



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalsivam Kamarajar"

Gram Sabha

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Why is in news? Gram sabhas in and around Parandur pass resolutions opposing airport project

The Gram Sabha is the **fulcrum of the Panchayati Raj and village development**.

People use the forum of the Gram Sabha to **discuss local governance and development, and make need- based plans for the village**.

The Panchayat implements development programs under the overarching mandate, supervision and monitoring of the Gram Sabha.

All decisions of the Panchayat are taken through the Gram Sabha and no decision is official and valid without the consent of the Gram Sabha.

What is Gram Sabha? The term Gram Sabha is defined in the Constitution of India under **Article 243(b)**.

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**.

The **decisions taken by the Gram Sabha cannot be annulled by any other body**. The power to annul a decision of the Gram Sabha **rests with the Gram Sabha only**.

Who are the members of Gram Sabha? Persons, those **who are above 18 years of age and living in the village and whose names are included in the electoral rolls** for the Panchayat at the village level.

Scheduled meetings of the Gram Sabha: According to the **State Panchayat Raj Acts**, the Gram Sabha must meet **at least two to four times in a year**.

For people's convenience, in most of the States, **four national-international days** have been identified as reference dates for these meetings. They are **Republic Day (26th January), Labour day (1st May), Independence Day (15th August), Gandhi Jayanti (2nd October)**.

Gram Panchayats are however **free to convene Gram Sabha on other dates** according to their convenience.

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