

Regional Conferences  
**25 years of the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional  
Amendments: Progress and Further  
Direction**

Initiative by  
**State Election Commission, Maharashtra**

Hosted by  
**Concerned Divisional Commissioner Office**

**Jan. 2018**

## Background

In 1992, the historic 73<sup>rd</sup> & 74<sup>th</sup> amendments to the Constitution of India were made to strengthen democracy at the grassroots by providing constitutional status and autonomy to Local Self-Government institutions. Following these amendments, a State Election Commission was constituted in each state across India, for the free, fair and transparent conduct of elections to Urban & Rural local bodies. In Maharashtra, the State Election Commission was established in the year 1994.

In taking an initiative to celebrate the 25 years of this historical amendment, the State Election Commission, Maharashtra, organized a two-day National Workshop in Mumbai on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017. The participants, amongst which included representatives of local self-governments and experts from the domain, expressed that such a conference should happen at the regional level, as well; thus, in continuing from its foundation step of National Conference in 2017, the State Election Commission, Maharashtra, initiated, along with the concerned Divisional Commissioner office, organized these regional conferences in Nashik, Pune, Aurangabad, Nanded, Amravati and Nagpur, during Jan. 2018.

Amongst the participants were, local body representatives, government offices, social activists/workers, representatives of NGOs & CSOs, etc. These regional conferences, based on the National Conference, aimed to highlight the challenges and future directions for local bodies and their elections, following the 25 years of 73<sup>rd</sup> & 74<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution of India. As part of these conferences, several suggestions and innovative ideas were shared and put across for fruitful and valuable solutions and suggestions to the challenges & future directions.

| <b>Sr. No.</b> | <b>Place of Conference</b> | <b>Date</b>     |
|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1              | Nashik                     | 15 January 2018 |
| 2              | Nanded                     | 17 January 2018 |
| 3              | Pune (Rural)               | 17 January 2018 |
| 4              | Nagpur                     | 18 January 2018 |
| 5              | Pune (Urban)               | 20 January 2018 |
| 6              | Amravati                   | 20 January 2018 |
| 7              | Aurangabad                 | 22 January 2018 |

## Amravati Regional Conference

20<sup>th</sup> January 2018

| Sr. No.               | Speaker  | Subject  |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| <b>First Session</b>  |  |  |
| 1                     | Shri. Sheshrao S. Khade, Retired Additional Chief Executive Officer                  | Local-Self-Government Institutions And Government-Mutual Relations |
| 2                     | Dr. Prakash Pawar, Political Science Department, Shivaji University, Kolhapur        |  |
| 3                     | Dr. Subhash Gavai, Principal, Smt. Shakuntalabai Dhabekar College, Karanja Lad       |  |
| 4                     | Shri. Ajay Lahane, Dy. Collector, Yavatmal   |  |
| <b>Second Session</b> |  |  |
| 1                     | Shri. Milind Chimote, Corporator And Ex- Mayor, Amravati                             | All- Inclusive Administration By The Local Bodies Organizations    |
| 2                     | Dr. Avinash Jumale, Assistant Professor, J. D. Patil Sangludkar College, Daryapur    |  |
| 3                     | Shri. Sandip Tudunrwar, HOD, Political Science, Shri. Binjhani Nagar College, Nagpur |  |
| 4                     | Shri. Tukaram Tekale, Assistant Professor, Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh Academy, Amravati. |  |
| <b>Third Session</b>  |  |  |
| 1                     | Dr. Vinod Gayakwad, Assist. Professor, G. B. Murarka College, Shegaon                | Electoral Reforms  |
| 2                     | Shri. Shyamkant Mhaske, Dy. Collector  |  |
| 3                     | Shri. Pravin Thakare, Dy. Collector  |  |
| 4                     | Adv. Shri. Firdose Mirza, Hon. High Court, Nagpur                                    |  |
| <b>Fourth Session</b> |  |  |
| 1                     | Shri. Piyush Singh, Divisional Commissioner, Amravati                                | Open Discussion  |
| 2                     | Shri. Shekhar Channe, Secretary, State Election Commission, Maharashtra              |  |

