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इस भाग में भिन्न पृष्ठ संख्या दी जाती है जिससे कि यह अलग संकलन के रूप में रखा जा सके।
Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation.

MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(Legislative Department)

New Delhi, the 16th October, 2026/*Asvina 24*, 1948 *(Saka)*

THE LADAKH AUTONOMOUS HILL DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) REGULATION, 2026

No. 16 OF 2026

Promulgated by the President in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India.

A Regulation further to amend the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils Act, 1997.

34 of 2019

In exercise of the powers conferred by article 240 of the Constitution read with sub-section (*2*) of section 58 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the President is pleased to promulgate the following Regulation made by her:—

Short title, extent and commencement

1. (*1*) This Regulation may be called the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Amendment) Regulation, 2026.

(*2*) It extends to the whole of the Union territory of Ladakh.

(*3*) It shall come into force on such date as the Administrator may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Jammu and Kashmir Act XXXI of 1997

Construction of reference of certain expressions by certain other expressions

2. Throughout the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils Act, 1997 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act),—

(*a*) for the word "Governor", wherever it occurs, the word "Administrator" shall be substituted;

(*b*) for the words "Government Gazette", wherever they occur, the words "Official Gazette" shall be substituted;

(*c*) for the word "State", wherever it occurs, except in the enacting formula, the words "Union territory of Ladakh" shall be substituted.

Amendment of long title.

3. In the long title of the principal Act, for the words "Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir", the words "Union territory of Ladakh" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 1.

4. In section 1 of the principal Act, for sub-section (*2*), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

"(*2*) It extends to the whole of the Union territory of Ladakh.".

Amendment of section 2.

5. In section 2 of the principal Act,—

(*i*) for clause (*a*), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:—

'(*a*) "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Union territory of Ladakh appointed by the President under article 239 of the Constitution;

(*aa*) "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Council;';

(*ii*) for clause (*g*), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

'(*g*) "district" means the areas which fall within the territorial limits of the districts of Leh, Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Kargil, Zanskar and Drass, as the case may be, and includes any district hereafter created in the Union territory of Ladakh;';

(*iii*) for clause (*l*), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

'(*l*) "Government", save as otherwise provided in this Regulation, means the Administration of the Union territory of Ladakh;';

(*iv*) clause (*m*) shall be omitted;

(*v*) in clause (*n*), in sub-clause (*i*), for the words and figures "defined under the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Act, Samvat 1987", the words and figures "referred to in the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972" shall be substituted;

II of Svt. 1987.
16 of 1927
53 of 1972.

(*vi*) for clause (*p*), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:—

'(*p*) "Official Gazette" means the Official Gazette of the Union territory of Ladakh;

(*q*) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made by the Administrator under this Act.'.

Amendment of section 3.

6. In section 3 of the principal Act, in sub-section (*2*), for the words and figures "the Transfer of Property Act, Samvat 1977 and the Alienation of Land Act, Samvat 1995", the words and figures "the Transfer of Property Act, 1882 and the Jammu and Kashmir Alienation of Land Act, Samvat 1995" shall be substituted.

XLII of Svt. 1977.
V of Svt. 1995.
IV of 1882.
V of Svt. 1995

Amendment of section 4

7. In section 4 of the principal Act,—

(*a*) in sub-section (*1*), for the words "shall be twenty-six", the words "shall not be less than seven and not exceeding twenty-four, as the Administration of the Union territory of Ladakh may, in respect of each separate Council area, by notification in the Official Gazette, determine" shall be substituted;

(*b*) for sub-section (*2*), the following sub-section and *Explanation* shall be substituted, namely:—

"(*2*) The Administration of the Union territory of Ladakh may nominate not more than four persons from amongst—

(*a*) women; and

(*b*) unrepresented communities in the district as the Administration of the Union territory of Ladakh may, by notification specify in this behalf,

to be members of the Council:

Provided that the number of persons so nominated shall not be exceeding one-sixth of the number of seats determined under sub-section (*1*) for that Council area.

Explanation.—For the purposes of sub-sections (*1A*) and (*2*), where one-sixth of the total number of seats determined under sub-sections (*1*) and (*2*), result in a fraction, such fraction shall be rounded off to the next higher whole number.";

(*c*) for sub-section (*3*), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

"(*3*) The sitting member of the House of the People representing the Parliamentary Constituency of the Union territory of Ladakh, shall be *ex officio* member of the Councils constituted for each district.";

(*d*) sub-section (*4*) shall be omitted.

