

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Essay - 1 Social Media is reworking humanity and we are at crossroads of its promise and its perils.

2021 was a strange year. The world braved covid waves after waves. The world stood tall but it was helped in its fight by a very powerful tool of social media. The message laced with hashtags ruled the roost and carried messages of need of medicines like Amphotericin or drugs like Hydroxychloroquine far and wide.

Now you would wonder then why I called 2021 strange! While the above paragraph, depicted the strength of social media, revelation by Facebook Papers

leaked by Frances Haugen depicted
the dark side of the same. How
Facebook repeatedly ignored the
reports suggesting the harmful effects
of its media platform on adolescents.

Before we proceed further,
let us understand first as to what
is social media. Social media
refers to a new way of connection
between people pioneered by sites
like Orkut, pinnaced by Facebook
and Instagram which seeks to
provide away^{to} inter-connect via the
powerful medium of internet.

Powered by the ~~use~~ vehicle
of internet — boosted by 4G, now
increasingly 5G — they gained a
mass following. In India alone,

more than 50 million people are on it. Major app of these include Facebook, Twitter, Messenger, Instagram, WeChat among other.

Testifying before a Senate's committee, Frances Haugen recently presented the effect of social media in one line - it has rewired humanity.

The question then arises as to how it rewired humanity. The first basic happens to be the way we interact. Back in the day, meeting was the norm, today Zoom meeting are.

Another major way happens to similar to effect of globalisation on economics of trade. While

globalisation resulted in economic interdependence, social media resulted in interpersonal interdependence.

The fight between T-serice and Pew Dew Pie for greater number of followers was an instance of it.

It has bred a culture of indifference since events are no longer in "real" life but in "real" life — bred an environment of impracticality. An apparent affinity to post videos of suffering to gain followers is one instance.

It has changed the way work was looked upon among human acting as a vehicle of creative destruction, social media has

created a new work-culture, attitude
and aptitude amongst people.

The Most basic way
social media has rewired humanity
is by creating an alter-ego of human
on a digital plane. The schizophrenia
visible in an individual behaviour
in "real" and "seel" life is boastfully
glaring.

While the question would
also be asked whether the
growth of social media was
inevitable or not, one thing is
clear: that social^{media} fed off on
internet and strengthened the
same, creating its own self

of challenges and opportunities.

There are today two schools of thoughts on whether social media is a bane or boon. People who have benefited off of it like Musk, or government who promoted noble idea like Swachhba would say it is good, those lynched because of spread of fake-news would disagree. Let us examine the promise vs peril debate here.

PROMISE - REAL OR REEL

The government all over the world use social media to provide information. The Role of

Ministry of Health's handle on Twitter disseminating information on Covid was one such aspect. Similarly PM Modi has used his 70 million strong profile on Twitter to drive home message of Swachhata.

Social media has given rise to social commerce where cheap goods and services can be availed by people through Amazon and Facebook Marketplace

In the social context, social media has helped power the campaign of #MeToo to combat harassment. Similar example abound in story of Peng Shuai allegations against Zhang Gadi of sexual slavery.

In cultural context, social media has provided avenue for people to understand and appreciate tribal culture. The campaign to promote "Aadi Mahotsava" on social media is an example in the regard.

social media has enabled international collaboration. Now the UN worked with individual countries to promote integrated response to covid is one such instance.

Many other areas fruitfully blessed by social media scene to be news media sector, NGO sector (raising finances) and governance area while sharing best practices.

While many benefits have been counted above, social media is not without its flaws. We shall discuss them now.

As revealed by Facebook Paper by Frances Haugen, social media contributed to increased anxiety and stress and ^{utter} consciousness of body image amongst youth - this will hurt the perceived demographic dividend.

Social media has given life to new groups of trolls who leaves no stone unturned to turn the life of their dissenters ^{into} hell.

Social media via the powerful medium of internet enables the multiplication and spread

of fake news quickly. The spate of lynching incidents in 2019 on account of spread of fake news was a grim reminder of the same.

The entire gamut of right enshrined by supreme court in the famed K.S. Puttaswamy about right to privacy is put to sudden death in the ever-intoxicating need of ~~of~~ social media to spread to every dimension of human life.

While privacy compromised by an individual on ~~at~~ his own volition may be justified, the role of BIG TECH in monetising the behemoth of information that is generated by these social media platforms is being questioned. Such

expansive access of indifferent BIG-TECH into detail of our lives is bound to create problem. We witnessed this in the major controversy regarding sale of data by Facebook to Cambridge Analytica.

Social Media has ill effect on health as it enhances the exposure time on screen. A study in UK found the average time lived without specs/lens has fallen dramatically since 2011.

Political hate campaigns being run on social media giving rise to violence is another problem that social media have to contend with. January 6 insurrection in USA was planned by right-wing groups on social media.

Thus, social media presents a confounding tale of hits and misses. The question then arises as how to deal with the problem of social media so that it remains ^{a tool} of welfare.

The first would be the acceptance of the fact that social media is not going away. We have to contend with its presence. It can't and shouldn't be wished away.

