

4. Urban Local Government Bodies

4.1 The Nagar Panchayat

4.2 The Municipal Council

4.3 The Municipal Corporation

In the previous chapter, we have studied the nature of the local government bodies in the rural areas. In this chapter, we will learn something about the local government institutions in the urban areas. These include the Nagar Panchayat, the Municipal Council and the Municipal Corporation.

Our country has a large number of towns and cities and they are growing rapidly. Villages are growing into towns, towns into cities and cities into metropolises. The rural areas neighbouring cities are also getting transformed.



Let's discuss.

What are the main problems that cities face?

Reshma had spent a wonderful Diwali vacation with her relatives in a city. However, she began to think about some of her experiences. Think along with Reshma about these incidents and write your thoughts in two paragraphs.

- The siren of the ambulance sounded loud and clear but there was no free way on the road.
- As a result of the decision to cut the water supply, there was a great crowd at the water supply tankers.
- Efforts were being made to provide facilities to senior citizens and small children in the parks.

Facilities and Problems in Cities

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Opportunities for industry and business | 1. Shortage of housing |
| 2. Expanding service sector | 2. Insufficient space |
| 3. Large scale opportunities for jobs | 3. Traffic congestion |
| 4. Availability of facilities for entertainment, art, culture, etc. | 4. Problem of disposal of waste |
| | 5. Increasing crime |
| | 6. A large proportion of population in slums |

4.1 Nagar Panchayat

The villages that are in the process of becoming towns have a Nagar Panchayat. We see some areas which are neither fully rural nor fully urban. In such areas, the local government body is the Nagar Panchayat. As with other local bodies, elections to a Nagar Panchayat are held every five years. The elected members

choose a President and a Vice-President from among themselves.

All local government bodies have to carry out some essential functions. What, according to you, are the essential functions of a Nagar Panchayat?

4.2 The Municipal Council

The Municipal Council is the local government body for small cities. Elections to the Council are held every five years. The elected representatives function as Councillors. They choose a President from among themselves.

The President of the Municipal Council is the chairman of all its meetings. He controls the working of the Council and keeps a watch on the financial administration of the Council. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President looks after the work of the Council.

There are some functions that are binding on the Council. These are known as obligatory functions, for example, lighting of public streets, providing drinking water, public hygiene, sewage disposal, registration of birth/death/marriage, etc.

The Municipal Council also tries to provide additional facilities to the people and these functions are known as 'discretionary functions'. Planning new public roads and acquiring the necessary land, improving the condition of slums, creating public gardens and parks, providing secure shelters for cattle are some of the 'discretionary' functions of the Municipal Council.

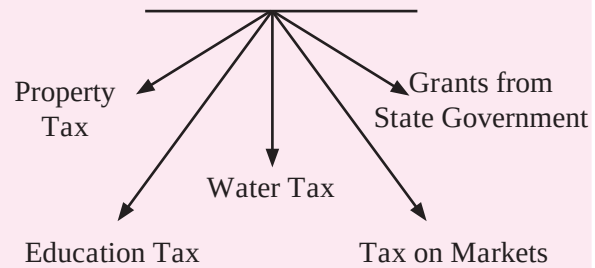


Do you know?

For every Municipal Council, there is a Chief Officer. He implements the decisions taken by the Municipal Council. There are several officers who assist him.

* Would you like to become such an officer? If you become a Health Officer, what functions would you perform?

The sources of revenue of the Municipal Council



What would you do?

1. When you hand over your household waste to the waste pickers....
2. The road is waterlogged as the water pipe has broken.
3. You notice that unclean, impure water is being used for *pani puris*.
4. Many people are throwing plastic bags from the bridge into the river.
5. The Municipal Council's programme to clean the slum areas has been published in the newspaper, but you think that one of the planned actions is improper.

Appeal from the Municipal Council

Calling all citizens – to take the following measures to stop breeding of mosquitoes and curb the spread of dengue :

- (1) Do not stack old tyres, coconut shells, empty cans or boxes on your terrace or around your house.
- (2) In case of persistent fever go to a doctor without delay.
- (3) Keep your surroundings clean.

