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DATE: **11** **-04-2018 (1 PM)**

Registered number:

DATE: **13** **-04-2018 (1 PM)**

**ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BENGALURU-27**

**MA MASS COMMUNICATION & JOURNALISM – II SEMESTER  
SEMESTER EXAMINATION: APRIL 2018  
MC 8215 Media Law and Ethics**

Time-2 ½ hrs Max Marks-70

**This paper contains THREE printed pages and TWO parts**

(For supplementary candidates)

Do not write the register number on the question paper

Please attach the question paper along with the answer script.

**SECTION A**

**Answer any THREE of the following questions in 350-400 words(20X3)**

**1.**In a sting operation, Cobrapost, an Indian news website, recently exposed well known media houses which had agreed to carry, on payment, doctored news against a section of the minority community.

This raises serious questions about media ethics including its credibility , responsibility and impartiality.

Explain why it is so important for the media to follow ethical principles? Why has the Indian media suddenly come under the scanner ? Answer with examples

**2.** In March this year , the Supreme Court passed a major judgement according to which violent and disorderly demonstration is not protected by the Fundamental Right to Free Speech and Expression . Or, for that matter, ”the Fundamental Right to assembly peacefully.“

Likewise, the Supreme Court held that the right to free speech includes the right to speak in public but this too should not be used to incite violence.

Based on the above case, explain the provisions of the Right to Free Speech and Expression under Article 19(I). Also, detail the concept of “ Reasonable Restrictions” under the Indian Constitution. What are the provisions under which these restrictions become effective ? Explain any two provisions with examples.

**3.**During February –March this year, newspapers were full of stories about the conflict between Mr Surya Prakash, chief of Prasar Bharti , and Ms SmritiIrani, Union minister of Information and Broadcasting.

The minister had withheld the funds needed by Prasar Bharti to pay its staff. She was angry because Prasar Bharti had refused to pay Rs 3 crore as fees to a private company at the cost of national television channel Doordarshan. The private firm was appointed by the minister to cover a function , a job which Doordarshanhad been undertaking with competence earlier.

The conflict underlines the problems plaguing Prasar Bharti which was formed in 1997 after Doordarshan and All India Radio were brought under its umbrella.

Does the ministry have the right to interfere in the functioning of Prasar Bharti which was created by the central government itself as an autonomous body?

Also, explain the purpose behind creating Prasar Bharti and the reasons why the information and broadcasting ministry continues to interfere in its functioning ; even ride roughshod over it.

**4.** An Indian politician who was frequenting a house of ill repute found that his escort had filmed him in the act and sold the video to a newspaper. The VIP approached the courts seeking an injunction against the publication arguing that his privacy was being breached.

The newspaper argued otherwise contending that the VIP was a public figure and that he had visited what was considered a public place. Accordingly, the publication could not be restrained.

Give your opinion on the controversy while explaining the right to privacy and whether it is a fundamental right? What is the difference between private life and public life? Can public figures including film stars and politicians seek refuge behind privacy for their actions?

**5.** In a recent judgment, a bench of the Supreme Court convicted a former MLA from Kerala for Contempt of Court ; even sentenced him to four weeks’ imprisonment. The MLA had charged some judges with” being fools.” .

Former chairperson of the Press Council of India, Justice M Katju, reacted to this by saying that “the judgement is totally unacceptable in a democracy.” He said it violated the Freedom of Speech guaranteed under Article 19(i) of the Constitution, arguing that the judges were unnecessarily being touchy. He wanted the Contempt of Court law to be scrapped.

Do you think Justice Katju has a point ?Also , explain the provisions relating to Contempt of Court. Support your answer with examples.

**SECTION B**

**Answer both Part A and Part B**

**PART A:**

**Answer any five with a Y or a N only (1x 5)**

**6.** In India there is no distinction between Libel and Slander.

**7.**Defamation simply means tarnishing somebody's image ;its an injury to a person’s reputation.

**8.**We open ourselves to charges of Sedition if we criticise the government.

**9.**Facebook has been guilty of compromising the privacy of its users.

**10.**The Press Council of India monitors irregularities in both the print and electronic media.

**11.**Information under the Right to Information Act can be sought only from private institutions.

**12.**The press in India enjoys absolute freedom of expression and speech

**PART B**

**Answer any ONE of the following question in 150 words.(5x1)**

**13.**Explain the role and responsibilities of an Ombudsman ? How many newspapers in India have appointed an Ombudsman?

**14.** Is Film Censorship relevant in India today? Do we need the CBFC ?