

CIVICS

Our Local Government

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Competencies related to Civics : Std VI

It is expected that by the end of Std VI students will have developed the competencies given below.

S.No.	Unit	Competencies
1.	Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop an attitude of respect for rules and discipline through mutual co-operation between the various sections of society. - Understanding that individuals, families and institutions together make up a society. - To be able to see that, although there are people who speak different languages and follow different religions in India, there is unity among them all. - To understand the necessity for equality of all religions for the sake of national unity.
2.	Regulation of Society Regulation in Rural Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To understand that participation of every individual is important in addressing public issues. - To understand that women participate actively in the Gram Sabha. - To obtain information about the Panchayat Samiti and office bearers of administration. - To obtain information about the Zilla Parishad office bearers and its administration. - To understand that local government bodies are the foundation of democracy.
3.	Regulation of Society Regulation in Urban Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To understand the structure and functions of the urban local government bodies. - To obtain information about the administration and office bearers of the urban local government bodies. - To understand that the problems in rural and urban areas are different.
4.	District Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To understand the role of the District Collector in District Administration - To obtain information about the District Police administration - To understand the importance of the judiciary - To understand that local administration is meant for the welfare of the people - To understand that in disaster management, participation of the people is as important as that of the Administration.

1. Our Life in Society

- 1.1 Why did man feel the need for society ?
- 1.2 The social nature of man
- 1.3 Our development
- 1.4 What is society?

In the fifth standard, you have learnt about the evolution of man. It tells us that our present social life has taken shape through a process of evolution over thousands of years. Man has moved from a nomadic stage to a settled social life.

functioning of day-to-day matters. It gave rise to conventions, traditions, ethics and values, rules and laws. Man's life in society became more organized and stable.

1.2 The social nature of man

Man is social by nature. We all basically like to live with one another, in each other's company and with people around us. Living with people not only makes us happy, it is also our need.

We have many needs. Food, shelter,



What will society be like 50 years from now? Discuss.

1.1 Why did man feel the need for society?

A stable and secure community life is necessary for the development of the individual as well as society. In the nomadic stage, man did not have this stability and security. When man realized that living in a group provides security, people came together to develop an organized way of life. This was one of the main motivations for the creation of society. Living in society, man felt the need for rules to help with the smooth

clothing are our physical needs. Once these are satisfied, man gets a sense of stability, but that is not enough. We also have some emotional and psychological needs. For example, to feel secure is an emotional need. When we are happy, we wish to share our happiness with others. Similarly, when we are sad, we wish to have somebody with us. We like the companionship of our family members, relatives and friends! These feelings reflect our social nature.



Speak and write.

You have got the first prize in a drawing competition. Will you keep it to yourself or show it to your friends? How do you expect them to respond? What were your feelings after their response?

- Felt very happy about the appreciation.
- Felt motivated to draw good pictures.
- (Write more about the feelings you experienced.)

You know that food, clothes, shelter, education and health are our basic needs. Due to the labour and skills of people in the society, a variety of articles are produced. Education and health-related services and facilities allow us to live with dignity. All this is made available in a society. A variety of industries and occupations help to fulfil our needs. For example, we need books for studying; and paper for books. That is why occupations like manufacturing paper, printing, book binding, etc. also develop. Many people contribute to this process. Thus, the variety of occupations in the society help us in fulfilling our needs. This also leads to the development of our skills and capabilities. Our basic needs are fulfilled in society. We depend on each other for our emotional needs such as security, appreciation, praise and support etc. Thus, our life in society is interdependent.



Try this.

Make a list of all the different things we need every day. Who are the people who make these things and help to bring them to you? Find out the answers in relation to at least 5 things you use daily.

1.3 Our development

Every person is born with some qualities and capabilities. But they are dormant. They develop in a society. We use language to communicate with one another, but we cannot do so at birth. We learn language gradually. Our first language is the one that is spoken at home. If our neighbours speak different languages, we pick up those too. Schools also provide opportunities to learn different languages.

We also have the capacity to think independently. For example, when all the students in a class are given the same topic for an essay, why is it that no two essays are the same? It is because the thought process in each is different. Society helps in the development of our emotional capabilities and the power to think. It also provides the opportunity for expressing our thoughts and feelings.

The development of our artistic and other talents also takes place in society. Singers, musicians, artists, scientists, adventurers, social workers can all develop their qualities further because of the backing and encouragement of society. This encouragement is very important.

1.4 What is meant by society?

Society includes all people – men, women, grown-ups, old people, young children. Our families are a part of the society. Society also includes different groups, institutions and organizations. The inter-relationships and inter-actions between the people, their dependence on one another and sharing also form a part of the society. Society is not simply a mob or crowd of people. A society is formed when people come together to achieve certain common objectives.

In order to fulfil needs like food, clothing, shelter and security, the society has to create a permanent system. Without such a system, the day-to-day affairs of



Do you know?

All human beings are equal by birth. They have the same status as human beings. According to the Constitution of India, all are equal before the law. The Constitution guarantees the equality of opportunities. We can each make progress using our education, capabilities and skills.

the society cannot be carried on. A system is essential for the continued existence of the society. For example, agriculture is essential to fulfil the need for food. Various institutions must be created to perform all the functions related to agriculture. Therefore, a vast system needs to be created which includes factories to manufacture tools and equipment used for farming, banks to provide loans to the farmers, a market for the goods produced, etc. The existence of many such systems makes a society stable.

In the next chapter, we shall learn about the diversity in the Indian society.



Exercise

1. Fill in the blanks.

- (1) Man felt the need for for the day to day affairs of society to run smoothly.
- (2) helps the development of people's talents.
- (3) We all have some emotional and some needs, too.

2. Answer in one sentence.

- (1) Which are our basic needs?
- (2) Whose company do we like?
- (3) What opportunities does society provide us with?

3. What do you think? Answer in two or three sentences.

- (1) How is a society formed?
- (2) Why is it necessary to set up a permanent system in society?

- (3) What makes life in society more stable and organized?
- (4) If there were no social institutions, what difficulties would we have faced?

4. What would you do in the following situations?

- (1) Your friend has forgotten to bring something they need in school.
- (2) You meet a blind or otherwise handicapped person on the way.

Activities

- (1) Meet a skilled tradesman who makes farmers' tools. Make a list of all those who help the farmer in his work.
- (2) Visit a nearby bank and find out the different purposes for which the bank lends money.
- (3) Make a list of man's basic needs and some additional needs.

2. Diversity in Society

- 2.1 Diversity is our strength.
- 2.2 The principle of secularism
- 2.3 The contribution of society to our development
- 2.4 Regulation of society

There are many languages, religions, cultures, customs and traditions in Indian society. This diversity is a mark of our rich cultural heritage. We live among people who speak different languages such as Marathi, Kannada, Telugu, Bengali, Hindi, Gujarati, Urdu. They celebrate their festivals and cultural events in different ways. Their modes of worship are also different. Our country consists of regions with different historical legacies where this diversity is shared and celebrated! As all these different communities in our country have lived together for many many years, a feeling of oneness has developed among them. This feeling of oneness leads to unity in Indian society.

