

Problems and Prospects for the Panchayati Raj System in Jammu and Kashmir

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Abstract: *One of the special stages in the decentralization process from the union government to the local government is the panchayati raj system. The Panchayat Raj system provides a window of opportunity for Local self-government in India has a long history that began with the British era, as Lord Ripon, known as the "Father of Local Governance," laid the groundwork for it in 1882. It includes full democracy, local level development processes, a consciousness towards political culture, awareness of rights, local participation in decision-making, and the creation of self-reliance in India. The great Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the country, placed a strong focus on village development since it would bolster national growth as a whole. Their concept of "gram Swaraj," or "village self government," is now the cornerstone of India's PR system. At the local level, panchayati raj is significant to Indian democracy. Before the Panchayati Raj Amendment Act of the 73rd of Indian Union was passed in 1993, Panchayati Raj was implemented in Jammu and Kashmir under the Act of 1989. After a 12-year break, the first Panchayat election was conducted under this Act in 2001, however it was unsuccessful because of armed strife. In contrast to previous Panchayat elections, the 2011 J&K Panchayat election was a success. The last election that took place in 2018 was unsatisfactory due to low voter and candidate engagement.*

Keywords: Autonomy, Empowerment

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