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.



MAINS MASTERY 2026 · GS PAPER III · QUESTION 10 · STUDENT EDITION

Ladakh: Development, Civic Action and the Sixth Schedule

THE QUESTION, AS SET IN UPSC CSE MAINS 2026

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.

Directive: Discuss | 10 marks | 150 words

Internal security: border management and local governance

1 **PYQ Deep Decode** — Three demands and the hidden link
2 **PYQ Intelligence** — 2013 to 2026: security and autonomy
3 **Additional information** — BADP, Army action, Sixth Schedule
4 **Pitfalls and variations** — Six pitfalls and reworked demands
5 **The model answer** — Three parts and an autonomy link
6 **Other ways to write it** — Four alternative answer designs
7 **Quick recall** — Sixteen facts to retain
8 **Write it yourself** — Seven checks and next steps

Guranchal Ma'am, Founder, UPSC Gurus · upscgurus.in

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.

1 PYQ Deep Decode

Read the question the way the examiner set it: the three explicit demands, the hidden demand that connects them, the structure that follows, and how the answer should be presented, opened and closed.

1.1 The demand

The question begins with **Ladakh's strategic location between China and Pakistan**, but it does not ask for a general account of border disputes. It asks how the Indian State seeks to **win the confidence of local communities** through two different instruments, the Central Government's **Border Area Development Programme (BADP)** and the Army's **civic actions**. It then asks you to discuss the **demand for extending the Sixth Schedule** to Ladakh. The directive **"Discuss"** requires the purpose, contribution and limitations of each instrument, followed by the constitutional rationale and implications of the demand. The three explicit parts must remain distinct.

Words in the question	What they ask you to do	What goes wrong if you miss them
Strategically located between China and Pakistan	Establish why public confidence, village viability and civilian cooperation matter in a sensitive border region.	Writing a lengthy account of military deployments and bilateral border disputes.
Win hearts and minds of locals	Explain how responsive services and sustained community engagement can create trust, not merely physical infrastructure.	Assuming expenditure or military presence automatically generates public confidence.
Border Area Development Programmes (BADP)	Examine the Union's border-development approach: objectives, services, implementation, results and constraints. Distinguish BADP from newer schemes.	Listing roads without explaining their social and strategic relevance, or treating every border project as BADP.
Civic actions by the Army	Discuss community-facing welfare activities and their contribution to civil-military relations, while recognising the Army's primary security role.	Describing combat operations instead of civic outreach.
Demand ... Sixth Schedule	Explain why constitutional protection is sought, which powers and safeguards are envisaged, and what legal changes would be necessary.	Claiming Ladakh already has Sixth Schedule status, or confusing it with statehood.
Discuss ... Also discuss	Give meaningful attention to all three parts, explain their significance and limitations, and connect them through a reasoned conclusion.	Spending nearly the entire answer on BADP and adding Sixth Schedule as an afterthought.

THE DEMAND IN ONE LINE

Explain how Central border-development programmes and the Army's civic outreach seek local confidence in strategic Ladakh, then examine the rationale, implications and legal requirements of the Sixth Schedule demand.

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.

1.2 The hidden demand

The central distinction is between **services delivered to a community** and **power exercised by that community**. BADP and its successor-oriented development initiatives can improve access to roads, schools, healthcare and livelihoods. The Army can provide medical assistance, education and direct contact with remote settlements. Both may strengthen confidence, but neither automatically gives local people authority over land, culture, resources or public decisions.

The Sixth Schedule demand therefore raises a deeper issue: **can development and civic outreach secure lasting confidence without constitutionally protected local self-governance?** The answer should recognise that material welfare, social trust and democratic representation are **complementary but not interchangeable**. Security considerations remain important, yet a durable settlement must also account for Ladakh's distinctive communities, fragile environment and aspirations for political participation.

Three instruments, three different routes to confidence. The final column identifies what each instrument cannot accomplish alone.

Instrument	What it contributes	What remains unresolved
BADP and Vibrant Villages Programme	Public services, infrastructure, livelihoods and conditions for families to remain in border settlements.	Projects need maintenance, equitable distribution and meaningful local participation.
Army civic action	Direct assistance, educational opportunities, medical outreach and relationships with isolated communities.	Military goodwill cannot substitute for regular civilian institutions or representative decision-making.
Sixth Schedule protections sought	Constitutionally recognised local institutions and stronger safeguards for customary practices, land and culture.	Requires appropriate constitutional and institutional arrangements; the precise division of powers must be settled.

WEAK

The Government develops border areas and the Army helps villagers. Therefore people are happy. The Sixth Schedule should also be given to Ladakh.

STRONG

BADP and VVP address service deficits, while Operation Sadbhavana builds community relationships through education and healthcare. Yet the NCST's 2019 recommendation for Sixth Schedule protection highlights a separate aspiration: local authority over culture, land and development. Durable confidence requires all three dimensions.

1.3 The structure

The question contains **three explicit demands in sequence**. The first concerns Central development programmes, the second concerns Army civic action, and the third concerns the Sixth Schedule demand. The hidden demand becomes a **small fourth part**, drawing the three together. The shares below refer to the body between the introduction and conclusion; they are a teaching guide, not a UPSC rule.

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.

Introduction	1. Central programmes about three-tenths	2. Army civic actions about three-tenths	3. Sixth Schedule about three-tenths	4. The connection about one-tenth	Conclusion

Part 1 Central Government's border-development programmes — about three-tenths

Purpose and context	Meet the special needs of remote settlements; improve welfare and strengthen the viability of inhabited border villages.
BADP interventions	Roads, drinking water, schools, health facilities, sanitation, agriculture and livelihood infrastructure.
Current policy transition	BADP is in its sunset phase; VVP-I covers 35 priority villages in Ladakh, with 79 projects sanctioned by MHA as reported on 28 July 2026.
Assessment	Better services can reduce isolation; seasonality, terrain, maintenance and access across scattered settlements constrain outcomes.

Part 2 Army civic actions to win local confidence — about three-tenths

Instrument	**Operation Sadbhavana**, the Army's military civic-action programme.
Education and opportunity	Army Goodwill Schools, educational tours, sports, skills and youth development.
Health and welfare	Medical and veterinary camps, community facilities, solar lighting and water-related assistance.
Assessment	Strengthens everyday contact and trust; must complement civilian administration rather than displace it.

Part 3 Demand for Sixth Schedule provisions — about three-tenths

Grounds	Tribal heritage, customary practices, land-related concerns, environmental protection and limited political autonomy.
Constitutional model	Autonomous district and regional councils under the Sixth Schedule, presently applicable through Article 244(2) to four North-Eastern States.
Existing institutions	Leh and Kargil Autonomous Hill Development Councils are statutory bodies; the 2019 NCST recommendation sought stronger constitutional protection.
Legal implications	Extension needs suitable constitutional changes and a clearly defined relationship with Union administration and existing councils.

