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SUBJECT:	ESSAY TEST- 4	Test Code:	9	3	2
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Medium Hindi/Eng.	ENGLISH	Registration Number	1	4	2 0 7
Center	ONLINE (CHANDIGARH)	Date	1	6-0	9-1 7

INDEX TABLE				INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Page No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code). उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)। 2. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं। 3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं। 4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one. प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे। 5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए। 6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off. उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।
Total Marks Obtained:				

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

SECTION - A

UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME : AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME.

The makers of Indian constitution envisaged India to be a land free from any form of discrimination and inequality. This view is evidently manifested in the Preamble to our constitution which ensures "Justice - social, economic and political" to all citizens. But have these words translated into reality? The grim scenario of poverty in the country tells the opposite story. Though we have been able to reduce poverty levels from 70% at independence to 21.9% at present (Tendulkar committee report, 2009) but still there are deprivations and inequality present.

One solution to this injustice, as proposed, is the idea of universal basic income (UBI) which is claimed as the panacea to all forms of deprivations gripping Indian society.

Universal basic income is defined as the minimum amount of monetary allowance/income ^{on individual basis} given to all citizens irrespective of any means testing or work requirement. It is regarded as the minimum legal guarantee of income provided by the state to all by virtue of them being citizens of the country, for fulfilment of basic minimum needs.

The idea of universal basic income is founded on the premise that modern citizens should enjoy the "right to basic income" to lead a meaningful and dignified life. This will ensure that each one of them has the capability to reap the common benefits accruing from the economic development of the country.

Further the concept of universal basic income is based on three fundamental features - viz. - universality, unconditionality and agency. The first and foremost among them is the clause of universality which denotes

that there will be a basic income for all without any exceptions. Added to this is the second clause of unconditionality which means that such income is guaranteed to all without any prior set conditions.

The third parameter of agency connotes the fact that universal basic income is a paradigmatic change which alters the concept that citizens are the welfare subjects of the state. Rather it allows them to be the agents of change based on their own will and capacity by empowering them through this basic income.

Thus universal basic income is an attempt to realise the cherished goals of constitution as highlighted under Art. 39(b) and (c) of directive principles of state policy which mandates that the state shall be duty bound to prevent concentration of wealth in few hands and provide for equitable distribution

of material resources of the country.

Although many measures like land reforms, reservation policy, public distribution system etc. have attempted to reduce socio-economic disparity and bring equality but none has been universal in its approach as well as outcomes. As per the multi dimensional poverty index (MPI) released by UNDP, more than 53% of Indians are poor as per its criteria indicating pathetic scenario of living standard among the masses.

This huge poverty burden can be related to grave social injustice and inequality of opportunity. The universal basic income aims to transform this scenario. It can ensure that there is no exclusion of beneficiaries which is often the case in case of subsidies (indirect as well as direct). This is possible due to the universality clause and thus can help in promoting the standard of living universally.

This is also beneficial since it prevents misallocation of resources and there is also less chances of any leakages. such universal system prevents any administrative collusion and corruption and thereby increasing efficiency of the welfare measures.

eg: In Tamil Nadu the PDS system was made universal since 1960s as a result the state as outperformed others exceptionally well ensuring universal food security.

Apart from optimum resource utilization and universal benefit, the scheme ^{or idea} enables many to get recognition for their work in terms of monetary benefits and thereby ensuring self satisfaction and dignity in their lives.

eg: Housewives in India constitute a group which works without any remuneration and this idea can provide them fiscal independence. This in a way is promoting equitable growth and development.

Additionally such a measure of social equity will bring India at par with many developed countries in terms of social access, equity and affordability as all citizens would be empowered to get basic requirements fulfilled. Even examples of many countries show positive models for this approach.

eg: Nordic countries like Sweden have been providing such basic income, thereby promoting individual as well as social development.

