

## Hierarchy of Administrative Areas in India with Special Reference to Punjab

**Harbans Singh**

Associate Professor and Head, P G Dept. Of Geography Scd Govt. College Ludhiana Punjab state, India

### Abstract

Hierarchy of administrative areas is an arrangement in which these areas are represented as being above or below or at the same level. All nations of the world widely differ in number of tiers of administrative areas. Variety of factors i.e, physical, social, ethnic and political explains the variations in hierarchy of administrative areas. In this paper an attempt has been made to discuss the hierarchy in General purpose authorities operating in Punjab. Punjab has five tiers administrative hierarchy. Two intermediate tiers among five were added during the British rule in India and lowest tier was added after independence. Development Block the lowest tier which was created as rural development administrative unit gained importance after getting status of general purpose administrative area. In contrast Division and Sub-division, created during British rule were on the wane. In fact, medium area sized state of Punjab can easily dispense with second and fourth tier. This might lead to increase in administrative and economic efficiency and effectiveness in delivery of administrative services.

**KEYWORDS:** Administrative hierarchy, Administrative efficiency, Administrative tier

### Introduction

Hierarchy, an arrangement of administrative areas in which these are represented as being above or below or at the same level as another is indeed, one of the five elements of any territorial organization. The other four include: (i) movement, (ii) networks, (iii) nodes, and (iv) surfaces (Haggett, 1965). Hierarchy is a utilitarian form of arrangement imbuing efficiency (Bursink, 1975, p.195-97). In its own turn, different tiers in administrative hierarchy differ widely in their size, shape, location of headquarters, and the service they provide. All nations of the world widely differ in number of tiers of administrative areas. United States of America, United Kingdom and Sweden have three tiers each. France has five tiers in area administration. India along with China makes a case of six-tier administrative hierarchy (Krishan, 1992, p. 16).

A variety of factors explain these variations of hierarchy. Type of political system i.e., democratic or dictatorship also explains these variations. Countries with large area and population generally have more hierarchical tiers. More number of tiers may be present because of physical, social, ethnic and religious factors. There would be more tiers in centralized government too. The increased amount of administrative activities in their case would need more tiers to convert central political direction into local political action (Humes and Martin, 1961, p. 12). Nations operating for federal system would have additional tier i.e., the federal state, immediately after the national government. More hierarchical tiers are required to administer rural areas and the lesser, urban areas. Hence, the nature and the area size rather population of the area play a significant role in determining the number of tiers in spatial administration..

## Research Methodology

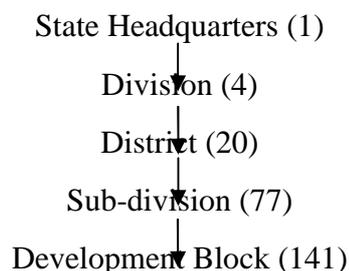
Present study is based primary and secondary sources of data. Questionnaire based field work was conducted in 2011 to collect the information on hierarchy of spatial units carved out by public authorities operating to deliver their functions in Punjab. Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 2012 published by the Economic adviser to the Govt of Punjab, Chandigarh has also pressed into service Administrative reports published by various government departments have also used to collect the required information. Required maps have been prepared to represent various tiers of administrative hierarchy in Punjab.

## GENERAL PURPOSE AUTHORITIES IN PUNJAB

For general purpose administration, there is a five-tier hierarchy of administrative areas in the state. In this hierarchy, state headquarters is at the top and development block at the bottom. The division, the district and the sub-division fall in between the two. In the following pages, the division, the district, the sub-division and the development block have been discussed, in order.

With an area of 50,362 km<sup>2</sup>, Punjab falls in the category of medium area sized states of India. As in other parts of the country, local administration in Punjab is territorially organized into five-tier hierarchy. Punjab is currently divided into four divisions, 20 districts, 77 sub-divisions and 141 development blocks. On an average, there is ratio of 1:5 between the divisions and districts and of 1:3.9 between districts and sub-divisions in Punjab. The ratio between sub-divisions and development blocks is of 1:2, the lowest of all hierarchical tiers (Table 1.1). This ratio, however, ranged from a high of 1:3 in Gurdaspur district to a low of 1:1 in SAS Nagar (Mohali), Barnala, and Faridkot districts. Evidently, in newly created districts, the ratio between sub-divisions and development blocks is low in comparison to old districts in the state. In no case, does the ratio between tiers of different hierarchical orders find closeness to Christaller's principle of K-7 propounded by him in a case of administrative system. Obviously, populism under electoral democratic system of the country has thrown to winds the whole idea of administrative and economic efficiency.