Part 4 Development, confidence and local self-governance — about one-tenth

Core relationship	Public services address material needs, civic action builds relationships, and constitutional safeguards address participation and institutional authority.
Judgment	Lasting confidence requires accountable development alongside a credible, negotiated framework of local self-governance, consistent with security responsibilities.

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1.4 How to present it

This is a **three-instrument question**, not a chronological history. Use **three numbered, headed clusters**, corresponding to the question's order. Within each, match the instrument to its purpose, one concrete example and its limitation. A short final **linking line** should show why developmental outreach and constitutional protection belong in the same answer. This saves space for analysis within 150 words.

Form	Fit here	Reason
Three headed point clusters and a short synthesis	**Best**	Mirrors the three explicit demands; permits balanced coverage and a clear conclusion.
Three-column instrument table	Good	Quickly compares development, civic action and autonomy; may compress the constitutional reasoning excessively.
One integrated flowchart	Useful supplement	Shows how services, trust and democratic authority reinforce each other, but cannot replace discussion.
Continuous security narrative	Weak	Conceals the three parts and makes the Sixth Schedule demand appear peripheral.

1.5 The introduction and the conclusion

The introduction serves the whole question. Establish Ladakh as a strategically sensitive and geographically remote Union Territory where security, welfare and local confidence are interconnected. Introduce development, civic outreach and representation as three relevant dimensions without explaining them prematurely.

The conclusion settles the whole demand. Recognise the contributions of Government and Army initiatives, while judging that durable confidence also needs democratic participation and credible constitutional safeguards. Do not imply that infrastructure alone can resolve political aspirations.

2 PYQ Intelligence 2013 to 2026

The developments that made Ladakh's security-development-governance relationship topical, the continuing pattern of UPSC questions, and the connected subjects worth preparing.

2.1 Why the subject was topical in 2026

Ladakh's security and governance debate evolved through its creation as a Union Territory in 2019, the NCST's recommendation on constitutional safeguards, changing border-security conditions, the Government's expansion of village-development initiatives, and sustained public demands for stronger representation. Army civic-action programmes provided a distinct channel of community engagement. By 2026, the discussion concerned **not only the provision of facilities but also who should govern local affairs**. These are **contextual developments, not established reasons for UPSC selecting the question**. All events listed below predate the August 2026 GS examination.

When	What happened	Why it matters for this question
2019 Effective 31 October	Under the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019**, Ladakh became a separate **Union Territory without a legislature**. Its elected Leh and Kargil Hill Development Councils remained important local institutions.	Creates the institutional setting for the subsequent autonomy debate.

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.

When	What happened	Why it matters for this question
11 September 2019	The **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)**, at its 119th meeting, recommended extending Sixth Schedule provisions to Ladakh for democratic devolution, preservation of culture, protection of agrarian rights and enhanced development funding. The Commission described the region's tribal population as exceeding 97% when accounting for communities claiming ST recognition; this was its assessment, not a single Census-derived ST percentage for Ladakh.	The constitutional case for institutional safeguards received a formal recommendation.
1 April 2020	The Ministry of Home Affairs' revised **BADP Guidelines, 2020** took effect. They prioritised strategic habitations in the 0 to 10 km border belt, promoted convergence and participation, and provided for **100% Central funding for Ladakh**.	Border development is treated as welfare, village viability and strategic integration together.
3 February 2023	The Ministry of Defence reported that **Operation Sadbhavana** supported **seven Army Goodwill Schools** with more than **2,200 students** in Ladakh. It also reported ₹8.82 crore allotted for FY 2022-23 and projects covering health, skills, infrastructure and community welfare.	Concrete evidence of Army civic action beyond security patrols.
15 February 2023	**Vibrant Villages Programme-I (VVP-I)** was approved for selected northern-border villages. Its priority coverage included **35 villages in Ladakh**, as subsequently detailed by MHA.	Illustrates a newer, targeted development framework alongside the older BADP.
21 October 2024	Following diplomatic and military negotiations, India and China reached a broad understanding on disengagement and ground arrangements in **Depsang and Demchok**, as recorded in the Ministry of Defence's 2024 year-end review.	Demonstrates the continuing strategic sensitivity of eastern Ladakh, without making civic outreach an extension of combat operations.
2 April 2025	The Union Cabinet approved **VVP-II**, a Central Sector scheme with an outlay of **₹6,839 crore** up to FY 2028-29 for selected villages along international land borders not already covered under VVP-I.	Marks expansion of the development approach; its total outlay must not be mistaken for Ladakh's allocation.
2 June 2025	Four Presidential Regulations concerning Ladakh were promulgated under **Article 240**, covering reservation, women's representation in Hill Councils, official languages, and decentralised recruitment and domicile-related provisions. The Hill Councils amendment provided for at least **one-third of seats for women**; the Official Languages Regulation provided for English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti and Purgi, subject to its commencement and implementation provisions.	Shows steps towards legal safeguards and representation, while remaining distinct from Sixth Schedule status.
20 August 2025	Army medical personnel conducted a medical and dental camp at **Government Higher Secondary Residential School, Tangtse**. The Ladakh administration reported that more than **120 students and staff** received consultations, examinations and associated assistance.	A local, verifiable example of direct military-community engagement.

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.

When	What happened	Why it matters for this question
September 2025	The demand for Sixth Schedule protection and statehood remained prominent in public mobilisation. On **24 September**, the Ministry of Home Affairs acknowledged the demands and its continuing discussions with the **Leh Apex Body** and **Kargil Democratic Alliance** through a High-Powered Committee and related mechanisms.	Shows why administrative concessions and constitutional aspirations must be analysed separately.
4 February to 16 March 2026	Representatives of Ladakh's organisations met the Centre on **4 February**. Reporting on subsequent developments recorded continuing differences over Sixth Schedule status and statehood, with public rallies held in Leh and Kargil on **16 March**.	Constitutional protection remained an unresolved political and governance question.
1 April 2026	In a Rajya Sabha reply, MHA confirmed that **BADP was in its sunset phase**, with funds allocated towards committed liabilities. It separately identified VVP-I and VVP-II as the newer border-village initiatives.	Essential distinction: BADP must not be presented as a fully expanding programme in 2026.
28 July 2026	MHA reported **79 VVP-I projects sanctioned in Ladakh** and reiterated its **35 priority villages**. Across the five participating States and Union Territory, 316 projects were reported completed; this was a combined figure, not Ladakh's completion count.	Provides a dated indicator of programme activity while distinguishing sanction from completed delivery.

2.2 The skill UPSC keeps testing

The connected PYQs show a progression from **constitutional provisions and border vulnerabilities** (2013), through strategies for difficult terrain (2016), **favourable perceptions among border populations** (2020), and the combination of China-Pakistan border threats with BADP and infrastructure schemes (2024), towards **tribal aspirations and asymmetric governance** (2026). This question combines all three strands: **security, developmental outreach and constitutional self-governance**. The question texts below are reproduced verbatim.

