

Ladakh: Proposed Article 371(K)

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Why in News?

The central government has proposed the introduction of a new constitutional provision, Article 371(K), to establish special constitutional safeguards for Ladakh.

- The central government has proposed the creation of a **special constitutional provision, Article 371(K)**, for Ladakh.

Background: Ladakh's Constitutional Status

A Union Territory in the Himalayas

Land of
High Passes
A Brighter
Future



Before 2019	31 October 2019	Legislature	Administration	Constitutional Provision	Current Demand
Ladakh was part of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir.	Ladakh became a Union Territory .	No legislative assembly.	Lieutenant Governor-led UT administration.	Article 240 applies to Ladakh.	Greater democratic, legislative and administrative autonomy.



Key Point to Remember

Ladakh is a **Union Territory** **without a legislature**, unlike Puducherry and Jammu & Kashmir, which have legislatures.

Union Territory	Has Legislature?
Ladakh	No
Puducherry	Yes
Jammu & Kashmir	Yes



- **Proposal** - It resulted from discussions between the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and representatives of the following groups:
 - Leh Apex Body (LAB)
 - Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA)
- **Aim** - To provide constitutional safeguards, establish an elected Union Territory-level governing body, and enhance local autonomy.
- The proposed governing body is anticipated to possess the following characteristics:
 - It will be directly elected by the residents of the Union Territory.

- The body will operate at the Union Territory level.
- It will be granted legislative authority over specified subjects.
- The primary intention is to facilitate increased local participation in governance.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has outlined the following legislative powers:
 - **Land** - Legislative authority and safeguards against unauthorized changes in ownership or use.
 - **Culture and Language** - Protection of Ladakhi identity and preservation of local languages and traditions.
 - **Forest and Environment** - Authority over forest matters and enforcement of environmental protection.
 - **Natural Resources** - Local control and legislative authority over resources.
 - **Other Union Territory Subjects** - Matters reserved under Article 240.



Article 371 Series

The Constitution contains several special provisions under **Articles 371 to 371J**. They provide special arrangements for different States/regions.

Provision	State/Region
Article 371	Maharashtra & Gujarat
Article 371A	Nagaland
Article 371B	Assam
Article 371C	Manipur
Article 371D	Andhra Pradesh/Telangana
Article 371E	Central University in Andhra Pradesh
Article 371F	Sikkim
Article 371G	Mizoram
Article 371H	Arunachal Pradesh
Article 371I	Goa
Article 371J	Karnataka



Reference

[Indian Express | Ladakh - Centre offers Article 371\(K\)](#)

