

- A. Poverty estimates needs to be reviewed exclusively on cornerstone of gender equality
- B. Poverty estimates are largely multidimensional and rarely unidimensional
- C. Poverty estimates on households, eclipses individual poverty
- D. Poverty estimates needs to be replaced with customised microscopic capture of deprivations

12. Passage 2–

Decentralisation is not necessarily conducive to local democracy. In fact, in situations of sharp local inequalities, decentralisation sometimes heightens the concentration of power and discourages rather than fosters participation among the underprivileged. To illustrate, in some tribal areas where upper caste landlords and traders dominate village affairs, the devolution of power associated with the Panchayati Raj amendments has consolidated their hold and reinforced existing biases in the local power structure.

Q. Which one of the following is the most crucial and logical inference that can be made from the above passage?

- A. Local democracy should precede efforts to decentralisation of power
- B. Decentralisation and local democracy are quite distinct conceptualisations
- C. Without social democracy, political democracy is not possible
- D. Decentralisation and local democracy are not mutually independent

13. Passage 3–

National Rural Drinking Water Programme, despite spending 90% of its multi-crore budget, has “failed” its targets. There is increasing concern that access does not translate to availability of water. Irrespective of the source of water, in most parts of rural India, availability of water decreases dramatically in the summer months as the water levels drop and surface sources may dry up. Mostly the concerned authorities greatly obscure the “dry pipe problem” – a reference to non availability of water despite the existence of an asset.

Q. What is the most crucial and logical message conveyed by the passage?

- A. India needs to look beyond the creating water infrastructure towards reliability of water supply
- B. There is a need to synchronise drought status and drinking water needs of village and city in India’s dry zones
- C. India has to prioritise rainfed areas in its drinking water projects
- D. Quality and quantity of water supply is ensured by customising the supply to time and space

14. Passage 4–

The paternity leave is not as utilised as maternity leave. Even where men have access to paid paternity leave, they might still cut their leaves short to avoid being perceived as less dedicated employees. One recent survey of highly educated professional fathers, found a substantial portion took less than the full amount of paid leave available. They cited work pressures as a factor in the length of leave they took. Other studies have found that fathers who reduce their work hours or leave work for family reasons may incur a “flexibility stigma.”

Q. According to the author, which of the following are responsible for poor usage of paid paternity leave?