Year	The question as UPSC set it	What it asked of you	What changed in 2026
2013 GS III, Q24	Article 244 of the Indian Constitution relates to administration of scheduled areas and tribal areas. Analyse the impact of non-implementation of the provisions of the Fifth schedule on the growth of Left Wing extremism.	Constitutional protections, exclusion and insecurity.	The Sixth Schedule demand places constitutionally protected local institutions within Ladakh's security debate.
2013 GS III, Q25	How far are India's internal security challenges linked with border management particularly in view of the long porous borders with most countries of South Asia and Myanmar ?	Relationship between border conditions and internal security.	Focus shifts to local confidence in a strategically sensitive high-altitude region.
2016 GS III, Q19	Border management is a complex task due to difficult terrain and hostile relations with some countries. Elucidate the challenges and strategies for effective border management.	Terrain, external threats and management strategies.	Community welfare and civil-military relations become explicit components of the response.

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Year	The question as UPSC set it	What it asked of you	What changed in 2026
2020 GS III, Q10	For effective border area management, discuss the steps required to be taken to deny local support to militants and also suggest ways to manage favourable perception among locals.	Security, local support and favourable public perception.	The earlier general question becomes a specific discussion of BADP, Army civic action and constitutional safeguards.
2024 GS III, Q19	India has a long and troubled border with China and Pakistan fraught with contentious issues. Examine the conflicting issues and security challenges along the border. Also give out the development being undertaken in these areas under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) and Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) Scheme.	China-Pakistan borders, security challenges and two development schemes.	The emphasis moves from border infrastructure and threats to Ladakh's local communities, Army outreach and autonomy.
2026 GS II, Q6	Does India's tribal development policy reflect the aspirations for a socially grounded and equity-based governance ? Justify your answer.	Whether developmental policy meets tribal aspirations.	The same concern appears concretely in the demand for constitutional protection of Ladakh's communities.
2026 GS II, Q13	How far has the Indian federal framework been successful in accommodating regional and cultural diversities ? Highlight the role of asymmetric federalism and suggest measures to make dispute resolution mechanisms more effective.	Accommodation of diversity and asymmetric constitutional arrangements.	Ladakh offers an applied case of developmental administration and demands for differentiated self-governance.

Also related, verbatim: 2015 GS III, Q19: The persisting drives of the Government for development of large industries in backward areas have resulted in isolating the tribal population and the farmers who face multiple displacements. With Malkangiri and Naxalbari foci, discuss the corrective strategies needed to win the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) doctrine affected citizens back into the mainstream of social and economic growth. 2022 GS III, Q20: Naxalism is a social, economic and developmental issue manifesting as a violent internal security threat. In this context, discuss the emerging issues and suggest a multilayered strategy to tackle the menace of Naxalism.

CARRY THIS METHOD TO ANY BORDER-SECURITY AND LOCAL-CONFIDENCE QUESTION

1. **Locate** the strategic context without converting the answer into military history.
2. **Identify** the distinct civilian and security institutions named in the question.
3. **Explain** what each instrument delivers and how it can influence local confidence.
4. **Test** whether delivery and goodwill translate into participation and accountable governance.
5. **Distinguish** existing law from proposed constitutional change.
6. **Conclude** by connecting security, welfare and legitimate local aspirations.

2.3 What to prepare next

FRAMEWORKS, LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS

Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019	Section 3 created the UT of Ladakh without a legislature; effective 31 October 2019.

IDEAS AND DISTINCTIONS

Hearts and minds	Legitimacy built through responsive services, respectful engagement and dependable institutions, rather than coercion.

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.

BADP Guidelines, 2020	0 to 10 km border belt; strategic habitations; six thematic areas; convergence, participation and full Central share for Ladakh.
VVP-I and VVP-II	VVP-I approved February 2023 for selected northern-border settlements; VVP-II approved April 2025 for other selected international-border areas.
Operation Sadbhavana	Indian Army military civic-action programme: education, healthcare, livelihood assistance, infrastructure and social engagement.
Articles 244(2), 275(1)	Present constitutional setting of the Sixth Schedule and its financial dimension.
Article 240 and 2025 Regulations	Presidential regulation-making for specified Union Territories; not equivalent to an amendment extending the Sixth Schedule.

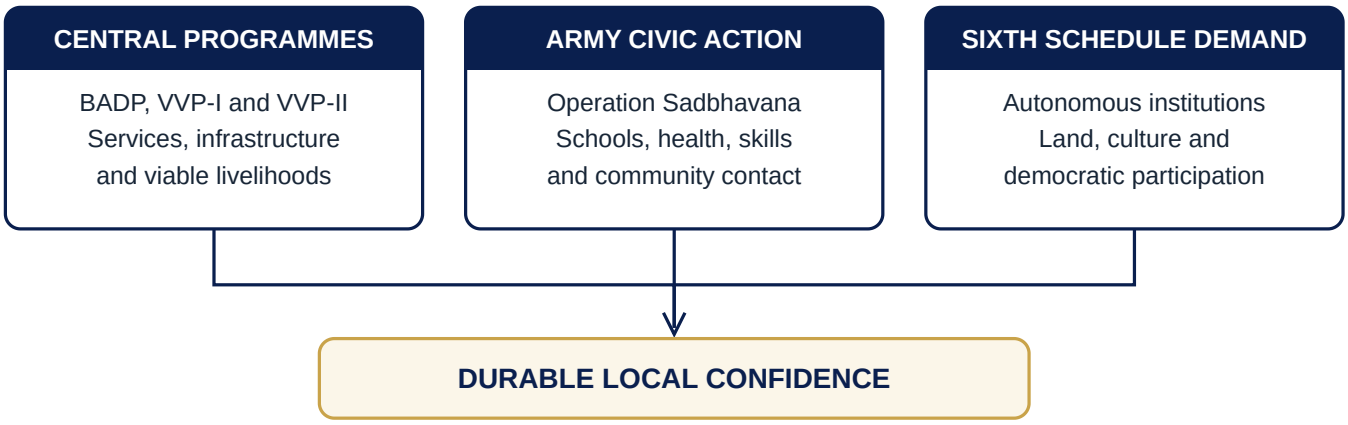
Border village viability	Livelihoods and basic amenities that make continued habitation feasible; village retention is a programme objective, not a measured security guarantee.
Civic action versus civil administration	The Army supplements welfare delivery in difficult locations; elected and regular civilian bodies remain central to long-term governance.
Asymmetric federalism	Differentiated constitutional arrangements responding to distinctive regional histories and communities.
Statutory versus constitutional autonomy	Hill Councils exist under legislation; Sixth Schedule protection would operate within a constitutional framework.
Statehood versus Sixth Schedule	Statehood concerns political status and a State legislature; the Sixth Schedule concerns autonomous institutions and defined tribal-area powers.

3 Additional information

The evidence, institutions and constitutional distinctions needed to answer this question fully. Tier 1 covers the three explicit demands and their relationship; Tier 2 develops the wider strategic and governance debate.

