

GIVE REASON

1. To ensure women's representation and participation in local decision-making, promote gender equality, and make governance more inclusive.
2. It builds leadership and civic awareness from a young age, helps address issues affecting children (education, safety, midday meals), and prepares future active citizens.
5. Special provisions and reservations (For women and disadvantaged groups) ensure inclusivity and social justice so that vulnerable communities get representation and their needs are addressed.
6. Because they operate within the village or district, hold meetings with local residents (Gram Sabha), and directly observe and respond to everyday problems, making governance more accessible and responsive.

H. Short answer type questions.

1. The Gram Sabha is the assembly of all adult residents of a village eligible to vote. It participates in decision - making and elects the Gram Panchayat members, including the Sarpanch.
2. The Sarpanch is elected by the Gram Sabha (the village electorate) through local elections where adult villagers vote for their representative.
4. Zila Parishad plans and oversees district-wide development projects, manages larger budgets and infrastructure schemes, supervises implementation, and ensures government programs reach villages.
6. The Panchayat Secretary provides administrative support to the Gram Panchayat—handling records, documentation, communication with higher bodies, and assisting in implementation and account-keeping.
9. Typical services include maintenance of local roads, water supply, sanitation, support for schools, minor dispute resolution, and local welfare initiatives.

I. Long answer type questions.

1. The Panchayati Raj is structured in three levels:

Village level — Gram Panchayat: Closest to people; handles daily village needs like roads and water; led by a Sarpanch elected by the Gram Sabha. Example: village councils initiating local sanitation and school improvements.

Block level — Panchayat Samiti: Brings together multiple Gram Panchayats in a block, coordinates development, compiles village plans, and forwards them upward. It ensures equitable fund allocation across villages.

District level — Zila Parishad: Oversees district-wide planning and larger projects, allocates budgets to blocks, supervises implementation of schemes like rural roads. Together these tiers allow issues to be addressed at the right scale—local matters at village level and larger infrastructure at district level.

3. The Sarpanch provides leadership, convenes the Panchayat, mobilizes community action, and represents the village to higher authorities. Effective Sarpanch leadership can launch development programs (e.g., water conservation, sanitation drives), secure funds, and inspire behavioral change. The chapter's example of Popatrao Pawar in Hiware Bazar shows how a proactive Sarpanch can implement rainwater harvesting and tree planting to revive water resources and agriculture, leading to overall prosperity.

6. Panchayat Samiti is crucial because it aggregates the needs and plans of multiple Gram Panchayats, ensures coordination across villages, distributes funds equitably, and resolves block-level issues that single Gram Panchayats cannot handle alone. It acts as a mediator between village needs and district planning, ensuring efficient scaling of projects.

8. Hiware Bazar's adoption of rainwater harvesting and tree plantation restored groundwater and surface water availability. This led to more reliable irrigation, revived agriculture, increased crop yields, and improved livelihoods. The environmental measures also reduced soil erosion and made farming more sustainable, turning the village into a model for resource management and community-led development.