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# The Panchayati Raj System in India: An Overview

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### Abstract

Panchayati raj system in India is a 3<sup>rd</sup> democratic pillar that interlinked the village population to the Indian democratic system. From the ancient period to now the Panchayati raj system is growing up with the huge majority of the village population's satisfaction. In India, the Panchayati raj system is functioning with different strategies with different Panchayati raj Act, and through different tiers system. In this research paper, the researchers have tried to review the Panchayati raj structure in all Indian States with their Panchayati raj Acts, their tier system, different names of the panchayats in different States, and find out the data on total village Panchayats, total intermediate Panchayats, and total District Panchayats with their elected representatives in the country. The researchers have also tried to detailed study on stages of the Panchayati Raj system, different programs, committees, Constitutional status, Panchayati raj structure, functions, and composition, of the Panchayati raj system in India.

**Keywords:** Panchayati raj system, Structures, Function, Compositions, Tier system, Acts, India

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## 1. Introduction

The word 'panchayat' has been used for (local Government) which is used for the arrangements of local development in ancient as well as in conventional rural society. In Indian history, the root of the Panchayati raj system is as old as the Indian administrative system itself (Jayal *et al.*, 2006). In ancient times the local administration and the Panchayati raj system were calculated as the highest power institutions to resolve any dispute between villagers, families, and between societies. Panchayat is one of the important Indian political innovations, which helps in the establishment of grass-roots level democracy and provides a strong opportunity for the village population to participate in local level development and political charity, and they can also taste the democracy through the Panchayati raj system (Goel, 2009). Many scholars argue that through the Panchayati raj system the local mass of the population can understand their basic problem and address their problem in considerable way (Wasnik, 2019).

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## 2. Meaning of the Panchayati Raj System

The term "Panchayati raj" was used in ancient India through different approaches. The term 'panchayat' contains two words "panch" means (Five) "Yat" means (Assembly) and "Raj" means (Governance). Some Scholars and experts considered that the notion of the local government was the invention of Rig Vedic time. In ancient times there were "village Sabha" and "Gramins" which means (assembly of village elders) who took attention to the welfare of the village (Goel and Shalini, 2003). Many thinkers and authors define the meaning of the Panchayati raj in different ways, the word Panchayati raj system was used in different States and different communities with separate names in ancient India, such communities (Nurwa) and (Patidar) in Gujarat (Bhaiband or Brotherhood) in the village of Bombay. The Gana, Samiti, Sabha, and prastha, were the traditional name of panchayats in the north. In south India (Nadu, periyanaadu, and Brahmadeya) which refer to equal political or social communities. The Panchayati raj system starts functioning in India in 1949 and has been increasingly more visible as an important organization of grass-roots development. If we analyze the Panchayati raj system in our country from ancient times then the local level government to stress through the (Gramini). Gramini was the head of the village that collects the revenue from the village people and act on the advice of the council (Majumdar and Singh, 1997). The modern idea of the Panchayati raj system got its nature and function from the Indian village development community. In the earlier of 19<sup>th</sup> century, William Jones and many other colonial authors describe the concept of 'prepared villages' which jump up around Delhi in the year of 1761. In ancient times, the local administration and the Panchayati raj system were calculated as the highest power to resolve any dispute between villagers, families, and between societies. The role of the Panchayati raj system is significant in the field of political awareness and encourages the basic level of progress in villages. The panchayat associations are the backbone of local self-government and rural development in India (Banerjee, 2013).

