Polity & Governance · GS - II

Local body elections are not merely tests of political popularity; they are also essential to democratic decentralisation and grassroots governance. Examine in the context of political alliances and seat-sharing arrangements.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
Daily Practice 27/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Local polls strengthen grassroots democracy and decentralisation, but alliance arithmetic can overshadow local issues. Effective governance requires empowered local bodies, fiscal autonomy, accountable representatives and fair elections.

Model Answer

Local body elections are a vital component of India’s democratic decentralisation. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments institutionalised rural and urban local self-government, bringing governance closer to citizens.

Political alliances and seat-sharing arrangements, such as those negotiated among the Telugu Desam Party, Jana Sena Party and Bharatiya Janata Party in Andhra Pradesh, reflect electoral calculations, cadre management and efforts to prevent vote-splitting. Their significance, however, extends beyond party arithmetic.

Strong local representation can improve the delivery of sanitation, drinking water, roads, waste management and welfare services. Local polls also provide feedback on public satisfaction, party organisation and emerging political preferences. Yet, treating them solely as a referendum on state leadership may marginalise local concerns and weaken issue-based accountability.

Effective decentralisation requires regular and impartial elections, adequate devolution of functions and funds, transparent municipal and Panchayat finances, and stronger Gram Sabhas and ward committees. Thus, political

coordination may improve electoral prospects, but democratic success ultimately depends on responsive local governance and citizen participation.

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