TIER 1 · ESSENTIAL: BORDER DEVELOPMENT, ARMY CIVIC ACTION AND SIXTH SCHEDULE SAFEGUARDS

Three pillars of durable local confidence



Accountability + consultation + delivery + legitimate self-governance

A conceptual teaching diagram, not an official government model

Three complementary instruments, not three interchangeable ones. Government programmes supply material services; Army civic action can strengthen relationships; the Sixth Schedule proposal concerns institutional authority. Each route has distinct responsibilities and limits.

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Part 1. Central Government: BADP and the changing border-development framework

Component	Verified details	Importance for Ladakh and local confidence
BADP: PURPOSE, COVERAGE AND DESIGN		
Origin and purpose	BADP began in **1986-87** along India's western border and was later extended to other international border areas. Its purpose was to meet the special developmental needs of remote, inaccessible border communities and provide essential infrastructure. The **2020 MHA Guidelines** emphasised convergence and a participatory approach.	Border residents should experience development as an improvement in ordinary life, not solely as a military or administrative presence.
Geographical coverage	The 2020 Guidelines prioritised the area within **0 to 10 km, measured aerially from the line joining the first habitations along the international boundary**. Strategically identified villages and towns were to receive the highest priority. Wider coverage was contemplated after saturation of the priority belt.	Targets difficult-to-reach border settlements, but the defined coverage method should not be oversimplified as 10 km from the boundary itself.
Financing in Ladakh	The 2020 Guidelines provided a **100% Central share** for the Union Territory of Ladakh, which has no legislature. The design also included incentives and monitoring through the BADP Online Management System.	Recognises that a geographically difficult Union Territory may need dedicated Central resources and implementation support.
Six thematic areas	**Basic infrastructure, health infrastructure, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, and skill development.** Illustrative projects included roads, bridges, health centres, classrooms, hostels, drinking-water systems and livelihood facilities.	Converts national border policy into access to daily services and economic opportunities for local households.
Implementation mechanism	State and Union Territory administrations planned works through their administrative systems, using convergence with other Central, local and sectoral schemes. Border guarding forces could provide strategic inputs under the Guidelines.	Coordination improves relevance, but military priorities and locally expressed welfare needs must both be considered.
Position in 2026	On **1 April 2026**, MHA stated in Parliament that BADP was **in its sunset phase**, with allocations directed towards committed liabilities. A separate MHA reply of **25 March 2026** reported **39,248 works/projects** approved across bordering States and Union Territories since FY 2004-05. This is a national cumulative figure, not a Ladakh total.	An accurate answer discusses BADP's contribution without misrepresenting its current funding position.
VIBRANT VILLAGES: THE NEWER DEVELOPMENT APPROACH		
VVP-I	Approved **15 February 2023** as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. It covers **662 priority villages** in selected northern-border blocks, including **35 in Ladakh**. Approved national outlay: **₹4,800 crore**. Interventions span tourism, culture, livelihoods, health, education, renewable energy, roads and telecom.	Seeks to make frontier settlements viable places to live, work and retain community links.
Ladakh implementation indicator	On **28 July 2026**, MHA reported **79 VVP-I projects sanctioned in Ladakh**. The same reply reported 316 completed projects across all five participating States and Union Territory; it did not attribute all these completions to Ladakh.	Sanctions show programme activity, not by themselves the benefits delivered or the number of completed Ladakh projects.

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Component	Verified details	Importance for Ladakh and local confidence
VVP-II	Approved **2 April 2025** as a Central Sector Scheme with **₹6,839 crore** to FY 2028-29. It targets **1,954 selected villages** in blocks along international land borders other than northern-border areas already covered by VVP-I. Ladakh is among the eligible Union Territories.	Extends the border-village approach without treating the entire allocation or project count as specific to Ladakh.
The strategic logic	Both programmes envisage livelihood opportunities and better services that make continued habitation more attractive. Connectivity also supports local commerce, access to government services and emergency response.	A functioning border settlement can contribute to resilient frontier communities. This is a policy rationale, not proof of a quantified security gain.
Implementation challenges	High-altitude construction, snowbound periods, dispersed settlements, transport costs, staff shortages, ecological vulnerability, maintenance demands and uneven access complicate delivery.	Public confidence depends on facilities remaining usable, accessible and responsive after inauguration.

Do not conflate the schemes. BADP is the long-running border-area development programme, now in its sunset phase. VVP-I and VVP-II are separately approved schemes with distinct coverage and funding structures. All three belong in the wider policy discussion, but their budgets and results are not interchangeable.

Do not confuse civilian development with strategic construction. A Border Roads Organisation road, a defence installation or a project under the Border Infrastructure and Management Scheme should not automatically be counted as a BADP project. Different agencies and schemes have different purposes and funding channels.

Part 2. The Army's civic actions: Operation Sadbhavana

Field of action	Evidence and examples	Contribution and limitation
Institutional framework	**Operation Sadbhavana** is the Indian Army's civic-action programme involving education, healthcare, community infrastructure, national integration and welfare activities. The Ministry of Defence described its Ladakh activities in a PIB release dated **3 February 2023**.	Enables respectful and constructive civilian contact in remote areas. Civic engagement is distinct from military operations.
Army Goodwill Schools	In February 2023 the Ministry of Defence reported **seven Army Goodwill Schools** in Ladakh with **more than 2,200 students** enrolled.	Education supports local families and builds sustained relationships. The figures are a dated programme snapshot, not verified enrolment for 2026.
Educational and integration tours	Educational tours expose children and young people from remote settlements to institutions, opportunities and experiences outside their immediate region. The programme also supports human resource development.	Expands educational exposure and networks. Respect for local identities and voluntary participation remain essential.
Medical and veterinary assistance	The 2023 Ministry of Defence release reported **23 health and sanitation projects** allotted under Sadbhavana in Ladakh during FY 2022-23, including medical and veterinary facilities, equipment and camps.	Addresses needs in areas where services may be difficult to reach. Periodic assistance must be backed by durable civilian healthcare systems.

