

Panchayats and municipalities

Constitutional design of rural and urban local self-government under the 73rd and 74th Amendments

• Constitutional Local Self-Government (1992 Acts)

◆ 73rd Amendment: Rural Panchayats

Added Part IX (Articles 243 to 243O) and the Eleventh Schedule with 29 functional subjects.

Enacted in 1992 and came into force on 24 April 1993, granting constitutional status to Panchayati Raj.

Intermediate-tier Panchayats are optional in states with population not exceeding 20 lakh.

○ 74th Amendment: municipalities

Added Part IXA (Articles 243P to 243ZG) and the Twelfth Schedule with 18 urban functional items.

Known as the Nagarpalika Act; enacted in 1992 and came into force on 1 June 1993.

Urban forms: Nagar Panchayat, Municipal Council and Municipal Corporation.

◇ Reservation of Seats (Art 243D & 243T)

SC and ST seats are reserved in proportion to their population in the local body area.

Constitutional minimum for women is not less than one-third (1/3) of all directly elected seats.

The one-third minimum includes seats reserved for women belonging to SCs and STs.

□ Tenure, Elections & Finance

Normal tenure is five years; early dissolution follows constitutional election rules.

State Election Commission (Art 243K / 243ZA) supervises electoral rolls and conducts local elections.

Governor constitutes a State Finance Commission every 5 years (Art 243I / 243Y) to review local finances.

REMEMBER 73rd = Panchayats; 74th = municipalities. The constitutional women's seat minimum is one-third.