### Hierarchy of General Purpose Authorities in Punjab



### The Division

In hierarchy of general administration, division falls next only to the state headquarters. Punjab is divided into four administrative divisions. A senior officer from Indian Administrative Services (IAS) is appointed its administrator, known as Divisional Commissioner.

The history of the division as an administrative unit goes back to the British period. In 1829, an intermediate authority between the district and the province (now state) was

created for revenue administration. Over the period additional powers and functions have also been delegated to the divisional commissioners, transforming the division into a general purpose unit.

After independence, some of the states in India abolished this intermediate tier. These include Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat. But after sometime, some of the states like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra have reverted to the old system. Punjab notwithstanding its small size in comparison to Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra has retained the old system.

Presently, Punjab is divided into four divisions ie, Patiala, Jalandhar, Ferozpur and Faridkot (Table 1.1). Earlier in 1973, this number was three. In 1998, a new division of Faridkot was created. This happened after Faridkot district was trifurcated into Faridkot, Muktsar and Moga districts. Faridkot division has three districts- Faridkot, Bathinda and Mansa under its jurisdiction. On an average, five districts fall under one division in Punjab, which compares favourably with the national average of 4.88 districts per division<sup>2</sup>, but quite low in comparison to Christaller's K-7 principle.

**Table 1.1**  
**Punjab: Ratio between Various Tiers in Administrative Hierarchy, 2011**

Division	District	Sub-division	Development Block	Ratio between	Ratio between	Ratio Between
1	2	3	4	1&2	2&3	3&4
Jalandhar (1)	7	27	62	1:7	1:4	1:2
Patiala (1)	7	31	45	1:7	1:4	1:1.5
Ferozpur (1)	3	11	19	1:3	1:4	1:2
Faridkot (1)	3	08	15	1:3	1:3	1:2
Punjab (4)	20	77	141	1:5	1:3.85	1:2

### The District

Historically, the district has been the key unit of local administration in India. The practice began during the Mauryan period (322-185 B.C.) to be followed by the Mughals (A.D. 1526-1761) and the Britishers (A.D.1761-1947). During the British period, the head of every district was an officer, who in the eyes of most of the inhabitants was the government (Simon Commission Report, quoted in Shukla, 1976, p. 126). This tradition continued after independence also, as the district has emerged as the pivot of local administration. The district, according to Administrative Reforms Commission (1967), is the most convenient geographical unit, where the total apparatus of public administration is likely to get concentrated, and where it comes into direct contact with the people (See Administrative Reforms Commission, 1967). An officer from the Indian Administrative Services is appointed its chief, which is non-elective. District administration performs six-fold functions: regulatory, developmental, supervision of local bodies, conduct of elections, emergency and residuary. Regulatory functions are related with law and order, control of crimes, provision of justice, land revenue administration and distribution of food and civil supplies. Developmental functions include agricultural production, cooperation, animal husbandry, public health, employment generation and social welfare.

<sup>2</sup>Administrative division, as an intermediate tier between the state headquarters and the district, is currently available only in twelve states of India. The national average has been arrived at their basis.

Regulatory functions of districts are traditional while developmental functions were mainly added after independence. 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 provided the Constitutional status to the district as a third tier in development administration. Punjab State Assembly passed 'The Punjab Panchayati Raj Act in 1994'. Not only does the Deputy Commissioner play an important role in the efficient delivery of services, but is also responsible to supervise the functioning of lower order administrative areas.

**Table 1.2**  
**Punjab: Number of Tiers of Administrative Hierarchy, 2011**

1	2	3	4
State/District	Sub-division	Development Block	Ratio between Columns 2 & 3
<b>PUNJAB (20)</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>1:2</b>
Amritsar	04	08	1:2
Gurdaspur	05	16	1:3
Tarn Taran	03	08	1:3
Kapurthala	04	05	1:1
Jalandhar	05	10	1:2
Hoshiarpur	04	10	1:3
SBSNagar(Nawan Shahr)	02	05	1:3
Ropar	04	05	1:1
Ludhiana	07	12	1:2
Firozpur	05	10	1:2
Faridkot	02	02	1:1
Muktsar	03	04	1:1
Moga	03	05	1:2
Barnala	02	03	1:1
Sangrur	06	09	1:2
Bathinda	03	08	1:3
Mansa	03	05	1:2
Patiala	05	08	1:2
Fatehgarh Sahib	04	05	1:1
SAS Nagar (Mohali)	03	03	1:1

Sources: (i) Census of India, General Population Tables, Punjab, for 1991, 2001, and 2011, Directorate of Census Operation, Punjab, Chandigarh.

