OCTOBER 2026

CALL/WHATSAPP - 8999069628

Topic 1: Electoral Process, Electoral Roll Revisions & RPA 1950

1. Context & Background

- Issue: During the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Delhi, 4,263 deletion objections (Form 7) out of 13,462 total requests were missing from the Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) public lists.
- Discrepancy: While 13,462 deletion requests were digitised in the first 45 days, only 9,199 were published on Form 10, leaving 31.67% of objections undisclosed.

2. Constitutional & Statutory Framework

- Constitutional Provision: Article 324 of the Constitution of India grants the Election Commission of India (ECI) the powers of superintendence, direction, and control over the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.
- Statutory Provision: Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950 empowers the ECI to direct a special revision of electoral rolls for any constituency or part thereof at any time for reasons recorded in writing.

3. Statutory Forms & ECI Mandatory Guidelines

- Form 7: Used by an objector to request the deletion of a voter's name from the electoral roll.
- Form 10: A constituency-wise daily public list of Form 7 applications detailing the objector's name, the targeted voter's name, and the stated reason for deletion. It must be displayed on the CEO website daily, shared with recognized political parties weekly, and placed on notice boards.
- Mandatory 7-Day Listing Rule: Under the ECI Manual on Electoral Roll 2023, an Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) is strictly barred from acting on an objection until it has remained published on Form 10 for at least 7 full days.
- Notice Period: Except in cases of voter death, a voter whose deletion is sought must be issued a personal notice providing 15 days to respond.
- Legal Status of Unlisted Objections: An objection that has not been published on Form 10 is legally invalid, and processing it constitutes a procedural violation.

4. Operational Trends & Hotspots

- Self-Filed Objections: Approximately 84% of the listed Form 7 objections were self-filed, citing reasons such as "permanently shifted" or "absent".
- Constituency Hotspots: The highest volume of listed objections were recorded in Okhla (531), followed by Timarpur (335), Najafgarh (323), and Vikaspuri (289).

5. Key Challenges & Way Forward

- Challenges: Unlisted deletions deprive voters of timely notice before the deadline closes; discrepancies between daily ERO bulletins and public Form 10 lists erode public trust in electoral roll integrity.
- Way Forward: Daily reconciliation of digitized forms vs. public lists; strict enforcement of the mandatory 7-day upload hold before ERO action; counting the 15-day notice period strictly from the date of public listing.

Topic 2: Judiciary, Gender Sensitivity & Judicial Language

1. Context & Recent Developments

- Supreme Court Guidelines: The Supreme Court of India published a revised Handbook on Judgments and Gender to serve as an official style guide for judges, helping eliminate gender stereotypes and outdated legal terminology.
- Trigger for Revision: The revision followed Supreme Court criticism of remarks made by an Allahabad High Court judge in a 2025 judgment under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The Chief Justice of India noted that the earlier handbook was overly technical and needed a practical revision.
- Landmark High Court Order: The Karnataka High Court ordered the replacement of the word "visitation" with "parenting time" in child custody cases, ruling that no parent should be cast as a mere "visitor" in their child's life.

2. Analytical Findings & Structural Issues

- Trial Court Analysis: An SC analysis of 125 trial court judgments across states showed that while progressive judicial approaches are growing, outdated patriarchal terms (e.g., "real victim", "rape myths") persist due to ingrained habits of thought rather than lack of word lists.
- International & Innovative Frameworks:

- Bangkok General Guidance for Judges (2022): Provides international guidelines for applying a gender perspective in judicial decision-making.
- Feminist Judgments Project: An academic and legal movement that re-examines judgment assumptions to demonstrate how gender-aware reasoning achieves substantive equality.

3. Women's Representation in the Indian Judiciary

- Supreme Court: Only 1 woman judge out of 34 sanctioned judges.
- High Courts: Women comprise 14.27% of High Court judges.
- District & Subordinate Courts: Women represent approximately 38% of lower court judges.
- Legal Bar Pipeline: Women constitute only 15% of India's 1.7 million advocates, with high mid-career attrition due to work-life balance challenges.
- Structural Barriers: The Collegium has no formal gender-diversity criteria for judicial appointments. Additionally, Article 233 of the Constitution requires 7 years of continuous practice as an advocate for direct appointment as a District Judge, which disproportionately impacts women with family responsibilities.

Topic 3: Local Self-Government & Grassroots Governance (GS2 Microthemes)

1. Evolution & Core Themes

- Shift to Functionality: Governance at the local level has shifted from the initial focus on the 3Fs (Functions, Functionaries, and Funds) to practical "Functionality"—assessing how effectively local bodies operationalize decentralized power.
- State Reluctance: State governments frequently show reluctance to devolve functional autonomy and financial powers to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

2. Resource Mobilization & Challenges

- Financing Panchayats: Beyond central and state government grants, local bodies must generate internal revenue through local property taxes, market fees, user charges, and community asset monetization to fund local development projects.
- Women's Reservation: While the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments mandate a minimum 33% reservation for women in local bodies, structural patriarchal norms (such as the *Panchayat Pati* phenomenon) can limit its transformational impact on real political power dynamics.
- Structural Reforms: Debates persist on the pros and cons of merging rural and urban local bodies to improve administrative synergy in peri-urban areas.

