Polity & Governance · GS - II

Discuss the role of decentralised governance institutions in addressing the developmental and cultural concerns of tribal and geographically distinct regions. Examine the significance and challenges of strengthening local governance in Ladakh.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Democratic decentralisation, local participation, tribal rights, cultural identity, regional development, Autonomous Hill Development Councils, administrative autonomy, financial devolution, accountability, constitutional safeguards.

Model Answer

Introduction

Decentralised governance enables local communities to participate in decisions affecting their development, culture and livelihoods. It is particularly important in geographically distinct and tribal regions such as Ladakh.

Significance of Decentralisation

- **Local representation:** Councils can provide institutional channels for communities to communicate their priorities.
- **Region-specific planning:** Development initiatives can reflect local geography, climate, livelihoods and infrastructure needs.

- **Cultural protection:** Local institutions can support the preservation of languages, traditions and customary practices.
- **Accountability:** Greater participation can improve oversight of local development programmes.

Challenges

Limited financial and administrative powers may constrain local institutions. Difficult terrain, sparse populations and inadequate infrastructure can complicate service delivery. Coordination between councils and higher levels of government is also essential.

Way Forward

Clear allocation of powers, adequate funding, transparent decision-making and capacity-building are necessary. Local communities should participate meaningfully in planning, while applicable constitutional protections and accountability mechanisms must be respected.

Conclusion

Strengthening decentralised institutions can make governance more inclusive and responsive, provided local representation is supported by adequate resources and effective institutional authority.

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