

Essay

Time Allowed: 3 hrs

Max. Marks: 250

Instruction to Candidates

- Attempt any two essay.
- Each essay carries 125 marks.
- Write each essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

Remarks

(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).

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

Name DIYAKAR T.S

Mobile No: _____

Date 10-10-2015

Signature Diyaakar T.S

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1. The danger of the past was that men became slaves the danger of future is that they may become robots.
2. A free and fair election is not possible without media.
3. Indian Democracy at Crossroads: Need of Good Governance

\wedge
 people v/s state & ppl & state

- (1) First essay is v. gud -
 only two short comings are there
 (9) suitable illustration will increase the possibility of marks.
 (5) conclusion is not gud

- (2) second essay - few aspects missing
 - these are important
 (9) when you are analyzing democracy - try to assess india's exhibit / failures all with same suitable - facts / figures / examples etc.
 (4) why not to see the things from - readership point of view
 Role of active citizenship -

2.

A FREE AND FAIR ELECTION IS NOT
 POSSIBLE WITHOUT MEDIA

It was indeed surprising for many of us to read the same article, verbatim, published on a local politician contesting in upcoming elections in eight different news papers. Many questions hit me at once, was this somehow by mistake? How is that even possible?? Can a politician really advertise himself as such?? Why not???

However, on further contemplation, the bigger question of election, will of people and the role of media in general and in election in particular became clearer.

India has been a successful
 democratic country since its independence.
 When we chose to be a sovereign, democratic
 country at the stroke of midnight on 15th
 of August 1947 many political pundits
 dimmed that, a country as massive and
 diverse as ours, with so much poverty, illiteracy

to be successful. They indeed had a genuine reason behind that dismissal, they merely questioned the ability to conduct a free and fair election and also the ability of the people to express their will freely. What happened next in all history and India has never looked back.

The bedrock of democracy lies on the ability of the people to express their choosing unhindered. Any other way would be a recipe for chaos as we can witness in the contemporary political setup in Bangladesh. Election in ~~that~~ not a mere 5 yearly affair. It has garnered immense importance since our independence. Election Commission of India which is solely responsible for conduction this affair is constituted to ~~ensure at most independence~~ with all legal safe guards. Over the years it has adopted itself to ensure at most quality in elections. It would be remind not to mention that we have adopted electronic voting machines before many developed nations such as United Kingdom.

Media, one of the corner stone of our political system in aptly called the fourth state act as a bridge between the people and the state. It is the media which inform the people, that how their choices have faced in performance of their duties. They are conduit of information from the state to people. Be it any new schemes or programmes, policies, cautions and warnings from police etc.

not only they are sources of information, they also act as a check against the government. With their numerous sting operations they have exposed the wrongdoings of those in power. It is for this reason that the media today in itself is so powerful. It leaves an ever lasting impression on the minds of the people. It can make or break careers. It would not be surprising that every organisation today has a dedicated public relations team working to put out a positive image of themselves out in the public. Then our obvious question would be, then why not a politician himself try to put a positive vibe out in the public??

The vibrancy of democracy lies in the choice. The choice of the people to elect a candidate they deem fit. Here, the problem is two-fold - the candidate and the media ethics.

Though it is plausible for a moment to consider that he can advertise about himself, they often contain unprovable, extravagant claims, attacks on opposition party candidature. The media on the other hand has a responsible role of delivering information as is to the public. What happens to those who don't have enough money to mean to advertise themselves??

This is not the only instance that media has slipped up, either to get a higher TRP rating or increase their sales they have often violated media ethics. Such as during earthquake in Nepal by interviewing people under stress and causing panic and when they telecasted the rescue and combat operations of Mumbai police during Taj attack giving out details to attackers.

Media Ethics is thus not only responsible for a free and fair election but also the overall smooth functioning of nation. Then why would they cross this line as the obvious question on our minds. Well, the answer lies in their revenue model. Consider a newspaper with good 25 pages which is printed in colored ink with a lot of graphic images being sold for mere 4 Rupees. Obviously the contents are covered by numerous advertisements that are run on the margin of each page. So they would not think twice before running an advertisement for a local politician.

It is here that a regulating agency is required to ensure utmost independence and neutrality of the national election procedure. Pre-Commission of India, which already assumes this role must get a overhaul in its composition to ensure that no active journalist or editor or corporate banker or any person with an affiliation to political parties are not on the board.

paid news must also be made an electoral malpractice or an other feasible solution would be state sponsored air time or space on newspaper for each of the candidate to reach out to the public with their intentions while following all the norms that are applicable as during the enforcement of model code of conduct including but not limited to refraining from any personal attacks on opposition members, propoganda only on the merits of their previous work etc

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 Finally, Media also has a constructive role in the sense to bring out any malpractice in the election procedure, duplicate or bogus voter Ids. to ensure it's sanctity.

From our above discussion it is clear that media has an absolute central role in making or breaking of the elections

"The success of democracy not only lies in the leaders themselves but also in expressing the will of the people."

3.

