

संघ राज्य प्रशासन, लद्दाख

जन स्वास्थ्य अभियंत्रिकी/
सीआई एवं बाढ़ नियंत्रण बभाग



THE ADMINISTRATION OF
UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH

PHE/I&FC DEPARTMENT

F. No. M-17/45/2026-JJM PMU (Comp. No.44592)

ई-मेल/[email:admsecypheinfcc@gmail.com](mailto:admsecypheinfcc@gmail.com)

यूटी सचवालय, लेह/UT Secretariat, Leh,
Dated:29.07.2026.

Subject: Priority Allocation of Surface Water and Groundwater for Drinking Water Supply in the Union territory of Ladakh.

Order No. 85-LA (PHE/I&FC) of 2026
Dated: 29.07.2026

In pursuance of the provisions of Section 4 of the Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Act, 2010, as applicable to the Union territory of Ladakh, and in accordance with Section 2.1.4(A) of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 Operational Guidelines, the Administration of the Union territory of Ladakh hereby orders that drinking water supply for domestic purposes shall be accorded the highest priority in the allocation and utilization of surface water and groundwater resources across the Union territory of Ladakh.

Accordingly, it is further ordered that:

1. Drinking water for domestic purposes shall be the first charge on all available surface water and groundwater resources in the Union territory of Ladakh.
2. All Departments, Authorities, Local Bodies and other agencies responsible for planning, development, regulation, allocation and management of water resources shall ensure that adequate quantity of water is reserved for drinking water requirements before allocation for irrigation, power generation, industrial, commercial, institutional or any other purpose.
3. No diversion, abstraction or allocation of water from any source identified for public drinking water supply shall be permitted where such diversion or allocation is likely to adversely affect the quantity, quality, sustainability or reliability of drinking water supply.
4. No water source assigned to a household under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) or Public Health Engineering (PHE) sector shall be diminished or diverted, particularly during critical winter freeze periods, to satisfy competing non-domestic demands.
5. While resource budgeting, seasonal flow mapping, and extraction planning, all concerned Departments, District Hydrographic Surveys, Local Authorities, and village-level statutory bodies shall strictly adhere to the following mandatory hierarchy:

Priority Level	Approved Sector Usage	Regulatory Conditions
Priority (Highest)	Domestic & Household Supply	Includes human drinking water, cooking, hygiene and domestic livestock requirements.
Priority II	Agriculture & Small-scale Irrigation	Focused on traditional localized food security and community micro-irrigation systems (<i>Rzings</i>).
Priority III	Generation of Electricity	Subject to ensuring that Priority I and II requirements remain unaffected.
Priority IV	Ecology and Environmental Requirements	Maintenance of minimum environmental flow in rivers and preservation of natural springs/aquifers (<i>Chumiks</i>)
Priority (Lowest)	Agro-Industries and Other Non-Agricultural Industries.	Including tourism, commercial establishments, agro-industries and other non-agricultural industries, subject to availability of surplus water and applicable regulatory approvals.

Any violation of this Order shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Act, 2010 and other applicable laws and rules in force.

This Order shall come into force with immediate effect.

By Order of the Lieutenant Governor, Union territory of Ladakh.

Sd/-
(Shurbir Singh) IAS,
Commissioner/Secretary.

Copy to the: -

1. Secretary, Department of Water Resources, RD&GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti, GoI.
2. Secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, GoI.
3. Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM), Ministry of Jal Shakti, GoI.
4. Divisional Commissioner, UT of Ladakh.
5. All Administrative Secretaries, UT of Ladakh.
6. Secretary to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, UT of Ladakh.
7. All Deputy Commissioners, UT of Ladakh.
8. All Heads of the Departments, UT of Ladakh.
9. Chief Engineer, PHE/I&FC Department, UT of Ladakh.
10. All SEs/EEs/AEEs/AEs/JEs of PHE/I&FC Department for information and necessary action.
11. Joint Director, Information Department, UT of Ladakh, for wide publicity in local media.
12. OSD to the Chief Secretary, UT of Ladakh, for information of the Chief Secretary.
13. In-charge Website/NIC, Ladakh for uploading on the official website.
14. Office/e-file.


(Dr. Mohammad Usman Khan) JKAS,
Additional Secretary,
Dated 29.07.2026