

5

SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF POLITICAL PROCESSES

Syllabus and Synopsis of the Chapter

- **Political Party System in India**
- **Local Self-government in Urban Areas**
 - **The Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992**
- **Local Self-government in Rural Areas**
 - **The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992**
- **Role and Significance of Women in Politics**

POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM IN INDIA

Political party is present in every country. Particularly, the political parties are actively present in a democratic country like ours. India has a multi-party system with predominance of small regional parties. Political parties that contest local, state or national elections are required to register with the Election Commission (EC) of India. In order to gain recognition in a State, the party must have had political activity for atleast five continuous years, and send atleast 4 percent of the State's quota to the Lok Sabha or 3.33 percent of members to that State Assembly. Political parties recognized in four or more States are considered as National Parties.

The political parties field candidates in elections. The political parties which gets a majority of seats in the legislature forms the government and the other political parties acts as opposition parties.

"A political party is an organized group of citizens who profess to share the same political views and who by acting as a political unit, try to control the government." - Gilchrist

Characteristics or Features of Political Parties in India:

The following are the important characteristics or features of political parties in India:

1. Organized Group:

A political party is an association of large group of people having similar political views or faith in one political ideology. Every political party defines its ideology, aims, objectives and office bearers of their party. The office bearers of the party include:

- President of the party
- Executive Committee of the party
- Election Committee of the party
- Other office bearers

2. Pre-requisite for Democracy:

The existence of political parties is one of the essential requirements of a democratic country. In a democratic country, several political parties freely participate in the political process. The people have the right and freedom to organize their political party.

3. Complies with Indian Constitution:

A political party always acts according to the provisions of the Constitution and rules laid down by laws. All political parties advocate democracy, socialism and secularism. The main aim of every political party is to promote national interest.

4. Types of Political Parties:

The Indian political parties are categorized into two main types:

- (i) **National Parties:** National political parties participate in different elections all over India. For example, Indian National Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Samajwadi Party and others.
- (ii) **State Parties:** State or regional political parties participate in different elections only within one State. For example, Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, Telegu Desam in Andhra Pradesh, Dravida Munnetra Kazagham (DMK) in Tamil Nadu and many more.

There are also many independent candidates that participate in elections without the support of any party. For instance, Meera Sanyal, Head of ABN-Amro, India took sabbatical from her job and contested for South Mumbai elections as an independent candidate.

5. Elections:

A political party is actively involved in elections. It fields candidates, organizes election campaigns and tries to win more and more seats in the elections. In other words, each political party tries to secure maximum support for its candidate. When a political party or a group of parties wins majority of seats in elections, it forms the government, which runs the administration of the country. The political parties which do not get a majority, plays the role of opposition parties. The opposition parties criticize the wrong policies of the ruling party i.e. the government.

6. De-recognition of Political Parties:

The Election Commission (EC) of India can de-register a political party when found that a party has registered through fraudulent means. Also, recently, the EC de-recognised seven regional parties in some states due to their extremely poor poll performance.

7. Splits and Mergers:

Political parties in India are characterized by fragmentation, splits, polarization and mergers. This is because the political parties and the party system in India is greatly influenced by cultural diversity, social, ethnic, caste, community and religious pluralism, and clashing ideological perspectives.

8. Defection in Politics:

Defection means abandoning the association of a political party, cause or doctrine to which a person is bound by some tie, as of allegiance or duty. In simple words, it means switching loyalty from one political party to another. The defector is often considered as a traitor by the original political party. It is very common to change party affiliation in political scenario. The 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution included Anti-Defection Act, 1985. The Act provides for disqualification of elected members on the grounds of defection to another political party.

9. Corruption in Politics:

Political corruption is rampant in Indian political scenario. Political corruption includes:

- **Bribery:** Payment made to government officials in exchange of his use of official power.
- **Nepotism:** Favouring relatives of an official for an illegitimate private gain.
- **Electoral fraud:** Illegal interference with the process of election process.
- **Embezzlement:** Theft of public money by officials for any private gain.

