

The Gram Panchayat

Chapter 11: Grassroots Democracy – Part 2: Local Government in Rural Areas · Topic 1

Key Concept

The Gram Panchayat is elected by village residents and is led by a Sarpanch (village head), who oversees the panchayat's decisions and activities.

Responsibilities of the Gram Panchayat include maintaining roads, ensuring clean water supply, managing local schools, and resolving minor disputes within the village.

The Gram Panchayat is part of the three-tier Panchayati Raj system, which also includes the Panchayat Samiti (block level) and Zila Parishad (district level).

The Gram Panchayat plays a crucial role in rural development, bringing governance closer to the people and allowing villagers to participate in local decision-making.

Quick Revision Notes

- The Gram Panchayat is the local self-government for villages.
- It is elected by village residents.
- The Sarpanch is the village head leading the panchayat.
- Responsibilities include roads, water supply and schools.
- The Gram Panchayat also resolves minor disputes.
- It is part of the three-tier Panchayati Raj system.
- The system includes Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad.
- The Gram Panchayat brings governance closer to villagers.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research the Gram Panchayat system in your state.
- 2 Discuss the role of a Sarpanch.
- 3 Explain the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj system.
- 4 Discuss why local governance matters for villages.
- 5 Research one responsibility of a Gram Panchayat.
- 6 Compare a Gram Panchayat to an urban local body.