

## **PAPER 15: SPECIALISATION PAPER 9:**

### **PANCHAYAT RAJ INSTITUTIONS**

#### **Objectives:**

The role of Panchayat Raj institutions as institutions of grass roots of democracy and of the planning process is becoming more obvious today for all discerning eyes in the context of modern democracy and development exercise. The Panchayat Raj institutions are unique in the area of governance and their importance has, however, increased enormously after the Constitution (73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment) Act 1993.

There is a need of understanding the nature and scope of decentralized democracy. Whether constitutional framework and legal structure of Panchayat Raj institutions is in accordance with the Constitutional philosophy of decentralized democracy? The provisions of Panchayat Raj Act 1993 has to be studied and verified in the context of working model of the Panchayat Raj institutions.

Whether Panchayat Raj institutions have been fully endowed with power by the State legislatures is a significant point in assessing quality of local governance. In this regard Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act 1993 has to be studied to verify the devolution of powers to Panchayat Raj Institution in Karnataka.

#### **Course Outcomes:**

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to -

1. understand the introductory aspects, the historical and philosophical background for the Panchayat Raj Institutions
2. analyse the Constitutional scheme for the Panchayat Raj Institutions
3. understand about the structure, powers and functions of Panchayat Raj Institutions
4. address the issues of decentralization and grass- root planning of the Panchayat Raj Institutions
5. explore the modern dimensions of local self-government.

#### **Course content:**

##### **Unit I**

Decentralisation, Decentralised Democracy; rural local government before 1862; Evolution of local self-government before independence; Principles of Local governance & Institutions of self-governance; M.K. Gandhi's concept of village Panchayat; Panchayat Raj & the constituent Assembly; Article 40: Organisation of village Panchayat; committees Reports on Panchayat raj Institutions; Emergence of Panchayat Raj Institutions.

##### **Unit II**

Constitutional Frame work & legal structure governing PRI's; The constitution (73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment) Act, 1992; Eleventh schedule & 29 subjects therein; Constitutional provisions as normative model; Panchayats as local & other authorities, The provisions of Panchayats (Extension to the scheduled Areas) Act, 1996; Panchayat Raj jurisprudence; A review of central Acts.

### **Unit III**

Empowerment of Panchayats- A perspective; Legislative measures for democratization of Panchayat raj Institutions; The Panchayat Raj Act 1993; Devolution of powers & functions; structural issues, Reservations, duration of Panchayat, powers, authority & responsibilities, powers to impose taxes, District planning committee (DPC)

### **Unit IV**

Local self-government in Karnataka; Evolution of legal structure governing Panchayat Raj institutions in Karnataka; The Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act 1993; state enactments & rules supplementing Panchayat Raj institutions; Political empowerment; Gram Sabha; Constitution of Panchayats, Transfer of Powers, functions & resources to institutions of self-Governance; State finance commission; Financial devolution to Panchayats, state election commission, Efficacy of Panchayat Raj Laws for constituting legal structure & functioning of Panchayat.

### **Unit V**

Panchayat Raj as a development Institution: Planning at grass roots Level; Functions, duties & powers of: Gram Panchayats; Taluk Panchayats; Zilla Panchayats in Karnataka; Election process: Electoral politics of Grass roots Democracy; Election petition & trial, Efficacy Panchayat Raj Laws for functioning of Panchayat; Panchayat Raj Personnel & Services.

### **Select Bibliography:**

Relevant provisions of constitution of India

73<sup>rd</sup> constitutional Amendment Act 1992.

The provisions of Panchayats (Extension to the scheduled Areas) Act, 1996

Eleventh Schedule & 29 subjects therein - Constitution of India

The Panchayat Raj Act 1993

1. The Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act 1993
2. Economic & political weekly
3. Case law decisions-HC's and SC
4. Panchayat Raj update-Institute of social science