2.1 Diversity is our strength.

To live with different groups is to experience co-existence. Co-existence helps to increase the level of understanding among the people. It acquaints us with each other's traditions, customs and ways of life. We learn to respect each others' way of life. We even adopt certain traditions from others. This helps to increase the feeling of unity in the society. This social unity helps us to face many natural and social calamities together.

2.2 The principle of secularism

Indian society consists of people following different religions. Our Constitution has made important provisions to ensure that all religious

communities will have the freedom to worship according to their faith and to help develop a feeling of mutual understanding.

India is an important secular nation of the world. We have great linguistic and religious diversity in our country. In order to preserve this diversity in a sound and healthy manner, we have accepted the principle of secularism. Accordingly,

- No religion is recognized as the religion of our country.
- Every person has the freedom of worship as per their religion or the religion of their choice.
- There can be no discrimination among people on the basis of their religion. The people of all religions are treated equally by the State.
- Opportunities for education, means of livelihood and government jobs are made available to all. There is no discrimination on the basis of religion.
- There are special provisions in the Constitution for the protection of religious and linguistic minorities. Minorities are free to protect and preserve their linguistic and cultural identities. They are also free to bring about the development of their own communities through education.
- The principle of secularism has helped to maintain religious harmony in Indian society.

2.3 The contribution of society to our development

What do we learn by living in a society? What values, qualities do we imbibe? Let us see how society helps to develop our personality.

Cooperation : All societies are based on mutual cooperation between individuals and the community. The very existence

of the society depends on the cooperation between individuals. Cooperation is the process of sharing and helping each other in solving problems and removing difficulties. A family cannot remain together without an attitude of cooperation among its members. The same is true of society. Lack of cooperation hampers our progress. Day-to-day life will also not run smoothly. Cooperation makes interdependence in society healthier and allows inclusion of everybody in the society. It is a process of inclusion and of moving ahead taking along all sections of society.



Let's discuss.

We must cooperate with efforts aimed at the education and development of girls and the weaker and deprived sections of our society. For this purpose, obtain information about the relevant government schemes. Discuss in class what you can do for the development of these sections of our society. Share the important points from your discussion with students of other classes.

Tolerance and understanding : Just as there is cooperation in the society, so also at times there can be differences of opinion, disputes and conflicts. Disputes and conflicts arise when there is lack of agreement in the opinions, ideas and views of the people. Prejudices or misconceptions about each other can also lead to conflicts. However, it is in nobody's interest to keep a conflict going for a long time. People find a way to resolve conflicts through compromise and understanding. Thus, conflicts can end if people make efforts to understand each other and show a spirit of tolerance.

An understanding attitude leads to a lot of new learning. We accept new ideas. This helps to further enrich our social life. We become more tolerant. Society provides us an opportunity to learn this simple method of maintaining well-being and peace in society.



Can you do it?

You, too, may have made some compromises. Some such experiences are given below. Add more experiences of your own.

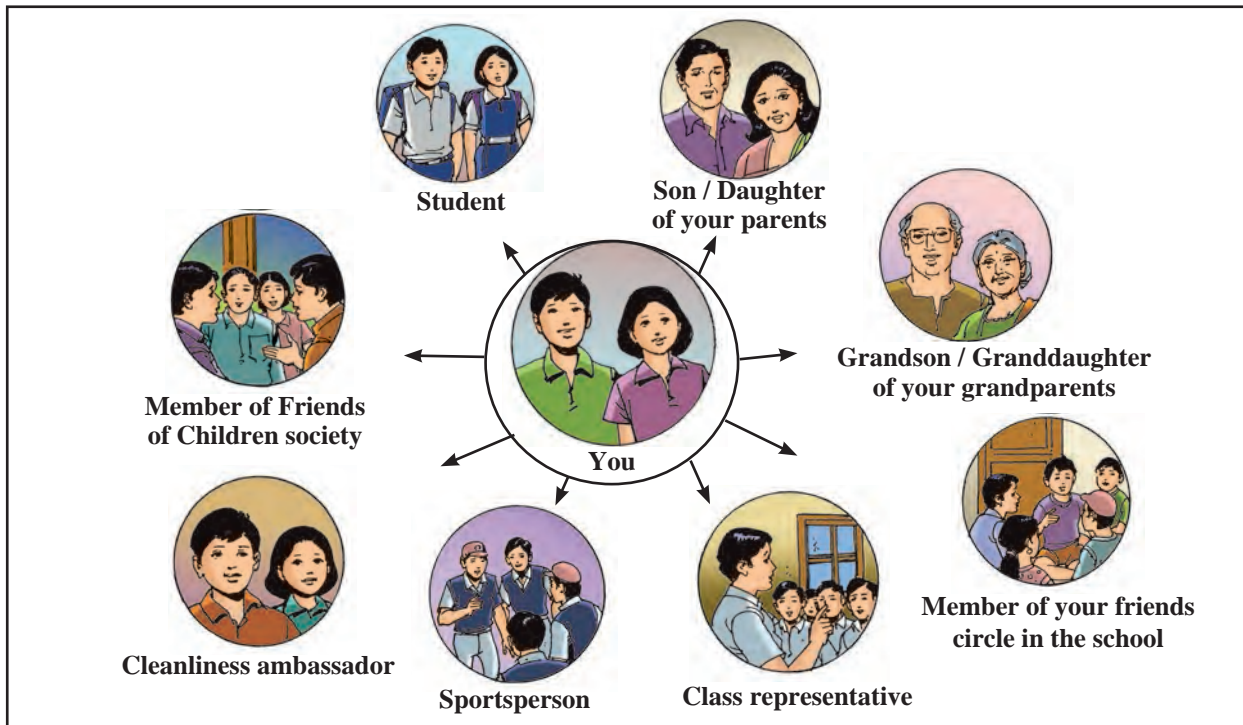
- The hall is packed full of students. You see a person standing. You move over a little on your bench, to make room for the person.
- You want a cycle with gears. But your parents have to pay your sister's school fees. You give up your demand.
- Your family was able to sort out a dispute with the neighbours over the boundary of the field, without going to the court. Your neighbour Sopan is now a good friend of yours.

An opportunity to perform different roles : In society, we play different roles. Each individual has several roles and the responsibilities and duties of every role are well-defined. While playing these roles at home and outside, we form bonds with many people. However, changes may occur in the parts we play.



Try this.

Look at the picture on the next page. Spot the picture that clearly defines your role today. Discuss the new roles that you will have to carry out after twenty years.



2.4 Regulation of society

In order that society functions smoothly, some rules are required. In ancient times, society was mostly regulated with the help of traditions. But in modern times, along with traditions, laws are needed. Law is different from

traditions and customs. The regulation of society through laws and traditions is carried out by different organizations and institutions. The government bodies at the local level also play an important role in the process of regulation of society.



Exercise

1. Fill in the blanks.

- (1) To live among a variety of communities is to experience..... .
- (2) India is an important nation of the world.
- (3) Cooperation makes in society healthier.

2. Answer each of the following questions in one sentence.

- (1) What is meant by cooperation?
- (2) Why have we accepted the principle of secularism?

3. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences.

- (1) What is it that shows the unity in Indian society?

- (2) When do conflicts arise in society?

- (3) What are the advantages of cooperation?

- (4) You see two children quarrelling. What would you do?

- (5) You are the Chief Minister of the School Cabinet. What are the functions you would perform?

Activities

- (1) Set up and run a Students' Cooperative Store in your school, with the help of your teachers. Write about your experiences of this activity.
- (2) Make a chart of all the rules you follow in the school and in your class and display the chart in your class.

3. Rural Local Government Bodies

3.1 The Gram Panchayat

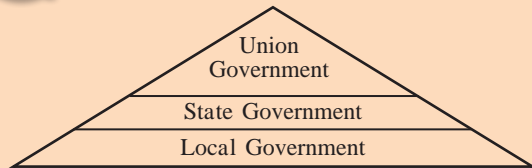
3.2 The Panchayat Samiti

3.3 The Zilla Parishad

Local government bodies play an important role in the regulation of social life. In our country, along with local bodies, the Union Government and the State Government also participate in the work of regulation. The local government bodies are broadly classified as rural and urban local bodies. In this chapter, we will learn about the rural local government bodies. The Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad are the rural local government bodies that are collectively known as the 'Panchayati Raj Institutions'.

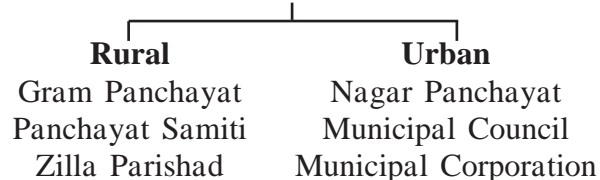


Do you know ?



The administration in our country is carried on at three levels. The administration for the entire country is carried out by the Union Government. Subjects such as defence, foreign affairs, currency, etc. are the jurisdiction of the Union Government. At the second level is the State Government. The State Government of Maharashtra makes laws related to law and order, health, education, etc. The local government bodies work at the third level.

Local Government Bodies



3.1 Gram Panchayat

The Gram Panchayat looks after the administration of the village. If the population of a village is less than 500, two or more such villages come under one Gram Panchayat. It is then called a 'Group Gram Panchayat'. The Gram Panchayat carries out the functions relating to water supply, electricity, registration of births, deaths and marriages.

The office bearers and officers of the Gram Panchayat

Sarpanch : The elections to a Gram Panchayat are held every five years. The elected members elect a Sarpanch and Deputy Sarpanch from among themselves. The meetings of the Gram Panchayat are held under the chairmanship of the Sarpanch. It is his responsibility to implement the development schemes of the village. The members of the Gram Panchayat can bring a motion of no confidence against a Sarpanch who is not carrying out his responsibilities properly. In the absence of the Sarpanch, the Deputy Sarpanch looks after the work of a Gram Panchayat.

Gram Sevak : He is the secretary of the Gram Panchayat. He is appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Parishad. His main function is to look after the day to day functioning of the Gram Panchayat, to explain its development schemes to the residents of the village, etc.

Gram Sabha : The assembly of all the voters of the village or rural area is the Gram Sabha. It is the most important organization of the people at the local level.

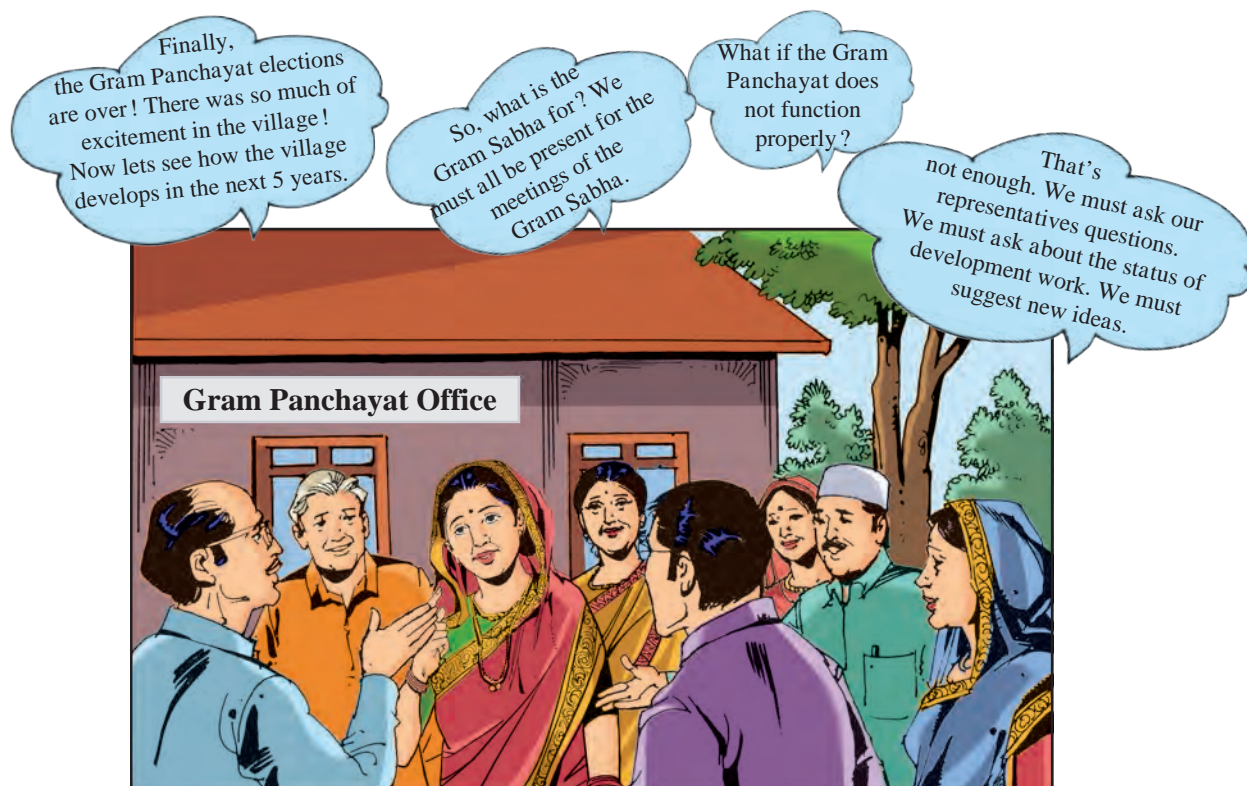
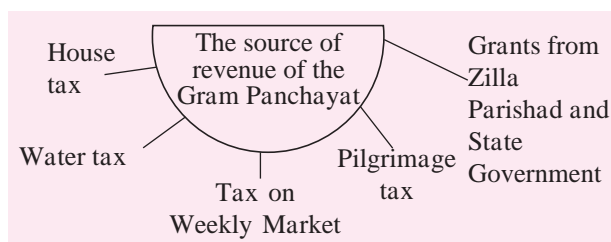
It is binding to hold at least six meetings of the Gram Sabha in each financial year. The responsibility of calling

the meetings of the Gram Sabha is with the Sarpanch. In the first meeting of each financial year, the Gram Sabha discusses the annual report and accounts submitted by the Gram Panchayat. The suggestions of the Gram Sabha are conveyed to the Gram Panchayat. The Gram Sabha gives sanction to the development schemes proposed by the Gram Panchayat. The Gram Sabha has the authority to decide upon which individuals deserve the benefits of Government schemes.

