

# CIVICS

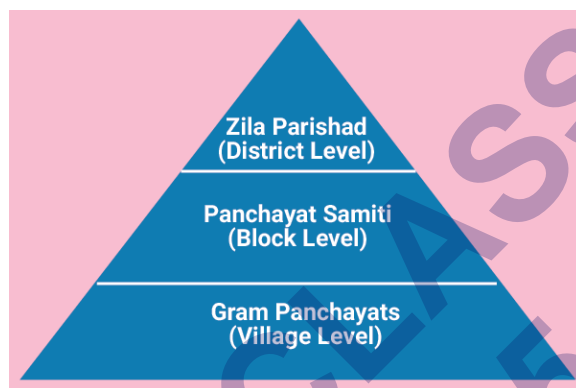
## Chapter 5: Panchayati Raj



## Panchayati Raj

India is the seventh largest and second most populous country in the world. It is divided into various districts, cities, towns and villages. It is not possible for the central government to look into the administration of all cities and villages at the local level. For this purpose, the government has established various local self government institutions which manage the local administration of the villages and cities. The administration of the villages is looked after by the village panchayats in India.

The Panchyati Raj works at three levels:



- Gram Panchayats at the village level.
- Panchayat Samiti at the block level
- Zilla Parishad at the district level.

The panchayat samiti at the block level has many gram panchayats working under it. Similarly many panchayat samitis work under the zilla parishad, which is established at the district level. The zilla parishad plans various developmental activities at the district level. It also distributes money among the gram panchayats with the help of the panchayat samiti.

### The Gram Panchayat and the Gram Sabha

The gram sabha and the gram panchayat are a part of the village panchayat. Following are the procedures to elect the members of the gram panchyat:

- The gram sabha include all adults of the village who are more than 18 years of age. All the adults together elect the members of the gram panchayat.
- Every village panchayat is divided into wards or smaller areas.
- From every ward, a representative is elected, who is known as a ward member or a *Panch*.

- All members of a gram sabha also elect a leader from the gram panchayat known as *sarpanch*. He is the head of the panchayat.
- The gram panchayat is elected for a period of five years.
- The secretary of the gram panchayat is also the secretary of the gram sabha and is appointed by the government.
- The secretary calls and organises the meetings of both the gram sabha and the gram panchayat and keeps a record of its proceedings.



### Functions of the Gram Sabha

The gram sabha is an important body of the village panchayat and performs some important functions:

- All plans related to the working of the gram panchayat are placed before the gram sabha, which approves the work plan of the gram panchayat.
- The gram sabha prevents the gram panchayat from indulging in any wrong practices such as providing benefits to its own people.
- It closely scrutinises the work of the members of the gram panchayat.
- The gram panchayat is answerable to the members of gram sabha as the latter elects its members.



The meeting of the members of gram sabha.

### Functions of the Gram Panchayat

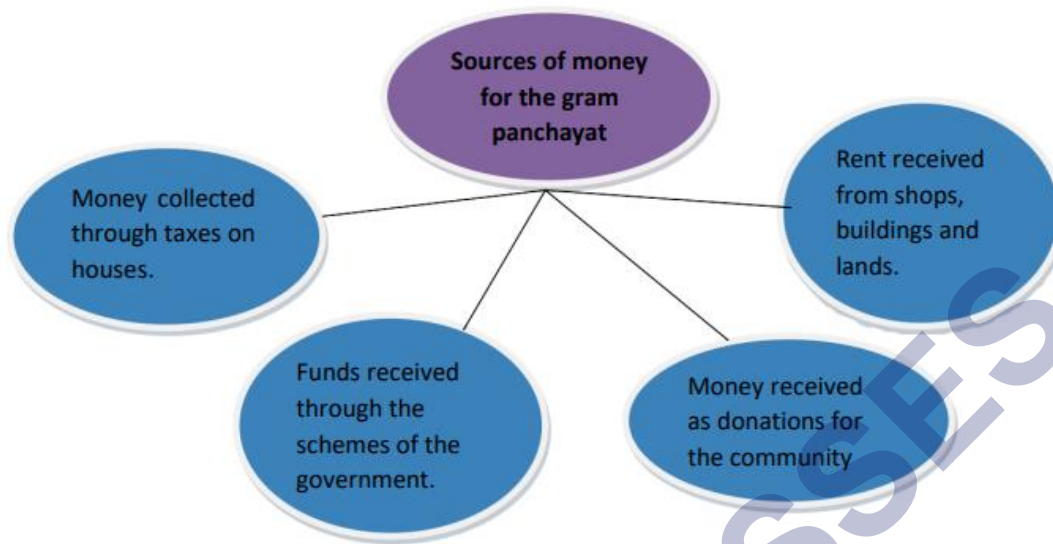
The gram panchayat performs the following functions:

