

Finances of Local Bodies of Tonk and Sawai Madhopur District: A Comparative Study

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ABSTRACT: Tonk is a city in the Indian state of Rajasthan. The city is situated 95 km (60 mi) by road south from Jaipur, near the right bank of the Banas River. It is the administrative headquarters of Tonk District. Tonk was also the capital of the eponymous princely state of British India from 1817 to 1947. Kamal Amrohi's movie *Razia Sultan* were shot in Tonk in 1981–82. Famous places in Tonk include: Shahi Jama Masjid, Bisalpur Dam, Arabic Persian Research Institute, Sunhari Kothi, Hathi Bhata, Annapurna Dungri Ganesh Temple, Rasiya Ki Tekri, Kidwai Park, Ghantaghar, Kamdhenu Circle, Nehru Garden, Chaturbhuj Talab Lake. It is also known as Rajasthan's Nawabo ka shahar. Cuddled up in the eastern zone of Rajasthan, Sawai Madhopur is one of the prominent conurbations of Rajasthan. Popularly known as the 'Gateway to Ranthambore', the town has seen many historic episodes and reigns. Sawai Madhopur has partly plain and partly undulating hilly terrain. The South and south east part of the district has hills and broken ground which form a part of a vast track of rugged region enclosing the narrow valley of the Chambal river. Surrounded by Vindhya & Aravalis, this place is a treat for adventure enthusiasts as well as the ones with a fascination for history, with the Ranthambore National park- the most renowned national park in northern India and the Ranthambore Fort which was recently included in the list of UNESCO's World Heritage sites, being the main attractions. Passed on from the Chauhan Rajput king, Govinda to Vagabhatta, from Rana Kumbha to Akbar and Aurangzeb, the city has been patronized by almost all the rulers. Beautification and renovation of the city has been regularly undertaken in almost all the regimes. Under the rule of Rao Hammir, the last Chauhan ruler the Ranthambore region prospered magnificently. In ancient India the region was more popularly known as Ranthambore. It was much later that it received the name, Sawai Madhopur from Maharaja Sawai Madho Singhji I who is believed to have given the city its current plan in 1765 AD. During the British Rule Sawai Man Singh built a railway line between Jaipur and Sawai Madhopur. As a result it became accessible from a central spot in the state of Rajasthan. Today it has grown as one of the popular tourist destination in India.

KEYWORDS: Tonk, Sawai Madhopur, princely, gateway, ranthambhore, heritage, tourist, finances

I. INTRODUCTION

Former state of Karauli, Ranthambore was amongst the strongest forts of medieval India and is linked to Prithviraj, the ruler of Shakambhari who has golden cupolas put on the Jain temple of Ranthambore. To check the increasing incursions of the Marathas, Madho Singh, the ruler of Jaipur State requested for the grant of the fort of Ranthambore but did not succeed. Located near the Ramsinghpura village, about 9 km from Sawai Madhopur is the Shilpgram Museum. Though we name it as a museum, it is more of a craft village that encompasses and showcases the tremendous diversity in arts, crafts, and cultures of the various Indian states. Shilpgram is a living ethnographic museum, established with an aim to empower craftspeople, especially women, to use their skills as means of economic self-sufficiency, and to bring to the world the cultural heritage of Rajasthan. An embodiment of Rajasthani culture and heritage through arts and crafts, Shilpgram is a site that needs to be seen to be understood and appreciated. If you have a keen eye for arts and crafts and haven't been to Shilpgram yet, it's time to add it to your bucket list! In the 2011 Indian census,^[2] Tonk had a population of 165,294, with 48% being female. 14% of the population is age six and under. Tonk has an average literacy rate of 68.62%: 77.68% in males, and 59.18% in females. religion in Tonk City Muslim 48% and Hindu 50% and Jain 1.8% and 0.2% others. The founder of the state and its first ruler was Pindari Nawab Muhammad Amir Khan (1769–1834), a leader of Pashtun descent from Afghanistan. In 1806, Khan conquered the area, taking it from a retreating regime Yashwant Rao Holkar. The British government captured it in turn. Khan then received the state of Tonk from the British Government who returned it.^[3] In 1817, after the Third Anglo-Maratha War, Amir Khan submitted to the British East India Company and kept his territory of Tonk while receiving the title of Nawab.^[4] Tonk was founded one year later after Khan was granted land by the ruler of Indore.

