

Essay 1

63
125

Essay 2

64
125

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

N - good!
Please see inside for value addition.

[Signature]
[Signature]

Name SWAPNIL KHARE

Mobile No. _____

Date 05/11/16

Signature Swapnil Khan

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

SECTION - A

1. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women's empowerment.
2. Advertisement and its importance.
3. Should student in campus be indulged in politics?
- ✓ 4. What is stopping India from becoming superpower?

SECTION - B

1. The real meaning of enlightenment is to gaze with undimmed eyes on all darkness.
2. The tragedy of old is not that one is old but that one is young.
3. Role of media in election.
4. What a Population of 7 Billion People Means for the Planet.

Remarks

SECTION - A

WHAT IS STOPPING INDIA FROM BECOMING A SUPER POWER

A superpower is a nation-state that leads the world by example. Such a power has resolved most of the challenges it faces at home and thus plays an important role in shaping global geo-political and geo-economic affairs. A superpower also has a certain hegemonic influence over other countries. India, on the other hand, is struggling with domestic challenges and its presence in global affairs is much less than its potential.

The Indian social structure is discriminatory in nature, which prevents all citizens from equally contributing to the nation's progress. Further unlike other emerging countries like China, India's manufacturing sector is struggling. The development ^{progress} on the human development front is also not enough. Corruption and

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unprofessional bureaucracy also plague India. Lack of genuine scientific innovation and self-sufficiency in defence are also holding India back. The paragraphs that follow would look at challenges in the social, economic, political, scientific, and magic sectors that are preventing India's rise as a superpower. Some external factors, which are outside India's control would also be discussed. Certain suggestions would also be given to facilitate India's rise to its rightful place as a global superpower. For, a look at India's past as a superpower.

The Indus valley civilization was an architectural superpower. The Indus people did not have huge armies to fight and conquer lands, but the level of city planning achieved by them was unparalleled. Covered drains, public bath and granary storages were not found with such density in other

civilizations of the time. In the medieval era, the imperial Cholas were a naval superpower and they conquered territories in Southeast Asia, that is South East Asia. India also exported its soft power in the form of Buddhism, which spread to many countries like China, Japan, Sri Lanka and countries in the South East Asia. The modern period however was a period of stagnation and lack of technical and industrial advancement. This made India a colony at the hands of the British.

India's colonization was a prime reason for her present rise as a superpower. The colonial economic drain took wealth from economic activities in India to England. The British advanced the interests of British capitalists and investors than those of Indian people. The government promoted railways for their own export-import operations than for the sake of India. This was accompanied with

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neglect of agriculture, destruction of traditional handicrafts and exploitation by the British officials.

This led to India being at a position of disadvantage in 1947 when compared to other countries. India

had to accomplish in few decades what others did

over centuries. However, the performance of Indian economy ^{post-independence} has been encouraging but not sufficient to make India a global superpower.

India, today has the largest number of poor in the world. This unfortunate statistic cannot go along with the top of a superpower. Further

there has been a stagnation in agriculture with yields not increasing in recent times. The real

wages of farmers is not rising and there is disguised unemployment in agriculture. The

industrial sector has failed to create opportunities to enable people to move to it from the agriculture sector.

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The industry is riddled by its own set of challenge. India found a lowly 130 on World Bank's Ease of doing business. Land acquisition laws are very stringent in India. There is need for simplification of labour laws. There is also a lack of skilled labour force. China on the other hand has tackled these issues with care and is today called the 'World's factory'. India cannot become a superpower without a growing and dynamic industrial sector.

Further, India's performance in the Human Development Index is also quite poor. Lots of Indians still do not have access to good education facilities. The overall literacy is quite poor. Similarly, the health indicators are ^{also} not encouraging. India has high levels of infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, malnourishment. Half of India still

defeates in the oper, citizens who do not have good education and health, cannot utilize the opportunities available to the fullest extent. Thus, poor human development is an obstacle to India's rise as a superpower.