Insertion of new section 4A.

8. After section 4 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

Superintendence, direction and control of elections.

"4A. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force,—

(*a*) the State Election Commission shall be responsible for superintendence, direction and control of elections to the constituencies of the district councils and all matters relating to the preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of elections under this Act;

(*b*) for the purposes of this Act, the State Election Commissioner as appointed for the Union territory of Ladakh shall be deemed to be the State Election Commission.".

Amendment of section 5.

9. In section 5 of the principal Act,—

(*a*) in sub-section (*1*), in the opening portion, for the words "Government shall, by notification in the Government Gazette", the words "Administration of the Union territory of Ladakh, on the recommendations of the State Election Commission, shall, by notification in the Official Gazette" shall be substituted;

(*b*) after sub-section (*2*), the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:—

"(*3*) The number of constituencies in a Council area under sub-section (*1*), shall be equal to the number of seats determined under sub-section (*1*) of section 4 in respect of that Council area.

(*4*) For the purposes of sub-section (*3*), in determining the extent of each constituency, as far as practicable, due regard shall be given to the contiguity, compactness of area, the boundaries of panchayats and the desirability of securing a comparable population in each constituency within every Council, keeping in view the area and the seasonal inaccessibility.".

Substitution of new section for section 6.

Preparation of electoral roll.

10. For section 6 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

"6. (*1*) The State Election Commission shall be responsible for the preparation of electoral rolls for the election of members of the Council.

(*2*) For the purposes of sub-section (*1*), the State Election Commission shall take into account the electoral roll prepared under the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 and the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000 as applicable to the Union territory of Ladakh.". IX of 1989. XX of 2000.

Amendment of section 12.

11. In section 12 of the principal Act,—

(*a*) for sub-section (*1*), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

"(*1*) No election shall be called in question except by an election petition filed before the High Court.";

(*b*) in the *Explanation*, for the words and figures "section 132 of the Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People Act, 1957", the words and figures "section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951" shall be substituted; IV of 1957. 43 of 1951.

(*c*) in sub-section (*3*), for the words "petition, the authority appointed under sub-section (*1*) shall", the words "petition, the High Court shall" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 13.

12. In section 13 of the principal Act,—

(*a*) for the words and figures "the Code of Civil Procedure, Samvat 1977", the words and figures "the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908" shall be substituted; X of Svt. 1977. 5 of 1908.

(*b*) the words "by the authority appointed under section 12" shall be omitted.

Insertion of new section 14A.

Duration of Councils.

13. After section 14 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

"14A. Every Council, unless dissolved earlier, shall continue for a period of five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and the expiration of such period of five years shall operate as a dissolution of the Council:

Provided that such period may, if circumstances exist which in the opinion of the Administrator render the holding of election not practicable, be extended by the Administrator, by notification in the Official Gazette for a further period not exceeding one year.".

Amendment of section 15.

14. In section 15 of the principal Act, in sub-section (*1*), for the words "chosen as member of Parliament or State Legislature", the words "elected as member of Parliament" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 17.

15. In section 17 of the principal Act,—

(*a*) in clause (*i*), for the words "Central or the State Government", the words "Central Government or any State Government or the Administration of the Union territory of Ladakh or any other Union territory Administration or any local authority" shall be substituted;

(*b*) in clause (*iv*), for the words and figures "section 24 of the Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People Act, 1957", the words and figures "section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951" shall be substituted. IV of 1957. 43 of 1951.

Substitution of new section for section 20.

Appeal against order of removal.

16. For section 20 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

"20. (*1*) Any member who is aggrieved by an order under section 19 may, within a period of forty-five days from the date of the order, appeal to the High Court.

(*2*) On receipt of an appeal under sub-section (*1*), the High Court, after giving an opportunity of being heard to the parties, may modify, set aside or confirm such order.".

Amendment of section 22.

17. In section 22 of the principal Act,—

(*a*) in sub-section (*1*), for the words "by regulations", the words "by bye-laws" shall be substituted;

(*b*) in sub-section (*2*), for the words "ten members", the words "one-third of the total number of members of the Council or three members, whichever is higher, and where one-third results in a fraction, it shall be rounded off to the next higher whole number" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 23.