### Recommendations:

- Unless Gramsabhas are strengthened, capacities of all the PRIs will not be built. Therefore, it is utmost important to empower the Gramsabhas.
- The elected representatives should consider the views of people and discuss them in respective bodies. This will have reflection of the public thoughts.
- The success of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment lies in the larger scale implementation of the rights given to the Gram Sabhas by the amendment.
- The local self-government institutions are not away from impact of technology. Therefore, one can suspect that this technology is becoming more influential for the public representatives. Therefore, it should be given proper consideration whether this technology is beneficial to the people.
- In order to financially empower autonomous organizations and local- self-government institutions, small scale industries should be encouraged at the local level.

- Public representatives who stand in public gatherings and play their role in Gram Sabha need to consider policies to be adopted for development of the Gram Panchayat and nearby villages.
- In order to convey to the grassroots, the original view behind the formation of Panchayati Raj system and the rights given in the XI and XII annexure through the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional amendment, large scale awareness drive should be taken up.
- The public representatives should have basic legal knowledge and they should be aware about their duties.
- Training to the staff and the office bearers.
- Every division should organize district- level conferences on the lines of the divisional conference organized by the Election Commission.
- Government should form a feeling of reliance and the same has to be translated among the members of its staff.
- It is necessary that the urban administration and rural administration come to the same level and have a mutual dialogue.
- All- inclusiveness means inclusion of the women and other vulnerable groups. However, are they capable to look after that post? For this, they should be empowered through training. After the elections are completed, the Election Commission should give directions to the state administration to organize an induction training within one month of the election at any cost through credible, relevant and recognized training institutions with proper facilities for such training.
- The party manifestos of political parties should not appease the voters, it should be towards accomplishments of certain goals and a mechanism should be established to check the aspects which appease the voters.
- Elections of the Panchayat Raj system- Zila Parishad, Panchayat Samiti and Gram Panchayat should take place together.
- The no. of EVMs should be in exact proportion of the no. of seats from a ward
- Regarding family monopoly: one person should contest only for two terms. He/ she should not be allowed to apply for a third term.
- A list of donors to political parties should be published. It will show transparency of the political parties in financial matters.
- The State Election Commission has rights to lock voter list on a particular day. The date 6 months before any election should be the date of locking the voter list.
- It is the responsibility of the contestant to submit this validity to the Election cell within 6 months. There may be one correction in this clause/ requirement. This process should be completed in 9 months instead of 6 months. If it is invalid after 9 months and if judicial remedies after its invalid status are expired and still if it remains invalid, then that person should be banned to contest from that constituency on permanent basis i.e. arrangements should be made that he/ she cannot contest the open group.
- The system of filling up forms in two constituencies for one election should be abolished. The contestant has to contest the election only from one seat.
- Regarding withdrawal, the informant should not do this. The contestant himself/ herself should do it. Video recording of the moment of withdrawal should be done and the contestant should be physically present there.
- Staff should not be trained just for the election, but the governmental training institutions should prepare a 7- day basic course and training should be imparted right from the R. O. level to the

presiding officer. A training programme should be prepared to impart this training across the year.

- News coming in newspapers during the elections should be objective. But if paid news like some contestant has taken lead in propaganda are being published, then a specific code of conduct is necessary for the newspaper. Therefore, the news like 'taken a lead in propaganda/election campaigning' should be regarded as a paid news and there should be provision for penalty for this. Also, a comprehensive set of rules should be prepared for the paid news and they should be clarified.
- After the election is declared, instead of transfer, the returning officer should be appointed on deputation till completion of the electoral process.
- As per the demand of the State Election Commission for the election, the Government should provide finances and the fund be immediately given to the Commission.
- There should be uniformity for time limit of public propaganda for all elections including Corporation, Legislative Assembly and Zilla Parishad elections.
- Reservation should be there for two terms in the same ward.
- Gram Panchayats receive development fund. But Panchayat Samiti does not receive any fund. There should be a provision to provide some fund to Panchayat Samiti in some way.
- There is the condition of 7<sup>th</sup> Standard education for the position of Sarpanch. But this should be enhanced till 10<sup>th</sup> Standard education.

