Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the demand for statehood and Sixth Schedule protection in Ladakh. How can constitutional safeguards balance local aspirations, environmental conservation and transparent land governance?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 04/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

tribal identity; Sixth Schedule; statehood demand; land and employment safeguards; local self-governance; ecological fragility; constitutional dialogue

Model Answer

Introduction

Ladakh, a Union Territory without a legislature since 2019, has witnessed demands for stronger political representation and constitutional safeguards for its distinctive society and fragile environment.

Key Issues

The demand for Sixth Schedule protection reflects concerns about preserving tribal identity, protecting land and employment opportunities, and strengthening local participation in decision-making. Statehood supporters also seek greater democratic accountability. These aspirations must be considered alongside the region's strategic significance and ecological vulnerability.

Disputes involving institutions such as the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives Ladakh highlight the importance of transparent land administration and lawful procedures. Allegations of unauthorised construction or politically motivated action require independent assessment rather than premature conclusions.

Way Forward

The Union government and Ladakhi representatives should pursue structured dialogue on constitutional safeguards, representative institutions and local autonomy. Land allotment rules should be clear, consistently enforced and subject to fair appeal mechanisms. Environmental education and sustainable development initiatives should be assessed on their merits while complying with land and environmental laws.

Conclusion

Constitutional accommodation, transparent administration and meaningful public participation can strengthen trust. Ladakh's governance framework should protect local identity and ecological interests while ensuring legality, accountability and democratic legitimacy.

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