(ii) Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 2012, Economic Adviser to Government of Punjab, Chandigarh.

Note:-Figures showing the ratio between sub-division and development blocks have rounded to one.

District head is known as Deputy Commissioner in Punjab, District Collector in Rajasthan and District Magistrate in Uttar Pradesh. It is because he is considered custodian of law and order, collection of revenue and provision of justice in the district. During the British rule, the Deputy Commissioner was mainly responsible for the collection of land revenue and maintenance of law and order in his territorial jurisdiction. He is supposed to maintain high quality of devotion, dedication, loyalty, integrity and professionalism toward his duties.

It has been observed that the ratio between sub-divisions and development blocks is higher than the state average (1:2), in one-fourth of the districts in the state. Against this, three-fourths of the districts have this ratio either lower or equal to the state average. In some of the states such as Rajasthan, Bihar, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Karnataka, the ratio between sub-divisions and development blocks is 1:1. It seems that the development block as a tier in the local government is gaining importance, especially after 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 (Table 1.2).

### **Sub-division**

In India, state governments are empowered to divide districts into sub-divisions for general and criminal administration (Kant, 1986, p.74). Land Revenue Act/Codes also permit the same for land revenue administration. Historically, districts were divided into tahsils for revenue administration. This practice continued even after independence in several states including Punjab. The same territory is constituted as a sub-division for both criminal and revenue administration in Punjab. An officer from Central or State Administrative Services is appointed the head of a sub-division, known as Sub-Divisional Magistrate.

At the sub-divisional level, SDO-Civil or SDM acts as the all purpose officer. He functions directly under the Deputy Commissioner. He has the Executive and Magisterial powers at the sub-divisional level, as the Deputy Commissioner enjoys these at the district level, with the only difference that all such powers at the sub-divisional level are delegated from the district level and can be enhanced or curtailed in case of an emergency situation. Revenue collection, transfer of land and settlement of land disputes are some of the important functions performed at the sub-divisional level. He coordinates the officers of the various departments for the efficient and speedy delivery of services to the people of the sub-division. At sub-division level too, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) performs all the six types of functions, performed by a Deputy Commissioner at the district level.

With the passage of time, developmental functions have been shifted to the development block level from the sub-divisional level. The former was added as a new tier in the local government after independence for agriculture and rural development, reducing the importance of sub-division as an intermediate tier in local administration. Under the given situation, sub-division, as a tier in hierarchy of local administration, is losing its importance. Some of the newly carved out sub-divisions such as Talwandi Sabo, Baba Bakala, Fatehgarh Sahib, Chamkaur Sahib and Khadur Sahib are just over grown villages with religious importance. Similarly, populism with electoral considerations seem to have played a role to carve out some sub-divisions including Lehra, Moonak in Sangrur district, Payal and Raikot in Ludhiana district and Gidderbaha in Muktsar district respectively.

On one hand, populism is instrumental in formation of new sub-divisions in the state; on the other hand administrative importance of sub-divisions, as a tier in local government, has been declining over the period. It is but natural that one can raise questions on the rationality of keeping sub-division as a tier in local administration in the state of Punjab. Could revenue, as a function, a main function performed at this level now in Punjab, be shifted to the level of development block? In other words, should development block be treated as a general purpose authority of local administration in Punjab?

### **Development Block**

The Community Development Block (CDB), an administrative unit earmarked for rural development, is the lowest tier in the district administration in India. Created after independence in a phased manner under the community development programme which was initiated on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1952, development blocks were carved out to formulate and implement various programmes for the upliftment of rural areas. Community development block was conceived to carry out the total development of a rural community as a whole. An officer known as Block Development and Panchayat Officer (BDPO) looks after block administration. Now, development blocks are acquiring the status of a general purpose administrative unit, since the BDPO has been vested with all powers, which a sub-divisional officer (civil) exercises at the sub-division level, except land revenue administration.