18. Section 23 of the principal Act shall be numbered as sub-section (*1*) thereof and in sub-section (*1*) as so numbered,—

(*a*) for clause (*i*), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

"(*i*) allotment, use and occupation of land vested in the Council by the Administration of the Union territory of Ladakh under this Act;";

(*b*) in clause (*iv*), the brackets and words "(Plan and Non-Plan)" shall be omitted;

(*c*) clause (*viii*) shall be omitted;

(*d*) after sub-section (*1*) as so numbered, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

"(*2*) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Council shall have all the powers of the Panchayat at the district level.".

Amendment of section 24.

19. In section 24 of the principal Act,—

(*i*) in sub-section (*1*),—

(*a*) in clause (*i*), for the words "Consolidated Fund of the State", the words "Consolidated Fund of India" shall be substituted;

(*b*) clause (*ii*) shall be omitted;

(*ii*) sub-section (*3*) shall be omitted.

Amendment of section 29

20. In section 29 of the principal Act, in sub-section (*1*), for clause (*b*), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

"(*b*) such number of members, not exceeding four, as may be nominated by the Chief Executive Councillor from amongst the members of the Council, subject to the total number of members of the Executive Council not exceeding one-fourth of the total number of members of the Council:

Provided that at least one of the members nominated shall be a woman in the district.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this clause, where one-fourth of the total members of the Council results in a fraction, such fraction shall be rounded off to the next higher whole number.".

Amendment of section 31

21. In section 31 of the principal Act, in sub-section (*4*), for the words "by regulation", the words "by bye-laws" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 32.

22. In section 32 of the principal Act, for clauses (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:—

"(*a*) budget;

(*b*) matters relating to land allotment and lease;

(*c*) development plan.".

Amendment of section 36.

23. In section 36 of the principal Act, for the words "three members", the words "one-half of the total number of members of the Executive Council, and where one-half results in a fraction, it shall be rounded off to the next higher whole number" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 39.

24. In section 39 of the principal Act, in sub-section (*2*), for the words "the Council may by regulation, determine", the words "may be prescribed" shall be substituted.

Substitution of new section for section 40

Employees of Administration of Union territory of Ladakh transferred to Council to be deemed employees of Council

25. For section 40 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

"40. All employees of the Administration of the Union territory of Ladakh, who are transferred to the Council in the district, except the employees of the judicial establishment and police personnel, shall be deemed to be transferred employees on such terms and conditions as may be notified by the Administration of the Union territory of Ladakh:

Provided that the terms and conditions of service of such employee shall not be varied to his disadvantage.".

Amendment of section 41

26. In section 41 of the principal Act,—

(*a*) in sub-section (*1*),—

(*i*) in the opening portion, the words "by regulations" shall be omitted;

(*ii*) in clause (*a*), for the words "cadre post in that district", the words "council posts in that district, in such manner as may be prescribed" shall be substituted;

(*iii*) clause (*b*) shall be omitted;

(*b*) in sub-section (*2*),—

(*i*) for the words "the Council shall", the words "the Council may" shall be substituted;

(*ii*) after the word "prescribed", the words "or the conduct of recruitment may be assigned to the Ladakh Subordinate Services Staff Selection Board" shall be inserted.

Amendment of section 42.

27. In section 42 of the principal Act, in sub-section (*1*), the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

"Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall affect the land which has been allotted to the Administration of the Union territory of Ladakh and the Central Government including defence establishments.".

Amendment of section 43.

28. In section 43 of the principal Act,—

(*a*) in sub-section (*1*),—

(*i*) in clause (*c*), the words "Plan and Non-Plan" shall be omitted;

(*ii*) in clause (*d*), for the words "or State Government", the words "Government or the Administration of the Union territory of Ladakh" shall be substituted;

(*b*) in sub-section (*2*), for the words "Government treasuries", the words "treasury of the Union territory of Ladakh" shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 44.

29. In section 44 of the principal Act,—

(*a*) for sub-section (*1*), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

"(*1*) The Administration of the Union territory of Ladakh shall allocate funds under the Budget to the Council to be credited to the Council Fund as per budgetary requirement as approved by the Administration of the Union territory of Ladakh.";

(*b*) sub-section (*2*) shall be omitted.

30. In section 45 of the principal Act,— Amendment of section 45.

(*a*) in sub-section (*1*), the words "Plan and Non-Plan" shall be omitted;

(*b*) in sub-section (*2*), for the words "Additional Secretary to the Government", the words "Additional Secretary to the Union territory of Ladakh" shall be substituted.

