

ESSAY

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate

- Both sections are compulsory.
- Attempt an essay from each section.
- Each essay carries 125 marks.
- Write each essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- After finishing the first essay, attempt the next on a fresh Page.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

(Examiner will pay special attention to the candidate's grasp of his/her material, its relevance to the subject chosen, and to his/ her ability to think constructively and to present his/her ideas concisely, logically and effectively).

Remarks

Name Aspit Vijaywargiya

Mobile No. _____

Date 13/10

Signature Aspit

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

SECTION - A

1. Most of the luxuries and many of the so-called comforts of life are not only indispensable, but positive hindrances to the elevation of mankind.
2. Money is the barometer of a society's virtue.
3. The price of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it.
4. To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.

SECTION - B

1. Censorship is at odds with a knowledge economy.
2. Smart Village, not city is the need of India.
3. The global refugee problem and cry against emigrants in various parts of the world have demolished the myth of a global village.
4. Banking is a tug of war between profitability and credibility, but the Indian banks have disappointed on both these counts.

Remarks

Section A

To improve is to change; to be perfect is to
change often.

Change is the only unchanging thing. Everything around us including human beings are in ^{the} state of dynamism. These changes could be in the intangible form like values, beliefs or in the tangible forms like infrastructural change; This dynamism ~~only has ensured that co-existence is~~ necessary to enable progress. The stagnation is often considered similar to death, decay. This is because anything which is not changing gradually become misfit with the ever changing environment and thus loses relevance. Therefore, it is said that change is a necessity to be relevant and to improve.

However, one change or few changes are not enough rather changes should be made according to the environment be it few or large number to stay relevant or perfect. This notion is not only true for human beings at individual level but also social, political, legal, economic levels.

At the individual level, human beings carry certain beliefs, opinions etc. These are outcome of his/her education, upbringing, culture, family etc. These helps him in making sense of the situation, to react to situation. However if these beliefs, opinions remain stagnant and do not change then the problem arise. It is these kinds of people who are called conservatists, fundamentalists. As long as

their ideals, beliefs are good, there is nothing to worry. However, if these become outdated, problems ~~like~~ arise. Terrorism, Jihadism is one of the manifestation of person refusing to change his beliefs, opinions with respect to environment.

Since individuals are part of social milieu; the aversion to change is also ~~observed~~ observed in societies. The opposition to sati, child marriage during 19th century was evident of this only. However, when these changes ultimately occurred, the state of society has improved and not worsened. This points towards importance of change.

However, these ~~are~~ one time changes like sati, Dowry etc. ~~is~~ are not the

end in itself. rather it is required other change over in society to make it perfect. For instance, still caste systems, inequality, prejudice against women, girl child etc. ~~still~~ exist, these needs to be removed to make society perfect.

Related to this aspect is the cultural aspect. Indian culture was considered to be most rich and perfect in 18-19th century because it was always in state of flux. Indian culture assimilated ~~with~~ the changes that was occurring ~~is~~ due to coming of external invaders, powers. This resulted finally into what was called "composite culture" during Mughal times.

It is however unfortunate that despite importance of continuous change to remain

relevant and perfect, lately influential groups are ~~now~~ harping on ancient culture or past culture. They are reluctant to accommodate, assimilate new values, elements of women equality, liberty, fraternity etc. Thus pushing our culture towards state of decay.

Similarly in the political realm both domestically and internationally, stakeholders are reluctant to change and thereby losing their utility.

Setting up of UNSC, IMF, World Bank was fresh breath of change in the world. These bodies played important role in prosperity and security of the world. However, these institutions who themselves are product of change are refusing to change according to the needs of time. They are opposing

reform which gives adequate representation to countries like India, Brazil etc. As a result, there is a threat that they may lose their relevance.

In the domestic realm, political parties after independence followed populism. This strategy yielded good results as it was according to the environment. However, with the rising educational and awareness level among voters, populism can't be ^{the} only strategy. Thereby, political parties which are still following populism are not getting much support while parties which are following agenda for development are getting elected for multiple times. This points towards the relevance of keeping up with change to remain perfect.

In the realm of administration, the relevance of change is more evident.

For instance, our civil services changed its nature from regulatory to developmental after independence. As a result, they were successful in carrying out activities in development spheres like education, health, infrastructure etc. However, ^{lately} the changes in administration were not enough or not according to needs of environment, therefore administration is found wanting in various cases. especially after liberalisation, privatisation reforms. Our administration has not reformed according to changes like rise in use of technology, globalisation, rise in the power of private sector, This has led to its ineffectiveness.