Women's participation in the Gram Sabha : A meeting of the women of a village is held before the meeting of the Gram Sabha. Here, women feel free to discuss a variety of issues. During the

Gram Sabha, they speak with greater concern about issues such as drinking water, prohibition, employment, fuel, health, etc. They also suggest measures for bringing about necessary changes.

The source of revenue of the Gram Panchayat : The Gram Panchayat carries out many schemes and programmes for the welfare of the village. For this purpose, it requires money. The Gram Panchayat raises these funds through different taxes.

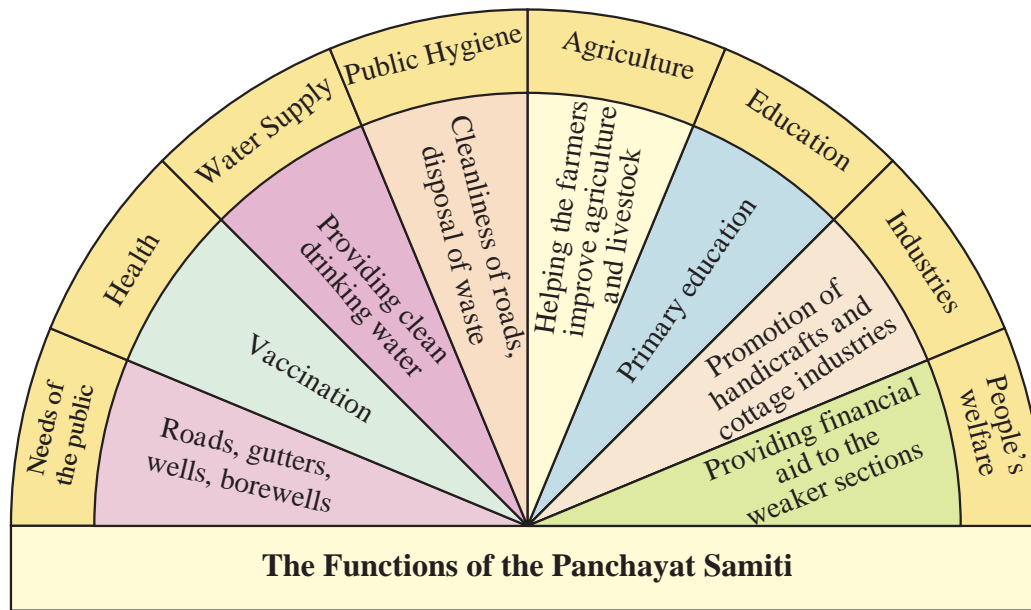


3.2 Panchayat Samiti

All the villages within a taluka form a development block. The body that looks after the functioning of the development block is the Panchayat Samiti. It also acts as a link between the Zilla Parishad and Gram Panchayat.

The office bearers of the Panchayat Samiti

Samiti : Elections to the Panchayat Samiti are held every five years. The elected members elect from among themselves, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti. The Chairman has the responsibility of calling



the meetings and conducting the business of the meetings. In the absence of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman presides over the meetings.

The Functions of the Panchayat Samiti: The Panchayat Samiti prepares a plan of the schemes to be implemented in the development block. It is binding on the Panchayat Samiti to hold at least one meeting every month.

The Panchayat Samiti receives a certain amount of money from the district funds. It also receives grants from the State Government to carry out the development schemes of the development block.

3.3 Zilla Parishad

Every District has a Zilla Parishad. At present, the State of Maharashtra has 36 districts but only 34 Zilla Parishads. The reason is that Mumbai City District and Mumbai Suburban District do not have a rural population. Therefore, they do not have Zilla Parishads.

The office-bearers of the Zilla Parishad : Elections to the Zilla Parishad are held every five years. The elected representatives choose a President and a Vice-President from among themselves.

The President of the Zilla Parishad presides over the meetings of the Zilla Parishad. He exercises control over business conducted during the meetings. He also controls the financial transactions of the Zilla Parishad.

He has the authority to undertake appropriate expenditure from the Zilla Parishad's funds. The Vice-President carries out these duties in the absence of the President.



Do you know ?

How does the Zilla Parishad function?

The work of the Zilla Parishad is carried out through different committees - the Finance Committee, Agriculture Committee, Education Committee, Health Committee, Water Management and Sanitation Committee, etc. The Women and Child Welfare Committee takes up issues related to problems faced by women and children.

Chief Executive Officer : The decisions taken by the Zilla Parishad are implemented by the Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Parishad. He is appointed by the State Government.



What would you do?

Imagine that you are the Chief Executive Officer of a Zilla Parishad. To which development plans would you give priority in your district?

Functions of the Zilla Parishad



Education Facilities



Health Facilities



Water Supply



Provision of Seeds



Electricity



Tree Plantation in the Village



What would you do?

Where would you tell Dinesh and Naina to go for the following things?

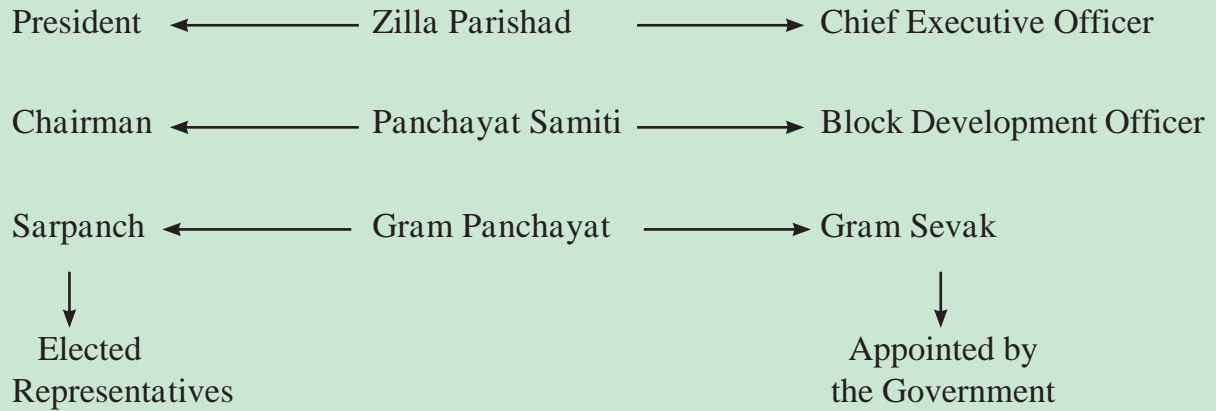
- To get their younger sibling vaccinated
- To accompany their father to get the 7/12 extract
- To learn about the use of a new manure
- To complain against contaminated water supply
- To get a birth certificate
- To get the income / caste certificate



Do you know ?

