

TEST CODE 6 2 0 3 0 1

FIAS - MGP 2023 - (C-13 Alt) - Essay Test (FLT) #

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Time Allowed : Three Hours

समय : तीन घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250

अधिकतम अंक : 250

## ESSAY / निबंध

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	T. BHUVANESH RAM		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक		Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1900	Date/दिनांक	02/07/2023

\*Center Code : For Online - 1900 / Delhi : Karol bagh - 1901, ORN - 1902, Mukharji Nagar - 1903 / Patna : Boring Rd. - 2001 / Hyderabad : Jawahar Nagar - 210

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका			INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश	
Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक	1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet. कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।	
Q.1			2. There are TWO Sections. Each Section has MULTIPLE topics printed in English/Hindi. You have to write on 1 topic from Each part. प्रश्न पत्र में दो खंड हैं। प्रत्येक खंड में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में बहु-विषय मुद्रित हैं। आपके प्रत्येक भाग में से किसी एक विषय का लेखन करना है।	
Q.2			3. One question in each part is compulsory. प्रत्येक भाग में से एक प्रश्न करना अनिवार्य है।	
Total Marks/कुल अंक			4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. एक प्रश्न/भाग द्वारा किए गए अंकों की संख्या इसके सामने इंगित की गई है।	
Remarks/टिप्पणी :			5. 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. उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।	
			6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाना चाहिए।	
			7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off. प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा गया कोई भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ का भाग स्पष्ट रूप से काट दिया जाना चाहिए।	
<b>For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु</b>				
Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :			End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :	
11.30 AM			2.40 PM	
Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :			Online/ऑनलाइन <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
			Offline/ऑफलाइन <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु</b>				
ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :		EG/ईजी :		Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :

**MARKING SCHEME**

<b>Parameter/Criteria</b>	<b>Aspects Considered</b>	<b>Total Marks</b>	<b>Essay 1</b>	<b>Essay 2</b>
<b>Basic Format</b>	Introduction + Conclusion	10		
	Body	15		
<b>Content</b>	Data/Facts/Interpretation/Analysis	25		
<b>Organisation</b>	Flow of ideas/ Absence of Deviation from the topic	25		
<b>Language Skills</b>	Punctuation/Grammar/Sentence Formation/Spellings	25		
<b>Examiner's Discretion</b>	Perception/ Innovation/ Engaging	25		

<b>Parameters</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>Coherence</b>				
<b>Language</b>				
<b>Handwriting</b>				
<b>Pre-writing</b>				

<b>Very Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Average</b>
120 and above	100-120	Below 100

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**SECTION - A**

1. The ultimate renewable energy is the human ingenuity.  
मानव प्रतिभा सबसे बेहतर नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा है।
2. Human laws and natural laws mutually reinforce each other.  
मानवीय कानून और प्राकृतिक कानून परस्पर एक दूसरे को सुदृढ़ करते हैं।
3. History should be understood as evolution of society.  
इतिहास को समाज के उद्भव के रूप में समझा जाना चाहिए।
4. If one has seen further than others it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.  
अगर किसी ने दूसरों से दूर तक देखा है तो यह दिग्गजों के कंधों पर खड़े होने की वजह से है।

1. THE ULTIMATE RENEWABLE ENERGY IS THE HUMAN  
INGENUITY

In March 2020, the whole of Indian economy came to an abrupt standstill. A then-unknown virus had created panic globally, with national administrations having no clue how to handle the pandemic. A lockdown of the nation seemed to be the only panacea in sight. While lives were being saved, livelihoods were being lost.

Anal industries noticed that on the one hand, demand for milk products remained the same in households which, contrary to expectations, spent more on food while being locked in.

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On the other hand, the milk cooperatives were unable to carry on their business due to supply chain restrictions. The top management of Amul decided to make hay while the sun shines. They ingeniously undertook reforms in their supply chains, digitised their milk homes to monitor temperatures remotely, brought in a new range of products and consequently, achieved multiple times of their turnover compared to previous quarters and even other industries which were reeling under the lockdown restrictions.

What was the driving force behind Amul which pushed them to be inventive, while no other player dared to do so? Human ingenuity has, more often than not, solved insurmountable challenges, pushed boundaries of imagination and catalysed the progress of human civilisation. The instant essay probes the role of human ingenuity in the advancement of humans and the ways to promote it.

### INGENUITY - A THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK:

Ingenuity may be defined as being a novel thinker,

194303\_620301\_1910675716\_2023-07-02\_18:16:35) bring about non-obvious products / solutions for the benefit of mankind. Various psychologists such as Sternberg and Amabile have investigated what are the traits that sets a creative person apart from the rest.

Their research suggests that character traits like motivation (intrinsic), knowledge of the field, persistence, divergent thinking etc. should all be in 'confluence' (i.e. come together) for a person to be creative. Steve Jobs and Wozniak possessed the motivation to give the ultimate digital experience to their consumers, knowledge of computers, persistence to the extent of starting their endeavour in their own garage and divergent thinking, which helped them try unconventional technologies (such as pioneering the touchscreen in the age of key pad phones). Today, Apple has thus become synonymous with ingenuity!