It is not just economies that has stopped India from becoming a superpower. The social structure that exists in India is also responsible for India's shortcomings. Indian society is divided into various castes with well defined caste-hierarchies. Many Indians are faced to work in caste-based occupations. If Indians continue to remain fixed in such archaic institutions, they cannot contribute to India's rise as a superpower.

India also suffers from patriarchy and lack of equal opportunities for women. India has one of the lowest female labour force participation rates (LFPR)

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in the world. This means that roughly half the population lacks equal opportunity for growth and development. Similarly, schedule castes, schedule tribes, OBCs, minorities face various forms of discrimination and obstacles. India cannot rise as a superpower unless the growth is inclusive.

India has done comparatively better in the political sector. The source of Indian polity is the Constitution which provides wide ranging rights to the people. India thus has a functioning democracy. The rise of US as a superpower had a component of democracy in its appeal against the Soviet Union. However, there is still huge scope of improvement.

The participatory and grassroots governance is poor in India. The panchayats and local bodies do not have power or finances to facilitate development. This is in contrast to Mayor system in

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US where mayas have powers to encourage projects based on local needs. Further, there is a lack of accountability and transparency in the governance structure. There is also huge prevalence of corruption. The bureaucracy lacks professionalism and is infamous for red-tapism. These limiting factors in the political sphere prevent India's rise as a global superpower.

Further, there is a lack of domestic scientific base which is a prerequisite for any superpower. India can't both be a superpower and the largest importer of arms in the world at the same time. India is also dependent on other countries for nuclear technology, ^{and} GM technology.

Also, the educational and research parameters of Indian science are far from satisfactory. The number of patents per population (capita) is very low compared to western countries and even China. Institutes

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While IITs, IIMs, IISERs, IISCs, JNU have produced good professionals, but research output has been poor. India's restrictive IPP regime is also said to be a reason for poor research output. Without a good research base, India can't claim to be a superpower.

There are several factors in the strategic sector that have retarded India's rise. India follows a neighbourhood first policy which is commendable, but it means the risk of playing a very limited role in global affairs. India had no involvement in major geopolitical events in Syria, Iraq and Ukraine. India's involvement in the Pacific and the disputed South China Sea is also limited.

Further, India is surrounded by two hostile neighbours on both sides which are against India's progress. India faces cross-border terrorism from

Pakistan which is implicitly supported by China. China has also acted against India on international arena on issues like entry into NSG and Mahmood Azhar sanctions.

India also runs the risk of being tied up in old ideas of geopolitics. Until recently, India was a firm advocate of Non-alignment, which has lost its relevance in the post-cold war era. India unfortunately still plays the game of 'balancing' act with US and Russia. This is against genuine multi-alignment in today's multi-polar world. India cannot be a global power if it is stuck in ideas from the last century.

There are many external factors that have restricted rise of India as global power. restrictive immigration policies, trade protectionism, discriminatory WTO policies, lack of quota reforms in World Bank

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and IMF are only some of the challenges that India faces in its ~~rise~~ as a superpower. The Paris and Kyoto agreements have put further restrictions on Indian industries, which may hurt growth, atleast in the short run. India has also faced opposition from existing P-5 members of the UNSC in its bid for inclusion into the UN Security Council. These factors have compounded and hindered India's ~~rise~~ as a superpower.

India has to pull up its socks and improve in various fronts if it wants to become a superpower. India must reduce government intervention in order to produce industrial growth. India must also work on reducing poverty. India needs to create jobs in industrial sector and skill people to move them from the agriculture to the industry sector. India must also work on improving ease of doing business.

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Further, through welfare schemes or otherwise, the human development indicators need to be improved so that all citizens can gain from the growth story. India also needs to make its policy more accountable and to reduce corruption.