## 3. Historical Background of Panchayati Raj in India

In India, the concept of the Panchayati raj system is as old as Indian history itself because in every ancient administrative system the role of the Panchayati raj was different at all levels. From the early time to the present, it is functioning under different administrative systems and Acts (Dayal, 1970). The history of the Panchayati raj system starts from the self-contained and self-governing, village communities in India. Gandhiji says that "if we need independence in India then we should give enough powers to the Panchayati raj system" (Mathew, 1995). Panchayat is a single association in India that has existed through the ages, performance, common approval, and with the real authorization of the local public opinion. The concept of the Panchayati raj system in India from the Vedic period to the intermediate was different because the popular rural saying of the system as "Panj Panch is Permeshwar" which means that the decision of the five persons of the village may be regarded as the decision of the God. The people have stable faith in the honesty, truth, and neutrality of the Panch, and the disputing parties have to honor the decision of these people (Vinay, 2011).

Lord Rippon's Resolution was the golden opportunity for the establishment of the village panchayat in India. In India, for the origin of the panchayat raj system, the Lord Rippon resolution 1882 has played a very important role. Lord Rippon has been considered the Father of Local "Self-government" or the Panchayat Raj System in India. The main important focus of this resolution was that "through local self-Government to train the Indian people" from which they can handle their affairs themselves and develop the economic and political consciousness. This resolution was the basic stone for the establishment of local self-government in rural areas of India (Rossi, 1971).

## 4. Gandhian View on the Panchayati Raj System in India

Mahatma Gandhiji well knew that 70% of the Indian population lives in the villages. For the uprising of the poor living standard of villagers the panchayat raj system and self-government are the best options (Narayan, 1962). Gandhi views a Panchayati raj system as a significant tool for the fight against poverty and for the rural development promotion through which the poorest will achieve their political and economic rights. He felt that the Panchayati raj is the only method that promotes the people's voice from the ground level for their independence (Renukadevi Nagshetty, 2011). Gandhi gives the principle of (Gram Swaraj) for the promotion of village development and self-governance (Weekly and Political, 1989). The thought of Gandhi ji was to change into reality when Article 40 of the Indian Constitution was framed. Gandhiji remarked that "self-rule" must begin at the bottom; which means to encourage the local level development, then the backbone of Indian independence will be strong (Dayal, 1970). Every village has to be a republic or panchayat with the authority

and resources to realize the possibilities for the economic and social development of the village (Hirway, 1989). Gandhiji wanted 'Swaraj' of self-rule by the people of India who represent the rural mass. He highlights that India is a land of the villages, and then the most power should be given at the local level. Gandhi wants that all the functions in India should be done by true democracy (Tiwari and Sharma, 2010). In the pre-independence period due to the crucial rule of the British, the mass of the rural population was depressed, and some people died in different movements. This situation influences the great leader of India, Gandhi. He was completely against this British rule (Bates, 2005). He made a strong appeal to the Indian depressed population by the British government for the introduction of local self-government in the villages to improve their economy through themselves.

## 5. Objectives and Functions of the Panchayat

The makers of the Indian constitution were fully conscious of the necessity of the village panchayats at the grassroots level, enabling people's political participation and ensuring the involvement of all sections of the society in all aspects related to their life at the village level. A rural sociologist A.R. Desai define the objectives of the Panchayati Raj system that the panchayat is the basic step of local self-democracy, panchayat can most outstanding carry out the upliftment, panchayats are the best association which can supply the political skill, local-level development, improve local-level democracy, focus to share of every villager in political participation, and improve their financial condition through themselves and quick and significant justice to the villagers, resolving the conflicts, and observe the local association (Palanithurai, 2002).

To increase the process of the Panchayati raj system and rural development, many committees were appointed in different states. A few of them are the following (Table 1):

S. No.	Committees Commission and Programs	Year
1.	Community Development Program	1952
2.	National Extension Service	1953
3.	Hill Area Development Program	1960
4.	Twenty-Point Program	1975
5.	Integrated Rural Development Program	1978
6.	Training of Rural Youth For Self Employment	1979
7.	Indira Aawaas Yojana	1986
8.	Jai Parkash Narain Rozgar Guarantee Yojana	2003
9.	Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana	2003
10.	Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana	2005
11.	Andhra Pradesh High Power Committee	1964
12.	Purushottam Pai committee	1964
13.	Mathur Committee	1963
14.	Govind Sahai Committee	1959
15.	Singh Committee	1966

*Source: Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj System*

**Community Development Program 1952:** A community development program was organized in October 1952 to analyze the people's participation and contribution to the task of rural development work at a local level. The main aim of this program were helping, villages with planning and developmental activities at the grass-roots level, and an important objective was to make village people self-dependent, self-reliant, and self-

supportive, encouraging them to take part in all village activities, and improve the standard of villagers (United Nations, 1961).

