

# PREFACE

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When we go by definition of local self government it is found that this tool of public administration is designed to enable inhabitants of an identified territory to rule themselves and control their own affairs. An administrative body of this nature can be for a small geographical area such as a village, town, district or a city. Typically it controls a specific geographical region and cannot pass or enforce laws that will affect a wider area. In India the system has a traditional backing. In spite of that, the fact remains that there has been a constant endeavor to upgrade local self government so as to stabilize democratic polity of the Country. The reason is that local self government provides foundational base for successful working of a wider government. Territory of a state is divided into small localities as it is difficult to control the entire area from a single centre of power. This is particularly relevant in present day scenario when stress is on promoting all round development on socio-economic front and ensuring that its effect is wide spread, reaching different sections of populace taking a special care of those who are weaker and deprived. Apart from this, decentralization of power is inevitable for imparting democratic thoughts and education to the masses so as to get a real feel of advantages of this type of political set up for providing opportunity to live in peace, in an environment of equality, liberty and dignity.

Consideration of local problems, solving these adequately and properly is rendered possible through such administrative units which thus establish democracy in wider context and give it deeper roots. Local problems requiring use of higher technologies and higher quantum of funds when presented to the state and central governments through local self government get a focused attention, important for better understanding leading to appropriate solutions.

Recognizing importance of local self government and giving it required status has gone a long way to strengthen democracy in India. In order to make these institutions more efficient, laws, rules and regulations relating thereto are kept under constant review.

J&K has equally been serious in implementing concept of local self government in letter and spirit. Detailed laws have been made for this purpose besides creating awareness about advantages of this system of governance which promotes appreciation of Indian way of governance, its faith and ideologies.

Local self government can be used as an effective tool for getting cooperation of community for accelerated development of different regions and local areas of state to the satisfaction of masses and facilitate talk together and walk together more for productive purposes than for disruptions. We can move miles in this behalf in case people are encouraged to join local self governance in a positive manner. It is for this purpose that various aspects of this type of popular government should get better public awareness.

An attempt has been made to put together various facts relevant to local self governance, historical as also contemporary.

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A.K. Dewani