Village Governance
The panchayati raj system is a three-tier system with elected bodies at the village, Mandal and district levels.

The modern system is based in part on traditional Panchayati Governance, in part on the vision of Mahatma Gandhi and in part by the work of various committees.

The result was intended to create greater participation in local government by people and more effective implementation of rural development programs.
Rural Local Governments (or Panchayat Raj Institutions)

- Zilla Parishad (ZP)
- Mandal Parishad or Block Samiti
- Village level – Gram Panchayat (GP)
The Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957)

- an early establishment of elected local bodies
- Providing necessary resources, power and authority to them.
- that the basic unit of democratic decentralization was at the block/samiti level
- must not be constrained by too much control by the government or government agencies,
- the body must be constituted for five years by indirect elections from the village panchayats,
- its functions should cover the development of agriculture in all its aspects, the promotion of local industries and others
- services such as drinking water, road building, etc., and
- the higher level body, Zilla Parishad, would play an advisory role.
High-level committee under the chairmanship of Ashok Mehta to examine and suggest measures to strengthen PRIs.

- The district is a viable administrative unit for which planning, co-ordination and resource allocation are feasible and technical expertise available,
- PRIs as a two-tier system, with Mandal Panchayat at the base and Zilla Parishad at the top,
- representation of SCs and STs in the election to PRIs on the basis of their population,
- four-year term of PRIs,
- participation of political parties in elections.
**G.V.K. Rao Committee (1985)**

- The G.V.K.Rao Committee was appointed by Planning Commission to once again look at various aspects of PRIs. The Committee was of the opinion that a total view of rural development must be taken in which PRIs must play a central role in handling people's problems.
- PRIs have to be activated and provided with all the required support to become effective organizations,
- PRIs at district level and below should be assigned the work of planning, implementation and monitoring of rural development programmes, and
- the block development office should be the spinal cord of the rural development process.
The Gram Sabha was considered as the base of a decentralised, and PRIs viewed as institutions of self-governance which would actually facilitate the participation of the people in the process of planning and development.

Local self-government should be constitutionally recognised, protected and preserved by the inclusion of new chapter in the Constitution.

Non-involvement of political parties in Panchayat elections.
The Constitutional (73rd Amendment) Act, passed in 1992 by the Narasimha Rao government, came into force on April 24, 1993. It was meant to provide constitutional sanction to establish "democracy at the grassroots level as it is at the state level or national level".
The Gram Sabha or village assembly as a deliberative body to decentralized governance has been envisaged as the foundation of the Panchayati Raj System.

Empowered the Gram Sabhas to conduct social audits in addition to its other functions.

A uniform three-tier structure of panchayats at village (Gram Panchayat — GP), intermediate or block (Panchayat Samiti — PS) and district (Zilla Parishad — ZP) levels.

All the seats in a panchayat at every level are to be filled by elections from respective territorial constituencies.

Not less than one-third of the total seats for membership as well as office of chairpersons of each tier have to be reserved for women.

Reservation for weaker castes and tribes (SCs and STs) have to be provided at all levels in proportion to their population in the panchayats.
To supervise, direct and control the regular and smooth elections to panchayats, a State Election Commission has been established. The Act has ensured the constitution of a State Finance Commission in every State/UT, for every five years, to suggest measures to strengthen finances of panchayati raj institutions.

To promote bottom-up-planning, the District Planning Committee (DPC) in every district has been accorded constitutional status.

An indicative list of 29 items has been given in Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. Panchayats are expected to play an effective role in planning and implementation of works related to these 29 items.
The AP Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 was passed by State Assembly on 15th April’1994.

- Consented by President of India on 21st April, 1994.
- Gazette Publication on 22nd April’1994 for enforcement.
- This Act is meant for establishing Gram Panchayats, Mandal Parishads and Zilla Parishads and related issues within the State of Andhra Pradesh.
According to Section 5(22), Mandalam defined under Districts establishment act, 1974(7 of Act 1974) covered in its Section -3

Mandal Parishad is that was established under Section (U/S)-148 of this Act or reorganisation of the same. Mandal Parishad Development Officer (MPDO) is the Officer appointed as per Section 168 of Act.

Subsection 28-A mention that the Panchayat Secretary will be appointed under Section 30 of the Act. (added by Act 22 of 2002, w.e.f 20th June 2002).

Grama Sarpanch was he who elected under Section 14 of the Act. and his tenure is for 5 years.

Zilla Parishad was that established according to Section 177.
Rights of Gram Sarpanch under section 25 of Act

➢ Organise election for Upa-Sarpanch within 30 days of vacancy arises.
➢ Control over all Panchayat Records.
➢ Implementation of Panchayat or Committee resolutions and exercise administrative Control over Panchayat Secretary and other employees of Panchayat.
➢ Fulfil the provisions of Act, 1994 within the jurisdiction of rights and responsibilities conferred under Act.
➢ Can ask any information within Grama Panchayat jurisdiction needed to protect the Act Provisions.
➢ He has to inform the Zilla Panchayat officer about ineligibility of members falls under sections 16-20 of Act.
➢ Shall act following the approvals according to Panchayat resolutions only.
• Section 31 of Act: The Panchayat Secretary shall call for Panchayat meeting with prior approval of Sarpanch once in a month and in case Sarpanch fail to give such approval within 90 days, He has to conduct the meeting.

• Sec 32 specifies the duties and responsibilities of Panchayat Secretary, and primarily he has to take action to implement Panchayat resolutions.

• In case such resolutions are outside and beyond purview of Act endangering the Public Health and Safety, he shall bring to the notice of Commissioner of Panchayat whose decision is final.

• Section 40: The beneficiary Committees and Joint Committees with in Panchayat over see the works execution, and Grama related Public Health, Water supply, Agriculture, education, Family Planning issues within frame work of the Act.
• Section 43&44: Every Gram Panchayat (GP) shall prepare Administrative Report annually in prescribed Form and by stipulated date by its executive authority (Panchayat Secretary) and place before Gram Panchayat. U/s 43.

• The Commissioner PR shall supervise the administration of all Gram Panchayats in the state and shall also exercise the powers and perform the functions vest in him u/s 44 under Act.

• Section 45: The Panchayat has duty to construct, maintain, and repair buildings in its jurisdiction and roads other than Mandal Parishad and Zilla Parishad too.
• Street lighting, drainage system, cleanliness of Panchayat, public latrines are also responsibility of Gram Panchayat.

• Prevention of epidemics or malaria, Cholera is to be attended by GP. So also drinking Water Supply and bore wells – Open wells shall be maintained by GP.

• Registration of Deaths and Births be done by GP. All other matters expressly declared obligatory by or under this Act or any other law falls under responsibility of GP.
THANK YOU....