barchay and Apati in Sodh tehsil under 'Project Him Sarovar' in Kargil, with a combined storage capacity of approximately 60–70 lakh litres, a Lok Bhavan spokesperson said.

The initiative marks a significant step towards addressing the acute water crisis faced by local communities and strengthening water security in the region, the spokesperson said.

Water scarcity in Sodh tehsil has severely affected agriculture and rural livelihoods, forcing some residents to migrate from their villages, he said, adding the new water bodies are expected to improve water availability, support agricultural sustainability and help revive village life.

During his previous visit to the area on September 2, the LG had witnessed first-hand the acute water shortage and its adverse impact on local agriculture and livelihoods.

Taking immediate cognisance of the situation, he had directed the district administration to identify potential water sources, including nearby glacier streams, that could be channelised to ensure a more dependable water supply to the villages.

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
APPENDIX-IV A [SEE PROVISO TO RULE 6(2), 8(6) & 9(1)]

SCAN HERE For detailed terms & conditions

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2), 8(6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Movable / immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account's. The details of Borrower(s) / Mortgagor(s) / Guarantor(s) / Secured Asset(s) / Dues / Reserve Price / E-Auction Date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:-

Sr. No.	Name of Branch & Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) & Mortgagor(s)	Description of the Movable / Immovable Property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-Auction	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession (Constructive / Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time	Name of the Contact No. of Authorised Officer
1.	ZOSARB, CHANDIGARH M/s. Shree Ganesh Poly Plast Pvt. Ltd. Village Kheri, Trilokpur Road, Kala Amb, Tehsil Nahan, Distt. Sirmour, HP- 173021.	Residential Property admeasuring 192.08 Sq. Yds. situated at M.C. House No. 103, Ward No. 3, within Abadi Deh, situated at Naraingarh, Tehsil Naraingarh, District Ambala (Haryana) in the name of Smt. Davinder Kaur W/o Sh. Amarjeet Singh. **PROPERTY ID:- BARB377508112102. NOTE:- This Auction is subject to outcome of SA No. 110/2021, DRT-2, Chandigarh.**	Rs. 5,75,85,683/- + interest and other charges w.e.f. 28.01.2019 (-) Recovery, if any	07.11.2026 from 11:00 Hrs. to 15:00 Hrs.	Rs. 25,00,000/- Rs. 2,50,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/-	PHYSICAL POSSESSION	04.11.2026 onwards with prior appointment	Mr. Pradeept Swar Bhardwaj Mobile: 8826990503
2.	ZOSARB, CHANDIGARH (1) M/s Oswal Classic through. Prop. Late Sh. Baldev Raj Malhotra through L.R. Sh. Bir Prakash Malhotra, B-8/141, Near Neem wala Chowk, Mochpura Bazar, Ludhiana, Punjab- 141008 (2) Smt. Monika Malhotra through L.R. Sh. Bir Prakash Malhotra, H. No. B-XIX-504, Dasondha Singh Road, Civil Lines, Ludhiana, Punjab - 141001	EM Vacant Plot of 130 Sq. Yd. Khewat No. 6 7 3 / 1 0 9 5 Khasra 475/2/3/1(0-07) Wasika No. 10475 Dtd. 28.03.07. 51.75 Sq YdKhewat No. 718/1262 Khasra No. 473/2(3-17) Wasika No. 895 Dtd. 14.05.07. 2.25 Sq. Yd. Khewat No. 718/1262 Khasra No. 473/2(3-17) Wasika No. 896 Dtd. 14.05.07. Total **184 Sq. Yd. (Non Demarcated)** at GT Road Rajpura situated at Rajpura - Ambala Highway, Near Walia Washing Centre, Tehsil Rajpura, District Patiala, Punjab in name of Monika Malhotra - NPAA/c - **M/s Oswal Classic. NOTE:- BAANKNET PROPERTY ID - BARB377504022605WSAL. BEING SOLD ONLY IN SINGLE LOT I.E. JOINTLY WITH ANOTHER PROPERTY BAANKNET PROPERTY ID - BARB040226MONIKA.** W/o Sh. Bir Prakash Malhotra, H. No. B-XIX-504, Dasondha Singh Road, Civil Lines, Ludhiana, Punjab - 141001 **(3) Late Sh. Baldev Raj Malhotra** through L.R. Sh. Bir Prakash Malhotra, H. No. B-XIX-504, Dasondha Singh Road, Civil Lines, Ludhiana, Punjab- 141001.	Rs. 55,04,652/- + interest and other charges w.e.f. 30.09.2009 (-) Recovery, if any.	07.11.2026 from 11:00 Hrs. to 15:00 Hrs.	Rs. 40,00,000/- Rs. 4,00,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/-	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION	NA (Non Demarcated)	Mr. Pradeept Swar Bhardwaj Mobile: 8826990503
3.	ZOSARB, CHANDIGARH M/s Monika Enterprise, through Prop. Smt. Monika Malhotra, B-8/141, Near Neem Wala Chowk, Mochpura Bazar, Ludhiana Punjab- 141008. **Guarantor(s):- Late Sh. Baldev Raj Malhotra** through L.R. Sh. **Bir Prakash Malhotra**, B-8/141, Near Neem wala Bazar, Ludhiana, Punjab- 141008	EM Vacant Plot of 215 Sq. Yd. Khewat No. 718/1262 Khasra 473/2(3-17) Wasika No. 8241 Dtd. 14.12.06, EM of 105 Sq. Yd. Khewat No. 675/1113 Khasra No. 474/(0-7) Wasika No. 8741 Dtd. 03.01.2007. **Total 320 Sq. Yd. (Non Demarcated)** situated Rajpura - Ambala Highway, Near Walia Washing Centre, Tehsil Rajpura, District Patiala, Punjab in name of Mrs. Monika Malhotra - NPA/c M/s Monika Enterprises. **NOTE:- BAANKNET PROPERTY ID - BARB040226MONIKA. BEING SOLD ONLY IN SINGLE LOT I.E. JOINTLY WITH ANOTHER PROPERTY BAANKNET PROPERTY ID - BARB377504022605WAL.**	Rs. 70,14,401/- + interest and other charges w.e.f. 30.09.2009 (-) Recovery, if any.	07.11.2026 from 11:00 Hrs. to 15:00 Hrs.	Rs. 72,00,000/- Rs. 7,20,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/-	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION	NA (Non Demarcated)	Mr. Pradeept Swar Bhardwaj Mobile: 8826990503

• LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EMD: ON OR BEFORE THE E-AUCTION DATE & TIME
• DATE AND TIME OF COMMENCEMENT OF E-AUCTION: 07.11.2026 FROM 11:00 HRS. TO 15:00 HRS. • MODE OF PAYMENT OF EMD: NEFT / RTGS

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer / visit to the website link https://www.bankofbaroda.bank.in/e-auction and online auction portal Baanknet.com. Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised Officer on M: 8826990503, 9646103815.

IT MAY BE TREATED AS STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT 2002

Date: 17.10.2026 Place: Chandigarh AUTHORISED OFFICER