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Field of action	Evidence and examples	Contribution and limitation
Tangtse health camp	On **20 August 2025**, Army medical personnel held a medical and dental camp at the Government Higher Secondary Residential School in Tangtse. The Ladakh administration reported assistance to **more than 120 students and staff**.	A specific example of immediate benefit and cooperation involving Army doctors, a school and local representatives.
Community infrastructure	Projects reported under Sadbhavana include community halls, water-supply schemes, solar lighting, generators, village tracks, toilets and environmental activities.	Visible improvements can encourage cooperation, but maintenance and local ownership determine sustainability.
Youth and women's development	Programme activities include sports, skills, human resource development and community-oriented opportunities for young people and women.	Can strengthen capability and engagement, provided the choice of activities reflects actual community preferences.
Financial evidence	The Ministry of Defence reported **₹8.82 crore allotted to Operation Sadbhavana in Ladakh during FY 2022-23** for education, healthcare, infrastructure, skills, environment and other activities.	A dated allocation illustrates the scale of the programme; it is not an evaluation of the programme's social impact.
Civil-military relations	Cooperation with village representatives, schools, local administration and health institutions enables needs to be identified and assistance to be coordinated.	Builds familiarity and constructive contact, but must avoid treating citizens as instruments of intelligence gathering or assuming political support follows from service delivery.
Scope and limitations	Military personnel have operational responsibilities; outreach is constrained by staffing, access, allocation and programme continuity. Civilian institutions retain the principal long-term responsibility for public services and accountable government.	**The Army can complement governance, not replace democratic representation or regular public administration.**

Part 3. The Sixth Schedule demand: rationale, powers and constitutional limits

Dimension	Constitutional and institutional position	Relevance for Ladakh
Present constitutional reach	**Article 244(2)** applies the Sixth Schedule to tribal areas in **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram**. The Schedule also refers to **Article 275(1)** and makes provision for autonomous district and regional councils.	Ladakh is not currently among the territories covered. A recommendation or public demand does not itself extend the Schedule.
Why protection is sought	The demand encompasses preservation of tribal and cultural identities, customary institutions, land-related interests, local resources, environmental stewardship, representation and authority over development choices.	Responds to concerns that economic development without meaningful decision-making powers may leave local aspirations unmet.
NCST recommendation	On **11 September 2019**, NCST recommended bringing Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule. Its four stated benefits were **democratic devolution, cultural protection, agrarian and land-right safeguards, and improved development funding**.	Supplies a formal institutional basis for the demand, but the recommendation is not law.
Tribal demography	NCST reported different Scheduled Tribe proportions across Leh, Nubra, Khalsti, Kargil, Sanku and Zanskar. It assessed a **more-than-97% tribal population** after taking account of communities, including some not formally recognised as STs, which claimed tribal status.	Supports the Commission's reasoning but must not be presented as the official Census ST percentage for the entire Union Territory.

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Dimension	Constitutional and institutional position	Relevance for Ladakh
Autonomous councils	The Sixth Schedule provides a constitutional framework for autonomous district or regional councils. Depending on its provisions, councils may make laws on specified subjects such as land use, non-reserved forests, customary inheritance, marriage and divorce, village administration and social customs, subject to the applicable constitutional process.	Offers a model of local rule-making and cultural safeguards rather than merely an additional welfare fund.
Financial and judicial powers	The Sixth Schedule provides for defined taxation and revenue powers, funds and certain adjudicatory arrangements. The powers vary with the relevant provisions and adaptations; they do not amount to unrestricted legislative or judicial sovereignty.	Could strengthen local institutional capacity, but any Ladakh-specific framework must specify the actual powers and accountability arrangements.
Existing Hill Councils	**Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils in Leh and Kargil** operate under legislation. The Leh Council originated under the 1995 framework, later reflected in the 1997 Act; the Kargil Council followed in 2003. They provide local representation and developmental responsibilities within a statutory framework.	They are important institutions, but statutory decentralisation is not identical to the constitutional status sought under the Sixth Schedule.
2019 administrative change	The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act made Ladakh a **Union Territory without a legislature**, effective **31 October 2019**, administered under the constitutional Union Territory framework.	Increases the significance of the question of locally accountable legislative and decision-making authority.
2025 legal measures	Presidential Regulations promulgated on **2 June 2025** addressed reservation limits, one-third women's representation in Hill Councils, official languages and recruitment-related protections. Their legal operation is subject to the commencement and implementation provisions of the respective instruments.	These address specific concerns, but **do not themselves bring Ladakh within the Sixth Schedule**.
Political and legal distinction	**Statehood** and **Sixth Schedule protection** are separate demands. The former concerns the territory's political status and legislature; the latter concerns constitutionally protected autonomous institutions and their defined competences.	Aspirations for a legislature cannot be assumed to be fully satisfied by a Hill Council, and the Sixth Schedule must not be described as automatic statehood.
Required legal change	Extension to Ladakh would require appropriate alteration of the existing constitutional framework, including the territorial reach of **Article 244(2)** and the relevant Sixth Schedule provisions, with institutional arrangements suitable for Ladakh's Union Territory status.	The issue is a proposed constitutional settlement, not a measure that can be achieved merely by announcing a programme or issuing an ordinary administrative order.
Centre-Ladakh dialogue	The Union Home Ministry has engaged representatives including the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance. Discussions during 2025 and early 2026 addressed constitutional safeguards and governance options, without a settled agreement on Sixth Schedule extension before the August 2026 examination.	Shows that the question concerns continuing negotiations over the form and distribution of political authority.

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.

What the Sixth Schedule can address. The constitutional model allows specified subjects to be governed through autonomous institutions. Its strongest relevance to Ladakh lies in **land, culture, customary practices, local planning and representation**, subject to the powers actually conferred by any extension.

What it cannot automatically address. The Sixth Schedule does not itself resolve international borders, substitute for defence administration or confer full statehood. A Ladakh arrangement would still require clarity over Union authority, local institutions, accountability, finances and disputes between levels of government.

What the three instruments can and cannot do

Instrument	Primary contribution	Characteristic limitation	What completes it
BADP and VVP	Essential services, infrastructure, economic opportunity	Funds and assets alone do not guarantee trust	Reliable delivery, local participation and maintenance
Operation Sadbhavana	Direct assistance and constructive civil-military engagement	Military outreach cannot provide permanent political representation	Strong civilian services and institutional coordination
Sixth Schedule framework, if extended	Defined powers of local institutions and cultural safeguards	Requires constitutional change, design and functioning capacity	Accountability, resources and effective relations with the Union
Combined approach	Material welfare, social trust and democratic voice	Can fail if any one dimension is treated as a substitute for the others	Transparent, responsive and constitutionally legitimate governance

This is an analytical comparison, not a government evaluation or an assertion that the Sixth Schedule has already been extended to Ladakh.

Four distinctions that strengthen the answer

Allocation versus outcome. The ₹8.82 crore reported for Sadbhavana was an FY 2022-23 allocation. The 79 Ladakh VVP-I projects reported in July 2026 were sanctioned projects. Neither number independently establishes how much confidence or welfare improved.

Welfare versus rights. Public assistance can reduce exclusion, but a claim for local law-making or land safeguards is a claim about authority. A sound answer treats these as related but distinct.

Strategic presence versus local consent. Civilian presence and connectivity are important frontier-policy objectives. However, people in border regions are citizens with independent interests, not merely instruments of national security.

Uniformity versus differentiated autonomy. Constitutional accommodation of distinctive communities need not conflict with national unity. Its design must specify which powers remain national and which are exercised locally.

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.