**Aurangabad Regional conference**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018**

| <b>Sr. No.</b>        | <b>Speaker</b>   | <b>Subject</b>   |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| <b>First Session</b>  |  |  |
| 1                     | Shri. K. M. Nagargoje, Retired Director, Krishi Parishad                                     | Relations Between Localself Government Institutions And The Government-<br>Transfer Of 3Fs (Funds, Functions And Functionaries) And Difficulties Therein |
| 2                     | Shri. Jivanrao Gore, Ex- President, Osmanabad  |  |
| 3                     | Dr. Pandit Nalawade, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru College, Aurangabad                                |  |
| <b>Second Session</b> |  |  |
| 1                     | Shri. Bhim Raskar, Director RSCD   | How All- Inclusive, Mainly For The Women And The Vulnerable Sections Administration Can Be Run By The Localself Government Institutions?                 |
| 2                     | Shri. Aniruddh Khotkar, President, Zila Parishad, Jalna                                      |  |
| 3                     | Smt. Mangala Khiwasara, Senior Social Activist, Aurangabad.                                  |  |
| 4                     | Dr. Sunanda Tidke, Rashtramata Indira Gandhi College, Jalna                                  |  |
| <b>Third Session</b>  |  |  |
| 1                     | Justice K. U. Chandiwal, General Revenue Judicial Tribunal, Aurangabad                       | Electoral Reforms  |
| 2                     | Shri. Nandkumar Ghodele  |  |
| 3                     | Shri. Navalkishora Ram, District Collector, Aurangabad                                       |  |
| 3                     | Dr. Navnath Aghav, Professor, Saraswati Bhuvan College, Aurangabad                           |  |
| 4                     | Shri. Ajit Ranade, Pune  |  |
| <b>Fourth Session</b> |  |  |
| 1                     | Dr. Purushottam Bhapkar, Divisional Commissioner, Aurangabad                                 | Open Discussion  |
| 2                     | Dr. B. A. Chopade, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University. Aurangabad |  |
| 3                     | Dr. V. L. Dharurkar, Ex- HOD, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University. Aurangabad       |  |

**Recommendations:**

- There should not be participation of any political party in election in Panchayat Raj system and elections should not be contested under banner of any party.
- Attention should be given to fundamental needs such as electricity, roads and water.
- Mass media should be used on large scale for increasing awareness about governmental schemes.
- Encouragement should be given to deprived sections like women.
- Public representatives should form their organizations to control corruption.

- Movements and social organizations should work without falling prey to any political pressures.
- Instead of creating new policy, the earlier policies should be implemented first.
- There should be inclusiveness, in the way women can participate freely and fairly in the local-body elections. There should be coordination and cooperation between functioning of the administrative officers and public representatives.
- Administrative officers should give plan of systematic work to the public representatives.
- Rights of the administration should be increased and when mistakes are made, action should be taken.
- There should be clarity in the Government resolutions made by the Government.
- Everyone should declare social audit of his/ her work.
- As the representatives of local-self-government institutions do not understand governmental schemes, they should be given related training and should be prepared.
- The village itself should prepare its own plan and accordingly, it should be provided with funds.
- Women's Gram Sabhas should be conducted and their presentations should be approved by the general Gram Sabha.
- Gram Panchayats should prepare social audit.
- While preparing village development plan, there should be bottom up planning approach.
- In order to eliminate corruption at the village level, all sections should participate more in Gram Sabha and copy of the report of Gram Sevak should be given to every villager.
- Public organizations and political parties firstly should conduct meetings of the women and understand their problems.
- The administration should help the women and give opportunities to the widowed and deserted women.
- The Government takes cognizance of problems faced by women only when it is reported in the media. Instead of this, the Government should take up such issues as a matter of urgency.
- The administration and the society should not help the women with the approach of making any special favour to them.
- Unnecessary expenses for the election should be stopped.
- If a contestant of an election has criminal background, then no party should make him or her its candidate.
- The Election Commission should recommend to the Government that if a public representative misuses his/her powers, then his/her position should be canceled.
- If a candidate is contesting on two places and if he wins on both the places, then he should be told to take one position and return the cost accrued to the Election Commission for the second place.
- As the duration of the re- election is not fixed, there should be a time bound programme after a candidate becomes illegible.
- There should be reservation for the post of a deputy mayor.
- A preventive law should be made against criminal behaviour.
- The right to information should relate with political parties and public representatives.
- There should be a provision in the law so that the people can have the right to recall.
- The candidate should be allowed to contest only in one constituency.