In 1981, there were 118 development blocks in Punjab with an average area of of 1,300 km<sup>2</sup>, average population of 200,000 persons and about 200 villages. In 2011 the number of development blocks in Punjab rose to 141 with an average area of 357 km<sup>2</sup>, population of 173 thousand persons and less than 100 villages. Development block in Punjab is comparatively small in area and big in population size.

China also added a new tier at the bottom of administrative hierarchy after the communists came into power in 1949 (Ginsberg, 1952, p.102-17). These were delineated on systematic and scientific lines. But in India development blocks were delineated by district officials, generally at the lower levels of bureaucracy. The boundaries of development blocks were created arbitrarily just to meet the requirements of population and area (Kant, 1986, p.77).

### **Local Self Government in Punjab**

The roots of local self government in India, as an organised system of governance, go back to the seventeenth century, when a Municipal body was set up at Madras in 1688. It was a step in the direction of financial decentralisation and making local governance elective (Meheshwari, 1971, p.18). Punjab was the first province to implement Punjab Acts xiii of 1884 and xx of 1891, were subsequently followed by several other provinces (Hugh, 1967, p. 134).

### **Municipal Administration in Punjab**

The Punjab Municipal Act, enacted in 1911 for the provision of services to people living in towns, contained comprehensive rules and regulations regarding development, structure and functioning of municipal government (See Punjab Municipal Act, 1911). Under Section 50 of this Act, municipal administration is expected to provide services relating to urban land use planning and provision of a variety of urban basic services. Municipal Councils and Municipal Corporations under Section 61 of the Act are empowered to impose taxes including property tax, house tax, professional tax and vehicle tax on cycle rickshaws and horse carts, operating within municipal limits. Also, these are empowered to raise revenue for running different municipal services. After Independence, Punjab Municipal Act, 1911 was amended in 1954 and then in 1994. Punjab Municipal Corporation Act was passed in 1978 to upgrade the municipalities to municipal corporations for towns having a population of more than half a million. Following this, municipalities in cities of Amritsar, Jalandhar and Ludhiana were upgraded to Municipal Corporations. Punjab Municipal Act was amended in 1994, after the enactment of 74<sup>th</sup> Constitution Amendment Act; 1992. The objective was to make these bodies democratically,

financially and functionally stronger. These are now elected for five years, more funds and functions are transferred from the state government.

In Punjab, Municipal administration has three-tier hierarchy: Nagar Panchayat, Municipal Council and Municipal Corporation. All municipal bodies function under the control and supervision of the state government. Directorate of Urban Local Bodies headquartered at Chandigarh has administrative control over all urban local bodies in the state. The status of a municipal body depends primarily on the population size, income and administrative importance of the respective towns.

According to 2011 Census, 10 million persons accounting for 37.0 percent the total population were living in 174 towns of Punjab. Earlier in 2001 Census, 8.2 million persons representing 34.0 percent of total population were living in 154 towns of various sizes. Emergence of 20 new towns and an increase of 2.0 million persons in urban areas during 2001-2011 speak of rapid urbanisation in the state during this period.

In 1966, a directorate was established at the state headquarters in Chandigarh for the administrative control of urban local bodies in the state, which was accorded permanent status in 1979. Directorate Urban Local Bodies, Punjab has organised its territorial administration in three tier hierarchy: Headquarters, Region and Municipal Corporation/ Municipal Council/Nagar Panchyat. Punjab is divided into six regions with headquarters at Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Patiala, Bathinda and Firozpur (Fig. 1.1). Urban local bodies falling in three districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Tarn Taran are controlled by Amritsar region. There are 18 municipalities and five Improvement Trusts in this region, whereas Jalandhar region has urban local bodies falling in districts of Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala and SBS Nagar (Nawan Shahr) and has 30 Municipal Committees and six Improvement Trusts. Similarly, municipalities and improvement trusts located in towns falling in districts of Ludhiana, Ropar and Fatehgarh Sahib come under Ludhiana region. There are, in all, 20 municipalities and four Improvement Trusts in this region located at different places. Patiala region has the largest number of 32 municipalities and seven Improvement Trusts under it in districts of Patiala, Sangrur, Barnala and SAS Nagar (Mohali). Another 17 municipalities and one Improvement Trust in districts of Bathinda, Mansa and Sri Muktsar Sahib are a part of Bathinda region. Remaining 16 municipalities and five Improvement Trusts in three districts of Firozpur, Faridkot and Moga fall under Firozpur region (Table 1.3).

