



Register Number:

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ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE-27
BVOC VISUAL MEDIA & FILM MAKING – V SEMESTER
SEMESTER EXAMINATION: NOVEMBER 2020
VO5116 - MEDIA LAW AND ETHICS
Time-2 ½ hrs **Max Marks-70**

This paper contains three printed pages and two parts.

I. Answer any three questions in 250 words each. (3 x 15 = 45)

Q1) Last month the country celebrated 15 years of the landmark Right to Information Act. While it has had its drawbacks, the RTI Act has proved extremely beneficial in making government machinery transparent.

Explain its importance and relevance in terms of benefits to the general public while detailing the initial struggles of activists like Ms Aruna Roy, in getting the RTI enacted.

Q2) Recent coverage of current events by the electronic media, has left the general viewer disgusted, with the channels violating all journalistic norms. This has forced even the courts to express concern over their toxic news content.

One of the suggestions that has been mooted for reining in these TV channels is for the government to monitor them.

The other is for advertisers to stop their patronage of the erring channels. Amul, Bajaj and Parle group of companies which advertise heavily, for instance, have already initiated action in this connection.

Would you agree with these steps? Support your answer with emphasis on the importance of following media ethics and journalistic norms by the press.

Q3). The recent controversy over contempt of court involving activist and advocate, Prashant Bhushan, has raised questions about the need for this provision in our laws.

Besides, while a section of the judges feels that free speech is being used to scandalise the judiciary, activists argue that the courts are being extra sensitive.

Are these arguments valid? What is contempt of court all about? Do we need it today. Or, should it be scrapped?

Q4). What do you understand by the term "Reasonable Restrictions" highlighted in the Indian Constitution under Article 19.? What are the restrictions covered under the term? Should they be reviewed in keeping with changing times? Support your answer with examples.

Q5). The law on Sedition was enacted during the British days but continues to be a part of the Indian Penal Code .

These days it has also been misused by a section of the police to arrest people, even if they criticise the ministers for their wrong actions. Or, if they are critical of some government policy, evidenced during the recent protests over the Citizenship Amendment Act when even students of leading universities were arrested.

This has raised questions about the need to scrap this colonial law. Would you agree? Give reasons to support your answer.

Section B

(25 marks)

Q6) Answer any four topics in about 100 words each. (4x5=20)

- A) Shreya Singhal and Section 66A of the IT Act
- B) Authoritarian Theory
- C) Relevance of Sting operations today
- D) Cyber Crimes
- E) Soviet Media theory
- F) Importance of Copyright
- G) Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the numbers of rights covered under it?

Q7) Answer any five with a Yes or a No only. Total Marks: 5

- I) As journalists enjoy freedom of the press, they just cannot be questioned about their sources
- J) Defamatory written statements are called Slander
- K) Disobedience of a court order attracts contempt of court
- L) Privacy is a Fundamental Right
- M) Both the print and electronic media come under the Press Council of India .
- N) The Official Secrets Act was first enacted in 1923
- O) The Indian Penal Code is a legacy of the British