



महाराष्ट्र शासन

राष्ट्रीय परिषद

“७३ व ७४ व्या घटना दुरुस्तीची २५ वर्षे
प्रगती व वाटचाल”

२ व ३ नोव्हेंबर, २०१७

पुढाकार

लोकशाही, निवडणुका व सुशासन संस्था
(राज्य निवडणूक आयोग, महाराष्ट्र यांचा एक भाग)

सहाय्य

महाराष्ट्र शासन

सादरीकरण

मुंबई विद्यापीठ

व

गोखले इन्स्टिट्यूट ऑफ पोलिटिक्स अँड इकॉनॉमिक्स, पुणे

स्थळ:

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२ नोव्हेंबर, २०१७ सकाळी १०.०० वा.

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दिनांक २ नोव्हेंबर, २०१७

नोंदणी
सकाळी ०९.३० ते १०.०० वा.

उदघाटन सत्र
सकाळी १०.०० ते ११.३०

सत्र पहिले सकाळी ११.४५ ते दुपारी १.१५	Issues in Governance: State versus Local Bodies (Parallel Sessions for Urban and Rural Local Bodies)
सत्र दुसरे दुपारी २.०० ते ३.३०	Best Practices: National and International
सत्र तिसरे दुपारी ४.४५ ते ५.१५	Paper Presentations

समारोप समारंभ

३ नोव्हेंबर, २०१७ दुपारी ३.४५

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दिनांक ३ नोव्हेंबर, २०१७

सत्र चौथे सकाळी ९.३० ते ११.३०	Effective Participation of Women in Local Bodies
सत्र पाचवे सकाळी ११.४५ ते दुपारी १.१५	Devolution of 3 F's: Funds, Functions and Functionaries (Parallel Sessions for Urban and Rural Local Bodies)
सत्र सहावे दुपारी २.०० ते ३.३०	Electoral Reforms
समारोप समारंभ दुपारी ३.४५ ते ५.४५	

The Constitution of India in its Directive Principles of State Policy, Article 40 stated; "Organisation of village panchayats: The State shall take steps to organize village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government". The failure of the Community Development Programmes and National Extension Service due to the lack of participation of people in the development process at the grass root level prompted the government to constitute a committee under the chairmanship of Balwantrai Mehta in 1956 to suggest measures to constitute the local self-governing units in the rural India. The committee suggested a three tiered arrangement for the same. Subsequently many such initiatives were taken up by the Government of India to strengthen democracy at the grassroots level.

The Directive Principle of State Policy was given a Constitutional status through the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts. The Historic Act in terms of opening the opportunities for participation was finally seen on April 22, 1993. The basic features of these Constitutional Amendments were reservation of seats, Constitution of State Election Commission and State Finance Commission, powers to Gram/Ward Sabha and transfer of certain subjects through XI and XII schedule. The Act aimed at the larger participation of people in rural and urban areas in terms of not only the elites but also the amalgamation and inclusion of various marginalised sections like the women, dalits in local governance. The tribal

areas were also made a party through Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas in 1995. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts in that sense were rightly called as the “Power to the People”. It made elections to the local bodies mandatory. This naturally gave rise to the office of the State Election Commission to oversee and implement the Act in its word and spirit.

The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments formally created the third tier of governance. Its significance lies in the fact that the amendments gave local bodies a constitutional status, at both urban and rural levels. In a way, globalization and decentralization happened simultaneously in India. The expansion of the PRIs in their new form is a very significant movement as, earlier, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Assemblies and Union Territories used to elect only a few thousand democratically elected representatives which has increased to more than 30 lakh representatives including women, scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and other backward castes.

In the 25th year of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, it is essential to retrospect and look forward to the opportunities arising out of the development and success of the local self government bodies. At this juncture, it will be important to peruse three important aspects of the issue namely- free and fair elections, socio-political developments that have accrued due to the Constitutional Amendment and empowerment. The forthcoming conference attempts to focus on the above mentioned themes.