Moreover such minimum income guarantee ensures that individuals are not involved in toiling their lives for basic needs rather they can meaningfully contribute to the society and nation. They can be involved in high end jobs, education, research etc. thereby powering innovation in country. Thus it can be useful in turning on the virtuous cycle of individual, societal and

national development.

However these universal benefits cannot completely overcome the challenges and problems associated with the idea. First and foremost challenge is regarding finance.

As per the Economic Survey, 2016-17 the universal basic income for the year 2016 has to be at least ₹ 7620 per year per person. The aggregate of this amount for entire population comes out to be about 4.9% of GDP.

The present central spending on subsidies is about 2.07% of GDP while state subsidies amount to 6.9% of GDP. Thus both subsidies if combined together can provide fiscal space for the above idea but still it poses grave financial and administrative challenge.

This is due to the fact that in India is still a developing country and complete phasing out of subsidies for such a radical measure

may neither be feasible nor desirable. Also there is still incomplete financial inclusion and also the banking infrastructure is not fully equipped for unique identification of each citizen and foolproofing all instances of proxy accounts.

Secondly, such a guaranteed income may reduce the zeal and motivation to work among the people at large. This may reduce productivity and efficiency of work, thereby may further stall the progress of national development.

Also there is a possibility that people may get engaged in social evils like alcoholism, drug abuse etc. given the guaranteed income source. Such citizens will become a state burden and hence undo all progressive work done along these fronts. Above points indicate that it may drive the society away from work orientation to leisure and consumption orientation, which

may not truly be in the interest of social welfare and may further accentuate social inequality and injustice.

Such huge supply of money into the hands of citizenry without any guaranteed work or creation of assets, may fuel inflation in the economy, driving away investments, increasing consumption expenditure and thereby hampering growth rate. It is also argued that such measures may thwart the population control measures and even reverse the trend in coming decades creating more problem.

In the political sphere, such moves may become a focal point of political mobilization and protests, thereby making it an issue of vote bank politics. Also there are apprehensions that such free rationing of money may negatively impact the environment as people will be less committed towards community and ecology due to self orientation.

perpetuated by this basic income. moreover it is possible that negative dimensions attached to this idea may creep into the moral-ethical domain and transform the Indian society from community oriented to individualistic self orientation.

Thus no doubt that this idea perpetuates social justice and equity, the grey dimensions associated with it can't be overlooked. Indians have long been inheriting ancestral property and getting incomes from family businesses without any work. Thus it may not be difficult to transform to this system gradually provided all practicalities are addressed.

Initially this idea can be applied to some vulnerable groups like disabled, widows, elderly etc. who are easily identifiable; and then it can gradually be expanded to other sections of society through rationalisation and phasing out of subsidies.

This will also reduce burden on government regarding management of plethora of subsidy schemes and equally targeting all sections of society.

India has been performing dismally low on "human development index" scale and this idea presents an opportunity to upgrade this status via improvement in socio-economic equity and justice. It is an opportunity for India to emerge as a leader in universal equality, thereby truly realising the aim of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas."

SECTION-B

RISE OF POPULISM : A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY?

"Democracy, as defined by Abraham Lincoln, is rule by the people, for the people and of the people". It is this notion of popular sovereignty that has changed the political scenario world over. But demographic vastness has somewhat modified this system to representative government accountable to people. Is this a diversion from popular rule or rise of populist democracy?

The question demands careful analysis of all aspects that constitutes democracy. First of all it needs to be understood that democracy has evolved as a replacement to absolute monarchical system. It is based on the premise that aspirations and hopes of people are accomplished through an elected government. Thus popular elections form

the foundation of any democracy. These elected representatives are expected to work towards public welfare and fulfill the promises made during elections.

This very concept creates a dilemma that whether these supreme representatives wield supreme power or is it the people. Even if the notion of people being supreme is believed, it is understood that they can't run the government as per their wishes. To some extent this is right as an organized body is required to run the government. But then what if this body is yielding under popular pressures.

