

Essay 1

$\frac{68}{125}$

Essay 2

$\frac{67}{125}$

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

Keep your natural flare
Clarity, precision, concise presentation and analytical framework - everything on your side! God bless you so that you maintain your quality! I guess marks won't be a problem!

M. Gupta
S.H.

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

Name Rohit Vyas

Mobile No. _____

Date 11/11/16

Signature Rohit Vyas

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.

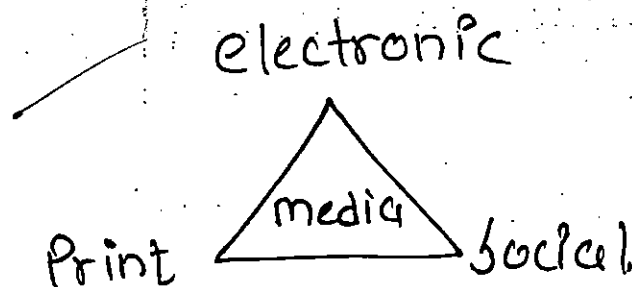
Remarks

Section B

Role of media in elections

Introduction

The recently conducted US presidential elections highlights the crucial role played by media in elections. Without media and elections, democracy has no meaning. The 21st century, with technological advancements in recent times have acquired a predominant role in electoral process. Media is playing a very influential role in elections whether it is a democracy or an autocracy. In the former it aids the democratic process whereas in the latter it sustains the autocratic powers. The various forms of media



play both positive and ~~negative~~ role

Process
conclude
Excellent
intro!

Remarks

in elections. This essay will analyse the role of all kinds of media in electoral process.

2) Role of media

2.1) Positive role of media in electoral process.

Elections are festivals of democracy which bring together people to the election booth despite differences of caste, class, gender, religion.

It is in this very process, media plays a crucial role.

Media is a tool for empowerment of citizen. It shapes opinion of people on matters of importance. It gives information on the performance of the government and role played by opposition. Before advent of electronic and digital media, people used to rely on newspapers for information. But with technological advancements today information on governance are

Remarks

available instantaneously.

Through debates and discussions on television channels, people ~~are~~ become awareness of various viewpoints and nuances of government policies. Live telecast of proceedings in the national legislatures are available on media. People can see their representatives on T.V. and can judge their performance.

In the globalised world, media brings views of expatriates to local mainstream and apprise local population of the view of foreign countries on governance of the country. People can take informed decisions while casting their vote.

Media also ensures accountability of political executive. After winning elections politicians tend to forget their constituency but media through their camera lens or editorials puts the elected representatives under public gaze.

Media exposes the corrupt practices of politicians through sting operations and ensures ethical polity. For e.g. After Tehelka expose, action was taken over a leader of a political party.

Media offers opportunity to both politicians and people to interact with each other and act as a bridge between them. For instance the debates of US presidential candidates are televised all over the world. Media through editorials, tweets, programs inform political parties about issues faced by people which can be incorporated into election manifestos.

Media also help in ensuring free and fair elections. In this it acts as a friend of Election commission. It brings to light several electoral malpractices like use of muscle and money power, distribution of

Remarks

liquor etc. These malpractices vitiate the electoral process and are a fraud on the democracy. Media through its activism ensures that such practices are brought to books. Newspapers and TV channels disseminate promises made by parties in their manifestos. Media also details the educational qualifications, criminal cases pending etc. of candidates thereby ensuring openness and transparency.

Simple but very relevant focused proposition

Media deepens the democracy by informing citizens about electoral process thereby increasing their participation in elections. It is due to print, electronic and social media's efforts that the past election (general) saw one of the highest voter turnout. In conflict prone areas like Jammu and Kashmir, sensitisation by media encouraged people to participate in elections in large numbers despite calls given by separatists to boycott them.

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Social media had a revolutionary impact on elections. Political parties and leaders are increasingly resorting to social media for connecting with people. Twitter, Facebook, whatsapp have enabled leaders to interact with large number of people from comfort of their homes. Social media has also given rise to citizen journalism which in turn is keeping political executive on its toes.

