Roll No.												

PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

BENGALURU

End - Term Examinations – December 2025

Date: 16 – 12- 2025 **Time:** 01:00pm – 04:00pm

School: SOL	**Program:** BA/ BBA/ BCom LLB (Hons.)	
Course Code : LAW4009	**Course Name:** Local Self Government & Panchayat Administration	
Semester: VII	**Max Marks**: 100	**Weightage**: 50%

CO - Levels	**CO1**	**CO2**	**CO3**	**CO4**	**CO5**
Marks	**8**	**16**	**30**	**14**	**32**

Instructions:

(i) Read all questions carefully and answer accordingly.

(ii) Do not write anything on the question paper other than roll number.

Part A

Answer ALL the Questions. Each question carries 2marks. **10Q x 2M=20M**

1.	**Define** the concept of 'local self-governance'.	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO1**
2.	**Identify** two key recommendations of the Balwantrai Mehta Committee regarding Panchayati Raj institutions.	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO2**
3.	**List** four mandatory provisions introduced by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO2**
4.	**Explain** the term 'Gram Sabha'.	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO1**
5.	**Distinguish** between the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments in terms of their scope of application.	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO2**
6.	**State** the composition of a typical Gram Panchayat as per the model Panchayati Raj Act.	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO1**
7.	**Describe** two administrative constraints faced by local self-government institutions in India.	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO4**
8.	**Explain** what is meant by the 'three-tier' system of Panchayati Raj.	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO4**
9.	**Identify** the role of the State Finance Commission in the context of local self-government.	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO5**
10.	**Define** 'decentralization' and **state** why it is essential for grassroot-level democracy.	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO1**

Part B

Answer the Questions. **Total Marks 80M**

11.	**a.**	Sunita Devi, a woman elected as Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Rampur under the reservation quota, finds that all Panchayat meetings are dominated by her husband and male relatives. Village elders address her husband as the "real Sarpanch" and she is referred to as a "proxy Sarpanch." When she attempts to assert her authority by calling a Gram Sabha meeting independently, the Block Development Officer refuses to cooperate, citing "local customs" and suggesting she should consult male family members before taking decisions. Her proposals for women's welfare schemes are repeatedly rejected without discussion. Evaluate whether the practice of "proxy representation" violates the spirit of the 73rd Amendment. Apply constitutional provisions on women's reservation to determine what legal remedies are available to Sunita Devi, and recommend institutional mechanisms to ensure effective participation of women representatives.	**5+5 Marks**	**L4**	**CO3**
		Or			
12.	**a.**	Gram Panchayat Krishnanagar has a population of 8,000 and requires ₹50 lakhs annually for basic infrastructure development, sanitation, and welfare schemes. However, the Panchayat's own revenue sources (taxes on markets, licensing fees, etc.) generate only ₹5 lakhs per year. The State Government releases ₹15 lakhs as general grants, but these funds arrive 8-10 months late. The Panchayat has submitted proposals for centrally-sponsored schemes worth ₹30 lakhs, but the state-level bureaucracy delays approvals for over a year. Meanwhile, urgent repairs to village roads and hand pumps remain incomplete, and villagers blame the Panchayat for inefficiency. **Analyze** the gap between financial responsibilities and available resources. **Assess** the role of the State Finance Commission in addressing such funding deficits.	**4+6 Marks**	**L4**	**CO3**

