



UNIT 3 Panchayat



Learning Objectives

- ❖ Know about our Panchayat system.
- ❖ Understand that Panchayat provides the basic facilities to the village people.
- ❖ Know about the duties of Gram sabha.
- ❖ Know about the local self government.



WB5JAQ





Dandora Announcement!

"A special Gram Sabha meeting will be held on Independence day. All the villagers are requested to participate".



After hearing the announcement, **Iniyan** rushed towards his home.



Iniyan: Dad...what did the dandora announcer say?

Dad: He announced that a special **Gram Sabha meeting** would be held on Independence Day.



Iniyan: What is Gram Sabha meeting? What will they do in the meeting?

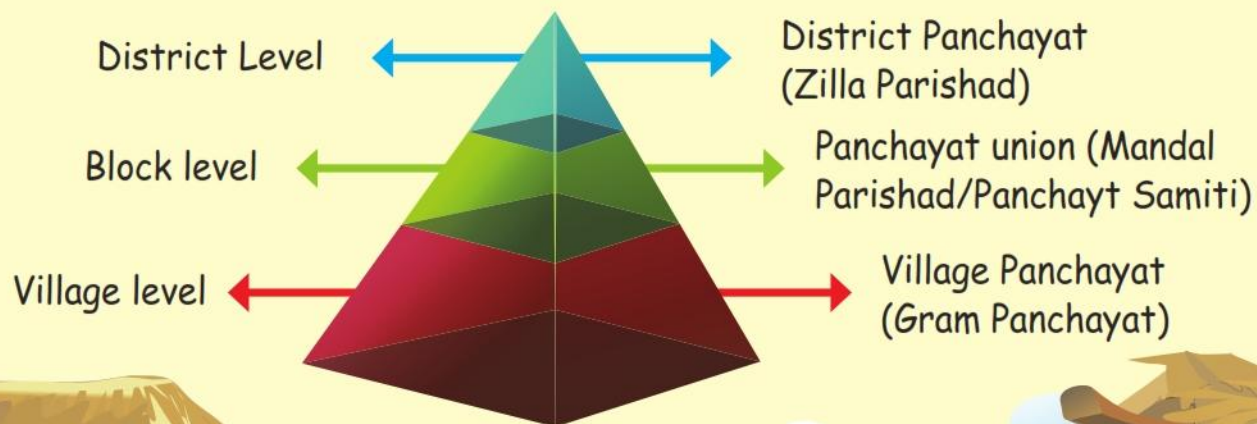
Dad: People of our village assemble together and discuss the roles of the Panchayat board.



Iniyan: Oh, I see! What is meant by Panchayat board Dad?



Dad: I'm so glad about your questioning. Let me tell you about the Panchayat. Our country is a vast country. It has towns and villages. Therefore many Panchayats must exist. Village Panchayat is the root of Panchayat System. It provides the basic facilities to the village people. The **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act** came into force in April 1993. The salient feature of **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act** is the **three tier** system of **Panchayat Raj**. Panchayat have been setup in every village with 500 people and above.



Iniyan: Dad...Who are all there in a Village Panchayat?



There are 12,620 Village Panchayats in Tamil Nadu.



Dad: There is a **President** (head of the Panchayat) and a **Vice President** along with **ward members** (6-15).



Iniyar: How do the Panchayat members are selected?

Dad: Village people select the President and members through the **election**. The tenure of the members of Panchayat is **five years**. The Vice President is elected by the ward members.



ACTIVITY

Let us answer



1. Write the name of your Village Panchayat President?

2. How many ward members are there in your Village Panchayat?





The **Uthiramerur** inscriptions in Kanchipuram district indicate that the Chola Kingdom followed the **Kudavolai method** to elect candidates for village administration.

Kudavolai is a traditional method of election.



Village people gathered and wrote the names of preferred candidates in palm leaves and kept them in a mud pot called **Kudam**. A child was called to pick up palm leaves one by one. The persons, whose names in palm leaves were declared elected.



ACTIVITY

Let us do



Select your class leader using the **Kudavolai** system.



Iniyan: Dad...What are the duties of these members?

Dad: Their duty is to provide basic needs of the villagers.