* In response to the above, what would you do in your house and in the surroundings?

4.3 Municipal Corporation :

The local body that provides different services to the people in big cities is called 'Municipal Corporation'. The first Municipal Corporation in Maharashtra was established at Mumbai.

Find out : (1) In how many cities of Maharashtra State is the administration carried out through Corporations? (2) In which year was the Municipal Corporation of your city established?

The total number of members of a Municipal Corporation is determined so as to be in proportion to the population of the city. The elections to the Corporation are held every five years. The elected members are known as Corporators. They elect a Mayor and a Deputy Mayor from among themselves. The Mayor is considered to be the first citizen of the city. He presides over all the meetings of the Corporation. Many important issues regarding the city are discussed, and decisions regarding the development of the city are made in the General Body meeting of the Corporation.

The Committees of the Corporation:

The Corporation carries out its work through different committees. Some of the important committees are Education Committee, Health Committee, Transport Committee, etc.

Administration of the Corporation :

The Municipal Commissioner is the head of the administration of the Corporation. He is responsible for implementing the decisions taken by the Corporation. For example, if a Corporation takes the decision of putting a ban on the use of plastic bags, then the actual implementation of this policy is done by the Commissioner. He also prepares the annual budget of the Corporation and remains present for the general body meetings.



Try this.

Form an Education Committee for your class. The Committee should have an equal number of boys and girls as representatives. They should discuss the following issues and prepare a report.

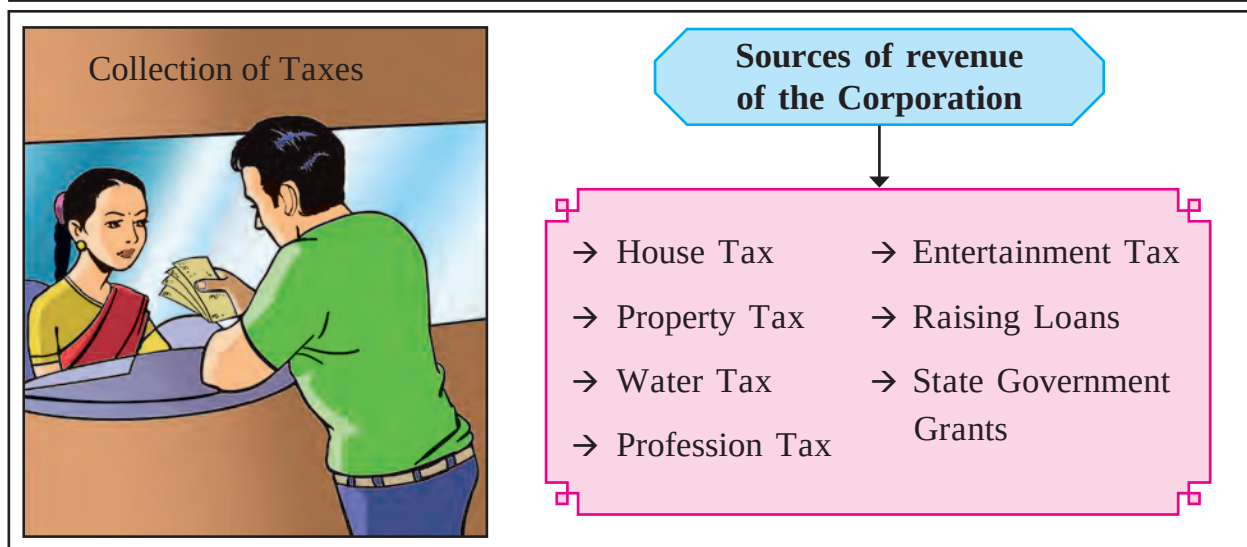
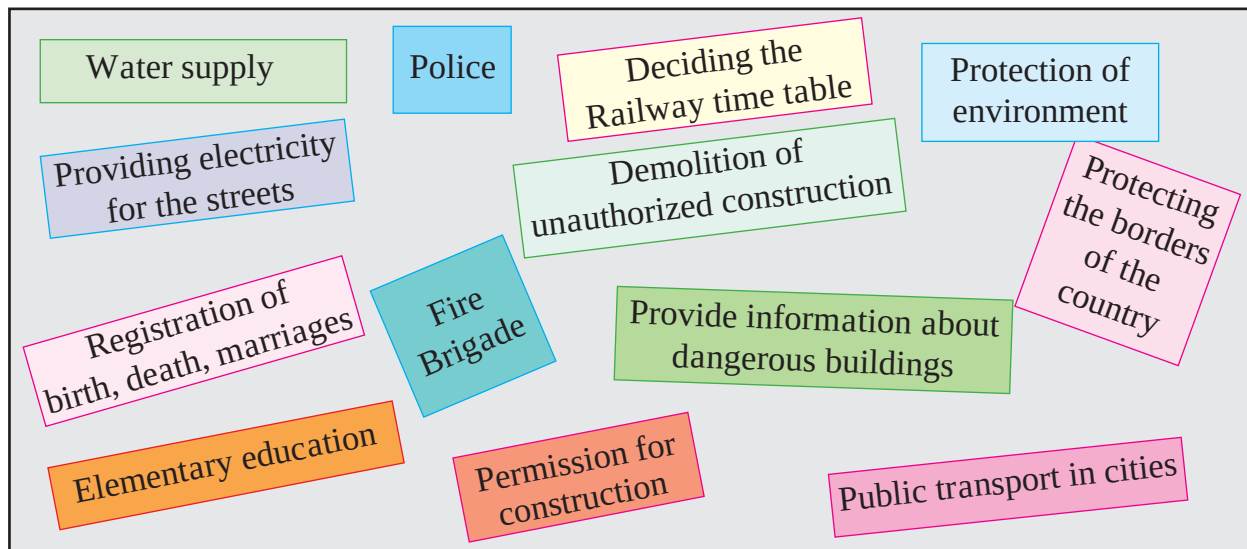
- (a) Facilities in the classroom
- (b) A proposal for setting up a small library for the class
- (c) Organising a sports competition