Thus media not only in India but across all democratic world have played important role in electoral process. Newspapers like The Indian express stood for democracy during emergency when even Judiciary buckled. This shows that media as 4th pillar of democracy is as important if not more than other pillars in ensuring social empowerment. But media's role in elections have also been criticised and condemned from several quarters.

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2.2 > Questionable or negative role of media in electoral process.

The failure of American media to correctly predict election results or failure of media in UK to predict Brexit points towards limitations of media. Stories are fabricated or created in studios without proper groundwork or investigation. Due to rising costs and cut-throat competitions media houses are resorting to short-cuts which are affecting quality of information.

It has been also observed that media houses be it newspapers or TV channels are politically polarised which was clearly visible in recently held US elections. The overlapping of ownership and editorship and corporate and foreign ownership of media houses are hurting the independence of media. TV programmes and news articles and columns are heavily politicised. Even

news items are politically coloured. These practices tend to influence elections in a negative manner.

Voters in the absence of objective information tend to vote for parties with rhetoric rather than reason.

According to Election Commission of India phenomenon of paid news is a major threat to free and fair elections. Disguised paid news are rampant which impact election process. Further media sensationalism also has potential to swing direction of elections.

Elections at local panchayati levels and in North East region are largely ignored by main stream media. This robs viewers of opportunity to take holistic view of issues faced by country.

Although a tool for accountability, media

Fails to perform its role effectively due to yellow journalism. Important issues take backseat and focus is put more on sensationalist news items.

Social media despite its democratic character has come in the line of fire of critics. Trolling of opponents, use of abusive language etc. vitiate the election process. Due to instantaneity of social media, information is not corroborated which results in rumour mongering. Political parties have setup war rooms with automated bots to troll the opponents.

This shows that there is need for holistic reforms to ensure that media play its rightful role.

3) Reform Measures

Self regulation is the best regulation especially for media whose independence is guaranteed by constitution. It will increase the credibility of media and will ensure the faith of citizens in media

is maintained.

Further legal measures can be taken to ensure that independence of media, its objectivity and neutrality can be ensured. Model code of conduct can be legalised with compulsory debates of candidates to be printed/televised on media.

Media also needs to cover local elections esp. urban government and panchayat elections. This will ensure that local elections are also as free and fair as local elections. More coverage should be given to issues pertaining to North East region. This will reduce the racial attacks and will ensure emotional integration of region.

4) Conclusion

Thus media has played both positive and negative role in elections. Its constructive role in elections over the

Remarks

years has strengthened the democracy. Jasmine revolution in Tunisia and its subsequent democratisation, vindicates the power of media. Thus reforms should be taken along with maintaining independence so that media can serve as bedrock and foundation of democracy.

68
125

clarity, precision, relevance and concise with a good analytical framework and good content!
excellent!

Remarks

Section A

What is stopping India from becoming a superpower.

Yunan Roma Misra Sub Mit
Gaye Janhan se.

Lekin Abhi he Baki Namonishan
Humara

Kuch Baat He ke Hasti Mitkati
Nahi Hamari

Sadiyon se Raha He Dushman ^{Dure} ~~Dore~~
Jahan Hamara.

— iqbal

Iqbal through these lines in Awami Tarana has justified the demand of India to earn its rightful place in comity of superpowers. Home to one of the oldest civilisations, nearly 3000 years ago India was a trade giant of the world. Tzar of Russia rightfully asserted that trading with India is trading with whole world.

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But today India aspires to be a superpower.

A superpower is a nation which has considerable weight globally, which influence the international affairs. In present context it means having a sizable defence forces, a indigenous arms industry, mature and cognition based polity, progressive culture and society, growing and developed economy etc. Entry into and membership of elite groupings etc. like UNSC, NSG etc also signifies a superpower today.

India and China started their journey together in 1950's but today China is regarded as a superpower and India is not. Although some common indicators, there cannot be any universal parameters for being a superpower. Each nation has to have its own way of achieving superpower status.

