

Corrigendum/Explanation SFG 2024 Level 1 Test 7

There are 2 changes in today's paper (Q.4 and Q.20).

In Q.4, both Options (c) and (d) are correct.

In Q.20, the correct answer is Option (a).

Also, some extra explanations have been provided for the students who have raised doubts.

In Q.4, both options (c) and (d) are correct.

Explanation: Both the L.M. Singhvi Committee and the Ashok Mehta Committee have recommended for providing constitutional recognition to local self-government bodies in India.

For Future References:

Q.4) Which of the following committees specifically recommended for providing constitutional recognition to local self-government bodies in India?

- a) Ashok Mehta Committee
- b) P.K. Thungon committee.
- c) L.M. Singhvi Committee.
- d) All of the above

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

After India's independence, the Government of India established several committees to revitalise and strengthen the functioning of local self-governments.

In 1977, Ashok Mehta Committee made several recommendations for making panchayats institutions strong. This committee also **prepared a draft to amend the constitution to reconstruct, reinforce and revitalize the Panchayati Raj Institutions to make them an organic part of national democratic process and elevate the panchayats. (Hence Option a is correct).**

In 1989, P.K. Thungon Committee recommended constitutional recognition for the local government bodies. A constitutional amendment to provide for periodic elections to local government institutions, and enlistment of appropriate functions to the local governments, along with funds, was also recommended.

(Hence Option b is correct).

In 1986, L.M. Singhvi Committee was set up. Some of its major recommendations made by the committee were:

1. **Local self-government should be constitutionally recognized.**
2. Elections at the panchayat level should be held regularly and without delay.
3. Panchayati Raj judicial tribunal should be set up in every state to deal with matters related to the working of Panchayati Raj.
4. There should be adequate financial resources to ensure the effective functioning of panchayats.
5. Participation of individuals attached to political parties should be discouraged.

(Hence Option c is correct).

Thus, All of the above are correct.

Source: <https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/keps208.pdf>

<https://ncsc.nic.in/files/Chapter4.pdf>

<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/958641468772791330/pdf/280140v130INORural0decen-tralization.pdf>

In Q.20), the correct answer is Option (a), and not Option (c).

Explanation: It is the Gram Panchayat who has the power to levy taxes, and not Gram Sabha. So, Statement 3 should have been framed as “Reluctance to collection of taxes by Gram Panchayat”.

For Future References:

Q.20) Which of the following reasons are responsible for ineffective performance of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)?

1. Excessive control by bureaucracy
2. Inadequate powers to Gram Sabha
3. Reluctance to collection of taxes by Gram Panchayat
4. No funding from state governments

Select the correct option from the codes given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Even after conferring the constitutional status and protection through the 73rd Amendment Act (1992), the performance of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) has not been satisfactory and not up to the expected level.

Statement 1 is correct. In some States, the Gram Panchayats have been placed in a position of subordination. Hence, the Gram Panchayat Sarpanches have to spend extraordinary amount of time visiting Block Offices for funds and/or technical approval. These interactions with the Block staff office distort the role of Sarpanches as elected representatives

Statement 2 is correct. The non-existence of definite procedures and powers of Gram Sabha for functioning of local self-government make the system lack transparency, accountability and proper involvement of marginalized sections which are inadequately represented due to lack of any recognized procedure and law. Hence the Gram Sabha though can act as a string weapon for development of villages is undervalued and inappropriately represented.

Statement 3 is correct. An important power devolved to Gram Panchayats is the right to levy tax on property, business, markets, fairs and also for services provided like street lighting or public toilets, etc. Very few Panchayats use their fiscal power to levy and collect taxes. The argument pushed by Panchayat heads is that it is difficult to levy tax on your own constituency, especially when you live in the community.

Statement 4 is incorrect. A review of money received and own source funds shows the overwhelming dependence of Panchayats on government funding. So, there is no lack of funding from state governments. When Panchayats do not raise resources and instead receive funds from outside, people are less likely to request a social audit, which impacts effective governance.

Source: M laxmikanth

Q.12) There was a doubt raised with respect to Statement 3 i.e., “The Constitution mandates that at least one-third of the reserved seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) must be given to women belonging to that community.”

Explanation – The Statement is correct. It is true that the Constitution (73rd CAA) mandates that a minimum of one-third of the reserved seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs) at all three levels of PRIs must be allocated to women from that community. **Article 243D of the Constitution** of India clearly says that -Not less than one third of the total number of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes shall be reserved for women belonging, to the Scheduled Castes or, as the case may be, the Scheduled Tribes.

Q.32) There was a doubt raised with respect to Statement II i.e., “Some states in India enjoy a special status under Indian Constitution.”

Explanation – The Statement is correct. Asymmetric federalism means varying degrees of autonomy and powers among different states. Some states in India enjoy unique privileges or autonomy as compared to others. Asymmetric federalism signifies the differences among the States of the Indian Union on how they relate to the Centre. This difference creates a notable asymmetry in the way Indian federalism works. Thus, States enjoying varying degrees of special powers and status in India results in Asymmetric federalism. Also, there is no need to make a rigid distinction between the phrases ‘special status’ and ‘special provisions’. The phrase ‘special status’ has been used in a general sense to indicate various special provisions enjoyed by different states under the Constitution.

Q.39) There was a doubt raised regarding why India is called an indestructible union of destructible states.

Explanation – India is called an indestructible union of destructible states because the Constitution authorises the Parliament to form new states or alter the areas, boundaries or names of the existing states without their consent. In other words, the Parliament can redraw the political map of India according to its will. Hence, the territorial integrity or continued existence of any state is not guaranteed by the Constitution. Therefore, India is rightly described as ‘an indestructible union of destructible states’. The Union Government can destroy the states whereas the state governments cannot destroy the Union.

Regarding Statement II of the question: It is true that the Central government can initiate the Constitutional Amendments without the State government’s consent. But this is not the correct reason why India is called an indestructible union of destructible states. The correct reason is that the territorial integrity or continued existence of any state is not guaranteed by the Constitution. The Union Government can destroy the states whereas the state governments cannot destroy the Union.