Our Constitution was amended in 1992 by the 73rd and 74th Amendment Act. These amendments have granted a constitutional status to the rural and urban local government bodies. It has also given them more powers to develop their respective areas more efficiently. The number of subjects under their jurisdiction were also increased. In order to enable them to work effectively, their sources of revenue have also been increased.

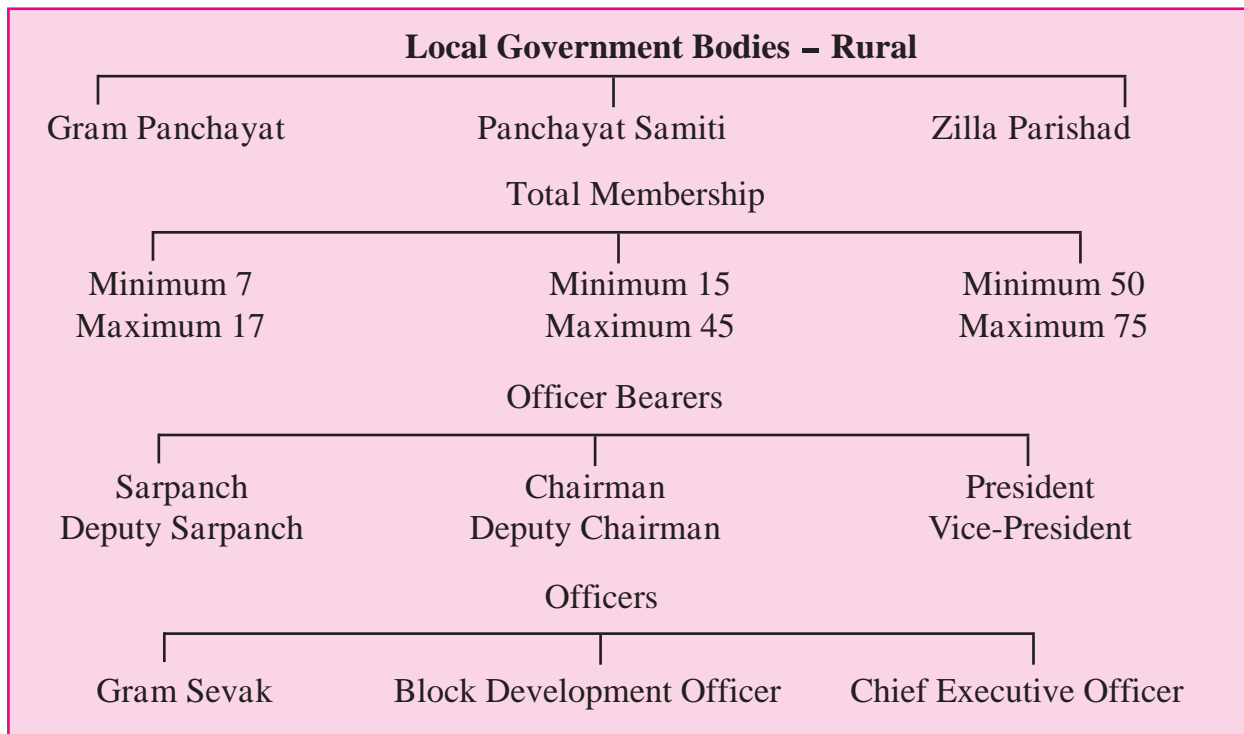
Panchayati Raj System at a Glance



Do you know ?

Who can contest elections?

In order to get elected to the Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad, candidates must fulfil certain conditions of eligibility. For example, he/she should be a citizen of India. He/She should have completed 21 years of age. The person's name should be enrolled in the local voters list. These conditions also apply to the urban local government bodies.



Exercise

1. Put a tick (✓) in the right box.

- (1) The looks after the local administration of the village.
 Gram Panchayat Panchayat Samiti Zilla Parishad
- (2) It is binding to hold at least meetings of the Gram Sabha in each financial year.
 Four Five Six
- (3) At present, there are districts in Maharashtra.
 34 35 36

- (2) The name of the Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti
- (3) The name of the Deputy Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti
- (4) The name of the Block Development Officer
- (5) The name of the Block Education Officer

2. Make a list of the functions of the Panchayat Samiti.

3. What is your opinion?

- (1) The Gram Panchayat levies various taxes.
- (2) The number of Zilla Parishads is less than the total number of districts in Maharashtra.

4. Complete the Table.

My Taluka, My Panchayat Samiti.
 (1) Name of the Taluka

5. Write a brief note on

- (1) The Sarpanch
 (2) The Chief Executive Officer

Project

- (1) Organize a mock Gram Sabha and enact the roles of the Sarpanch, members of the Gram Panchayat, voters, Gram Sevak.
- (2) Make a chart depicting the possible structure of a *Balsansad* and display it in the class.
- (3) Obtain information about the schemes run by the Zilla Parishad in your area or near your city.

4. Urban Local Government Bodies

4.1 The Nagar Panchayat

4.2 The Municipal Council

4.3 The Municipal Corporation

In the previous chapter, we have studied the nature of the local government bodies in the rural areas. In this chapter, we will learn something about the local government institutions in the urban areas. These include the Nagar Panchayat, the Municipal Council and the Municipal Corporation.

Our country has a large number of towns and cities and they are growing rapidly. Villages are growing into towns, towns into cities and cities into metropolises. The rural areas neighbouring cities are also getting transformed.



Let's discuss.

What are the main problems that cities face ?

Reshma had spent a wonderful Diwali vacation with her relatives in a city. However, she began to think about some of her experiences. Think along with Reshma about these incidents and write your thoughts in two paragraphs.

- The siren of the ambulance sounded loud and clear but there was no free way on the road.
- As a result of the decision to cut the water supply, there was a great crowd at the water supply tankers.
- Efforts were being made to provide facilities to senior citizens and small children in the parks.

Facilities and Problems in Cities

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Opportunities for industry and business | 1. Shortage of housing |
| 2. Expanding service sector | 2. Insufficient space |
| 3. Large scale opportunities for jobs | 3. Traffic congestion |
| 4. Availability of facilities for entertainment, art, culture, etc. | 4. Problem of disposal of waste |
| | 5. Increasing crime |
| | 6. A large proportion of population in slums |

4.1 Nagar Panchayat

The villages that are in the process of becoming towns have a Nagar Panchayat. We see some areas which are neither fully rural nor fully urban. In such areas, the local government body is the Nagar Panchayat. As with other local bodies, elections to a Nagar Panchayat are held every five years. The elected members

choose a President and a Vice-President from among themselves.

All local government bodies have to carry out some essential functions. What, according to you, are the essential functions of a Nagar Panchayat?

4.2 The Municipal Council

The Municipal Council is the local government body for small cities. Elections to the Council are held every five years. The elected representatives function as Councillors. As per the recent changes in the Act relating to Municipal Councils, the President is elected directly by the people. There is a provision to hold the election of the President simultaneously with the general election of the Council.

The President of the Municipal Council is the chairman of all its meetings. He controls the working of the Council and keeps a watch on the financial administration of the Council. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President looks after the work of the Council.

