

Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani (Rajasthan)  
First Semester - 2016-2017

Applied Philosophy  
GS F312 (Close Book)  
Comprehensive Examination

Room No. 2207/2212/2214  
Date 14.12.2016

Max Marks 40  
Duration 3 Hours

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- Attempt any four questions.
- If anybody attempts five questions, his or her first four answers will be evaluated.
- All questions carry equal marks.

1. Define philosophical perspective. State and discuss the nature and purpose of various philosophical perspectives of ancient period. You may use examples in support of your answer.
2. Describe and analyze the nature of ethical perspective with special reference to the concepts of virtue, duty, and happiness. Use examples to strengthen your answer.
3. Write a note on the theme Social and Value Dimensions of Technology especially with reference to the issue of Democratic Values and the Internet.

4. **Cinema doors not to be bolted for national anthem: Supreme Court**

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN | Dec 10, 2016, 03.17 AM IST

NEW DELHI: Sticking to a tough line on "constitutional patriotism", the Supreme Court on Friday refused to relax its order on playing the national anthem in movie halls even as it set aside the provision for disabled persons.

While agreeing to hear a petition seeking review of the order, a bench of Justice Dipak Misra and Justice Amitava Roy clarified that the rigour of the direction would not apply to the disabled who need not stand up in a theatre during the anthem. The court said the disabled could show respect to the anthem in some other manner and asked the Centre to frame guidelines how such persons should conduct themselves in a cinema hall when the anthem is played before the start of a movie.

The court posted the application for recall of its November 30 order for detailed hearing on February 14. Apart from relaxing the anthem norms for disabled, it clarified that its direction to close the entry and exit gates of cinema halls when the national anthem is played did not amount to bolting the door.

The order was hence in line with the Uphaar fire tragedy judgment where the apex court forbade bolting of doors during screening of films. The application for relaxation of the anthem rule was filed by organizers of a film festival in Kerala, which began on Friday. It is expected to screen an average 60 films a day, with participation from 62 countries.

When the organizers pleaded that the SC's order could discomfit a large number of foreign delegates, the bench said, "In any international event hosted by any country, whenever anthem of that country is played, the whole audience rises to its feet. Why should our anthem be an exception?" Justices Misra and Roy said the bench was open to a debate whether its order required recalling. But it wondered how the order affected the right to free speech. "Why should they (delegates) not stand even if the anthem is played 20 times?"

Explain and analyze the case in the light of your understanding of philosophical perspectives and the issue of society and freedom of expression in the theme social justice and equality. Conclude the answer with your own assessment.

5. **Want to build robots that care for us: SoftBank's Son**

Sunny Sen Hindustan Times Updated: Dec 05, 2016 12:43 IST

Masayoshi Son, CEO and founder of SoftBank, the Japanese telecom conglomerate, was talking about how he wants to change the way robots of the future function.

“Only god created something which has emotion ... mankind never created anything which shows and understands emotions...”

Masayoshi Son, CEO and founder of SoftBank, the Japanese telecom conglomerate, was talking about how he wants to change the way robots of the future function. He said machine will eventually become more intelligent than humans.

Pepper, Son's newest creation, is a humanoid (a robot that looks like a human). It will understand facial expression and voice tone, and mirror people's emotions.

His biggest acquisition is ARM, the chip-set maker, fits well with the “singularity” strategy. “Computer intelligence will surpass mankind intelligence .... In 30 years, it will be a million times intelligent,” said Son.

The chips that ARM makes will be fitted in robots, televisions, and cars. “Our company will ship one trillion of these chips,” Son said.

Son loves to gaze into the future. He is good at that, he admits. In the future, these robots will help mankind lead a better life. But many tech enthusiasts around the world are apprehensive of highly intelligent robots.

“You create robots with good emotions, they will take care of us ... I am building a robot with a good heart,” Son said. “We can use them as our companions, family members or business partners.”

Already, Softbank has shipped 10,000 of them. The world needs many more of these robots, said Son.

“Pepper has primitive emotions,” he said, adding they were working on the project in partnership with the medical school of Tokyo University. Son recently raised \$100 billion to fund more technology, internet and renewable companies around the world.

Son, however, agrees that robots are not new to the world. They have been used in manufacturing, warehouses, and medical science for ages. But SoftBank doesn't want to focus on just “productivity”.

Son wants to play God, and Pepper is at the centre of his strategy. Pepper has emotions, doesn't age, and becomes your companion. But it can't have babies. Maybe that, too, will happen in the future. “Mankind has 200,000 years of history. Pepper has two,” Son said.

Explain and analyze the case in the light of your understanding of philosophical perspectives and the issue of Impact of Information Technology on the Quality of Life in the theme Social and Value Dimensions of Technology. Conclude the answer with your own assessment.