New policies for Ladakh

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Why in News?

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) recently introduced new policies on reservation, languages, domicile and composition of hill councils for the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh.

- These policies pave way to 85% of reservation for the Scheduled Tribes (ST) in government jobs.
- **Reservation based on Domicile Tag -** Only citizens who have had a continuous 15-year stay in the region, beginning 2019, will be considered domiciles.
- Any 'outsider' who settled in Ladakh after its special status along with that of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) was struck down in 2019 will be considered a domicile only after 2034.
- The *J&K domicile policy* notified in 2020 removed the concept of permanent residents stating that
  - Anyone who has resided for 15 years in the UT of J&K or
  - Studied for 7 years and appeared in Class 10th /12th examination in an educational institution located in the UT of J&K or
  - Who is registered as a migrant by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) will be considered a domicile.
- **Reservation in Hill Councils -** One-third of the seats will be reserved for women in the hill councils.
- **Reservation based on Languages -** English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti and Purgi languages shall be the official languages of the UT.
- Currently, at least
  - 80% of vacancies are reserved for Scheduled Tribes (ST),
  - 4% for people living along the Line of Actual Control/Line of Control,
  - 1% for Scheduled Castes and 10% for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).
- The MHA had proposed a 95% reservation in government jobs for locals in Ladakh and a one-third reservation for women in hill councils.

Reference

The Hindu | New policies for Union Territory of Ladakh