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தினம் ஒரு குறள்

குறள் எண் 237

புகழ்

புகழ்பட வாழாதார் தந்நோவார் தம்மை
இகழ்வாரை நோவது எவன்

தமக்குப் புகழ் உண்டாகுமாறு வாழமுடியாதவர் தம்மைத் தாம்
நொந்து கொள்ளாமல் தம்மை இகழ்கின்றவரை நொந்து கொள்ளக்
காரணம் என்ன? — மு. வரதராசன்



TODAY'S ARTICLE

In 2019, three Ministries gave nod to Ladakh's tribal status

Ministries of Home, Tribal Affairs, and Law, and NCST concurred on Sixth Schedule; but in 2022, Centre said the UT administration was ensuring the 'development' that tribal status would bring

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Weeks after the Union Territory of Ladakh was created in August 2019, three Ministries of the Union government gave a green light to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) to recommend Ladakh's inclusion as a tribal area under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, according to minutes of an NCST meeting held on September 11, 2019, seen by *The Hindu*.

Six years ago, the NCST had taken *suo motu* cognisance of the demand for the inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule. In a meeting on September 11, 2019, it had recommended "after careful consideration" that the "UT of Ladakh be brought under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution".

'No objection'

As per the minutes of this 119th meeting of the Commission, the panel had consulted the Ministries of Home, Tribal Affairs, and



People of Leh stage a protest demanding Statehood for Ladakh and inclusion of the Union Territory in the Sixth Schedule. FILE PHOTO

Law and Justice in a meeting on September 4, 2019, to discuss the issue. In this meeting, the Commission said that after deliberations, the "Ministries were of the opinion that they have no objection in case the Commission recommends for granting Tribal area status to the UT of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution."

Accordingly, the Commission had recommended the UT's inclusion in the Sixth Schedule, also noting that before the creation of Ladakh as a UT, the locals had certain agrarian rights and rights over land that

restricted people from outside the region from purchasing or acquiring land in Ladakh.

In its recommendation, the committee said it felt that Ladakh's inclusion in the Sixth Schedule would protect these agrarian rights, including rights on land.

While the Ministry of Tribal Affairs issued a statement on this recommendation of the Commission at the time, this statement had left out the opinion of the Ministries.

The Home Ministry told Parliament in December 2019 that the Ladakh Auto-

nomous Hill Development Council Act, 1997, already provided for the creation of autonomous hill development councils in the Ladakh region, the powers for which are "more or less in line with the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India".

BJP's poll promise

However, the following year, when the Hill Council of Leh went to polls in 2020, the Bharatiya Janata Party had promised constitutional safeguards for the region under the Sixth Schedule in its manifesto.

Yet, in December 2022, responding to a Parliamentary panel's suggestion to explore the possibility of Sixth Schedule status to Ladakh, the Home Ministry had said: "The main objective for inclusion of tribal population under Fifth/Sixth Schedule is to ensure their overall socio-economic development, which, the UT Administration has already been taking care of since its creation. Sufficient funds are being provided to Ladakh to meet its overall developmental requirements."

Context: Tribal Status & the Sixth Schedule for Ladakh

When Jammu and Kashmir was reorganised in **August 2019**, Ladakh was carved out as a separate **Union Territory without a legislature**. Soon after, demands emerged from local groups, civil society, and political leaders for **constitutional safeguards** that would protect Ladakh's land, culture, and demography from outside influence.

The **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)**, in September 2019, formally recommended bringing Ladakh under the **Sixth Schedule of the Constitution**, after consultations with three Union Ministries — **Home, Tribal Affairs, and Law & Justice** — which raised “no objection” to the idea.

However, while this was seen as a strong step toward safeguarding Ladakh's tribal population, the Centre later shifted its stance. By 2022, the Home Ministry argued that the **UT Administration was already ensuring development**, implying that a Sixth Schedule inclusion was not necessary.

Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution

The **Sixth Schedule** (Articles **244(2)** and **275(1)** of the Constitution) provides for **special governance arrangements in certain tribal areas of the North-Eastern states**. It was included in the Constitution in **1950**, based on the recommendations of the **Bordoloi Committee** (Constituent Assembly).

Its purpose is to **protect the rights, culture, land, and traditions of tribal communities** and provide them with a degree of **political and administrative autonomy** within the Indian Union.

States Covered under Sixth Schedule

The Sixth Schedule applies to:

Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram

These states contain “**Tribal Areas**”, which are further divided into **Autonomous Districts** and **Autonomous Regions**.