India should also promote grassroots research and actively pursue defence modernisation. India should take active role in advancement of global issues such as Syria, Iraq and the fight against terror. India should also take support of other developing and emerging economies in creation of a new global economic order through New Development Bank (NDB) and BRICS Contingency Reserve Arrangements (CRA). India must gain support for its entry into institutions of global governance such as UNSC and NSG.

Finally, India must export its soft power. Indian soft power is already gaining recognition worldwide.

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Yogo, Buddhism, Bollywood, Indian music and dance are gaining global popularity. They will help India in attaining a cultural influence over the world.

The above paragraphs have explored the difficulties India faces in coming ahead, which thus present its rise as a global superpower. Certain ways in which these difficulties can be tackled were also discussed. The recent years have seen the rise of China as a superpower. But, its behaviour in the South China Sea indicates that its rise is not going to be a peaceful one. The 21st century is to be an Asian century and India has an important role to play. India is today the world's largest, fastest growing big economy, which gives an indication that India is moving towards its role as a superpower. Given China's behaviour, the world is waiting for a peaceful and democratic superpower to emerge. India must not disappoint the world.

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Every thing is fine ~~x~~ but write - up should be precise and concise / connected and to the point (to the point)

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SECTION - BROLE OF MEDIA IN ELECTIONS

Media is often called the "fourth pillar of democracy". Under the scheme of separation of powers, the executive, legislature and the judiciary are kept in balance through checks and balances. The media has the central role of keeping check on all the 3 organs of the government. During elections, when people choose their representatives, the role becomes all the more important.

Media helps in voter education, reaching different parts of the society, conveying the ideas of the candidates to the masses, checking electoral malpractices and so on. Media can also assist the Election Commission in ensuring that the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is followed in letter and spirit. Thus, the role of media in an election is crucial. At the same

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time, media faces challenges such as paid news, fear of a ban, restricted freedom of expression and so on. The paragraphs that follow explore the role of the media during an election, the challenges that media faces and ways to counter such challenges. Just a look at the role of media in voter Education.

Every year, the media runs campaigns to encourage the voters to 'get out and vote'. Many of these campaigns are targeted at youth and first time voters. Many times, they also explain the ways in which a voter can register and the procedure of voting at the electoral ~~off~~ polling booth. The US media is presently educating people from different states on the procedure of getting registered to vote in their state. Further, the media also educates the voters about caution to be followed at the polling station, the possible electoral malpractices and other dos and don'ts. These awareness campaigns go a long way in enhancing the

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turnout in the elections. This is then a crucial role as any functioning democracy must have good participation and educated citizens for it to be a democracy in the true sense.

Media also plays an important role in reaching different sections of the society. To the poor and illiterate farmer, TV and Radio are the only ways to know about the elections. TV also helps homemakers get more aware of the elections.

The younger generation who are more tech savvy get to know about the elections through social media and digital media. The educated sections who yearn for a more detailed analysis, turn to good newspapers. Thus, media through its different forms plays the role of reaching out the different sections with information about the elections.

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Further, through coverage of rallies, speeches and Path Yahas of the various candidates, the media takes the ideas of these candidates to the common people. According to Rajdeep Sardesai, media played a crucial role in the win of The BJP as it covered almost every speech and rally of its prime ministerial candidate. Thus, media helps the voters get better information about the differences in ideas, ideologies and personalities of the different parties and candidates. Without this knowledge, the voters' vote would not be an informed one and the democracy would remain a shallow one.

The media also aids the Election Commission in the enforcement of Model Code of Conduct. Media keeps a check on poll finances and funding and ensures that these are within stipulated limits. Further, media checks the distribution of money and liquor during the elections. It was due

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to media's proactive role that the Election Commission took the unprecedented step of cancelling elections in 2 constituencies in Tamil Nadu due to money power.

Media can also check electoral malpractice at the booth level. In India, events such as booth capturing, vote rigging, unregistered voters voting etc have become a thing of the past due to media's coverage of these events in extreme detail. Reports in media about such incidents has even led to cancellation of polls and re-elections in the past.

