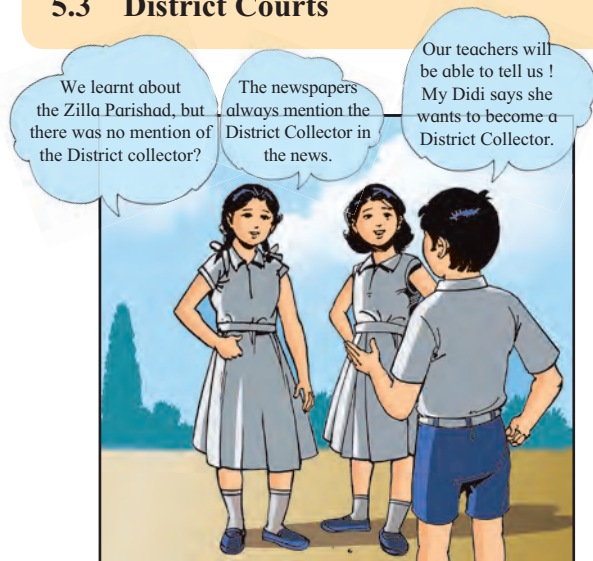


5. District Administration

5.1 The District Collector

5.2 The Chief of the District Police

5.3 District Courts



Do such questions occur to you, too? The Zilla Parishad is a part of the rural local government system i.e. the Panchayati Raj system. But in Maharashtra, the administration of the district is shared by both the Zilla Parishad and District Collector. The Union Government and State Government both participate in this administration.

5.1 The District Collector :

The District Collector is the head of the district administration. He is appointed by the State Government. He has to perform many functions from collecting agricultural tax to maintaining law and order in the district. We can see what these functions are from the chart given below.

| District Collector | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| Agriculture | Law and Order | Election Officer | Disaster Management |
| To collect agricultural tax | Establish peace in the district | To ensure smooth conduct of elections | To take quick decisions during times of disaster and prevent or minimise the damage |
| To implement laws relating to agriculture | To maintain social harmony | To take necessary decisions related to the electoral process. | To give orders to the disaster management units / cells. |
| To provide relief in case of drought and scarcity of fodder | To restrict unlawful assembly, impose curfew if required | To update the voters' lists | To rehabilitate / those affected by a disaster |



Do you know ?

Why is it important to maintain social harmony?

The differences of opinion, disputes and conflicts in the society must be resolved by peaceful means. However, when this does not happen it gives rise to tensions. If this leads to violent incidents, it disturbs social harmony. It acts as an obstacle to our progress. Public property is damaged. The District Collector makes efforts to prevent such occurrences but it is the duty of the citizens also to help maintain social harmony.

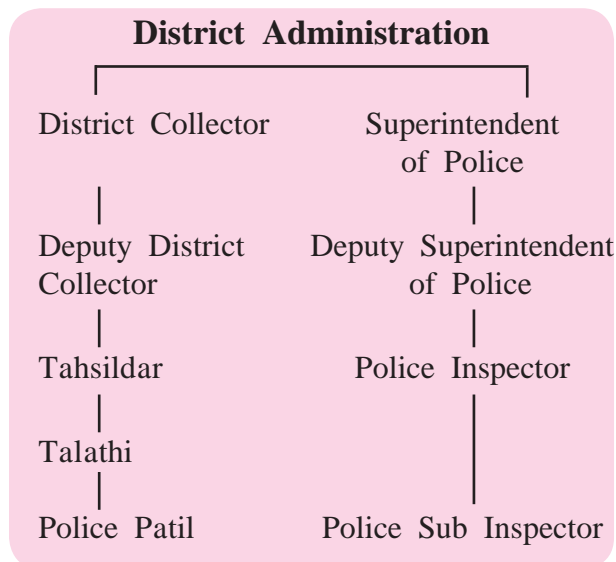
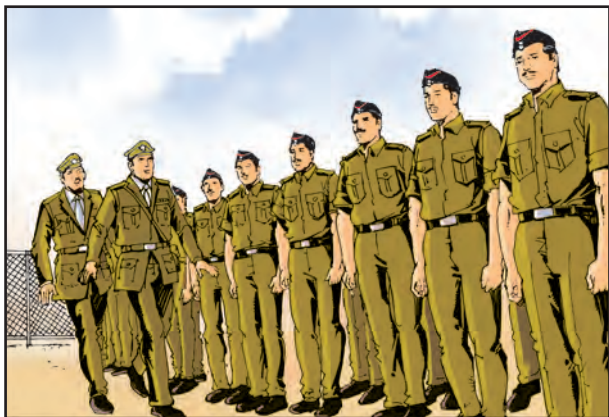


Tahsildar : There is a Tahsildar for every taluka or tehsil. As a Judicial Officer, he gives judgements to resolve conflicts at the local level. The Tahsildar has the responsibility of maintaining peace and order in the taluka.

5.2 The Chief of the District Police

In Maharashtra, there is a Superintendent of Police at every district headquarters. He is the chief Police Officer of the district. He helps the District Collector to maintain peace and order in the district. In the city, the Police Commissioner has the responsibility of maintaining law and order.

