

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Time Allowed: 3 hr.

Max. Marks: 250

116

Instructions to Candidate

- There are EIGHT questions. Candidate has to attempt FIVE questions in all.
- Question no. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, THREE are to be attempted.
- Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
- Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.
- Attempts of questions shall be counted in chronological order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the answer book must be clearly struck off.

Your answers seem to be missing important points. It'd be better if you make a note of keywords & points and mention them with an explanatory statement. End with constructive suggestions.

Name MATTHEWS M.

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature [Signature]

1. Invigilator's Signature [Signature]
 2. Invigilator's Signature _____

REMARKS

SCORE

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SECTION-A

Attempt all questions:

1. Answer the following questions in about 150 words each:

(10 × 5 = 50)

- Model Code of Conduct in Indian Elections.
- Rajya Sabha: Second or Secondary Chamber?
- Election Commission of India.
- Issues of Fiscal Federalism in India.
- Criticism of Directive Principles

1.a) Model code of conduct (MCC) is a list of rules released by the Election Commission of India to ensure free and fair elections.

It comes into force with the announcement of elections and continues till the last day of polls. Its main objectives are:

- Prevent the ruling party/government from using government machinery for partisan causes.
- Prevent electoral malpractices like bribing of voters, booth capturing, etc.
- Prevent unethical practices like inciting violence, using caste, religion, etc to promote communal disharmony.

Remarks

Mention Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram, advantages like level playing field, greater stability, Kerala Assembly Elections 1960, implementation after 1991, TN Sheshan, contemporary challenges, implications of poll code violations, suggestions

GS SCORE

However, it has no legal backing and is enforced through provisions in IPC, CrPC, Representation of Peoples Act, etc.

3) Recently several & senior civil servants wrote an open letter to ECI showing weak implementation of MCC, as seen in

- Manipulation of social media
- Open appeals in name of religion
- Politician-media nexus, like Natto TV, etc.

These show that MCC needs changes in its implementation and must be given statutory backing to ensure effectiveness.

b) Rajya Sabha or the Upper House was designed as a check and balance to the popularly elected Lok Sabha. Its role is often debated.

Remarks

It is an important second chamber because

- It provides a check to hasty legislation. eg: Aadhar Bill.
- Provides opportunity for senior leaders to be a part of legislative process, adding to quality of debate.
- Provides avenues for experts and scholars.
- eg: Election of MP Jain, Ram Jethmalani, Jaishankar, etc.
- Prevent tyranny of the majority party.
- Provide a federal perspective and defend interests of states.

However, it is now criticised as being a mere "secondary chamber".

- Lok Sabha can force its will through mechanisms like Joint Sitting, Money Bill (as in case of GST Bill), etc.
- Rajya Sabha is seen as a haven for defeated leaders.

Remarks

Addresses the answer in the current context of current events, RS Chairman's report to people, report highlights, reasons for low productivity, relevance of RS, suggestions

- Corruption and selling of seats by parties to businessmen, as was seen in Andhra Pradesh.
- Debates are on strictly party lines, filled with high decibel clogging with little value.
- Government alleges that it delays important legislation, forcing ordinances.

However, Rajya Sabha is a necessary complement of Lok Sabha and needs political ~~rest~~ ^{restrictions} to improve its functioning.

c) Election Commission of India is a constitutional body deriving its powers from Article 324. It is the watchdog of Indian democracy and ensures free and fair elections.

Its main duties are:

- Declares the schedule of elections
- Creates the Model Code of Conduct

Remarks

- Selects and monitors the machinery for conduction of elections, including regulating transfers of officials.
- It has the power to cancel an election if it believes it to be unfair.
- It allots party symbols on the basis of its vote share and even air time on national television.
- It adjudges election disputes.

It has evolved over time, from the first ECI, Sukumar Sen, who its functioning from 1952 to 67 was impartial and enjoyed high credibility. From 1967 till 1991, its role was passive, often being silent on electoral malpractices. In 1991, it transformed to an activist phase under TN Seshan, reestablishing popular legitimacy.

Despite weaknesses, like lack of prescribed qualifications,

Remarks Answer in context of recent events. Mention letter of Constitutional Conduct Group, issues and challenges, consequences - breakdown of democratic principles, institutional integrity, suggestions, 255th Law Commission report.

absence of provisions barring reappointment, political appointment, absence of security of tenure for other election commissioners, etc, it has proven to enforce the faith of the people in fairness of elections.

d) Fiscal federalism refers to the federal nature of financing mechanisms in India. The Centre is clearly predominant, directing funds to the states.

