* **Need of Panchayat Raj**
  + 65% of the population in India resides in rural areas. So, the population of rural areas is the soul of India.
  + The overall development or progress of India is possible only when it’s soul (it’s rural areas) get developed.
  + Every rural area will have an elected body called Panchayat Raj which will take care of the development of that rural area.
  + The logic of having Panchayat Raj is very similar to the statement: आत्मानं रथिनं विद्धि शरीरं रथमेव तु।
* **History of Panchayat Raj**
  + The result of setting up Community Development Programme (CDP) in 1952 was zero. So, four new communities including Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (Committee headed by Balwant Rai Mehta) was formed in 1957.
  + These four committee’s reviewed the problem of CDP and submitted their reports to government in 1959.
  + All the four reports recognized that on programme cannot handle all the rural parts of India. The reports also gave some recommendations for rural development
  + The government compiled selected recommendations from four reports.
  + Most of the recommendations were selected from Balwant Rai Mehta Committee. So, if you see a question on History of Panchayat Raj asking about the committee that reviewed CDP’s problems, you will see only Balwant Rai Mehta’s committee in option and not the other committees
* Through direct elections, gram panchayat will be formed
* Through indirect elections, some members of gram panchayat will be selected for Panchayat Samities
* Through indirect elections, some members of Panchayat Samities will be selected for Zila Parishad.
* Zila Parishad 🡺 Architects 🡺 **Form** Policies
* Panchayat Samities 🡺 **Dev**elopers 🡺 **Implement** Policies
* Gram Panchayat 🡺 **Op**eration Engineer**s** 🡺 **Run** Policies in rural areas
* Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samities and Zila Parishad together constitute Panchayat Raj
* Head of Gram Panchayat 🡺 Village Development Officer (VDO) 🡺 Recruited through a competitive exam of the state (The competitive exam in this case is not State PSC). It is like FDA exam. 🡺 2400 Grade Pay
* Head of Panchayat Samities 🡺 Block Development Officer (BDO) 🡺 Recruited through Sate PSC.
* Head of Zila Parishad 🡺 District Collector 🡺 Recruited through UPSC
* The central government recommended the state governments to apply the guidelines of Balwant Rai Mehta’s committee in 1959.
* The first state to implement Panchayat Raj was Rajasthan. The Panchayat Raj system was first implemented in the district of Nagore in Rajasthan.
* Till 1992, it was optional for states to implement Panchayat Raj. When 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act was formed in 1973, Panchayat Raj became part of constitution (Part IX – Article 243 to Article 243 (O))

When something becomes part of the constitution, it becomes compulsory to be implemented which means to say that it became compulsory for every state to implement Panchayat Raj in 1992

* Even though it’s compulsory for every state to implement Panchayat Raj, it’s left to states how they implement it

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| **Article 243** | **Common Name** – Panchayat Raj | **Constitutional Name** – The Panchayat |
| **Article 112** | **Common Name** - Budget | **Constitutional Name** – Financial Plan |

* Article 243 (O) 🡺 Judiciary System (Courts) shall not interfere in the electoral matters of Panchayat Raj

Who will resolve issues regarding electoral matters of Panchayat Raj?

Nyaya Panchayat (lowest rung of our judiciary) will resolve issues regarding electoral matters of Panchayat Raj

* Similar to Panchayat Raj, there exists Municipalities in Urban Society.

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| --- | --- |
| Zila Parishad – Head – District Collector | Municipal Corporation – Head – Mayor |
| Panchayat Samiti – Head – Panchayat Adyakah | Municipal Council – Head – Parshad |
| Gram Panchayat – Head – Pradhan | Nagar Panchayat – Head – Ward Boy |

* **Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA)**
  + Self-rule for tribal population – Some tribes likes to have their own Raj. That freedom is given to them through PESA
  + Village Governance – To look after proper implementation of schemes designed for rural areas (Mid-day meal in government schools of the village, Drinking Water facility in village, etc.)