



# CHAPTER 10

# Local Self-Government

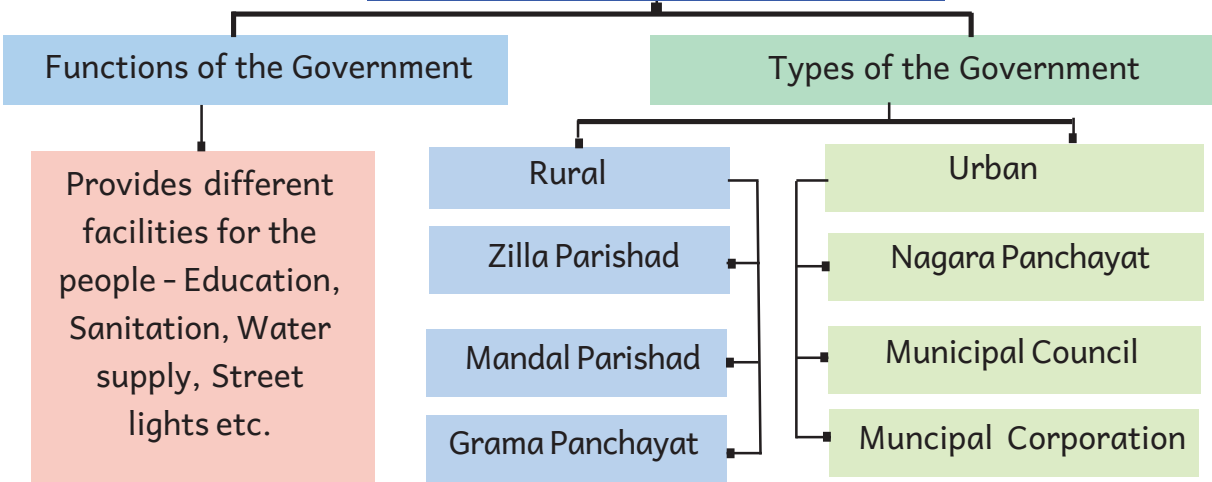
## Learning Outcomes

The students will be able to

- understand the functions of self-governments.
- know the role of local self-government in our lives.
- differentiate the Rural and Urban Local self-governments.



### Local self - government



In the earlier lesson you have learnt what the government is, what the government does and what are the different levels of government (Central, State and Local self-governments) are. In this lesson you are going to learn the detailed information of Local self-governments.

## Providing public amenities

In a village, one hand pump needs repair. In another part of the village, drainage water is spilling over, and the road is muddy. Who solves these problems? Whether it is roads, hand pumps or street lights, they belong to people in the village as they are public amenities. Who provides these amenities? Who takes care of their maintenance? For this purpose, we have panchayats in the rural areas, and municipalities in urban areas.



### Think & Respond

Name the public amenities which are provided in your locality.



### Let's Do

Prepare a poster on public amenities in your locality as group activity.



### Do You Know

**Local self-government in India** refers to governmental jurisdictions below the level of the state. Article 40 of the Constitution of India addresses local self-governance. This article was included in the constitution as per the views of the father of our nation Gandhiji. The Parliament of India made two amendments. 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment creating local self-governments in rural areas, and 74<sup>th</sup> amendment creating local self-governments in urban areas in 1992. According to these amendments government of Andhra Pradesh made Panchayat Raj Act 1994 which formed local self-governments in rural and urban areas in our state.

- The Chola Dynasty was famous for local self-governments.

## Local Self-Governments in Rural Areas

Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act 1994 established three tier local self-governments in rural areas. They are Grama Panchayat at village level, Mandal Praja Parishad at mandal level and Zilla Praja Parishad at District level.