Media can also help in bringing out undisclosed or suppressed information out in the open. Many times politicians declare wrong assets, and educational qualifications in elections. Media's vigilance has led to such information to emerge and

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even mindless had to resign over false educational qualifications. In the US, media played an important role in bringing out a tape from 2005 of Donald Trump in which he claims to 'grab women by the genital'. Opinion polls have shown that this scandal led to decrease in popularity of the candidate. Media also does 'ring operations' to detect unethical practices such as selling of tickets.

Media can also play a role in tracking progress of previous government. Many times, promises are made and forgotten. But the media, can educate people as to whether the promises made in previous elections were fulfilled by the government. This also leads to more realistic promises in the elections by candidates. Further, many news media outlet also do 'fact-check' of various election speeches, rallies and debates. A candidate in US elections faced criticism when he said that premiums for health care had risen

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by 60-70%. While fact-check revealed that the rise was just around 20%. Thus, keeping track of progress and fact-checking can make the decision of voters governed by facts and not rhetoric.

While the role of the media is ~~thus~~ quite crucial during elections, media has its own set of problems which need to be tackled.

The most unfortunate and unethical media malpractice is 'paid news'. This is a violation of democratic principle as money is used to influence the vote of the people. Further, many times, the media openly takes sides. In the recent US elections, New York Times and the Washington Post have openly said that a candidate is 'not fit to be the president'. This leads to biased form of reporting and it can lead to loss of faith of people in the media.

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The state media outlets are now day-by-day becoming mouthpieces of the government. AIR and DD News hardly ever critically analyse government schemes. Further, before elections, they are used for an election blitzkrieg. The private news channels are also not truly free. Many private media outlets depend on the government for funds, tax rebates and so on. They also organise conferences and mega events with attendance of important functionaries like the Prime Minister. This erodes their independence and freedom to criticise the government.

Further many politicians own shows in the media outlets. The media-politician-businessman nexus makes a mockery of democracy. The media too is not free of blame as it involved in blackmail and threat of release of sting tapes. No debate in the media too has been reduced to sensationalism and

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Often the debate is on personalities and not on issues. This is unfortunately true also for the US elections where the elections in the media has been projected as a 'clash of personalities'. Finally, media also faces threat of ban in case of unfavourable reporting. Those not towing the line of the government are banned on the flimsy ground of 'national security'.

The above seems to indicate that there has been a gradual degeneration in the quality of reporting by the media. The media must take certain steps to counter the challenges. The media should avoid taking sides in the elections as it is threat to independence of media and can influence the voters' minds. The government should avoid meddling in media through direct or indirect means. There is a need for a "Freedom of Media Act".

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which is in place in some countries. This will avoid the conflict of interests and the media-businessman-politician nexus. The news outlet should clearly declare their connections to politicians and also the funds that they have received from various individuals or organisations.

The media should also adopt ethical standards of reporting. It should avoid paid news and report to the EC about such incidences. Media should debate on issues and not personalities. Any news debate should be a forum for expression of ^{views and} information and not a slanging match. The media should resist government pressures and cover political events from all political parties.

The above paragraphs have explained the role of media in the elections, challenges faced by media and certain ways to counter such challenges.

