

Chapter

3

Panchayati Raj & Public Policy

A. Panchayati Raj

- Which one of the following is incorrect in respect of Local Government in India? [1995]
 - According to the Indian Constitution, local government is not an independent tier in the federal system
 - 30% of the seats in local bodies are reserved for women
 - Local government finances are to be provided by a Commission
 - Elections to local bodies are to be determined by a Commission
- What is the system of governance in the Panchayati Raj set up? [1996]
 - Single tier structure of local self government at the village level .
 - Two tier system of local self government at the village and block levels
 - Three tier structure of local self government at the village, block and district levels
 - Four tier system of local self government at the village block, district and in the state levels
- Panchayat Raj was first introduced in India in October, 1959 in: [1998]
 - Rajasthan
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Kerala
 - Karnataka
- In the new Panchayati Raj Bill enacted in 1993, there are several fresh provisions deviating from the past. Which one of the following is not one such provisions? [1999]
 - A number of added responsibilities in the area of agriculture, rural development, primary education and social forestry among other
 - Elections being made mandatory for all posts at the time they are due
 - A statutory representation for women in the panchayats, upto a third of the strength
 - Regular remuneration to the panchayat members, so as to ensure their punctuality and accountability
- A college student desires to get elected to the Municipal Council of his city. The validity of his nomination would depend on the important condition, among others, that: [2000]
 - he obtains permission from the principal of his college
 - he is a member of a political party
 - his name figures in the voters' list
 - he files a declaration owing allegiance to the Constitution of India
- Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists: [2000]

List-I (Local bodies)	List-II (States as in 1999)
A. Zila Parishads at the sub-divisional level	1. Andhra Pradesh
B. Mandal Praja Parishad	2. Assam
C. Tribal Councils	3. Mizoram
D. Absence of Village Panchayats	4. Meghalaya

Codes :

 - A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3
 - A-1, B-2, C-4, D-3
 - A-3, B-2, C-1, D-4
 - A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4
- If a Panchayat is dissolved, elections are to be held within: [2009]
 - 1 month
 - 3 months
 - 6 months
 - 1 year
- In India, the first Municipal Corporation was set up in which one among the following? [2009]
 - Calcutta
 - Madras
 - Bombay
 - Delhi
- The Constitution (Seventy-Third Amendment) Act, 1992, which aims at promoting the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country, provides for which of the following ? [2011 - I]
 - Constitution of District Planning Committees.
 - State Election Commissions to conduct all panchayat elections.
 - Establishment of State Finance Commission.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

 - 1 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3

10. In the areas covered under the Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, what is the role/power of Gram Sabha? [2012 - I]
1. Gram Sabha has the power to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas.
 2. Gram Sabha has the ownership of minor forest produce.
 3. Recommendation of Gram Sabha is required for granting prospecting licence or mining lease for any mineral in the Scheduled Areas.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
11. Under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 who shall be the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights or both? [2013 - I]
- (a) State Forest Department
(b) District Collector / Deputy Commissioner
(c) Tahsildar / Block Development Officer / Mandal Revenue Officer
(d) Gram Sabha
12. The Government enacted the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act in 1996. Which one of the following is *not* identified as its objective? [2013 - I]
- (a) To provide self-governance
(b) To recognize traditional rights
(c) To create autonomous regions in tribal areas
(d) To free tribal people from exploitation
13. The fundamental object of Panchayati Raj system is to ensure which among the following? [2015 - I]
- (1) People's participation in development
(2) Political accountability
(3) Democratic decentralization
(4) Financial mobilization
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only (b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
2. Which of the following are matters on which a constitutional amendment is possible only with the ratification of the legislature of not less than one-half of the states? [1995]
1. Election of the President
 2. Representation of states in Parliament
 3. Any of the Lists in the 7th Schedule
 4. Abolition of the Legislature Council of a State
- Codes:**
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1, 2 and 4
(c) 1, 3, and 4 (d) 2, 3 and 4
3. Consider the following statements regarding the National Human Rights Commission of India:
1. Its Chairman must be a retired Chief Justice of India
 2. It exists in each state as State Human Rights Commission
 3. Its powers are only recommendatory in nature
 4. It is mandatory to appoint a woman as a member of the commission
- Which of the above statements are correct? [1999]
- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 (b) 2 and 4
(c) 2 and 3 (d) 1 and 3
4. Which one of the following legislations does not deal with the protection of environment? [1999]
- (a) The Water (Cess) Act, 1977
(b) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
(c) The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
(d) The Port Laws Amendment Act, 1997
5. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists: [2001]
- | List-I
(Publisher) | List-II
(Publication) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A. Ministry of Industry | 1. Report on Currency and Finance |
| B. Central Statistical Organisation | 2. Economic Survey |
| C. Reserve Bank of India | 3. Wholesale Price Index |
| D. Ministry of Finance | 4. National Accounts Statistics |
- Codes:**
- (a) A-4, B-3, C-2, D-1
(b) A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2
(c) A-4, B-3, C-1, D-2
(d) A-3, B-4, C-2, D-1
6. The Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament for Railway Zones is constituted by the: [2002]
- (a) President of India
(b) Ministry of Railways
(c) Ministry of Parliament Affairs
(d) Ministry of Transport