10. Candidates from Film Industry:

A unique feature of Indian politics is high number of film actors joining Indian politics. Many national parties recruit Bollywood film actors in their parties. For instance, Govinda, Sharmila Tagore, Om Puri, Zeenat Aman are Congress Party candidates and Hema Malini, Suresh Oberoi, Dharmendra, Jitendra are BJP

candidates. The film actors can attract large mobs towards political gatherings. The participation of film actors in elections may result in majority votes due to their public support.

11. Public Opinion:

Political parties act as agencies for forming public opinion on various issues and problems of the country, which may include:

- Inflation
- Unemployment
- Corruption, etc.

12. Social Welfare Functions:

Political parties in India perform social welfare functions. This may include:

- Helping people during natural calamities like earthquake, floods, tsunami, etc.
- Sponsoring education of poor children
- Providing job opportunities to women, etc.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

In addition to the Union Government and State Governments, there is a government, which functions at the local level known as local government. The local governments are engaged in solving the problems in their areas. The State Legislatures passed laws for the creation of local government. The State Governments do not interfere in the routine working of the local government. The local governments enjoy greater degree of autonomy in decision-making. Therefore, they are known as local self-governments. However, they have to follow the guidelines set by the law of the State Government.

At present, there are two types of local self-governments. They are:

1. Urban local self-government i.e. Municipal Government
2. Rural local self-government i.e. Panchayati Raj

I. Urban Local-Self Government

The urban areas in India are looked after by the Municipalities. The structure of Municipalities includes:

1. Municipal Corporation:

In Maharashtra, there are about 23 Municipal Corporations which maintain the administration at local level. The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai operates under the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.

A Municipal Corporation involves:

- ***The Council*** consisting of the representatives elected by the people from different wards. Each ward elects one representative known as Councillor who enjoys a term of five years.
- ***Mayor and Deputy Mayor*** are the positions of great honour and dignity. The Mayor is the first citizen of the city. However, the Mayor lacks executive authority. The Councillors elect the Mayor for a period of two and half years. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor performs his functions.
- ***Municipal Commissioner*** is the Chief Executive Officer. He is appointed by the State Government and belongs to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).
- ***Committees of the Municipal Corporation*** include Standing Committee, Transport Committee, Town Planning Committee, etc.

The functions of Municipal Corporation are classified as obligatory functions and discretionary functions.

The ***obligatory functions*** include:

- Construction and maintenance of roads
- Supply of clean water
- Street lighting and removal of garbage

- Sanitary and healthcare facilities
- Registration of births and deaths in that area
- Maintenance of bridges and heritage buildings
- Operating schools at primary level
- Opening dispensaries and health clinics
- Naming streets and houses, etc.

The ***discretionary functions*** of the Municipal Corporation are:

- Conducting surveys
- Constructing and maintaining museums, libraries, public parks and gardens.
- Constructing orphanages, rescue homes for women and street children, etc.

2. Municipal Council:

The smaller cities are looked after by the Municipal Council, also known as Nagar Parishad. A Municipal Council consists of:

- ***The Council members*** elected by the people. Certain seats are reserved for SCs/ STs in proportion to the percentage in population. One-third of the total seats are reserved for women. The OBCs have a reservation of 27% in the Council. The members of the Council enjoy a term of five years.
- ***President and Vice-President*** are the presiding officers of the Municipal Council. They are elected by the members of the Council for a period of two and half years. The President of the Municipal Council is the first citizen of the town. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President performs his functions.
- ***Committees*** are formed to perform the functions of the Municipal Council. There is one Standing Committee and six subject Committees:
 - Public Works Committee

- Education Committee
- Sanitation Committee
- Water Supply Committee
- Planning and Development Committee
- Women and Child Welfare Committee

The ***role and functions*** of the Municipal Council are similar to the Municipal Corporation. The Municipal Corporation looks after a larger area, whereas, the Municipal Council works for a comparatively smaller area.

