



## Lesson 20

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### NOTES:

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- India is a democratic country and it has three level of governance: National, State, and Local i.e. the grassroots.
  - The grassroots governance refers to **Panchayati Raj Institution** in rural area and **Municipal Institution** in urban area.
  - These third level of institutions are known as **Local Self Government**.
  - **Panchayati Raj** is the popular name of rural local government.
  - It works at three level: village level, block level and district level.
  - Each village or a group of villages in some states has a **gram panchayat**.
  - This is a council consisting of several ward members, often called **Panchs** and a **president** or **sarpanch**.
  - A **gram panchayat** or **village panchayat** is the only grassroots-level of **panchayati raj** formalised local self-governance system in India at the village or small-town level, and has a **Sarpanch** or **Pradhan** or **Mukhiya** as its elected head.
  - Gram Sabha is the primary body of the Panchayati Raj system and by far the largest.
  - It is a permanent body.
  - Gram Sabha is the Sabha of the electorate. All other institutions of the Panchayati Raj like the Gram Panchayat, Block Panchayat and Zilla Parishad are constituted by elected representatives.
  - Gram Sabha consists of all the adults of a village while Gram Panchayat is elected by the members of the Gram Sabha for a period of five years.
  - The area of Gram Sabha is the entire village whereas Gram Panchayat is divided into wards represented by ward members.
  - Gram Sabha puts control over Gram Panchayat.
  - A **municipal council** is the legislative body of a **municipality** such as a **city council** or a town council.
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