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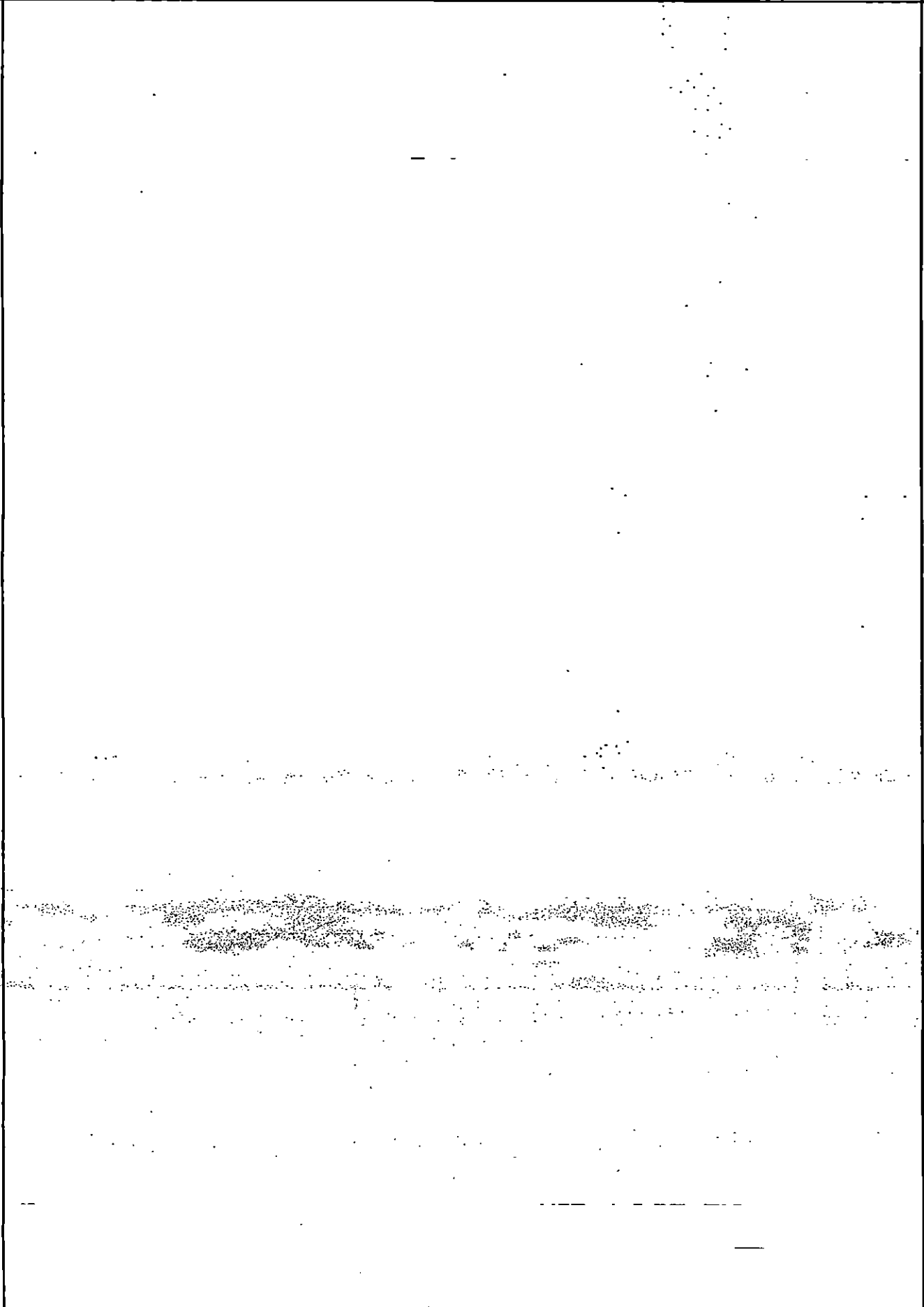
were also discussed. The role of media during elections is immense. The media should recognize its responsibility and do everything in its might for keeping electoral malpractices in check. The media helps create an educated voter base which is very essential for a functioning democracy. The other parts of the society such as citizens, NGOs, civil society, pressure groups, think tanks and intellectuals should also aid the media in playing its role. President Pranab Mukherjee has said that what makes India's democracy unique is its tradition of "debate, discussion & dissent".

