



CLASS: VI

SUBJECT: SOCIAL SCIENCE

CHAPTER: 12 GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY — PART 3: LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN URBAN AREAS

BOOK: EXPLORING SOCIETY: INDIA AND BEYOND

The Big Questions?



What are urban local bodies and what are their functions?



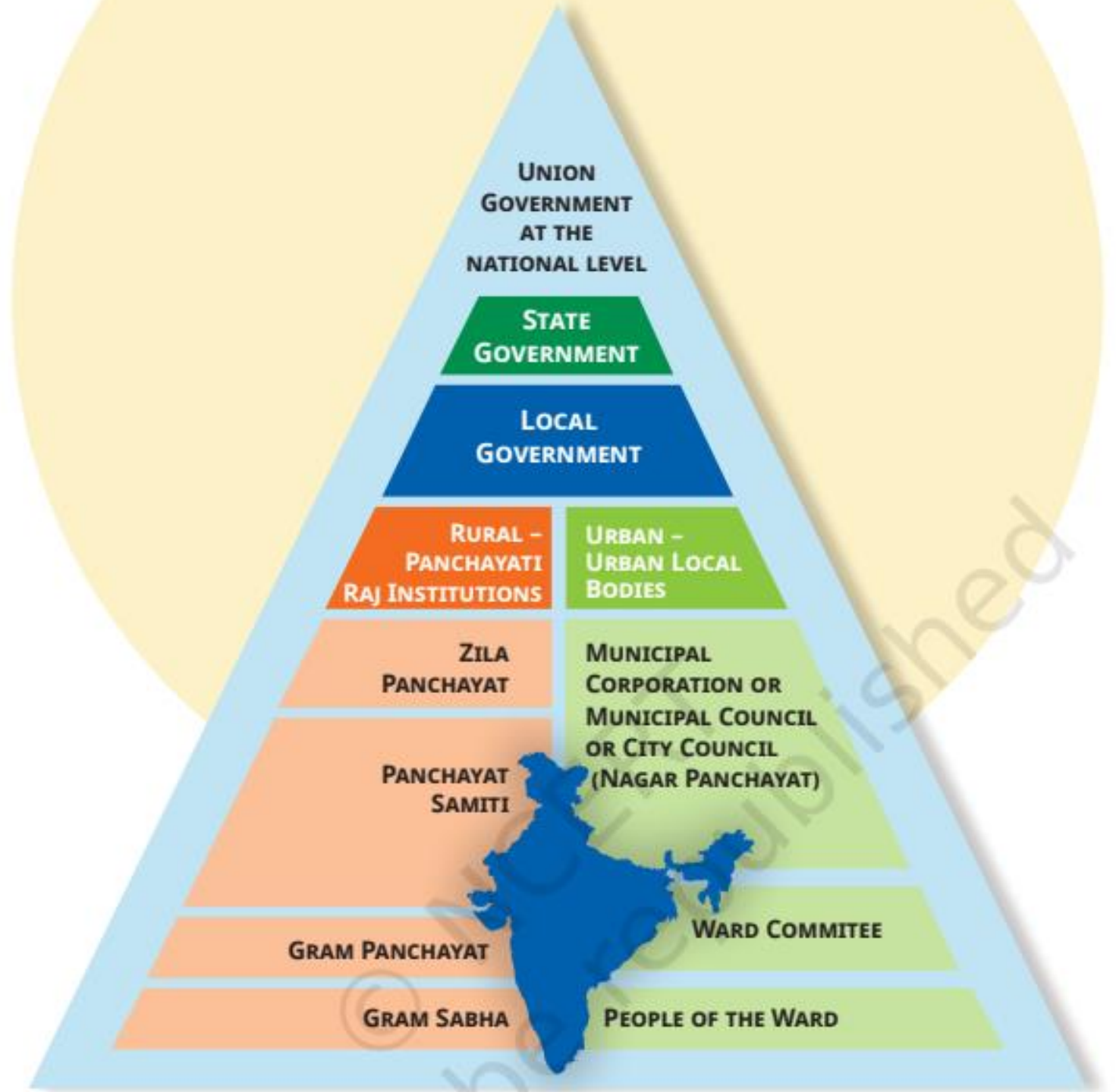
Why are they important in governance and democracy?