13.	**a.**	In Gram Panchayat Ambedkar Nagar, the dominant land-owning upper caste comprises 45% of the population, while Scheduled Castes constitute 40% and Other Backward Classes 15%. A Scheduled Caste candidate, Ramprasad, is elected as Sarpanch under the SC reservation provision. However, when he proposes constructing a community hall in the SC locality and seeks equal wages for SC laborers in MGNREGA works, the upper-caste Ward Members form a blocking coalition and prevent any resolutions from passing. They also socially boycott Ramprasad's family and threaten economic sanctions. The District Magistrate, when	**6+4 Marks**	**L5**	**CO2**

		approached, suggests that Ramprasad should "maintain social harmony" by not being "too assertive." Analyze how caste dynamics undermine the functioning of Panchayati Raj institutions in this scenario. Recommend institutional safeguards to protect reserved category representatives from social and economic coercion.			
		Or			
14.	**a.**	In 1952, the Government of India launched the Community Development Programme with the objective of promoting rural development through local participation and self-help. However, within a decade, evaluations revealed that the Programme was excessively bureaucratic, top-down, and failed to engage local communities meaningfully. Village-level workers operated as government employees rather than community mobilizers. Development plans were prepared by district officials without consulting villagers. The programme became associated with government doles rather than community empowerment. **Examine** the key features and objectives of the Community Development Programme. **Analyze** why it failed to achieve genuine community participation despite its stated goals.	**5+5 Marks**	**L1**	**CO2**

15.	**a.**	The Gauripur Panchayat Samiti received central funds for irrigation projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission. A conflict arose when the District Collector reallocated a major portion of these funds to a neighbouring Panchayat citing "urgent priorities." The Samiti argued that the Collector had no such authority under the Panchayati Raj Act, while the state administration claimed "district-level uniformity" justified centralization of decisions. Several farmers staged protests claiming water scarcity and crop loss due to halted projects. The Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Parishad sided with the state, asserting that the Panchayat Samiti was only an "implementing body" and not a decision-making authority. Evaluate the extent of administrative control that state authorities may exercise over Panchayat bodies. Apply relevant constitutional provisions and judicial interpretations to determine whether the Collector's interference was lawful.	**6+4 Marks**	**L4**	**CO4**
		Or			
16.	**a.**	In Bhadrak Nagar Parishad, a ward counsellor from the Scheduled Tribe community alleged that the Standing Committee ignored his repeated appeals to install drinking-water facilities in tribal colonies. He submitted formal requests three times, but the Mayor's office declined, citing budget constraints, even though funds were used to beautify public parks in elite areas. When he tried to raise the issue in the council meeting, senior counsellors mocked him for "bringing village concerns into urban planning." Subsequently, the Municipal Commissioner removed him from the sanitation sub-committee without any explanation. The counsellor now considers approaching the High Court. **Analyze** this case in light	**7+3 Marks**	**L4**	**CO4**

		of the reservation and inclusion principles under Article 243T of the Constitution. **Discuss** whether such discriminatory allocation of resources can be judicially reviewed and **recommend** appropriate legal remedies.			

17.	**a.**	The State Legislature of "Pragatistan" passes an amendment to its Panchayati Raj Act, introducing the following provisions: 1. The State Government can suspend any Gram Panchayat without conducting elections within six months, and can appoint administrators for up to three years. 2. Elected Sarpanches must obtain prior approval from the Block Development Officer for all expenditures exceeding ₹10,000. 3. The State Government reserves the right to transfer any subject from the Eleventh Schedule away from Panchayats if it deems necessary for "administrative efficiency." 4. Reservations for women are reduced from 33% to 20% citing "adequate representation." Civil society organizations and affected Panchayat representatives challenge these amendments before the High Court, arguing they violate the 73rd Constitutional Amendment and undermine the constitutional status of Panchayats. Evaluate whether these state-level amendments are constitutionally valid or ultra vires the Constitution. Assess the balance between state legislative powers under Article 243G and the mandatory constitutional framework.	**7+8 Marks**	**L4**	**CO5**
		Or			
18.	**a.**	Gram Panchayat Swarajya has been assigned 18 subjects from the Eleventh Schedule by the State Government, including primary education, health and sanitation, drinking water, and rural housing. However, in practice: • Primary school teachers are appointed and transferred by the District Education Officer; the Panchayat has no say in their postings or performance evaluation. • The Primary Health Center operates under the direct control of the state health department; the Panchayat cannot even access health data for its area. • Drinking water projects are designed and executed by the state Public Health Engineering Department; the Panchayat is merely informed after work commences. • Rural housing schemes are implemented through the Block Development Office with beneficiary selection done by state officials.	**7+8 Marks**	**L1**	**CO5**

