



S.A.S. GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE, NARAYANAPURAM,

WEST GODAVARI DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH-534406

(AFFILIATED TO ADIKAVI NANNAYA UNIVERSITY, RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM)

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1	2018-19	17-03-2018	K.HARI PRASAD	Panchayati Raj System in India	Govt.Degree College,Chintalapudi
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Guest Lecture-2018

Name of the Activity: **Guest Lecture**

Name of the Speaker: **K. HARI PRASAD**

Date of the programme: **17-03-2018**

Topic of the Guest Lecture: **Panchayati Raj System in India**

Venue: **III BA Class Room**

Name of the College: **GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE, CHINTALAPUDI**

Located the College: **CHINTALAPUDI, WEST GODAVARI DISTRICT**

No. of Students participated: **26**

Name of Organising Convener (s): **Department of Political Science**



PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM IN INDIA

The Panchayati Raj system in India is a decentralized form of government that aims to involve local communities in decision-making processes and the administration of rural areas. "Panchayat" literally means "assembly" (panch means "five" and ayat means "assembly" in Sanskrit), and "Raj" means "rule". The system was established to ensure local self-governance and empower rural communities.

Key features of the Panchayati Raj system include:

1. **Three-tier Structure:** The Panchayati Raj system operates at three levels: Gram Panchayat at the village level, Panchayat Samiti at the block level, and Zilla Parishad at the district level. Each tier has its own set of responsibilities and powers.
2. **Elected Representatives:** Members of the Panchayats are elected by the local population through regular elections. The Gram Panchayat consists of elected representatives from the village, while the Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad have members elected from their respective constituencies.
3. **Functions and Responsibilities:** Panchayats are entrusted with various functions such as rural development, local infrastructure development, agriculture, health, education, social justice, and poverty alleviation. They also play a crucial role in the implementation of various government schemes and programs at the grassroots level.
4. **Financial Powers:** Panchayats have financial powers derived from both the state government and local revenue sources. They can levy and collect taxes, fees, and fines within their jurisdiction. Additionally, they receive funds from the central and state governments through various grants and allocations.
5. **Empowerment of Women and Marginalized Sections:** The Panchayati Raj system aims to promote the participation of women and marginalized communities in local governance. A certain percentage of seats in Panchayats are reserved for women, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) to ensure their representation.
6. **Decentralized Planning:** Panchayats are involved in the formulation and implementation of local development plans. They prepare Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) and participate in the district planning process, thereby ensuring that local needs and priorities are addressed.

The Panchayati Raj system in India was enshrined in the Constitution through the 73rd Amendment Act of 1992, which added Part IX to the Constitution. This amendment provided a constitutional status to Panchayats and laid down the framework for their functioning. Subsequently, similar provisions were made for urban local bodies through the 74th Amendment Act of 1992.

OUTCOMES :-

1. **Increased Understanding:** One of the primary outcomes of a guest lecture on the Panchayati Raj system would be to increase the understanding of the attendees about the structure, functioning, and significance of the system. Participants should gain insights into the three-tier structure, roles and responsibilities of Panchayats, and the constitutional provisions governing their functioning.
2. **Awareness of Rights and Responsibilities:** The lecture can empower attendees by raising awareness about their rights and responsibilities as citizens in the context of local governance. They should understand their role in participating in Panchayat elections, holding elected representatives accountable, and actively engaging in the decision-making processes at the grassroots level.
3. **Appreciation of Decentralization:** Through examples and case studies, attendees can develop an appreciation for the concept of decentralization and its importance in promoting local democracy, efficiency in governance, and grassroots development. They should understand how decentralization enhances citizen participation, responsiveness, and ownership of development initiatives.
4. **Inspiration for Engagement:** The lecture should inspire attendees to actively engage with the Panchayati Raj system and contribute to local development initiatives. They should feel motivated to volunteer, collaborate with local authorities, and participate in community-driven projects aimed at addressing local challenges and improving the quality of life in rural areas.
5. **Capacity Building:** Depending on the audience, the lecture may include capacity-building components aimed at equipping participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively engage with the Panchayati Raj system. This could include training on leadership, advocacy, project management, and community mobilization.
6. **Policy Advocacy:** For stakeholders such as policymakers, researchers, or activists, the lecture can serve as a platform for discussing policy implications, identifying challenges, and advocating for reforms to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system. Attendees should be encouraged to critically analyze existing policies and suggest improvements for enhancing the effectiveness and inclusivity of local governance.

Overall, the outcomes of a guest lecture on the Panchayati Raj system should go beyond mere dissemination of information to fostering active engagement, empowerment, and advocacy for decentralized and participatory governance in India.