The broader concept of participatory democracy

Good governance aims to empower the citizens so they may actively participate in their country's functioning, whether it is at the rural, regional, urban, state or national level.

The base of the pyramid is the local level, closer to the people, while the top is the national level.



Urban Local Bodies

Urban Local Bodies: Local government structures in urban areas are known as '**urban local bodies**'.

Decentralization: These bodies are **decentralized**, meaning local communities have direct control over managing their areas and addressing local issues.

Citizen Participation: Urban local bodies provide a mechanism for **citizens** to come together and make decisions that are best for their communities.



Wards

- **Division into Wards:** Cities and towns are divided into smaller units called '**wards**'.
- **Role of Ward Committees:** **Ward committees** facilitate activities like organizing **health camps**, running campaigns against **single-use plastics**, and monitoring local issues such as **water leaks**, **blocked drains**, or **damaged roads**.
- **Reporting Issues:** Ward committees are responsible for reporting any local problems to the authorities.
- **Variation Across States:** The functioning of wards may vary from **State to State**, depending on the specific **rules** established by each state.



Responsibilities of Urban Local Bodies:

- **Responsibilities of Urban Local Bodies:** Urban local bodies are responsible for various functions, including:
 - **Infrastructure maintenance**
 - **Maintaining burial grounds**
 - **Garbage collection and disposal**
 - **Monitoring the implementation of government schemes**
 - **Collecting local taxes and fines**
- **Role in Development:** These bodies also play a role in planning for the **economic** and **social development** of the area.
- **Effectiveness:** For these bodies to be effective, additional details about the necessary conditions for their success are likely to follow.



Citizen Responsibility



Citizen Responsibility: For urban local bodies to perform their functions efficiently, **citizens must also fulfill their duties** by showing care and concern for their area.



Waste Segregation: For example, if people follow instructions on **waste segregation**, it makes **garbage collection** easier.



Reporting Issues: Citizens can help by promptly reporting issues like **water leakage**, preventing further wastage and ensuring effective management.



Participatory Democracy: This reflects the principle of **participatory democracy**, where both authorities and citizens work together to improve the community.

Oldest Municipal Institution

- The **Madras Corporation** (now **Greater Chennai Corporation**) was established on **29 September 1688**, making it the **oldest municipal institution** in India.
- **Formation by East India Company:** The **East India Company** issued a charter in **1687**, constituting the town of **Fort St. George** and all territories within a **16 km radius** as a corporation.
- **Municipal Taxation Power:** A **Parliamentary Act in 1792** granted the Madras Corporation the power to levy **municipal taxes**, marking the beginning of formal municipal administration in the city.



SERVICES UNDER THE INDORE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION



PROPERTY TAX



WATER CHARGES



**SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT**



**BUSINESS,
HOARDINGS,
TRADE LICENSES**



The list of services offered by the Indore Municipal Corporation is simplified here.



TREE CUTTING & TREE TRANSPORTATION



CRM — GRIEVANCES

CRM — SERVICES ON REQUEST



Indore in Madhya Pradesh has been awarded the cleanest city in India under the Swachh Survekshan government scheme for seven years in a row because:



Active Waste Segregation



Regular Waste Disposal



Community Cleanliness Drives



Awareness and Education



Collaboration with Authorities



Hygienic Practices

Municipal Corporation/ Municipal Council/ Nagar Panchayat

01

Municipal Corporation:
Cities with a population above **10 lakhs** have a **Municipal Corporation** (also called **Mahanagar Nigam**) as the highest urban body.

02

Municipal Council:
Cities with populations between **1 lakh and 10 lakhs** have a **Municipal Council** (also called **Nagar Palika**) as the highest body.

03

Nagar Panchayat:
Smaller cities and towns have a **Nagar Panchayat** as their highest urban body.

SUMMARY



In urban areas, decentralised governance works through different urban local bodies, which fulfil various functions affecting the citizens' lives.



As with the rural context, urban local bodies have elected members who represent the local citizens.



The citizens also have duties to ensure that the local bodies are able to perform their functions efficiently.