3. Nagar Panchayat:

It is a new form of urban local self-government. It is formed according to the 74th constitutional amendment. A rural area in the process of transition to an urban area is governed by Nagar Panchayat.

THE CONSTITUTION (74TH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1992:

In many states, the urban local self-government units had become weak and ineffective, due to reasons such as:

- Failure to hold regular elections
- Prolonged supersessions
- Inadequate financial powers to the body

It was necessary that the Constitution incorporate certain provision relating to the urban local self-government. The 74th amendment of the Constitution in 1992 specified the following provisions:

- Constitution of three types of municipalities i.e. the Municipal Corporation, the Municipal Council and the Nagar Panchayat.
- Provision of greater functional responsibilities and financial powers to the municipalities.

- Adequate representation of weaker sections and women in the municipalities.
- Regular and fair conduct of municipal elections.
- Constitution of Ward Committees, District Planning Committees, Metropolitan Planning Committees and State Finance Commissions.

According to the 74th amendment, several State Governments have amended their Municipal Acts/ laws/ legislations so as to bring these in conformity with the constitutional provisions.

Most of the provisions of the 74th amendment have been complied by several State Governments. However, certain States have failed to comply with the provision of constitution of Ward Committees, District Planning Committees and Metropolitan Planning Committees. Further, the reports recommended by the State Finance Commission are subject to acceptance or rejection by the State Governments. Thus, the State Government holds the final decision-making authority.

II. Rural Local-self Government

The rural local-self government in India is described as 'Panchayati Raj'. The establishment of Panchayati Raj was a revolutionary step towards the involvement of rural people at the grass root level in the process of rural development. On the basis of Balwant Rai Mehta Committee, Rajasthan was the first State to establish Pachayati Raj in India. Thereafter, the entire rural India came under Panchayati Raj system. The main aims and goals of the Pachayati Raj system are:

- To create socio-economic development of rural India.
- To make Indian villages self-reliant and self-governing.
- To secure a sense of self-confidence among rural people.
- To provide political education and training to rural people

The Panchayati Raj system in India exists at three-tier levels:

1. Zilla Parishad at District level
2. Panchayat Samiti at Block level
3. Gram Panchayat at Village level

1. Zilla Parishad:

It is the apex institution in the Panchayati Raj system in India. The elected members are the representatives of the people. One-third of the elected seats are reserved for women. Certain seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in proportion to their population. 27 percent of the total seats are reserved for OBCs. The members of Zilla Parishad enjoy a term of five years.

- ***The President and Vice-President*** are the presiding officers of the Zilla Parishad. They have a term of two and half years. The President supervises the financial and administrative aspects of the Parishad. In absence of the President, the Vice-President exercises his powers.
- **Committees of the Zilla Parishad** are formed to carry out the functions of Zilla Parishad. The Standing Committee plays an important role in the functioning of the Zilla Parishad. There are other nine subject Committees relating to:
 - Finance
 - Public Works
 - Agriculture
 - Social Welfare
 - Education
 - Health
 - Animal husbandry

- Women and Child Welfare

- Water Supply and Conservation

- **The Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** is the administrative head of the Zilla Parishad. He is appointed by the State Government and belongs to the Indian Administrative Services (IAS). He responsible for implementing the resolutions and decisions of the Zilla Parishad.

2. Panchayat Samiti:

It functions at taluka level. The composition of the members of Panchayat Samiti is similar to that of the Zilla Parishad.

- The **Chairperson** of Panchayat Samiti presides over the meetings. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson performs his functions.
- **The Block Development Officer (BDO)** is the executive head of the Panchayat Samiti. He is appointed by the State Government and belongs to the Indian Administrative Services (IAS).

