



Ladakh gets new policies on quota, domicile status

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Context

- Amid demands by Ladakhi civil society groups seeking “constitutional safeguards” for the region, the Centre on Tuesday notified new policies on reservation, languages, domiciles, and the composition of hill councils for **Ladakh, which became a Union Territory in 2019.**
- The notifications pave the way for **85% reservation for resident Ladakhis in government jobs.** For other residents — including children of Central government officials—**to be considered “domiciles”, they will have to show 15 years of continuous residence from October 31, 2019, Ladakh’s foundation day.**
- In a first, **a third of the seats in hill councils have been reserved for women** on a rotational basis. The **official languages of the U.T. will be English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti, and Purgi.**
- President Droupadi Murm notified the Union Territory of **Ladakh Reservation (Amendment) Regulation, 2025,** which amends the Jammam Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 in Ladakh’s context

Policy progress

Key events in the ongoing negotiations regarding Ladakh from 2023 to 2025

■ **Jan. 3, 2023:** Committee forms to address Ladakh concerns

■ **Nov. 30:** Committee is reconstituted with new members

■ **March 4, 2024:** Talks between govt. and Ladakh leaders collapse

■ **Oct. 6:** Activist Sonam Wangchuk begins fast

■ **Oct. 21:** Govt. agrees to resume talks, fast ends

■ **Dec. 3:** Committee meets with Leh and Kargil leaders

■ **Jan. 15, 2025:** Follow-up meeting takes place in Delhi

■ **May 27:** Domicile and reservation policy is hammered out



Major demand: Protests demanding Statehood for Ladakh have been continuing for the past few years. ANI

5th vs 6th Schedule

- The 5th Schedule of the Indian Constitution applies to the **administration of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in states other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.** This includes 10 states: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan.
- The **Sixth Schedule** of the Constitution, under Article 244(2) and Article 275(1) of the Constitution, is provided for the **administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.**

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