Further, our legal system is ~~still~~ governed by codes and act of 1860s. During

those times, these acts, codes were considered to be remarkable. However, they have not changed thereafter. Thus, these codes, acts have become irrelevant ~~for~~ present needs. ~~and~~

In economic sphere, the relevance to be consistent with change is most evident. In 1950s, recognising the environment, our policy makers embarked upon socialistic mode of economy. This approach yielded quite fruitful results in form of large capital goods infrastructures, industrial developments etc. However, our policy makers continued with this approach ~~still~~ even during the time when it was inconsistent with the environment. This ultimately led to 1991 crisis. When changes again occurred in 1991, economy again started growing.

This shows how much it is important to stay consistent with changes in environment to remain relevant, perfect.

The importance of changes has become more prominent when changes are occurring at rapid ~~stage~~ ^{pace}. Revolution in technology, computers ~~is~~ has fastened the change process. Therefore, it is necessary that individual, family, society keeps changing with the changing time. ~~For~~ If they don't do so, they jeopardise their fitness, relevance in the environment.

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Section B

Smart village, not city is the need of India

Government of India has lately embarked upon the path to create a network of smart cities across India under its smart city and AMRUT mission. These missions are expected to completely transform the urban landscape of our country. These smart cities are expected to provide quality of life to its citizens with adequate supply of water, power along with adequate waste management. Further, all these will be supported by technological intervention like smart grids, ICT tools.

However, amidst all these enthusiasm and ~~to~~ ^{with respect to} ~~upon~~ smart cities, ~~also~~ basic euphoria

fact, ^{related to reality} remains ignored. According to census 2011, 70% of our population lives in rural areas. Therefore, this thrust by government on smart cities rather than smart villages ~~poses a~~ ^{point towards an} enigma.

Grandhiji, a century ago, said "India lives in its villages". This still hold true after 100 years... with more than 50% of workforce, 70% of our population still lives in rural areas in villages. This makes the case for smart village more strong.

~~Over~~ The case for smart village becomes more positive when we look upon the poverty levels, human indicators levels. In all these levels, rural population seems to be lagging

far behind its urban counterparts. The quality of life in rural areas is far from desirable. Thus, there is a large rural-urban divide. And by giving thrust upon smart cities, government is only ~~also~~ exacerbating this divide between proverbial "India and Bharat".

Therefore, from above, it could be said that case for smart village is favoured due to desirability of inclusive growth also. Only development of smart village would lead to growth and development of large share of population (70%). Thereby, contributing towards the idea of inclusive growth. This proposition is further strengthened by the fact that majority of our SCs/ST

population lives in the villages. And any inclusive growth can't happen without SC/ST getting developed. ~~the~~

Further, agriculture continues to provide employment to 50% of our workforce.

And, in near future, it will remain the case as ~~the~~ service sector is not labour intensive while manufacturing base will take time to grow. Therefore, population dependent on agriculture will continue to live in villages.

Thereby, it is necessary to focus on smart villages.

Even on the finance and cost basis, developing a smart village is cheaper, than developing a smart city. This is because of factors like cheaper land cost, no developed infrastructure,

less vehicles etc. Thus, focussing on smart village is also economic no brainer.

Further, our cities are facing the problem due to excessive migration from rural areas to cities. This migration often results in increasing slum areas, rising rents, inadequate civic amenities in cities, inadequate capacity of transport. All these ills will be addressed when migration gets lowered. The smart village has large potential towards this objective as smart village would ensure adequate livelihood opportunities to rural population. Thus, obviating the need for migration to urban areas.

Moreover, smart villages will also aid towards the balanced

regional development. This is because of the fact that most of the regions that are backward are of rural origin. Therefore, smart villages will aid in their development.

~~Now the question~~ Thus, all of the above makes strong case for ~~smart~~ smart villages. Now the question arises

Now the question arises, what will be the features of smart village. Smart village should entail features which would improve the quality of life of rural folks.

Foremost in this regard is the availability of basic amenities like power, water, waste management etc. This should be the utmost priority.

Secondly, since there is large disguised unemployment in Agriculture, there is need - for promotion of non farm enterprises to attract extra ~~labour~~ labour ~~in~~ from Agriculture.

Thirdly, social infrastructure like education, health is important. In this context, e-education, e-health should be present to improve human development indicators.

Fourthly, entrepreneurship needs to be promoted using models like SUG etc. to improve labour force participation of women.

Fifth, access to internet services so as to access information, reach out to other places etc. This could be very helpful in selling agricultural or any other produce. These are some of the most important

features that should be the part of smart village.

