Evolution of Local Government in India (1882-1947)

B.A. III (Paper-A)
Introduction

• The modern system of LG in India is largely a British creation. During this period the East India Company used to look after all the local affairs including construction of roads, supply of water, cleaning of streets etc.

• The development of local self govt. in India since the inception of British rule can be divided under following periods:
Development of Local Govt. under British Period

• Period I: Pre-1882
• Period II: 1882-1918
• Period III: 1919-1947
Development of Local Govt. under British Period

Period I: Pre-1882

- Setting up of a municipal corporation in 1687 in Madras empowered to levy taxes and providing the civic amenities
- The replacement of the corp. with the mayor’s court in 1726 due to resistance among people to pay taxes
Development of Local Govt. under British Period

Lord Mayo’s Resolution of 1870: stressed upon the need of decentralisation of financial as well as administrative powers to local govts. for their development and improvement.
Development of Local Govt. under British Period

Period II: 1882-1918

Lord Rippon’s Resolution of 1882 is regarded as landmark in the development of LG in India.

The major recommendations of the resolution were:
Development of Local Govt. under British Period

- Setting up of local boards throughout the country
- Introduction of the system of elections for the members of boards
- Empowerment of the boards with the management of local sources of revenue
Development of Local Govt. under British Period

- Affixation of courtesy titles to the names of the non-officials
- The involvement of the official element not to exceed 1/3 of the whole
- The state control on LSGs be exercised from within rather than from outside
Development of Local Govt. under British Period

- Sanction of govt. to be made necessary to legalise certain matters of the local boards
- Suppression is to be made only with the consent of govt. of India
Development of Local Govt. under British Period

Royal Commission on Decentralisation, 1907 stressed upon the need of:
• setting up of village panchayat
• setting up of municipalities
• introduction of the system of elections in local bodies
• control over municipalities
• financial autonomy
Development of Local Govt. under British Period

Period III: 1919-1947

Act of Dyarchy, 1919 aimed at:

• lowering the franchise
• increasing the elected element in local bodies
• passing executive direction into non-official hands
Development of Local Govt. under British Period

Govt. of India Act, 1935 emphasied on:
• The process of democratisation of Govt. and administration
• Replacement of Dyarchy system by Provincial Autonomy
Development of Local Govt. under British Period

After Govt. of India Act, 1935 no significant development took place in the journey of LSGs in India. The existing system continued till 1947.
THANKS