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| **ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE-27** |
| **BA-EJP--IV SEMESTER: END-SEMESTER EXAMINATION: APRIL 2019**  **JN 415: Writing for Journalism & Creative Writing** |
| **Time: 1 ½ hrs Max Marks- 35**  **Instruction:**   1. **This paper is meant for IV semester students of BA-EJP course.** 2. **You are allowed to use a Dictionary.** 3. **You will lose marks for exceeding the suggested word-limit.** 4. **This paper contains THREE pages and THREE sections.** |

1. **Read the following article by M. Sridhar Acharyalu, in the Indian Express, published on the September, 14th 2018 and answer the questions that follow.**

Justice Srikrishna Committee’s [draft of Personal Data Protection Bill 2018](https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/tech-news-technology/personal-data-protection-bill-2018-justice-srikrishna-data-protection-report-submitted-to-meity-5279972/) is introducing a new right – the right to be forgotten, to remove, very old, irrelevant and unnecessary information links from social media networks. This concept is prevalent in the EU and France, though it was not preferred in the US over the more valuable press freedom.

Mario Costeja Gonzalez wanted Google and a newspaper La Vanguardia, to remove a 1998 news item about him selling a property to pay off debts. An EU court in 2009 upheld his right not to be reminded of that unpleasant part of his life. A US court, however, did not agree with William James Sidis, a former child prodigy who did not want The New Yorker to publish about his past. There is a social value in publishing facts.

In India, after a person got a certificate of marriage with a woman’s name who never married him, her father’s plea to annul that marriage certificate was accepted by the Karnataka high court. A rape victim has a right that her past be forgotten. At the same time, a criminal cannot claim that he has the right to insist that his conviction should not be referred to by the media, the Gujarat high court has said.

According to Srikrishna Committee’s Bill, an adjudicating officer – who is not a judge but a bureaucrat – will be the one to decide. According to section 27 of the Bill, a data principal (for instance, a former minister convicted earlier) has a right to prevent data processor or data fiduciary (could be a TV, web portal or newspaper) from using such data (or information) that has served its purpose for which it was made (he suffered prison term) or which is no longer necessary, or for which consent given earlier has been withdrawn, or if it is contrary to any law.

Section 27(2) states that the adjudicating officer can decide on the question of disclosure when he thinks that such disclosure will override the freedom of speech and the right to information of a citizen. In determining this, the adjudicating officer has to consider five factors listed in sub-section (3).

They are: (a) the sensitivity of the personal data; (b) the scale of disclosure and the degree of accessibility sought to be restricted or prevented; (c) the role of the data principal in public life; (d) the relevance of the personal data to the public and (e) the nature of the disclosure and of the activities of the data fiduciary, particularly whether the data fiduciary systematically facilitates access to personal data and whether the activities would be significantly impeded if disclosures of the relevant nature were to be restricted or prevented.

Aggrieved by the order of the adjudicating officer, one can file for review. In case the adjudicating officer reaffirms the decision, an appeal can be filed with the appellate tribunal. This is fine as far as data protection is concerned. However, when the data principal is a public servant (for example a former minister), and the data fiduciary is a newspaper or a web journal, the freedom to criticise public personalities for their public policies based on their past statements and activities will be in jeopardy, and a journalist has to wait for the decision of the adjudicating officer to get permission for writing about it. A citizen seeking access to such information will be confused about whether to approach the Central Information Commission or the Data Protection Authority (DPA). Adjudicating officers are subordinate to members of the DPA.

Exceptions to data protection rights and the right to be forgotten in the Bill might spell danger to press freedom. Chapter VI of the Bill on the rights of data principal, including the right to be forgotten, is exempted if the purpose of data processing is in the interest of the security of state. However, the Bill states, the parliament should pass a law explaining procedures to determine the interests and to create another authority to decide the disclosure. These rights will not apply to the processing of data in the interests of prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of any offence or any other contravention of law. For that also, the parliament has to make a law to consider and achieve such interests. Srikrishna Committee did not suggest any draft for these two additional legislations contemplated under sections 42 and 43. Even for this, section 4 (right to privacy needs to be respected) and section 31 (fair and reasonable processing duties) will apply.

