

CLASS:-11TH,POLITICAL SCIENCE, CHAPTER:-8,LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Governments in Independent India

- Local governments got a fillip after the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendment Acts.
- First in the line was the Community Development Programme in 1952, which sought to promote people's participation in local development in a range of activities.
- In this background, a three-tier Panchayati Raj system of local government was recommended for the rural areas. Some States (like Gujarat, Maharashtra) adopted the system of elected local bodies around 1960.
- **Why only few states adopted and others failed to adopt?**
- Because local bodies did not have enough powers and functions to look after the local development.
- They were very much dependent on the State and Central government for financial assistance.
- Many States did not think it necessary to establish elected local bodies.
- Local bodies were dissolved and the local government was handed over to government officers.
- **New Initiative (Reform)**
- In 1989 the P.K.Thungon Committee recommended constitutional recognition for the local government bodies.
- A constitutional amendment to provide for periodic elections to local government institutions, and enlistment of appropriate functions to them, along with funds, was recommended.