The obligatory functions of the Panchayat are:

1. Providing electricity and maintaining the street lights.
2. Drilling and maintaining of village wells.
3. Providing drinking water.
4. Constructing of roads and maintaining them.
5. Setting up sewage channels.
6. Constructing small bridges.
7. Repairing Primary School buildings.
8. Providing sanitation facilities.



Iniyan: Oh! They are doing so many works. But, to do the works, they need a lot of money. What will they do for the money?



The term **Gram Swaraj** was first introduced by **Mahatma Gandhi**.



Dad: Our Central and State Government provide money to the Panchayat. We pay taxes to Panchayat. Panchayat use this money for the development of the village.

Collecting tax is an obligatory function of Panchayat.

They do some **discretionary functions** too... Such as,

1. Planting trees in either sides of the roads.
2. Setting up and maintenance of public markets.
3. Setting up of gardens.
4. Establishing passenger lodgings.
5. Setting up and maintenance of play grounds.
6. Constructing library.
7. Establishing centres for informal and adult education.
8. Organising festivals in the village.
9. Maintaining the cleanliness of the village.



1. Is there any library, in your village?
2. Is there any park, in your village?
3. Is there any playground in your village?



Household
tax

Tax for
drinking
water

Taxes

Professional
tax

Property
tax

Awards are given to the best performing Panchayats

An Admiring village

850 houses were built at free of cost for the people of Odanthurai Panchayat in Coimbatore. Their Panchayat attained the level of self-sufficiency to provide basic facilities. This village got the following **awards**:

1. Nirmal Purashkar Award
2. Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Environment Award

Think



Did your village receive any award?



Iniyan: Dad... Will you go to the Gram Sabha meeting which will be held tomorrow?

Dad: Sure, I will go. It is important to participate in the Gram Sabha meeting to discuss the village developmental plans and to take remedial measures.



LET US KNOW

Gram Sabha is the root of democracy.

Gram Sabha meeting must be held at least **four times** a year. Meeting must be conducted on the following dates:

26th January	(Republic day)
1st May	(Labour Day)
15th August	(Independence Day)
2nd October	(Gandhi Jayanti)

Duties of Gram Sabha

1. Planning and executing village developmental programmes.
2. Verifying income and expenditure of village funds.
3. Planning to rectify the grievances of the people.

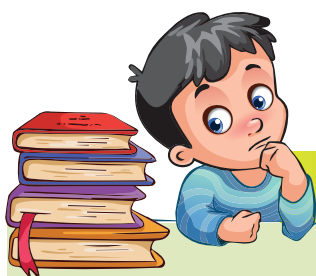
Town Panchayat

Town Panchayat is same as village Panchayat. Here the population ranges between 5000 to 30,000. The members of the Town Panchayat are elected in the same way as village Panchayat. Their tenure is **five years**. They fulfill the basic requirements of the people of the town.



Glossary

Discretionary : Voluntary
Executing : Perform
Obligatory : Compulsory



Recap

- Village Panchayat provides the basic facilities for the village people.
- Panchayat Raj is the three tier system.
- Collecting tax is an obligatory function of Panchayat.
- Gram Sabha meeting must be held at least four times a year.
- The members of the town Panchayat are elected in the same way as village Panchayat.

EVALUATION



I. Choose the correct answer.

- Panchayat is a _____ level government.
a. District b. State c. Village
- _____ introduced the word 'Gram Swaraj'.
a. Kamarajar b. Mahatma Gandhi c. Nehru
- The lower level of the three tier system is _____ Panchayat.
a. District b. Block level c. Village
- Who elects/ elect the Vice President of the Panchayat?
a. People b. Ward members c. District collector
- The tenure of the members of the Panchayat is _____
a. 15 years b. 10 years c. 5 years

II. Match the following.

1. Kudavolai	-	development of plan
2. Gram Panchayat	-	obligatory function
3. Planting trees	-	old system of election
4. Street lights	-	discretionary function
5. Gram Sabha	-	people above 500

III. Answer the following.

1. What is Village Panchayat?
2. Illustrate the 'Three tier system'.
3. Write any three obligatory functions of the Panchayat.
4. Write any three discretionary functions of the Panchayat.
5. When is the Gram Sabha meeting held?



**FUN WITH
ACTIVITY**



PROJECT



Write the facilities which you get from your Panchayat.
