

# 6

## District Administration

### Lesson Plan

#### Contents

- ▶ An overview of the administration of a district
- ▶ Understanding the different aspects of district administrations – land, revenue, police, judicial

#### Objectives

- ▶ To understand the operations of the District under a District Collector or Deputy Commissioner
- ▶ To learn about the Zila Parishad, its composition, the people who assist it in administering the district, the role of the police and the judiciary
- ▶ To know the network of offices and officials who run the administration
- ▶ To appreciate the various tasks carried out by officials at the different levels

#### Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Pictures
- ▶ Blackboard
- ▶ Internet

#### Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Explain the need for a district administration and its components of revenue and development work, policing it and ensuring justice for the people of the district
- ▶ Explain the significance of the District Magistrate, the Zila Parishad, the functionaries at Tehsil/Taluka and Block levels, the Police and the Judiciary.
- ▶ Encourage projects: If you had to run the classroom like a district and perform different functions [keep classroom clean, provide first aid, help weak students do their homework, keep attendance records, organise news reading every day, arrange library periods, etc.] how would you do it?

#### Background and Reading

- ▶ Particularly focus on the tasks required to be performed at the district level and the network of functionaries who carry them out.

- ▶ District headed by: District Magistrate or Deputy Commissioner
- ▶ Often called the Zila Sabhadhipati or Zila Adyaksha
- ▶ The DM and the SP/SSP head the administration

### **Zila Parishad**

- ▶ Composition
- ▶ An elected body – Block Pramukhs of Block Samitis; Members of State Legislatures [Vidhan Sabha & Vidhan Parishad]; MPs [Members of Parliament]; SC/ST representatives; Women representatives; A President and a Vice President elected by these members.
- ▶ Functions:
  - (i) Advise, help & support Gram Panchayats and Block Samitis and supervise them;
  - (ii) Supervise implementation of planned projects;
  - (iii) Maintain law and order;
  - (iv) Maintain land records and collect land revenue;
  - (v) Provide civic amenities;
  - (vi) Relief during natural calamities;
  - (vii) Link between village panchayats and State Government.

### **Organisation of District**

- ▶ Revenue Officers: Tehsildar – Naib Tehsildar – Kanungo – Patwari
- ▶ Tehsils or Talukas – under tehsildars, kanungos: resolve conflicts, supervise the work and land assessment and revenue collection by lekhpals or patwaris.
- ▶ Tehsildars – hears land and property disputes; supervises work of Patwaris overseeing proper maintenance of land records and revenue collection; ensures farmers get copy of land records and students get caste certificates.
- ▶ Kanungo and Circle Revenue Officer – supervise Patwaris; maintain a register of harvest inspections called Khasra record; numbering all pieces of land in village.
- ▶ Disputes about land – generally settled by Sarpanch or Patwari/Lekhpal/Karamchari who is the land record officer: maintains record of crops grown every year; updates land ownership records; keeps government informed of this and any disasters affecting crops.

### **Inheritance**

- ▶ Agricultural land divided among sons only.
- ▶ Hindu Succession Act 2005 – 9th September 2005 – daughters can also inherit equal share with sons.

### **District Police**

- ▶ Police Officers: SSP/SP – Deputy SP – Inspectors – Sub-Inspectors – Head Constables – Constables – Chowkidar – Jailor and Deputy Jailor
- ▶ Headed by the Superintendent or Senior Superintendent of Police
- ▶ Police force – Maintain law and order; prevent crimes and punish criminals

### **District Police Station**

- ▶ Thanas – headed by Station House Officer [SHO] – have a specified area in their control –

people report crimes, disputes and accidents here—complaint filed called First Information Report [FIR], only after this the police enquire and investigate, and take action

### **District or Lower Courts**

- ▶ District Judge and Additional District Judge - Civil Courts—deal with civil cases such as property, land and financial disputes
- ▶ Sessions Judge—Criminal Cases—deal with criminal cases like theft, assault, murder, etc. He can even award life sentence or the death penalty.
- ▶ Appeal—to High Court which is the highest judicial authority in a State.

### **Civic Officers**

- ▶ District Civil Surgeon and Chief Medical Officer
- ▶ District Inspector of Schools
- ▶ District Planning Officer
- ▶ Executive Engineer

## **Assessment Corner**

### **Oral Assignment**

- A. Ask for answers at random from the students. Confirm right answers.  
Let the students write down the answers if they like.

### **Written Assignment**

- B–D. The teacher has two options—(i) Either do these exercises orally first and then ask the students to write them down. OR (ii) Ask students to write the answers on their own. Then teacher can announce the correct answers and ask partners to cross check them.  
In either case, the answers can be written as homework and teacher can check in class.

### **Think Tank**

- G. **HOTS questions:** Discuss the questions in class and let students write the answers to E and F as homework. Teacher should assess individual work.