Ladakh's first Government Medical College (Leh) to become operational in the 2027–28 academic year

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News

Ladakh LG Vinai Kumar Saxena announced on 20 Oct 2026 that Ladakh's first Government Medical College, at Leh, will be operational from the 2027–28 academic year. The Union Health Ministry granted a one-time relaxation of the rule that 80% of infrastructure must be complete before staff are recruited (ministry letter of 13 Oct 2026; the Department of Expenditure, Finance Ministry, agreed subject to conditions); the LG thanked Health Minister J.P. Nadda for it. Recruitment against the 103 regular posts already sanctioned (27 Nov 2024) will be phased. The permanent campus is being built at Spituk Pharka.

Key facts

College	Government Medical College, Leh – Ladakh's first
Start	2027–28 academic year
Announced	20 Oct 2026 – LG Vinai Kumar Saxena
Relaxation / posts	One-time relaxation of the 80% infrastructure rule (Union Health Ministry); 103 regular posts (sanctioned 2024)
Campus	Spituk Pharka (under construction); temporary arrangement till then

Scheme	Centrally Sponsored Scheme for new medical colleges attached to district/referral hospitals – Phase III (approved 2019)

Background

- Regulation: the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 dissolved the Medical Council of India (MCI, since 1934); the National Medical Commission (NMC) has functioned since 25 Sep 2020, with 4 autonomous boards (UG, PG, assessment & rating, ethics & registration).
- Admission: MBBS and other medical courses use the all-India NEET-UG, conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA, since 2019).
- Traditional medicine: Ladakh's 'Sowa-Rigpa' (Amchi) is a Himalayan traditional system; the Union Cabinet approved a National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa at Leh in Nov 2019 (₹47.25 crore) – an autonomous body under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- High-altitude medicine: Leh is at about 3,500 m; lower air pressure causes hypoxia and can lead to acute mountain sickness (AMS) – training local doctors is a key aim of the college.

Tamil Nadu link: Madras Medical College was founded in 1835 – among the oldest medical colleges in India and Asia; it is affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University. Its alumna Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy was nominated to the Madras Legislative Council in 1926, becoming British India's first woman legislator.

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