

Local Government | Important PYQ Topics

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INTRODUCTION

- Local self-Government includes both **rural and urban government**.
- Constitutional status: **73rd and 74th amendment act 1992**.
- Local Government is a **state subject** under the **seventh schedule**.
- **Article 40** – ‘the State shall take steps to organise village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government’.

IMPORTANT COMMITTEES FORMED

- **Ashok Mehta Committee (1977)**
 - Recommended a **two-tier Panchayat Raj institutional structure** consisting of Zilla Parishad and Mandal Panchayat.
- **V.K. Rao Committee (1985)**
 - Recommended making the **“district” as the basic unit of planning** and also holding regular elections.
- **M. Singhvi Committee (1986)**
 - Recommended providing **more financial resources and constitutional status** to the panchayats to strengthen them.
- **Gadgil Committee (1988)**
 - **3 tiers**
 - Recommended constitutionality, planning and development at district level.
 - **Direct elections** for members of the Panchayats at all the three levels.
 - **Fixed five years term** of Panchayati Raj institution.

RURAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- **Part-IX** to the Constitution of India. This part is entitled as **‘The Panchayats’** and consists of provisions from **Articles 243 to 243 O**.
- **Eleventh Schedule** to the Constitution. This schedule contains **29 functional items** of the panchayats. It deals with **Article 243-G**.

URBAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Purpose of **democratic decentralisation**.
- **Eight types** of urban local governments in India - Municipal Corporation, Municipality, Notified Area Committee, Town Area Committee, Cantonment Board, township, port trust, special purpose agency.

- Dealt with by the following **three Ministries**: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Defense in the case of cantonment boards, Ministry of Home Affairs in the case of Union Territories.
- **Part IX -A** and consists of provisions from articles **243-P to 243-ZG**.
- Added **12th Schedule** to the Constitution. It contains **18 functional items** of Municipalities and deals with **Article 243 W**.

FEATURES OF 73rd and 74th CAA

- **Basic units**: Gram Sabhas (villages) and Ward Committees (Municipalities).
- **Three-tier system** of panchayats at village and district levels except in States with population is below 20 lakhs (**Article 243B**).
- Seats at all levels to be filled by **direct elections** Article **243C (2)**.
- **Seats reserved** for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- **One-third** of the total number of **seats to be reserved for women**.
- **Uniform five years term and elections**.
- **Independent Election Commission in each State**.
- 74th Amendment provides for a **District Planning Committee**.
- Establish a **Finance Commission in each State**.

PYQs

Q. Local self-government can be best explained as an exercise in

- a) Federalism
- b) Democratic decentralisation**
- c) Administrative delegation
- d) Direct democracy

Q. The local self-government system in India has not proved to be an effective instrument of governance". Critically examine the statement and give your views to improve the situation.