Such populism or the rise of public pressure for modification of policies/decisions on the state bodies is posing a threat to free and deliberative nature of democracy. Such populism is most evidently manifested in the economic policies of the government whereby

many plans and schemes are constantly modified to satisfy public demands.

eg: In India railway budget used to be under continuous public scanner, often forcing the government to keep the revenues same for passenger trains.

many other such populist measures are employed to gain political mileage over other political groups and thereby clinching political victories. In developing countries such moves are manoeuvred through hefty subsidies on energy and food products (eg. LPG, kerosene in India).

eg: (i) Since 1997 the Indian government has been announcing MSPs much higher than that recommended by commission for agricultural costs and prices (CACP) which is an expert body.

(ii) loan waivers announced by states disregarding its effect on agriculture and overall macroeconomy.

All these populist measures breed economic inefficiency and hence make the different systems incapable of developing sustainably.

This economic inefficiency translates into huge losses, failed companies and thereby making a dent on scarce public funds.

thus it creates a vicious circle whereby rising populism is threatening public resources. This is not only the case in developing economies, rather a global phenomena. many developed countries tend to go populist and while addressing the core concerns of their vote bank constituency they let go the ethos of democracy and public welfare.

eg: US ^{stringent} policy against the immigrants from Mexico and other Latin American countries is driven by populist pressures regarding concerns over increased competition in education and employment sectors.

Similarly the refugee crisis that has grappled the entire world has raised questions over democracy for whom and at what cost?

eg: The alleged violence against Rohingya muslims in Myanmar under populist pressure of ethnic majority is driving the South Asian region towards deep crisis.

Such populist tendencies are further fuelled up by coalition politics gaining momentum. The bindings of coalition government often translates into populist measures.

eg: In India creation of new states; change of names of roads, cities; reservation extensions for other groups have many a times had populist undertones.

All these steps not only puts a question mark over government accountability, merit being the driver of growth and transparency in use of public resources.

This is also a similar case in legislatures which under populist pressure tend to enact legislations to address their constituency or meet the needs of coalition/alliance.

eg: (i) a bill to amend the Ancient monuments Act in India to do away with the clause of 100 m no construction zone around ancient monuments ; it is directly a product of populist industrial demands

(ii) similar is the case with reducing the area under environment protection zones (EPZs) in western ghats under local pressures for loss of employment.

Hence corporate lobbying is an outgrowth of this populist measures based governance which threatens trust in public institutions.

Institutions like media which is regarded as the 4th pillar of democracy are also not untouched by such tendencies. media often resorts to paid news and 'created' news to sensitise the matters. It often resorts

to showcasing and overglorifying those news which are popular among masses and thereby increasing TRP ratings. This way it sheds its responsibility over truly scrutinising the government actions and presenting real reports. This undermines democracy.

All these institutions have time and again bowed down to populist undercurrents which have created a situation of uncertainty over who rules whom. But there is another crucial institution i.e. Judiciary which emerges as a ray of hope. It is entrusted with the task of upholding constitution and rule of law in the country and act bonafide. By and far they are insulated to such pressures but such insulation is not absolute.

eg: In a case convicting Baba Ram Rahim the Panchkula CBI court gave judgement as per the facts of the case and not

or per the popular demands of the mob
(followers) who threatened to disturb
law and ~~order~~ if their godman was
punished. This shows that there is some
hope for democracy.

But often there are instances whereby
judges are threatened to abide by
popular demands, through monetary
incentives, blackmailing etc.

All these instances indicate a gradual
shift in democratic governance models
whereby populist methods are getting
overpowered. It should be remembered
that constitution (in case of India)
emanates from the people and they are
the ultimate sovereigns in the country.
thus populism to some extent is required
to ensure accountability of the government
towards its subjects. This is basic goal of
democracy. It empowers the people.