The second step would be strong data protection law on line of GDPR of EU. There is a need to strengthen other laws like IPC to deal with crimes spilling from digital domain to physical domain.

Another step would be the acceptance of privacy as a virtue

in 21st century and regulating the power of Big Tech like social media rules.

Educating the youth on how to navigate the virtual world is also essential to prevent its misuse. This would go a long way to contain the growth of "trolls".

Whistleblower protection for the likes of Frances Haugen is also the need of the hour.

A thing to be kept in mind is not to OVER-REGULATE ~~but~~ lest it tramples upon the role of social media as an expression of dissent which is vital in a democracy.

While all these steps are being taken, development in social

media stay one step ahead with the growth of METaverse.

It is high time, the GOI constituted an educated workforce which is well aware of growing dimension of social media so that regulations do not fall behind developments.

The need of the hour is to accept the fact that social is another aspect of global commons now. The fruitful growth of global common will help to boost the welfare of the world and we need to take it upon ourselves that we deal with social media in the spirit of VASUDHAIV KUTUMBAKAM.

Essay 2 DISSENT IS THE SAFETY VALVE OF A DEMOCRACY

Two days ago, PM Modi gave a speech during the "Global Summit on Democracy" where he described democracy as government of the people, by the people, for the people, WITHIN THE PEOPLE and AMONG THE PEOPLE. The

last two phrase encapsulate the very spirit of dissent which is recognised as an intrinsic value of democracy.

Before we proceed further, let us first understand as to what is dissent. Dissent refers to practice or freedom of holding view which is radically different from

others. It undertake various form and way of display. Protest like the farmers protest of 2020, and yellow vest protest in France. It also includes use of social media like facebook, whatsapp and twitter (primarily).

Other innovative ways to protest include the one by fasting - Iron Shaanile Chame against AFSPA. It was to its rich addition, the non-cooperation and civil disobedience movements of Gandhiji as an extended legacy of the idea.

There are however very radical ways to dissent like the incidents of self-immolation by Buddhist monks in Tibet or fasting to the point of death as happened to Potti - Sriramulu.

While all these protest are steadfast in their own ways to protect democracy, one particular incident comes to my mind that was that of Justice HR KHANNA DISSENT IN THE FAMOUS ADM

JABALPUR VS SHIVAKANT SHUKLA CASE -

this case presented to the us how dissent is worthful to democracy, especially in times of ~~crimes~~ crisis.

It is in this context, the recently released book by Justice (Retd) Rohinton Nair book discusses why Dissent is safety valve of democracy.

The first reason happens to be the RESPECT ACCORDED TO MINORITY as part of dissent that separate democracy which is majoritarian

from the democracy that is representative
Another reason is that
dissent allows the existence of
natural way of living - which is
divergence. Divergence in view happens
to be just one aspect of divergence.

Dissent enables the
accommodation of divergent political
viewpoint. It enabled the existence
of right vs left view, Conservative vs
Labour view in UK, Democrat vs Republican
view in USA. It is this dissent that
keep the debate on gun violence
on in USA BUT WITHOUT RESORT
TO VIOLENCE TO ESTABLISH TRUTH.

Dissent can only be the
natural order of things in a
divergent countries like India,
Indonesia among other. With every

shade of variety, a different view comes along

The acceptance of dissent reduces the chance of a state turning out to be prone to surveillance

The contrast between China and USA is fundamental in this context.

Democracy is by nature, the rule of people and certain situations are bound to arise where conflict becomes order of thing. However, dissent provide a way for it fizzle out.

Dissent allows the development of an individual intellectual on an intellectual plane as it enables scientific temper to think on his own independent view rather than fall prey to homogenising view as happened with Communist orders

of USSR, Czechoslovakia which fell
to disrepute and even broke away

After considering why
Dissent is the safety valve of
Democracy, let us examine the
scenario where dissent was not
accepted and what consequences flew.

It led to violence as was
evident in the painful separation
of Bangladesh from Pakistan nearly
50 years ago.

It created environment
where divergent nationalities could
not co-exist as we saw in the
eventual break up of USSR.

It eats away the
heterogeneity of human thought as

is happening in Sinicisation of Uighur
which was cause the loss of Uighur
identity -

It tends to promote sycophancy
and creates ground for rent seeking
It creates conditions for absence
of transparency and accountability
and this strikes at the facade of
democratic governance.

It was the absence of
dissent in the form of appeasement
that led to WWII and caused the
death of 4 crore people.

On the whole, non-
acceptance of dissent prevents
the creation of cosmopolitan
culture on line of VASUDHAIV
KUTUMBHAM.

Anti-Democratic governments or authoritarian region all over the world have deployed various tools to curb dissent in an attempt to chip away democracy.

One such tool is the act of sedition. - to equate dissent equal to sedition is often the way to curb dissent as our Supreme Court pointed out.

