Polity & Governance · GS - II

The demand for constitutional safeguards and greater political autonomy in Ladakh highlights the challenges of governing ecologically fragile and culturally distinct regions. Examine the constitutional, administrative and developmental dimensions of these demands.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 13/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Article 244, Sixth Schedule, Autonomous District Councils, Union Territory administration, tribal identity, local representation, employment protection, ecological fragility, decentralisation, participatory governance.

Model Answer

Introduction

Ladakh's geographical isolation, distinctive cultural identity and fragile Himalayan ecosystem make its governance particularly complex. Demands for statehood, Sixth Schedule protection and employment safeguards reflect concerns regarding political representation and local autonomy.

Constitutional and Administrative Dimensions

The Sixth Schedule provides autonomous governance arrangements for specified tribal areas in four north-eastern states. Ladakh is not currently covered by these provisions. The region has two Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils, which provide an institutional framework for local governance. Demands for stronger

constitutional safeguards seek greater control over land, resources and cultural preservation.

Developmental Concerns

Limited employment opportunities, ecological vulnerability, demographic concerns and inadequate local participation have intensified demands for institutional protection. Unplanned infrastructure and tourism may also threaten fragile mountain ecosystems.

Way Forward

The Union Government should strengthen dialogue, decentralised decision-making, local employment opportunities and environmentally sensitive development. Constitutional safeguards must address regional aspirations while maintaining administrative effectiveness.

Conclusion

Sustainable governance in Ladakh requires balancing national integration with cultural protection, democratic participation and ecological security.

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