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| **Date & Session:** |

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**ST. JOSEPH’S UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU - 27**

**II SEMESTER– B.A JIN/PP**

**END-SEMESTER EXAMINATION: APRIL 2024**

**(Examination conducted in May / June 2024)**

**JNI 221: Journalism and Ethical Practice II**

**(For current batch students only)**

**Time: 2 Hours Max Marks: 60**

* **This paper contains FOUR printed pages and FOUR parts.**
* **Do not exceed the word limit to each question.**
* **Indicate word count at the end of each answer.**

**PART A**

**Below is a submission made to *The Cut’s* advice column “Going Through It.” Read the text carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

Dear Emily,

After many years of struggle, I recently published my latest novel. Great news — it’s a hit! Well, it’s not a massive hit, but it has gotten very good reviews, has won a few awards, and has sold more copies than both of my other books combined. With all these wonderful things happening for my career, I know I shouldn’t dwell on the negativity I have received on the internet. But I can’t help it. There has been so much viciousness toward the book — some of it quite personal — on Twitter, Goodreads, Amazon, and other corners of the internet. All of the hatred has driven me to tears more than once.

Through it all, my husband, who is also a writer, has been so supportive. He was by my side during the long and arduous writing process, happily clinked Champagne glasses with me as the book started to draw attention and accolades he could never dream of for himself, and patiently held the camera while I recorded my promotional TikToks. Most important, he has held my hand and comforted me through all of the online harassment. I couldn’t have done it without him.

Or so I thought. For reasons too complicated to get into, I am starting to strongly suspect that my beloved has been using an array of anonymous accounts to post some of the most negative and cruel comments about the book. In fact, I believe he may be the main source of the hatred that has been directed toward me, likely driven by jealousy that I have achieved something he never could.

Unfortunately, I am only 85 percent certain that I am correct. In the past, our marriage suffered when my husband discovered that I had been snooping on his computer and in his private things, and I know that if I were to confront him about my suspicions, he would accuse me of invading his privacy once again. Although this is not the case, I would have great difficulty explaining myself.

But lately I can’t even look at him without feeling sick to my stomach at the thought of what he might be writing about me and my book. I have even fantasised about hiring a private investigator to discover the truth. I can’t go on like this. What should I do?

Yours Truly,  
Sleeping With the Enemy

**Answer the following questions in four to five sentences each:**

**(3x5=15)**

1. Which are you inclined to take seriously on the internet and why — a bad review or a good one? Write with reference to your own experience sifting through reviews on platforms like Goodreads, Twitter, Amazon, Letterboxd, etc. Keeping aside the dubious husband, what advice — regarding hate on the internet — would you offer the above writer?
2. Do you suppose anonymous accounts on the internet always come with malicious intent? Why / why not? Would you be tempted to be horrid on the internet if you had an anonymous account at your disposal? OR If you were behind this column, what advice would you give the novelist in the above passage?
3. Think of a purchase you made on the internet that you are really pleased with. Write a review for the product that captures your satisfaction while also proving useful for other potential customers.

**PART B**

**Below is a selection from an article titled “From Segregation to Labour, Manu’s Caste Law Governs the Indian Prison System” that appeared in The Wire. Read the passage carefully and respond to the questions that follow.**

“*Gunah* *batao* (Tell me your crime),” on his first day at the Alwar district prison, Ajay Kumar was asked this by a police constable, placed at the undertrial (UT) section, as soon as he was escorted inside a tall iron gateway.

Ajay had barely mumbled something, when the constable snapped, “*Kaun jaati* (Which caste)?” Unsure, Ajay paused and then hesitantly said, “Rajak”. The constable was not pleased with the response. He further inquired, “*Biradari batao* (Tell me the caste category).*”* An inconsequential part of his life so far, Ajay’s caste identity, as part of a “Scheduled Caste”, was now to shape his 97-day stay in the prison.

Ajay, barely 18 years old in 2016, had to clean toilets, sweep the *verandah* of the ward and help in other menial work like storing water and gardening. “I had assumed it was something that every new prisoner had to do. But in a week or so, it was evident. Only a select few were made to clean toilets,” he says.

The arrangement was clear – those at the bottom of the caste pyramid did the cleaning work; those high above handled the kitchen or the legal documentation department. And the rich and influential did nothing; they only threw their weight around. These arrangements had nothing to do with the crime that one was arrested for or his conduct in prison.

Ajay’s family, originally from Sambhuganj block of Bihar’s Banka district, had migrated to the national capital in the early 1980s. His father works at a courier firm in Delhi and his brother as a security guard at a nationalised bank. “We belong to a *dhobi* or a washerman caste. But no one in my family ever was engaged in the caste occupation. My father intentionally chose a life in a city, almost as if he was running away from the harsh caste realities of a village.” But inside the jail, Ajay says, his father’s efforts were undone. In jail, he was able to tell a person’s caste merely by looking at the life they lived in prison.

Caste-based labour, in fact, is sanctioned in the prison manuals of many states. The colonial texts of the late 19th century have barely seen any amendments, and caste-based labour remains an untouched part of these manuals. While every state has its own unique prison manual, they are mostly based on The Prisons Act, 1894.

Ajay’s experience matches what the Rajasthan Jail Manual lays out. While cooking and handling medical care in the prison is considered high-caste work, sweeping and cleaning is straightaway assigned to the lower castes. For the cooking department, the prison manual states: “Any Brahmin or sufficiently high caste Hindu prisoner from his class is eligible for appointment as cook.”

Similarly, Part 10 of the manual titled, “Employment, Instructions and Control of Convicts”, as also mentioned in the rules under section 59 (12) of the Prisons Act, states: “Sweepers shall be chosen from among those who, by the custom of the district in which they reside or on account of their having adopted the profession, perform sweepers work, when free. Anyone else may also volunteer to do this work, in no case, however shall a person, who is not a professional sweeper, be compelled to do the work.” The rule, however, remains silent over the issue of consent for those from the “sweeper community”.

**Answer the following questions in 100 to 150 words each:**

**(2x10=20)**

1. “My father intentionally chose a life in a city, **almost** as if he was running away from the harsh caste realities of a village” — What does the word “almost” in this quote imply about how caste plays out in the city? Can you think of spaces other than the prison system where rights protecting marginalised identities remain suspended or unclear?
2. The passage talks about the draconian Prisons Act of 1894, versions of which continue to operate with little amendment even today. Using an example from your reading of the newspaper, write a short note on other colonial-era legislation retained to impede citizen rights in the country.

**PART C**

**Write short notes of three to five sentences on ANY FIVE of the following.**

**(5x2=10)**

1. Aaron Bushnell
2. Guna Caves
3. OJ Simpson
4. Vantara
5. Padmaja Venugopal

**PART D**

**Answer the following questions in 150 to 200 words each:**

**(1x15=15)**

1. Write a thick description of your favourite online meme template for someone who has never seen it before. Why does the meme you’ve picked amuse you? (While you will not be graded for your drawing skills, a quick sketch of the meme in question will be appreciated.)