The media enables the society to indulge in all three of the qualities and hence helps in continuing India's democratic tradition, more so during elections. Precision can improve your marks

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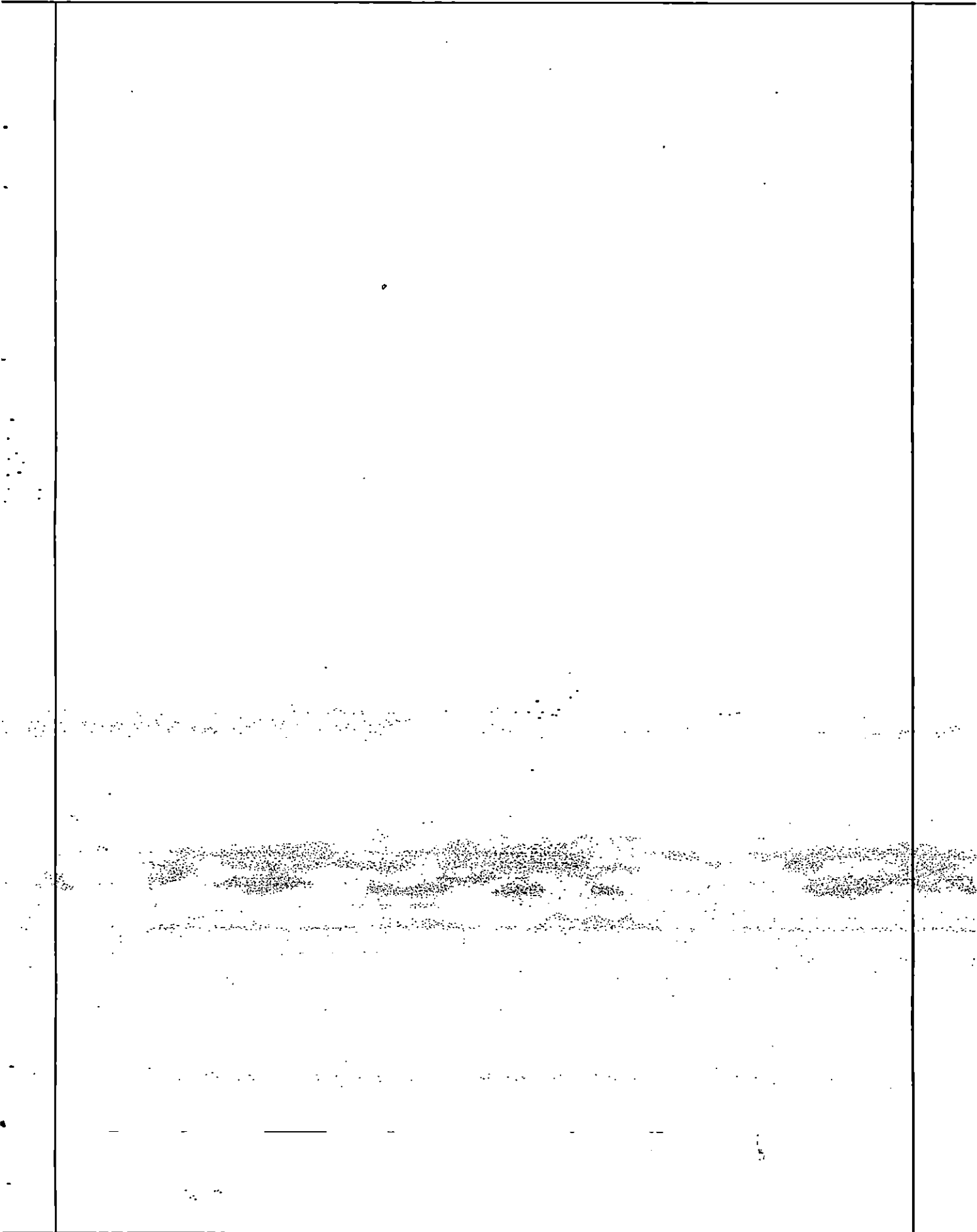
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