There are some functions that are binding on the Council. These are known as obligatory functions, for example, lighting of public streets, providing drinking water, public hygiene, sewage disposal, registration of birth/death/marriage, etc.

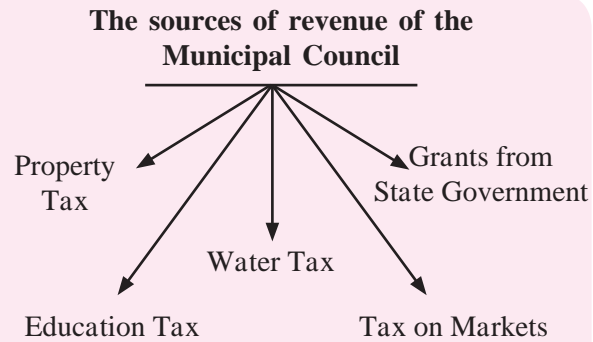
The Municipal Council also tries to provide additional facilities to the people and these functions are known as 'discretionary functions'. Planning new public roads and acquiring the necessary land, improving the condition of slums, creating public gardens and parks, providing secure shelters for cattle are some of the 'discretionary' functions of the Municipal Council.



Do you know ?

For every Municipal Council, there is a Chief Officer. He implements the decisions taken by the Municipal Council. There are several officers who assist him.

* Would you like to become such an officer? If you become a Health Officer, what functions would you perform?



What would you do?

1. When you hand over your household waste to the waste pickers....
2. The road is waterlogged as the water pipe has broken.
3. You notice that unclean, impure water is being used for *pani puris*.
4. Many people are throwing plastic bags from the bridge into the river.
5. The Municipal Council's programme to clean the slum areas has been published in the newspaper, but you think that one of the planned actions is improper.

Appeal from the Municipal Council

Calling all citizens – to take the following measures to stop breeding of mosquitoes and curb the spread of dengue :

- (1) Do not stack old tyres, coconut shells, empty cans or boxes on your terrace or around your house.
- (2) In case of persistent fever go to a doctor without delay.
- (3) Keep your surroundings clean.

* In response to the above, what would you do in your house and in the surroundings?

4.3 Municipal Corporation :

The local body that provides different services to the people in big cities is called 'Municipal Corporation'. The first Municipal Corporation in Maharashtra was established at Mumbai.

Find out : (1) In how many cities of Maharashtra State is the administration carried out through Corporations? (2) In which year was the Municipal Corporation of your city established?

The total number of members of a Municipal Corporation is determined so as to be in proportion to the population of the city. The elections to the Corporation are held every five years. The elected members are known as Corporators. They elect a Mayor and a Deputy Mayor from among themselves. The Mayor is considered to be the first citizen of the city. He presides over all the meetings of the Corporation. Many important issues regarding the city are discussed, and decisions regarding the development of the city are made in the General Body meeting of the Corporation.

According to the changes introduced in the election process of the Municipal Corporation, multi-member wards are created. From each ward, not less than three and not more than five members are elected. The voter can cast as many votes as the number of members to be elected from the ward. Thus, a voter can cast four votes if four members are to be elected from the ward.

The Committees of the Corporation:

The Corporation carries out its work through different committees. Some of the important committees are Education Committee, Health Committee, Transport Committee, etc.

Administration of the Corporation :

The Municipal Commissioner is the head of the administration of the Corporation. He is responsible for implementing the decisions taken by the Corporation. For example, if a Corporation takes the decision of putting a ban on the use of plastic bags, then the actual implementation of this policy is done by the Commissioner. He also prepares the annual budget of the Corporation and remains present for the general body meetings.



Try this.

Form an Education Committee for your class. The Committee should have an equal number of boys and girls as representatives. They should discuss the following issues and prepare a report.

- Facilities in the classroom
- A proposal for setting up a small library for the class
- Organising a sports competition



Do you know ?

The proportion of women in the total population is nearly half. Yet, very few women are seen to take part in the working of the government. Women handle issues like food, energy, water every day as part of their daily routine but they had no say in the decisions regarding these issues. A woman takes care of the water in the house but she did not participate in dealing with water issues. With fifty percent reservation for women in the local bodies, they now have got an opportunity to resolve important issues.

From the list given below, identify the functions of the Corporation and make a list.

Water supply

Police

Deciding the Railway time table

Protection of environment

Providing electricity for the streets

Demolition of unauthorized construction

Protecting the borders of the country

Registration of birth, death, marriages

Fire Brigade

Provide information about dangerous buildings

Elementary education

Permission for construction

Public transport in cities

Collection of Taxes

Sources of revenue of the Corporation

- House Tax
- Entertainment Tax
- Property Tax
- Raising Loans
- Water Tax
- State Government Grants
- Profession Tax

What did you feel on reading this ?

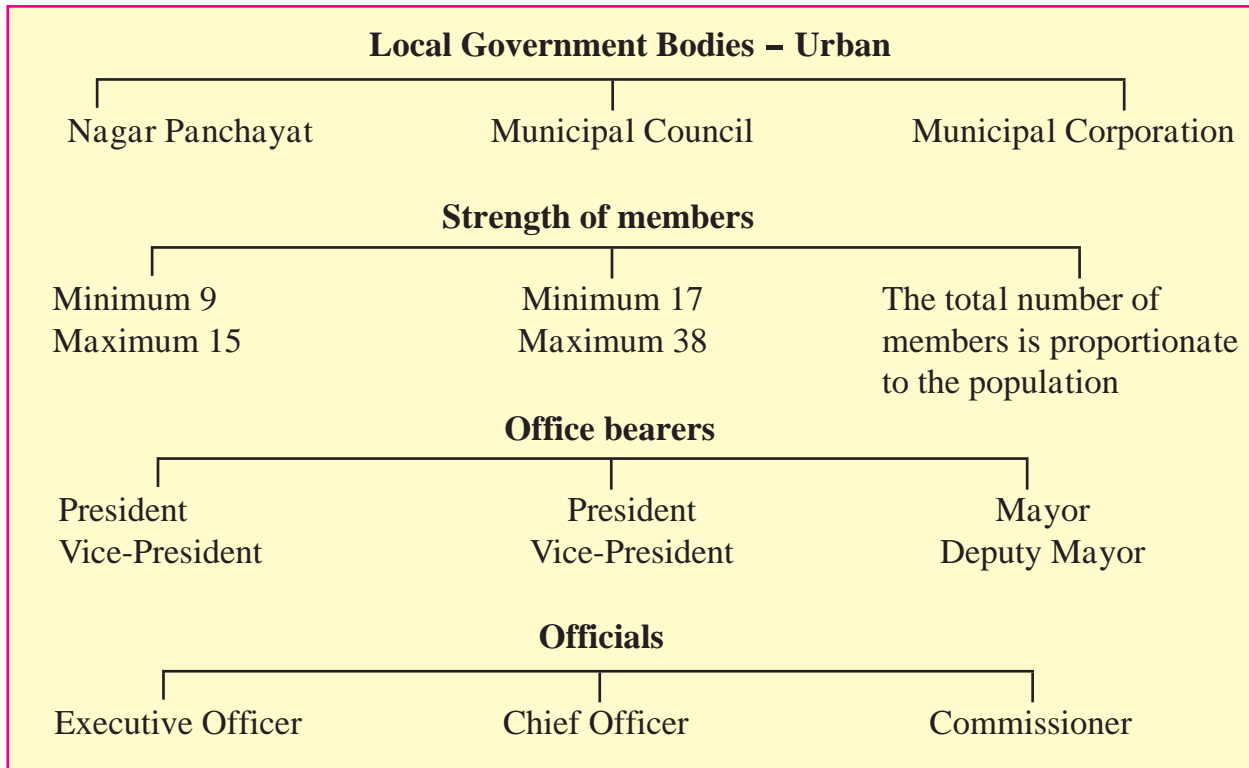
- The Metro will soon run in your city.
- Permission has been given for the construction of a 24 storey building.
- Gardens and Leisure Centres will be established in every ward.
- Action will be taken against those who use purified water to water the gardens or to wash their cars.
- It has been made compulsory to dispose of wet garbage within one's locality.
- Old age homes will be constructed for the benefit of senior citizens.