A municipality was established at Tonk in 1885.^[5] Rajasthan has 10 Municipal Corporations, 34 Municipal Councils and 169 Municipal Boards or Nagar Pachayats. Thus Rajasthan has a total 213 Municipalities or Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).^[1] The Rajasthan Municipalities Act, 2009 governs the administration of all the urban local bodies in the state.^[2] The Department of Local Self Government of the Rajasthan Government monitors the administration of all the

municipalities in the state.^[3] The last elections to civic bodies in the state took place in 2010 where 49 municipal bodies with combined 2,105 wards had their elections. Indian National Congress won 961 wards, Bharatiya Janata Party won 737 wards, Bahujan Samaj Party won 16 wards, Communist Party of India (Marxist) won three wards, and the Nationalist Congress Party won two wards.^[4]

As per census 2011, there were 13 municipal councils. Later, Udaipur and Bharatpur were upgraded to Municipal Corporation. Hence the list have remaining 34 cities.

Municipal Council of 2011 Census, Rajasthan			
S/N	City	Tehsil	District
1	Alwar	Alwar	Alwar
2	Beawar	Beawar	Ajmer
3	Bhilwara	Bhilwara	Bhilwara
4	Churu	Churu	Churu
5	Sri Ganganagar	Sri Ganganagar	Sri Ganganagar
6	Hanumangarh	Hanumangarh	Hanumangarh
7	Jhunjhunun	Jhunjhunun	Jhunjhunun
8	Kishangarh	Kishangarh	Ajmer
9	Pali	Pali	Pali
10	Sikar	Sikar	Sikar
11	Sirohi	Sirohi	Sirohi
12	Tonk	Tonk	Tonk
13	Kotputli	Kotputli	Jaipur
14	Gangapur City	Gangapur City	Sawai Madhopur
15	Dausa	Dausa	Dausa
16	Nagaur	Nagaur	Nagaur
17	Bhiwadi	Alwar	Alwar
18	Sawai Madhopur	Sawai Madhopur	Sawai Madhopur

II. DISCUSSION

The government includes Panchayat Raj Institutions for the regions or areas under rural regions and the Urban local bodies or Municipalities for the region or area under the urban areas.

Industries in Tonk and Sawai Madhopur

- **Agriculture**

Agriculture is an influential or important sector in Rajasthan. It forms the backbone of the state’s economic system and is a substantial contributor to GSDP. The state has been implementing various programs to ensure growth in agriculture manufacture and render better living conditions to the population engaged in agriculture practices or activities.

- **Mining and Minerals**

Rajasthan swashes immense mineral reserves. It brings forth 81 diversities of minerals: lead, calcite, wollastonite, rock, gypsum, sandstone, and marble. Rajasthan is also one of the leading producers of phosphorite, ochre, ball clay, steatite, and felspar.

- **Cement**

Rajasthan is known for its highest limestone accumulations or reserves, making it a portion or hub for industries such as the cement industry or production. The limestone production in Rajasthan released around 31.4 million terms in April September 2010.

- **Renewable Energy**

The two major key factors contributing to the Rajasthan approving solar energy industry are its high level of solar radiation and large tracts of merchandising relatively undeveloped and flatlands.

III. RESULTS

The Department of local self Government (LSG Rajasthan) is the controlling Department of all municipalities for all administrative purposes. It also performs monitoring and co-ordination function at the state level for all the 184 municipal bodies of the state. This Department has a directorate to look after the day to day functioning of all these Urban Local Bodies including Tonk and Sawai Madhopur. After enactment of 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, the Local Bodies, which were previously not the part of the Constitution of India, have now been assigned the Constitutional Status. There are 5 Corporations, 30 Councils, 19 Class II, 58 Class III and 72 Class IV ULBs in the State.