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+ good
and
thoughtful
Observation

India should not attain Superpower status to ensure hegemony. It was never in Indian ethos to be hegemon. Indian constitution through directive principles in art. 51 clearly spells out role of India in international affairs. But to attain the superpower status India has to overcome several obstacles and limitations.

Economic — Despite being fastest growing economy in world and 8th largest economy India is still home to highest number of poor population in the world. Per capita income of Indians is far lower than average American. India some years back was fighting twin challenges of current account deficit and fiscal deficit.

India needs to become economically developed to become superpower. This can be achieved by improving growth rates and sustaining it like China did.

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In last 2-3 decades. Further job growth is essential for utilising demographic potential. Which if properly utilised can become demographic dividend.

But economic reforms should go hand in hand with political reforms.

Political — India boasts of being a largest democracy but constitutionalism is conspicuous by its absence. There is rampant corruption which is evident by poor performance in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index. Polity is repeatedly attacked by scams like coal and 2G spectrum allocation.

Superpowers like US, UK, Germany etc. have cognition based politics whereas we are still grappling with identity based, emotional political culture. ^{Good observation}

To become a superpower India needs to undertake political reforms like electoral reforms, judicial reforms, police reforms etc. But politics is a part of larger society

Remarks

Where several evils persists.

Social → Civilisational legacy of our society has some negative aspects as well. Caste, class, religion, region and gender based discrimination still persist in India. Recent attacks on Dalits in Una, Gujarat is a case in point. Patriarchy is entrenched in society which plays out in female foeticide, domestic violence etc. Female labour force participation rate is below 30% in India.

Superpowers like China have been able to reform their society by sensitisation, spread of education etc. Thus India should undertake reforms to in societal spheres to become a superpower.

Security and Defence — Societal development cannot be ensured without protected borders. India's geographic position makes it imperative to focus

Remarks

on defence and security. Being sandwiched between two adversaries India has to ensure that its borders are protected at all times.

Superpowers like US and China incur massive defence expenditure which increases their capacity. India needs to develop indigenous defence capabilities to become a power to reckon with. India also needs to deal with internal security situations and problems posed by maoists, terrorists, insurgents etc. But defence capabilities and indigenisation needs ~~not~~ robust technological base.

Science and Technology - India has made rapid advances in space sciences and is actively competing with superpowers like US, For e.g. - Mars Orbiter mission, etc. - But when it comes to both fundamental and applied research India lags far behind. This is evident by number of patent filings which are less than 10% of countries like US.

Thus India needs to put more emphasis on indigenisation of technology.

Technological developments will also help in utilising resources efficiently and effectively.

Resources - India is well endowed with both natural and human resources yet it has not been able to utilise them productively. Japan on the other hand emerged as a developed country despite being a victim of not atomic bombings and poor resource base.

India is dependent on oil exporting countries for its energy needs. Although resources generation cannot be controlled but their efficient utilisation and development of alternatives can be helpful in economic development.

Thus India should efficiently utilise its rich natural resources in a sustainable manner and develop alternatives like renewable sources of energy.

Remarks

Diplomatic — International affairs play important role in transforming a country from a regional power to a superpower. India has cordial and peaceful relations with most of the nations. India has believed in principles of panchsheel and mutual respect.

India is aspiring for a seat in UN Security Council along with multi-lateral regimes like APEC and export control regimes like Wassenaar agreement, Australia group and NSG.

Opposition to India's membership from countries like China and Pakistan are hampering India's chances to emerge from the shadows of being a regional power.

Also peaceful and friendly relationships with neighbours are more important to become a superpower.

Though obstacles are many India is marching in the direction to become a superpower. For instance its membership of G20, SCO, G4, BRICS etc has given it global weight.

India is also undertaking economic reforms like GST, demonetisation of currency notes etc. to boost economic growth.

India is the largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping forces. It is a responsible nuclear power and has preached Gandhiji's message of truth and non-violence.

Colonial rule has adversely impacted the emergence of country as superpower. But the time is ripe now to undertake the unfinished task.

India should take necessary reform measures in economic, social, political, diplomatic, security dimensions and.