A regional deputy director, belonging to state administrative services, is appointed to administer the regional office. In all, there are at present nine municipal Corporations, 122 municipal councils and 31 nagar panchayats and 28 improvement trusts in the state (Fig. 1.2). Improvement trusts are established under the Town Improvement Act, 1920 to formulate and implement various urban development schemes. In addition, there are number of cantonment towns in Punjab, under the administrative control of Cantonment Boards established by the Ministry of Defence, Government of India. In Punjab, cantonment boards are located at Jalandhar, Firozpur and Amritsar. The function of a Cantonment Board includes making provisions for basic facilities and services to the defence personnels and civil population living there.

**Table 1.3**  
**Punjab: Urban Local Bodies Territorial Organisation, 2012**

<b>Region</b>	<b>No. of Municipal Corporation/ Committee/ Nagar Panchayat</b>	<b>Number of Improvement Trust</b>	<b>Name of District</b>
Amritsar	19	05	Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Tarn Taran
Jalandhar	33	06	Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala, SBS Nagar
Ludhiana	21	04	Ludhiana, Ropar, Fatehgarh Sahib
Patiala	34	07	Patiala, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Sangrur, Barnala
Bathinda	18	01	Bathinda, Mansa, Muktsar
Firozpur	17	05	Firozpur, Faridkot, Moga

Source: Field Work and Department of Urban Local Government, Punjab, Chandigarh

Municipal Corporations/Councils and Nagar Panchayats are elected bodies. President/ Mayor of local bodies are elected by councillors. The Commissioners in Municipal Corporations and the Executive Officers in Municipal Councils are non-elective, appointed by the state government for executive control and to take over administrative control of the municipal bodies when dissolved by the state government. The municipal house presided over by a Mayor/ President, makes decision with regard to the provisions for facilities to be provided to the citizens. The issue of urban governance is gradually gaining importance in view of the role urban centres play in economic development. Secondly, the rate of urbanization in the country as a whole has picked up in post-economic liberalization phase. In a democratic set up, educated and politically awake urban residents aided by electronic media raise their voice for better urban facilities and amenities.

Further, urban issues are becoming more and more complex and multifaceted with the emergence of private land developers and builders, on the one hand and Cooperative Group Housing Societies, on the other. Establishment of high powered (administrative and financial) urban development authorities has been found as a way to deal with emerging urban development challenges. Punjab Urban Development Authority (PUDA), established in the year 1995 by Punjab government, is headquartered at SAS Nagar (Mohali).