Thus, above discussion makes the case how smart village will yield more results as compared to smart city.

But having binary between the two is unnecessary. This is because of the fact that as country develops, urban population is bound to increase, therefore focus on cities should also be there.

Thus, smart city should also be part of government agenda. though major focus should be on smart villages.

In this context, recent government initiatives like DDU- Urban mission which is modelled on PURA is significant step. The mission aims

to develop 300 village clusters. But, it should ~~be~~ not be the only step rather other steps needs to be taken to realise the concept of smart village.

Grameen Vidyutikaran Mission to enable rural electrification, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for rural roads, National Rural Livelihood mission etc. all these programmes need to be given adequate thrust for realising the smart village.

~~Along~~ No smart village could be realised if religion, caste based discrimination is allowed to perpetuated. Therefore strong action, laws needs to be legislated against any caste bias. At the same time education, awareness regarding ill of caste system needs to be promoted. Smart village, concept, if realised, will

help in achieving the Gandhian idea of "Gram Swaraj" where village ^{will act as} ~~is~~ basic unit on which everything is built upon. This consequently will realise the Sarvodaya.

All ~~these~~ therefore above discussion makes the case that pursuing "smart village" is not only smart but a smarter idea for government.

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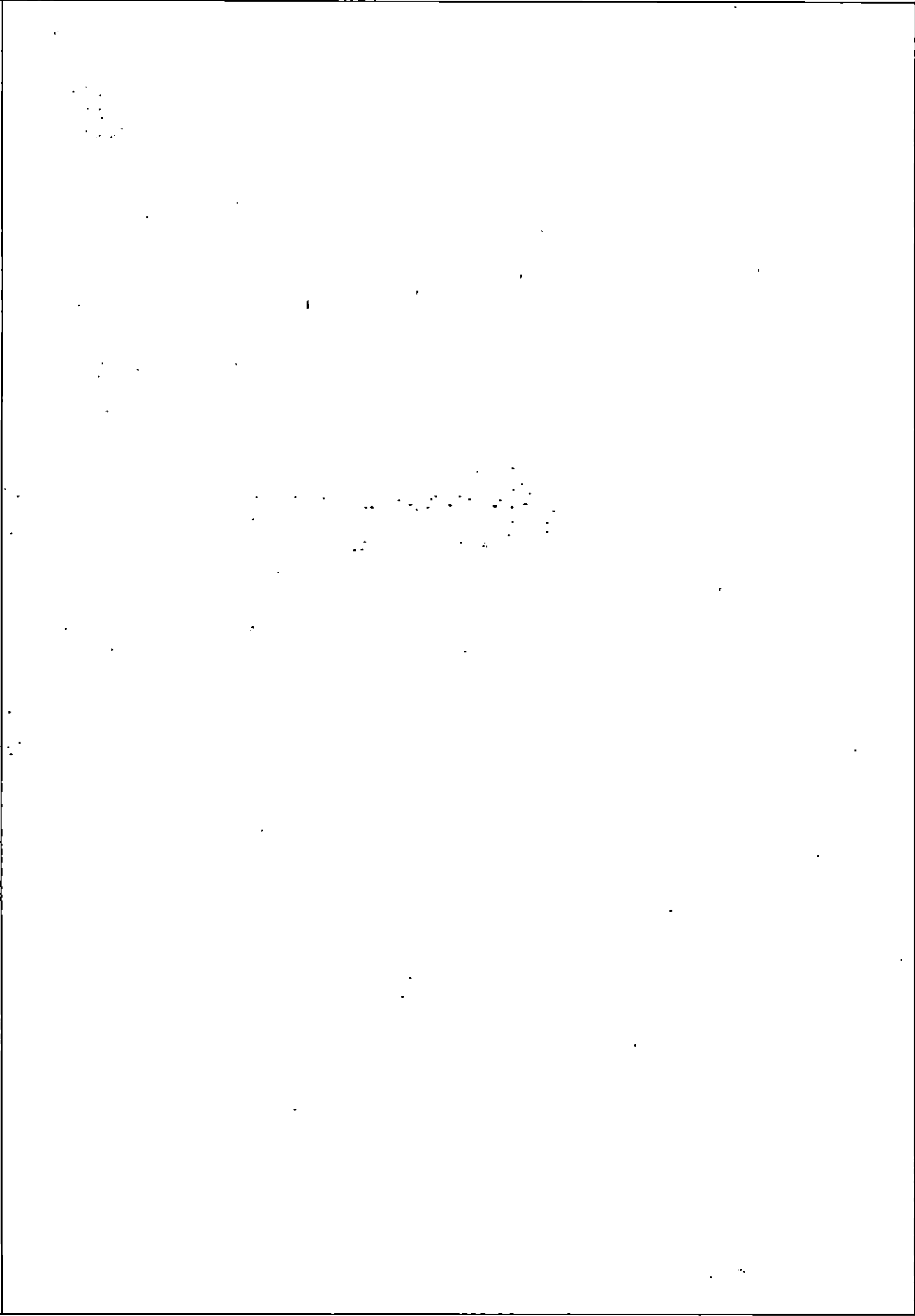
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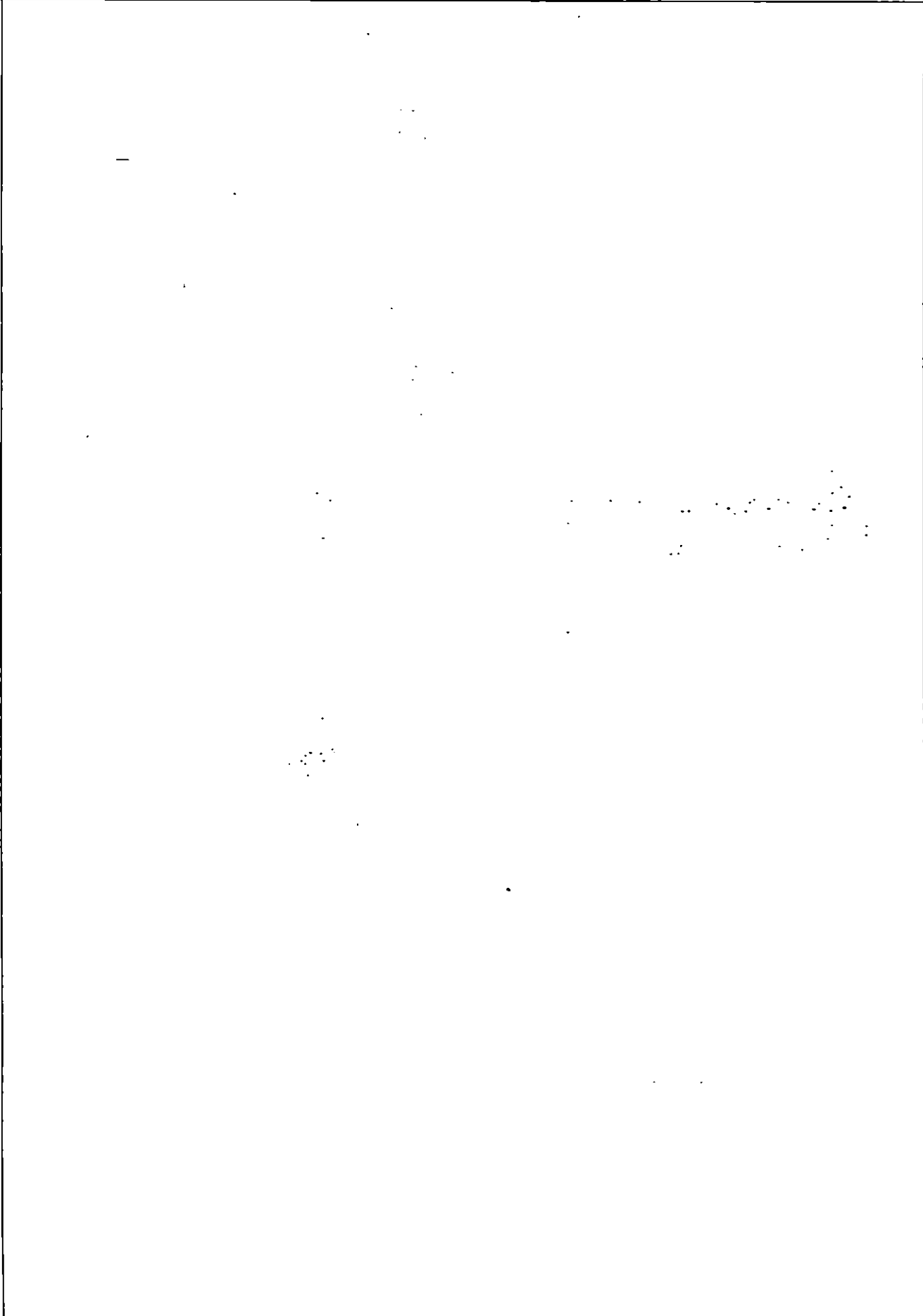
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