

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q4(b)

"The Panchayats with Gram Sabhas should be so organised as to identify the resources locally available for the development in agricultural and industrial sectors." Examine the statement in the context of Gram Swaraj

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2022 · PSIR GS 1 · 15 marks · Indian Nationalism

Indian Nationalism: Political Strategies of India's Freedom Struggle; Perspectives on Indian National Movement; Gandhi, Tagore, Nehru, Ambedkar, and the socialists.

Core demand of the question

- "The Panchayats with Gram Sabhas should be so organised as to identify the resources locally available for the development in agricultural and industrial sectors." Examine in context of Gram Swaraj. (15 marks)

Revision summary

Gram Swaraj is **Gandhi's** village self-rule in production and decision, stated in Hind Swaraj and village writings.

The quoted task is local resource identification for farm and small industry.

The 73rd Amendment and **Eleventh Schedule** constitutionalise that task through panchayat and gram sabha.

Mehta committees had asked for planning from below long before 1992.

Without real devolution and a power to refuse extraction, mapping is not swaraj.

Introduction

The statement asks panchayats and gram sabhas to map local resources for farm and small-industry development. **M. K. Gandhi's** Gram Swaraj is the right context: the village republic as a producing and deciding community, not a mere agency of a distant plan.

Body

Gram Swaraj

- In Hind Swaraj and later village writings, **Gandhi** wanted swaraj as self-rule in the village: bread labour, khadi, and a limit on industrial centralisation.
- Gram Swaraj is moral and economic. The gram sabha is the people in assembly, not only a statutory quorum.
- **Jayaprakash Narayan** and the after-**Gandhi** sarvodaya stream kept the village as the unit of planning.
- **The statement's stress on identifying local resources is Gandhian:** development starts from what the place already has, not from a ministry template alone.

Constitutional organisation

- The **73rd Constitutional Amendment** gives the gram sabha constitutional status and lists agriculture, irrigation, khadi, small-scale industry, and poverty alleviation in the **Eleventh Schedule**.
- **Article 243A** leaves the powers of the gram sabha to state law, which is why organisation is uneven.
- **Balwantrai Mehta** (1957) and **Ashok Mehta** (1978) had already asked for planning from below. The 73rd Amendment is their delayed legal form.
- **State Finance Commissions** and the **Fourteenth Finance Commission's** local grants are meant to match functions with resources, without which resource-mapping is theatre.

Agricultural and industrial sectors

- Local identification fits watershed works, seeds, storage, and MGNREGA assets, and also rural crafts and micro-enterprise.
- **Gandhi** was wary of industrialism as a civilisational choice. Contemporary panchayats must still deal with agro-processing, power looms, and mineral leases that Hind Swaraj did not design.
- **Gram sabha** consent under the **Forest Rights Act, 2006**, and mining consultation, show resource identification as a veto and a plan, not as a survey for extraction only.
- Elite capture, sarpanch-pati, and un-devolved functionaries remain the gap between the sentence and Gram Swaraj.

Examination

- **The quote is sound as a directive of method:** organise sabhas to know and to decide on local productive resources.
- It is Gram Swaraj only if the sabha can refuse a project, not only inventory it for a department.
- Without funds, functionaries, and freedom, the 73rd Amendment's list does not become **Gandhi's** village republic.

Flow diagram

Gram Swaraj -> Gram Sabha
Gram Sabha -> Identify local resources
Identify local resources -> Agriculture
Identify local resources -> Local industry khadi
73rd Amendment -> Gram Sabha

Conclusion

Panchayats with gram sabhas as local resource planners is the developmental face of Gram Swaraj. The 73rd Amendment and the **Eleventh Schedule** supply the legal frame. **Gandhi's** swaraj is met only when the sabha is a deciding producer-community, not a mapping unit for someone else's industry.

Facts & figures

Hind Swaraj, 1909

Gandhi's critique of industrial civilisation and statement of swaraj as moral self-rule.

73rd Amendment, 1992

Gave panchayats constitutional status and recognised the gram sabha.

Eleventh Schedule

Twenty-nine subjects including agriculture, irrigation, khadi, and small-scale industry.

Forest Rights Act, 2006

Requires gram sabha processes for community forest resource rights, a live resource-identification power.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/psir-gs-1/2022/the-panchayats-with-gram-sabhas-should-be-so-organised-as-to-identify-the-resources-locally-available-for-the-development-in-agricultural-and-industrial-sectors-examine-the-statement-in-the-context-of-gram-swaraj/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com