INDIAN DEMOCRACY AT CROSSROADS : NEED OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

Democratic political setup, administration according to the will of the people, is not a new concept to us. The evidence of Sabha and Samiti from Rig Vedic age provides an irrefutable basis to our staunch belief in good governance. However, today, the state is seen as a symbol of power, oppression, corruption and has distanced people from it. This divorce of authority and accountability has led Indian democracy today at crossroads.

An the divine rule of king gave way to modern nation states. Various democratic ideas and theories have emerged and now in the theory of social contract which states that, the people are to elect their leaders freely who are bound by a social & moral contract to express the will of those who elected him. But, what happens when the elected fail??

This theory of social contract has not bode well; our government has failed spectacularly in almost all sections. Villagers have been left out of the country's magnificent growth story. Even today, many of them have no proper roads, electricity, schools, colleges, hospitals and many such basic facilities. They are living examples of everything that is bad in the system.

Low development operations, failure to bridge inequality, generate employment opportunities have left the youth only with a dismal future and are increasingly partial towards the male cause. Women even today, are not treated at par with men. Failure to generate a consensus on women's reservation bill, has only confined her to the chores of the household.

Government has sided worked in favour of a powerful few at the cost of the general public. Approvals to bauxite mining in niyamgiri hills, recent recommendations

to involve public hearings in certain cases and automatic approval to linear project by T.P.S Subramanian Committee reports and diluting social impact assessment for project while acquiring land. The recently repealed Land acquisition act have only distanced people from the govt. The morale is witnessed in the support to "FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION" led by Anna Hazare and his team and sweeping electoral win by Aravind Kejriwal in Delhi.

So, our theory of social contract is definitely put to question. What should we do when the elected bail?? Should we go for a one all encompassing take part as Anna and team asked for or in more or other way?? The answer to this question is a demand to move from supply based governance to demand based to right based to people centric governance. Thus, the theory must be extended to suit the reality i.e. people must elect their leader and demand accountability.

people today often face the problem of denial or delay of services, information asymmetry and finally not just being part of the power corridor. Government has often adopted a piecemeal approach to solve these problems.

Citizen's charter, though novel, suffers from the problem of not being in sync with the tone of governance. Enough resources are not spent in advertising the intent and the public employees who are the first level responders are not in tune with the ethos of this novel idea. It is not drafted taking all stakeholders into account not in updated regularly.

The grievance redressal officers are usually apathetic to the grievances. There would not be an RTI official nor the records are digitised. Even if requested data is provided, it is often dumped on the applicant with a lot of unnecessary data sending him to find the relevant details.

73rd and 74th Amendment to our Constitution gave constitutional status to Panchayat Raj Institution, but they also suffer from institutional problems of powers, functional and finances and have been a lost opportunity. All these have ensured that people remain distant from the government.

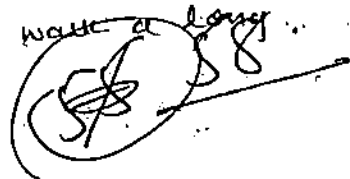
Democracy is often equated with establishment of institutions which work for the people but never people themselves as part of the institution. An example would be the recent failure in the Uttarakhand flood catastrophe. The problems were many fold. Firstly, there was no Environment amendment by an independent authority including participative citizenry for all the approvals granted to those construction of dams and deforestation activities. Secondly, the Institute to predict and provide early warnings to ~~Adm~~ disasters. National disaster management authority, though, set up at national, state and district level failed to perform a vulnerability mapping, which could have been possible by an active citizenry.

