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Date & Session

**ST JOSEPH’S COLLEGE, BENGALURU -27**

**VI SEMESTER- BA JIN/JPP**

**END SEMESTER EXAMINATION: MAY 2024**

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

**JNI 6223– CAMPUS JOURNALISM**

**(For current batch students only)**

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

**This paper contains FOUR printed pages and FOUR parts**

**You may use a dictionary**

**PART-A**

1. **Answer the following questions in about five sentences each: (3x5=15)**
2. Should campus newspapers comment on larger political issues? Why?
3. Should campus journalism be subsidised by the Government? Explain your decision.
4. What is the community you would choose to address if you had to run a neighbourhood newspaper from our campus? Why?

**PART-B**

**II. Read this editorial from the campus newspaper DU Beat:**

# **The Donkey Dance of UAPA: Criminalising Dissent in a Hollowing Democracy**

*Fifty-three years ago, Atal Bihari Vajpayee called this law a “donkey that had been made to look like a horse.”* ***Today, it still remains horrifyingly omnipresent in the working machinery of the present regime, flexing its muscles by using the criminal justice system and draconian laws to strike terror against journalists, human rights activists, students, or for a matter of fact, anyone opposing its fascist policies.***

“For the longest time, I would pray for his release. But now, I am praying that he doesn’t die. The way he is being treated, and with his worsening condition, I worry he might die in jail,” said Sanjida, wife of the 28-year-old Atikur Rehman who was arrested along with Kerala journalist SiddiqueKappan while on their way to Hathras in 2020 to report the incident of the gang-rape and death of a Dalit teenager by upper caste men. Rehman now lies “partially paralysed” and “highly disoriented” in a ward at Lucknow’s King George’s Medical University (KGMU) hospital, and Kappan still remains in jail, two years  
with no sign of bail. The “sensitive nature of the case” could be the reason, says his attorney, why no one is willing to act as his surety

Furthermore, Mohammed Zubair was arrested after a complaint alleged that the AltNews co-founder had hurt religious sentiments, while Umar Khalid and numerous other anti-CAA activists were implicated in fabricated criminal charges related to the Delhi riots. These are only a few of the numerous incidents of attacks on media professionals, particularly the independent media, that have occurred in India during the past few years. **Since the BJP came to power in 2014, the number of persons who are being persecuted for their identification and commitment to fighting for democratic and progressive rights has dramatically increased**. From the 2018 Bhima Koregaon arrests and the 2020 CAA protests to the most recent arrests of Teesta Setalvad and Mohammad Zubair, the current leadership is hell-bent on locking up anyone who speaks unpleasant truths and exposes their lies.

According to some, democracy is not just a pipe dream; it is a real idea whose fundamental components are listed in the preamble: social, economic, and political justice; freedom of speech and religion; and equality of status and opportunity. This regime has discovered that, rather than explicitly abolishing democracy, another, less obvious way to do so is to completely deny the people’s rights to social, economic, and political justice, to severely restrict their freedoms of expression and thought, to suppress their right to practice their religion, and to give up their commitment to the ideal of a society in which everyone is treated equally.

UAPA, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, has been abused by successive governments for decades, transitioning from an anti-secession law to an anti-terrorism law. **Criminalising dissident views and actions, this act blurs the line between political dissent and criminal behavior, while engaging in a violation of the fundamental right to association**. Due to this, political opposition is severely criminalised as some ideologies, groups, and opinions end up being labelled as unlawful. As a result, certain organisations that contest the legitimacy of the State and the ruling classes become targets of political witch hunts.

Take the case of Umar Khalid, who is “so dangerous an offender that he cannot be released on bail” and has been kept in jail for the last two years without any concrete evidence except for an alleged “meeting of minds”which schemed the Delhi riots. Other police evidence includes a speech that is available to the public but does not incite violence, testimonies from witnesses that differ from the police, and communications from WhatsApp groups that discussed organising protests against CAA, where he was hardly active. The irony that remains is that the riots that Khalid is accused of starting claimed the lives of over 53 people, the majority of whom were Muslims. Similarly, the majority of the 18 people who were accused of hatching a plot to foment  
 racial unrest and were charged with terrorism under the UAPA, as well as murder, sedition, and over two dozen other crimes under the Indian Penal Code, 1860, are also Muslims. Additionally, some of the remarks made by several Delhi courts about police investigations into these riots stated these investigations to be ‘absolutely’ evasive,’ ‘lackadaisical,’ ‘callous,’ ‘casual,’ ‘farcical,’ ‘painful to see,’ and ‘misusing the judicial system.”

**One also comes across bizarre cases, like in Kashmir**, where 10 young men were booked in September under the same law because the police alleged that they were playing a cricket match in the “memory” of a militant who was killed last year. **Explanations like these boggle one’s normally functioning brain in ways not knownto humankind**. What UAPA simply means is jail without bail and without a trial, on the grounds of little to no evidence. One section of the Act says, “The accused must be informed of the grounds of arrest as soon as may be,” meaning that the person who is being arrested might not even know why they are being arrested and the  
arresting officer can take their sweet time in informing them as to why they are being sent to jail.

The pattern is evident. Not merely actions, but also any anti-government beliefs are being criminalised. The state cynically employs investigations as weapons, turning an already unjust criminal justice system against those who oppose the state’s unlawful policies. As a result, the so-called inquiries into the Delhi Riots actually  
result in the targeting of anti-CAA activists, while Bhima Koregaon is used as a cover to attack Dalit intellectuals as well.

**II.A. Answer the following questions in about 200 words each: (2x10-20)**

4. It has become commonplace to accuse the current regime of dictatorial tendencies. Do you see such an inclination in the use of UAPA? In what way would overuse of UAPA undermine democracy?

5, What safeguards are essential to prevent the wrong use of UAPA?

**PART C**

**Ii. B. Some sentences in the passage above are marked in bold. The exercise that follows requires you to apply your editing skills to those sentences. Please rewrite them as directed. Write ONE explanatory sentence after each edit. (5x2=10)**

6. Does the headline to the above article need rewriting? Why?

7. **What does the pronoun ‘it’ refer to in this sentence**: “Today, **it** still remains horrifyingly omnipresent in the working machinery of the present regime, flexing its muscles by using the criminal justice system and draconian laws to strike terror against journalists, human rights activists, students, or for a matter of fact, anyone opposing its fascist policies. **Which part of the sentence would you edit to make it more effective?**

8. **Rewrite this sentenc**e: “Since the BJP came to power in 2014, the number of persons who are being persecuted for their identification and commitment to fighting for democratic and progressive rights has dramatically increased”. Would a simpler sentence retain whatever the writer is aiming to convey?

9. **Is the use of the word bizarre justified in this sentence** : “One also comes across bizarre cases, like in Kashmir…’. What word would you pick as replacement? Why?

10. **Would you retain or drop this sentence**: “Explanations like these boggle one’s normally functioning brain in ways not known to humankind”? **Why?**

**SECTION D**

**Answer the following question in about five paragraphs. Do not exceed 300 words. (15 marks)**

11. If you were doing gender reporting on campus, what issue would be priority number one for you? Why**?**