B. Public Policy

1. Which of the following are the objectives of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)? [1995]
1. To stabilize agricultural prices
 2. To ensure meaningful real income level to the farmers
 3. To protect the interest of the consumers by providing essential agricultural commodities at reasonable rates through public distribution system
 4. To ensure maximum price for the farmer
- Codes:**
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1, 2 and 4
(c) 1, 3 and 4 (d) 2, 3 and 4

7. Which one of the following statements is **NOT** correct? [2003]
- The Press Council of India is an autonomous quasi-judicial body established under an Act of the Parliament
 - The Press Information Bureau provides accreditation to media person so as to have easy access to information from government sources
 - Among all the states of India, Maharashtra publishes the largest number of newspaper
 - Press Trust of India is the largest news agency in the country
8. With reference to Indian public finance, consider the following statements: [2004]
- Disbursements from Public Accounts of India are subject to the Vote of the Parliament
 - The Indian Constitution provides for the establishment of a Consolidated Fund, a Public Account and a Contingency Fund for each State
 - Appropriations and disbursements under the Railway Budget are subject to the same form of parliamentary control as other appropriations and disbursements
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 and 2
 - 2 and 3
 - 1 and 3
 - 1, 2 and 3
9. The Archaeological Survey of India is an attached office of the Department/Ministry of: [2004]
- Culture
 - Tourism
 - Science and Technology
 - Human Resource Development
10. **Assertion (A)** : The Central Rural Sanitation Programme was launched in 1986 to improve the quality of life of rural people in India.
Reason (R) : Rural sanitation is a subject in the Concurrent List in the Constitution of India.
 In the context of above two statements, which one of the following is correct? [2004]
- Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A.
 - Both A and R are individually true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 - A is true but R is false.
 - A is false but R is true
11. Consider the following: [2005]
- Disputes with mobile cellular companies
 - Motor accident cases
 - Pension cases
- For which of the above are Lok Adalats held?
- 1 only
 - 1 and 2
 - 2 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
12. Consider the following statements: [2006]
- There is no provision in the Constitution of India to encourage equal pay for equal work for both men and women.
 - The Constitution of India does not define backward classes.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
- I only
 - 2 only
 - Both I and 2
 - Neither I nor 2
13. Consider the following statements: [2007]
- The nation-wide scheme of the National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) is run by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
 - Gurupadswamy Committee dealt with the issues of child labour.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
14. Consider the following statements :
 In India, a Metropolitan Planning Committee :
- is constituted under the provisions of the Constitution of India.
 - prepares the draft development plans for metropolitan area.
 - has the sole responsibility for implementing Government sponsored schemes in the metropolitan area.
- [2011 - I]
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
15. Consider the following statements: [2013 - I]
- The parliamentary Committee on public accounts
- consists of not more than 25 Members of the Lok Sabha
 - scrutinizes appropriation and finance accounts of the Government
 - examines the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
16. The fundamental object of Panchayati Raj system is to ensure which among the following? [2014]
- People's participation in development
 - Political accountability
 - Democratic decentralization
 - Financial mobilization
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- 1, 2 and 3 only
 - 2 and 4 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2, 3 and 4