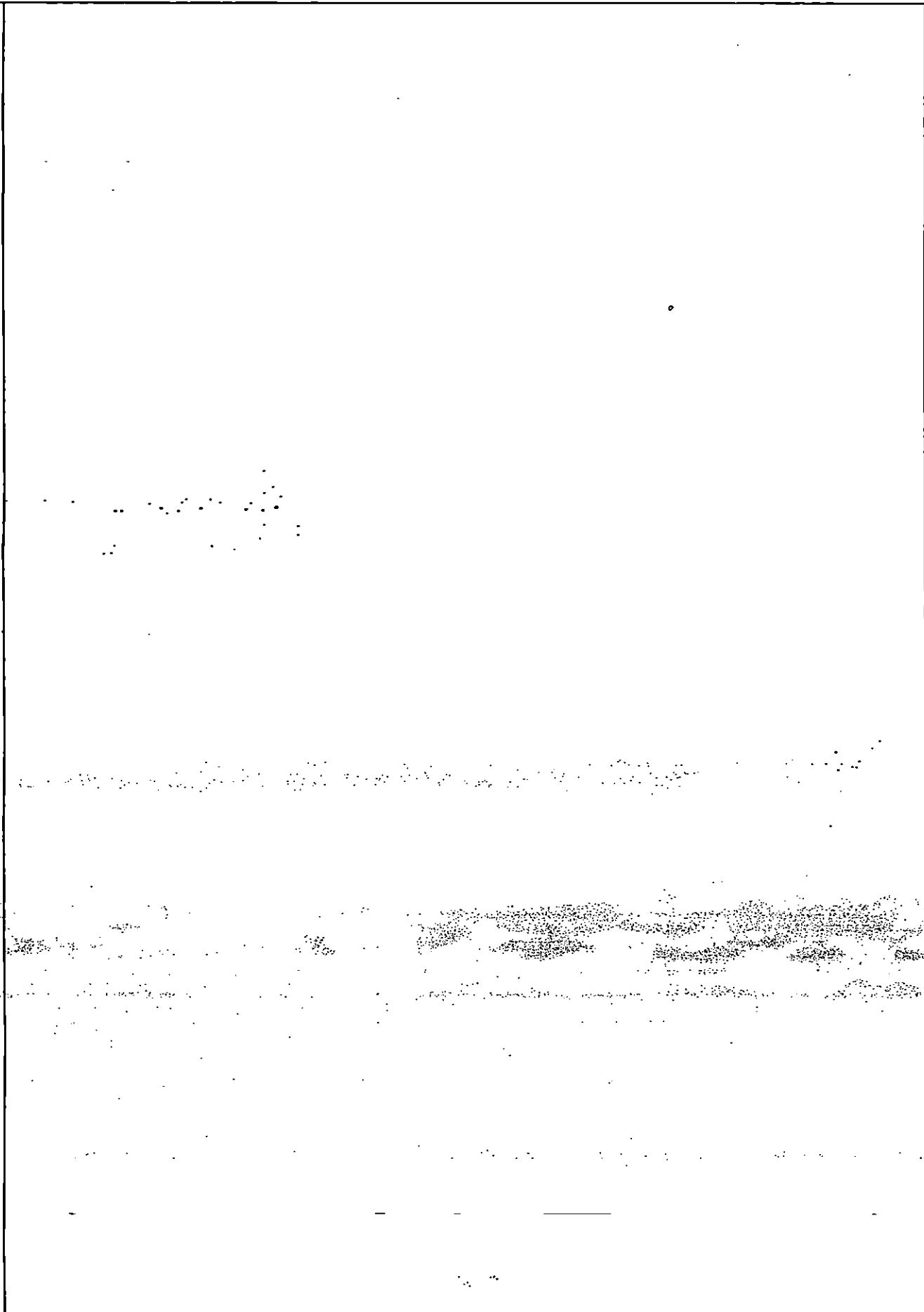
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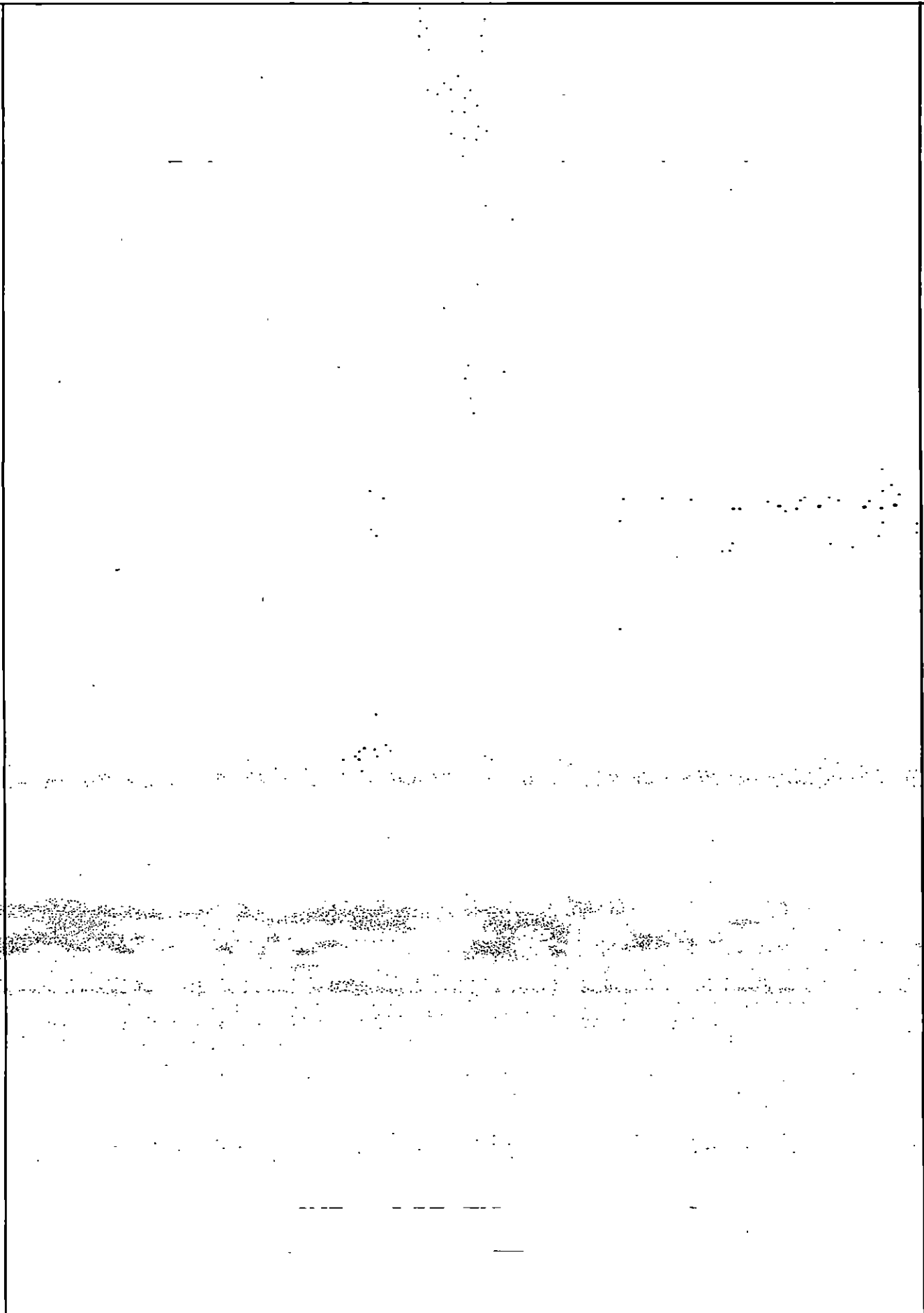
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