

**GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY
GANDHINAGAR**

Course: **Media and Telecommunication Laws**
Semester- I (Batch: 2024-25)

End Semester Examination: October 2024 (LL M)

Date: 27th Oct, 2024

Duration: 3 hours

Max. Marks: 50

Instructions:

- Read the questions properly and write the answers in the given answer book.
- Do not write anything on the question paper.
- The respective marks for each question are indicated in-line.
- Indicate correct question numbers in front of the answer.
- No questions or clarification can be sought during the exam period, answer as it is, giving reason, if any.

| Part: A | | Marks |
|----------------|--|--------------|
| Q.1 | Discuss the various facets of freedom of speech and expression enshrined under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India with a special emphasis on right to circulation in India. | (10) |
| Q.2 | Write short note on any one of the following: a) Conditions of service of working journalists b) Defamation and media c) Pre-censorship of films | (5) |

Part: B(Answer **any two** of the following)

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|-----|---|------|
| Q.3 | During a high-profile election campaign of 2024, 'Tabaahi TV' a major news network is found to have run multiple advertorials promoting Mr. Shaggy Rogers, a political candidate, presenting them as unbiased news reports. This has led to public outcry and allegations of manipulated media coverage. As legal counsel before an independent regulatory body, analyze the ethical implications of such practices within journalism and broadcasting. What legal actions could be taken to prevent such misuse, especially in light of intellectual property laws and the right of publicity? | (10) |
| Q.4 | In an upcoming region called 'Townsville Sheher', a government report reveals that 'the filter bubble' is contributing to increasing political polarization and digital inequality. Bloggers and citizen journalists play a major role in news dissemination, but they are often trapped in echo chambers. Discuss the role of new media in shaping public discourse in such a scenario and the challenges it poses to democratization of media. | (10) |
| Q.5 | An anonymous user registered on 'GrinchBook', a popular social media platform, sends bomb threats to a public institution. Despite multiple complaints from users, the platform fails to act promptly, claiming protection under intermediary liability laws. The authorities seek to hold the platform accountable for not taking down the content quickly, while the platform argues it cannot be held responsible for user-generated content. In this scenario, critically analyze the scope of intermediary liability in cases involving public safety threats. Refer to relevant laws and judicial decisions, if any, and discuss whether platforms should be held liable for such content and to what extent. | (10) |
| Q.6 | Wander Bros., large media conglomerate, is facing scrutiny for failing to regulate its content adequately, leading to numerous complaints about unethical reporting and biased | (10) |

coverage. The conglomerate insists on self-regulation, but independent regulators argue for stricter oversight. Considering this situation, discuss whether self-regulation is a viable solution or comprehensive reforms are needed to ensure ethical standards in the media industry. Also, comment on the role of regulatory bodies in regulating the media industry in India.

Part: C

- Q.7 Discuss Jurgen Habermas's concept of *public sphere* and its relevance to the idea of *free media* in democratic societies. How does Habermas's theory highlight the role and challenges of the media in fostering informed public debate? Provide contemporary examples to support your answer. (10)

OR

Examine how patterns of media ownership affect the freedom and diversity of content in modern media landscapes. Discuss the implications of media monopolies and corporate ownership on unbiased reporting and public access to information.

- Q.8 Write a brief note on the laws and policy framework tracing the evolution of the telecommunication sector in India, highlighting the roles of relevant institutions. Additionally, outline the salient features of the newly enacted Telecommunication Act, 2023. (5)