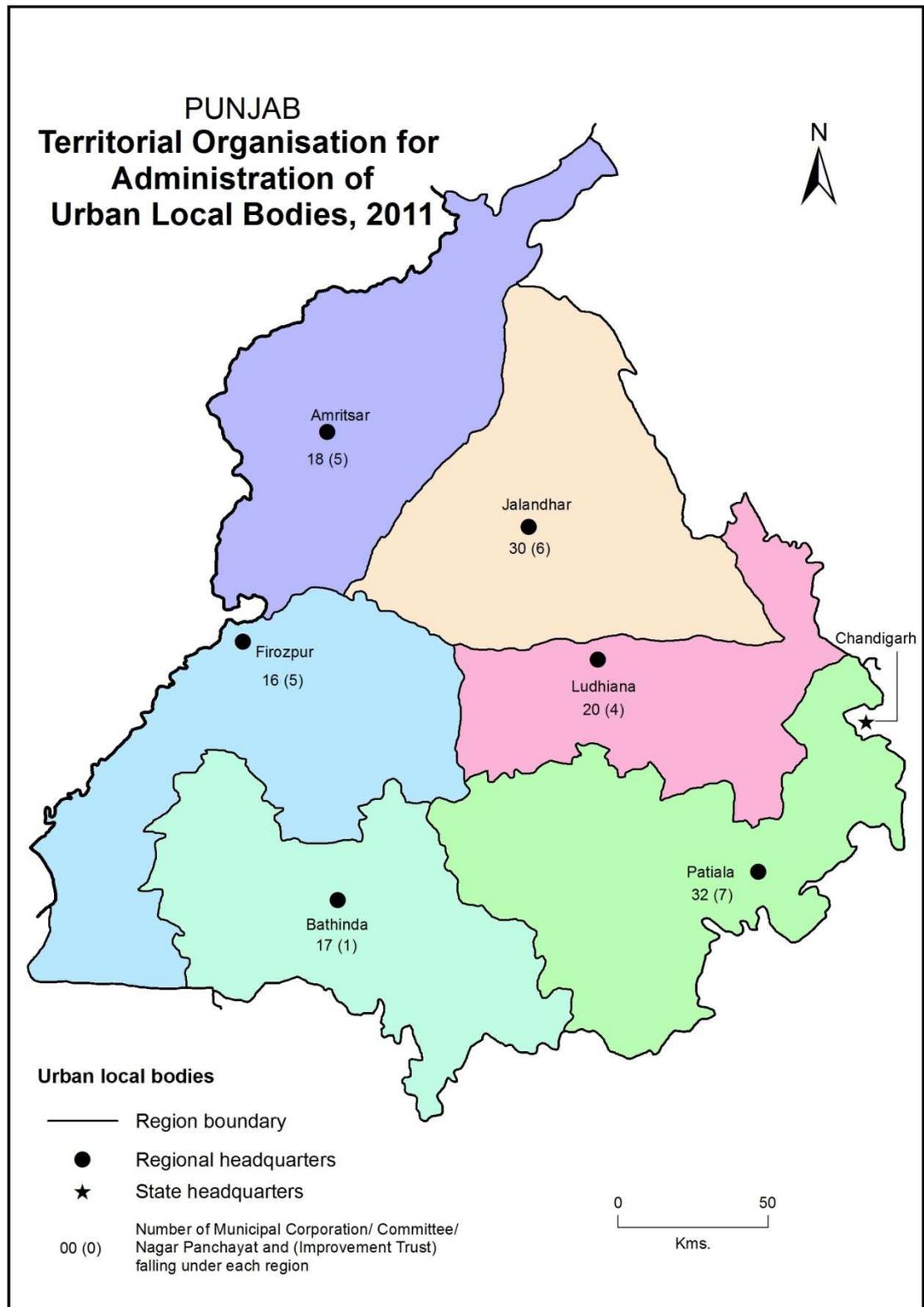


Fig. 1.1

Another regional authority, Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA), was formed in 2006 for regulating urban development in adjoining districts of SAS Nagar (Mohali), Ropar and Fatehgarh Sahib. Since such authorities are sectoral by nature, discussions on them will be taken up in the section on special purpose authorities.

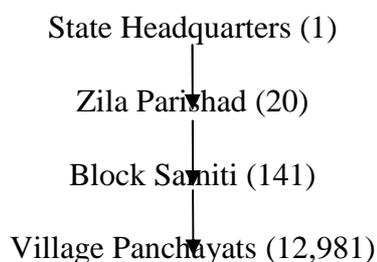
### **Panchyati Raj**

Local self-government for rural areas has a long history in India. After independence, on the recommendation of B R Mehta Committee (1957), a three-tier system of Panchayati Raj was established for seeking the involvement of masses in the implementation of rural development schemes. Since then rights and authority of such institutions was not constitutionally guaranteed, they acted as puppets in the hands of local bureaucracy and politicians. In 1992, Indian Parliament passed 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitution Amendment Act to empower them democratically, financially and administratively in the conduct of their affairs. Punjab State Assembly passed the Act in 1994, known as Punjab State Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) Act, 1994.

A three-tier structure from bottom to top was created: Gram Sabha, Block Samiti and Zila Parishad. Under this Act, state governments are asked to constitute a State Finance Commission, on the pattern of Finance Commission at the national level, to devolve specific share of funds from state level to local bodies, and the state government is supposed to transfer 29 functions to local bodies and conduct their elections on regular basis.

Currently, there are 20 Zila Parishads, 141 Panchayat Samitis and 12,981 elected Gram Panchayats in Punjab (Government of Punjab, 2012) The President acts as the chairman and the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Development) as the Chief Executive Officer of the Zila Parishad. The nomenclature of the President is Zila Pramukh. Similarly, the elected President of Panchayat Samiti at block level act as its Chairman and Block Development and Panchayat Officer (BDPO), a government official, as Secretary. The main functions of these bodies in Punjab include sanitation, school education, rural health, social welfare, management of village common lands and allotment of panchayat land to weaker sections of the village society. These bodies are empowered to impose taxes for revenue collection, which is generally avoided to stay popular.