Do you know ?

The proportion of women in the total population is nearly half. Yet, very few women are seen to take part in the working of the government. Women handle issues like food, energy, water every day as part of their daily routine but they had no say in the decisions regarding these issues. A woman takes care of the water in the house but she did not participate in dealing with water issues. With fifty percent reservation for women in the local bodies, they now have got an opportunity to resolve important issues.

From the list given below, identify the functions of the Corporation and make a list.



What did you feel on reading this?

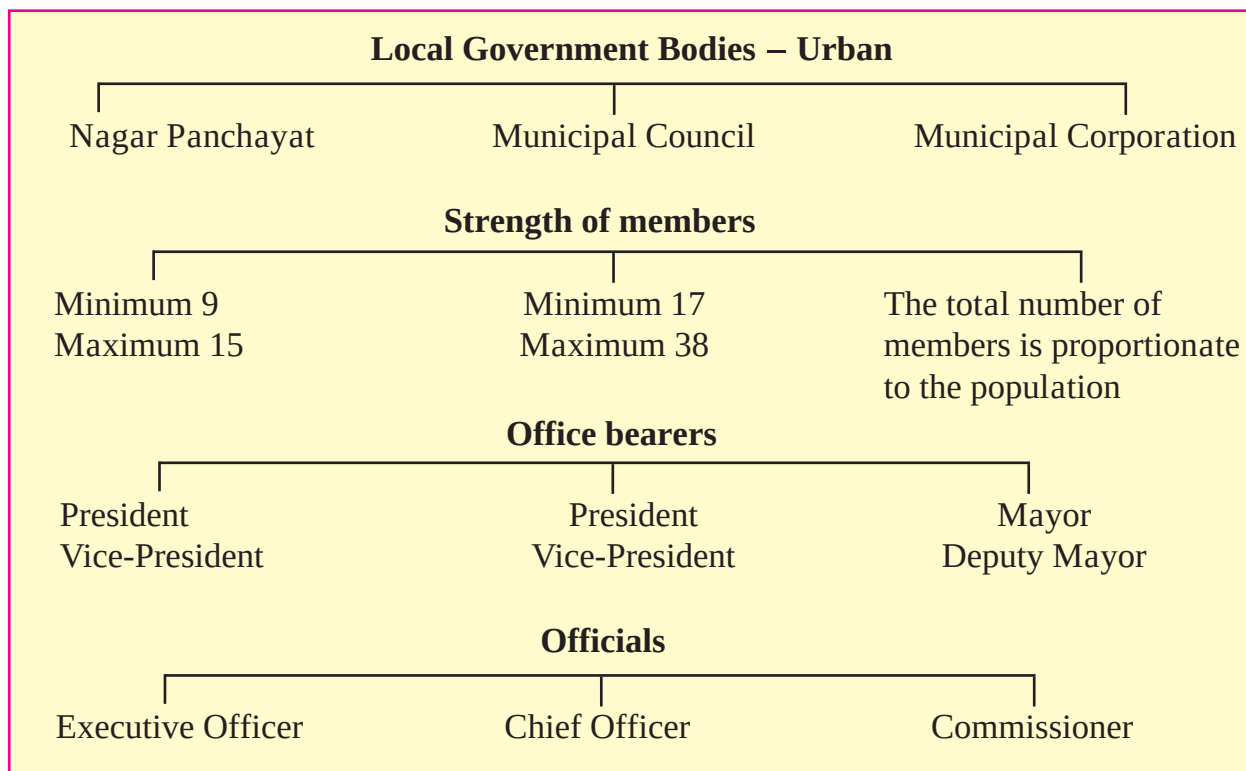
- The Metro will soon run in your city.
- Permission has been given for the construction of a 24 storey building.
- Gardens and Leisure Centres will be established in every ward.
- Action will be taken against those who use purified water to water the gardens or to wash their cars.
- It has been made compulsory to dispose of wet garbage within one's locality.
- Old age homes will be constructed for the benefit of senior citizens.

Why did the Corporation do it?

- The Corporation has refused permission for any construction work that would require the cutting down of trees.
- It has implemented many programmes to control the spread of diseases like dengue, swine flu, corona, etc.
- Modernised the Fire Brigade.
- Inspected the weighing scales in the vegetable market.

Do this ...

Find out the hospitals run by the Municipal Council or Corporation in your area. What facilities are offered to the patients there? What is a person required to do if she/he wants to take treatment there?



Do you know?

What is meant by reservation? Why is it necessary?

