

L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena attends dPal rNgam Duston 2026, celebrating UT Ladakh Foundation Day

Highlights transformative development journey since UT formation



Leh, August 5: Lieutenant Governor, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, today attended the “dPal rNgam Duston 2026” celebrations at the historic Leh Palace, commemorating the seventh anniversary of Ladakh's attainment of Union Territory status. Amid the cultural fervour, the L-G congratulated the people of Ladakh, stating this historic occasion marked the fulfilment

of the long-standing aspirations of the people under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor described 5 August as a defining moment in Ladakh's history, and said that “dPal rNgam Duston” has evolved into a celebration of Ladakh's identity, culture, resilience and collective aspirations while symbolising unity among its people.

"The journey of Ladakh as a Union Territory has been one of transformation, resilience and collective progress. Our endeavour has been to build an inclusive, sustainable and future-ready Ladakh while preserving its unique cultural identity and fragile ecology. The remarkable achievements across governance, infrastructure, tourism, healthcare, education, environment and sports reflect the collective efforts of our people and the unwavering support of the Government of India under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. As we move towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, we remain committed to building a prosperous, peaceful and self-reliant Ladakh that offers equal opportunities to every citizen," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Highlighting the remarkable transformation witnessed over the past seven years, Shri Saxena said the UT Administration has focused on decentralised governance, sustainable development and improved public service delivery. On this occasion, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted

the development in various sectors/areas in Ladakh after becoming the Union Territory:

Sector	2019 (Pre-UT Status)	2026 / Current Status
Administrative Districts	2	7
Tehsils	15	32
Road Network	1,799 km	4,063 km
Bridges	19	72
Zoji La Road Closure	127 days/year	16 days/year
Kargil-Zaskar Road Closure	154 days/year	11 days/year
Helipads	7	41
Grid-connected villages	145	185
Off-grid solar power capacity	3972 kWh	7735 kWh
Functional Household Tap Connections	3.5%	99%
Greenhouses	Nil	4400
Hospital Beds	824	1554
Mobile towers	344	653
Homestays	158	2275

The Lieutenant Governor said Ladakh has emerged as one of the country's leading examples of environmentally sustainable development. He highlighted the complete prohibition on chemical fertilisers to realise the vision of making Ladakh India's largest certified organic region, the launch of Project Him Sarovar for water conservation, the Green Ladakh Campaign, restoration of degraded land and the promotion of renewable energy through solar and geothermal initiatives.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor announced conferment of the “dPal rNgam Award 2026” upon His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa Rinpoche in recognition of his outstanding contributions in the fields of health, education, gender equality, and environment and heritage protection. The L-G also announced conferment of the “dPal rNgam Lifetime Achievement Award 2026” upon Late Colonel Sonam Wangchuk, Maha Vir Chakra, in

recognition of his unparalleled courage, distinguished military service and enduring contribution to the nation.