



# Social Science

## Class 6

Chapter 12: Grassroots Democracy — Part 3: Local Government in Urban Areas



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## Questions, Activities & Projects

**Q 1. On your way to school, you and your friends notice that a water pipe is leaking. A lot of water is being wasted on account of the leak. What would you and your friends do in such a situation?**

**Ans:** If while coming to school we and our friends notice that a water pipe is leaking and a lot of water is getting wasted, we will take the following steps:

1. If possible, try to stop the leaking pipe by tying a cloth or plastic.
2. If the valve of the pipe is visible, try to close it.
3. Inform the water department (Nagar Nigam or Gram Panchayat).
4. Request the water department to take suitable measures to monitor such leakage in future.

**Q 2. Invite a member of an urban local body near you to your class. Discuss with them their role and responsibilities. Prepare a set of questions to ask them so that the meeting is fruitful.**

**Ans:** Short list of questions to ask a local body member:

1. What are your main responsibilities?
2. How is cleanliness and garbage management done?
3. How is the water and drainage system?
4. How are complaints resolved?
5. How are roads and street lights maintained?
6. How do you interact with citizens?
7. What steps are taken for environment and cleanliness?

**Q 3. Discuss with adult members of your family and neighbourhood, and make a list of their expectations from the urban local bodies.**

**Ans:** Brief expectations of adults from urban local bodies:

1. Cleanliness: Regular garbage collection and street cleaning.
2. Drinking water: Clean and regular water supply.
3. Roads and lights: Good roads and street lights everywhere.
4. Health services: Free treatment and cleanliness drives.
5. Education: Good government schools and libraries.
6. Drainage: No waterlogging during rains.
7. Grievance redressal: Quick and transparent system.
8. Parks and entertainment: Parks for children and the elderly.
9. Security: CCTV and security patrolling.
10. Environment: Tree plantation and pollution control.

**Q 4. Make a list of characteristics of a good urban local body.**

**Ans:** The following should be the characteristics of a good Urban Local Body:

1. Transparent and accountable administration to solve the problems of citizens.
2. Proper arrangement of clean drinking water supply and water conservation.
3. Arrangement of 24x7 electricity supply and street lighting.
4. Repair and expansion of roads, traffic management.
5. Ensuring cleanliness under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
6. Availability of primary health centers, hospitals and emergency medical services.
7. Availability of government schools and libraries.
8. Well-organized public transport system, like bus, metro, e-rickshaw.
9. Tree plantation drive and development of green areas.

**Q 5. What are the similarities and differences between the Panchayati Raj system in rural areas and the urban local bodies?**

**Ans:**

**Similarities:-**

1. Democratic system – Both institutions are elected by the public.
2. Three-tier structure – Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, Zila Parishad in Panchayati Raj; Nagar Panchayat, Municipality, Municipal Corporation in urban bodies.
3. Financial resources – Receive funds from taxes, government grants etc.
4. Responsibility of development works – Provide services like education, health, water supply, road construction etc.

**Differences:-**

| <b>Panchayati Raj (Rural Areas):</b>   | <b>Urban Local Bodies (Urban Areas):</b>   |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Works in villages and rural areas.</li> <li>2. Has 3 levels – Gram Panchayat, Block Samiti, Zila Parishad.</li> <li>3. Looks after rural roads, water, sanitation, farming, housing.</li> <li>4. Gets money from government grants and local taxes.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Works in towns and cities.</li> <li>2. Includes Nagar Panchayats, Municipalities, and Corporations.</li> <li>3. Manages roads, garbage, water, transport, health in cities.</li> <li>4. Earns from taxes like property tax and service charges.</li> </ol> |