3. Gram Panchayat:

It is the basic unit of the Panchayati Raj system at village level. The composition of the members of Panchayat Samiti is similar to that of the Zilla Parishad.

- **Sarpanch** is the head of the Gram Panchayat and enjoys a term of five years. He implements and supervises the resolutions passed by the Gram Panchayat. In the absence of the Sarpanch, Deputy Sarpanch exercises his powers.
- **Gramsevak** is appointed by the Zilla Parishad to carry out the routine work of the Gram Panchayat.

Gram Sabha is a rural organization of local people but was inefficient in its functioning due to lack of executive powers.

THE CONSTITUTION (73rd AMENDMENT) ACT, 1992:

The Act came into force to provide constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj institutions. The reasons for amendments in

rural local-self government are similar to that of the amendments in the urban local self-government. The provisions of the Act are as follows:

- Constitution of Panchayati Raj at three-tier levels, where the population is of two million.
- Gram Sabha to occupy a significant position to bring necessary favourable changes in the villages.
- Holding Panchayat elections regularly in every five years.
- Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women.
- Appointment of State Finance Commission to make recommendations regarding financial powers of the Panchayats.
- Constitution of District Planning Commission to plan for the development of the district.

The Constitution (Seventy-third Amendment) Act, 1992 has given a new dimension to the process of women's empowerment in India. The provision of 33% reservation to women in rural local-self government has provided a new political role which involves them in the planning process of the State. The 73rd Amendment has changed the situation of rural women and ensured their adequate representation at different levels of Panchayati Raj especially in the States of Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Kerala.

WOMEN IN POLITICS

The participation of women in politics in India is very disheartening. India has the lowest number of women representation in Parliament i.e. 11 percent in the 16th Lok Sabha elections. However, this is the highest percent of women representation elected to the Lok Sabha in the history of the country. There has been a marginal rise from

the 15th Lok Sabha elections, where the parliamentary representation of women was 10.7 percent. After passing the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992, the representation of women leaders at the Panchayati Raj system in India is nearly 50 percent. The Women's Reservation Bill is passed in Rajya Sabha which provides 33 percent seats to women in Parliament. However, the Bill is yet to be passed in Lok Sabha.

Women play a marginal role in Indian politics. The role and significance of women in politics is stated as follows:

1. Women Empowerment:

Empowerment of women in politics means the participation of women in political decision-making process. Today, there are good numbers of women at top positions in political parties. After passing the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 and the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992, the seats are reserved for Indian women representatives in Panchayati Raj and Municipalities respectively.

The elected women representatives may actively work for women empowerment in the society. They may encourage for setting up Self-Help-Groups (SHGs) to generate employment for women-folk, especially in rural areas.

2. Political Rights of Women:

It is important that the women in India are aware of their political rights for their effective participation in political process. The political rights include:

- Women shall be entitled to vote in all elections on equal terms with men, without any discrimination.
- Women shall be eligible for elections to all publicly elected bodies established by the nation, on equal terms with men, without any discrimination.
- Women shall be entitled to hold public office and to exercise all public functions in equal terms with men, without any discrimination.

The elected women leaders may make women aware of their political rights.

3. Political Education and Training:

Women in politics may act as role models for prospective women to join politics in India. Women leaders like Indira Gandhi, Sushma Swaraj and others may act as effective role models for these women. Political education and training is vital for women joining politics. The aspects of education and training may include:

- Knowledge in political science
- Knowledge in current affairs
- Knowledge in law, etc.

4. Resolving Women-related Social Problems :

Women in political power try to carry out their responsibilities in true spirit. Hence, they may take effective measures to eradicate or alleviate social problems, such as:

- Sexual harassment at workplace
- Domestic violence
- Problems of malnutrition of females, etc.

The above solutions may lead to upliftment of women status in the society.