The transfers can be of two types

- 1) Art 275: Constitutional transfer based on recommendations of the Finance Commission
- 2) Art 282: Discretionary transfers

It has several issues:

- ① Vertical Asymmetry: The fund sources of states are disproportionate

to its responsibilities, leading to deficiencies in health, education, etc.

② Horizontal Asymmetry between states resulting in complaints arising on neglect, eg: Andhra Pradesh trying for special status, Kerala, etc.

⑤ ③ Neglect of the third tier of Panchayati Raj institutions, which ~~are governed~~ have no mandatory sources of revenue.

④ Divergence of constitutional and discretionary transfers, provoking allegations of bias towards few states.

⑤ ~~However, new mea~~ GST has affected state autonomy in its fiscal revenues. Yet measures like creating GST council, ~~has an~~ increase in state share as per Finance Commission recommendations, ~~has~~ ensured ~~effective~~ better fiscal federalism.

Remarks Mention Art. 246, 268, 271, 292, 293, imbalance after liberalization, financial deterioration of states, 14th Finance Commission reports.

c) Directive Principles form Part IV of the constitution, which form 'directions' to the governments for ensuring a healthy democracy. It was designed to remedy the lack of rights due to lack of resources during independence.

CRITICISM

- Ivor Jennings calls them 'pious aspirations' and 'moral homilies' because it has no legal backing.

- It is not systematically organised - with socialist and idealist values interspersed with liberal modern principles.

- It Jennings warned it is suited only for India of 1950's, ~~with~~ and not modern India of 21st century.

Yet, it has helped state ensure social and economic justice as seen during land reforms. It needs to be slowly integrated into Part III of fundamental rights to ensure future ~~well~~ well ~~varies~~ varies.

Remarks

Mention the remarks of scholars like KT Shah, KC Wheare, TT Krishnamachari, N. Srinivasan, Nasiruddin and K. Santhanam on DPSP.

4. Answer the following questions:

- (a) Education as eligibility criteria for elections is a debatable idea at best. Discuss with special reference to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI's). (200 Words) (15)
- (b) Provide a detailed analysis of the performance on National Commission for Women till date. (200 Words) (15)
- (c) Elaborate on the challenges to the vision and functioning of Panchayati Raj Institution in India. (250 Words) (20)

Few years back, Rajasthan Government had made basic education as an eligibility criteria for Panchayat elections.

Such a measure has advantages like:

- 1) Elected representatives being more knowledgeable, increasing efficiency in dealing with bureaucrats.
- 2) ~~Increases the value~~ Promotes literacy, ~~personas~~ increasing the value of schooling.
- 3) Philosophers like J.S. Mill believed only literate people could effectively represent their constituency.
- 4) Paves way for political rule by specialists, who are not merely vote catching machines.

Remarks

However, it has disadvantages like:

- 1) Against the spirit of democracy in a country like India, where 1 in 4 people are illiterate.
- 2) Link between administration skill and literacy is debatable.
- 3) It is against the principle of equality, discriminating against a disadvantaged section.
- 4) It can pave way for ~~exp~~ ^{excluding} certain groups like SCs and STs due to lower literacy levels.

Therefore, making educational qualifications mandatory would be against the spirit of India's constitution, without ensuring universal literacy at least.

A reasonable approach would be to give a timeline of five years to attain basic literacy and numeracy ~~before making~~ giving people a chance to improve.

Remarks

Mention how it is exclusionary, discriminatory, against grassroot democracy, at the same time mention advantages like improvement in social indicators, role model effect.

b) National Commission of Women is a statutory body designed to protect rights of women and ~~review~~ ensure their holistic development.

Its functions are:

- Review constitutional safeguards
- Take suo moto action in cases of violation of women's rights
- Monitor media for indecent representation of women.
- Recommend measures to improve position of women to the government.
- Publish research and reports.

Its performance has had several successes.

• It has helped changed the traditional worldview of India by pointing out gender unjust provisions eg: Adultery law, dowry harassment, etc.

Remarks

It has helped establish links with civil society groups, working for women in distress.

It has pulled up prominent leaders for controversial statements on women, eg: Justifying ~~the~~ rape.

It has ensured justice when perpetrators of the crime are state machinery, like police eg: Unnao Case.