This increase furthers their dependency on the state governments. The territorial organization of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Punjab is organised as follows:



When compared with K=7 principle of administrative hierarchy of spatial organisation postulated by Walter Christaller, administrative hierarchy of panchyati raj in Punjab does not fit in with it. Following 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitution Amendment Act, 1992 its importance has further increased as local development unit. It seems for a medium sized but developed state of Punjab, three tier territorial hierarchy; state

headquarters, district and development block is an appropriate one in view of financial and administrative efficiency.

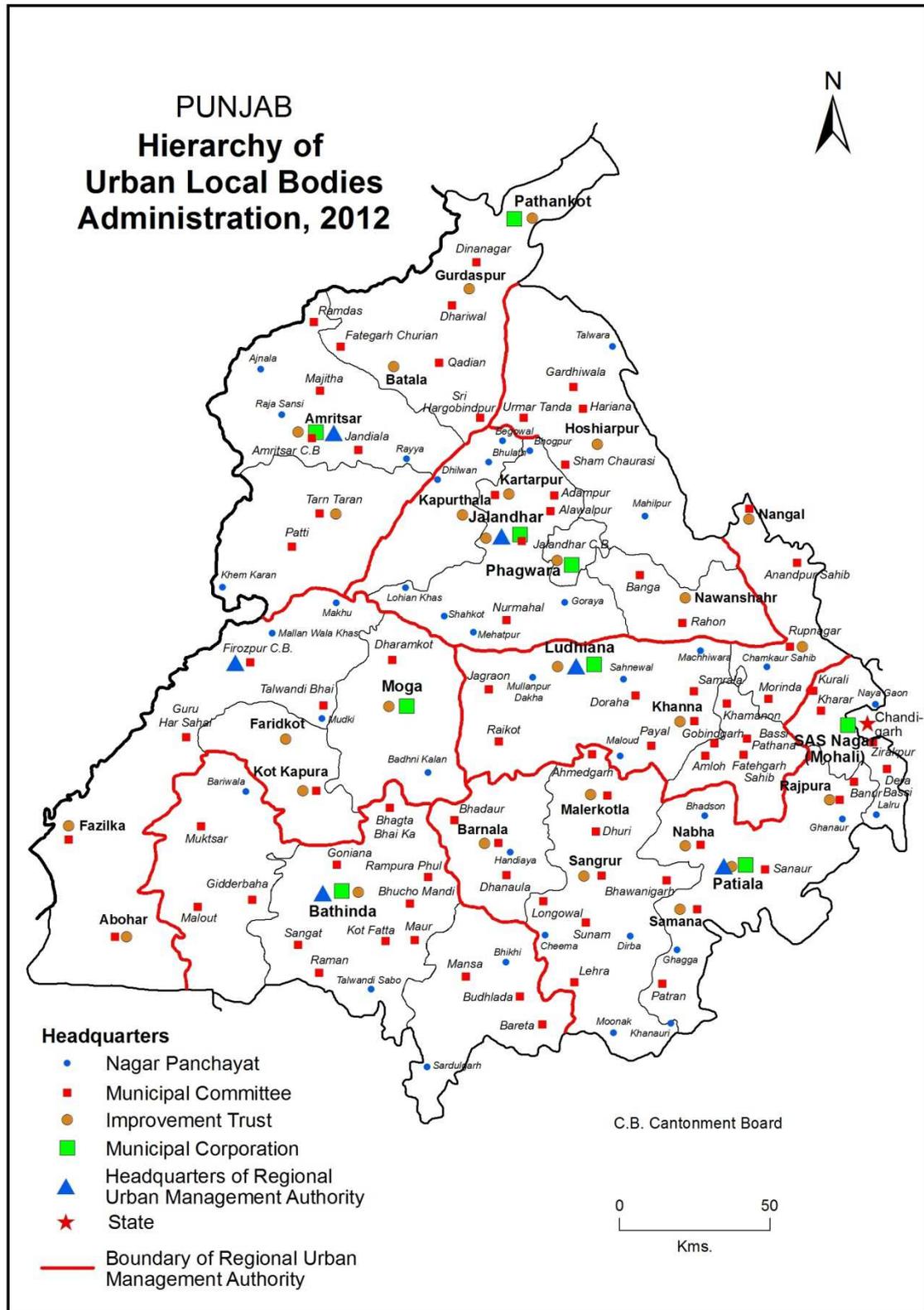


Fig. 1.2

At the local level, three tier Panchayati Raj Institutions for rural areas and Urban Local Bodies for urban areas are gaining popularity and importance as institutions of democracy and socio-economic transformation at grass root level.