INGENUITY - ULTIMATE & RENEWABLE:

A question arises if human ingenuity is among the foremost causes for the progress of mankind.

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Undoubtedly, ingenious thinking has come in good stead for us since time immemorial. If the discovery of the wheel revolutionised how we transport goods and cover vast geographies, discovery of fire was the critical moment which helped humans to cook their raw meat, keep themselves warm and stay alive.

In his seminal work, "Sapiens", Yuval ~~Harari~~ <sup>Norari</sup> explains that humans have conquered the world due to their ingenious ability to create imagined realities and write under it. Be it religion, money, nationhood etc. the imagined realities helped in bringing the energies of countless humans together towards a common cause, which led to human aspirations being a force to reckon with!

Ingenuity is renewable in the sense that adversity cannot stop people from being inventive. It is the constant fuel that drives individuals and societies forward away from stagnation and idleness. At the individual level, being creative can bring a

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sense of purpose to life and also overcome challenges, be it big or small. An Indian girl recently bagged a UN award for inventing solar-powered ironing carts, which can create many jobs in a sustainable manner. Ingenuity is thus not about grandiose and ground-breaking discoveries, but being smart in resource allocation for maximum benefit to all.

At the societal level, ingenious thinking can win battles, broker peace, pioneer new technologies, widen intellectual horizons and make us better human beings. When imperialism was the norm of the day and violence, the language of the rulers, thinkers like Henry David Thoreau and later, Gandhi thought differently. They spoke the language of Civil Disobedience to highlight the shortcomings of colonialism and ultimately pave way for independence.

Startups have turned the youth of today, from being job-seekers to job-creators. Within a span of a

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decade, India has grown to be a startup-behemoth, housing over 30,000 startups and hundreds of unicorns. Every ingenious idea, be it demand-aggregation (ola, uber), doorstep delivery (swiggy, zomato), insta-consumerism (zepto, grofers), digital democratisation of education (Byju's, unacademy) are all powerful concepts that are constantly influencing the way we think, act and behave. This, apart from the huge employment potential and value that they are adding to today's economy.

Amid the flattery of ingenuity, one wonders if creativity is per-se always desirable or beneficial. A famous quote goes thus:

"Man always wants what is good for him, but it's in judging what is good that he goes wrong"

The genius of Oppenheimer led to the annihilation of thousands of lives, thanks to the discovery of atom bombs.



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The genius of many tech-savvy individuals is channelised towards anti-social pursuits such as hacking, cyber-crimes, revenge pornography, cyber-bullying etc. The genius of social media platforms is covertly used to negatively impact upon the mental health of teenagers, as per the testimony of James Huggins, an ex-employee of Meta.

Ingenuity must therefore be accompanied by an ethical framework for it to ~~be~~ reap maximum benefit to humanity. Furthermore, a society that encourages conformity can never nurture ingenious individuals. Divergent thinking must be nurtured as part of culture and educational system, along with a sound ethical education.

### PROMOTING INGENUITY:

Research studies in cognitive psychology has highlighted various obstacles to creativity. Conformist thinking, risk aversion, using set patterns

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to solve problems and a society which discourages questioning are all obstacles that need to be overcome.

Reams have been written about the weaknesses of the Indian education system, not the least of which is absence of focus on creativity. The focus needs to shift from output-orientation (marks, ranks and placements) to outcome-orientation (quality patents, problem-solving & critical thinking). The National Education policy 2020 rightly lays focus on critical thinking skills. Atal Tinkering Labs under, NITI Aayog's purview are a good addition to the goal of transforming students into independent thinkers.

Though India is among the highest producers of patents, its quality has been criticised as they are largely in spurious journals and have poor citations. A vibrant, society-oriented research ecosystem forms the basis of an ingenious society that creates science-backed

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solutions to problems. The piloting of Bandicoot, a mechanised alternative to <sup>employment of</sup> sanitary workers in sewage treatment, by IITs is a noteworthy example. The Ministry of Education's proposal to create a dedicated NRF (National Research Foundation) can also increase the flow of funds to R & D, which has been languishing at less than 0.5% in India.