### **5.1. Nyaya Panchayat**

A Nyaya panchayat system is a traditional name of the up panchayat which means to provide justice to villagers. Nyaya panchayat has the power to give civil as well as minor criminal jurisdiction. The Nyaya panchayats were the village courts established under the 'Village Courts Act of 1888' (Mathur, 1997).

### **5.2. National Extensive Service (1953)**

This project was also for the promotion and extension of the local level development in India. In 1953, "the National Extension Service program was launched with the idea of having wider treatment at less cost and more people's participation in the rural mass at the local level" (Bihar, 2002).

### **5.3. Sadik Ali Committee**

In 1964, Rajasthan government appointed a committee for exploring the reason behind the failure of the Panchayat raj system. Finally, the committee identified the following reasons that were responsible for the failure of the Panchayati raj system. Meetings of Gram Sabha were not announced, when meetings were arranged bureaucrats were not used to discuss people's problems, and meetings were mostly organized during peak agricultural seasons, illiteracy, poverty, and less State cooperation (Narain, 1964).

### **5.4. G. L. Vyas Committee 1973**

For the improving performances of the Panchayati raj institution in India, the Rajasthan government appointed this committee. After all examinations of the Panchayati raj system in India, this committee recommends that "the constitutional credit should be given to Gram Sabha" attendance of sarpanch in Gram Sabha meets should be made Compulsory, and meetings should be held in nonagricultural seasons (Hirway, 1989).

### **5.5. Balwant Rai Mehta Committee 1957**

After the overall review of the Community Development Program (CDP), and National Extension Service (NES), the program of the Panchayati raj system, the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee was made. This committee analyzed that the Panchayati raj system and local level development process are not good working and it suggests the betterment of the work for the local level development. This committee recommends the establishment of the three-tier Panchayati raj systems, the village panchayat should be comprise of directly elected representatives, whereas the Panchayat Samithi and Zila Parishad should be constituted by indirect election from the village Panchayats, The whole system of Panchayati raj should make easy (Johnson, 2003).

### **5.6. Ashok Mehta Committee 1977**

Rajiv Gandhi's government selected a committee on the Panchayati raj system for democracy and local self-development and to look into its working in various states and to make suggestions for the strengthening of the Panchayati raj system. After all examinations, this committee recommends that the three-tier system should be replaced by the Two-tier system Mandal panchayat and Zilla Parishad, which should be an executive body. Political parties should participate in the panchayat election, the power of the finance resource given to the villager, and Nyaya panchayat should be separate from panchayat development, etc. (Rao, 1980).

### **5.7. Rao Committee 1985**

This committee was set up in 1985 by the planning commissions and for the awareness of people's political participation. The main recommendation of this committee was that the post of district development commissioner should be created; Panchayats elections should be held regularly, reduction of bureaucrat dominance in panchayats, etc. and recommended the constitutional setup (Dayal, 1970).

### **5.8. Sanghiv Committee 1986**

This committee was also organized by the Central government for the review of the Panchayati raj system. After all examinations this committee recommends the establishment of the Nyaya Panchayat, established a separate judicial system, the Panchayati raj system should be consistently recognized, a new chapter should

be added to the constitution for the Panchayati raj system, and Gram Sabha should be an important body for direct power, and the judicial system (Jean, 2001).

