

UNIT

5

Local Self Government



Learning Objectives

- To study and understand the development of local self government before and after Indian independence
- To learn about the rural and urban local governments
- To learn about the nature and working of Panchayat Raj system in India
- To understand the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts, 1992
- To know about the historical origin and development in local self governments in Tamil Nadu



5.1 Meaning of Local Self Government

Local Self-Governments are institutions that look after the administration of an area or a small community such as a village, a town or a city. Local Self-Government operates at the lowest level of society. It works at the grassroot level, close to the people, touching their everyday life. Local Self-Government is the management

of local affairs by such local bodies which have been elected by the local people. These local bodies provide services to the local community as well as act as an instrument of democratic self-government.

5.2 Historical Background

The idea of local self government is a very old concept in India. It was at its peak under the later Cholas or the Imperial Cholas of Tanjore.