- A contestant with serious crimes should not be allowed to contest elections. If a contestant with crimes against his name is contesting an election, then there should be a specific symbol after his name on the voting machine.
- The power should be allowed to contest only in one constituency.
- There should be a condition that the Gram Panchayat member should be educated till 10<sup>th</sup> Standard and a member of a municipality should be educated above 10<sup>th</sup> standard. While others were of the opinion that educational qualification is not necessary for elections.
- CCTV should be used in voting ward of Gram Panchayat and meetings. Municipalities should have permission to spend 30% money and no- confidence motion should only be brought out after 3 years.

**Nanded Regional Conference**  
**17<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

| Sr. No.               | Speaker  | Subject   |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| <b>First Session</b>  |  |   |
| 1                     | Shri. Dattatray Bansode, Ex- President, Z. P. Latur                          | Relation Between Local- Self-Government Institutions And The Government-<br>Transfer Of 3Fs (Funds, Functions And Functionaries) And Difficulties Arising |
| 2                     | Shri. Rahul Rekhawar, I.A.S. Commissioner, Corporation, Parbhani             |   |
| 3                     | Prof. Dr. A. N. Siddhewad, HOD Of Political Science, Peoples College, Nanded |   |
| <b>Second Session</b> |  |   |
| 1                     | Smt. Shailaja Swami, Ex- Mayor, Nanded                                       | How All- Inclusive, Mainly For The Women And The Vulnerable Sections Administration Can Be Run By The Localself Government Institutions?                  |
| 2                     | Shri. Ramchandra Tiruke, Vice President, Zila Parishad, Latur                |   |
| 3                     | Dr. Shri. Sunil Shinde, Dnyanopasak College, Parbhani                        |   |
| 4                     | Dr. Shobha Waghmare, Social Activist, Nanded                                 |   |
| <b>Third Session</b>  |  |   |
| 1                     | Shri. G. Shrikant, District Collector Latur                                  | Necessary Electoral Reforms   |
| 2                     | Shri. Madhavrao Patil Shelgaonkar, Social Activist, Nanded                   |   |
| 3                     | Shri. Ganesh Deshmukh, Municipal Commissioner, Nanded                        |   |
| 4                     | Shri. M. A. Pathan, Ex-Corporation Secretary, Corporation, Aurangabad        |   |
| 5                     | Dr. Balaji Katturwar, Deglur College, Deglur.                                |   |

**Recommendations: -**

- There should be necessary reforms to avoid unspent funds from the received funds by the Gram Panchayats.
- Gram Panchayat or Panchayat Raj Institutions should use their rights to increase their income.
- Sarpanch/ Presidents should not be directly elected from the voters.
- There are directions to return unspent money. Instead of this, there should be policy level decisions about its expenses.
- GST should be levied properly as per the revenue of the Corporations.
- Software should be used for keeping accounts of the local- self-government institutions so as to avoid irregularity.
- Staff of the Corporation should be transferred only after 3 years.
- All tasks in the Eleventh Schedule should be transferred to the Panchayat Raj Institutions. Disparity regarding transfer of 3 Fs (Funds, Functions and Functionaries) should be reduced.
- If we adopt one village- one Gram Sevak policy, then efficiency can be increased.
- More efforts are needed to change peoples' mentality regarding paying taxes.
- There should be facility to provide training to members of women and child welfare committees and all newly appointed political office bearers.
- AADHAR card should be joined with election voter cards.