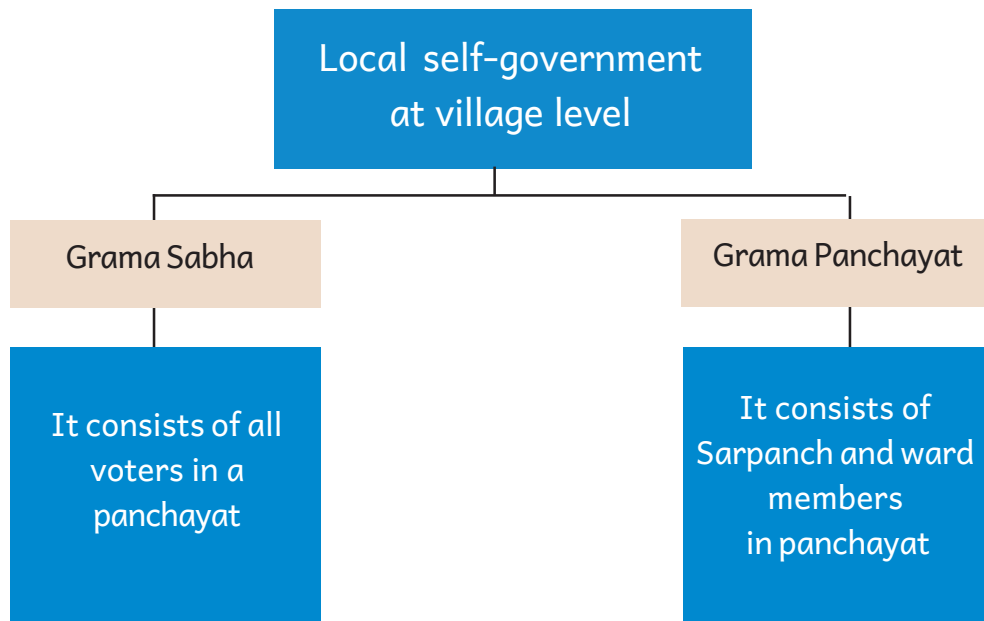
### Village Level

To provide all the public amenities, there are three organs working at village level. They are: Grama Sabha and Grama Panchayat.



### Do You Know

Rajasthan is the first state that implemented local self government in 1959. It adopted the Panchayat Raj system first in India followed by Andhra Pradesh in the same year.



This is the general body at village level. The '**Grama sabha**' consists of all the voters in a village. This is the symbol of direct democracy. The grama sabha is expected to review the functioning of the gram panchayat and participate in taking decisions about village welfare. It is presided over by the President / Sarpanch of the village.



Fig: 10.1 Grama Sabha

### Let's Do

- If you live in a village, visit your grama sabha and make a report.

Grama Panchayat is formed with Sarpanch and Ward members. It is formed through elections. It is presided over by the President or Sarpanch of the village.

### Think & Respond

Write the similarities and differences between Grama Sabha and Grama Panchayat?



Fig: 10.2 Grama Panchayat

## Formation of Grama Panchayat

### Voter's List

All residents of a village who are 18 years old or above have to enroll their names in the voters list. Usually a Booth Level Officer (B.L.O.) visits every house to check whether there are any changes in the list. They also invite suggestions for any additions or deletions to the list.



### Think & Respond

- Give reasons, why additions or deletions to voters list become necessary?

### Wards

A village is usually divided into 'wards' (streets or colonies) in such a way that all the wards have almost equal number of voters. Each ward elects one member to the village panchayat, called 'ward member'. This ensures that people from all localities of the village are represented. A panchayat will have at least five ward members and may have as many as twenty one ward members. Any person who is twenty one years age or above can contest the election.

### Reservations in Gram Panchayats

Earlier it was often very difficult for women to get elected as ward member or sarpanch. These bodies were therefore dominated by men. As a result, the needs and views of half of the population went un-represented. Keeping these problems in mind, it has been decided by the Parliament that at least one third of all panchayat ward members and Sarpanches will be women which are reserved for them. In our state reservation to women extended to 50%.

Similarly, there is a reservation policy for SC, ST, BC to ensure that persons from all sections of the society are represented in the panchayat. Thus, panchayat functions as representative institutions of all people in the rural and tribal areas.

### Elections

Normally elections to gram panchayats take place once in every five years. During these elections, every voter casts two votes - one to elect the ward member and another to elect the sarpanch. The person who gets the maximum votes is declared to be elected.

## Sarpanch

The Sarpanch is the head of the gram panchayat and has the responsibility of implementing all the decisions of the panchayat and looking after day to day functions of the panchayat. The Sarpanch is also responsible for the income and expenditure of the panchayat. As such, the Sarpanch has a lot of responsibility. In many villages, we see some active Sarpanches who have changed the fate of villages.

## Upa-Sarpanch

Sarpanch and ward members elect one of the ward members as the deputy or *upa-Sarpanch* through indirect election. The *Upa-Sarpanch* acts in the absence of the Sarpanch.

