



TALUK PANCHAYAT

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Taluk Panchayat:

Organization:

- It is the **middle tier** of the rural local government (Panchayat Raj) system .
- One representative shall be elected for the population of **10,000** people as per the 1993 Act.
- It is constituted of the following categories of members –
 1. Elected members of the Taluk Panchayat,
 2. Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha Members representing the Taluk, &
 3. MLAs & MLCs representing the Taluk.

Organization

Election:

- All the members are elected directly through the universal adult suffrage.
- All eligible voters above 18 years elect the representatives

Term of Office:

- The members of the Taluk Panchayat are elected for a period of **5 years**.
- They may be removed from office on grounds of inefficiency & misbehavior by the government on the recommendation of Taluk Panchayat.

Organization

Reservation:

Reservation of seats is as follows –

SCs	-	15%
STs	-	03%
Backward Classes	–	1/3
Women	-	1/3

Meetings:

- It must meet at least once in **2 months**.
- 1/3 of its members form its quorum.
- The meetings are presided over by the president and in his absence the vice-president.
- These officers are elected for a term of **20 months**.

Finances:

- Following are the sources of revenue of the Taluk Panchayat –
 - a. Funds transferred from **central reserved** funds,
 - b. Funds collected through imposing **taxes & penalties**,
 - c. Income obtained through **rent and sale** of Taluk Panchayat property, &
 - d. Interest earned through **loans**.

Committees:

- It has the following Standing Committees –
 - a. General Committee,
 - b. Committee on Finance, Accounts and Planning, &
 - c. Committee on Social Justice
- The members of the standing committee and its chairman are elected from among the members of Taluk Panchayat.

Executive Officer:

- The CEO is appointed by the government and is a Group -A officer.
- The powers of the executive officer are equal to that of magistrate especially regarding the recovery of the revenue arrears.

Functions of Taluk Panchayats:

- Following are the functions of Taluk Panchayats –
 - a. General functions, &
 - b. Other functions

a. General Functions:

- Following are the general functions of the Taluk Panchayats –
 1. Preparation of the **annual budget** of the Taluk Panchayat and its submission within the prescribed time to the Zilla Panchayat.
 2. **Implementation of the work** assigned to it by the government or the Zilla Panchayat.
 3. **Submission of the plans** regarding the schemes entrusted to it by the government or the Zilla Panchayat.
 4. Providing **relief in calamities**.

b. Other functions:

- They are –
 1. Promotion of **agriculture**.
 2. **Land management**, improvement and social conservation.
 3. Maintenance of **dairying , poultry and animal husbandry**.
 4. Development of **fisheries**,
 5. Promotion of rural and **cottage industries**
 6. Prevention of water pollution and maintenance of **rural water supply** schemes.

Other functions

7. Construction and **maintenance of roads**, water ways and other means of communication.
8. Implementation of **housing schemes**.
9. Implementation of **poverty alleviation** programmes.
10. Promotion of **primary and secondary education** .
11. Promotion of **adult literacy** programmes, social and cultural activities.

Other functions

12. Regulating **fairs and festivals**.
13. Promotion of **family welfare programmes**, social welfare programmes and programmes relating to development of women.
14. Promotion of the welfare of people belonging to **SCs & STs & other weaker sections**.
15. **Promotion of libraries**, cooperative activities and rural electrification.
16. Strive for the promotion of the welfare of the **Backward classes**.
17. Implementation of the **public distribution system**.

ZILLA PANCHAYAT

INTRODUCTION:

- According to the Panchayat Raj Act of 1993, there shall be a **Zilla Panchayat at the district level.**
- There shall be one representative elected for every **40,000** population. But this varies from one Zilla Panchayat to another.
- For example, in DK the ratio is 1: **30,000** whereas it is 1: **18000** in Coorg and Chikmagalur.

Organization:

- The Zilla Panchayat includes,
 - a. **Elected members** of Zilla Panchayat,
 - b. Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members elected from the district
 - c. Members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council representing the district,
 - d. Taluk Panchayat Presidents .

Organization

- All the members of the Zilla Panchayat are elected directly by the voters above **18 years**.
- Each member of the Zilla Panchayat is elected for a period of **5 years**.
- The members may submit their resignation to the chairman.
- On the recommendation of the Zilla Panchayat, any member can be removed on grounds of **inefficiency and misbehavior** by the government.
- 15% seats are reserved for SCs, 3% for STs, 1/3 for Backward Classes and another 1/3 for women.

Organization

- Zilla Panchayats meetings are held at least **once in two months**.
- 1/3 of the total members of the Zilla Panchayat constitute the **quorum**.
- The president and the vice-president hold office for **30 months**.
- They can be removed from office by a vote of no confidence by majority of members.
- The **president** is the presiding officer of the Zilla Panchayat and during his absence the vice-president takes over.

Finance:

- Following are the sources of revenue of the Zilla Panchayats –
 - a. The amount transferred from the **consolidated fund** of the state government.
 - b. **Loans, grants** and contributions made by the government.
 - c. **Fees and penalty** imposed and collected by the Zilla Panchayat.
 - d. Income collected from **rent and sale** of Zilla Panchayat property.
 - e. Such other income as the Zilla Panchayat receives and earns on **loans and security deposits**.

Committees:

- It has 5 standing committees. They are –
 1. General standing committee,
 2. Finance, Audit and Planning committee,
 3. Social Justice Committee,
 4. Educational and Health committee &
 5. Agricultural and Industries committee.
- Each of the above committee consist of 5 members elected by the elected members of the Zilla Panchayat, from among themselves.
- No member can hold the membership of more than two committees at a time.

Functions of Zilla Panchayat:

GENERAL FUNCTIONS:

- The general functions of the Zilla Panchayat include overall supervision, coordination and integration of developmental schemes.
- These functions also include the preparation of the plan for the development of the district and the annual budget., etc.

Other functions:

1. It is concerned with the promotion and maintenance of agricultural and horticultural farms and commercial farms.
2. Implementation of land improvement and soil conservation programmes.
3. Development of fisheries and irrigation works.
4. Promotion of rural and cottage industries.
5. Establishment and maintenance of public distribution system(PDS).

Other functions

6. Electrification of rural areas.
7. Implementation of health and family welfare programmes, adult literacy programmes.
8. Establishment and maintenance of primary and high schools.
9. Implementation of poverty alleviation programmes.
10. Such other functions as may be entrusted by the state government under Panchayat Raj Act.

Criticisms on local governments:

- It creates a narrow outlook among the people who worried about the local problems without bothering about the overall interest of the country.
- Many a times these local governments demand more funds from the centre and the state governments and spend them in an irresponsible way.
- Corruption and inefficiency in the working of Panchayat Raj institutions are quite common.

Criticisms

- Again, in these Panchayats there is the domination of the socially and economically forward classes.
- Local bureaucrats also take undue advantage of these bodies.
- Petty party politics also plays its role.
- These local bodies receives scarce resources from the governments.
- There is also a need to audit their income and expenditure.

Conclusion:

- Despite the above criticisms the fact which cannot be denied is that democratic decentralization strengthens democracy.
- It is capable of reviving the spirit of responsible citizenship and self confidence in the people of the locality.
- The involvement of the local people in the solution of their local problems & also enables them to manage their own public affairs. It is the training ground for the future leaders of the nation.