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SUBJECT:	Essay	Test Code:	1	9	9	2		
Name of Candidate	Utsav Anand							
Medium Hindi/Eng.	English	Registration Number	8	7	5	9	9	3
Center	Online	Date	1	9	1	2	2	1

INDEX TABLE				INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Page No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
				1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code). उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
				2. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
				3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
				4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one. प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
				5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
				6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off. उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

SECTION - A

③

Social media is rewiring humanity and
we are at the crossroads of its
promise and its peril

During the initial days of 2020 in January, Ronald Trump put out a series of tweets against the Presidency of Joe Biden. He also indirectly asked his fans to mobilise. Twitter exploded with his supporters sharing the message and ending up storming the Congress.

A year later, in India, during the second wave of COVID-19, oxygen crisis had hit the country. People were flooding social media for help. And they did get help. Unknown people

put up their best efforts to ensure
that people get access to beds
and oxygen cylinders. Social media
turned out to be a barrier for many.

This is what social media
is capable of. It can bring the
oldest democracy to shame and at
the same time, it can bring the
best side of humanity. In this essay,

we will discuss how social media
is redefining every aspect of humanity.
How promising or how dangerous it is
and how to make the best out of
it.

UNFOLDING SOCIAL MEDIA

Humans, by nature, are
social animals. The need to socialise

is one of the most basic human
trait and also a right. Efforts
were made in this direction since
ancient times.

Writing down views and teachings
on pillars by Ashoka or development
of telegraph by the British, all were
the modes of communicating with
the masses. Social media is the
pinnacle of such efforts.

With the Information Technology
boom in the second half of 20th
century, people realised the
opportunity in creating platforms
for communication which would be
democratic, affordable and robust.

The initial developments of MySpace and Orkut showed ways for the current social media giants like Facebook and Twitter. The number of users crossing 4 billion shows the boom in the industry in the 21st century.

Although the start of social media was more for a particular aim of communication and source of entertainment, it has grown up to become an integral part of humanity. It has changed and ~~is~~ changing the way humanity evolves and the values humanity represent.

SOCIAL MEDIA : CROSSING ALL BARRIERS

Social media has evolved all aspects of humanity - be it the political interactions, economic systems and most importantly the values on which humanity is based.

The way people participate in the governance of the nation or even the global order has taken a turn. Be it PM-Modi's Mann Ki Baat interactions on radio and social media or be it opinion polls regarding serious issues like BREXIT. Social media has further strengthened the basic tenets of democracy and ^{has} given humans their due in democratic system.

Social media has also disrupted the economic interactions around the world. It provides small and big entrepreneurs to reach out their customers in a more personalised way. A small complaint against a telecom company on twitter gets a quicker response as compared to earlier ways.

The interaction between humans and the environment around has taken a front seat in all global discussions, thanks to social media. The efforts of Greta Thunberg spread across the globe overnight & the humanity's role in environmental destruction was well accepted.

Most importantly, the values of humanity have changed their range and in some cases definition as well. love, for example, is now defined on number of likes and comments on social media. People tend to act in a way which will get a wider social appreciation rather than what is right.

Compassion and empathy are also commercialised. Vloggers try to show an act of compassion by donating some money to a ^{needy} stranger and then go on to monetise this act on social media.

The treatment of humans as a means to achieve something is

promoted through social media. For example, people's identity as an individual for whatever he/she is has degraded and the need to copy someone famous is aggravated.

The values of family, relation with children and elderly have all taken a toll. False perceptions of an ideal life has resulted in a blessed life. Children feel that their parents are not loving them enough and parents feel that their children ^{are} ~~is~~ not studying hard enough. They fail to understand that lives are not as beautiful as they seem on Instagram.

SOCIAL MEDIA : BOON OR BANE

There is no doubt about the fact that social media has given voice to the unheard, and platform to the people to actively participate in democracy. It has also helped in technological advances through AI and understanding human behaviour.

Social media has helped to save life be it COVID-19 pandemic or Kedarnath floods. Even Ahmed Spring is said to be fermented on social media. It has changed how humans view the world around and also how they view themselves.

At the same time, social media also shares the blame for growing polarisation around the world. Human values like tolerance, ~~and~~ love, peace have disappeared. Echo-chambering which shows a person the views that he believes in, isolates him from the other people's views. Social media has fuelled such echo-chamberings.

Democracy and people's free participation in elections were under radar during Cambridge Analytica

scandal. Facebook and Twitter have been called out multiple times for doing not enough to curb violence & riots.

We are indeed at crossroads
of the benefits and objectives that
social media promised and the
dangers to humanity it now
poses.

KEEPING THE BEST
FIGHTING THE REST

We need to take a pause
and re-evaluate what social media
was intended for. People's connectiveness
for ensuring global peace can
be considered ^{as} an underlying core
objective of social media.

Governments around the world
have been trying to innovate ways
to regulate social media platforms.
This often lead to clashes between

Proponents of freedom of speech & business versus national sovereignty.

For example, Facebook v/s Australian government or be it Twitter v/s Indian government.

The recent regulations for significant social media intermediaries

by government of India puts an obligation on social media companies

to quicken the resolving of issues.

It is a good step, however whether it will be used in a positive way

or to curb freedom of speech will have to be seen.

The core argument remains that social media is the truth of

today's world. We can't ~~accept~~
reject it. We have to train
ourselves to get the best out of
it and at the same time put
reasonable regulations on social media.