### **5.9. Shri. P.K. Thungon Committee 1988**

This committee was organized by the Ministry of Personnel, and Public Grievances under the responsibility of Shri. P.K. Thungon to consider the "type of political and administrative structure in the district for District planning". This committee suggests that the reservation process should be implemented at three-level in the panchayat system. The reservation for SC/ST and women should be compulsory, the State election commission should be established, and members of all three levels of panchayat should be directly elected.

## **6. Constitutional Provision of the Panchayati Raj System**

Article 40 of the Indian constitution declared that 'State must be organized, empower the panchayat system, and give them such power that it will function as efficient unit of local government' it means that the village people should be able to decide the matters by themselves (Hirway, 1989). Part IX of the Indian constitution provides the strategies regarding the Panchayati raj system, and the setting up of 3-tiers Panchayats system. Indian constitution made a provision for the marginalized section in the society, ST/SC, and a 33.33% reservation for women. Many Indian states increased the reserved seats of women in panchayat to 50% (Reddy, 1967). Through the 64<sup>th</sup> Amendment bill government understands this action is the solution to all Panchayats' problems, and 'this bill seeks to ensure the self-democracy at the grass-roots level, to give all local level powers to the people at the village level, and hope it will end the corruption system from ground level. 64<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act channelized the political issues of the Panchayati raj system at the national level (Hirway, 1989). In reality, the 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment Act, 1992 gives a new breath to the local self-government through the Panchayati raj system (Brahmanandam, 2018). The 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 provides a spirit to the local level development and consciousness of people's political participation in the Panchayati raj system. Through this act, the importance and effectiveness of the Panchayati raj system were increased (Srivastava, 2013). The 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 conferred on the Panchayats in the rural areas and the recognition of the institution of self-government (Ghosh, 2008). Further, for the promotion of the Panchayati raj system in India, Article 243 defines the Panchayati raj system, Article 243B defines panchayat composition, Article 243D defines the reservation process in panchayats Article 243G, provides the Powers, authority and responsibilities to the Panchayati raj system and Article 243K provide the election of the panchayats ("Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India - MoPR"). After all analysis, the Indian constitution provides an 11<sup>th</sup> scheduled for the better upliftment of the Panchayati raj system of India and people living standards at the village level. In the 11<sup>th</sup> schedule 29 subjects had given full power to the panchayat raj system for the better development at local level development and for the upliftment of the villager deprived conditions. According to the Article 243B every state has an obligatory to established the panchayat (Sarma and Chakravarty, 2018).

## **7. Structure Composition and Function of the Panchayats**

From ancient times to now, there are a lot of provisions for the Panchayati raj system in India. At different times the function structure and composition of the Panchayati raj system were changed. But after independence, there was no special constitutionally provision for the Panchayati raj system. Finally, the 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment Act was introduced in the Indian constitution in 1992 after a long struggle with special provisions for the panchayat raj system. Now all the panchayats' functions, composition, and structure are functioning through the 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment Act, 1992. 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act gives the practical shape to Article 40 of the Indian constitution. It transfers the representative democracy into participatory democracy (Sastry, 1962).

### **7.1. Gram Sabha**

Article 243A defines the term the Gram Sabha. This is the main body of the Panchayati raj system of India. The Persons, who are more than 18 years of age, living in the village, are listed in the electoral rolls for the panchayat election known as Gram Sabha. Gram Sabha is a body that ensures direct independent rights and makes available a participatory democracy at the local level, especially in the panchayat election. The main benefits, of the Gram Sabha, are "that it will give a great opportunity to the backward and illiterate people in the village to share their political rights" (Wasnik, 2019).



## 7.2. Functions

The Gram Sabha must meet at least two to four times a year. For people's convenience, in most States, four national or international days have been predictable as reference dates for these meetings, and these days are, Republic day, Labor day, Independence day, and Gandhi Jayanti day. The Panchayat Secretary after getting the approval of the Sarpanch could arrange the Gram Sabha meeting (Vikaspedia, 2018).