Structure of Governance

Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)

- Each **tribal area** is administered by an **Autonomous District Council** (similar to a local legislature).
- Councils have **30 members**:
 - 26 **elected by the people**
 - 4 **nominated by the Governor**
- Tenure: **5 years**.

Autonomous Regional Councils (ARCs)

- Created within a district if there are multiple distinct tribes.
- Deal with specific cultural and social needs of those tribes.

Powers & Functions of District Councils

Legislative Powers

Councils can make laws on:

- Land use and transfer of land
- Management of forests (except reserved forests)
- Regulation of shifting cultivation
- Village administration
- Inheritance, marriage, divorce, social customs of tribes

But these laws require the Governor's assent.

Judicial Powers

- Councils can set up **Village Courts** (traditional courts) to decide cases where both parties are tribals.
- Appeals from Village Courts go to the District Council Courts.

Executive & Administrative Powers

- Management of primary schools, markets, dispensaries, roads, waterways.
- Licensing of trading by non-tribals in tribal areas.

Financial Powers

- ADCs can levy and collect certain taxes (land, property, trade, ferry, markets, entry of goods).
- Receive **grants-in-aid** from the Consolidated Fund of India (Article 275).

Role of the Governor

- The **Governor of the state** has **special powers** under the Sixth Schedule:
 - Power to create/alter boundaries of autonomous districts.
 - Power to approve or disapprove laws made by District Councils.
 - Power to assume control in case of breakdown of administration.

Objectives of the Sixth Schedule

- To protect **tribal culture and identity**.
- To give **self-rule** to tribal communities within India.
- To prevent **alienation of tribal land** by restricting transfer to outsiders.
- To enable **customary laws** to continue.
- To promote **development while preserving traditions**.

Advantages

- Ensures **self-governance** for tribal areas.
- Prevents **exploitation of tribals** by outsiders.
- Maintains **traditional practices and local laws**.
- Balances **integration with autonomy**.

Criticisms

- **Limited Powers**: Councils are dependent on state governments and Governor's approval.
- **Inequality**: Only four NE states covered; other tribal regions (like Ladakh, Himachal, Jharkhand) not included.

- **Development Issues:** Sometimes autonomy leads to administrative inefficiency.
- **Ethnic Conflicts:** Demand for separate councils sometimes fuels division among communities.

Sixth Schedule vs. Fifth Schedule

Aspect	Fifth Schedule	Sixth Schedule
Coverage	Scheduled Areas in rest of India (mainly Central & Eastern tribal belt)	Only in North-East (Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram)
Body	Tribes Advisory Council (TAC)	Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)
Powers	Advisory only	Legislative, judicial, executive powers
Governor	Governor has control over administration	Governor + ADCs share powers

Why Ladakh Wants Sixth Schedule Protection

Demography & Tribal Identity

- Nearly **80–90% of Ladakh's population is tribal** (Scheduled Tribes such as Boto, Balti, Changpa, Mon, Purigpa, etc.).
- Leaders fear that without constitutional protection, outsiders could buy land, settle, and dilute local identity.

Land & Agrarian Rights

- Before UT status, Ladakh had restrictions on land transfer to outsiders.
- Inclusion in the Sixth Schedule would **legally safeguard these rights**.

Political Safeguards

- Unlike J&K, Ladakh has **no legislature of its own** — governance is directly through the LG and Hill Development Councils.

- Sixth Schedule status would grant more **autonomy in decision-making** to local councils.

Cultural Preservation

- Ladakh's fragile Himalayan ecosystem and **unique Buddhist-Muslim tribal culture** require protection from rapid, unregulated development.

Previous Year Questions

UPSC Prelims 2012

Which of the following provisions of the Constitution of India have a bearing on Education?

1. Directive Principles of State Policy
2. Rural and Urban Local Bodies
3. Fifth Schedule
4. Sixth Schedule
5. Seventh Schedule

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans: (d)

UPSC Prelims 2019

Under which Schedule of the Constitution of India can the transfer of tribal land to private parties for mining be declared null and void?

- (a) Third Schedule
- (b) Fifth Schedule
- (c) Ninth Schedule
- (d) Twelfth Schedule

Ans: (b)

UPSC Prelims 2013

The Government enacted the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act in 1996. Which one of the following is not identified as its objective?

- (a) To provide self-governance
- (b) To recognize traditional rights
- (c) To create autonomous regions in tribal areas
- (d) To free tribal people from exploitation

Ans: (c)

UPSC Mains 2016

Why are the tribals in India referred to as 'the Scheduled Tribes? Indicate the major provisions enshrined in the Constitution of India for their upliftment.