- There should be restrictions on facilities given to those who do not vote.
- There should not be permission for a candidate to contest from more than one constituency. It will reduce expenses on re- elections and frequent elections and also its adverse impact on development works can be avoided.
- Along with government employees, teachers and professors of schools and colleges should be prevented from contesting elections.
- Along with employees, there should be a condition of age limit for the membership of Panchayat Raj Institutions and office bearers.

**Nagpur Regional Conference**  
**18<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

| Sr. No.               | Speaker  | Subject  |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| <b>First Session</b>  |  |  |
| 1                     | Shri. Deorao Bhongale, President, Z. P. Chandrapur                             | Current Status Of The Local-Self-Government Institutions                                 |
| 2                     | Shri. E. Z. Khobragade, Ex- I.A.S. Officer                                     |  |
| 3                     | Shri. Mohan Hirabai Hiralal, Social Activist, Lekhamendha, District Gadchiroli |  |
| 4                     | Prof. Sheshkumar Yerlekar, Hinganghat  |  |
| 5                     | Shri. Chandu Patil Marakwar, Sarpanch, Rajgarh                                 |  |
| <b>Second Session</b> |  |  |
| 1                     | Smt. Nishatai Savarkar, President, Zila Parishad, Nagpur                       | Wome's Participation In The Functioning Of The Localself Government Institutions (Rural) |
| 2                     | Shri. A. R. Sheikh (Retired Commissioner Development)                          |  |
| 3                     | Smt. Jayashri Gaphat, Sabhapati, Education And Health, Z. P. Vardha            |  |
| 4                     | Dr. Pravin Bhagdikar, Nagpur   |  |
|                       | Smt. Suvarna Damale, Prakriti Sanstha, Nagpur                                  |  |
| <b>Third Session</b>  |  |  |
|                       | Dr. Jayraj Phatak, Ex- I.A.S. Officer  | Transfer Of Fund, Functions And Functionaries  |
|                       | Shri. Anup Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Nagpur                              |  |

**Recommendations:**

- Various departments should be given to the local- self-government institutions.
- Gram Panchayats should be provided with human resources for technical aspects and audit.
- After every election, arrangements should be made to impart training to the public representatives.
- Awareness should be enhanced that political power is for the people.
- Rights should be decentralized and rights should be given to Panchayat level.
- Panchayat Samitis at block level should be consolidated.
- In order to increase importance of the villages, agriculture products produced near the village should be given proper rate.
- Budget at the Gram Panchayat level should be in Marathi language.
- Rights of Panchayat Samitis should be increased.
- There should be an increase in funds to Zila Parishad received through District Planning Committee.
- Tradition of reading Constitution preamble in the school should be started.
- Panchayat Samitis should be given rights to collect taxes.
- President of Gram Sabha should be Sarpanch.
- People do not regard Zila Parishad schools positively. Therefore, the funds of the Finance Commission should be mostly spent on schools and Anganwadis.
- Planning for any work should be done at the lower levels.

- The provision of staying on Gram Sabha should be removed.
- President of Women Sabha should not be a man.
- Instead of Block Development Officer, the cheque of Dalit Basti Improvement Scheme should have signature of the Sarpanch.
- There should be a condition that public representatives must be literate.
- The duration of Panchayat Samitis should be increased to 5 years from the current 2.5 years.
- Same reservation should not be repeated in the constituency.
- If the committee does not provide Caste Verification Certificate within 6 months, then the elected candidate should not be made illegible.
- Arrangements for online voting should be made for migrated voters.
- Confidentiality regarding which candidate got voting from which specific voting booths should be protected.