## 8. Composition of the Village Panchayats

Article 243C defines the composition of the Panchayati raj system in India. It is the accountability of the State election commission that the three-tier panchayats area shall be divided into small size electorates and a number of the reserved seats shall be fixed as in rotations. Every Panchayats shall be divided into wards with an equal population of the village and every ward member is elected by direct election each ward elects one Panch and one Sarpanch. The Panches and Sarpanches are directly elected by the Gram Sabha by secret ballot in all the States of India (Gupta, 2012).

### 8.1. Main Functions of Village Panchayat

According to the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment act, the main function of the village panchayats is to supervise the local affairs of the village and encourage the local level area's development procedures with the help of available local resources. Maintain peace, law, and order in panchayats, Construction of wells, and ponds construction public streets, maintenance of roads, etc. Preparation and implementation of plans for the local level development and the panchayats meet at least once a month (Srivastava, 2013).

### 8.2. Sarpanch

Sarpanch is the head of village panchayats elected by the gram Sabha by direct election. Sarpanch, is responsible for the organized a meeting of the Gram Sabha and village panchayats through elected representatives of the same panchayats, Maintaining the record of the Gram Panchayats and all development work held in panchayats, He raises the challenges of the village panchayat in intermediate or District village panchayats level (Goel and Shalini, 2003).

## 9. Composition of Block Samiti

According to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, every block panchayat shall be divided into the number of the territorial electorates, and members of the intermediate panchayats or blocks to be elected from each territorial electorate. All of the Sarpanches, Village panchayat chairmen, the MPs, and MLAs of the area, representatives of the ST/SC, and women, shall be the composition of Block or intermediate panchayats (Bhargava, 1979).

### 9.1. Functions of the Block Panchayats

The main purpose of the Block Panchayats is to collect all prospective plans prepared at the gram panchayats level for the local level development and method them for funding. Block Panchayats is an interlink between village panchayats and Zilla Parishad and all grants received by the State government are distributed to Block Panchayat (Kumar, 2009).

### 9.2. Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

Through the Act of 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment 1992, under Article 243D the number of each office of the chairperson to be reserved for ST/SC and not less than 1/3 of the total number of the office's chairperson should be fixed for women from SC/ST in Panchayats. Every village panchayat has a deputy Chairperson. The deputy chairperson shall be from among the elected members of the village Panchayats. In every intermediates and district Panchayats, there shall be a chairperson or deputy chairperson elected from among the member of elected members of the Panchayats (Gupta, 2012).

## 10. Composition of Zilla Parishad

Zilla Parishad or the district panchayats in the third heights-tier of the panchayats raj system in India. Zilla Parishad is also an elected body, the chairperson of the Block Samitis is the representative of district Panchayats, and MPs, MLAs, of the District are members of the Zilla Parishad. For the administrative system of the Zilla

panchayats, the government appointed the chief executive officers along with Chief Accountant Officers. The chairperson of the district panchayat is the head of the district political system (Singh, 1994).

## 11. Research Methodology

In this research paper secondary data has been used. The main sources of the secondary data were the different books, Journals, Articles, and different magazines. The Source of the internet has been maximum used. The data of the Panchayati raj structures and types of the Panchayati raj system in India has been taken from the ministry of the Panchayati raj of India, and the rural development and Panchayati raj department of the different states. Excel has been used for the tabulation and arranged the data of the Panchayati raj institutions in India.

S. No.	Panchayats	Total Panchayats	Total Number of Elected Representatives in Lakhs	Percentage of Elected Women	Percentage of Elected SC	Percentage of Elected ST
1.	Gram Panchayat	239,000	27.32	43.81	22.99	10.01
2.	Village Panchayat	6,405	1.68	40.03	19.39	7.07
3.	Zilla Panchayat	589	0.16	43.19	16.57	10.78
	<b>Total</b>	<b>251,000</b>	<b>29.16</b>	<b>127.03</b>	<b>58.95</b>	<b>27.86</b>

*Source: GOI, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Annual Report 2014-15*

The above Table 2 shows that in 2014-2015 the Scheduled Tribe Representation was low as compared to Scheduled Caste and other communities in the Panchayati raj system in India.