India says NATO chief's remarks on Modi-Putin talks 'entirely baseless'

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

India on Friday described as "factually incorrect and entirely baseless" the remarks by NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte on the impact of U.S. President Donald Trump's penalty tariff on India for its continued purchase of Russian crude oil.

"We expect the leadership of an important institution like NATO to exercise greater responsibility and accuracy in public statements. Speculative or careless remarks that misrepresent the Prime Minister's engagements or suggest conversations that never occurred are unacceptable," said Randhir Jaiswal, Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Speaking to CNN's Christiane Amanpour on



 We expect the leadership of an important institution like NATO to exercise greater responsibility and accuracy in public statements

RANDHIR JAISWAL
MEA Spokesperson

Thursday in New York, Mr. Rutte had said, "This (tariff) immediately impacts Russia because that means Delhi is now on the phone with Vladimir Putin in Moscow, and Narendra Modi is asking him, 'I support you, but again could you explain to me this strategy because I have now been hit by these 50% tariffs by the United States'."

Mr. Jaiswal reiterated that India was committed to "ensure predictable and affordable energy costs" to the Indian consumers and

that India will take all "necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security".

Addressing the weekly press briefing on Friday, Mr. Jaiswal also gave details of the discussion held in New York between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on September 22, where India-U.S. bilateral trade and increase in tariffs by the United States had been the "focus". The Indian side was in contact with the

U.S. administration over the sharp hike in H-1B visa fees amounting to \$100,000 per visa application, he added.

"External Affairs Minister and U.S. Secretary of State met on the sidelines of UNGA on September 22, 2025. They were joined by the Commerce and Industry Minister (Piyush Goyal) and U.S. Trade Representative (Jamieson Greer), as also officials on both sides. The focus of the discussion was on trade and tariffs. Other aspects of our bilateral relationship were also reviewed," said Mr. Jaiswal, elaborating on the talks held in a New York hotel, days after U.S. President Donald Trump issued a proclamation hiking the H-1B visa fees.

Mr. Jaishankar's meeting with Mr. Rubio was one of the several meetings that he held in New York.

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)

Introduction

- **NATO** is a **political and military alliance** established in **1949** with the signing of the **North Atlantic Treaty (Washington Treaty)**.
- It was formed in the aftermath of **World War II** and the start of the **Cold War**, primarily to counter the influence of the Soviet Union.
- Today, NATO is the world's **most powerful collective defense alliance**, with **32 member countries** (as of 2025).

Founding Principles

- **Article 5 (Collective Defence):**

An attack on one member is considered an attack on all.

- First and only time invoked: **after 9/11 terrorist attacks on the U.S. in 2001.**

- **Article 4 (Consultations):**

Members consult whenever any perceives a threat to its territorial integrity or political independence.

- **Core Values:**

- Democracy
- Individual liberty
- Rule of law
- Collective security

Historical Evolution

Formation (1949):

- Original 12 members: U.S., Canada, U.K., France, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Portugal.

Cold War Role:

- Main aim: **containment of Soviet Union.**
- Created a strong deterrence with U.S. nuclear umbrella.

Post-Cold War (1990s):

- With the dissolution of the USSR (1991), NATO redefined itself.
- Expanded eastwards — admitting ex-Soviet bloc countries (Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic in 1999).

21st Century:

- Focus on **counterterrorism, cyber threats, hybrid warfare, and Russia's assertiveness.**
- NATO-led operations in **Afghanistan (ISAF, 2001–2014).**
- Response to **Russia's annexation of Crimea (2014)** → Enhanced deterrence in Eastern Europe.
- Ongoing response to **Russia–Ukraine war (2022–)**: NATO supports Ukraine with arms, intelligence, and financial aid, though Ukraine is not a member.

Membership (2025)

- **32 Members:**
 - Latest: **Finland (2023)** and **Sweden (2024)** joined after the Ukraine crisis.
- **Open Door Policy:** Any European country that meets political, economic, and military criteria can join.

Structure of NATO

North Atlantic Council (NAC)

- Principal decision-making body.
- Each member has one vote.
- Decisions taken by **consensus** (no majority voting).

Secretary General

- Head of NATO, coordinates and represents the alliance.
- Current (2025): **Mark Rutte** (Netherlands).