HINTS & SOLUTIONS

A. Panchayati Raj

1. (b) According to 73rd Amendment Act 1993, under Article 243D, not less than 1/3rd i.e. 33% seats should be reserved for women in local bodies.
2. (c) According to 73rd Amendment Act, three-tier system of Panchayats exists: Village level, District Panchayat at the district level, the intermediate Panchayat which stands between the village and District Panchayats in the States where the population is above 20 Lakhs.
3. (a) Panchayati Raj System was first introduced in Nagaur district of Rajasthan on October 2, 1959 followed by Andhra Pradesh in 1959.
4. (d) Provision given in option (d) is not included under 73rd Amendment Act 1993.
5. (c) Name in the voters list is the important condition.
6. (d)
7. (c) Duration of Panchayats is five year. Fresh election to constitute a Panchayat shall be completed before the expiry of its term; or in case of dissolution before the expiry of a period of 6 months from the date of its dissolution.
8. (b) In 1688, the first Municipal Corporation of India was set up in Madras.
9. (c) District planning committee comes under 74th Amendment not in 73rd Amendment.
10. (d) According to Panchayat Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act 1996, Gram Sabha has the power to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas, has the ownership of minor forest produce and the recommendation of Gram Sabha is required for granting prospecting licence or mining lease for any mineral in the Scheduled Areas.
11. (d) Section C of the Forest Dwellers Act provides a transparent three step procedure for deciding on who gets rights. Firstly, the Gram Sabha makes a recommendation i.e. who has been cultivating land for how long, which minor forest produce is collected; etc. The Gram Sabha plays this role because it is a public body where all people participate and hence is fully democratic and transparent. The Gram Sabha's recommendation goes through two stages of screening committees- the Taluka and the District levels.
12. (d) PESA Act does not identify the freedom of tribal people from exploitation as its objectives, but it automatically becomes a byproduct of its objectives.
13. (a) The fundamental object to Panchayati Raj system is to ensure people's participation in development, political accountability and democratic decentralization.
3. (d) Here the possible answer is (d) because Statement 2 is incorrect as it is not mandatory that each state must have a State Human Rights Commission. But statement 4 is correct as Chairperson of the National Commission on Women is also the member of NHRC.
4. (a) The Water (Cess) Act, 1977 related to water and irrigation and not the protection of environment.
5. (b)
6. (c) Main purpose of these Committees is to provide a forum for informal discussions between the Government and Members of Parliament on policies and programmes of the Government and the manner of their implementation.
7. (c) Madhya Pradesh publishes largest number of newspapers.
8. (b) The Indian Constitution provides for the establishment of a Consolidated Fund and a Public Account under Article 266 and a Contingency Fund for each State under Article 267. Disbursements from Public Accounts of India are not subject to a Vote of Parliament.
9. (a) The Archaeological Survey of India established in 1861 is a department of the Government of India attached to the Ministry of Culture. ASI is responsible for archaeological studies and the preservation of archaeological heritage of the country in accordance with the various acts of the Indian Parliament.
10. (c) Rural sanitation is not a subject in the Concurrent List. Public Health and Sanitation comes under the State List.
11. (d) Lok Adalats are being held in all the three areas.
12. (b) Statement 1 is incorrect as equal pay for equal work for both men and women is provided under Article 39(d) in Directive Principles of the State Policy under Part IV of the Constitution.
13. (b) NCLF is run by the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment.
14. (a) Article 243ZE – Committee on Metropolitan Planning does not have a sole responsibility for implementing Government sponsored schemes in metropolitan area.
15. (b) The committee consists of 15 members of Lok Sabha not 25 members. The function of the committee is to examine the accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted by Parliament to meet the expenditure of the government of India and such other accounts laid before the House as the committee may think fit. Apart from the Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Appropriation Accounts of the Union Government, the Committee also examines the various Audit Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General on revenue receipts, expenditure by various Ministries/Departments of Government and accounts of autonomous bodies.
16. (a) The fundamental object of Panchayati Raj system is to ensure people's participation in development, political accountability, and democratic decentralization.

B. Public Policy

1. (a) Option is not the objective of CACD.
2. (a) Abolition of Legislative Council of a state does not need the ratification of not less than one half states. Under Art. 169, it has been mentioned that Parliament can create or abolish the council if that every State passes a resolution to do so with special majority. So drop point 4.