Out of the total number of seats to which people elect their representatives in a Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad, Municipal Council and Municipal Corporation, some seats are reserved for members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Class of Citizens. Only members from that specific category can be elected to the reserved seat. This is known as reservation of seats. Also, out of the total number of seats, half of the seats are reserved for women.

Reservation is necessary as it allows the deprived sections of the society and women to take part in the working of villages and cities and to participate in the decision making process. In a democracy, it is important that all the people get an opportunity to participate in all the processes.



Exercise

1. Choose the right option and fill in the blanks.

- (1) The first city in Maharashtra to have a Municipal Corporation
(Nagpur, Mumbai, Latur)
- (2) The body that looks after the administration of places that are in the process of becoming cities
(Municipal Council, Municipal Corporation, Nagar Panchayat)
- (3) The Office bearer who supervises the work of the Municipal Council.
(Chief Officer, Executive Officer, Commissioner)

2. Answer in brief.

- (1) What problems do people face in cities?
- (2) Name the various committees of the Municipal Corporation.

3. Make a chart giving information about the urban local government bodies according to the points given below.

Points	Nagar Panchayat	Municipal Council	Municipal Corporation
Office Bearers			
Number of Members			
Officers			

4. Can you tell?

- (1) Which are the essential functions of the Municipal Council?
- (2) Where does the Nagar Panchayat function?

5. Make different lists of places in your district according to whether they have a Nagar Panchayat, Municipal Council or a Municipal Corporation.

Activities

- (1) Make your own health awareness slogans to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases, and display them in your classroom.
- (2) Visit the Municipal Corporation nearest to you and find out which new schemes have been taken up. Discuss in class what you could do to contribute to them.