- Provides primary education to children.
- Discusses various issues of the village and takes decisions after taking into account the suggestions of the people.
- Looks after sanitation and sets up dispensaries and basic health care centres at the village level.
- Looks after the public works such as maintenance of village roads, bridges, tanks and wells.
- Looks after irrigational facilities and supply seeds and fertilisers to the farmers.
- Registers the births and deaths.
- Maintains the records of common village property.
- Organises village fair and exhibitions.
- Establishes fair price shops and co-operative credit societies.



The gram panchayats set up health care centres in their villages.

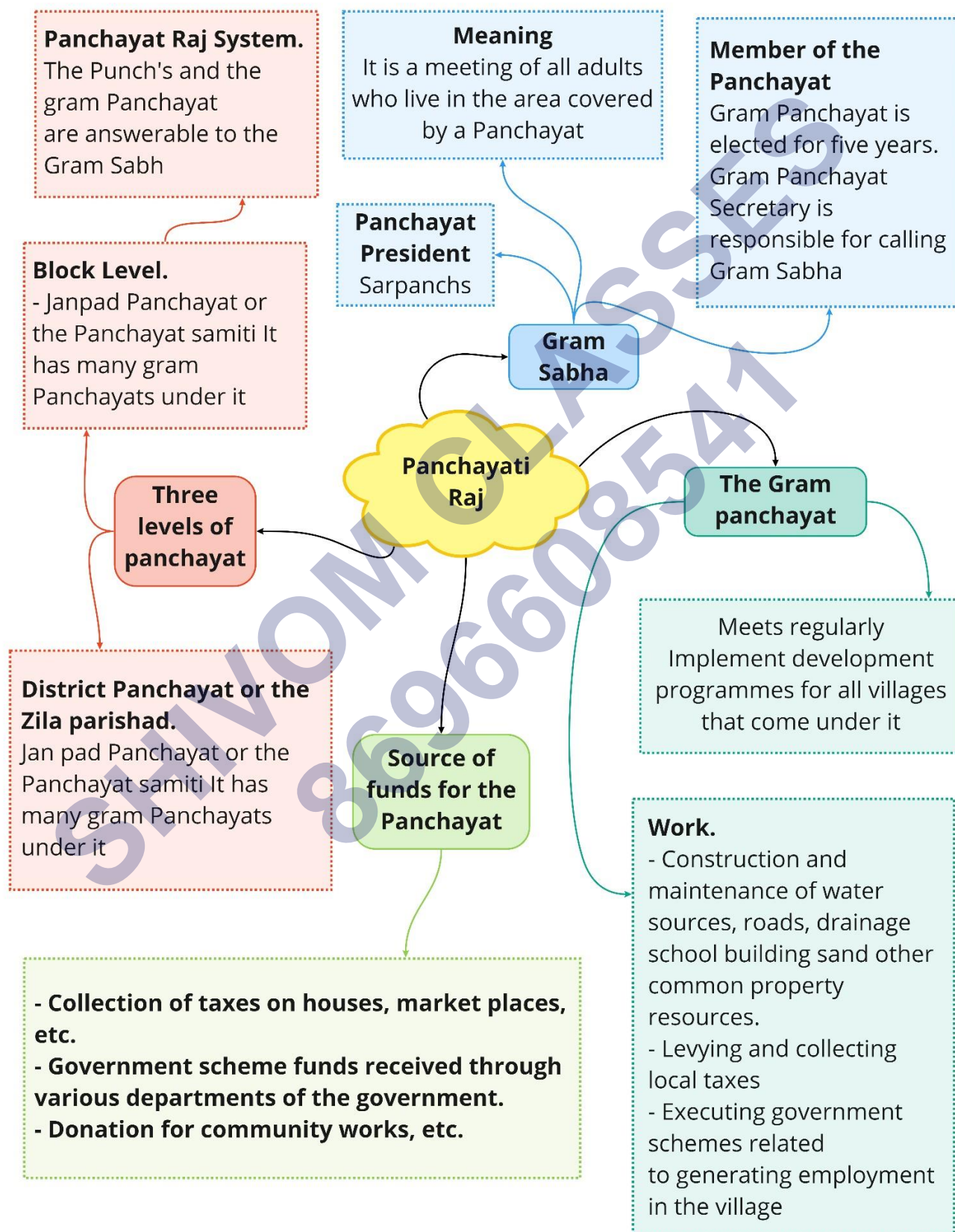
To carry out its functions, the gram panchayat receives money from the following sources:



The panchayats in India not only solve the problems of the people at the grass root level but also ensure their greater participation in managing their own affairs.