## The functions of Gram Panchayat

- The construction and maintenance of water sources, roads, drainage, school buildings and other common property resources.
- Levying and collecting local taxes.
- Executing government schemes related to generating employment in the village.



Fig: 10.3 Public amenities

## Source of funds for the Panchayat

- Collection of taxes on houses, market places etc.
- Grants-in-aid and loans from the state governments, Zilla Parishad and Mandal Parishad.
- Donations from local people.



### Do You Know

#### Grama Sachivalayam (Village Secretariat)

The system of grama sachivalayam was started on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 in our state. One grama sachivalayam is established per 2000 people. There are eleven Village Secretariat Functionaries (employees) in every Grama Sachivalayam. The main aim of grama sachivalayam is to provide government services to the public effectively, transparently and with accountability. The service delivery is done through grama volunteers appointed for how many household each.



## Let's Do

With the help of your teacher / parents, try to know the services provided by the grama volunteers.

## Mandal and Zilla Parishad

In the previous section, we read about grama panchayat. About 20-40 gram panchayats come under a Mandal Parishad. All the Mandal parishads in the district come under the Zilla Parishad. The members of the Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituencies (MPTCs) are elected directly by the voters. Some members of Mandal Parishad are nominated (Co-opted members). The MPTCs elect one member among them as Mandal President and one as vice president through indirect election. The Zilla Parishad members are elected from Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies (ZPTCs) by voters directly. Some members of Zilla Parishad are nominated (Co-opted members). The ZPTCs elect one member among them as Zilla Parishad Chairman and one as vice chairman through indirect election. The Zilla Parishad and the Mandal Parishad coordinate the activities of the Panchayats in the district and the mandal, approve their plans and allocate the funds.

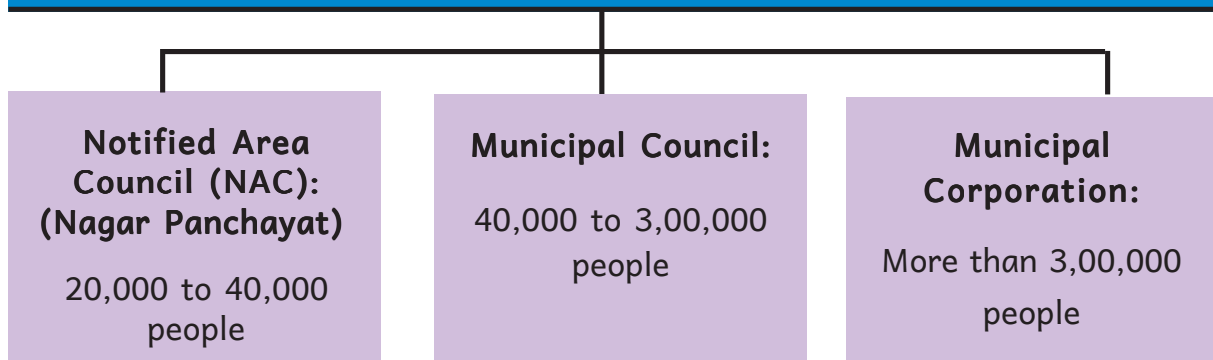


## Think & Respond

- Who is your MPTC and ZPTC ?
- How many mandals are there in your district ?

## Local Self Government in Urban Areas

A city or town is much bigger than village in terms of population and extent in area. Providing public amenities in towns and cities is a very complex job and it needs a large organisation. They are called urban local bodies. There are three kinds of municipal bodies depending upon the size of the population.





## Think & Respond

List out the public amenities provided by the local body, in your area.

### Nagar Panchayat

Each Nagar Panchayat has a committee consisting of a chairman with ward councillors. Membership consists of a minimum of ten elected ward members and three nominated members. The NAC (Notified Area Council) members of the Nagar Panchayat are elected from the several wards of the Nagar Panchayat on the basis of adult franchise for a term of five years. There are seats reserved for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and women. The Councillors or Ward members are chosen by direct election from electoral wards in the Nagar Panchayat.

### Municipal Council

Each Municipality has a Municipal council with elected members who are known as “councillors” and nominated members. To constitute municipal council, area of municipality is divided into wards. The ward councillors are elected directly for every five years. These councillors and the other members of the council together choose the Municipal Chairman indirectly.