TIER 2 · EXTENDED UNDERSTANDING: THE WHOLE TOPIC AROUND IT

How the policy approach developed

1. **1986-87 onward:** BADP began by addressing infrastructure deficits in western-border settlements and later expanded geographically.
2. **1995 to 2003:** Ladakh's Hill Council institutions developed as forms of decentralised, statutory governance.
3. **2019:** Union Territory status and the NCST recommendation brought constitutional protection into sharper focus.
4. **2020:** Revised BADP Guidelines prioritised strategic villages, convergence and participation.
5. **2023:** VVP-I created a targeted northern-border development model.
6. **2025:** VVP-II expanded that model; four Presidential Regulations addressed aspects of Ladakh's legal and administrative framework.
7. **2026:** MHA confirmed that BADP was in its sunset phase, while VVP implementation and dialogue over Ladakh's governance continued.

The implementation gaps

1. **Seasonal access:** high-altitude weather restricts construction, delivery and maintenance.
2. **Unequal reach:** smaller or more isolated settlements may benefit more slowly than accessible centres.
3. **Programme fragmentation:** civilian departments, development agencies and security institutions may work through separate plans.
4. **Weak outcome measurement:** a sanctioned project, a constructed building and a sustained public service are different things.
5. **Ecological constraints:** water stress, land-use change and fragile mountain environments complicate development choices.
6. **Institutional uncertainty:** disagreement over legal powers and representation can persist even when services improve.
7. **Trust and accountability:** transparent consultation, local monitoring and accessible grievance procedures are essential to durable legitimacy.

Why Ladakh's communities cannot be treated as a single uniform constituency

Ladakh has distinctive linguistic, cultural, religious, occupational and regional communities. The NCST's 2019 account referred to groups including **Balti, Beda, Bot/Boto, Brokpa/Drokpa/Dard/Shin, Changpa, Garra, Mon and Purigpa**. Livelihoods and customary practices also differ between pastoral settlements, agricultural communities and urban centres. The **Leh Apex Body** and **Kargil Democratic Alliance** have advanced shared governance demands while representing organisations rooted in different regional constituencies. A durable arrangement must therefore avoid treating the entire Union Territory as socially homogeneous.

Border security and civilian resilience

In a region facing the **Line of Actual Control with China** and the **Line of Control with Pakistan**, infrastructure has multiple uses. Roads and communications can support daily economic life, emergency evacuation and logistical access. Medical services and education improve human welfare regardless of their security value. The strongest analytical case for development is that **resilient local communities and national security can reinforce one another**. However, civilian rights cannot be evaluated only by their contribution to strategic objectives.

Local self-governance in a sensitive frontier

Security-sensitive territories raise a genuine allocation-of-powers question. The Union must retain its constitutionally assigned responsibilities for defence, foreign relations and national security. Local institutions, meanwhile, may be better placed to assess customary land use, cultural preservation, village infrastructure, community needs and environmental concerns. The constitutional challenge is to **design a clear and accountable division of powers**, rather than assume that all decisions must either be centralised or fully devolved.

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.

Two debates worth knowing

Can developmental outreach substitute for political representation?

One argument holds that improved roads, schools, healthcare, employment and sustained contact with the administration can improve confidence and reduce alienation. This is the practical logic behind BADP, VVP and civic-action programmes. The counterargument is that **beneficiaries are not necessarily decision-makers**: people may receive services while remaining unable to shape land, environmental and institutional policies. The balanced assessment is that **effective welfare creates the material foundation of trust, while accountable self-governance strengthens its legitimacy**. Neither should be used as an excuse to neglect the other.

Would Sixth Schedule protection weaken central authority in a strategic region?

One concern is that creating additional autonomous institutions may complicate administrative coordination, fiscal responsibilities and security-sensitive decision-making. Supporters respond that protected local authority can improve responsiveness, preserve community interests and deepen national integration through legitimate representation. The balanced approach is to **negotiate powers precisely**: retain Union responsibility for national security, provide genuine authority over suitable local matters, and establish clear financial, accountability and dispute-resolution mechanisms. Whether Ladakh receives Sixth Schedule status or another negotiated constitutional arrangement remains a question of law and political agreement, not a settled fact.

4 Pitfalls and variations

Six mistakes that weaken this answer, statements that must not be written, and how to adapt the structure when the wording changes.

4.1 Six pitfalls, each with its correction

Making it a border-conflict essay

~~A long narrative of China, Pakistan, military standoffs and strategic roads, with little on local welfare.~~

Use strategic location as context, then devote the body to BADP, Army civic actions and Sixth Schedule safeguards.

Treating every border project as BADP

~~The BRO's military roads and all Vibrant Villages projects are BADP works.~~

Identify BADP separately, note its 2026 sunset phase, and distinguish VVP-I, VVP-II and strategic infrastructure schemes.

Listing welfare without explaining trust

~~Roads, schools, water, solar lighting, hospitals, tourism.~~

Connect an intervention to its effect: reliable services reduce isolation and demonstrate institutional responsiveness, subject to delivery and maintenance.

Confusing Army civic action with military operations

~~The Army deploys troops, patrols the LAC and conducts combat readiness exercises.~~

Discuss Operation Sadbhavana: Goodwill Schools, medical and veterinary assistance, community projects, youth activities and civil-military cooperation.

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.

Treating Sixth Schedule status as existing law

~~Ladakh's Sixth Schedule councils protect tribal land and culture.~~

The existing Leh and Kargil Hill Councils are statutory institutions. Sixth Schedule extension was recommended by NCST in 2019 but had not been granted before the 2026 examination.

Missing the hidden demand

~~The Government and Army are winning hearts and minds, so all problems will be solved.~~

Conclude that material welfare and positive civil-military engagement need to be complemented by meaningful political participation and credible safeguards.

4.2 Never write these

- "BADP is receiving new expansion funding across Ladakh in 2026."
  MHA stated on 1 April 2026 that BADP was in its sunset phase, with funding for committed liabilities.
- "The ₹6,839 crore VVP-II allocation is for Ladakh."
  It is the scheme's overall approved outlay for selected villages across multiple States and Union Territories up to FY 2028-29.
- "All 79 VVP projects in Ladakh were completed by July 2026."
  MHA reported 79 projects sanctioned in Ladakh, not 79 completed. The reported 316 completions referred to the combined participating States and Union Territory.
- "Operation Sadbhavana is an Army counter-insurgency operation."
  The cited Ladakh programme is military civic action involving education, healthcare, community infrastructure and welfare.
- "Seven Army Goodwill Schools and 2,200 students are the verified figures for 2026."
  The Ministry of Defence published these as a programme snapshot in February 2023; a current figure cannot be inferred from it.
- "According to Census 2011, 97% of Ladakh's population is Scheduled Tribe."
  The NCST's 2019 assessment above 97% included consideration of communities claiming ST status; it is not an official whole-UT Census ST percentage.
- "Ladakh was granted Sixth Schedule status in 2025."
  The June 2025 Presidential Regulations concerned other legal and administrative safeguards. They did not extend the Sixth Schedule.
- "Article 244(2) already covers Ladakh."
  Its existing text applies to tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- "The Sixth Schedule means full statehood."
  Autonomous tribal-area institutions and a State legislature are constitutionally distinct arrangements.
- "Army welfare work can replace elected local government."
  Civic action complements civilian public services and democratic institutions; it does not transfer their authority to the Army.

