

[GS2] - Governance

3 Local self government in the country are financially starved. Do you agree with this view? Analyse:

2023 will be 30th anniversary of 73rd and 74th amendment, bringing constitutional status to Local self government. Yet nothing has changed substantially. One of issue is Lack of financing.

Financing to Local self government.

According to Act 243 I - State finance commission is responsible to i) Devolve taxes between States and Local bodies
ii) Recommend for Measures to generate own tax & non-tax revenues
iii) Grants in aids to State Local bodies by States

Financial starvation - due to 5 key issues.

1. State finance commission - ideally formed in 1994, currently must be 5th in all states.
But some states not even formed 3rd/4th State finance commission e.g. Andhra only second

proposed to form 5th commission after com's direction.

2. Devolution of taxes to local bodies is not
ability but att constitutional obligation.

State finance commission \Rightarrow non-permanent body
due to lack of infrastructure, lead to several
extensions to submit reports. eg: Haryana -
submitted report only in 2014 [instead of 2011]

3. The Recommendations not based on updated
data, but on actual recommendations

4. States not concerned to consider or submit
report in the legislature (or) answer for not
complying eg: Karnataka, Maharashtra

5. Though States consider the recommendations
but are not implementing. eg: Bihar has not devolved
funding for Financial year 2015-2020.

way forward.

Decentralization as concept to
generate inter-governmental competition will
only be realized with adequate financial
resources at bottom of pyramid