Why did the Corporation do it?

- The Corporation has refused permission for any construction work that would require the cutting down of trees.
- It has implemented many programmes to control the spread of diseases like dengue, swine flu, etc.
- Modernised the Fire Brigade.
- Inspected the weighing scales in the vegetable market.

Do this ...

Find out the hospitals run by the Municipal Council or Corporation in your area. What facilities are offered to the patients there? What is a person required to do if she/he wants to take treatment there?



Do you know ?

What is meant by reservation? Why is it necessary?

Out of the total number of seats to which people elect their representatives in a Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad, Municipal Council and Municipal Corporation, some seats are reserved for members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Class of Citizens. Only members from that specific category can be elected to the reserved seat. This is known as reservation of seats. Also, out of the total number of seats, half of the seats are reserved for women.

Reservation is necessary as it allows the deprived sections of the society and women to take part in the working of villages and cities and to participate in the decision making process. In a democracy, it is important that all the people get an opportunity to participate in all the processes.



Exercise

1. Choose the right option and fill in the blanks.

- (1) The first city in Maharashtra to have a Municipal Corporation
(Nagpur, Mumbai, Latur)
- (2) The body that looks after the administration of places that are in the process of becoming cities
(Municipal Council, Municipal Corporation, Nagar Panchayat)
- (3) The Office bearer who supervises the work of the Municipal Council.
(Chief Officer, Executive Officer, Commissioner)

2. Answer in brief.

- (1) What problems do people face in cities?
- (2) Name the various committees of the Municipal Corporation.

3. Make a chart giving information about the urban local government bodies according to the points given below.

Points	Nagar Panchayat	Municipal Council	Municipal Corporation
Office Bearers			
Number of Members			
Officers			

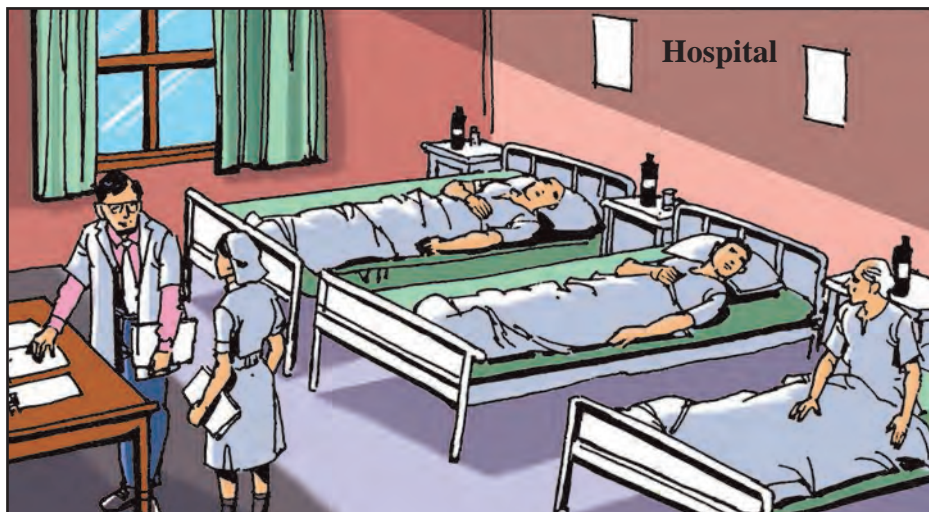
4. Can you tell?

- (1) Which are the essential functions of the Municipal Council?
- (2) Where does the Nagar Panchayat function?

5. Make different lists of places in your district according to whether they have a Nagar Panchayat, Municipal Council or a Municipal Corporation.

Activities

- (1) Make your own health awareness slogans to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases, and display them in your classroom.
- (2) Visit the Municipal Corporation nearest to you and find out which new schemes have been taken up. Discuss in class what you could do to contribute to them.

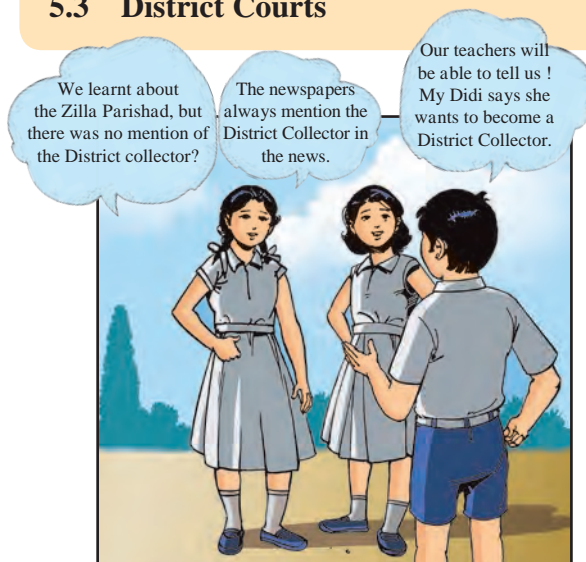


5. District Administration

5.1 The District Collector

5.2 The Chief of the District Police

5.3 District Courts



Do such questions occur to you, too? The Zilla Parishad is a part of the rural local government system i.e. the Panchayati Raj system. But in Maharashtra, the administration of the district is shared by both the Zilla Parishad and District Collector. The Union Government and State Government both participate in this administration.

5.1 The District Collector :

The District Collector is the head of the district administration. He is appointed by the State Government. He has to perform many functions from collecting agricultural tax to maintaining law and order in the district. We can see what these functions are from the chart given below.

District Collector			
Agriculture	Law and Order	Election Officer	Disaster Management
To collect agricultural tax	Establish peace in the district	To ensure smooth conduct of elections	To take quick decisions during times of disaster and prevent or minimise the damage
To implement laws relating to agriculture	To maintain social harmony	To take necessary decisions related to the electoral process.	To give orders to the disaster management units / cells.
To provide relief in case of drought and scarcity of fodder	To restrict unlawful assembly, impose curfew if required	To update the voters' lists	To rehabilitate / those affected by a disaster



Do you know ?

