



'Delhi Chalo Padyatra': Sonam Wangchuk

Why in News?

Recently, over 100 volunteers, led by climate activist **Sonam Wangchuk**, began a foot march to Delhi, urging the Centre to resume talks with **Ladakh's leadership** on their **four-point agenda**.

Key Points:

- The '**Delhi Chalo Padyatra**' was organized by the **Leh Apex Body (LAB)** and **Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA)**.
- **4 Point Agenda:**
 - They are advocating for **statehood**.
 - Extension of the Constitution's [Sixth Schedule](#) to protect local rights.
 - Recruitment process with a dedicated public service commission for Ladakh
 - Separate [Lok Sabha](#) seats for Leh and Kargil districts.
- Wangchuk, earlier in March held a **21-day long hunger strike** in support of the demands.
- After **Article 370's** removal in **2019**, **Ladakh** became a **Union Territory** under the **Union Home Ministry's** direct administration.

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What is the Sixth Schedule?

- **Article 244:** The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 provides for the formation of autonomous administrative divisions, [Autonomous District Councils \(ADCs\)](#) that have some legislative, judicial, and administrative autonomy within a state.
- **Current Status :** The Sixth Schedule contains special provisions for the administration of tribal areas in the four north-eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

MEGHALAYA

- Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council

- Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council

- Garo Hills Autonomous District Council

MIZORAM

- Chakma Autonomous District Council

- Lai Autonomous District Council

- Mara Autonomous District Council

TRIPURA

- Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council

ASSAM

- Dima Hasao Autonomous Council

- Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council

- Bodoland Territorial Council

- **Autonomous Districts:** The tribal areas in these four states have been constituted as autonomous districts. The governor is empowered to organize and reorganize the autonomous districts.
- **District Council:** Each autonomous district has a district council consisting of **30 members**, of whom **four are nominated** by the **Governor** and the remaining **26 are elected** on the basis of **adult franchise**.
- **Powers of the Council:** The district and regional councils administer the areas under their jurisdiction.
 - They can make laws on certain specified matters like **land, forests, canal water, shifting cultivation, village administration, the inheritance of property, marriage and divorce, social customs** and so on. But all such laws require the assent of the Governor.
 - They can constitute village councils or courts for trial of suits and cases between the tribes. They hear appeals from them. The jurisdiction of the high court over these suits and cases is specified by the governor.
 - The district council can establish, construct or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries, roads and so on in the district.
 - They are empowered to assess and collect land revenue and to impose certain specified taxes