

Chapter - 12

Grassroots Democracy – Part-III Local Governance in Urban Areas

Q.1 Facts that Matter

- 1. Responsibility of Urban local bodies :** Urban local bodies are responsible for managing basic infrastructure, water supply and electricity, urban development, disaster management, health and education etc.
- 2. Municipal Corporation and Municipal Council :** Municipal Corporation are found in cities with a population above 10 lakhs. Municipal Council are found in cities with a population between 1 to 10 lakhs.
- 3. Nagar Panchayats :** Nagar Panchayats are found in towns with a population below 1 lakh. They use taxes, grants by government and charges paid by users e.g. electricity, water to carry out their functions.
- 4. GST :** Goods and Services tax (GST) , the Indian Government considers the payment of GST as a voluntary obligation and a civic duty. “Desh Sevarth kar Sanchay” (Tax collection in service of the nation)
- 5. Duty of citizen in Governance :** Citizens must actively participate in governance through Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), community meetings, and public hearings to gain information, discuss issues.
- 6. Indore- the cleanest city of India :** It is because of the following reasons- Focusing on 100% door-to-door waste collection a ‘ Zero landfill’ goal and a strong public engagement.

Q.2 Multiple Choice Questions

- 1. The oldest municipal institution, the Madras Corporation was established in India in the year_____.**
a) 1688
- 2. Municipal Corporations are set up in cities with a population above_____ .**
c) 10 lakhs
- 3. The highest urban local body in smaller towns is the_____ .**
b) Nagar Panchayat
- 4. Which of the following is NOT a function of ward committees?**
c) Passing national laws
- 5. _____ is a source of income for urban local bodies?**
b) Property tax

6. Indore has been awarded the cleanest city in India for _____ .
c) 7 years
7. 'Mahanagar Nigam' is another name for _____
c) Municipal Corporation
8. Read the following statements and tick the appropriate option:
(a) I and II only
9. Which of these is an example of citizens' duty?
b) Reporting water leakage
10. _____ is a paid service of Indore Municipal Corporation.
b) Mobile toilets

Q.3 Study the picture, and answer the questions that follow-

- a. What are the people in the picture showing on their fingers?

The people are showing the ink mark on their fingers, which means they have exercised their voting rights in an election.

- b. How does voting reflect participatory democracy?

Voting allows citizens to choose their representatives, ensuring that people actively participate in the decision-making process of the government.

- c. Apart from voting, name two other ways in which citizens can participate in a democracy.

Citizens can participate by attending Gram Sabha or ward meetings and by reporting local issues like water leakage or garbage problems to authorities.

Q.4 Fill in the blanks.

- Urban local bodies have **Elected** members who represent the local citizens.
- The **Greater Chennai Corporation** is India's oldest municipal institution.
- Decentralisation** is a mechanism for citizens living in an area to come together and take decisions about what is best for them.
- The **Parliamentary Act of 1792** gave the Madras Corporation power to levy municipal taxes in the city.
- Cities like **Chennai** and **Indore** have a Municipal Corporation at the top of their urban bodies.

Q.5 Assertion & Reason Questions

- Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- A is true, but R is false.
- A is false, but R is true.

Choose the correct option

1. **Assertion (A)** : Ward Committees look after the day-to-day problems of a locality.
Reason (R) : They handle tasks like garbage collection, street lights, and water supply.
 2. **Assertion (A)** : Citizens are responsible for maintaining cleanliness in cities.
Reason (R) : Urban local bodies have no role in sanitation.
1. a) **Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**
 2. c) **A is true, but R is false.**

Q.6 Case Study Based Question

Read the paragraph given below and answer the following questions.

- a. **Name any three services provided by the Indore Municipal Corporation.**
Property tax collection, fire services, waste management (any three).
- b. **What recognition has Indore received under the Swachh Survekshan scheme?**
Cleanest city in India for seven consecutive years.
- c. **Why do you think citizens participation is important in this achieving this recognition?**
Citizens helped by proper waste segregation, reporting problems, and active participation in campaigns.

Q.7 Answer the following questions.

1. **Name the three types of urban local bodies.**
The three types of urban local bodies are Nagar Panchayat, Municipal Council, Municipal Corporation.
2. **Give one difference between a Nagar Panchayat and a Municipal Corporation.**
Municipal Corporation (Mahanagar Nigam) is for cities with a population above 10 lakhs.
Nagar Panchayat is for cities and towns with smaller populations.
3. **What is participatory democracy?**
When the citizens actively participate in their country's functioning, whether it is at the rural, regional, urban, state or national level. This is participatory democracy
4. **Define 'Wards'.**
Cities and towns are divided into smaller units called 'wards'.
5. **What is the aim of Good Governance?**
In a 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.

6. Urban local bodies fund their activities. How?

Urban local bodies require funds for development. Their revenue comes from:

Taxes : Property tax, water tax, professional tax, etc.

Grants from State and Central Governments.

User Charges: Fees for water supply, sanitation, trade licenses, etc.

7. How we interact with urban local bodies?

Attend local meetings and raise concerns.

Join Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs).

Use online grievance portals provided by Municipal corporations

8. A city life is different from a village life. Explain?

City Life

- a. Cities are busy and crowded, with tall buildings everywhere.
- b. There are so many people rushing around all the time, and its noisy .
- c. People are more independent and often don't even know their neighbours.

Village Life

- a. Compared to cities, villages are quiet.
- b. Everyone knows one another.
- c. The villagers help each other out in the fields and celebrate festivals together.
- d. They even make decisions as a community.

9. What do you mean by urban local bodies and What are their functions?

Local government structures in urban areas(towns and cities) are called 'urban local bodies'.

Their functions include:

- a. Taking care of the infrastructure, maintaining the burial ground, garbage collection and disposal.
- b. Checking the implementation of government schemes.
- c. Collecting local taxes and fines.

They also have some role in planning for the area's economic and social development.

10. Draw a comparison between the Panchayati Raj system and Urban Local government.

Differences

Rural Local Government

- They govern villages.
- They have three tiers - Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad.
- They are less complex and diverse
- Their challenges are simple.
- They all know each other, a lot more people can participate and discuss all kinds of issues that concerns the village.

Urban Local Government

- They govern towns and cities.
- They are divided into Nagar Panchayat, Municipal Council and Municipal Corporation according to the population.
- They are more complex and diverse.
- Their challenges are difficult.
- People are rushing around all the time, usually leave the work to their elected representatives.

Rural and Urban life: Pros and Cons

Rural life

Advantages

- Living space- spacious and comfortable
- Simple living (no monetary pressure)
- No pollution
- Food hygiene safety

Disadvantages

- Lack of employment
- Low income
- Lack of basic amenities- safe drinking water, narrow roads, lack of markets.
- Poor health facilities and education is not accessible.

Urban life

Advantages

- Employment and Income
- Developed Infrastructure
- Medical care
- High standard of living
- Better education

Disadvantages

- Narrow living space
- Polluted air
- Lack & Greenary
- Social disorders