		The Sarpanch complains that despite nominal "assignment" of functions, the Panchayat exercises no real authority and functions merely as a post office forwarding applications to higher authorities. **Examine** the distinction between "assignment" and "devolution" of powers to Panchayats. **Recommend** a comprehensive framework for effective transfer of functions, functionaries, and funds (the "3Fs") to make Panchayats meaningful institutions of self-government.			

19.	**a.**	Gram Panchayat Navoday has undergone three election cycles since the 73rd Amendment: First Term (1995-2000): Traditional dominant caste landlord elected as Sarpanch; focused mainly on patronage distribution; development concentrated in upper-caste localities; meetings irregular and poorly attended. Second Term (2000-2005): Women's seat reservation brings a first-generation literate woman from OBC community as Sarpanch; initially faces resistance but gradually mobilizes women's self-help groups; focuses on MGNREGA implementation, child nutrition programs; Gram Sabha attendance increases significantly; faces social boycott but persists. Third Term (2005-2010): Young college-educated leader from SC community elected; uses RTI Act to expose corruption; leverages social media to mobilize youth; forms accountability committees involving all social groups; attracts NGO partnerships and external funding; but faces hostility from established political parties and bureaucracy. Analyze how leadership patterns in Panchayats have evolved across these three terms. Evaluate the impact of social background, education, and gender on leadership effectiveness and development outcomes.	**7+8 Marks**	**L4**	**CO5**
		Or			
20.	**a.**	In 1978, the Ashok Mehta Committee submitted its report on Panchayati Raj institutions, making several radical recommendations that differed from the earlier Balwantrai Mehta Committee approach. The Committee observed that the three-tier system had failed; that Panchayats lacked political will, administrative capability, and financial resources; that elections were irregular; and that bureaucratic control was excessive. Consider a hypothetical scenario where State X implements the Ashok Mehta model completely in 1980, while	**7+8 Marks**	**L1**	**CO5**

		neighboring State Y continues with the Balwantrai Mehta three-tier model. **Compare and contrast** the Balwantrai Mehta Committee and Ashok Mehta Committee approaches to Panchayati Raj. **Analyze** the rationale behind each Committee's recommendations in their respective historical contexts.			

21.	**a.**	In the state of Vidarbha, the Finance Commission recommended 10% devolution of the state's tax revenue to local bodies. However, the government only released 4% citing "fiscal constraints." As a result, Panchayats were unable to maintain sanitation infrastructure or pay local teachers. Civil-society activists filed a petition alleging violation of the constitutional obligation under Article 243-I. The government contended that Finance Commission recommendations are "advisory." The High Court sought a clarification on enforceability of devolution recommendations. Evaluate whether State Finance Commission recommendations create binding obligations. Analyze how financial autonomy impacts democratic decentralization and propose legislative or judicial reforms to ensure fiscal accountability of states.	**5+10+5 Marks**	**L5**	**CO3**
		Or			
22.	**a.**	The **Gram Panchayat of Sonapur** prepared an annual budget allocating ₹8 lakhs for sanitation and women's livelihood groups. However, the Panchayat Secretary later transferred most of the funds to "urgent office repairs" without informing the Gram Sabha. When the Sarpanch objected, the Block Development Officer justified it as an "administrative necessity." Villagers protested and demanded an open audit meeting. The Secretary argued that financial records were "confidential" and that Gram Sabha resolutions were only "advisory." NGOs assisting the community were denied access to expenditure documents. **Analyze** whether this redirection of funds violates constitutional and statutory financial responsibilities of Panchayats. **Evaluate** how the principles of transparency and participatory budgeting under the 73rd Amendment apply to this situation.	**15+5 Marks**	**L4**	**CO3**