Why is it important to maintain social harmony?

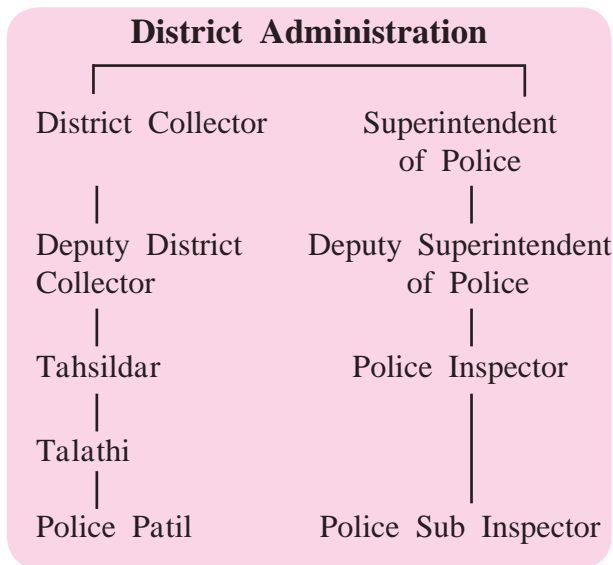
The differences of opinion, disputes and conflicts in the society must be resolved by peaceful means. However, when this does not happen it gives rise to tensions. If this leads to violent incidents, it disturbs social harmony. It acts as an obstacle to our progress. Public property is damaged. The District Collector makes efforts to prevent such occurrences but it is the duty of the citizens also to help maintain social harmony.

Tahsildar : There is a Tahsildar for every taluka or tehsil. As a Judicial Officer, he gives judgements to resolve conflicts at the local level. The Tahsildar has the responsibility of maintaining peace and order in the taluka.

5.2 The Chief of the District Police

In Maharashtra, there is a Superintendent of Police at every district headquarters. He is the chief Police Officer of the district. He helps the District Collector to maintain peace and order in the district. In the city, the Police Commissioner has the responsibility of maintaining law and order.

The Superintendent of Police inspecting a Police unit



5.3 District Courts

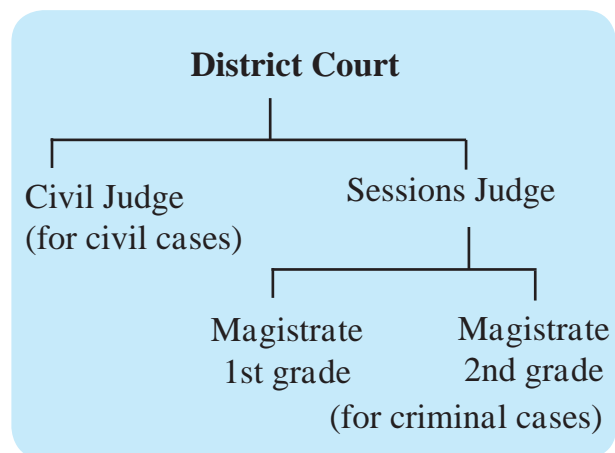
The Courts at the district level have to perform the function of resolving disputes, delivering judgments and ensuring that conflicts are resolved at the earliest.

The Constitution of India has established an independent judiciary. At the apex of that system is the Supreme Court of India. Below this are the High Courts, and below them, the lower courts. These include District Courts, Taluka Courts and Revenue Courts.



A court in session

The Court at the district level is known as the District Court. The district court has a chief District Judge and some other Judges. Their main function is to hear the various cases in the district and deliver the final judgment. One can appeal against the judgment of the taluka court in the District Court.



Disaster Management

Sometimes, we may have to face a calamity. It could be a natural disaster like floods, fire, a cloudburst, cyclone, earthquake, landslide or problems like riots, bomb blasts, breaking of a dam, epidemics, etc. These disasters lead to loss of human lives and displacement of people beside tremendous financial loss. Therefore, the issues of rehabilitation become important. 'Disaster Management' is a process which enables one to face a disaster in a scientific and organized manner. The entire machinery of a district is involved in this process. Advances in technology make it possible for us to get prior information about several kinds of disasters. For example, a system which can predict and warn us of floods or storms has been developed. These help us to be better prepared to face the disaster.



Always remember...

It is important to remain alert during a time of crisis. To face a disaster one needs the help of people as well as different systems and organizations. In order to be able to contact them urgently, one should display the contact numbers of the police, fire brigade, hospitals, blood banks at a prominent place in the house. Tell your friends also to do the same.



Do you know?

In Maharashtra, many officers have made serious attempts to bring about reforms in the administration. Their experiments have helped to improve the services provided to the citizens. This has helped the citizens to form a favourable opinion about the administration. As a result their support to the administration and their participation in it has improved.

(a) Lakhina Pattern : In order to make the administration efficient and to increase the quality of public services available to the citizens, Shri Anilkumar Lakhina brought about many reforms when he was District Collector of Ahmadnagar District. These are known as the 'Lakhina Pattern'. Standardization of work procedures, stating rules in simple language which could be understood by the people, etc. were the administrative changes he introduced. He also started the 'Single Window' system, so that jobs that people came to do could be completed under one roof.

(b) Dalvi Pattern : The administrative reforms implemented

by Shri Chandrakant Dalvi when he was District Collector of Pune District, are known as the 'Dalvi Pattern'. The objective of the reform was to speed up the decision making by ensuring that files were not allowed to stack up and that they were dealt with on the same day that they were received. This pattern is also known as 'Zero Pendency Pattern'. It helped in bringing efficiency and speed into administrative work.

(c) **Chahande Pattern** : When Dr Sanjay Chahande was the Divisional Commissioner of Nashik he implemented certain reforms which are now known

as the 'Chahande Pattern'. In order to reduce the gap between the people and the administration, to increase the accountability of the administration towards the people and to prioritize the development work through people's participation, he implemented the 'Gramastha Din' (Villagers' Day) scheme. This is the appointed day when the administrative officials and staff visit a village and establish a dialogue with the people to understand their problems and help to solve them.



Exercise

1. Answer in one sentence.

- (1) Who heads the District Administration?
- (2) What is the responsibility of the Tahsildar?
- (3) Which court is at the apex of the judiciary?
- (4) Which disasters can we be forewarned about?

2. Match the following.

Group A

(a) District Collector

(b) District Court

(c) Tahsildar

Group B

(1) Taluka Magistrate

(2) Maintaining law and order

(3) Resolving disputes

3. Discuss the following issues.

- (1) Disaster Management
- (2) Functions of the District Collector

4. Which of the following positions would you like to be in, and why?

- (1) District Collector
- (2) Chief of the District Police
- (3) Judge

Activities

- (1) Visit the police station nearest to you and obtain information about the work that is done there.
- (2) Make a chart of the different disasters showing what precautions are to be taken and important phone numbers. Display the chart in your class.
- (3) Send New Year greetings to the District Collector, Chief of the District Police and the District Judge.



Gram Sabha



Maharashtra State Bureau of Textbook Production and Curriculum Research, Pune.

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