**Nashik Regional Conference**  
**5<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

| Sr. No.               | Speaker   | Subject  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| <b>First Session</b>  |   |  |
| 1                     | Shri. Popatrao Pawar, Hiware Bazar                            | Local Self Government Institutions And Government : Inter-Relations                                  |
| 2                     | Shri. Ajay Sawarikar, Director, YASHADA, Pune                 |  |
| 3                     | Shri. Virendra Jadhavrao, Director, Krishna Basin Corporation |  |
| 4                     | Adv. Abhay Agarkar, Ahmadnagar Corporation                    |  |
| <b>Second Session</b> |   |  |
| 1                     | Smt. Devyani Pharande, M.L.A.                                 | Inclusive Governance By Local Self Government Institutions Especially For Women And Weaker Sections. |
| 2                     | Dr. Jitendra Vasnik   |  |
| 3                     | Shri. Ashok Bhangare  |  |
| 4                     | Shri. Namdeo Nanaware   |  |

**Recommendations:**

- Rural and Urban India should complement each other in all possible ways.
- Future Threat – corporate houses will run Panchayat Raj Institutes in near future.
- Maharashtra is the only state from India with two separate Acts passed 1958 – The Bombay Village panchayat Act 1958 and The Maharashtra Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961 for strengthening the working of Panchayat Raj System.
- Election expenditure is the biggest hurdle in development process of India.
- There is a need to provide appropriate and continuous training to the representatives of people, especially to women and marginalized segments.
- There is a great opportunity for women and marginalized segment representatives to mark an impact of their contribution. It is mainly possible due to the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments.
- It is essential to carry out Social Audit to verify and ascertain the quality and utility of development schemes.
- It is essential to properly implement the Gender Budget.
- Social Audit should also take into account the Gender Budget.
- Utilization of funds need to be scrutinized in the context of purpose.
- Timely availability of fund is an important factor related to Local Self Government Institutions. The timely and adequate fund availability helps to successful completion of development schemes. Therefore, there is an urgent need to follow time management practices for the disbursement of fund.
- The 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments have made mandatory to conduct election after every five years in case of Local Self Government Institutions. This has resulted into decentralization of power. This is a historical decision.
- Reservation for SC, ST, and Women have strengthened the democracy by ensuring active participation of common people.

- The wards/ villages for rural Local Self Government Institutes are changed after every five years. It results in many problems to certain villages. This could be considered by the Election Commission.
- In some of the villages, there is only one booth for voting. After counting of votes, the voting taken place in that village is known to every candidate. If the village has voted for the opposition candidate, then in such case the village may face certain problems. Therefore, suitable measures should be taken by the Election Commission where such a situation exists.
- The election process should be made free from muscle and money power.
- Data of voters and non-voters could be compiled by the EC and it should be used for public education and awareness.
- Finance Commission should provide funds at Panchayat Samiti level.
- A special meeting should be held by the Zila Parishad authorities to examine and review about the use of powers delegated to them. A periodic review should be taken about the funds received and utilized.
- There is need to carry out audit of the functioning of DPC.
- There should be an overall awareness about the rights which are not yet used.
- Urbanization is a major issued face by Gram Panchayats. Accordingly, the Gram Panchayats should ensure to provide employment opportunities in the village itself, with a view to reduce urbanization.
- The 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments have made significant impacts on the wider participation of people in the governance process.
- There is a need to modify the process of by-election.
- There is a need to make more efforts to increase the percentage of voting.
- Community education campaign should be undertaken to increase awareness of election and voting.
- The 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments have given many rights to all the Local Self Government Institutions in the rural as well as urban areas. These rights need to be effectively used for the benefit of citizens.
- The representatives of people in various Local Self Government Institutions need to ensure effective implementation of various development schemes with the proper coordination with the Government Officials.
- Economic development, health, education and rapid urbanization are some of the key areas of concern for the Local Self Government Institutions.