Remarks

India should not only aspire to be a superpower but go beyond it. According to Shashi Tharoor India is a Soft Power: ~~and~~ thus it should aspire to be leader of the world (विश्व गुरु) and become a Super Soft power.

67
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Excellent!

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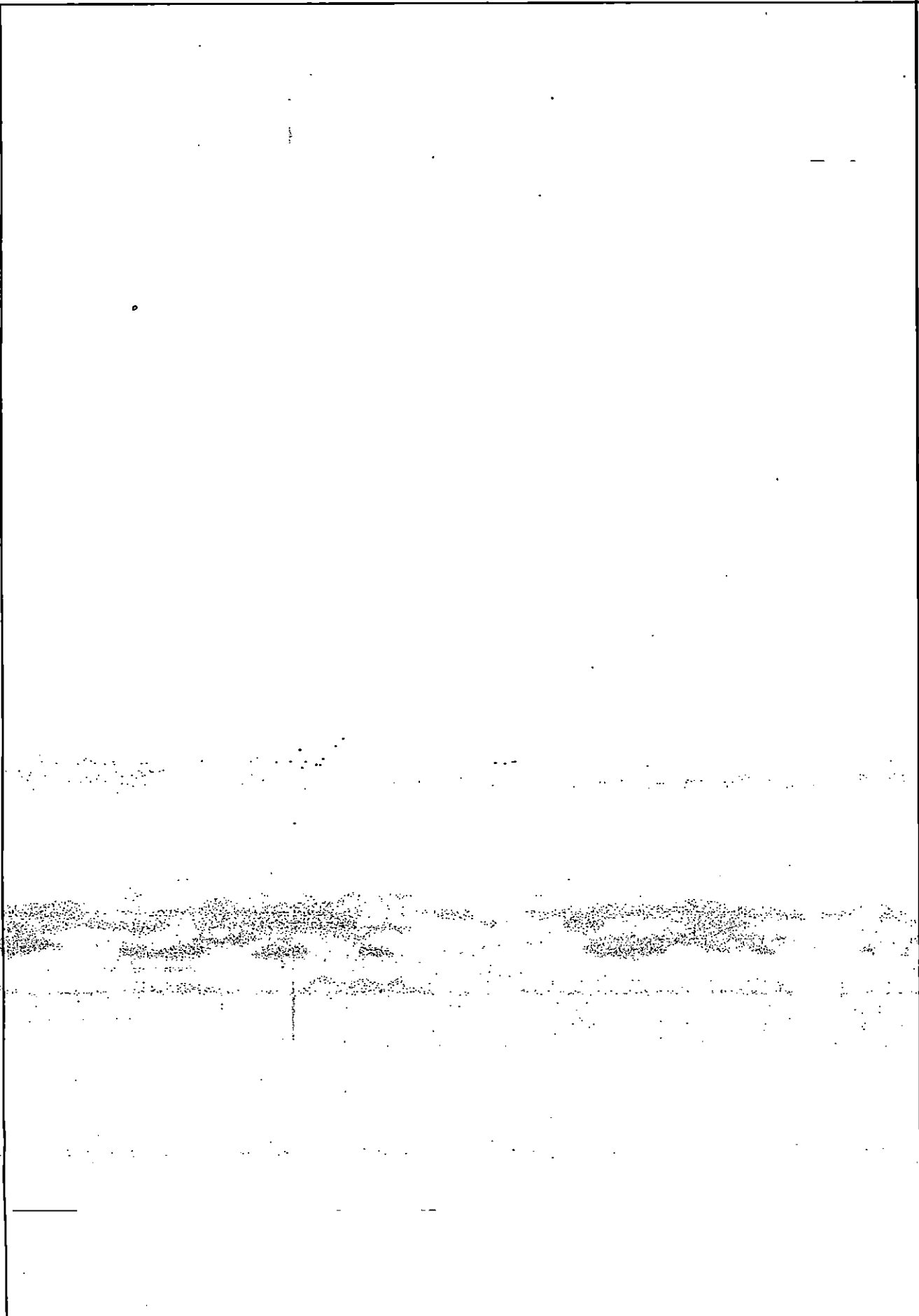
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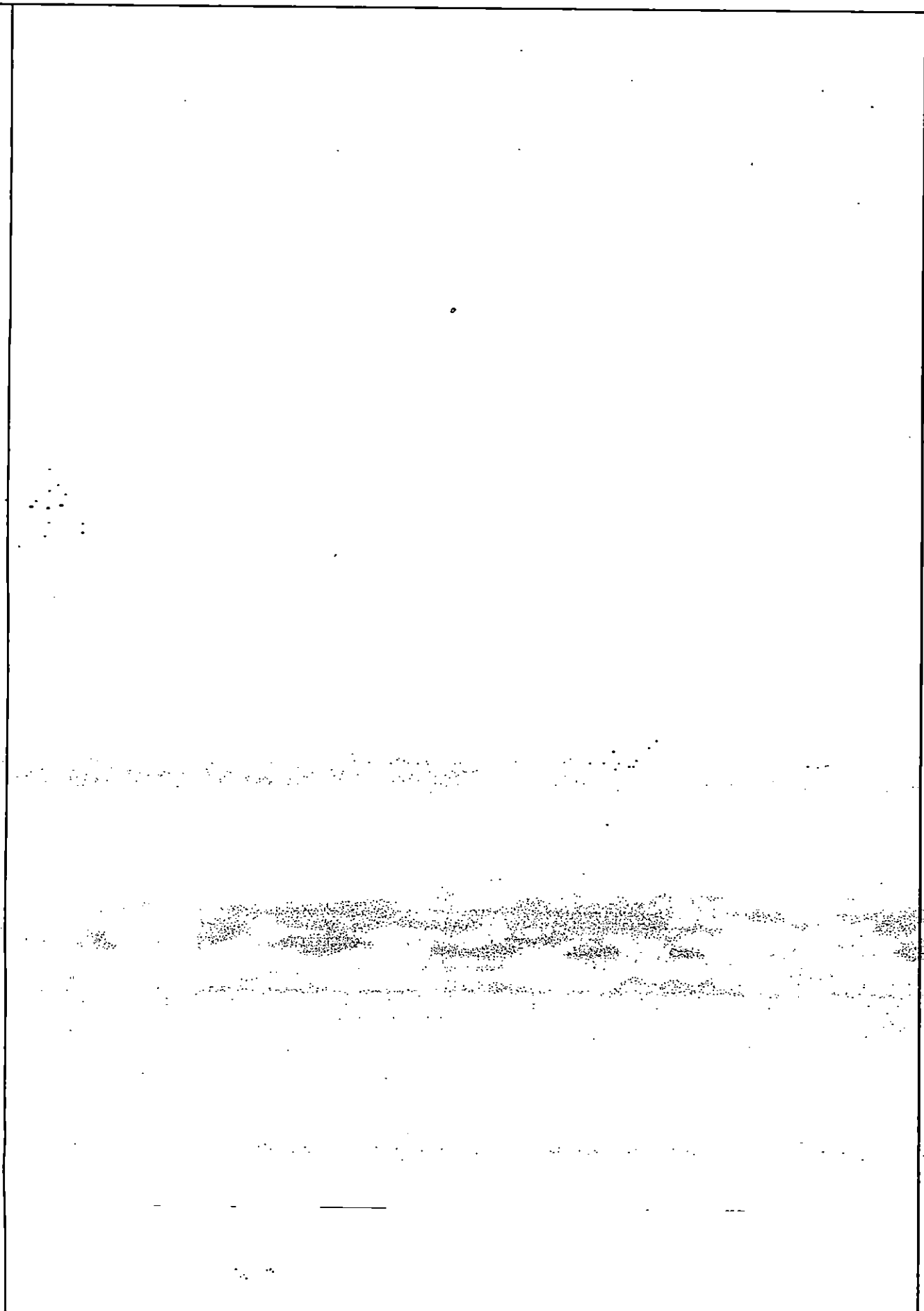
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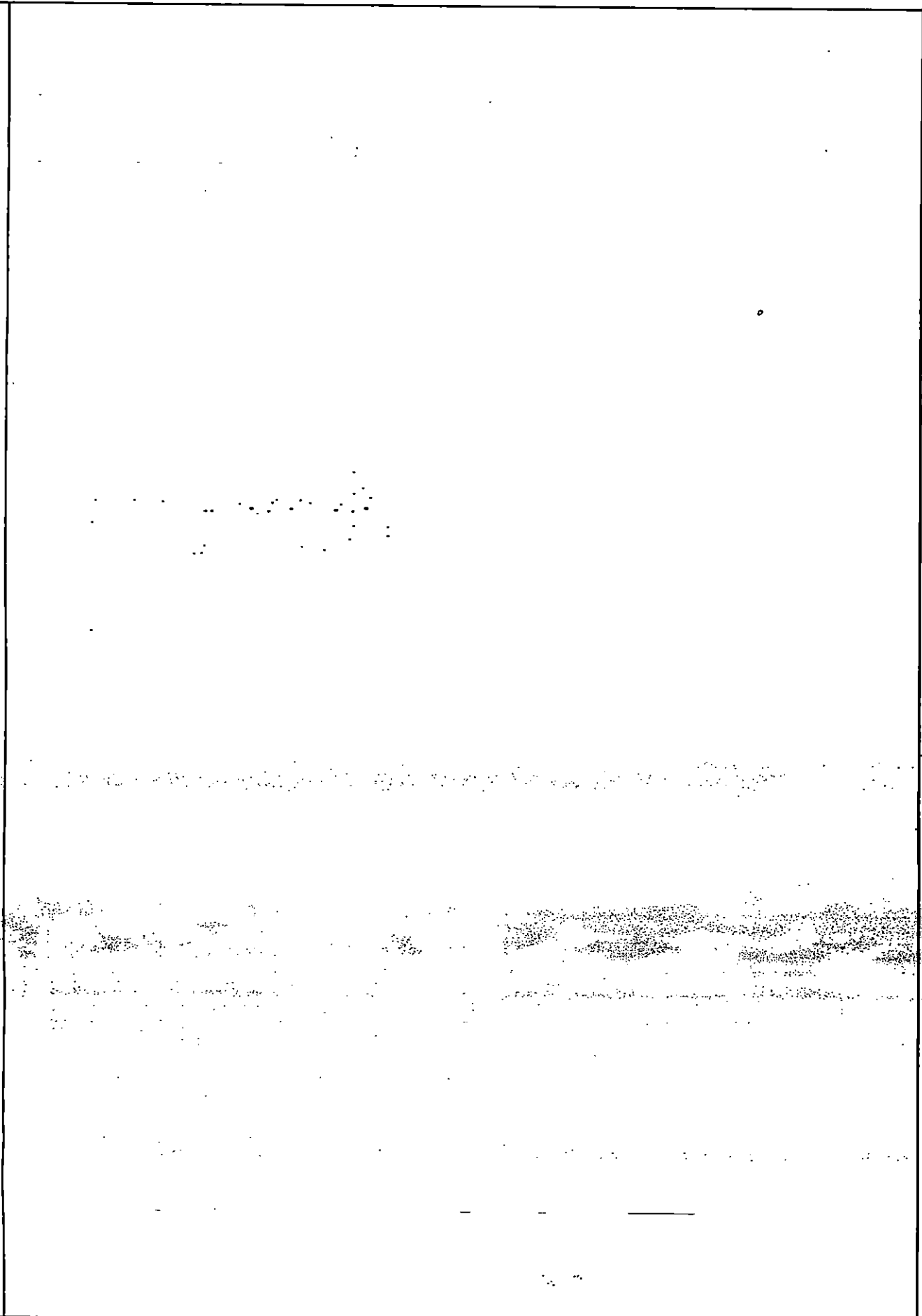
