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

**BA (COMMUNICATION): II SEMESTER**

**SEMESTER EXAMINATION – APRIL 2017**

**VC 2315: Media Law and Ethics**

**Time-2 ½ hrs Maximum Marks: 70**

**This paper has TWO printed pages and TWO parts**

**I. Answer any FOUR of the following questions in 400 words 4X15=60**

1). A court in the US has denied copyright to Naruto, a monkey, for a selfie that it had taken from the camera of a wildlife photographer, David Slater. The court decided in favour of Slater who, it said, had done the intellectual work of fixing the timer, composing and framing the shot while the monkey merely clicked the shot accidentally. Even though several frames were damaged, a few did prove worthwhile and went viral as Naruto’s selfies which were later had published under his name.

PETA, the animal rights group, has contested Slater’s claim arguing that the copyright should go to Naruto instead. The US court dismissed PETA’s plea on the ground that only humans (and not animals) could have the right of copyright.

Would you agree with the US court or PETA? Give your views while explaining the provisions of Copyright.

2). Is film censorship required or valid today? Would you agree with the argument that censorship conflicts with the Freedom of Speech and Expression guaranteed under the Indian Constitution? Or, that it is required to promote moral and cultural values in today’s society.

3) The law regarding Contempt of Court is too archaic and irrelevant in modern India. Besides, in comparison to other countries the judges and the court’s here take even the slightest of offence very seriously. Therefore, the time has come to scrap this law, according to many legal luminaries and politicians.

How valid is this reasoning? Argue your case with suitable examples while explaining the provisions relating to Contempt of Court.

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4) The Prasar Bharti organisation has come under severe criticism for its functioning with the critics questioning the need to continue with it. The argument is that with over 800 private TV channels and a sizeable number of FM channels, there is no need for the government to run All India Radio and Doordarshan. It is a mere duplication of effort and, therefore, waste of money, goes the refrain.

Build a case for or against this argument with suitable examples.

5) The recent controversy involving Amnesty India International and actress Ramya has brought the issue of sedition to the fore. A few months ago too, this issue gained prominence following the development in Jawarharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi and its student leader, Kanhaiya Kumar.

While experts like former Supreme Court judge, Santhosh Hegde, maintain that it should be retained, opponents differ. In fact, the demand for scrapping what is being termed “an outdated law” has been increasing.

Give your views on the subject while explaining the law of Sedition. Should it be scrapped or reviewed or left as it is? Support your answer with examples.

6)Of late, the Courts in India have been taking increasing interest in imposing dress codes on people visiting temples and allied religious places. This is in addition to the bans they imposed on traditional sports like Jallikattu, cock fights and other races involving birds and animals. Likewise, the courts have lifted the restrictions which mosques at Haji Ali and temples in Pune, for instance, had imposed on women’s entry.

These developments have led to resentment among a section of the society which feels that the courts are over reaching; interfering with their right to Freedom of Speech and Expression granted under the Constitution. Women’s and animal protection groups, however, have hailed the interventions by the court.

Give your response with suitable examples while explaining the right to Freedom of Speech and Expression under the Indian Constitution.

**II.Answer the following question (COMPULSURY)** **1X10=10**

7) Explain the following computer terms in under 50 words each.

a) Hacking

b) Sniffing

c) Software Piracy

d) Plagiarism

e) Spam

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