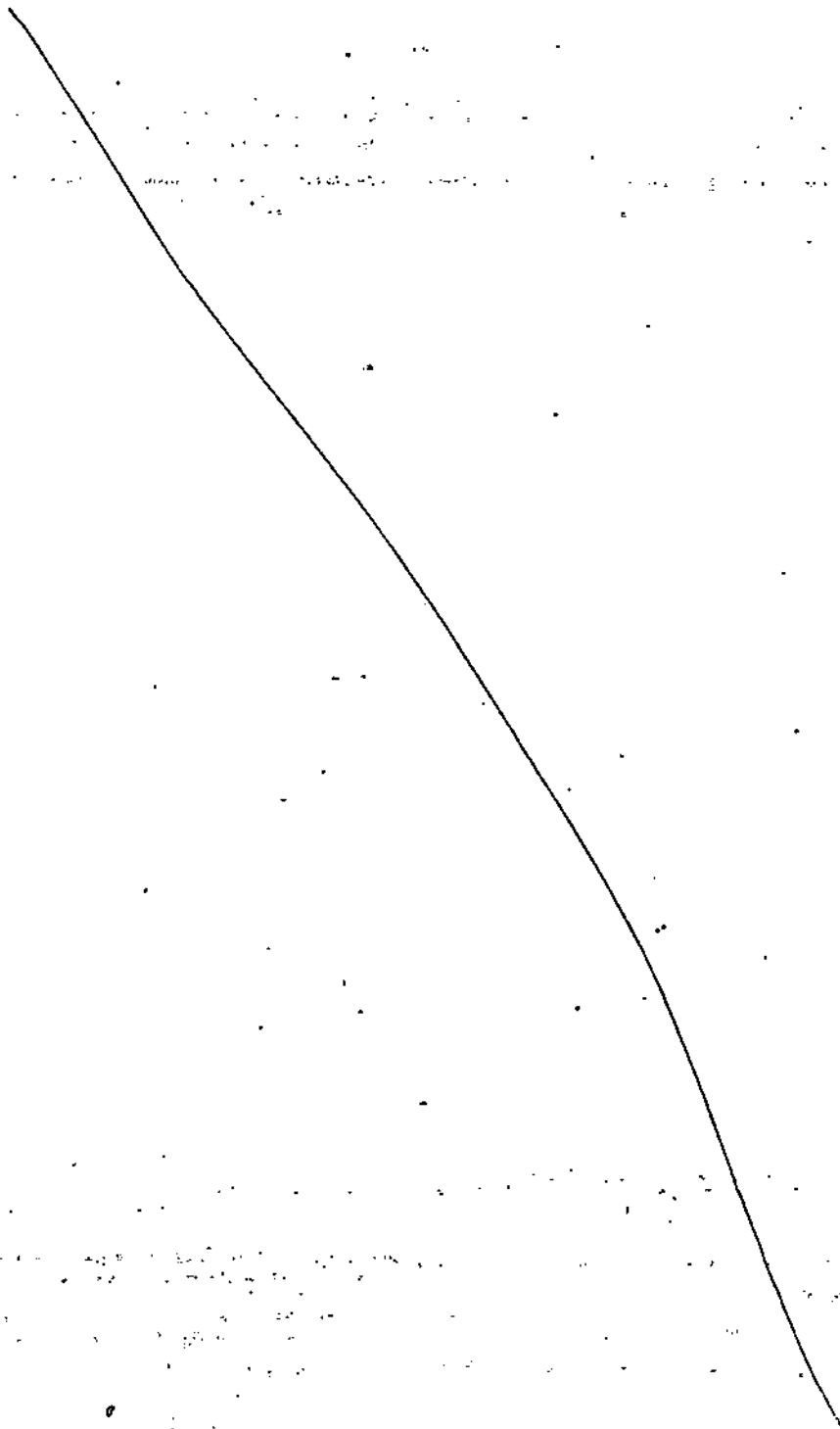
participative citizenry, in often sometimes
chided to have caused and played an
obstructionist role essentially delaying the
decision or forwarding only a select
group's interest. But never to let the
good that it brings out in far more than
such minor inconveniences. Hence we must
adopt a people centric governance and
adhere to the true principles of subsidiarity.

Citizen charter must be prepared
taking all stakeholders into account, must
be revised appropriately and the employees
attitude must be changed to align with
to ethos of service.

strong RTI rules, efficient CIC
with enough legal powers to enforce it's
decisions and finally a vibrant and
functioning panchayat are the need of the
hour.

"We have come a long way to swaraj
and yet we have to walk a long
way to swaraj."





ROUGH

It not surprising for many of us to read the same article published by a local political party in light of the

INTRO:
Same article in NH elections, it might

Why election in necessary in our country? Why does it have to be free and fair?
What is the role of media in general & in election in particular are some of the

Election in not a mere 5 yr affair: genuine substance will of ppl

F&F
ECS: photo ID, EVM, Independence

Media 4th estate (4th on ppl) freedom of press
Given such importance in it above all sentences etc.

MEDIA IS IT ETHICAL??
model of media
border own news channel

What is the problem here??
(Revenue model, ppl owning media)

(Sols)
not only media

Elections

History: Independence, Conducted our first elections
Independence
poor, illiterate, men & women
once proved wrong all too pundits.

Why free & fair election?
(Bangladesh issue)
WILL OF THE PPL

ECS: multi-membered body
Successful in a large count
Sanctity of the process
Independent functioning

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT
not to misuse the position of power;
non-judicial: no legal backing

Other measures

- ✓ Voter ID
- ✓ Money power
- ✓ Post-electoral disputes
- ✓ Need out inactive political parties

ROLE OF PPL

Separate word from
Should demand accountability

"The success of democracy not lies in its leaders but in expressing the will of people"

Media

Fourth estate
Relation b/w govt & ppl

check on govt: Exposed Public Account

Information on various issues
tax rights, new policies, prog
string operations, security info

En ppl: Supremacy overruling
make/break? Public relations a booming field
on every day today

Even

DN: Nepal: Street level interview
Tax security: telecast directly

Elections: **paid views** ⊕
opinion polls ⊕ exit polls
to get their info: they often are granted

Corporate power: targeting/obscuring
specific TV

MEDIA ETHICS

WHAT DO WE NEED: More regulation
PCI? composition ⊕ their revenue model??

Internet??

money to ppl @ salary
Electoral mal practice

Opinion polls banned by ECS
EXIT polls: caused disharmony
now EVM result summer of days

Any such news: ~~should~~
clear heading mentioning that this is an adv

Police ppl use to give caution

Anna @ Corruption

grabbing our car attacking another

Freedom of press