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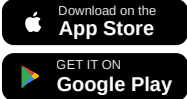


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LADAKH

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24 October 2026

NATIONAL

Chief Justice inaugurates Ladakh High Court bench in Leh, LG calls it historic milestone



New Delhi – India’s Chief Justice (CJI) formally inaugurated the new bench of the Ladakh High Court in Leh on Monday, giving the Union Territory its first permanent high court. The ceremony was attended by senior

judges, UT officials and local representatives. In his address, the CJI said that ensuring access to justice in remote areas is essential and pledged the swift functioning of the bench. Ladakh’s Lieutenant Governor called the

inauguration a “historic milestone” and noted that, with the new bench, litigants will no longer have to travel long distances to other high courts, improving the delivery of justice. The new bench will initially hear civil and criminal

matters within Ladakh, and its jurisdiction will be expanded as the case load grows. Officials said that the required staff and judges have already been appointed and the bench will be fully operational within a few weeks.

The move reflects the central government’s ongoing efforts to strengthen judicial presence in the country’s remote and strategically important regions.

NATIONAL

Chief Justice Surya Kant Kal will inaugurate the new branch of the Ladakh High Court



Chief Justice Surya Kant Kal will travel to Ladakh for the inauguration of the new branch of the High Court. The ceremony marks a step towards bringing the higher judiciary closer to the region.

The new branch aims to reduce the travel burden for lawyers and litigants who previously had to go to Singapore or Delhi. It is part of India’s effort to deliver justice across its diverse geography.

Senior judges and officials from the Ministry of Law and Justice will accompany the Chief Justice. Local legal professionals, government representatives and the media will also be invited to the event.

The presence of the High Court in Ladakh will streamline the management of regional cases and accelerate judicial processes. It reflects the judiciary’s commitment to inclusive governance.

NATIONAL

Chief Justice of India, four Supreme Court judges and the Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir arrive in Leh today



New Delhi – The Chief Justice of India (CJI) arrived in Leh today accompanied by four Supreme Court judges and the Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court. The delegation has come to meet local officials in the capital of the Union Territory of Ladakh and to review regional judicial issues. Their arrival underscores the importance of overseeing the justice system in the remote Himalayan region. A detailed agenda has not yet been released, but the visit forms part of routine judicial outreach. After the conclusion of all programmes, the officials will depart from Leh.

The trip comes as the judiciary is emphasizing the strengthening of access to and oversight of justice across all parts of the country, especially Union Territories. The local administration welcomed the senior members of the higher judiciary, highlighting the significance of direct dialogue with the CJI’s leadership.

Further information will be provided as the schedule progresses.

DEFENCE

IAF transports 30-year-old critical patient from Leh to Delhi for treatment



The Indian Air Force carried out a medical evacuation of a 30-year-old critically ill patient from Leh to Delhi. The patient, who was severely ill, was transported by an IAF helicopter to a hospital in Delhi for advanced treatment. The operation was conducted under the IAF’s medical evacuation services, ensuring the patient received timely care. The patient is now receiving specialized medical care in Delhi.

HEALTH

IAF transfers patient from Leh to Delhi for emergency medical care



The Indian Air Force (IAF) responded to an emergency call from Leh, Ladakh by dispatching a helicopter, which conveyed a critically ill patient to a tertiary medical centre in Delhi. The patient’s identity has not been disclosed. Leh, situated at an altitude of over 3,500 metres, has limited medical facilities for complex emergencies. The IAF’s swift action ensured the patient received timely treatment at a facility equipped with advanced medical technology. The mission was conducted by the IAF’s Medical Wing, which maintains a dedicated fleet of aircraft for patient evacuations. The helicopter covered roughly 1,200 kilometres in a matter of hours. The patient is currently undergoing treatment in Delhi, and officials have confirmed that the transfer was completed without any complications.

LOCAL

Ladakh Administration Declares Sankoo as New District



The Ladakh administration announced today that the Sankoo sub-division of Kargil district will be granted district status, marking the first such transformation since Ladakh became a Union Territory in 2019.

An official notification issued by the Lieutenant Governor’s office details the administrative boundaries and outlines plans for establishing a district headquarters in Sankoo, along with the creation of new government offices and infrastructure.

Officials state that this move is intended to improve service delivery, bring development projects closer to the local level, and address the long-standing demands of residents for administrative autonomy.

The reorganization will necessitate changes in resource allocation, staffing, budgeting, and coordination with the Kargil district, while both districts will function in tandem.

The government has stated that public feedback will be invited in the coming months for the implementation of the new arrangement.

