



UPSC &amp; STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

# Ladakh Gets 5 New Districts — Total Now 7, Governance Decentralisation in UT

27 April 2026 · **POLITY**

CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**[bharatnotes.com](http://bharatnotes.com) →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

[epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

# Ladakh Gets 5 New Districts — Total Now 7, Governance Decentralisation in UT

27 April 2026 · 3 min read

2 tags

## WHY IN NEWS

Lieutenant Governor **Vinai Kumar Saxena** formally approved the creation of **five new districts** in Ladakh on April 27, 2026 — **Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar, and Drass** — expanding the total number of districts in the Union Territory from 2 to 7. The Ministry of Home Affairs had given its concurrence in August 2024; the LG's notification completes the administrative reorganisation. District headquarters will be established at Diskit, Khaltsi, Nyoma, Padum, and Drass respectively.

## THE FIVE NEW DISTRICTS — AT A GLANCE

DISTRICT	HEADQUARTERS	CARVED FROM	GEOGRAPHIC SIGNIFICANCE
<b>Nubra</b>	Diskit	Leh	Shyok-Nubra river valley; border with Pakistan (Siachen sector)
<b>Sham</b>	Khaltsi	Leh	Indus valley; lower Ladakh; key tourism and agricultural area
<b>Changthang</b>	Nyoma	Leh	High-altitude plateau; borders China (LAC); Pangong Tso region
<b>Zaskar</b>	Padum	Kargil	Isolated high-altitude valley; road connectivity challenges
<b>Drass</b>	Drass	Kargil	Kargil War memorial; India's coldest inhabited town; NH1

## WHY NEW DISTRICTS WERE NEEDED

Ladakh is India's **largest UT by area** (~59,146 sq km — larger than Haryana + Punjab combined) but was administered with only 2 districts:

PROBLEM	IMPACT
Vast geographical distance	A resident of Nubra had to travel 150+ km to reach Leh for district services
Zaskar isolation	Zaskar Valley remains cut off for 6+ months annually; no resident district administration
Changthang border sensitivity	China-border region needs rapid administrative response capacity
Sub-divisional overload	Sub-divisions were doing district-level work without authority or resources
Developmental disparity	Remote areas chronically underfunded due to administrative distance

## WHAT STATEHOOD VS UT STATUS MEANS FOR LADAKH

Ladakh was **bifurcated from J&K and made a Union Territory** (without legislature) under the **Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019** (effective October 31, 2019). Key governance implications:

FEATURE	IMPACT
No elected legislature	Governed directly by LG (under Central government)
Parliament represents	Ladakh has 1 Lok Sabha seat (Ladakh parliamentary constituency)
District administration	All appointments by Central government via LG
LAHDC	Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils for Leh and Kargil — elected bodies with devolved powers
Political demand	Major political parties have demanded either statehood or legislature for Ladakh

The creation of new districts is an administrative measure — it does not change Ladakh's political status as a UT without legislature.

## LADAKH'S STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

DIMENSION	DETAIL
Border with China	LAC runs through Changthang; Galwan, Depsang, Demchok face-off points
Border with Pakistan	Siachen Glacier (Nubra sector); LoC in Kargil sector (Drass)
Kargil War	1999 — Drass and Kargil sectors were the primary battleground
Tourism	Pangong Tso, Leh, Nubra Valley, Zaskar — major adventure tourism
Ladakh's economy	Largely pastoral (Changpa nomads), horticulture (apricots), tourism

## UPSC RELEVANCE

PAPER	ANGLE
GS2 — Polity	Union Territories; administrative reorganisation; LAHDC; Centre-UT relations
GS2 — Governance	Decentralisation; district administration; delivery of services in remote areas
GS2 — IR	India-China LAC dispute; Ladakh as strategic geography

**Mains Keywords:** Ladakh new districts, Nubra Sham Changthang Zaskar Drass, LG Vinai Kumar Saxena, Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, LAHDC, decentralisation, UT governance

### Facts Corner

ITEM	FACT
LG who approved	Vinai Kumar Saxena
Approval date	April 27, 2026
New districts (5)	Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar, Drass
Previous districts (2)	Leh + Kargil
Total districts now	7
MHA concurrence	August 2024
Ladakh area	~59,146 sq km (India's largest UT)
Ladakh UT status	Since October 31, 2019 (J&K Reorganisation Act)
No legislature	Governed by LG; no elected assembly
Elected bodies	LAHDC Leh + LAHDC Kargil

← **NEWER ARTICLE**

**PM Modi in Sikkim — ₹4,000 Crore Projects, 50th Statehood...**

**OLDER ARTICLE** →

**Rajnath Singh at SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Bishkek —...**

## RELATED EDITORIALS

**THE HINDU**

[Fire and Sound — On Thrissur Pooram and the Cost of Sacrificing Safety at the Altar of Faith](#)

25 Apr

**INDIAN EXPRESS**

[Burning Rubbish, Leaking Climate — India's Landfill Methane Crisis and the Waste Governance Vacuum](#)

25 Apr

**INDIAN EXPRESS**

[Decriminalising the State — Jan Vishwas Act 2026 and the Long Road to Trust-Based Governance](#)

25 Apr

**INDIAN EXPRESS**

[Levelling Up — OGAI and the Challenge of Governing India's Online Gaming Ecosystem](#)

25 Apr

## RELATED KEY TERMS

---

### KEY TERM

#### [42nd Amendment Freeze on Delimitation](#)

The constitutional freeze that locked Lok Sabha seat allocation to the...

---

### KEY TERM

#### [Advance Directive \(Living Will\)](#)

A legal document in which a competent adult specifies their medical...

---

### KEY TERM

#### [AFSPA \(Armed Forces Special Powers Act\)](#)

A central legislation granting special powers to armed forces...

---

### KEY TERM

#### [Anti-Conversion Laws](#)

State laws prohibiting religious conversions achieved through...

---



CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

## Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari →](#)<https://ujiyari.com/daily/2026/04/27/ladakh-five-new-districts-2026/>

### ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

## BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing → bharatnotes.com](https://bharatnotes.com)

### 📌 OPPORTUNITY

## Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

**Ideal for:** Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · [ujiyari.com](http://ujiyari.com) · [bharatnotes.com](https://bharatnotes.com)