S. No.	States	Village Panchayats	Block Panchayats	District Panchayats
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12,810	655	12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,734	155	16
3.	Assam	2,206	191	21
4.	Bihar	8,474	534	38
5.	Chandigarh	9,777	146	18
6.	Goa	190	N.A	2
7.	Gujarat	13,883	223	26
8.	Haryana	6,081	124	21
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3,243	77	12
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	4,098	143	22
11.	Jharkhand	4,423	259	24
12.	Karnataka	5,631	176	30
13.	Kerala	977	152	14
14.	Madhya Pradesh	23,024	313	50
15.	Maharashtra	27,935	353	33
16.	Manipur	160	N.A	4
17.	Odisha	6,235	314	30

S. No.	States	Village Panchayats	Block Panchayats	District Panchayats
18.	Punjab	12,430	139	20
19.	Rajasthan	9,193	248	33
20.	Sikkim	176	N.A	4
21.	Tamil Nadu	12,524	385	31
22.	Telangana	8,817	443	9
23.	Tripura	511	26	8
24.	Uttar Pradesh	51,972	821	72
25.	Uttarakhand	7,555	95	13
26.	West Bengal	3,239	333	18
	All India	237,539	6325	589

Source: Local Government Directory (2014), [www.panchayat.gov](http://www.panchayat.gov)

It has been analyzed from the above table (Table 3) then the increasing number of village Panchayats blocks Panchayats, and District Panchayats through the 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 has not fulfilled the requirement in all Indian rural level populations as it is required. In 2013-2014 the highest number of Village Panchayats in Uttar Pradesh was 51,972, the highest number of the Blocks Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh total number was 1,098 and the highest number of District Panchayats was also in Uttar Pradesh total number of 72.

S. No.	State Name	District Pyt.	Intermediate Pyt.	Village Pyt.	State Panchayati Raj Acts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	660	13,063	Andhra Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	22	177	1,785	Arunachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1997
3.	Assam	26	191	2,199	Assam State Panchayati Raj Act, 1994
4.	Bihar	38	534	8,386	Bihar State Panchayati Raj Act, 2006
5.	Chhattisgarh	27	146	10,963	Chhattisgarh Panchayati Raj Act, 2008
6.	Goa	2	N.A.	191	Goa Panchayati Raj Act, 1994
7.	Gujarat	33	248	14,292	Gujarat Panchayati Raj Act, 1993
8.	Haryana	21	126	6,197	Haryana State Panchayati Raj Act, 1994
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12	78	3,226	Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994
10.	Jharkhand	24	263	4,350	Jharkhand State Panchayati Raj Act, 2001
11.	Karnataka	30	176	6,021	Karnataka State Panchayati Raj Act, 1993
12.	Kerala	14	152	941	Kerala State Panchayati Raj Act, 1994
13.	Madhya Pradesh	51	313	22,812	Panchayat Raj Avam Gram Swaraj Adhiniyam, 1993
14.	Maharashtra	34	351	27,872	Maharashtra Village Panchayat Act, 1958
15.	Manipur	6	N.A.	161	Manipur Panchayati Raj Act, 1994



