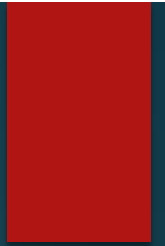


**B.A HONOURS 4<sup>th</sup> Sem**  
**Paper IX**  
**Public Policy and Administration in India**  
**Module. II**

**Jayita Pal,**  
**Assistant Professor,**  
**Department of Political Science.**

# Local Self Governance



Rural

# Types

- ▶ Local self governing institutions in India are mainly of two types --rural self governing institutions and urban self governing institutions .The Panchayat system represents the rural government in India. Today we're are going to learn about rural self governance in West Bengal.

# Meaning


- ▶ Local Self Government is the management of local affairs by such local bodies who have been elected by the local people. Self-governing rural local bodies are described in the Indian context as institutions of democratic decentralisation or Panchayati Raj.

# 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act 1993.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act was passed by the Parliament in April 1993. The Amendment provided a Constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj Institutions in India through insertion of Article 243 to Part IX of Indian Constitution.

# Structure



- 
- ▶ The panchayat system in West Bengal is a three-tier system consisting of the zilla parishad at the district level, panchayat samiti at the block level, and gram panchayat at the supra-village level..

# Composition of Zila Parishad

- ▶ Presidents of all Panchayat Samitis in the district.
- ▶ Specific number of seats have been reserved for Scheduled caste ,Schedule tribe and Women.
- ▶ Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies in the district.
- ▶ Three members are elected from each block within the district on the basis of universal adult franchise.



# Functions of Zila Parishad

- ▶ It examines and approves the budget of Panchayat samiti in the district.
- ▶ It coordinates development plans prepared by the Panchayat samitis.
- ▶ It advises the state government on all matters relating to development activities in the district.
- ▶ Set up and run schools and libraries in rural areas.
- ▶ Start primary health centers and hospitals in villages; start vaccination drives against epidemics.

# Composition of Panchayat samiti

- ▶ All gram Panchayat Pradhan and MLA's and MP's within the block area.
- ▶ Few members of the Panchayat samiti are elected directly by the voters of each village area within the block .
- ▶ All elected members of the zilla Parishad in the block area are members of the Panchayat samitis.
- ▶ There is a provision in the legislation of all the states for coopting a specific number of SC, ST and women as a member of the samiti.

# Functions of Panchayat Samiti

- ▶ **Civic amenities** – Construction and maintenance of roads; Supply of drinking water; Construction of drain and soakage pits ,Establishment of primary health centres and maternity centres ;Establishment and maintenance of primary and basic schools.
- ▶ **Development functions-** Distribution of improved seeds procurement and distribution of improved manure and fertilizers; equation of land and conservation of soil ;construction of Wells tanks .

# Composition of Gram Panchayat



- ▶ All the members of the village panchayat are elected directly by the people of the village.
- ▶ Specific number of seats is reserved for women.
- ▶ There is also reservation of seats for the scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribes on the basis of their population.

# Functions of Gram Panchayat

- ▶ **Obligatory Functions-** Construction and maintenance of public streets, latrines, drains, roads ; development of agriculture; promotion of cottage industry industry; registration of births deaths and marriages etc.
- ▶ **Discretionary Functions-** Planting, nursing of trees; Construction and maintenance of dharmshala, playgrounds, libraries ;Construction and maintenance of slaughterhouse; Relief of distress ; Running of community centres.