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## Urbanization of a village

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### ABSTRACT

The Indian federal system witnessed dramatic change during 1993 with the introduction of 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> amendment in Indian constitution. This amendment conferred the status of the third level of government to local bodies. This has taken Indian democracy one step forward and added a new dimension to Indian federal system. This change can be described as one of the most important policy measures. Shilaj is situated at the outskirts of ancient India's (Manchester of east) Mega city, Ahmedabad. Recently, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has merged 27 villages (Gram Panchayat) and Shilaj is one of them. This research paper will help to guide not only AMC but many such Corporations and Metropolitan bodies for right approach towards such rural local bodies situated at their peripheral areas and will also help them to utilize the available sources of income in most economical and most importantly environment friendly way. A village (Shilaj) is smiling at the outskirts of Mega city Ahmedabad.

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**Key words :** 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, Financial structure of Shilaj, Urban Problem of city.

World Bank defines urbanization as "Access to improved sanitation facilities refers to the percentage of the urban or rural population with access to at least adequate excreta disposal facilities (private or shared but not public) that can effectively prevent human, animal, and insect contact with excreta. Improved facilities range from simple but protected pit latrines to flush the toilet with a sewerage connection. To be effective, facilities must be correctly constructed and properly maintained".

In the Indian context urbanization can be defined as per the criteria adopted in the 2001 census

- All statutory towns *i.e.* all places with a municipal corporations, municipal board, cantonment board, notified area etc
- Census towns which are non-statutory towns and or actually rural areas but satisfy the following criteria:
  - Minimum population of 5000
  - At least 75% of the male working population engaged in non-agriculture activity,
  - A density of population of at least 400 persons per square kilometer

Urbanization is one of the key dimensions in the liberalization and globalization process of a society. India

is rapidly urbanizing nation. The urbanization of few states is even greater than that of national average. Gujarat is the fifth highly urbanized state of India with 37.23 per cent (India's population living in urban area is only 27.3%) of its population living in urban areas (after Delhi: 93.0%, Goa: 49.77%, Tamil Nadu: 43.26% and Maharashtra: 42.24%), according to the Census of India 2001. Gujarat is consisting of seven municipal corporations and 163 municipalities (Anonymous, 2003). Urban areas are well managed through local bodies, legal status to these rural and urban local body was given late after independence in federal government with the introduction of 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> amendment in Indian constitution. This has taken Indian democracy one step forward and added a new dimension to Indian federal system. This change can be described as one of the most important policy measures.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment consists of two sets of provisions firstly those that are mandatory and secondly those which are discretionary. The mandatory provisions are those which state has to incorporate in its Panchayat law. The discretionary provisions are one in which state legislature has power to make changes before the implementation (Bhatt, 1999).