Functions of LSG, Rajasthan

- Appointment of OICs/Advocate in Court Cases, vetting of reply, opinion on judgment, decision for appeal or no appeal, scrutiny of Bye-Laws and Rules and Amendments in Acts and Rules.
- Approval of Budget of ULBs and released of funds regarding Special Grant, General Grant, SFC, TFC, Grant (in Lieu of Octroi) and State/Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Programme.
- Disposal of matters related to transfer, establishment, DPCs related to officers and staff of ULBs, DDR offices and Directorate.
- Extension and Exclusion of Municipal boundary, Election of Municipal Boards.
- Implementation of HRD Plan for elected representatives, and officials of ULBs.
- Implementation of Poverty Alleviation and social responsibilities Programmes.
- Issuance of Financial, Administrative and Technical Sanctions which are not in the Jurisdiction of the elected board.
- Preparation of Annual Plan/District Plan/Action Plan/DPRs related to various GoI/GoR schemes/Programmes,
- Process of cases received from ULBs regarding sale of land/allotment, regularization of Kachi Basties and Agricultural land, conducting Kachi Basti Survey

For controlling all Urban Local Bodies, following Cell have been established in the Department:

- Accounts Section headed by Chief Account Officer from Rajasthan Accounts Services, supported by Sr. A.O.
- Engineering Cell headed by Superintending Engineer
- Land and RMS Establishment Section headed by Additional Director from Rajasthan Administrative Services
- Legal Cell headed by Assistant Legal Remembrancer
- Project Cell headed by Project Director from All India Services supported by Dy. Director and Sr. A.O.
- SME Cell headed by Dy. Director (Administration) from R.A.S.
- Statistics Cell headed by Deputy Director (St.)
- TFC Cell headed by Mission Director from All India Services supported by AEn
- Vigilance Cell headed by R.A.S officer

Apart the various sections of the department, there are 6 Deputy Director Regional (DDR) Local Bodies Department offices situated in Tonk and Sawai Madhopur.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Today, just over half of the world's population lives in urbanized areas. India is urbanising at a rapid pace with urban population rising at a much faster rate than its total population. The level of urbanisation has increased from 17 per cent in 1951 to 31 per cent in 2011. The urban population in India, which was nearly 377 million in 2011, is poised to grow

to 600 million by 2031. Urban areas contribute 62-63 per cent of India's gross domestic product (GDP), which is estimated to reach 75 per cent by 2030.

Such a rise in urban population implies increased demand for goods and services and efficient urban planning, management, and governance systems. Therefore, addressing urban development and transformation, urban inequalities and bringing in suitable reformation within the urban governance system to address these changes is undoubtedly India's most important political and intellectual challenge. Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Rajasthan are also heavily dependent on funds from the state and central government. These local bodies also have limited capacity to raise resources through their own sources of revenue and taxes and are all working under severe financial constraints. Every year during budget presentation, the state government announce several schemes and policies for the upliftment and development of infrastructures in the urban sector. But often the Audit report shows that most of these schemes are stuck midway due to lack of adequate funding. (Refer CAG Report No.3 of 2010 – State Finances, Government of Rajasthan) The inability of ULBs to raise resources has limited the growth of municipal income.

Strengthening urban local governments through capacity building and better financial management and enlightening the officials of instruments like municipal bonds that can come to their aid to raise resources for financing long term projects such as infrastructure development is a must. Besides supporting them with training workshops and conferences related to urban issues like effective management of water supply, solid waste management, public transportation systems, and marginalized social and economic groups are very much vital. CUTS is working towards improving urban governance in Rajasthan through its various interventions and also has a MoU with Department of Local Self-Government, Rajasthan for capacity building of elected representatives and officials of ULBs since 2011.

In this series of initiatives, CUTS is implementing a project 'Improving City Governance through Enhancing Knowledge of Urban Local Bodies in Rajasthan' with the support of Australian High Commission, New Delhi. Under the project, capacity building workshops will be conducted in selected four municipal corporations on various topics in consultation with relevant departments.

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