Use of repressive police measures when combined with lack of awareness amongst the people about the role of dissent is often a potent tool.

creation of unitary political structures like the ones we observe in China are often at other

spectrum of ways to tackle dissent.
Creation of cult of leader as we see in case of Viktor Orban of Hungary or Xi Jinping's Thought in China is often a way to promote the idea of what leader think is ~~is~~ right and everything else is right. In this regard, the regular line of Goebbels saying "The future is right" ~~right~~ rings bell.

often surveillance measure like the Autonomous Face Identification System in China are often used to observe action of individual, increasingly leading to creation of a police state.

While democracy as a virtue

is in constant consternation with authoritarian regimes in Russia or China who call their ^{system} "democracy" it is essential that measures are taken so that dissent comes to be accepted as part of democracy.

The first step would be to ~~eliminate~~ ^{eliminate} repressive laws like sedition as mature democracy like UK did in 2010 and no place for powerlike contempt of court as it exist in India

second would be the existence of intra-party democracy as those who come to rule should practice the same in internal affair.

Strengthening federal

Structure to accomodate variant demand and governance with the consent.

Promotion of development of scientific temper as is advocated by our constitution is the need to develop intellectual ability to question - cross questions. But this must be accompanied with reforms in education sector. NEP 2020 is a great step in this direction.

Apart from ^{these} many reforms like Civil service reforms, Police reforms and personnel management reforms are needed to ensure people in contact with citizen understand and appreciate and accept dissent. Mission Karmayogi is a great endeavour in this regard.

Independence of institutions
like CBI, CVC, CAG among other
is essential to hold system
accountable; if it ~~attempts~~ to hit at
the root of dissent.

Dissent is respect when
the democracy is not merely electoral
rather representative. For this
every shade of opinion must have
its presence felt in Parliament,
Executive and Judiciary. A
majoritarian premise coupled with
electoral-only-democracy begins to
chip away the roots of dissent
in democracy.

The tradition of
democracy is very old in India.

From the acceptance of ~~democracy~~ ^{tolerance}
as a virtue in Ashoka's Dhamma
or as a form of truth in Mahabharata
through Akbar's Sul-i-Kulh to
the powerful statement of
Tilak in "Swaraj is my birthright
and I shall have it", dissent
has its own share of ^{in India} ~~presence~~.

This was institutionalised
in the post WWII world order.
However, the fading memory of the
horrors of WWII and failure of
governance has given way to
the rise of protectionism and
extreme right view and cult-based
leaders who look upon dissent as
disrespect. Xi-Xingsip or Trump

are symptom of this syndrome.
It is high time the message
carried forward by "Summit of
Democracies" that democracies,
have delivered, will deliver and
will continue to deliver needs
to be popularised. It is also an
important thing to ~~thru~~ remember
that while dissent is the
saf safety value of democracy, it
is the democracy based system
that accede dissent the respect
it deserves.

Essay 1 → ~~temporal~~ Facebook Paper

① Social Media → anecdote →

Def
com
Bubble

2 anecdotes

likes *
love *

Societal
change *

New forms

NFT, Metaverse

② How Rewiring Humanity?

① change mode of engagement

② Globalisation → economic interdependence

SM → interpersonal
interdependence

③ Indifference

④ New Avenues

2 +ve → Covid

Help

Harassment

Politics → expressing
dissent

Social Commerce

Cultural Promotion

Social relations

Way Forward

① Data Protection
Law

② Educating

③ Whistleblower Protection

④ Data Localisation

⑤ Self-censorship

culture

Trolls

③ -ve

① Facebook Paper

② Stress

③ Judgement

④ Violence

⑤ Privacy

exposure

eye

→ self-conscious image

VISION IAS™

Bat-Gangadhar Filla → "Swarg" my birthright and I shall have it"
 Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Example where dissent → "Voltaire"
 Friedrich Nietzsche

Dissent is the safety valve of a democracy

Political dissent
 Economy
 Cultural
 Social dissent

Global Summit on Democracy →
 "Demo - govt of the people, by the people for people, within and among the people"

deals with dissent

What is dissent?

Why safety value of democracy?

What hurts?

- 1) Sedition
- 2) Absence of the role of dissent
- 3) Lack of education
- 4) Blind devotion
- 5) Scientific temper

- ↳ basic human
- ↳ respect minority
- ↳ political diff accommodated
- ↳ Respect of right
- ↳ prevent the acceptance of monolith society
- ↳ need for surveillance

China vs USA contrast
 Stalin's Panic

How to ensure dissent in a democracy

Temporal dimension

Tolerance as Virtue → Ashoka's Dhamma

Tolerance as a form of truth → O. Bheral → Rig Vedic Text

- 1) eg. Floyd's death
 - 2) BLM protest
 - 3) Yellow vest protest
 - 4) Farm protest
- what is "safety valve" concept
 allow discussion and discomfort by people through

Best eg. Emergency
 Adm Jabalpur
 HR Khanna

- 1) Poems
- 2) Protest
- 3) Social media
- 4) Parliament
- 5) Fasting → Anand Sharma
- 6) Self-burning as protest
- 7) Gandhiji's non-violent dissent
- 8) Give dissent a name → Mahatma