Class : 6th Social Studies (Political Science)  
Chapter - 5 : Panchayati Raj



## Important Questions

### ➤ Multiple Choice Questions:

Question 1. Block Development Officer is the officer of:

- (a) Block
- (b) Village
- (c) District

Question 2. Panchayati Raj System was adopted in:

- (a) 1990
- (b) 1992
- (c) 2000

Question 3. Gram Sabha is a:

- (a) Body of unemployed
- (b) Body of all people
- (c) Body of farmers only

Question 4. Panch is elected from:

- (a) For Whole Gram Sabha
- (b) For a Whole Panchayat
- (c) For a ward

Question 5. The Gram Panchayat is elected for:

- (a) 5 years
- (b) 3 years
- (c) 6 years

Question 6. Each village panchayat is divided into:

- (a) Groups
- (b) Sections
- (c) Wards

Question 7. Gram Sabha keeps control on the:

- (a) Government
- (b) Gram Panchayat

(c) None of the above

Question 8. Who is the head of the Tehsil

(a) Lekhpal

(b) Mayor

(c) Tehsildar

(d) BDO

Question 9. All the members of the Gram Sabha also elect a Sarpanch who is the Panchayat

(a) President

(b) Prime-Minister

(c) Minister

(d) Vice President

Question 10. To whom did Mohan meet at the police station to complain about what had happened with him

(a) SHO

(b) HO

(c) SI

(d) ASI

Question 11. What was the occupation of Mohan's friends

(a) Running's post office

(b) Running's a clinic

(c) Running's Chemist shop

(d) Running's A readymade shop

Question 12. District collector is also known as

(a) Landowner

(b) Superintendent

(c) District Magistrate

(d) Zamindar

Question 13. The \_\_\_\_\_ that takes care of street lights, garbage collection, water supply, keeping the streets and the market clean

(a) Block



- (b) Gram Panchayat
- (c) Municipal Council
- (d) Municipal Corporation

Question 14. Why was Gangabai love respected

- (a) For being lazy citizen
- (b) For helping the poor
- (c) For behaving rudely
- (d) For her being active citizen

Question 15. The Gram Panchayat is elected for

- (a) Four years
- (b) Five years
- (c) Two years
- (d) Six years

➤ **Fill in the blanks :**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ prevents the Panchayat from misusing the village money.
2. The secretary of the Gram Panchayat is not an elected person but is appointed by the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. 'BPL' stands for \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The work of Gram Panchayat has to be approved by the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The Panchayat Raj System is the \_\_\_\_\_ level of democratic government.

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F) :**

1. The secretary of the Gram Panchayat is responsible for keeping a record of the Gram Panchayat and the Gram Sabha.
2. Panchayati Raj system is third level of a democratic government.
3. The Panchs and the Gram Panchayat are answerable to the Gram Sabha.
4. The members of Gram Sabha must be of 18years or above.
5. The people of Hardas Village were facing the problem of electricity.

➤ **Very Short Questions :**

1. Who suggested watershed development programme?
2. Write the different types of committees formed by Gram Sabha.

3. What was the next item on the agenda for the Gram Sabha?
4. What is Nirmal Gram Puraskar?
5. What do you understand by Panchayati Raj System?
6. Who is responsible for calling the meeting of the Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat and keeping a record of the proceedings?
7. Why the Panchs and the Gram Panchayat are answerable to the Gram Sabha?
8. Why Tijia was looking for some permanent solution to the problem of water shortages?
9. Which is the third level of Panchayati Raj System?
10. How are decisions made by Gram Panchayat?

### ➤ Short Questions :

1. What problem did the women of Hardas village was facing?
2. What do you mean by Gram Sabha? Who is the member of the Gram Sabha?
3. What are the main functions of the Zila Parishad?
4. Describe the importance of the local government.
5. Write the composition of a village Panchayat.

### ➤ Long Questions :

1. Write a short note on Panchayati Raj System.
2. How is Gram Panchayat formed?
3. What is the role of the Gram Sabha?
4. Differentiate between Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat.
5. Explain the relationship between Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat.

