

Additional Secretary, MHA reviews implementation of Deregulation framework, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Foreigners Act in Ladakh

Leh, September 5, 2026: Shri Nitesh Vyas, IAS, Additional Secretary (Foreigners & UT), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, today chaired a meeting at The Grand Dragon, Leh, to review various issues about deregulation, pending matters concerning the Union Territory of Ladakh, delegation of powers under the Citizenship and immigration-related framework, implementation of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, and the progress of various flagship programmes of the Government of India.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh, Ashish Kundra, along with Administrative Secretaries and senior officers of the UT Administration.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the progress and implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and flagship programmes in Ladakh.

The review covered Samagra Shiksha, including an overview of the scheme and progress in Ladakh; PM SHRI schools, including phase-wise selection, comparison of schools and infrastructure status; and skilling initiatives under PMKVY and preparedness for PM-SETU.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation of PM Surya Ghar in the residential sector, power and connectivity infrastructure, RDSS projects, and BharatNet Phase-III. Package-wise details of RDSS projects, including contracts, estimated costs and BOQ summaries, were also discussed.

Under the social sector, discussions were held on financial inclusion, enrolment under maternity benefit schemes, POSHAN 2.0, nutritional profiles, workforce vacancies and indicators relating to Saksham Anganwadi.

The progress under AMRUT 2.0 was reviewed, with discussions focusing on the portfolio of projects, works undertaken, estimated and allocated costs, and their physical progress. The meeting also reviewed urban housing and sanitation initiatives under PMAY-U and SBM-U, including the implementation of PMAY-U 1.0 and PMAY-U 2.0.

The health sector review covered Ayushman Bharat Digital Health, Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, PM-JAY, National Health Mission and TB Mukh Bharat. Discussions included targets and progress towards TB elimination and the strategy for achieving the desired outcomes. The National AYUSH Mission was also reviewed, covering its service footprint, staffing and growth in OPD services.

The meeting further reviewed rural housing and financing, including financial utilisation and the delivery status of PMAY-G.

In the tourism sector, the progress of projects under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 and key components of the scheme was discussed. The meeting also reviewed green mobility and civil aviation infrastructure, including electric mobility initiatives, FAME/PM-eBus initiatives and the development of the new modern domestic terminal building.

A detailed review was undertaken regarding the implementation status of Points of Action (PAs) under Deregulation 1.0 and 2.0. Category-wise PAs, their respective numbers and implementation status were discussed with the concerned departments, along with follow-up actions required for expeditious implementation.

The meeting also discussed the regulatory framework governing Protected Areas and Restricted Areas, including the legal provisions under the 2025 framework. It was clarified that domestic tourists are not required to obtain an Inner Line Permit, while permits remain mandatory for notified areas as prescribed under the applicable framework.

Discussions were also held on the geographic scope of Protected and Restricted Areas, their delineation through separate schedules, protected area boundaries and the relevant reference descriptions. The status of Restricted Areas concerning Tibetan settlements was also reviewed.

The meeting reviewed the framework concerning the grant of Protected Area Permits (PAP) and Restricted Area Permits (RAP), including visa-related amendments. Follow-up action on the demarcation of the Nubra and Sham regions, as well as the demarcation of Kargil and Changthang regions, was discussed along with the applicable regulatory framework.

The Immigration and Foreigners Order, 2025 was also reviewed, with discussions focusing on facilitation, connectivity and procedures, including the establishment and functioning of Tourist Facilitation Centres.

A comprehensive review of the Immigration and Foreigners framework was undertaken, covering the Foreigners Act, the evolution of immigration laws and the subordinate framework under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025–26.

The meeting also discussed the decentralisation of powers under Section 28, including delegation of powers to States and Union Territory Administrations.

Various actions required to be undertaken by the UT Administration were reviewed, including registration of foreigners, monitoring and regulation of the movement of foreigners within the UT, enforcement of deportation guidelines, and matters concerning overstaying foreigners.

Issues relating to foreigners' registration under Section 6, monitoring and movement of foreigners in States/UTs, illegal migrants, holding centres and the Deportation Manual, as well as the Model SOP for withdrawal from prosecution, were also discussed.

Further, the architecture of the District Police Module, objectives and target demographic of the Foreigner Identification Portal (FIP), registration through the e-FRRO portal, and actionable points for Foreigners Registration Officers (FROs) were reviewed. The status of FIP users in Ladakh and the status of RAP/PAP applications in the UT were also discussed.

The meeting also reviewed the progress in the grant of Indian citizenship, including the legal provisions governing Indian citizenship, relevant provisions of the Citizenship Act, and the procedure for grant of Indian citizenship.

The concerned departments were directed to ensure timely follow-up on the issues discussed and to take necessary action for effective implementation of the various schemes, programmes and regulatory frameworks in the UT of Ladakh.