Military Command Structure

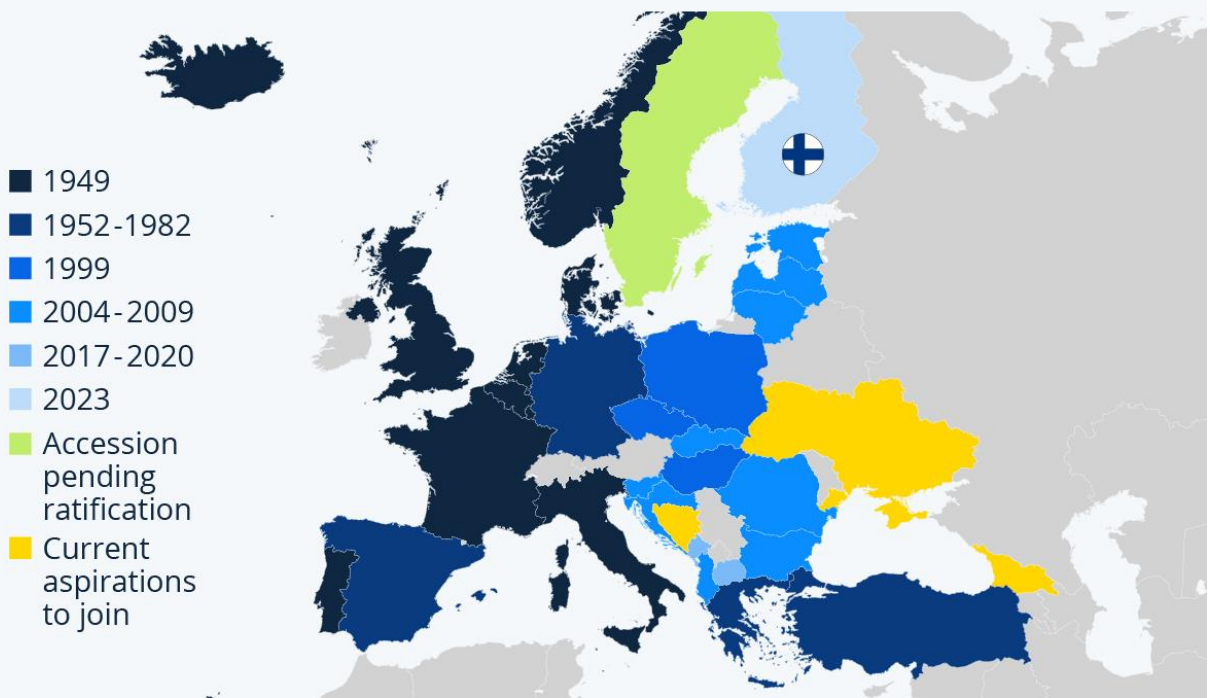
- **Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR):** Traditionally a U.S. general.
- Responsible for NATO's military operations.

Headquarters

- Located in **Brussels, Belgium.**

Finland Becomes 31st Member of NATO

European countries by year they joined NATO



Map excludes the United States and Canada, both founding members of NATO.

India and NATO

- **India is NOT a member** of NATO.
- India historically pursued **non-alignment**, avoiding Cold War blocs.
- NATO-India relations:
 - Limited, mostly dialogue-based.
 - India participates in **peacekeeping operations**, regional security dialogues, and counterterrorism discussions.
 - NATO has sometimes expressed interest in engaging with India in the Indo-Pacific, but India prefers **strategic autonomy**.

UPSC Prelims 2025

Consider the following countries:

I. Austria

II. Bulgaria

III. Croatia

IV. Serbia

V. Sweden

VI. North Macedonia

How many of the above are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization?

[A] Only three

[B] Only four

[C] Only five

[D] All the six

Answer: B

UPSC Mains 2023 GS Paper – 2

‘The expansion and strengthening of NATO and a stronger US-Europe strategic partnership works well for India. What is your opinion about this statement? Give reasons and examples to support your answer.

'Immediate impact of U.S. tariff on pharma exports unlikely'

Bulk of the exports are generics, most large pharma companies already operate U.S. manufacturing or repackaging firms: Pharmexcil chairman

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

India's pharma exporters body Pharmexcil does not anticipate any immediate impact of the 100% tariff on branded and patented pharmaceutical imports the U.S. President Donald Trump announced on September 25 that left world trade already reeling under his other recent tariff decisions in a tizzy and scrambling for clarity.

"The proposed 100% tariff on branded and patented pharmaceutical imports is unlikely to have an immediate impact on Indian exports, as bulk of our contribution lies in simple generics. Most large Indian companies already operate U.S. manufacturing or repackaging units and are exploring acquisitions," Pharmexcil chairman Namit Joshi said, pointing out to the exemption, from the tariff, proposed for such companies.