### ANSWER KEY –

### ➤ Multiple Choice Answer :

1. (a) Block
2. (b) 1992
3. (b) Body of all people
4. (c) For a ward
5. (a) 5 years
6. (c) Wards

7. (b) Gram Panchayat
8. (c) Tehsildar
9. (a) President
10. (a) SHO
11. (a) Running's post office
12. (c) District Magistrate
13. (d) Municipal Corporation
14. (d) For her being active citizen
15. (b) Five years

➤ **Fill in the blanks :**

1. The Gram Sabha
2. Government
3. Below Poverty Line
4. Gram Sabha
5. first

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F) :**

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. True
5. False

➤ **Very Short Answer :**

1. Anwar suggested watershed development programme.
2. Gram Sabha form committees like construction and development committees.
3. The next item on the agenda for the Gram Sabha was the finalization of the list of people below the poverty line (BPL).
4. Nirmal Gram Puraskar is awarded to panch/panchs for their excellent work in panchayat.
5. The Panchayati Raj System is a process through which people participate in their own government.

6. The Secretary is responsible for calling the meeting of the Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat and keeping a record of the proceedings.
7. The Panchs and the Gram Panchayat are answerable to the Gram Sabha because it is the members of the Gram Sabha who elected them.
8. Tija was looking for some permanent solution to the problem of water shortages because groundwater levels seem to be going down every year.
9. The Zila Panchayat or District Council or Zila Parishad or District Panchayat, is the third tier of the Panchayati Raj system.
10. All problems are kept before the people of the village and the Panchs. Problems are then discussed and finally decisions are taken by the Sarpanch.

### ➤ Short Answer :

1. The water problem in Hardas has become very acute. There was hardly any water in the taps. Women have to go to the Suru River which is 3km. away to get water.
2. The Gram Sabha is a meeting of all adults who live in the area covered by a Panchayat. This could be only one village or a few villages. Anyone who is 18 years old or more and who has the right to vote is a member of the Gram Sabha.
3. **The main functions of the Zila Parishad are:**
  - It makes developmental plans at the district level.
  - With the help of Panchayat Samitis, it also regulates the money distribution among all the Gram Panchayats.
4. It is through these local self-governments that the local problems can be considered and solved effectively. It also lessens the heavy responsibilities of the central and the state governments and establishes democracy in a wider context.
5. Gram Panchayat is the organization of elected panchs (ward members) by the members of Gram Sabha of the village. It is a self-government organization. The head of the Panchayat is known as "Sarpanch". The Gram Panchayat has a Secretary who is also the Secretary of the Gram Sabha.

### ➤ Long Answer :

1. Panchayati Raj System is a process through which people participate in their own government. The Panchayati Raj system is the first tier or level of democratic government. It extends to two other levels. One is the Block level, which is called the Janpad Panchayat or the Panchayat Samiti. The Panchayat Samiti has many Gram Panchayats under it. Above the Panchayat Samiti is the District Panchayat or the Zila Parishad. Zila Parishad actually makes developmental plans at the district level.

2. Every village Panchayat is divided into wards, i.e. smaller areas. Each ward elects a representative who is known as the Ward Member (Panch). All the members of the Gram Sabha also elect a Sarpanch who is the Panchayat President. The Ward Panchs and the Sarpanch form the Gram Panchayat. The Gram Panchayat is elected for 5 years. The Gram Panchayat has a Secretary who is also the Secretary of the Gram Sabha.

### 3. Role of Gram Sabha:

- The Gram Sabha is a key factor in making the Gram Panchayat play its role and be responsible.
- It is the place where all plans for the work of the Gram Panchayat are placed before the people.
- The Gram Sabha prevents the Panchayat from doing wrong things like misusing money or favouring certain people.
- It plays an important role in keeping an eye on the elected representatives and in making them responsible to the persons who elected them.

### 4. Difference between Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat:

Gram Sabha	Gram Panchayat
The Gram Sabha is a meeting of all adults who live in the area covered by a Panchayat.	Gram Panchayat is the organization of elected panchs by the members of Gram Sabha of the village. The head of the Panchayat is known as "Sarpanch".
Anyone who is 18 years old or more and who has the right to vote is a member of the Gram Sabha.	The Ward Panchs and the Sarpanch form the Gram Panchayat.
Gram Sabha is permanent body.	The Gram Panchayat is elected for five years.

### 5. Relationship between Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat:

- Gram Panchayat is elected by Gram Sabha.
- The work of the Gram Panchayat has to be approved by the Gram Sabha.
- Gram Panchayat is answerable to the members of Gram Sabha.
- Gram Sabha keeps watch on the working of elected representatives of Gram Panchayat.



- In some states, Gram Sabhas form committees like construction and development committees. These committees include some members of the Gram Sabha and some from the Gram Panchayat who work together to carry out specific tasks.

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