Its watchful eye on media has reduced the itemization of women's sexuality

eg: Zee channel pulled up by the Commission.

Yet, it has weaknesses like its overdependence on the Commissioner. It cannot impose fines and its role is only recommendatory. It has limited powers with respect to the armed forces.

Remarks

It needs to be provided with additional powers and resources, because development of women is a precondition for India's dream of a global power.

Mention significance of Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalat, Complaints & Counselling Cell, reports show trend of crime against women, involvement in recent pro-women legislations, Exp-
at Committees.

c) Panchayati Raj system aims to institutionalise 'grassroots democracy' in India. It was given constitutional validity through 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts, dealing with rural and urban bodies respectively.

James Manor in 'Local Governance in India', enumerates several challenges facing the Panchayati Raj:

Remarks

1) It has not been able to promote a unified effort at social transformation at all three federal levels.

2) Societal backwardness, seen through poverty and illiteracy affects genuine participation.

3) Gender justice is a far cry, as seen in the phenomenon of 'Sarpanch Pati'.

4) Genuine devolution of powers is visible only in a few states like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, etc.

5) Systemic perversion is seen in case of Gujarat, which chooses sarpanches on basis of 'consensus', eliminating the democratic element.

6) Financial devolution is underwhelming, accounting only for 6% of funds received by state on average. It is more than 40% in countries like Germany.

Remarks

However, Ashok Mehta and others have disputed the pointed to its numerous achievements:

- 1) Local governance has increased the speed, quality and quantity of social services.
- 2) Upward information flow of ground level realities help tailor schemes better.
- 3) Downward information flow of government schemes has improved uptake.
- 4) It has brought new blood, energy, ideas and faces to politics.

It is undeniable that P.R.I. institutions have increased the legitimacy of Indian state. Yet, to prevent a situation of "grass without roots", a combination of adequate powers, resources

Remarks

8) and accountability mechanisms must be put in place

Mention lack of horizontal & vertical convergence, no HR policy, details of challenges faced by EWRs, Low Equilibrium Trap, decentralization of corruption, steps taken, Committee reports, suggestions

Remarks

SECTION-B

Attempt all questions:

5. Comment on the following into 150 words:

(10 × 5 = 50)

- Critical Examination of the Anti-Defection Law
- While Secularism is a permanent feature of Indian Constitution, its nature and content are not.
- Justice delayed is justice denied
- Freedom of Speech and Fake news.
- 6th Schedule areas: Need for empowerment

5. a) Anti-defection law is a mechanism designed to combat horse trading, poaching and corrupt practices between political parties vying for power. It has been ~~also~~ given constitutional validity by 10th schedule.

It provides that the Speaker can disqualify or punish a member of the house, if:

- ① Nominated member joins any party ~~with~~ after 6 months.
- ② Party member disobeys whip, votes contrary to direction or changes party allegiance.
- ③ If independent member joins any party, etc.

Remarks

Mention Aaya Ram Gaya Ram, 5th AA, advantages & disadvantages both need to be mentioned, dissent/defection, individual/group defection, party bossism

GS SCORE

While its intentions were positive, it had harmful effects like:

- ① Dictatorship of the whip, denying opportunity for debate
- ② Negates the individuality of legislator.
- ③ Creates crisis of governability because of strict voting on party lines, leaving no room for compromise
- ④ Speaker is sole authority, giving rise to misuse

However, ~~defections~~ defections are still a major issue as seen ~~in~~ recently in Karnataka assembly. Therefore, provisions will have to be strengthened and power given to some independent authority like Election Commission, as was recommended by Law Commission.

b) Secularism has been declared by the Supreme Court, as a permanent feature / "basic structure" of the Constitution.

Remarks

in the S.R Bommai case.

~~It has been~~ It is defended through Articles 25 to 28, which, as ~~Beville~~ declares, aim to As D.E Smith points out in 'India as a Secular state', it has 3 basic components

- ① Equality of all persons
- ② State neutrality to all religions
- ③ Right to freedom of belief, faith and worship.

(5) This notion of Indian secularism has been criticised, for its 'nature' and 'content'.

Achesh Nandy declares himself to be an 'anti-Secularist', because it is unsuited for India. Indians are 'intrinsically religious', and hence 'tolerance' was a better option.

Akeel Bilgrami criticises its 'Archimedean' and 'non-negotiable' character, creating communal disharmony.

D.E Smith argues India is not fully secular because state interferes in ~~person's~~ religious sphere.