S. No.	State Name	District Pyt.	Intermediate Pyt.	Village Pyt.	State Panchayati Raj Acts
16.	Odisha	30	314	6,798	Odisha Panchayat Samiti Act, 1999
17.	Punjab	22	150	13,267	Punjab State Panchayati Raj Act, 1994
18.	Rajasthan	33	295	9,888	Rajasthan State Panchayati Raj Act, 1994
19.	Sikkim	4	N.A.	185	Sikkam Panchayati Raj Act 1993.
20.	Tamil Nadu	31	385	12,524	Tamilnadu State Panchayati Raj Act, 1994
21.	Telangana	9	438	13,057	Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018.
22.	Tripura	8	35	591	Tripura State Panchayati raj Act 1993.
23.	Uttarakhand	13	95	7,762	Uttarakhand Panchayat Laws Act, 2007
24.	Uttar Pradesh	75	822	58,757	Uttar Pradesh State Panchayati Raj act 1947.
25.	West Bengal	22	342	3,340	West Bengal Panchayati raj act, 2003.
	<b>Total</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>6,713</b>	<b>252,766</b>	

Source: Ministry of Panchayati Raj (2019a) Annual Report 2018-19 (PDF, 38.4 MB)

Above table (Table 4) explain the total number of the Gram Panchayat, Intermediate Panchayats, and Zilla Parishad Panchayats, Panchayats Structure of the Indian States and their Acts (Ministry of Panchayati Raj, 2019b). In the comparison of both the table of Panchayati raj structure 2013-14 and 2018-19, it is analyzed the increasing speed process of the infrastructure of the Panchayati raj system at three-level. This table also shows in which Act the Panchayati raj system is functioning at the grass-roots level in different States. Based on this calculation (Goel and Shalini, 2003).

S. No.	Names of UTs	District Pyt.	Intermediate Pyt.	Village Pyt.	Union Territory Panchayati Raj Acts
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	7	70	Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Panchayat) Regulation, 1994
2	Chandigarh	1	1	12	Chandigarh Administration Deptt of the rural development and panchayats, 2012
3	Dadra, Nagar Haveli	1	N.A.	20	Dadra & Nagar Haveli panchayat Rules, 2014
4	Daman and Diu	2	N.A.	15	Daman and Diu Panchayat regulation, 2012
5	Delhi	N.A	N.A	N.A	
5	Ladakh	2	31	192	Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati raj Act, 1889
6	Jammu and Kashmir	20	275	4,290	Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati raj Act, 1889.
7	Lakshadweep	1	N.A	10	Lakshadweep Panchayats Regulation Act, 1994
8	Puducherry	N.A	10	108	Pondicherry Village and Commune Panchayat Act

Source: [urlhttps://lgdirectory.gov.in](https://lgdirectory.gov.in) Report on Local Government, 2018

Above table (Table 5) shows the total number of the three-level Panchayats in Union Territories and their Acts.

S. No.	Unit	Members
1.	Number of the panchayati raj institution in India	260,512
2.	Number of the village panchayat in India	253, 268
3.	Number of the intermediate/Blocks panchayat in India	6,614
4.	Number of elected members of Panchayati raj institution	31.00 lakh
5.	Number of the elected women representative	13.75 lakh

*Source: Ministry of Panchayati Raj (2019b) <http://lgdirectory.gov.in> Report MoPR Compilation (as of 27.3.2018)*

The above table (Table 6) shows the basic data of elected representatives and the total number of Panchayats at three-level in 2018.