Value - education can help to
guide the path of younger generation
in a world of degrading values.
The ideas and moral values of
humanity need to be taught &
internalized from childhood, so
that they can accept the good
and reject the bad of social media.

Victor Hugo once said that
there is nothing more powerful than an
idea whose time has come. Social
media is that powerful idea. It is
up to us, how we use this power.

⑤
Section R

Dissent is the safety valve of a democracy

During the second half of twentieth century, the discrimination against the blacks in the oldest democracy - USA, was quite prevalent.

Rosa Parks became the face of

dissent when she sat on a restricted seat on a bus. Civil

Rights Movement finally led to the equal rights for Blacks in US.

What would have happened, had Rosa Parks or the Blacks in general not dissented against the discrimination? It is hard to guess now but it is for sure that

USA would not have been flag-bearers of democracy for long.

In the light of this, we will discuss how dissent is integral in survival of democracy, what are the roadblocks and how to ensure the balance between right to dissent and other aspects of democracy.

'DEMOCRACY IS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE AND BY THE PEOPLE'

Democracy has survived the challenges of time, evolved over time and adapted to the demands of time. This has ensured victory of democracy over fascism and nazism

as well as communism .. The one thing which makes democracy different from all the others is the right to dissent in a true sense.

All modern democracies provide for this basic human right of dissent. Art - 19 provides the basis in Indian Constitution. Even UN-HDR recognises the importance of right to dissent. So appreciate the importance of dissent, it is important to imagine a democracy without dissent.

The people in power in a democracy without dissent get a bypass for their decisions. This

leads to further centralisation of power.

With centralisation comes corruption.

The economy takes a dip due to rampant corruption, investments

decline, human resources suffer.

At this stage, there may be a few dissenters, but it is already too late.

The dissenters are suppressed, the power in authority is perpetuated and people start to believe in their fate to be ruled. Thus, dissent is further declined and the circle of destruction of democracy is complete.

This whole cycle can be broken and democracy sustained if at the first stage itself dissent is allowed against the arbitrary decisions of the government. It thus acts as a safety valve against the collapse of democracy.

DEMOCRACY AND DISSENT : Time tested relationship

Democracy ensures that plurality of views will be respected and basic human rights are protected. Dissent helps to ensure that the objectives of democracy are met.

In political democracy, when a government in power starts to exercise

arbitrary power, dissents help to keep them in check. The dissent of Jayprakash Narayan through JP movement ensured that the Indira Gandhi government don't cross the lines of democracy.

Economic reforms are needed to modernise the economy of the country. However, government's priorities and stakeholders demands may not be on the same page. To ensure the principles of democracy that it is a government for the people, protests and dissents are important. The recent farm laws were repealed due to such^a dissent.

In the current world, environmental
issues are a top priority for the
younger generation. Governments and
the world are trying to make the
balance between development &
sustainability. Protests by people
have made sure that balance is
tilted towards sustainability. For
example Save Arrey Campaign in
Mumbai or Race to Zero campaign.
Dissent has ensured that the voice
of future generations are equally important
in a democracy.

Democracy also promises social
reforms with time. The demands of
LGBTQ+ community were met by the

judiciary after years of struggle.

Dissent against untouchability in India
or Racial discrimination in USA have
allowed the democracy to meet
aspirations of the people.

If the dissents are obstructed
in name of stability of democracy,
it can have serious consequences.
The split of Pakistan and Bangladesh,
South Sudan from Sudan etc. should
be a lesson for all democracies.

Dissent helps the country to understand
the aspirations and needs of the
people. If it is suppressed, the
aspirations don't die, rather take
a violent shape.

DISSENTS WITH CAUTION

In modern democracies, dissent is inevitable. However, many a times, vested interests use this method to destabilise democracy.

In India, dissents are often used to radicalise youth and use them for violent acts. The nationalists and terrorists use dissents as a medium to propagate their ideologies.

International relations have also taken a turn through the activities of NGOs and civil society in other countries. These are used as a foreign policy tool and obstruct developmental works.

IB has reported that 2-3% of GDP is lost in this process.

Dissents are also sometimes used for political motives of uprooting an incumbent government. The people are polarised and are asked to ~~use~~ use violent means. The recent storming of US Congress is a great example of polarised dissent.

The new age technologies of social media has changed the paradigms or scales of protest. It has also given a platform for the people to spread fake news to instigate forced dissents. There are a bigger question before us - How to manage dissent to

aid democracy sustain.

SAILING - FORWARD

Dissent helps to meet the expectations of people. The balance, however needs to be maintained in present evolving geo-politics.

Firstly, constitutional values and judicial decisions should be followed in letter and spirit - both by the government and citizens. Art - 19 gives ~~the~~ right to dissent but Art - 51A also provides a list of duties. These often get ignored in the process of dissent.

Right to freedom of speech needs to be balanced with ~~the~~ duty to maintain integrity of nation. A

Common thread binds the rights and duties.

Secondly, value-education from childhood itself helps to internalize the basic human values of love, compassion, truth etc. The human values translate to human rights and hence the democratic values. Once a person is clear on the values, he/she uses the dissect in a positive way.

Thirdly, learning from mistakes of other nations. For example, Russia although a democracy on paper, comes on heavily on dissenters. Similar is the case of China. We

need to set good examples and not follow un-democratic ways of governance.

Mahatma Gandhi famously said that a democracy is one where the weakest have the same voice as the strongest. Keeping this principle in mind, dissent ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ democracy should be conceived as the safety valve, without which sustainability of democracy is questionable.