5. Women Upliftment :

In India, women have low status in the society. There are number of restrictions on women such as restrictions on participating in religious rituals, education, employment and so on. The women political leaders may try to uplift the status of women through efforts such as passing special legislations and also encouraging the women to fight for their rights and privileges.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Explain the features of political parties in India.
2. Analyse the features and functions of the political parties in India. (*B.Com., Oct. 2018*)
3. Explain the concept of urban local self-government. Discuss the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992.
4. What are the salient features of the 74th Constitutional Amendment? (*Self-financing, Nov. 2016*)
5. Explain the concept of Panchayati Raj in India. (*B.Com., Nov. 2016*)
6. Write a detailed note on significance of Panchayati Raj. (*B.Com., March 2017*)
7. Discuss the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992.
8. Bring out the role and significance of women in politics. (*Self-financing, March 2017*)
9. Explain the various socio-economic and cultural obstacles in the effective participation of women in Indian politics. (*B.Com., Nov. 2017*)
10. Discuss the way in which democratic participation is ensured at the grass root level by the 73rd and 74th amendment to the Indian Constitution. (*B.Com., March 2018*)
11. What are the challenges to women's political participation in India? Suggest measures to overcome the challenges. (*Self-financing, Nov. 2017*)
12. Analyse the implications of 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act. (*Self-financing, March 2018*)
13. Comment on the contribution of women towards Indian politics and suggest measures for increased participation. (*B.Com., March 2019*)
14. '73rd Constitutional Amendment Act ensures democratic participation at the grassroots level.' - Discuss. (*Self-financing, Dec. 2018*)
15. Write a detailed note on Rural Local Self-Government in India. (*Self-financing, March 2019*)
16. Write short notes on:
 - (a) Features of Indian party system (*Self-financing, Dec. 2018, March, 2019*)
 - (b) Political party system in India (*Self-financing, March 2017*) OR Multiparty system in India (*B.Com., March 2019*)
 - (c) Types of political parties in India (*Self-financing, Nov. 2016*)
 - (d) Corruption in politics (*B.Com., Nov. 2016*)

- (e) Local self-government in rural areas OR
Panchayati Raj (*B.Com., March 2019*)
- (f) Significance of women in politics (*B.Com., March 2017*) OR
Role of women in politics (*B.Com., Oct. 2018*)
- (g) Shortcomings of the party system in India. (*B.Com., Nov. 2017*)
- (h) Major features of the 74th amendment. (*B.Com., Nov. 2017*) OR
74th amendment to the Indian Constitution (*B.Com., Oct. 2018*)
- (i) Women in politics (*B.Com., March 2018*)
- (j) Concept of local government (*B.Com., March 2018*)
- (k) Regional political parties in India (*Self-financing, Nov. 2017*)
- (l) Challenges to women's participation in politics. (*Self-financing, March 2018*)

OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

A. Fill in the blanks with the correct option from the bracket:

1. Political parties that contest local, state, national elections are required to register with the _____ of India.
(Election Commission, Supreme Court, President)
2. Political parties recognized in _____ or more States are considered as national parties.
(six, five, four)
3. The main aim of every political party is to promote _____.
(secularism, socialism, national interest) (*B.Com., Nov. 2016*)
4. The political parties which do not get a majority, plays the role of _____ parties. (opposition, ruling, suppressing)
5. The Election Commission of India can _____ a political party when found that a party has registered through fraudulent means.
(recognize, de-recognise, promote)
6. The _____ governments enjoy greater degree of autonomy in decision-making. (Union, State, local)
7. The urban areas in India are looked after by the _____.
(Municipalities, State, Panchayati Raj)
8. The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai operates under the _____.
(State government, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, Union government)
9. The Councillor enjoys a term of _____ years.
(two, three, five)

