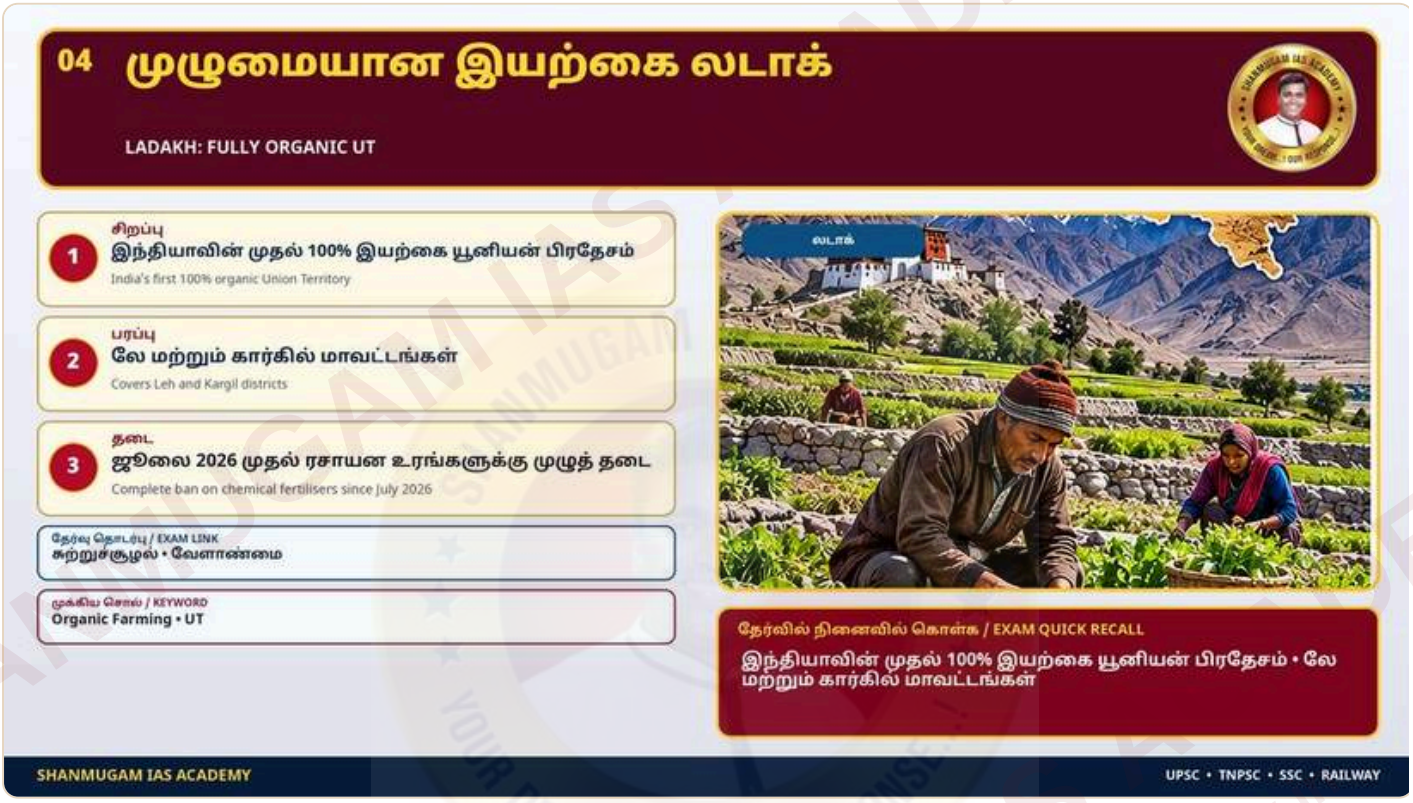
Ladakh declared India's first '100% organic' Union Territory; complete ban on chemical fertilisers

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News

On 25 Oct 2026 (Sunday), at Leh, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena declared Ladakh (Leh and Kargil) 'India's first 100% organic Union Territory'. In July 2026 a complete ban was imposed on the procurement, distribution, sale and use of chemical and synthetic fertilisers in farming; in March 2026 organic manure was supplied to villages before the sowing season. Apricot, sea buckthorn, buckwheat, barley and vegetables are the main crops. (Note: in Dec 2020 the whole of Lakshadweep was declared an organic agricultural area under PGS-India and called the 'first organic UT'; the 'first' here is the Ladakh administration's claim.)

Key facts

Declaration	25 Oct 2026, Leh – LG Vinai Kumar Saxena
Fertiliser ban	July 2026 – complete ban on procurement, distribution, sale and use of chemical/synthetic fertilisers
Crops	Apricot, sea buckthorn, buckwheat, barley, vegetables
Earlier UT	Lakshadweep – Dec 2020, PGS-India (PKVY)
First State	Sikkim – declared by the PM at Gangtok, 18 Jan 2016

Certification	PGS-India (Agriculture Ministry); NPOP (Commerce Ministry – APEDA)

Background

- Sikkim: by an Assembly resolution in 2003 (Pawan Chamling government) it decided to go organic; about 75,000 ha became certified organic. On 18 Jan 2016 PM Modi declared it India's first fully organic State at Gangtok.
- Lakshadweep: in Dec 2020 its entire land area (about 32 sq km) was declared an organic agricultural area under PGS-India through the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) – then called the 'first 100% organic UT'.
- Central schemes: PKVY (2015) – cluster-based organic farming with PGS certification and marketing support; Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER, 2015–16); National Mission on Natural Farming (Cabinet approval, Nov 2024).
- Certification: PGS-India (Participatory Guarantee System) – Agriculture Ministry; farmer groups assess one another; for the domestic market. NPOP (National Programme for Organic Production, 2001) – Commerce Ministry, run by APEDA; third-party certification; for exports. FSSAI's 'Jaivik Bharat' logo marks organic food.

Tamil Nadu link: the State released the 'Tamil Nadu Organic Farming Policy 2023' in March 2023 – promoting chemical-free farming, integrated organic farming systems, millets and farmer producer organisations. Tamil Nadu's organic-farming pioneer G. Nammalvar (born 6 Apr 1938, Elangadu, Thanjavur district; died 30 Dec 2013) founded 'Vanagam' at Karur and opposed the methane project in the Cauvery delta.

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