**Pune (Rural) Regional Conference**  
**17<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

| <b>Sr. No.</b>        | <b>Speaker</b>   | <b>Subject</b>  |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| <b>First Session</b>  |  |   |
| 1                     | Shri. B. M. Varale, Retired Additional Chief Executive Officer               | Autonomy Of Local Self-Government Institutions, Their Work And Their Relation With The Government And Roles   |
| 2                     | Shri. Pradeep Kand, Ex-President, Pune Zila Parishad                         |   |
| 3                     | Shri. Sharad Butte Patil, Z. P. Member, Pune                                 |   |
| 4                     | Shri. Sudhir Thakare, Ex- Principal Secretary, Rural Development             |   |
| <b>Second Session</b> |  |   |
| 1                     | Shri. Bhim Raskar, Director RSCD   | Place And Existence Given By The 73 <sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment To The Local Self-Government Institutions, Their Status And Importance; Role Of Women Office Bearers |
| 2                     | Smt. Bhagyashri Bhagywant, Ex-President, Z. P. Satara                        |   |
| 3                     | Smt. Leena Bansod, Additional C. E. O.                                       |   |
| 4                     | Shri. Rajendra Bharud, C. E. O. Z. P. Solapur                                |   |
| <b>Third Session</b>  |  |   |
| 1                     | Smt. Deepa Sadekar, Deputy Director, Audit And Treasury                      | Availability Of Funds To Local-Self Government Institutions, Efficient Use Of The Funds   |
| 2                     | Shri. Sharad Butte Patil, Z. P. Member Pune                                  |   |
| 3                     | Shri. Rahul Kadam, Deputy Chief Auditor And Finance Officer, Kolhapur        |   |
| 4                     | Shri. Popatrao Pawar, Working President, Ideal Village Scheme                |   |
| <b>Fourth Session</b> |  |   |
| 1                     | Shri. Indrajit Deshmukh, Additional. Chief Executive Officer, Z. P. Kolhapur | Awareness In The Voters And Necessary Reforms In The Electoral Process  |
| 2                     | Smt. Monika Singh, Deputy District Collector, Election, Pune                 |   |
| 3                     | Smt. Kishori Gadre, Retired Deputy District Collector                        |   |
| 4                     | Shri. Kunal Khemnar, C. E. O., Z. P. Kolhapur                                |   |

**Recommendations: -**

- Initiatives are being taken up in the Schools for increasing awareness among the youth to improve the percentage of voting. Also, there is a need for awareness of the people that voting is their moral duty.
- Publication of information of the contestants and placing it in the voting centers
- It is necessary to use RTI in the electoral process.
- If the ideal Code of Conduct is breached, then immediate and serious punitive action should be taken up.

- Reforms are needed in the Code of Conduct and IPC.
- Action should be taken against cyber-crimes committed through social media.
- In order to avoid bogus voting, AADHAR Card, Online Vote, Biometric and Password System should be used.
- It is necessary that manifestos are published in advance.
- Voters voting in three consecutive elections should be given preference in some government schemes.
- Officers/ staff working for increasing voting percentage should be felicitated.
- In order to reduce burden on Booth Level Officer, online voter registration apps should be used.
- It is necessary to separate urban, remote and hilly regions for election expenses.
- It is necessary that the political parties publically give detailed accounts of the funds received by them and contributions.
- Work that can be done during the ideal Code of Conduct should be classified.
- Preference should be given to unanimous elections and if the election takes place unanimously, then they should be given benefits and concessions.
- Separate machinery should be there for elections and outsourcing should be done for this.
- Funds for election process should be increased.
- Expenses for re-election should be taken from the contestant.
- It is necessary that training is given to officers/staff for implementation of law and the code of conduct.
- Records for election process should be maintained. Information should be compiled and given to the people.
- App like true voter should be prepared.
- Web based online complaint redressal system should be developed.
- Recognition to a party should be canceled due to low voting and crimes.
- Once nomination is made, it should not be canceled, such provision should be there.
- If the candidate has serious crimes, then he should be permanently dropped.
- There should be provision of right to recall for wrong elected candidates. Electoral literacy campaign should be efficiently implemented.

