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**ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE-27**  
**V SEMESTER B.A EJP: WRITING FOR JOURNALISM & CREATIVE WRITING**  
**JN 5118: ADVANCED JOURNALISM**

**SEMESTER EXAMINATION: NOVEMBER 2020**

**Time: 2 ½ hrs**

**Max Marks- 70**

**Instructions:**

1. This paper is meant for V semester students of the BA-EJP course.
2. You are allowed to use a Dictionary.
3. You will lose marks for exceeding the suggested word-limit.
4. This paper contains TWO pages and THREE sections.

**I. Read this excerpt from a story by Protiva Kundu carried on Indiaspend:**

Substantial reduction in the education budget over the last five years has reduced allocations for scholarships given to students from marginalised communities, affecting their ability to stay in the education system, shows an analysis of government data between 2015-16 and 2019-20.

The need to improve the education budget becomes critical at a time when institutions across the country are increasing their fees to deal with funding cuts, which have been met with widespread agitations. Underprivileged communities such as Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), for example, make for 25.2% of the country's population but constitute only 20% of those who are educated, as per Census 2011. Fee hikes would make education even more inaccessible for them. In August 2019, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) increased the board exam fees for Classes X and XII--for general category students, from Rs 750 to Rs 1,500, a 100% increase; and for SC and ST students, from Rs 50 to Rs 1,200, a 2,300% hike. Institutions of higher education such as the Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Mass Communication, All India Institutes of Medical Sciences, and central universities such as Jawaharlal Nehru University too have raised their fees.

Between 2014-15 (actuals, A) and 2019-20 (budget estimates, BE), the share of education expenditure in the total Union budget fell from 4.1% to 3.4%. The dearth of funds is reflected in both the amount allocated for scholarships as well as a decline in the number of beneficiaries across categories of scholarships, our analysis shows. There are two types of scholarships made available to students from marginalised communities--pre- and post-matric--and there have been cuts in both types across SC, ST and Other Backward Classes (OBC) and minority categories, as the tables below show. But here are some snapshots from our analysis drawn from various reports:

The pre-matric scholarship for the SC category continuously fell between 2015-16 and 2019-20; for OBCs, it either stayed stagnant or increased marginally. The number of students availing fell from 2.4 million in 2015-16 to 2.2 million in 2017-18, an 8.3% fall. Despite increased demand, the post-matric scholarship scheme for SC students saw a decrease in the number of beneficiaries from 5.8 million in 2016-17 to 3.3 million in 2018-19, a 43% reduction. The budget allocation for pre-matric and post-matric scholarships for the ST category stayed stagnant year after year. Between 2015-16 and 2017-18, the number of post-matric beneficiaries fell from 2.03 million to 1.86 million, an 8.4%

cutback. For the academic year 2018-19, the Ministry of Minority Affairs received 7.3 million fresh applications and 3.5 million applications for the renewal of existing pre-matric scholarships from students belonging to minority communities. Scholarship was disbursed to 2.9 million fresh applicants (40%) and 2.7 million (77%) renewals. The Constitution, in Article 46, has directed the state "to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes". Despite affirmative action, the proportion of disadvantaged communities in Indian institutions of higher education is smaller than their population shares, IndiaSpend had reported in a special series on reservation. If parity existed between the share of SCs and STs in the general population and participation in higher education, SCs would occupy a third more seats than they do now, while STs would occupy close to double the seats, we reported.

**I.A Complete the task suggested below in about 250 words: (20 marks)**

1. Indiaspend is a website specialising in data journalism. You have the option of choosing to be either a journalist with the Hindu or with The Economist. Rewrite this information using the house style favoured by the publication you have chosen, inclusive of headlines, kickers and leads.

**II. Answer the following questions in about 250 words each: (2x15=30)**

2. What were some of the key investigative journalism stories that you came across in Indian media in the last twelve months? What idea of credible evidence did you gain from the stories that you followed?

3. The Editors Guild of India released a statement after the Hathras incident from which this excerpt is taken: "Equally reprehensible is the way the government has tapped the telephones of journalists engaged in covering the Hathras incidents... Worse, the tapped conversation of the journalists has been selectively leaked, leading to a social media calumny against them." What new elements of practice seem to become necessary for journalists to protect data and sources in the context of such events?

**III. Answer the following in about 150 words. (2x10=20)**

4. As a student who has written a portfolio for five semesters, does this experience equip you in any way that is significantly different from whatever is available to students of conventional journalism courses? What specifically has changed, if at all, in your writing, or about you as a student?

5. What are the specific forms of careless or habitual error that you find yourself prone to in writing whether at exams or for the portfolio? How have you learnt to deal with it?

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