ENTERTAINMENT

Ajay Devgn Starts Shooting for ‘Chauhan’ in Kargil, Returns to Ladakh After 23 Years



Bollywood stalwart Ajay Devgn has begun the principal photography for his upcoming film ‘Chauhan’ in Kargil, Ladakh. The location was chosen to authentically portray the mountainous and rugged landscape.

This marks Devgn's first trip to Ladakh in 23 years; he was last here during the 1999 Kargil conflict. Local residents welcomed the occasion with great enthusiasm as the film crew set up equipment at the high altitude.

The production team stated that several key scenes will be shot over several weeks, but no official information has been released yet regarding the film's plot or release date.

DEFENCE

Countering China: India officially maps several border points including Gogra, Hot Springs



The latest strategic maps released by the Ministry of External Affairs now mark Gogra, Hot Springs, and some other disputed locations in Ladakh as Indian territory. This move comes after continuous clashes along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, where both sides have accused each other of border transgressions.

Officials stated that this step will strengthen India's claim over this high-altitude terrain, which holds strategic importance from both surveillance and logistical perspectives. By officially mapping these points, clear guidelines will be provided for future diplomatic negotiations and military planning.

The revised maps will be distributed to all concerned agencies, including the Army and the Ministry of External Affairs, to ensure a unified Indian stance in any potential negotiations with Beijing.

ENTERTAINMENT

Ajay Devgn to shoot first schedule of 'Chauhan' in Kargil



Veteran actor Ajay Devgn has decided to shoot the first schedule of his action drama ‘Chauhan’ in Kargil, Ladakh. The team is expected to arrive by the end of this week, where they will film the region's rugged mountainous backdrop.

According to industry insiders, the shooting will present several logistical challenges due to Kargil's remote location and harsh weather, but the necessary permissions have been obtained from local authorities. Ajay Devgn's production house is handling the project, which aims to combine authentic mountainous visuals with fast-paced action sequences.

While no information has been released yet about the film's story or release date, the selection of Kargil reflects a growing trend in Indian cinema to highlight less-explored locations.

DEFENCE

Amid China border tensions, India adds 28 new place names to Ladakh map



NEW DELHI – The Ministry of Defence has officially incorporated 28 identified or ambiguously labelled place features into the map of Ladakh. This updated map, prepared by the Survey of India, now validates names for mountains, passes, valleys, and other landforms by the government.

This naming process is part of a broader effort to establish standardized toponyms in this high-altitude region where the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China is disputed. Officials stated that the move will strengthen administrative control and aid the military in navigation and logistics.

Analysts believe this step comes amidst China's recent infrastructure build-up and increasing activities along the border. By publicly validating these place names, New Delhi is attempting to solidify its claims and signal that the area is not undefined.

Security experts caution that naming does not immediately alter ground realities but provides a legal and operational context that can be used in future diplomatic or military engagements.

DEFENCE

To counter China, India includes Gogra and Hot Spring on map



India has incorporated remote villages named Gogra and Hot Spring into its official map, a move seen as a strategic response to China's growing presence. Gogra, situated near the Line of Actual Control, and Hot Spring, a lesser-known settlement in the same region, are now officially recognized on government maps.

This step is part of a broader effort to assert sovereignty over disputed territories and strengthen administrative control. By mapping these areas, India aims to enhance its logistical and military planning capabilities along the high-altitude border.

Although no direct statement has come from the Ministry of Defence, officials have indicated that this update reflects ongoing efforts to bolster border security and counter any incursions. The move follows similar map updates in other sensitive border regions.

Experts believe the new entries will enable better coordination between the Indian Army and local administration, ensuring accurate documentation of strategic assets and supply routes.

Political analysts have lauded the decision as a necessary step to maintain a strong presence in the region amidst escalating tensions with China.

SCIENCE

Arunachal Minister Dasanglu Pul visits Puga geothermal site in Ladakh



The minister visited the Puga geothermal area in Ladakh, a pilot project under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The site, located in the Trans-Himalayan region, is being studied for its high surface temperatures and potential for power generation.

During the visit, Dasanglu Pul met with project engineers and local officials to discuss the technical feasibility of scaling up geothermal production. Officials reported that the temperature gradients recorded at Puga are among the most promising in the country, indicating a viable pathway for renewable electricity.

The minister emphasized the importance of diversifying energy sources for Arunachal Pradesh and the entire Northeast, stating that geothermal energy could complement existing hydro and solar projects. The trip is part of a broader initiative by the state to explore collaborations on clean-energy technologies across regions.

Further steps may include detailed feasibility studies, exploring public-private partnership opportunities, and integrating geothermal power into the regional grid, subject to further evaluation and financial approvals.

