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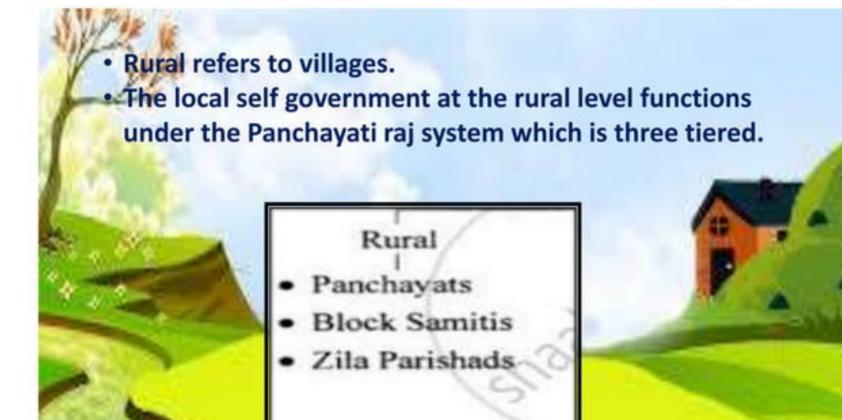
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- The Grama panchayat is at is at the lowest level. It covers a village or a group of villages.
- The block samiti is at the block level which consists approximately of 100 villages.
- The Zillah Parishad is formed at the district level. It is the top most level and heads the Panchayati raj system.





The Gram Sabha

a main

- The Gram Sabha is the assembly of the village. It consists of all members above the age of 18 years in the village.
- It discusses problems and important issues that concern the village.
- It participates directly in the decision making process related to the development of village.
- Grama Sabha meets at least twice year and ensures that the maximum number of people participate in the meeting.
- The development schemes for the village are placed before the Grama Sabha for approval.
- It usually elects people who form the Gram Panchayat and monitors the activities of the gram panchayat.

The gram panchayat

- The gram panchayat is the local self governing body of a village and is foundation of Panchayati Raj system.
- It is formed in villages with a population of about 300 people.
- Sometimes, when village have small population, two villages may combine together to form a panchayat.

Composition

- The number of members of Gram Panchayat varies between 7 and 25.
- These members are elected by the adult members of the Gram Sabha.
- 1/3 of seats are reserved for women and members of the Scheduled castes and tribes.
- The government can nominate 2 members, if seats of those from women and scheduled castes are not represented.
- The term of members is 5 years.

Sarpanch

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- Head of the government is the Sarpanch.
- The Sarpanch is elected by the members of the gram panchayat for a term of 5 years.
- The Sarpanch is assisted in his/her duties by a deputy Sarpanch.
- The Sarpanch presides over the meetings of the Gram panchayat as well as those of Gram Sabha.



Sources of Income

- The Gram Panchayat requires money to perform its
- duties. Its sources of income are
- 1. Taxes on buildings, fairs and shops.
- 2. Grants and donations from the Zillah Parishad.
- 3. Fines from people who are found guilty in petty criminal cases.
- 4. Taxes on goods that are traded in the villages.
- 5.Fees for maintaining records of the sale of land and cattle.



FUNCTIONS OF GRAM PANCHAYAT

1.Constructs and repairs wells, drains, tanks, roads, bridges, street lights etc.

2.It provides health care facilities by setting up health care centres and dispensaries.

3. Ensures the supply of clean drinking water.

4. Provides educational facilities.

5.Regularly holds village markets and fairs.

6.Maintains public hygiene, cleanliness and

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