Populism to some extent enthuse people
about their government and nation. They
feel part of the development process and
it gives them a sense of identity. It also
enables them to be active players in
making policies, though indirectly.

continuous and concurrent accountability in
a representative democracy is ensured only
when people are aware. This awareness
enables them to scrutinise government
actions and thereby hold it responsible
for the schemes not translating into
their welfare. It also enables them to
voice their concerns and grievances and
get appropriate remedy for themselves.

Populism is a tool which enable people
to raise their local aspirations and
find medium to achieve them. It
empowers the government also to get
the true nerve of population and frame

policies and plans to suit their needs. Government is able to know what is required and what else needs to be done making democracy truly working for the masses.

Hence above arguments make it clear that no doubt democracy is not bound to run on the sole premise of populism but some degree of it is essential to gauge the situation in the country and appropriate changes desired by the people. But this tendency should not be resorted to as an usual practice but rather as a guiding light for the fulfillment of governance goals.

Democracy is all about how equity, equality and freedom are ensured to all the the citizens through appropriate means. It is to be noted that bandhiji

emphasized on the fact that means should also be correct and not only ends. This principle demands that populism though inevitable but can't be the regular play of elected governments.

Decisions are required to be taken based on administrative ease, economic feasibility and viability, public welfare, long term national goals and social inclusion as the guiding principles. Here the civil society and NGOs can play a crucial role to ensure that "democracy is not turned into a mobocracy."

Section - A

universal Basic Income: an idea whose time
has come

Creamble: { social, eco., pol. justice ✓
Equality of opportunities ✓
reservation ✓
land reforms ✓
A 39 (b) (c) equitable distribution of benefits ✓
poverty risen on (70% → 22%) ✓
UBI ✓
inequitable distribution

define UBI
- legal guarantee

3 elements - universality, unconditionality, agency

multidimensional
poverty
(UNDP)

Benefits of UBI: (1) benefits of universal dist (as TN PDS)
(2) misallocation of resources, no leakage. 53% of poor
(3) equitable distribution, exclusion of beneficiaries prevented.
(4) housewives ✓
(5) std. of living ✓
(6) Examples like Sweden, Norway give

3 Limitations: (i) financial < admin. challenge (ii) social evils (iii) productivity of work. (iv) high inflation may initiate a vicious circle. (v) negative effect population control measures

1 Solution: to some preferent groups, through rationalisation of subsidies etc. (MDI rank improvement) social progress index

section - B

Rise of populism : a threat to democracy?

✓ Defn : force, of, by people. (Ab Similes)

↳ Representative democracy. ? who drives it ✓

↓
decisions ✓
representative popⁿ

← [Constitution awards from the people
Argument (SC judgement)]

D'y : People → representation → decisions ✓

← Accountable thru elections.

(Periodic A/C)

not
continuous consent.

But they must be left to themselves to decide

populist measures : 1. railways prices (inefficiency)

2. MSP (1997 not CAP followed)

8. Judicial decisions affected

9. Legislature how affected

3. subsidies (LPG, petrol) kerosene ✓

4. loan waiver (UP govt) ✓
↑
rising NPAs

(popular bills)

5. Env. protection (Env. Pnt'ns) area reduced

6. Archaeological areas (iron claus removed)

7. corporate lobbying

(11) Media (paid news, breaking news popular news Not correct factually)

→ Increase in inefficiency in govt.

- coalition has encouraged this tendency further
- rise of small states
- changing name of cities, road, towns
- reservation without any evidence
- refugee issues International politics
- ethnic minorities
- threat to merit, talent, public funds, accountability, transparency

Conclusion: Populist

- Administrative cost, efficiency & effectiveness.
- economic viability, feasibility
- national consideration
- long term benefit, social inclusion and benefit

- Rega

"democracy → not mobocracy"

- "Role of civil society & NGOs in turning off this tide of populism head on"

- Corporate lobbying