Ladakh: Proposed Article 371(K)

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Why in News?

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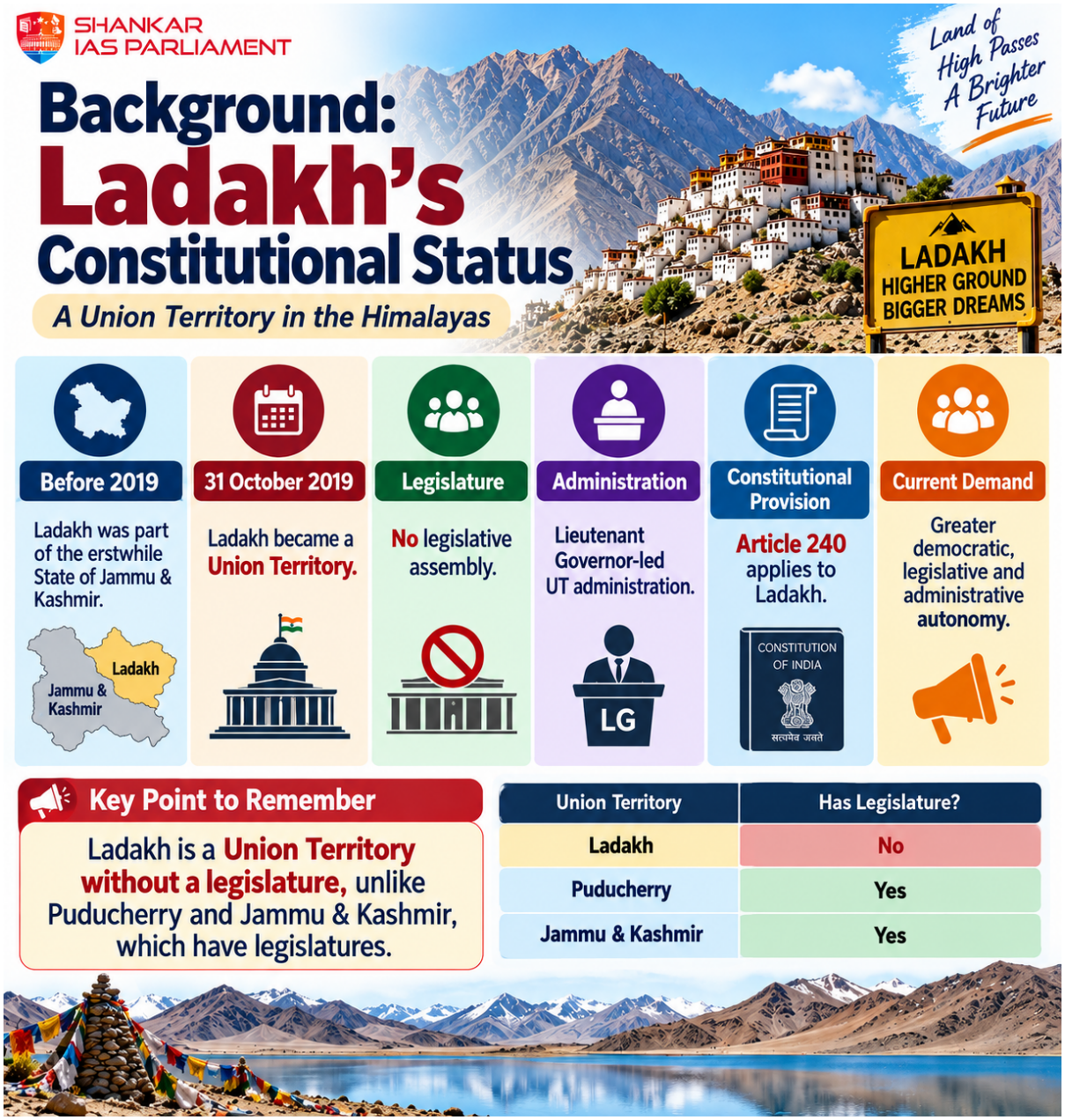
- The central government has proposed the creation of a **special constitutional provision, Article 371(K),** for Ladakh.



- **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.

Reference

[Indian Express | Ladakh – Centre offers Article 371(K)]

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