Topic 4: RPA & Electoral Reforms (GS2 Microthemes)

1. Major Reform Debates

- Simultaneous Elections ("One Nation, One Election"):
  - Pros: Reduces continuous electioneering financial costs, minimizes governance disruption caused by the Model Code of Conduct, and saves administrative bandwidth.
  - Cons: Potential reduction in voter accountability, risk of national issues overshadowing regional state concerns, and federalism challenges.
- Electoral Integrity & ECI Reforms: Continuous examination of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs), and systemic reforms proposed by ECI and various law committees to enhance democratic trust.

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15 UPSC-Style Practice MCQs

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the procedure for electoral roll deletion under ECI guidelines:

1. Form 7 is used by an objector to request the deletion of a voter's name from the electoral roll.
2. Under the ECI Manual on Electoral Roll 2023, an Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) can order a voter deletion immediately upon receiving Form 7.
3. For deletion objections on grounds other than death, the voter must be given a personal notice and a 15-day window to reply.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q2. With reference to electoral roll revisions in India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 324 of the Constitution vests the superintendence, direction, and control of electoral rolls in the Election Commission of India.
2. Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 empowers the ECI to direct a special revision of electoral rolls at any time.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q3. Which statutory form serves as the constituency-wise daily public list detailing all Form 7 deletion objections received by the Electoral Registration Officer?

(a) Form 6
(b) Form 8
(c) Form 10
(d) Form 12

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls:

1. SIR involves door-to-door verification of households conducted by Booth Level Officers (BLOs).
2. SIR is legally mandated to replace the routine annual summary revision every year.
3. SIR aims to clean rolls by identifying deceased, duplicate, and permanently shifted voters.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q5. If a Form 7 deletion objection digitised by an ERO is not published on the public Form 10 list on the CEO website, what is its legal standing under ECI rules?

(a) It is automatically approved after 48 hours.
(b) It becomes legally invalid, and processing it violates prescribed rules.
(c) It bypasses public scrutiny and goes directly to the High Court.
(d) It is referred to the State Election Commission for executive sanction.

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding recent developments in judicial language in India:

1. The Karnataka High Court replaced the legal term "visitation" with "parenting time" in child custody cases.
2. The Supreme Court of India released a revised *Handbook on Judgments and Gender* to serve as a style guide for judges.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q7. Which international framework provides guidance to judges on incorporating a gender-sensitive perspective into judicial decisions?

(a) Bangkok General Guidance for Judges (2022)
(b) Vienna Declaration on Judicial Ethics
(c) Beijing Rules on Legal Terminology
(d) Geneva Convention on Family Rights

Q8. With reference to the representation of women in the Indian judiciary, consider the following statements:

1. Women constitute over 30% of judges in the High Courts of India.
2. Women represent approximately 38% of judges in district and subordinate courts.
3. Article 233 of the Constitution requires a minimum of seven years of practice as an advocate for direct appointment as a District Judge.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q9. Consider the following statements regarding gender diversity in the legal profession in India:

1. Women constitute approximately 15% of the total registered advocates in India.
2. The Supreme Court Collegium operates under a statutory mandate allocating a 30% quota for female judicial appointments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q10. The *Feminist Judgments Project* primarily focuses on which of the following?

(a) Drafting legislative bills for Parliament regarding female reservations.
(b) Re-examining judicial reasoning and re-writing judgments to expose underlying gender assumptions and promote substantive equality.
(c) Training law enforcement officers in forensic investigation.
(d) Establishing separate women-only tribunals for property disputes.

Q11. In the governance analysis of Local Self-Government in India, the concept of moving from '3Fs' to 'Functionality' emphasizes:

(a) Converting all rural Panchayats into urban municipalities.
(b) Assessing the operational effectiveness and practical performance of local bodies beyond mere formal devolution.
(c) Abolishing State Finance Commissions in favor of Direct Central Transfers.
(d) Restricting local body elections to party-less contests.

Q12. Which of the following can serve as internal (own-source) revenue sources for Panchayati Raj Institutions to fund local developmental projects?