**Pune (Urban) Regional Conference**  
**20<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

| <b>Sr. No.</b>        | <b>Speaker</b>   | <b>Subject</b>  |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| <b>First Session</b>  |  |   |
| 1                     | Shri. Ramanath Jha, Retired I.A.S.   | Autonomy Of Local- Self Government Institutions, Functions, Relations With The Government And Roles |
| 2                     | Smt. Mukta Tilak, Mayor Corporation  |   |
| 3                     | Shri. Suhas Palshikar, Ex- HOD, Political Science Department, Pune University            |   |
| <b>Second Session</b> |  |   |
| 1                     | Smt. Kishori Gadre, Upper District Collector (Retired)                                   | Existence Of Local Self Government Institutions, Their Status And Role Of Women Office Bearers      |
| 2                     | Smt. Seema Sawale, President, Standing Committee, Pimpri Chinchwad                       |   |
| 3                     | Smt. Rajeshwari Deshpande, HOD, Political Science, Pune University                       |   |
| <b>Third Session</b>  |  |   |
| 1                     | Smt. Padmashri Taldekar, Chief Auditor, Pimpri Chinchwad Corporation                     | Availability Of Funds To Local Self Government Institutions And Efficient Use Of The Funds.         |
| 2                     | Shri. Ambrish Galinde, Chief Auditor, Pune Corporation                                   |   |
| 3                     | Shri. Manohar Shinde, Deputy City President, Malkapur (Nagar Panchayat, Satara District) |   |
| 4                     | Smt. Shital Teli- Ugale, Additional Commissioner , Pune Corporation                      |   |
| <b>Fourth Session</b> |  |   |
| 1                     | Shri. Deepak Nalawade, Deputy Commissioner (Rehabilitation) Pune Division, Pune          | Voter Awareness And Reforms Necessary In The Electoral Process                                      |
| 2                     | Shri. Siddharth Dhende, Deputy Mayor, Pune Corporation                                   |   |
| 3                     | Shri. Ajit Ranade, Founder Trustee, ADR  |   |

**Recommendations: -**

- There should be coordination between functions and financial arrangements.
- Efforts should be made for generating good governance.
- It is necessary that the Municipalities/ Corporations have their income sources so that they can fulfill their functions and responsibilities. For this, the following care should be taken to spend according to income.
- It is necessary to select the scheme on priority basis and then spend
- Survey of all properties within limits of the Municipality/ Corporation.
- Municipalities should reduce their establishment expenditure through saving on electricity/ telephone bill, rent expenses, etc.
- Capital Value Based Property Tax. It is necessary to levy capital tax based systems.
- User Charges and other charges should be revised from time to time.

- Development Charges should be revised as per changing ready reckoner.
- Revising water tax every year.
- By adopting double auditing system, rating of the municipality should be done from a recognized institution and efforts should be made to obtain bond- loan instead of institutional loan.
- Giving priority to most urgent tasks from available fund.
- Properly utilizing available immobile properties.
- Giving financial rights to ward committees.
- It is necessary to give more rights to the elected representatives.
- Levying property tax and other taxes in a simple and easy to process way.
- It is necessary to increase income sources.
- It is necessary that the people get water supply by water meter.
- Implementing schemes of women's empowerment.
- It is necessary to obtain performance grant from the Government based on assessment of the work of the municipality.
- It is necessary to obtain fund of the district planning committee on large scale.
- Levying tax on the buildings of the Central and the State Governments
- The local- self-government institutions should have autonomy in decision making process.
- There should be proper relation between scope of work of the local- self-government institution and the fund available for this.
- In the context of the 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional amendment, responsibilities of the Centre and the State should be clarified for the urban local self government institutions.
- It is necessary to build capacity of the women to increase their participation in the democratic process.
- The process of filling up nomination should be totally done through online system.
- The time for completion of propaganda is different for every election. The provision for Loksabha and Vidhansabha election should be made applicable for all.