

Essay Test

1. Internet as a Fundamental Right

[Scene 1 - Curtains open - 3 ~~actors~~ netizens

~~actors~~ in a Cafe]

Netizen 1 - "Bro! Let's start a campaign!"

Netizen 2 - "What campaign.. Bro?"

Netizen 1 - "Internet as a Fundamental Right

Internet Lives Matter"

Netizen 3 - "Awesome idea Bro! It'll be a massive success! I can then easily make by Youtube Shorts, Insta Reels & TikToks from everywhere!"

[Scene 2 - A slum in a metropolitan

city]

Common kid - Appa look there is a Internet as a Fundamental Right movement, then Bwe will get broadband in our slum also!

Father [^{sleeping} on the floor and coughing] - Hah good! good!

Mother [cooking]. What good? We don't have a proper house or toilet; No proper hospital! 70% of what I earn goes for your medicines what will your internet do for us?

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[Scene 3 - Small village, 2 friends talking]

Girl 1 - Hey! There is a new Internet as a Fundamental Right movement, if it is granted then we won't have to go on that hill top to ~~catch~~ ^{access} the internet network! ~~I'll join it~~ Even we'll support it!

Girl 2 - Sure! There's no charge on my phone since there was no power from the past 33 days, I'll join as soon as they restore power.

Anekantavada says truth is different from different perspectives. While it is indeed true that Internet has an all pervasive effect on our lives from education & work to communication and entertainment; its utility & impact is different for different people, as seen in the above three scenarios. Internet has a fundamental role in our lives but so does health, electricity, transportation, housing, sanitation and many more things.

∴ Making something a Fundamental Right is not just about its utility. Rather it's about whether the service can be delivered only if it is made a Fundamental Right, if that is the only way to ensure its access to the people.

Over the course of this essay let's try and figure out whether Internet has to be made a Fundamental Right (FR).

Internet as a FR - Implications

No fundamental right can be deprived unless in circumstances of reasonable restrictions imposed by the Constitution. So, first, we would need a constitutional amendment to make it a Fundamental Right.

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Once it does become a fundamental right, the government cannot suspend it as per its discretion. Also, government will be responsible for providing free internet through broadband or mobile data connectivity in every part of the country and has to develop necessary infrastructure for the same.

Internet as a FR - Benefits

It can be used to further Right to Education ~~and~~ through online learning modules, which is especially helpful in times like the current pandemic. It can be used by adults & professionals for skilling & upskilling. It can be used by rural MSMEs.

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to sell their products on e-commerce websites. It can facilitate economic growth & better linkage of the supply chain. It also helps in mass education and ^{in spreading} awareness about social issues like Swachh Bharat, Beti Bachao, etc.

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Internet FR - Not a Priority

As witnessed in the play earlier, there are multiple other humanitarian necessities such as health, housing, sanitation, etc. And given that we are a developing country with limited resources, we need to use them wisely and prioritise our necessities. 69% of out of pocket expenditure in our country is on health as per the Economic Survey.

And health is a natural necessity of the already existing fundamental right under Article 21 i.e., Right to life. The corona pandemic has revealed the socio-economic problems that can arise out of ~~our~~ insufficient health resources, which should be our priority now.

Internet as a FR - Issues in Realising the Dream

50% of our population has no access to a computing device, be it a mobile phone, laptop or a PC. So, even if free internet access is available everywhere 24/7 without restrictions, how is one supposed to use it without a device?

And providing free devices ^{certainly} ~~absolutely~~ from to the people is ~~not~~ economically feasible for our country.

Also, 5% of our villages receive <12hrs of electricity per day, so even if we brought out digital libraries with PCs for the community, it would still not be accessible.

Internet - Still an unknown uncharted territory

In addition to all the other implementation challenges, there are other issues like cyber bullying, identity theft, data security issues, etc. Which are still being addressed. And we can't afford to ~~lose~~ make all our population ~~to~~ vulnerable to

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cyber attacks at once, before making necessary policies to address such challenges and increasing awareness among the people about the vagaries of the internet.

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Internet as a Fundamental Right - A Cloagy Note

The Government of India has undertaken multiple projects ~~sa~~ like the Bharatnet, PM-WANI, etc. under Digital India Mission to facilitate better spread of Internet. Therefore, when sufficient actions are already underway, making Internet a Fundamental Right would be a redundant step which would do more harm than good.

[Screen Closes]

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Other ideas -

- Global Dimension
- Liberalisation Thought
- Environmental Dimension
- Socio-Democratic right

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+ve right may be not
-ve right yes.

-ve aspect of endless
in endless sea.

More examples
& cases needed

2. Sea wide allows fish to Jump;
Sky high allows bird to Fly.

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A fish when doing a flip in the sea, on a bright sunny morning doesn't have to fear that it might end up tossing itself on the land. The sea gives her enough space to experiment & make trials and errors and is wide enough to safeguard her.