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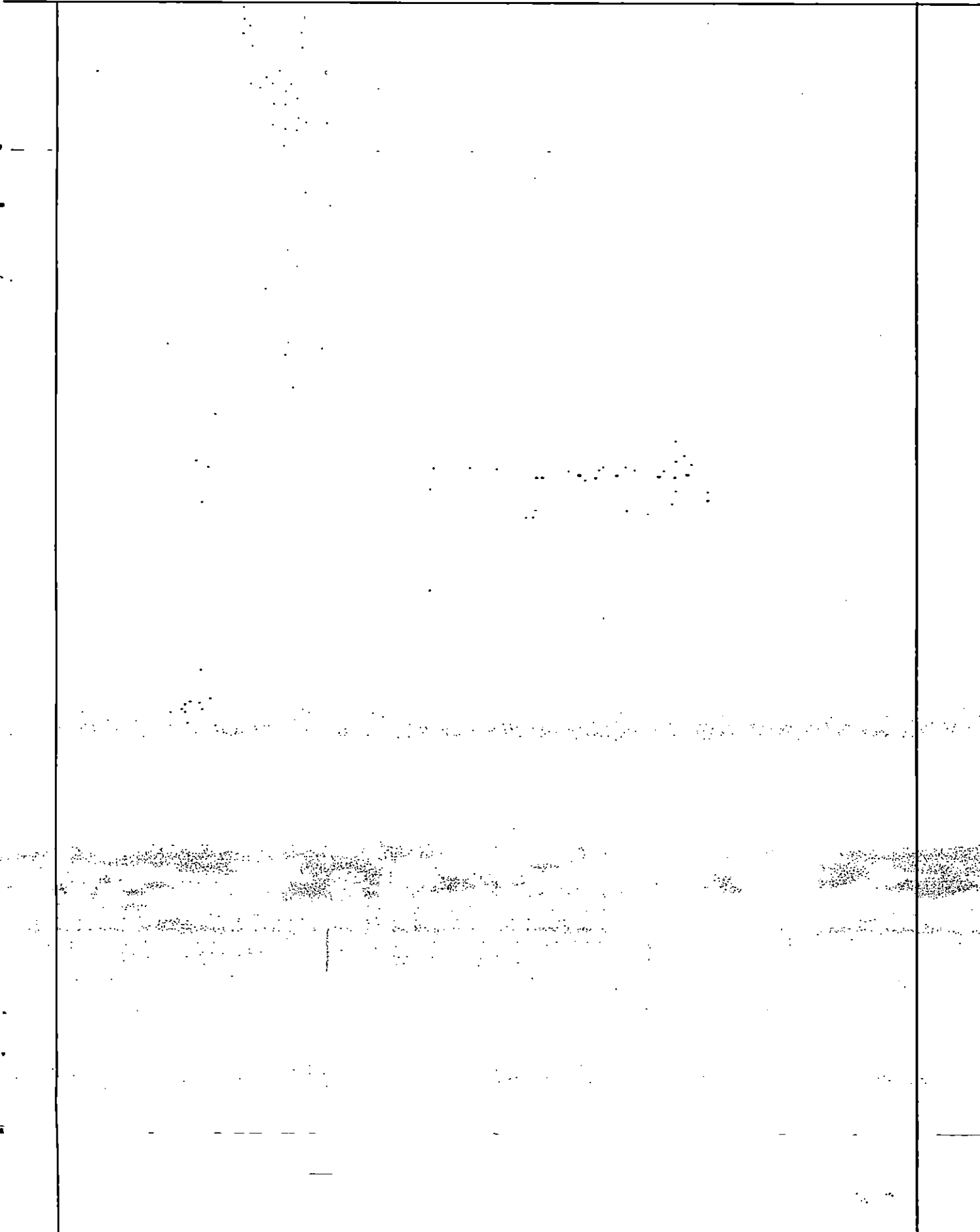
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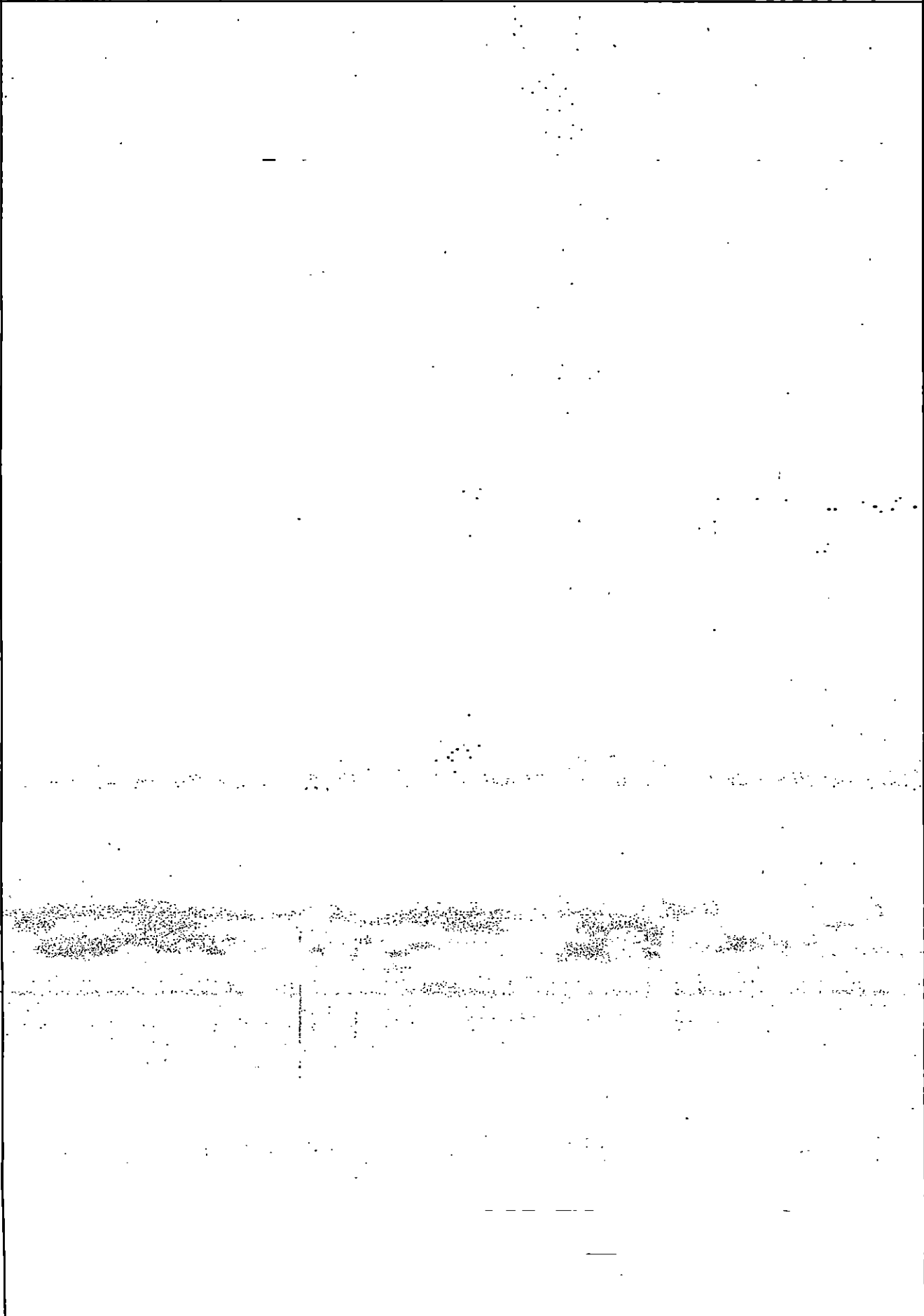
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Remarks

Introduction - label's lines
 What is a superpower.
 Where is India at present
 What are the obstacles
~~what~~ along with solutions
 Conclusion

Russian
 Tzar.
 And
 US + China
 ~40% of
 global trade.

Super Soft Power

Kamendra Guha
 Shashi Tharoor

should it
 become a
 Superpower.

highest no. of
 poor in world.

Economy

Fastest growing
 8th largest

Polity

Corruption, nepotism
 favouritism.

Society

Culture

egalitarian, no discrimination
 less inequality, equal rights
 to women, dalits,

History

Geography

Diplomacy

dependence on oil

Resources

UNSC

Buddha
 Gurd Gura

membership

defence indigenous

Remarks