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SOUTH INDIA'S PREMIER INSTITUTION FOR  
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**HISTORY**

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## **GROWTH OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT**

**What is Local self government?**

**Development of Local self government**

**Mayo's Resolution of 1870**

**Ripon's Resolution of 1882- A Landmark**

**Royal commission on decentralization**

**Declaration on 20 Aug 1917**

**Government of India act 1919**

**Simon commission (1930)**

**Government of India Act 1935**

**GROWTH OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT IN INDIA.****What is Local self government?**

Management of the local affairs by a body, elected by the people in that particular locality.

Importance of Local self government as said by Jawahar Lal Nehru in Aug 1948, 'Local Self Government must be the basic of any true system of democracy. Democracy at the top will not be a success, unless it is built on this foundation from below'

**Development of Local self government**

- \* Municipal government functional in India during Mauryan times,
- \* Panchayat was destroyed by East India Company when it was granted Diwani rights in 1765 by the Mughal Emperor.
- \* As Diwan, EIC abolished village land record office and created Patwari (company official record keeper) and office of Magistrate- carried out policing functions through the Darogha, these destroyed panchayats completely.
- \* After 1857 British tried to restore panchayats by giving it powers to try minor offences and to resolve village disputes. But these measures never restored the lost powers of the village community
- \* Modern terms to development of Local self government started with setting up of corporations in Madras, Bombay and Calcutta by British.

**Mayo's Resolution of 1870**

- \* **Indian Council Act of 1861** gave legislative devolution.
- \* Mayo's Resolution of 1870 on financial decentralization was its effect.
- \* Resolution provided transfer of control from Imperial government to Provincial government (in Education, Medical, Roads, etc.,).
- \* Provincial government was given annual grant in addition to the taxes levied by them for financing.

**Ripon's Resolution of 1882- A Landmark**

- \* Same financial decentralization as by Mayo on provincial government.
- \* Local boards were developed and given duties/ executive powers and revenue sources.



- \* Power of Municipalities were increased, Chairman was a non official member.
- \* He insisted on Non official members majority and election of the member against appointment.
- \* Taluk Boards and District boards were developed in Rural areas.
- \* Care of local amenities, sanitation, drainage, water supply and primary education were given to them.

Lord Curzon Introduced Calcutta Corporation Act 1899 and increased the official control (more Englishmen) over the local bodies i.e., reversing Ripon's actions.

### Royal commission on decentralization

- \* 1908 report was submitted and mentioned that,
- \* Lack of financial resources was the greatest problem in effective functioning of local bodies.
- \* It called for development of village panchayats and sub-District Boards in every taluk or tehsil.

### Declaration on 20 Aug 1917

- \* Future direction of constitutional advance towards, grant of responsible government to India people
- \* First step through local self-government.
- \* The above declaration was reflected in Government of India (Montague-Chemsford reform) act 1919

### Government of India act 1919

- \* Local self government was made Provincial and Transferred subject (under ministerial control).
- \* Allowed province to develop local bodies according to their provinces needs.
- \* No interference by central and provincial government.
- \* True achievement was in panchayats with many established as representative institutions with wide power in civil matters.

### Simon commission (1930)

Observed that,

- \* Control of provincial government over local bodies should be increased to bring greater efficiency.

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- \* Local self government Lack of progress of village panchayats except in Bengal, United province and Madras

### Government of India Act 1935

- \* Provided autonomy to the Provinces, so scope for development of Local self government increased.
- \* Popularly elected provincial government (1936) enacted various legislations
- \* Finance was given to ministers for development of Local self government increased.

**Post Independence**, greater emphasis on the building of democracy from the bottom upwards raised and Local self government objective was added in DPSP (Art 40) of constitution.

Which was visualized in 1991 with 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments.

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