### Conclusions

1. Punjab has a five-tier territorial hierarchy in general administration. Two of these five tiers were added during the British rule in India and the third one added at the bottom level, after independence in 1947. With the passage of time and change in philosophy of administration, division and sub-division created during the British rule in India are losing in importance, whereas the one added after independence, development block, is gaining in importance. Development block, added a rural development administrative unit at the lowest level, has gradually acquired the status of general purpose unit.
2. Development Block, which came initially as a rural development unit after independence, is now practically functioning as a part of five tiers of general purpose authority administration in Punjab. In contrast to this, sub-division, a tier added in general purpose authority areas during the British period in between the tahsil and district, has been reduced in importance. On the other side of the scale, division, another tier in the category of general purpose authorities added between the district and the provincial headquarters, again during the British rule has lost its significance in medium area sized state of Punjab especially after the rapid growth and development of transportation and information technologies. In this way, a state like Punjab can do well with three-tier hierarchy in place of an existing five-tier hierarchy of general purpose authorities. Three-tier hierarchies: state headquarters, district and development block may induce desired efficiency in local government administration by way of economic and spatial efficiency.
3. Constituted to manage a variety of functions, general purpose authorities in the state were organized at five spatial scales: state, division, district, sub-division and development block. While first, third and fifth tiers were strong enough, the second and fourth were comparatively weak. In fact, medium area sized state of Punjab can easily dispense with second and fourth tier. This might lead to increase in administrative efficiency and effectiveness in delivery of administrative services.
4. The successive numerical strength of 1/4/77/141 gives a ratio of 1:4 or 1:5, conforming to the market or transport rather than administrative principle of K-7 under Christaller's Central Place Theory.
5. Development block has gained importance over the time to the extent of becoming a general purpose administrative unit. Its importance has further increased with enactment of Punjab Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, since more functions relating to local democracy and development have come to this level. Against this, division and sub-division have lost importance to the extent that Punjab can dispense with these two tiers.
6. In a variant of the general purpose administration was municipal administration for individual towns and Panchayati Raj Institutions for rural areas. Both gained importance after 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitution Amendments. Zila Parishad, Block Samiti and Gram Panchayat make a three-tier hierarchy

in rural development and democracy. Their importance and interests of the people in Panchayati Raj Institutions has gone up in a big way in recent years.

### References

- Johnston, R.J. (1982). *Geography and the State*. London: Macmillan.
- Kant, S. (1985). The spatial structure of administrative units in Rajasthan. Paper presented in VI<sup>th</sup> NAGI Conference held at Varanasi.
- Kant, S. (1988). Evolution of administrative areas in ancient India: A case of Punjab. *National Geographical Journal of India*, 34 (3), 256-263.
- Kant, S. (1988). Local authority areas in Punjab. *Geographical Review of India*, 50 (1), 26-33.
- Kant, S. (1988). *Administrative Geography of India*. Jaipur: Rawat Publications.
- Kant, S. (1989). Evolution of administrative areas in medieval India with special reference to Punjab. *Asian Profile*, 17 (1), 61-73.
- Kant, S. (1989a). Evolution of Administrative areas in British India with special reference to Punjab. *Geographical Review of India*, 51(1), 18-26.
- Kant, S. (2000). Evolution of territorial administration in India with a focus on Punjab. *Transactions, Institute of Indian Geographers*, 22(1), 1-24.
- Krishan, G. (1983). Administrative geography. *Transactions, Institute of Indian Geographers*, 5 (1), 101-108.
- Mishra, P. (2012). *Local Government in India*. Chandigarh: Unistar Books.
- Singh, N. (1998). *Administration and Development of Indian States*. New Delhi: Anmol Publications.
- Vaidyanathan, A. (2003). *Economic Reforms and Development*. New Delhi: Academic Foundation.