Defence & Security · GS - III

Ladakh is strategically located between China and Pakistan. As a measure to win hearts and minds of locals, discuss the Border Area Development Programmes (BADP) by the Central Government and civic actions by the Army. Also discuss demand of promulgation of provision of the Sixth Schedule of constitution for Ladakh.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Ladakh, China-Pakistan, BADP, Vibrant Villages, Operation Sadbhavana, civic action, local participation, Sixth Schedule, autonomous councils, land and culture

Model Answer

Ladakh’s strategic location and difficult terrain make development an important component of border security. BADP seeks to address the special developmental needs of border populations through infrastructure, connectivity, livelihood and social-sector interventions. Its core approach emphasises convergence and participatory development.

Army-led civic action, particularly Operation Sadbhavana, complements civilian programmes through education, healthcare, infrastructure, skill development and national-integration activities. In Ladakh, Army Goodwill Schools, medical camps, community infrastructure and women’s empowerment programmes have been undertaken.

The demand for Sixth Schedule-type protection arises from concerns regarding:

1. Protection of tribal identity and cultural traditions.

2. Safeguarding land and natural resources.
3. Greater local participation in governance.
4. Protection of employment and ecological interests.

Currently, Ladakh has elected Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils under the LAHDC Act. Demands for stronger constitutional safeguards and Sixth Schedule-like powers have continued; recent administrative discussions have also focused on strengthening decentralised governance.

Hence, security-oriented development should be combined with meaningful local participation, ecological sensitivity and institutional empowerment. This can strengthen both public trust and India's long-term strategic presence in the region.

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