Similarly, a bird which aims to fly high knows that the "sky is her limit!" And the sky is high enough to let her explore the best of her abilities and push herself and reach her maximum potential.

The environment teaches us a beautiful lesson from the above to scenarios. Any environment, be it familial, social, political, or economical or scientific has to be wide enough to accommodate new experimentations and errors and also has to be high enough to provide the necessary space to explore one's maximum potential.

When one's environment is not wide or high enough, every move one makes puts him/her in ~~the~~ a perilous situation and inhibiting them from ever reaching their best highest potential.

Mohammed Tuglaq is one such fish whose political life turned out

to be a pond instead of a sea. He wanted to achieve Hindu-Muslim harmony and better administer the country ~~from~~ at a point equidistant from north & south and thus tried to jump from Delhi to Daulatabad. Unfortunately since the pond was not wide, he nearly killed himself & his citizens.

Similarly, ^{since} the medieval Indian economic sky was not high enough, Tuglaq's token currency implementation turned out an epic failure and prevented India from better leveraging division of labour and achieving greater heights of economic growth.

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Fortunately, the Modern India is not as narrow or ~~shallow~~ small.

Thanks to the Constitution of India, which is wide enough ^{i.e., flexible enough.} to accommodate our mistakes like the 'Emergency' and gave us an opportunity to correct our selves.

Also, the Constitution of India provides a high sky of greater aspirations through the DPSPs.

So far, we have been able to fly up till Panchayati Raj Institutions, Right to Education, etc. And still have higher aspirations of Uniform Civil Code, Right to Work, and many more.

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But not every ~~sea~~ world is blessed with both, a wide sea as well as a high sky.

For example, ~~is~~ the world of ~~socialism~~ Socialism is a wide sea, enough to accommodate the well being of all and minimise inequalities.

But it doesn't really have a high sky for greater growth as and it rather makes everyone equally poor instead of equally rich.

Similarly, the world of Capitalism, ~~is~~ has a high sky which lets ~~some~~ some reach very great heights but unfortunately it's unidimensional and always keeps

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Some sections much lower than other sections, showing high ranges of inequalities.

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There are yet other environments where, although the sea is ^{also} wide and the sky is also high, one cannot fully utilize it. That's because, the society either removes the fins of the fish or ties down the wings of the bird.

The ~~story~~ Karana from Mahabharata was one such character. Although the sea of his potential was wide enough ~~to~~ to ~~make~~ him jump from ^{being a} character to being a

highly ~~skills~~ ~~able~~ skilled archer, the caste restrictions of the society chopped his fir & tied down his wings. And of Duryodhana despite being the negative shade of the story, frees Karna from the clutches of his caste and ~~lets~~ ^{enables} him to fly high and become known as one of the greatest archers of all times.

Unfortunately, it is not just Karna who has been limited by social constraints. Even to this day, women have to face a myriad of social constraints that prevent them from reaching their fullest potentials. And ~~in~~ this modern world's

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constraints aren't visible chains tethering women down, rather it is an invisible glass ceiling which has limited the height of the sky for women.

Companies use all sorts of ways to reduce female intake.

Recently a well known bank was criticised for its rule of not hiring pregnant women. Companies

just view a upon pregnant woman as 6 months of paid leave. But they fail to understand that it's hardly 1.5-2% of their 30 years of career life.

Unfortunately this is how the world works, it tries to maximise

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it's own benefits at the cost of others. ~~Life is not~~

Life therefore, is certainly unfair. ~~It~~ It doesn't always provide one with a wide sea and a high sky. Fortunately, some people have the ability to turn their pond into a sea and fly higher than sky! And it's these people that bring about revolutions and create history.

Basavanna, the leader of the Veerashaiva movement was one such person. ^{8 centuries ago,} In a society crippled with Casteism, superstition, inequalities, and social discrimination, he envisaged a new world where no profession is

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higher or lower; men and women are equal; ~~the~~ work is worship! He created Anubhava Mantapa - the first Parliament of the world. And even to this day, his philosophies as known from his 'Vachans' are considered the ~~best~~ most modern of all times.

We've had many more like Basaranna. Be it Rosa Parks who denied her bus seat to a white man; Ambedkar who went on to become the prime reason behind abolition of untouchability; Einstein, Steve Jobs, Ratan Tata, Elon Musk, Ramanujan and many more! These are the people ~~whose good beyond the sea, and the sky.~~ that have ¹⁰ explored their fullest potential even in hostile environments.

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Today man has traversed
across the expanse of vast seas, and
has flown beyond the heights
of the sky. This is proof that,
it's the human mind, that's
wider than the sea and higher
than the sky! And as long as
our ~~mind~~ thinking is broad enough
and our mind is perseverent enough,
we can ~~achieve~~ ~~the~~ ~~greatest~~ take
such steps which "Maybe one step
for a man but a great leap for
mankind!"

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