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Q40

With reference to the 'Gram Nyayalaya Act', which of the following statements is/are correct? 1. As per the Act, Gram Nyayalayas can hear only civil cases and not criminal cases. 2. The Act allows local social activists as mediators/reconciliators. Select the correct answer using the code given below (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2 Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2016 · General Studies · 2 marks · Polity and Governance

Indian Constitution, polity, rights, governance - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

Statement 1 only. **Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008** gives jurisdiction over both specified civil disputes and criminal cases (First Class Magistrate powers). 'Civil only' is false.

(b) Official key

• **Statement 2 only. The Act provides for conciliation:** the Gram Nyayalaya may use conciliation and the State Government can appoint conciliators, including social workers active in the locality. Criminal-plus-civil jurisdiction makes 1 wrong. That stored letter is the official key.

(c)

Both. Because Gram Nyayalayas can hear criminal cases too, both cannot be the key.

(d)

Neither. Local conciliators/mediators are provided for, so 'neither' is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (b) 2 only. Gram Nyayalayas try specified civil and criminal matters at intermediate-panchayat level and may use local conciliators. They are not civil-only courts. Honour the stored letter (b).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Act

Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008

Nyayadhikari

Presiding officer; First Class Magistrate powers on criminal side

Seat

Headquarters at intermediate panchayat; mobile camps in villages

Article 39A

Equal justice and free legal aid-policy backdrop

Law Commission

114th Report recommended gram nyayalayas

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