31. In section 46 of the principal Act, for the words "The Government shall lay such reports with the comments of the Council before the State Legislature", the words "The Administration of the Union territory of Ladakh shall forward such reports with the comments of the Council to the Central Government" shall be substituted. Amendment of section 46.

32. For section 48 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:— Substitution of new section for section 48.

"48. The Council shall formulate the District Plan in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Administration of the Union territory of Ladakh.". Formulation of District Plan.

33. For section 49 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:— Substitution of new section for section 49.

"49. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, the Council shall be deemed to be the Panchayat at the district level, for exercising the powers and performing the functions under such Act.". Council to be Panchayat at district level.

IX of 1989.

34. In section 50 of the principal Act,— Amendment of section 50.

(*i*) in the opening portion, for the words "the Councils of Leh and Kargil", the words "all the Councils" shall be substituted;

(*ii*) in clause (*a*), for the word "both", the word "all" shall be substituted;

(*iii*) in clause (*c*), for the words "Ladakh region", the words "Union territory of Ladakh" shall be substituted.

35. In section 53 of the principal Act,— Amendment of section 53.

(*a*) for the marginal heading, the following marginal heading shall be substituted, namely:—

"Effect of expiry of term or dissolution of Council.";

(*b*) for the opening portion, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

"On the expiry of the term of the Council and until the constitution of a new Council or when an order of dissolution has been passed under section 52, with effect from the date of such expiry or the date of the order, as the case may be,—".

36. In section 54 of the principal Act, for the words and figures "section 21 of the Ranbir Penal Code", the words, brackets and figures "clause (*28*) of section 2 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023" shall be substituted. Amendment of section 54.

XII of Svt. 1989.
45 of 2023.

37. In section 57 of the principal Act, after the words "or regulations", the words "or bye-laws" shall be inserted. Amendment of section 57.

38. In section 59 of the principal Act, in clause (*a*), the word "Assembly" shall be omitted. Amendment of section 59.

Amendment of section 60

39. In section 60 of the principal Act, in sub-section (*2*),—

(*a*) clause (*ii*) shall be omitted;

(*b*) after clause (*iv*), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

"(*iva*) the salary, allowances and other conditions of service of the Secretary under sub-section (*2*) of section 39;

(*ivb*) the manner of conducting recruitment and promotion under clause (*a*) of sub-section (*1*) of section 41;".

Substitution of new sections 61 and 61A for section 61.

40. For section 61 of the principal Act, the following sections shall be substituted, namely:—

Power to make bye-laws

"61. (*1*) The Council with the approval of the Administration of the Union territory of Ladakh shall have power, subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, to make bye-laws to be applicable within the district with respect to all or any of the matters required to be provided by bye-laws under any of the provisions of this Act.

(*2*) All bye-laws made under sub-section (*1*) shall have effect upon their publication in the Official Gazette.

Transitional provisions on constitution of new Councils.

61A. (*1*) On and from the appointed day in relation to a Council area, all the land which stood transferred to an existing Council under sub-section (*1*) of section 42 and which is situated within that Council area shall stand transferred to and vest in the Council constituted for that Council area.

(*2*) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (*1*), the Administration of the Union territory of Ladakh shall, by an order published in the Official Gazette, provide for the apportionment of all assets and liabilities between an existing Council and the Council constituted on and after the appointed date for a Council area from such existing Council.

(*3*) Every employee who, immediately before the appointed day, was serving in connection with the affairs of an existing Council within a Council area, shall, on and from that day, be deemed to be an employee of the Council constituted for that Council area, on the same terms and conditions, and nothing in this sub-section shall operate to vary the terms and conditions of service of any such employee to his disadvantage.

(*4*) All records and registers relating to a Council area, all contracts subsisting in relation thereto, and all suits, appeals and other legal proceedings of whatever nature instituted by or against an existing Council in relation thereto and pending immediately before the appointed day, shall be continued or enforced by or against the Council constituted for that Council area, which shall be deemed to be substituted therein for the existing Council.

(*5*) All regulations and bye-laws made under section 61 by an existing Council and in force immediately before the appointed day shall, in so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, shall continue to be in force in the Council area carved out therefrom until repealed or superseded.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section,—

(*a*) "appointed day", in relation to a Council area, means the date appointed under sub-section (*1*) of section 3 for the constitution of the Council for that Council area;

(*b*) "existing Council" means the Council as existing immediately before the commencement of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Amendment) Regulation, 2026.".

DROUPADI MURMU,
President.

DR. RAJIV MANI,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

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