### Municipal Corporation

Each Municipal Corporation consists of elected members known as “Corporators” and nominated members. To constitute the Municipal Corporation, the area of Municipal Corporation is divided into divisions. The ward Corporators are elected directly for every five years. These Corporators and the other members of the Corporation together choose the Mayor of Municipal Corporation indirectly.



Fig: 10.4 Bhimili Municipal Office



## Do You Know

Do you know the oldest municipality in Andhra Pradesh? It is Bheemunipatnam (also known as Bhimili) Visakhapatnam District, which was established in 1861. It celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011. It is one of the oldest municipalities in India.

## How does the urban local bodies work?

The municipality has a lot of tasks to perform like water supply, street lighting, maintaining and building roads, drainage and garbage disposal, running schools, ration shops, hospitals etc., besides taking up new developmental works. Now, all this cannot be done by a few people or by the corporators or councillors alone. For this purpose, the municipalities employ a large number of workers, officers, clerks and accountants.

Each municipality has a number of departments, each headed by an officer who is responsible for the proper work of the staff related to that department. For example, there will be water supply department, electricity department, education department, garbage disposal department etc. You may be wondering as to what is the work of the councillors. Actually, the councillors keep in touch with the people of the ward to understand their needs and problems and discuss them in the municipality meetings.

In order to ensure that so many kinds of work are properly thought about, the municipality has a number of committees and the councillors are assigned to these committees. The work of these committees is to review the functioning of the municipality department, and plan new works to be undertaken. They prepare proposals, which are discussed in the municipality meetings and passed. These decisions are implemented by the officers and employees of the municipality. The ward councillors or corporators ensure that the needs of their wards are placed before the council when decisions are taken. Also, they keep in touch with the people of the ward who may take their problems to them.



## Let's Do

How many Nagara Panchayats, Municipalities and Municipal Corporations are there in your district?

## Funds for the Urban Local Bodies

Municipalities levy a number of taxes – like tax on houses, water and street light taxes, taxes on shops, film tickets, etc. However, the income from these taxes is not enough for the work of the municipalities and they depend upon grants from the government. The government allots funds for different projects (like road construction) and also for regular work of the municipalities.



### Let's Do

Visit nearby Municipal council/Municipal corporation and observe the functions. And make a poster or story board as Individual activity.



### Think & Respond

How is grama panchayat differ from municipality in its functioning?



### Let's Do

Fill the following table with the help of your teacher.

Designation	Elected by	Direct / Indirect Election
Ward Member		
Sarpanch		
Upa-sarpanch		
MPTC		
ZPTC		
Mandal Parishad President		
Zilla Parishad Chairman		
Municipal Chairman		
Mayor		



## Glossary

<b>Local Self-Government</b> (స్థానిక స్వపరిపాలన)	: governmental jurisdictions below the level of the state.
<b>Grama Sabha</b> (గ్రామసభ)	: general body in a grama panchayat
<b>Grama/Ward Sachivalayam</b> (గ్రామ / వార్డు సచివాలయం)	: the system, to provide all government services to the people in their locality.
<b>Village functionaries</b> (గ్రామ కార్యకర్తలు)	: the employees in the grama sachivalayam.
<b>Public Amenities</b> (ప్రజా సౌకర్యాలు)	: the facilities provide by the government.
<b>Municipal Council</b> (మున్సిపల్ కౌన్సిల్)	: the governing body in a municipality.
<b>Municipal Corporation</b> (మున్సిపల్ కార్పొరేషన్)	: the governing body in a municipal corporation.
<b>Councillor</b> (కౌన్సిలర్)	: ward representative in municipal council.
<b>Corporator</b> (కార్పొరేటర్)	: ward representative in municipal corporation.



## Improve Your Learning

1. What are the differences between Grama Sabha and Grama Panchayat?
2. Suppose you are a representative in your local government body, what issues would you raise?
3. Do you think common people are able to participate in the process of decision making in your panchayat or municipality? Give some examples to illustrate your answer.
4. Do you think panchayats should raise more tax from the village to carry out development works or depend upon government funds?
5. What challenges do the Sarpanch face in carrying out their work?
6. What are the public amenities provided by a municipality but not by a panchayat?
7. Geethika says that her street tap gives water only for half an hour and several people queue up to fill their buckets. What would you advise her to do to solve this problem?
8. Frame a few questions to ask the local corporator / councillor to know the details of work done by the Municipality.