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.

4.3 If the question changes

If it asks	The structure becomes	What must change
Evaluate the effectiveness of BADP in India's border regions	Objectives; targeting and funding; interventions; programme outcomes; implementation gaps; VVP transition	Concentrate on development delivery and measurable results. Army outreach and Sixth Schedule become peripheral.
Assess Operation Sadbhavana as an instrument of civil-military relations	Objectives; education and health initiatives; community engagement; benefits; limitations; civilian coordination	Make direct civic interaction central and use dated Ladakh examples.
Critically examine Sixth Schedule protection for Ladakh	Constitutional framework; NCST recommendation; rationale; existing councils; advantages and constraints; legal route; judgment	Constitutional reasoning becomes the largest component. Compare autonomy models without claiming that any proposal has been enacted.
Compare Fifth and Sixth Schedules	Articles 244(1) and 244(2); geographical reach; institutions; powers; governance; applicability to Ladakh	Use a comparative table and distinguish their different constitutional mechanisms.
Examine development and national security in Himalayan border areas	Strategic necessity; civilian development; population and livelihoods; environmental risks; governance; solutions	Expand infrastructure, terrain, sustainability and local cooperation. Avoid reducing residents to strategic assets.
The same question for 15 marks	Retain all three explicit parts; add BADP-VVP transition, concrete Sadbhavana outcomes, the 2019 NCST recommendation, 2025 regulations, and the Sixth Schedule legal pathway	Use the extra space for stronger evidence, qualifications and the relationship between service delivery and democratic legitimacy.

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.

5

The model answer

One model answer, written to the UPSC Gurus house range of 150 to 153 words (**exactly 152 words**, counting every whitespace-separated token within the answer sheet, including section numerals, headings and labels; UPSC's printed limit is 150 words). The form follows the question: three headed parts, respectively covering Central border-development programmes, Army civic actions and the Sixth Schedule demand, followed by a short synthesis answering the hidden demand. The introduction addresses all three dimensions; the conclusion establishes their relationship.

Model answer ## Three headed parts and a synthesis

152 words

Ladakh's China-Pakistan frontier makes welfare, civilian trust and political representation integral to border security.

1. Central border programmes

BADP supported roads, water, schools and healthcare in settlements. 2020 guidelines prioritised strategic habitations; by 2026, BADP was in its sunset phase. VVP-I targets 35 Ladakh villages, advancing connectivity and livelihoods. Terrain and maintenance impede delivery.

2. Army civic actions

Under Operation Sadbhavana, Army Goodwill Schools, medical camps, educational tours and community facilities foster cooperation. The Defence Ministry reported seven schools serving over 2,200 students in 2023. Outreach complements, but cannot replace, civilian services.

3. Sixth Schedule demand

NCST recommended extension in 2019 to protect tribal culture, agrarian rights and democratic devolution. Constitutionally empowered councils could strengthen self-governance; existing Leh and Kargil councils are statutory. Extension requires constitutional change.

4. Lasting confidence

Development and goodwill cannot substitute for local voice.

Therefore, durable security requires dependable services, respectful civic engagement and constitutionally credible local participation.

DEMAND
Discuss Central border-development programmes, Army civic actions and the demand for Sixth Schedule protection in Ladakh, explaining their contributions and limitations

HIDDEN DEMAND
Development and Army goodwill strengthen confidence but cannot substitute for political participation, cultural safeguards and constitutionally credible local self-governance

STRUCTURE
About three-tenths each on Central programmes, Army civic action and Sixth Schedule protection; a short final part connecting welfare, trust and local autonomy

BALANCE
Introduction 14 words, conclusion 14 words; 152 words in all

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.

Why it works: The introduction establishes the security, welfare and representation relationship without becoming a military-history narrative. Part 1 explains BADP's contributions, the 2020 targeting principle, its 2026 sunset position and the continuing VVP-I approach, using Ladakh's 35 priority villages as evidence and acknowledging delivery constraints. Part 2 identifies Operation Sadbhavana and gives a dated, officially reported example of Army Goodwill Schools, while distinguishing civic assistance from civilian administration. Part 3 provides the NCST's 2019 recommendation, its constitutional rationale, the difference between statutory Hill Councils and constitutional autonomy, and the legal requirement for extension. Part 4 resolves the hidden demand: development and goodwill cannot substitute for local participation. The conclusion brings all three instruments together without presenting Sixth Schedule status as already granted.

6 Other ways to write it

The model answer above remains the answer. These outlines show how a different, equally valid answer could be built, and when each choice works.

Approach	How it is built	When it works
Three-instrument matrix	Three compact rows: **BADP/VVP**, services and livelihoods; **Operation Sadbhavana**, health, education and community contact; **Sixth Schedule demand**, land, culture and institutional powers. A fourth row explains their complementarity.	When you want an immediate comparison of the instruments, their contributions and their limits. Retain the constitutional qualification.
Problem, intervention, limitation	Match **geographical isolation** with BADP and VVP; **limited community contact and service access** with Army civic action; **concerns over political and cultural safeguards** with the Sixth Schedule demand. End by linking all three.	When you want every programme to answer a clearly identified need rather than become an unconnected list.
Open with the NCST recommendation	Introduction: the NCST's **11 September 2019** recommendation demonstrates that Ladakh's challenges encompass self-governance as well as development. Then address BADP, Army outreach and Sixth Schedule protection in the question's order.	When you want a distinctive, evidence-based opening without changing the required order of the body.
Security, welfare, legitimacy	Use the three concepts as analytical links, but retain separate numbered headings for Central programmes, Army civic actions and the constitutional demand. Explain that national security, service delivery and democratic legitimacy reinforce one another.	When you are comfortable integrating conceptual analysis with factual programme details.
For 15 marks	Expand the BADP 2020 Guidelines and VVP-I/VVP-II distinction; add the 2023 Operation Sadbhavana evidence and a 2025 camp; explain **Articles 244(2) and 275(1)**, existing Hill Councils, the 2019 NCST recommendation, June 2025 Presidential Regulations and the legal pathway to extension. Conclude with the development-autonomy relationship.	When additional words permit legal precision, programme evaluation and the wider governance debate.

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.

7 Quick recall and Prelims crossover

Sixteen verifiable facts for rapid revision, factual precision in Mains answers and Prelims questions on programmes, institutions and constitutional provisions.