10. The _____ is the first citizen of the city.
 (President, Governor, Mayor)
11. _____ is the Chief Executive Officer of the city.
 (Councillor, Municipal Commissioner, Mayor)
12. The smaller cities are looked after by the _____.
 (Municipal Corporation, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council)
13. _____ is formed according to the 74th constitutional amendment.
 (Nagar Parishad, Nagar Pachayat, Pachayati Raj)
14. The rural local self-government in India is described as _____.
 (Nagar Parishad, Nagar Pachayat, Pachayati Raj)
15. _____ was the first State to establish Panchayati Raj system in India.
 (Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat)
16. The Panchayati Raj system in India exists at _____ tier levels.
 (two, three, four)
17. _____ is the apex institution in the Panchayati Raj system in India.
 (Zilla Parishad, Pachayat Samiti, Gram Pachayat)
18. The President of Zilla Parishad has a term of _____ years.
 (two, two and half, five)
19. The _____ is responsible for implementing the resolutions and decisions of the Zilla Parishad.
 (President, Vice-President, Chief Executive Officer)
20. _____ functions at taluka level.
 (Zilla Parishad, Pachayat Samiti, Gram Pachayat)
21. The _____ is the executive head of the Panchayat Samiti.
 (President, Chief Executive Officer, Block Development Officer)
22. _____ is the basic unit of the Pachayati Raj system at village level.
 (Gram Pachayat, Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti) OR
 _____ functions at the village level. (Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti, Gram Pachayat) (B.Com., Oct. 2018)
23. _____ is the head of the Gram Panchayat.
 (President, Chairperson, Sarpanch) (B.Com., Nov. 2016) (Self-financing, Nov. 2017)
24. Empowerment of women in politics means the participation of women in political _____ process.
 (decision-making, formation, alliance)
25. _____ is appointed by the Zilla Parishad to carry out the routine work of the Gram Panchayat.
 (Chief Executive Officer, Block Development Officer, Gramsevak)

26. India has a _____ party system.
(multi, bi, single) (*Self-financing, Nov. 2016*) (*B.Com., Nov. 2017*)
27. The _____ party dominated the political scene from 1947 to 1977.
(~~Congress, BJP, CPI~~) (*Self-financing, Nov. 2016*)
28. _____ is a national party.
(Biju Janata Dal, Telugu Desam, Indian National Congress) (*B.Com., March 2017*)
29. 73rd Amendment of the Indian Constitution is related to _____.
(independent judiciary, Panchayati Raj, parliamentary system)
(*B.Com., March 2017, Oct. 2018*)
30. According to the _____ Act of Indian Constitution, the provisions related to Panchayati Raj are enumerated.
(~~73rd, 74th, 75th~~) (*Self-financing, March 2017*) OR
Panchayati Raj was given constitutional status by _____ Amendment Act. (72nd, 73rd, 74th) (*Self-financing, Dec. 2018*)
31. _____ is a national party.
(Akali Dal, Telugu Desam, Bahujan Samaj Party) (*Self-financing, March 2017*) OR
_____ is a national party. (Aam Aadmi Party, Asom Gana Parishad, Bahujan Samaj Party) (*B.Com., March 2019*)
32. One of the characteristics of urban centres is that in all places with a population of at least _____. (2000, ~~5000~~, 4000) (*B.Com., Nov. 2017*)
33. The 73rd amendment to the Indian Constitution regarding Panchayati Raj was passed in _____. (1990, 1991, ~~1992~~) (*B.Com., Nov. 2017*)
34. 73rd and 74th Amendments in the Constitution are about _____.
(education, age of marriage, local government) (*B.Com., March 2018*)
35. According to a report published by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women in March, 2017, Indian women participation in politics is _____ Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan.
(higher than, lower than, same as) (*B.Com., March 2018*)
36. 73rd Amendment has added _____ Schedule to Indian Constitution.
(10th, 11th, 12th) (*Self-financing, March 2019*)

