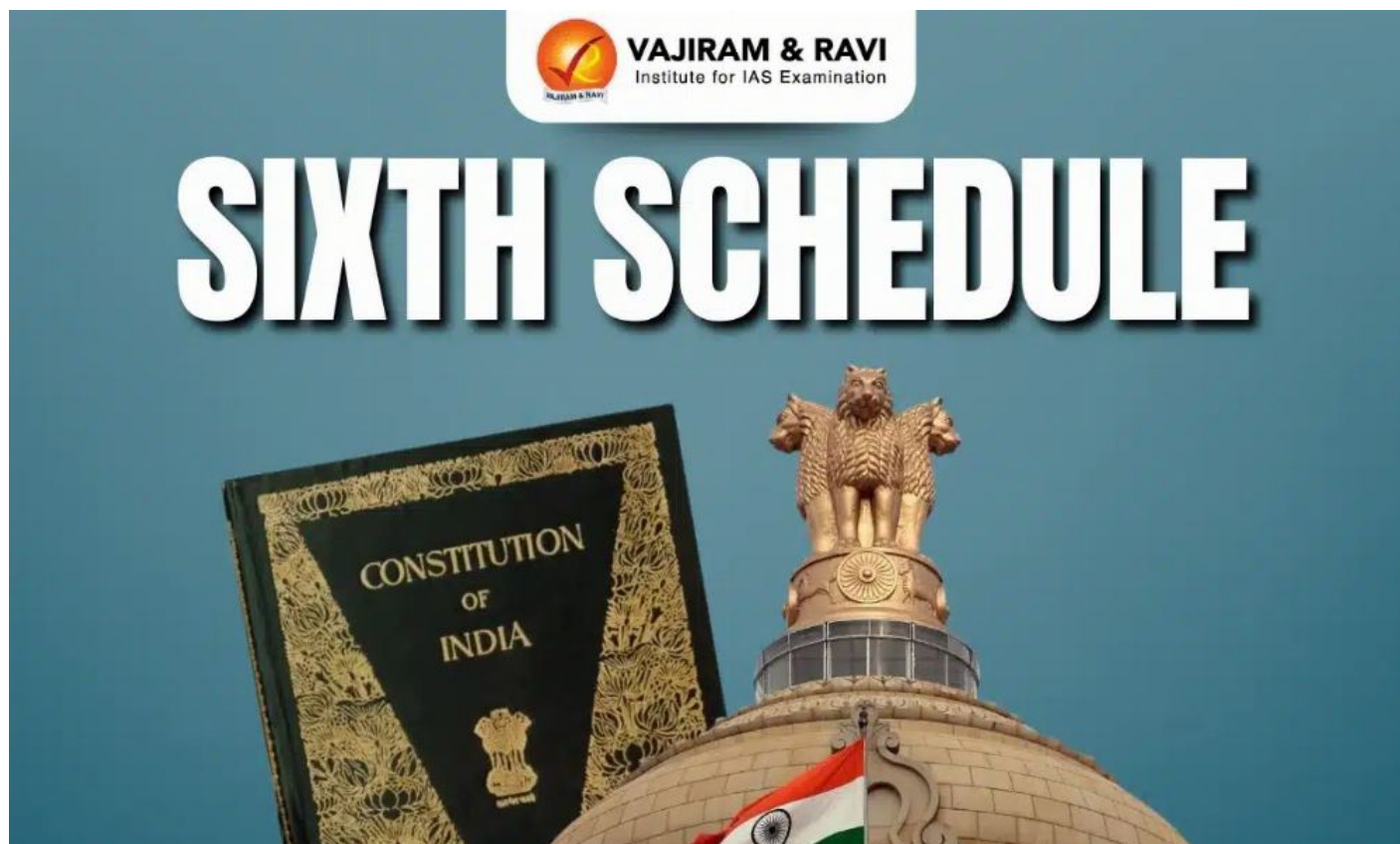


Sixth Schedule

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Sixth Schedule Latest News

Recently, Ladakh witnessed one of its worst episodes of violence in decades over demands for statehood and inclusion under the Sixth Schedule.

About the Sixth Schedule

- The **Sixth Schedule** of the Indian Constitution is a special provision that deals with the **administration of tribal areas in the Northeast**.
- It was framed on the recommendations of the **Bordoloi Committee** (Sub-Committee of the Constituent Assembly on the North-East Frontier (Assam) Tribal and Excluded Areas).
- The framers recognised the **distinct cultural identity and vulnerability** of the tribal population in these areas and thus provided for a system of **autonomous governance**.
- It came into effect along with the Constitution in **1950**, under **Articles 244(2) and 275(1)**.
- Unlike the **Fifth Schedule**, which applies to other tribal areas of India, the Sixth Schedule provides **greater autonomy through elected Autonomous Councils** with legislative, judicial, and financial powers.

- These provisions are unique to the **four Northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram**.

Provisions under the Sixth Schedule

- **Article 244(2):** Applies Sixth Schedule provisions to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
- **Autonomous Districts & Regions:** Tribal areas are administered as **Autonomous Districts**, which may be subdivided into **Autonomous Regions** by the Governor.
- **Governor's Powers:** Can reorganise districts, alter boundaries, and rename autonomous areas.
- **District & Regional Councils:** Each Autonomous District has a **District Council** (up to 30 members, 4 nominated by the Governor, others elected by **adult suffrage**).
 - **Regional Councils** created for distinct tribal groups.
- **Law-making Powers:** Councils can legislate on **land, forests (except reserved forests), inheritance, customary laws, and money-lending/trading by outsiders**.
 - All such laws require the **Governor's assent**.
- **Administration of Justice:** Councils can establish **Village and District Council Courts** for disputes where both parties are tribals.
 - Jurisdiction excludes serious crimes (punishable with death or imprisonment for over 5 years).
- **Revenue & Resource Control:** Councils can levy taxes, collect land revenue, and regulate **mineral extraction**.
- **Local Administration:** Councils manage **primary schools, dispensaries, markets, roads, fisheries, transport, and waterways**.
- **Parliament/State Laws:** Apply only with **exceptions or modifications** in these areas.
- **Governor's Commission:** Can review and report on the administration of autonomous regions.

Source: **IE**

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