Referring to the ongoing investigations under Section 232 in the U.S., to determine the effect of imports on national security, he said they appear to be focussed elsewhere and have not taken a direct call on generics. "Nonetheless, it is prudent to remain prepared for future policy shifts and to build risk-mitigation strategies," said Mr.

Better pill

Pharma exports to the U.S increased more than 20% from \$8.73 billion in FY24 to \$10.51 bn in FY25

Exports to the U.S. accounted for 34.51% of total pharma exports in FY25 as against more than 31% in the previous fiscal

India's total pharma exports (US\$ in million)

2023-24	27,849
2024-25	30,466

An increase of **9.40%** year on year



Source: Pharmexcil

Nifty Pharma down 2%

Ashokamithran T.

Nifty Pharma index slipped 2.14%, to 21,507.20 points after U.S. President Trump announced a 100% tariff on branded pharmaceutical trade.

Responding to the news, the index fell over 2%, the steepest fall since

August. To be sure, the index fell 8.32% on a year-to-date basis. BSE Healthcare index, too, fell 2.14% to 43,046.69. Barring Torrent, IPCA Laboratories, and JB Chemicals, which rose, the rest of the stocks in the index fell. Laurus Labs for instance fell 7.15% from its previous close.

Joshi. Laurus Labs CEO Satyanarayana Chava said it is early to comment as world needs to understand the process to be followed by U.S. On his company's exposure to the U.S. market, he said "we believe any tariff burden is likely to be passed on to our clients," Other companies have been hinting at taking the same route.

Partner at Grant Thornton Bharat Manoj Mishra

said companies manufacturing branded products abroad for the U.S. may face headwinds, while domestic generic producers could see near-term gains as higher prices for branded drugs push demand toward cost-effective alternatives.

ICRA V-P Deepak Jotwani said India's strength lies in generic drug exports, which are currently exempt from the tariffs.

Context

- U.S. President Donald Trump announced a **100% tariff on branded and patented pharmaceutical imports** (Sept 25, 2025).
- While this shook global trade, Indian pharma exporters assessed that the **immediate impact on India is limited**.
- Reason: India's pharma export basket is dominated by **low-cost generics**, which are **currently exempt** from the tariff.
- Many large Indian pharma firms already have **manufacturing/repackaging facilities in the U.S.**, shielding them from tariff impact.

Background

India's Pharma Export Profile

- India is the **largest supplier of generic medicines** globally (20% of global generics exports).
- The U.S. is India's **largest market** (~30–35% of pharma exports).
- Strength: cost-effective generics, biosimilars, vaccines.

U.S. Tariff & Trade War Context

- Trump administration imposed tariffs under Section 232 (national security grounds).
- Focus was on **reducing dependency on foreign pharma** for critical medicines.
- Patented & branded imports are directly targeted, **not generics**.

Corporate Adaptation

- Large Indian firms (Sun Pharma, Dr. Reddy's, Cipla, Lupin, Aurobindo, etc.) already operate in the U.S. through subsidiaries.
- Exemption for such facilities limits immediate disruption.

Risk Factors

- Future tariff expansion to generics remains a **policy risk**.
- Companies may pass on tariff burden to clients → higher drug prices in U.S. → demand shift toward generics.

Mains Focus Points

(GS Paper 2 & 3 – Economy, Trade, Health, IR)

Limited Short-Term Impact

- Generics exempt, hence India's core export remains unaffected.
- May even gain in the short term as U.S. consumers shift from costly branded drugs to affordable generics.

Medium to Long-Term Concerns

- If U.S. policy extends tariffs to generics, Indian exports could face major challenges.
- Indian firms dependent on U.S. regulatory approvals (FDA). Any **non-tariff barriers** can hurt.

Strategic Response for India

- Diversification of export markets (EU, Africa, Latin America).
- Strengthen **domestic R&D** to reduce dependence on low-margin generics → move into **patented molecules, biosimilars, vaccines**.
- Enhance **domestic manufacturing resilience** under *Atmanirbhar Bharat* and *PLI scheme for pharmaceuticals*.

Geopolitical & Trade Dimensions

- Tariff measures highlight **protectionist trends** in U.S. trade policy.
- India needs to use **bilateral trade negotiations** (India–U.S. Trade Policy Forum) to safeguard pharma exports.
- Pharma sector is strategic for India's **soft power & health diplomacy** (e.g., COVID-19 vaccine exports).