1. **BADP**: began in **1986-87** along India's western border; subsequently expanded to other international border areas.
2. **BADP Guidelines, 2020**: prioritised settlements within **0 to 10 km**, measured aerially from the line joining the first habitations along the international boundary.
3. **BADP financing**: the 2020 Guidelines provided a **100% Central share** for Ladakh, a Union Territory without a legislature.
4. **BADP in 2026**: MHA's **1 April 2026** parliamentary reply described it as being in its **sunset phase**, with funding for committed liabilities.
5. **VVP-I**: approved **15 February 2023**; **₹4,800 crore** for FY 2022-23 to 2025-26; **662** priority northern-border villages, including **35 in Ladakh**.
6. **VVP-I implementation**: **79** projects sanctioned in Ladakh, as reported by MHA on **28 July 2026**; sanctions must not be confused with completions.
7. **VVP-II**: approved **2 April 2025**; **₹6,839 crore** to FY 2028-29; **1,954** selected villages beyond the northern-border areas covered by VVP-I.
8. **BADP's six themes**: basic infrastructure, health, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, and skill development under the 2020 Guidelines.
9. **Operation Sadbhavana**: Indian Army's civic-action programme in Ladakh, covering education, healthcare, skills, community infrastructure and welfare.
10. **Army Goodwill Schools**: **7** schools with more than **2,200** students, as reported by the Ministry of Defence on **3 February 2023**.
11. **Sadbhavana allocation**: **₹8.82 crore** allotted for Ladakh in **FY 2022-23**, as reported on 3 February 2023.
12. **Tangtse health camp**: **20 August 2025**; Army doctors assisted more than **120** students and staff at a residential school.
13. **Sixth Schedule**: under **Article 244(2)**, presently applies to tribal areas in **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram**.
14. **NCST recommendation**: **11 September 2019**, the Commission's **119th meeting**; Sixth Schedule extension recommended for democratic devolution, cultural and agrarian protection, and development funding.
15. **Ladakh's UT status**: from **31 October 2019**, under **Section 3** of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019; **without a legislature**.
16. **2025 Ladakh Regulations**: promulgated **2 June 2025** under **Article 240**; included Hill Council women's reservation and official-language provisions, **not Sixth Schedule extension**.

THE ONE SENTENCE TO CARRY OUT OF THIS DOCUMENT

In strategic Ladakh, services can improve lives and civic action can strengthen trust, but lasting confidence also requires a meaningful local voice and credible institutional safeguards.

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.

8 Write it yourself

Write the answer in 150 words without looking back, then check it against each line below.

	Check	Yes / No
1	Does the introduction connect **Ladakh's strategic location** with local welfare, civilian confidence and the need for legitimate governance?	
2	Does Part 1 explain **BADP's objectives and interventions**, relate them to local welfare, and correctly distinguish the programme's 2026 sunset position from VVP-I?	
3	Does Part 2 name **Operation Sadbhavana**, give a concrete educational or healthcare example and explain how civic action contributes to civil-military relations?	
4	Does Part 3 explain the **Sixth Schedule demand** through tribal culture, land and agrarian rights, constitutional devolution and existing statutory Hill Councils?	
5	Does the answer recognise that **development and Army outreach cannot replace meaningful local participation**, while respecting national security responsibilities?	
6	Does the conclusion provide a **reasoned synthesis**, rather than merely repeating the schemes, at approximately the introduction's length?	
7	Is the answer **150 words or a little over**, counting headings and labels, with no inaccurate or legally misleading claim from section 4.2?	

Sources

- **Ministry of Home Affairs:** Border Area Development Programme Guidelines, 2020, issued in March 2020, covering geographical priorities, funding patterns, thematic areas, convergence and monitoring (mha.gov.in).
- **Ministry of Home Affairs, parliamentary replies:** Border Infrastructure Development, **25 March 2026**, including cumulative BADP projects (pib.gov.in); Funds for Border Area Development Programme, **1 April 2026**, confirming BADP's sunset phase and committed-liability funding (pib.gov.in).
- **Union Cabinet and Ministry of Home Affairs:** approval of Vibrant Villages Programme-I on **15 February 2023**, including the ₹4,800 crore outlay (pib.gov.in); MHA parliamentary reply of **29 March 2023** identifying 662 priority villages, including 35 in Ladakh (pib.gov.in).
- **Ministry of Home Affairs:** Vibrant Village Programme, parliamentary reply of **28 July 2026**, reporting 79 VVP-I projects sanctioned in Ladakh, the State/UT distribution and aggregate project completions (pib.gov.in).
- **Union Cabinet and Ministry of Home Affairs:** VVP-II approval reported in the Cabinet release of **4 April 2025**, with an approved outlay of ₹6,839 crore (pib.gov.in); parliamentary reply of **18 March 2026** confirming its approved coverage of 1,954 selected villages and its separate implementation framework (pib.gov.in).
- **Ministry of Defence:** Operation Sadbhavana in Ladakh, **3 February 2023**, including seven Army Goodwill Schools, more than 2,200 students, FY 2022-23 funding and programme interventions (pib.gov.in).
- **Administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh:** Comprehensive Health Camp for Students at Tangtse, **20 August 2025**, documenting medical and dental assistance to more than 120 students and staff (ladakh.gov.in).
- **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and Ministry of Tribal Affairs:** recommendation to include Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule, **11 September 2019**, containing the Commission's demographic observations and four principal justifications (pib.gov.in); NCST minutes of the **118th meeting, 27 August 2019**, providing background to the recommendation (ncst.nic.in).
- **Constitution of India:** Articles 244(2) and 275(1), and Sixth Schedule provisions on autonomous district and regional councils, their powers, legislation and administration, in the official constitutional text (legislative.gov.in).
- **India Code:** Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, Act 34 of 2019, particularly Section 3 on formation of the Union Territory of Ladakh without a legislature (indiacode.nic.in).

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.

- **Ministry of Home Affairs, Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Affairs Division:** Presidential Regulations dated **2 June 2025**, including the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Amendment) Regulation, the Ladakh Official Languages Regulation, the Union Territory of Ladakh Reservation (Amendment) Regulation and the civil-services decentralisation and recruitment amendment (mha.gov.in); Gazette notification of commencement of the Official Languages Regulation on **3 June 2025** (egazette.gov.in).
- **Ministry of Home Affairs:** statement concerning Ladakh, **24 September 2025**, identifying the demands for Sixth Schedule protection and statehood and describing engagement through the High-Powered Committee (pib.gov.in).
- **PTI:** report of **4 February 2026** on the High-Powered Committee meeting with representatives of the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance, and the continuing constitutional demands (theprint.in).
- **Ministry of Defence:** Year End Review 2024, **26 December 2024**, including the India-China border understanding of 21 October 2024 concerning Depsang and Demchok (pib.gov.in).
- **Union Public Service Commission:** official Civil Services (Main) Examination previous-question-paper archive, including the 2026 General Studies papers and earlier questions on border management, tribal governance and constitutional autonomy (upsc.gov.in).

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.

YOUR NEXT STEP

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1 Write the full paper in three hours

2 Self-check this answer with section 8

3 Have the paper evaluated

4 Read the feedback against this document

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