1. Levying taxes on property and land within their jurisdiction.
2. User charges on water supply and street lighting.
3. Fees collected from local weekly markets (haats) and fairs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below: (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q13. Consider the following statements regarding the "One Nation, One Election" (Simultaneous Elections) proposal:

1. It proposes conducting elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies together.
2. A key financial argument in its favor is reducing frequent election expenses incurred by government agencies and political parties.
3. A major federal concern raised is that national issues might dominate over local and regional issues during combined campaigning.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q14. The term "Panchayat Pati", often discussed in UPSC GS2 governance topics, refers to:

(a) An official designated as the Secretary of the Gram Panchayat.
(b) The husband or male relative of an elected female representative exercising her official governance powers informally.
(c) The head of the District Planning Committee.
(d) An Ombudsman appointed to audit Panchayat funds.

Q15. Under Article 233 of the Indian Constitution, who appoints District Judges in a State?

(a) The Chief Justice of India in consultation with the Prime Minister.
(b) The Governor of the State in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction.
(c) The State Legislative Assembly by a two-thirds majority.
(d) The Union Law Minister upon recommendation of the UPSC.

Answer Key & Detailed Explanations

Question	Correct Option	Main Topic / Source Reference
Q1	(b)	Form 7 & 15-day notice rule; ECI Manual 2023 7-day bar
Q2	(c)	Article 324 Constitution & Section 21 RPA 1950
Q3	(c)	Form 10 constituency deletion list
Q4	(b)	Special Intensive Revision door-to-door check by BLOs
Q5	(b)	Unlisted Form 7 objections are invalid under ECI rules
Q6	(c)	Karnataka HC order & SC Judgments and Gender Handbook
Q7	(a)	Bangkok General Guidance for Judges (2022)
Q8	(b)	Women in Judiciary stats (14.27% HC, 38% Subordinate) & Art 233
Q9	(a)	15% women advocates; No statutory quota in Collegium
Q10	(b)	Feminist Judgments Project method & substantive equality
Q11	(b)	Shift from 3Fs (Functions, Functionaries, Funds) to Functionality
Q12	(d)	Internal revenue sources for Panchayats

Q13	(d)	Arguments on Simultaneous Elections / One Nation One Election
Q14	(b)	Informal patriarchal dominance over reserved female seats
Q15	(b)	Constitutional appointment of District Judges (Art 233)

Detailed Explanations

- Q1 Explanation: Statement 1 is correct (Form 7 is for voter name deletion). Statement 2 is incorrect because the ECI Manual on Electoral Roll 2023 explicitly bars EROs from acting on Form 7 until it has stayed on the public Form 10 list for 7 days. Statement 3 is correct (personal notice + 15-day reply window required for non-death deletions).
- Q2 Explanation: Both statements are correct. Article 324 provides constitutional authority for electoral roll management, while Section 21 of RPA 1950 grants statutory power for special revisions.
- Q3 Explanation: Form 10 is the designated constituency-wise list containing all Form 7 deletion requests detailing the objector, targeted voter, and reasons.
- Q4 Explanation: Statement 1 is correct (door-to-door check by BLOs). Statement 2 is incorrect because SIR is a special revision ordered periodically under Section 21 RPA 1950, distinct from routine annual summary revisions. Statement 3 is correct.
- Q5 Explanation: According to ECI regulations, an unlisted objection has not fulfilled mandatory public notice requirements, making it legally invalid.
- Q6 Explanation: Both statements are correct. Karnataka High Court replaced "visitation" with "parenting time" on Oct 7, and SC released the revised *Handbook on Judgments and Gender* as a judicial style guide.
- Q7 Explanation: The *Bangkok General Guidance for Judges (2022)* is the international framework referenced for applying a gender perspective in judicial decision-making.
- Q8 Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect because women represent 14.27% of High Court judges (not >30%). Statements 2 (~38% in district/subordinate courts) and 3 (Article 233 requires 7 years of advocate practice) are correct.

- Q9 Explanation: Statement 1 is correct (women account for ~15% of 1.7 million advocates). Statement 2 is incorrect because the Supreme Court Collegium has no formal gender-diversity quotas or criteria.
- Q10 Explanation: The *Feminist Judgments Project* is an academic initiative where scholars re-write legal judgments to uncover gender bias in traditional reasoning and showcase substantive equality.
- Q11 Explanation: The shift to 'Functionality' emphasizes evaluating practical governance capacity, field execution, and daily operational hurdles rather than just checking whether functions, functionaries, and funds were formally assigned.
- Q12 Explanation: All three options represent valid own-source revenue streams available to Panchayats to complement government grants.
- Q13 Explanation: All statements accurately state the main objectives, financial arguments, and federal concerns associated with simultaneous elections.
- Q14 Explanation: "Panchayat Pati" describes the patriarchal practice where male relatives act on behalf of elected women representatives, highlighting socio-political barriers to true gender empowerment in local governance.
- Q15 Explanation: Under Article 233 of the Constitution of India, appointments, posting, and promotion of District Judges in any State are made by the Governor of the State in consultation with the High Court.