**‘Journalistic purpose’ exemption**

An exemption “for journalistic purpose” is provided in section 47 saying that where the processing of personal data is necessary for or relevant to a journalistic purpose, the provisions of Chapters II to VIII of the Act shall not apply, except SS 4 and 31. Section 27(2) disappoints. It says that section 27(1) will apply only where journalist demonstrates that the processing is in compliance with any code of ethics issued by: (a) the Press Council of India, or (b) any media self-regulatory organisation. This means a journalist has to prove that privacy was taken care of and all the safeguards prescribed were complied with. A journalistic publication will thus be dependent upon the opinion of a dealing clerk or an adjudicating officer. These are additional prepublication restrictions on citizen and media which were never contemplated by the constitution and rejected by the judiciary.

The penalty provisions are severe and costly. Section 74 gives the power to impose a penalty to the adjudicating officer after an inquiry, besides facilitating compensation (Section 75). Failure to adhere to security standards (Section 31) might lead to a penalty of up to Rs 5 crore (Section 69). A penalty of up to Rs 1 crore can be imposed where any person fails to comply with any provision of this Act, for which no separate penalty has been provided in the Act (Section 73). This can easily be used against journalists.

Is this constitutional? Article 19(2) of the constitution did not provide “privacy” as a ground for imposing restrictions. This Bill fails on constitutional verification by the judiciary, unless “privacy” is added in Article 19(2) by a major amendment to the constitution. The Data Protection Bill is going to be a serious threat to press freedom and RTI.

**I.A Answer ALL the following questions in 100-150 words (2x10=20)**

1. Why is the Personal Data Protection Bill a threat to press freedom? Draw from the passage and argue your case.
2. Using the article as a source frame a five- minute podcast explaining the Data Protection Bill.

**II. Read the following article from the ‘India Today’ and answer the questions that follow.**

Union Minister for Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar said on Tuesday (January 15) that the 10 per cent quota for the economically weaker section will be applicable to all higher education institutions -- private and government -- from the upcoming academic session.

According to a PTI report, the HRD Ministry announced on Tuesday that it will implement 10 per cent reservation from the 2019 academic session and increase around 25 per cent seats in higher educational institutions and universities across the country for its implementation.

Javadekar, speaking to reporters in New Delhi, said that the existing quota for the SC/ST and OBC will remain intact and will not be affected by the implementation of the new quota bill for the people from the economically weaker section among the upper castes.

"This quota will be implemented in the 40,000 colleges and about 900 universities in the country," IANS quoted Javadekar as saying.

Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar informed that the decision was taken at a meeting of officials from the ministry, University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE).

"The reservation will be implemented from the 2019-2020 academic session itself. Nearly 25 per cent seats will be added to ensure that the reservation does not disturb the existing quota for SC, ST and other categories. There are around 40,000 colleges and 900 universities across the country and supernumerary quota will be provided in these," Javadekar told reporters.

The minister, however, did not specify the number of seats which will be added, the PTI report said.

"The modalities are being worked out and within a week's time we will have the exact number of seats that will be added. The operation manuals about how to implement the quota will be issued soon. The colleges and universities will also be asked to mention the quota in their prospectus as well and make infrastructural arrangements accordingly," he added.

The 10 per cent quota bill was passed in both Houses of Parliament last week and after receiving the Presidential assent, the government notified the amendment bill in its official gazette.

The Constitution (103 Amendment) Act, 2019 came into force on Monday (January 14).

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**II.A. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions (10 marks)**

1. Give this article a HEADLINE if it was to appear on an online news magazine and frame TWO separate TWEETS for this news story.

2. Summarize the story in a paragraph and frame **TEN** questions for a podcast interview with the HRD minister Prakash Javadekar, on the implementation of the Quota Bill.

**III Write a pitch for a long form piece on a topic of your choice. Include in your pitch, a headline for your story, a description of what your story is about and your reasons for writing it. (150-200 words) (5 Marks)**

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