States Name	Village Panchayat Name	Block/Intermediate Panchayat Name	Zilla/Parishad Panchayat Name	Tier System
Andhra Pradesh	Gram Panchayat	Mandal Panchayat	Zilla Parishad	3-tier panchayat system
Arunachal Pradesh	Gram Panchayat	Anchal Samiti	Zilla Parishad	3-tier panchayat system
Assam	Gaon Panchayat	Anchalik Panchayat	Zilla Parishad	3-tier panchayat system
Bihar	Gram Panchayat	Panchayat Samiti	Zilla Parishad	3-tier panchayat system
Chhattisgarh	Gram Panchayat	Janpad Panchayat	Zilla Panchayat	3-tier panchayat system
Gujarat	Gram Panchayat	Taluka Panchayat	Distric Panchayat	3-tier panchayat system
Goa	Village Panchayat		Zilla Panchayat	2-tier panchayat system
Haryana	Gram Panchayat	Panchayat Samiti	Zilla Parishad	3-tier panchayat system
Himachal Pradesh	Gram Panchayat	Panchayat Samiti	Zilla Parishad	3-tier panchayat system
Jammu & Kashmir	Halqa Panchayat	Block development council	District Development Council	3-tier panchayat system
Jharkhand	Gram panchayat	Panchayat samiti	Zilla Parishad	3-tier panchayat system
Karnataka	Gram Panchayat	Taluk Panchayat	Zilla Panchayat	3-tier panchayat system
Kerala	Village panchayat	Block Panchayat	District Panchayat	3-tier panchayat system
Maharashtra	Village Panchayat	Panchayat Samiti	Zilla Parishad	3-tier panchayat system
Manipur	Gram Sabha		Zilla Parishad	2 -tier panchayat system
Odisha	Gram Panchayat	Panchayat Samiti	Zilla Parishad	3-tier panchayat system
Punjab	Gram Panchayat	Panchayat Samiti	Zilla Parishad	3-tier panchayat system
Rajasthan	Gram Sabha	Panchayat Samiti	Zilla Parishad	3-tier panchayat system
Sikkim	Gram Sabha		Zilla Parishad	2-tier panchayat system
Tripura	Gram Panchayat	Panchayat Samiti	Zilla Parishad	3-tier panchayat system

Table 7 (Cont.)				
States Name	Village Panchayat Name	Block/Intermediate Panchayat Name	Zilla/Parishad Panchayat Name	Tier System
Tamil Nadu	Village Panchayat	Panchayat union	District Panchayats Council	3-tier panchayat system
Uttarpradesh	Gaon Panchayat	Kshettra Panchayat	Zilla Panchayat	3-tier panchayat system
Uttrakhand	Gram Panchayat	Kshetra Panchayat	Zilla Panchayat	3-tier panchayat system
West Bengal	Gram Panchayat	Mandal Panchayat	Zilla Parishad	3-tier panchayat system

Source: Ministry of Panchayati Raj (2019c)

The above table (Table 7) shows that panchayats have different names in different areas. The above table also shows that the maximum State has three-tiers Panchayati raj system some State like Jammu and Kashmir was their constitution, despite this, the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment was not implemented there but according to the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act ,1989, they have a three-tier Panchayati raj system. Now after the abrogation of article 370 the 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act has also been implemented in Jammu and Kashmir. Article 243M mentions that the State of Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and 6<sup>th</sup> areas and hill area of Manipur are excluded from Part IX of the Indian constitution. However, Article 243M (4) (b) empowers the Parliament to legislate and extend the provisions of Part IX to Scheduled Areas and tribal areas (Ministry of Panchayati Raj, 2011).

## 12. Conclusion

From the above-detailed discussion and data presentation, it has been analyzed that in different States in India the panchayat system is known by different names, in some States have a two-tier Panchayati raj system and a maximum state has three-tiers Panchayati raj system in India. From the above data of the Panchayats, the researchers has been analyzed that the numbers of the village Panchayats, Block Panchayats, and Districts Panchayats, has been increased day-by-day, but due to the deficiency of financial resources, the Panchayats institutions are not properly progressing in India. It also has been analyzed from the above details study that the Panchayati raj system is not successful in India at three-level, the main reason behind it that the structural shortage, in this process the State governments are just not capable of performing the role that is expected of them. Panchayats have limited support from expert staff for village-level development planning. Several studies have shown that village panchayats are very weak in the financial matter, and even block samitis and Zilla panchayats have limited funds to carry out their programs. At present, the situation of the panchayats is commented as "grass without roots". Some scholars give some suggestions for the promotion of the Panchayati raj system in india that the Panchayats should take care of the day-to-day by the administration of the local areas by utilizing local resources and by managing the administration of the local level developmental procedure and Panchayats should also take care of local roads, transportation, energy, health, nutrition, housing, communication facilities, electricity, primary education, and adult education.

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