11. Locate the following municipalities and municipal corporations in Andhrapradesh

i. Visakhapatnam

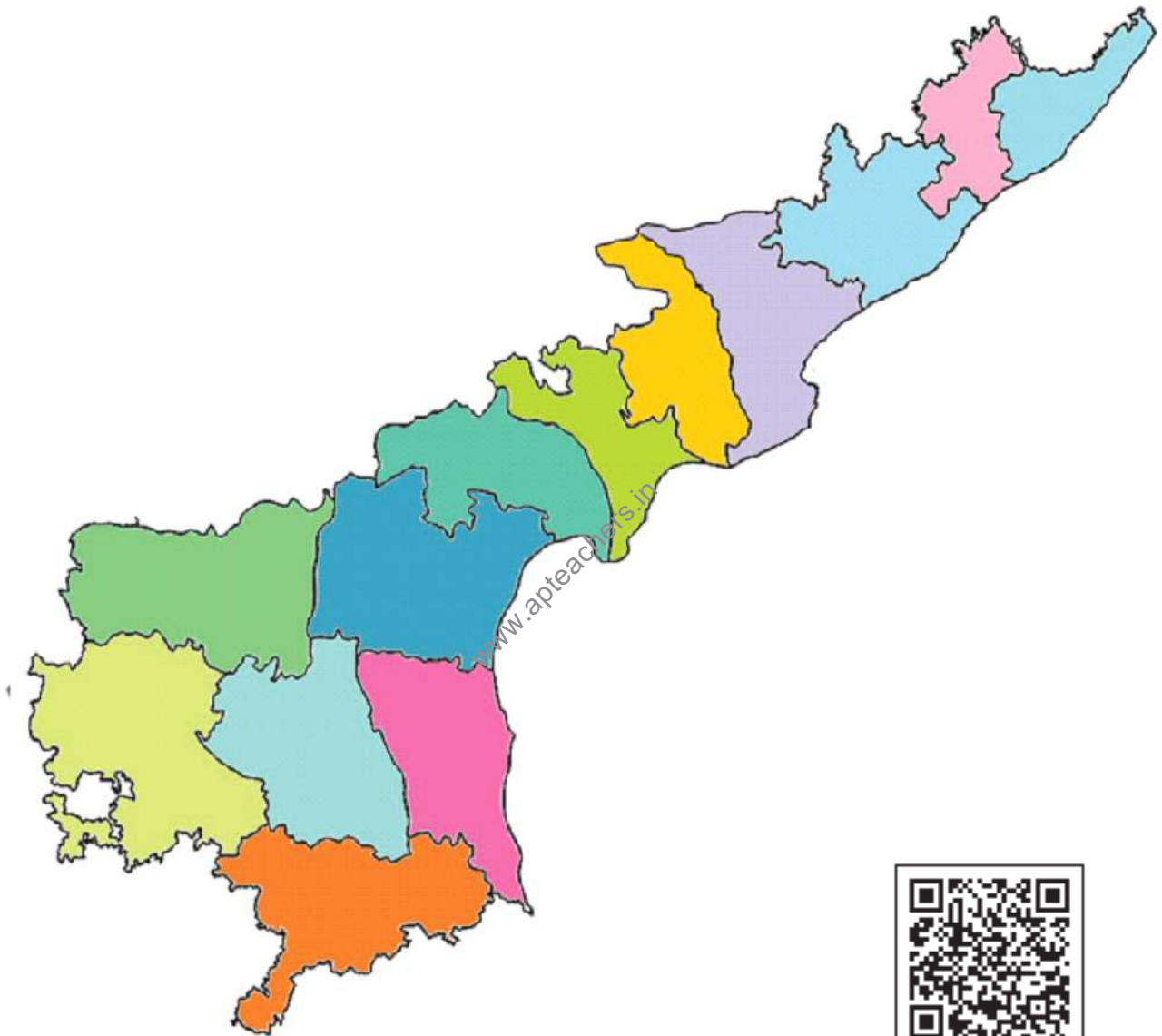
ii. Vijayawada

iii. Bheemunipatnam

iv. Kadapa

v. Anantapuram

vi. Tirupati



### Project Work

1. Visit your nearby Grama Sachivalayam/ Ward Sachivalayam and interview the functionaries of Sachivalayam and make a report.
2. Make poster on different public amenities which are provided by Local self governments.