The Superintendent of Police inspecting a Police unit



5.3 District Courts

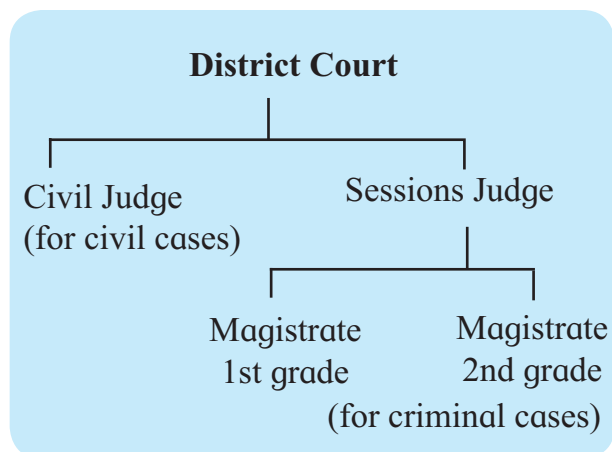
The Courts at the district level have to perform the function of resolving disputes, delivering judgments and ensuring that conflicts are resolved at the earliest.

The Constitution of India has established an independent judiciary. At the apex of that system is the Supreme Court of India. Below this are the High Courts, and below them, the lower courts. These include District Courts, Taluka Courts and Revenue Courts.



A court in session

The Court at the district level is known as the District Court. The district court has a chief District Judge and some other Judges. Their main function is to hear the various cases in the district and deliver the final judgment. One can appeal against the judgment of the taluka court in the District Court.



Disaster Management

Sometimes, we may have to face a calamity. It could be a natural disaster like floods, fire, a cloudburst, cyclone, earthquake, landslide or problems like riots, bomb blasts, breaking of a dam, epidemics, etc. These disasters lead to loss of human lives and displacement of people beside tremendous financial loss. Therefore, the issues of rehabilitation become important. 'Disaster Management' is a process which enables one to face a disaster in a scientific and organized manner. The entire machinery of a district is involved in this process. Advances in technology make it possible for us to get prior information about several kinds of disasters. For example, a system which can predict and warn us of floods or storms has been developed. These help us to be better prepared to face the disaster.



Always remember...

It is important to remain alert during a time of crisis. To face a disaster one needs the help of people as well as different systems and organizations. In order to be able to contact them urgently, one should display the contact numbers of the police, fire brigade, hospitals, blood banks at a prominent place in the house. Tell your friends also to do the same.



Do you know ?

In Maharashtra, many officers have made serious attempts to bring about reforms in the administration. Their experiments have helped to improve the services provided to the citizens. This has helped the citizens to form a favourable opinion about the administration. As a result their support to the administration and their participation in it has improved.

(a) Lakhina Pattern : In order to make the administration efficient and to increase the quality of public services available to the citizens, Shri Anilkumar Lakhina brought about many reforms when he was District Collector of Ahmadnagar District. These are known as the 'Lakhina Pattern'. Standardization of work procedures, stating rules in simple language which could be understood by the people, etc. were the administrative changes he introduced. He also started the 'Single Window' system, so that jobs that people came to do could be completed under one roof.

(b) Dalvi Pattern : The administrative reforms implemented



by Shri Chandrakant Dalvi when he was District Collector of Pune District, are known as the 'Dalvi Pattern'. The objective of the reform was to speed up the decision making by ensuring that files were not allowed to stack up and that they were dealt with on the same day that they were received. This pattern is also known as 'Zero Pendency Pattern'. It helped in bringing efficiency and speed into administrative work.

(c) Chahande Pattern : When Dr Sanjay Chahande was the Divisional Commissioner of Nashik he implemented certain reforms which are now known

as the 'Chahande Pattern'. In order to reduce the gap between the people and the administration, to increase the accountability of the administration towards the people and to prioritize the development work through people's participation, he implemented the 'Gramastha Din' (Villagers' Day) scheme. This is the appointed day when the administrative officials and staff visit a village and establish a dialogue with the people to understand their problems and help to solve them.



Exercise

1. Answer in one sentence.

- (1) Who heads the District Administration?
- (2) What is the responsibility of the Tahsildar?
- (3) Which court is at the apex of the judiciary?
- (4) Which disasters can we be forewarned about?

2. Match the following.

Group A

(a) District Collector

(b) District Court

(c) Tahsildar

Group B

(1) Taluka Magistrate

(2) Maintaining law and order

(3) Resolving disputes

3. Discuss the following issues.

- (1) Disaster Management
- (2) Functions of the District Collector

4. Which of the following positions would you like to be in, and why?

- (1) District Collector
- (2) Chief of the District Police
- (3) Judge

Activities

- (1) Visit the police station nearest to you and obtain information about the work that is done there.
- (2) Make a chart of the different disasters showing what precautions are to be taken and important phone numbers. Display the chart in your class.
- (3) Send New Year greetings to the District Collector, Chief of the District Police and the District Judge.