Remarks

Mention comments by Ludipta Kaviraj, Rajni Kothari, and argue whether secularism as practiced breeds communalism.

However, as Gelantia pointed out, Indian secularism must not be judged on the standards of American secularism. There is a need to modernise and eliminate social evils and hence, it must be considered 'sui generis' in nature and content.

c)

~~Recently~~

Judicial backlog of nearly 3 crore cases has put the justice delivery system into question.

There are several factors delaying Justice:

TECHNOLOGICAL:

1) Slow and incomplete adoption of technology and digitisation of all courts.

2) PROCEDURAL ISSUES

a) Frequent use of adjournments

b) Lawyers not trained to give

Remarks

crisp and pithy arguments.

3) POLICE ISSUES

a) Poor practices in evidence collection

b) witness protection scheme is inefficient, resulting in many turning hostile.

4) STRUCTURAL

a) Inadequate manpower.

There is only one judge per million, which is highly inadequate.

b) Abuse of PILs and judicial overreach.

To prevent the denial of justice due to delay, need measures like

1) Quick adoption of technology. It has already been started in SC & HC.

2) Proper training of lawyers and police.

3) Justice Lodha had recommended, constituting 'evening benches' with and 365 day benches.

Remarks

Mention statistics to point out the severity, skipped, imp. reasons for pendency like judges vacation, special leave petition, impacts of judicial pendency, steps taken, 120th Law Comm. report.

a) Establish All India Judicial

b) Fill vacancies at all ^{same} levels-

c) Separation of Appeal duties and constitutional duties of the SC.

With these, justice delivery can be made more effective and accessible to the common man.

d) Indian Constitution guarantees Freedom of Speech through Art. 19(1). However, the phenomena of fake news shows the abuse of this very right.

Fake News causes major problems like

- Sparking communal / caste violence

- Manipulating election behaviour

- Negates the ~~freedom~~ ^{liberty} of people to ~~see~~ by perverting freedom of thought.

- Prevents good governance by ~~hid~~ disguising real issues with false

Remarks

Good! Mention lack of centralized mechanism to verify fake news, freedom exploited, falsehood not reasonable restriction.

GS SCORE

consciousness.

Therefore it needs to be regulated. Art-19(2) gives provisions for it as "reasonable restrictions" which are interpreted by the judiciary.

Regulating fake news has difficulties like:

1) Problem of distinguishing with real news.

2) It could be misused by government to suppress dissent.

3) As JS Mill pointed out, liberty must be provided even for false news as only then 'truth' will be valued. 'False' news could also be true partly.

Thus, it would need a clear line restricting the extreme forms of fake news like inciting violence and peer censorship for less virulent types.

e) 6th schedule areas refer to Tribal areas which has special

Remarks

Mention the names of the NE states.

GS SCORE

safeguards to protect their autonomy and cultural identity.

There is a need for empowerment because of problems like:

1) Inadequate devolution of powers and finances.

2) Regional Councils being identified by CBI as linked to insurgents show perversion from true purpose.

3) Provisions used to deny social justice - eg: Naga councils denying reservation for women on cultural grounds.

4) Practical outcomes are inadequate due to lack of expertise and healthy links with civil servants.

5) Problem of 'outsiders' and who are accused as 'foreigners'.
with effective measures, 6th schedule areas can be effective vehicles of empowerment of the tribal groups.

Remarks

Mention non-representation, overlapping functional responsibilities, no codification of customary law, no clarity of role of governor.

7. Answer the following questions:

- (a) Critically examine the provision of Reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (200 Words) (15)
- (b) The Speaker is the guardian of Parliamentary democracy in India. Critically examine. (200 Words) (15)
- (c) Assess the utility of Tribunal system in India in providing speedy and effective justice. (250 Words) (20)

7. a) Reservations are a mechanism for affirmative action, aiming to ensure social-justice for the deprived sections. Article 15(4) and other, 15(5) and other provisions provide for it.

6) Reservations for Economically weaker sections is justified on basis of:

- 1) It shifts focus away from primordially and hierarchical identities of caste.
- 2) It ensures justice to the disadvantaged sections of forward castes, ensuring procedural justice.
- 3) It is more easily identified, rather and quantified - rather than the ritual position of castes.

However, such a move have several issues:

Remarks

Mention 103rd AA, Ram Singh v. Union of India, M. Nagaraj case, no under-representation, Pandora's box of demands, anti-merit, populist tool, Sinha Comm. report.