Ans: (1) *Election Commission* (2) four (3) *national interest* (4) *opposition*
 (5) *de-recognise* (6) *local* (7) *Municipalities* (8) *Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation* (9) five (10) *Mayor* (11) *Municipal Commissioner* (12) *Municipal Council* (13) *Nagar Pachayat* (14) *Pachayati Raj* (15) *Rajasthan* (16) three (17) *Zilla Parishad* (18) two and half (19) *Chief Executive Officer* (20) *Pachayat Samiti* (21) *Block Development Officer* (22) *Gram Panchayat* (23) *Sarpanch* (24) *decision-making* (25) *Gramsevak* (26) multi (27) *Congress* (28) *Indian National Congress* (29) *Panchayati Raj* (30) 73rd (31) *Bahujan Samaj Party* (32) 5000 (33) 1992 (34) *local government* (35) *lower than* (36) 11th

- B. State whether the following statements are 'True' or 'False':
1. India has a multi-party system with predominance of small regional parties. (*Self-financing, March 2018*)
 2. The existence of political parties is not an essential requirement of a democratic country. (*Self-financing, Nov. 2017*)
 3. There may be independent candidates that participate in elections without the support of any party.
 4. The Election Commission can re-recognise political parties in State due to their extremely poor poll performance.
 5. Political parties in India are characterized by fragmentation, splits, polarization and mergers.
- Criminalization of politics is also a form of political corruption.
- The participation of film actors in elections may result in majority votes due to their public support.
8. The Mayor possesses executive authority.
 9. The Mayor is elected for a term of five years. (*B.Com., Nov. 2016*) OR
The Mayor of Greater Mumbai is elected for a period of 5 years. (*Self-financing, March 2019*)
 10. Conducting surveys is an obligatory function of Municipal Corporation.
 11. Municipal Council is also known as Nagar Parishad. (*B.Com., Nov. 2016*)
 12. Municipal Council has one Standing Committee and eight subject Committees.
 13. Nagar Panchayat is formed according to the 73rd constitutional amendment.
 14. The functioning of Zilla Parishad is carried out with the help of one Standing Committee and nine subject Committees.
 15. Gram Sabha was an efficient rural organization.
 16. Women cannot hold public office and exercise public functions in equal terms with men.
 17. The local self government does not solve the problems of local people. (*Self-financing, Nov. 2016*)
 18. Mayor is the first citizen of a city. (*Self-financing, Nov. 2016*)
 19. Shiv Sena is an example of a regional party. (*B.Com., March 2017*)
 20. Municipal Corporations are formed as per the Act of State government. (*B.Com., March 2017*)
 21. There is 100 percent political participation of women in India. (*Self-financing, March 2017*)
 22. Defections is a major problem for all political parties in India. (*Self-financing, March 2017*)

23. The Shiromani Akali Dal and the Asom Gan Parishad are examples of regional parties. (*B.Com., Nov. 2017*)
24. The 74th Amendment Act gave constitutional status to municipalities. (*Self-financing, March 2018*)
25. Trinamool Congress is a national party. (*Self-financing, Dec. 2018*)
26. There is reservation of seats for women in state legislatures. (*Self-financing, March 2019*)
27. Panchayati Raj was given Constitutional status through 74th Amendment Act. (*Self-financing, March 2019*)
28. Municipal Commissioner is appointed by the State Government. (*B.Com., Oct. 2018*)
29. The participation of women in politics in India is very heartening. (*B.Com., Oct. 2018*)
30. 73rd amendment to the Indian constitution refers to urban local bodies. (*B.Com., March 2019*)
31. 1/3rd seats are reserved for women in Gram Panchayat. (*B.Com., March 2019*)

Ans: True : 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 14, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 31

False : 2, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 21, 26, 27, 29, 30

C. Match the columns:

Group A	Group B
1. Mayor	(a) Block level
2. Council members	(b) Five years
3. Zilla Parishad	(c) Village level
4. Panchayat Samiti	(d) Two and half years
5. Gram Panchayat	(e) District level

Ans: (1) - (b), (2) - (d), (3) - (e), (4) - (a), (5) - (c)