1) PROCEDURAL: It breaches the 50% ceiling placed by Supreme Court, which would be depe

2) SUBSTANTIVE: 'EWS category' at present includes more than 90% of population, which is almost akin to ~~negate~~ negating the value of reservations.

3) Article 15(4) explicitly provides only for social and educational backwardness, and ~~no~~ no economic criteria.

4) In practical terms, reservation was meant to be a temporary measure. Economic reservation would be perpetual, because inequality will ~~be~~ always exist.

5) As Robert Nozick

As Ronald Dworkin warns in 'Sovereign Virtue', equality and justice must never reduce to the 'slavery of the talented'. By trying to solve one injustice by creating another injustice to another section would deprive the society of fraternity.

Remarks

b) Recent events in Karnataka showed the partisan role and abuse of the office of speaker. It

The office of speaker is a constitutional post which aims to presides over the lower house of the Parliament. Though the Speaker is not required to resign party membership, ~~it~~ ^{she} is expected to be non-partisan, ensuring smooth functioning of the house.

ROLE:

- Interprets the rules of the house parliamentary privileges and conventions.
 - Adjudicates disqualifications with respect to 10th schedule.
 - Ensures order and discipline in the house, allotting time for debate.
 - Declaration of money bill
 - ~~It~~ Selecting Parliamentary Committee.
- Through these, the Speaker

Remarks

is expected to be the guardian of Parliamentary democracy in India.

~~However, experience has shown~~ However, the office of Speaker has been criticised for partisan functioning:

- 1) Speaker taking strictly party line stifling uncomfortable questions by opposition.
- 2) Misuse of money bill powers eg: GST Bill controversy
- 3) Abuse/ignoring of anti defection provisions eg: Karnataka Assembly recently.

The implications of this is seen in political instability as in Karnataka, or opposition frequently walking in to the well of the house, staging walkouts, etc as was common in 16th Lok Sabha.

As Supreme Court pointed out in Kihoto Hollohan case, speaker's actions are justiciable

Remarks

British convention of a non-parliamentary speaker with security of tenure can promote impartiality.

An effective speaker who enjoys legitimacy from all members is a sine qua non for a parliamentary democracy.

Mention cases where neutrality of the speaker was questioned, give substantive suggestions like adjudicatory role transferred to EC, role of media to increase transparency.

Tribunals in India has been established under Article 323A and 323B. They are envisaged to be an instrument of speedy justice.

Its professed role is

- 1) Promoting easy and affordable justice esp. to civil servants with problems with service appointments.
- 2) Specialised knowledge
- 3) Reduce the burden of the judiciary.

Remarks

4) Provide opportunity for amicable resolution of disputes.

However, tribunals have not performed according to expectations.

- The frequent appeals from tribunals have ~~not~~ clogged the judiciary, negating its very purpose.
- Government itself is a litigant in many cases, leading to conflict of interest.
- Access to tribunals is limited because of it being restricted to major cities alone.
- It is against separation of powers.
- Multiplicity of tribunals have resulted in overlapping jurisdictions and uncertainty.

Remarks

Several measures are required.

- Number of tribunals must be rationalised.
- Access should be improved by increasing the number of benches, digitisation, etc.
- Increase in quality of judgements to reduce appeals.
- Promote specialisation, by optimising appointments based on qualifications and expertise.

(12)

As the 2nd ARC pointed out, a focussed approach using tribunal will yield best benefit. Economic Survey 2017 calls for the government not to opt for compulsory appeals in matters with low monetary value. With a systematic transformation, tribunals can become an effective tool for justice.

Remarks

Mention Law Commission report with details of suggestions, increasing pendency issue.

Remarks

8. Answer the following questions:

- (a) Examine the mechanism of Public Interest Litigation as a tool of justice in India. (200 Words) (15)
- (b) River Water sharing is the biggest challenge to the idea of cooperation among states. (200 Words) (15)
- (c) Women in Indian Politics. (250 Words) (20)

8. a)

Public Interest Litigation or PIL is a mechanism used to enable public spirited individuals to approach the courts for justice to groups with no voice. Supreme Court paved way for PIL in SP Gupta case by relaxing locus standi principle.

It is now an important tool of justice.

- It helps fill for loopholes in laws. eg: Vishaka guidelines regarding protecting women at work place.
- It provides an avenue for people to defend encroaching rights by the executive or legislature.

Remarks

- It ~~prom~~ expands fundamental rights. eg: Francis Corahe case, and Unnikrishnan case and Puttuswamy case added right to environment, education and privacy to Art 21.

- It helps ensure accountability of government in securing a good life for citizens. eg: MC Mehta case for clean air.

However, as Supreme Court itself opined, PIL has now been abused to become a publicity interest litigation. [Common Cause case]

- It results in 'jurisprudences of sorts' as per Pratap Dharam Mehta, due to added unpredictability and unreliability of role of individual judges.

- Sengupta and Rajamani argue that

Remarks

Mention Art. 32, 226, reasons for liberalization of Locus Standi, opportunistic misuse, constructive suggestions regarding steps needed to be taken

it results in judicial overreach with courts taking executive avatar in Vineet Narain case and legislative avatar in Lamkanti Pandey case.

- It engages in areas beyond its expertise. eg: Interlinking rivers case
- It adds to the already overloaded backlog of judiciary.

Thus, new guidelines have to be followed in rationalising PILs, to make it an effective tool to democratise justice.

b) In the background of global warming and unsustainable agriculture water has become a valuable commodity. River water sharing is a major challenge to interstate relations.

- As IPCC 5th Assessment report showed, climate change results in erratic rainfall, ~~which~~ creating

Remarks

water shortage.

- Water is a highly political issue due to the large proportion of farmers, allowing no room for compromise.

- Faulty policies like free electricity for irrigation, and negligible water prices aggravate the situation.

- Geographical factors like the cross-boundary nature of rivers, monsoon fed nature, etc.

- Failure of ~~inter~~ river water tribunals. eg: Cauvery tribunal took longer than 14 years and still hasn't solved the issue.

- Water is a State Subject

Indian Constitution provides Art 262, which states that the Parliament can provide for a law to adjudicate on interstate water disputes. It shall be outside the purview of courts, because a positivist reading of the law can be harmful. It has led to River Water Boards Act and

Remarks

Interstate Water Disputes Act.
Adhoc tribunals have been formed

It requires additional measures:

Mihir Shah committee recommended that river water be declared a national resource and move it to the concurrent list.

River basin mapping must be carried out and basin specific management strategy must be put in place.

As recent Interstate Water Disputes Amendment Act envisions, strict timelines must be followed by tribunal

Since water is bound to become scarce in the near future, effective mechanisms are all the more necessary.

Mention Entry 17 of State List & Entry 23 of Union List, issues in resolving the dispute, issues with present IRWD Act, steps taken

Remarks

by govt., constructive suggestions

Water shortage.

c)

As second wave feminists declared 'women are the last colony'. Politics is both the means and an end to their emancipation. Role of and position of Indian women in politics has been diverse.

There have been several negative trends

- Only 11% of ^{MPs} legislators are women, and majority of them come from political families
- Patriarchy is ever present, negating women's presence, as seen in ideas like 'Sarpanch pati'
- Institutional defects like the rotation of reserved seats for women and for chairperson posts have resulted in preventing women leaders from gaining experience
- Active hostility of other politicians and bureaucrats as seen in the

Remarks

case of suicide of Sukhba Bai, a Gram Panchayat of MP.

Niraja Gopal Jayal points ~~to~~ the frequent ~~case~~ ^{threat} of violence and ~~threat~~ of rape to women leaders who are assertive.

Measures to provide reservation for women in Panchayat has been ignored by all mainstream parties. They have denied adequate ^{tickets} ~~seats~~ to women candidates.

Despite these, there have been positive trends as well.

Due to the reservations in 73rd and 74th Amendment Act, nearly half a million women have entered politics. Many states like Kerala and Tamil Nadu has increased reservations from 33 to 50%.

In the recent years, women's reservation bill has reentered political discourse. Media has helped change women's self image

Remarks

However, effective measures are needed.

As Nivedita Menon argues in 'Elusive Woman', Women's Reservations Bill needs to be passed as a priority due to its transformative participatory impact. Political parties must make it a policy to include ~~at~~ a specific percentage of women in its tickets.

Training and leadership programmes can impart necessary skills and confidence. Bureaucrats must be sensitised and trained.

As Kamla Vishweswaran concludes in 'Engendering Democracy', women in politics is essential for a meaningful democracy, both ~~at~~ ⁱⁿ family and in the state.

Mention in Women in Politics 2017 Map, feminization of politics, need for women in politics, economic aspect, factors restricting

Remarks women, strategies for enhancing participation of women