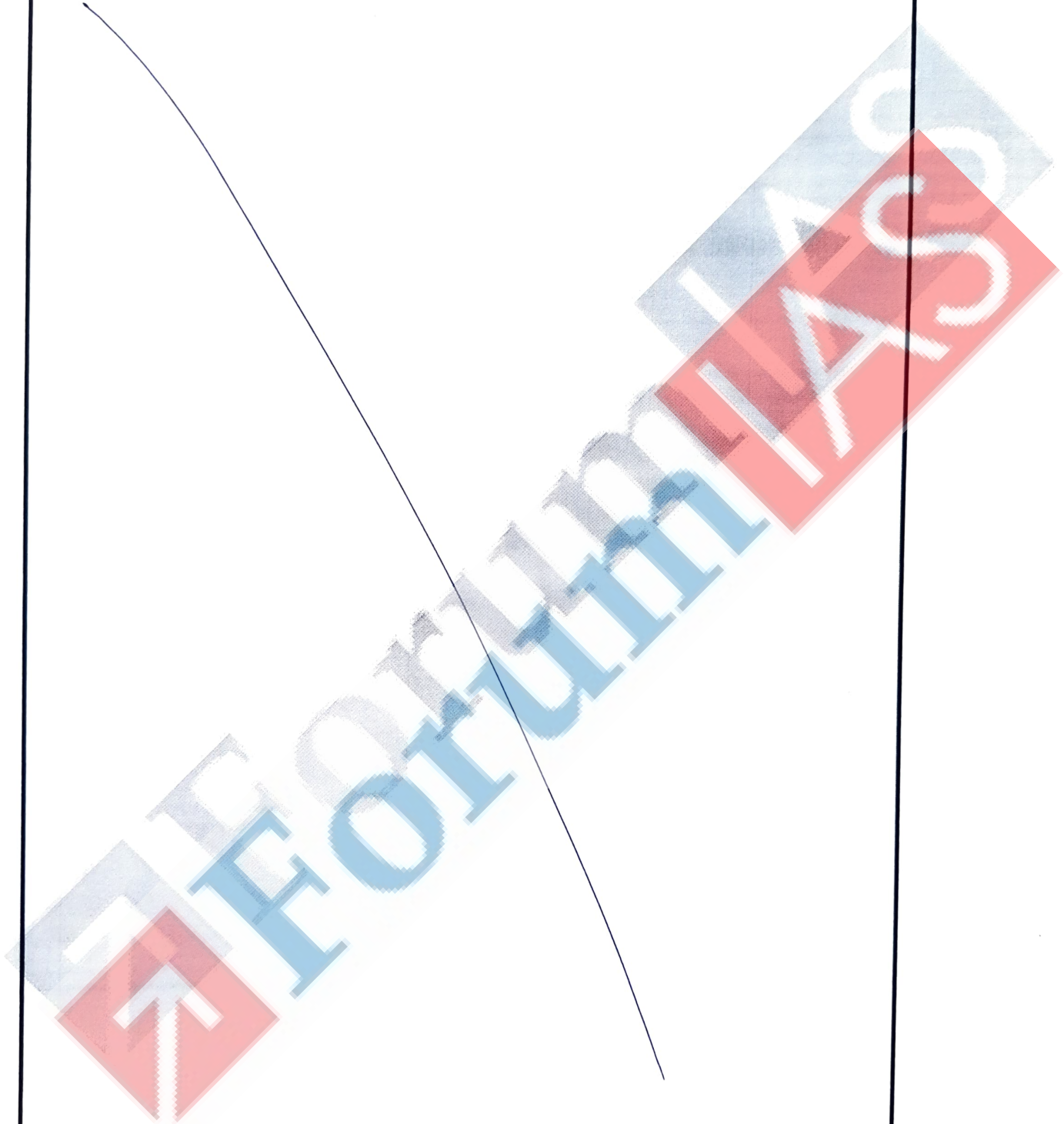
Risk aversion has <sup>always</sup> been a prominent feature in Indian households, and a stumbling block for to-be inventors and entrepreneurs. Not only does it lead to discouragement of alternate careers, but it creates a value system which promotes conformist thinking in the young minds of the country. This also translates to start-ups & businesses being looked down if they fail, or being "supported" by the state. The law of 'creative destruction' states that society is in constant evolution, which may lead to poor-performing startups going bankrupt. Laws such as Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code enable

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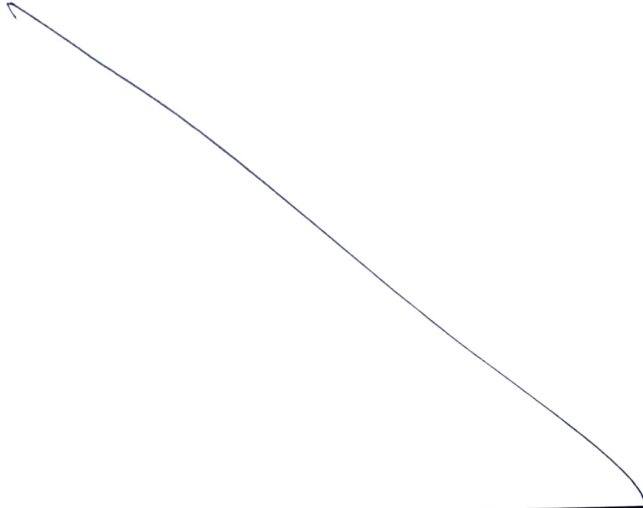
the exit of startups and learnings for others.

Ingenuity of any individual is influenced by nature and nurture in equal measures. Everybody can be creative in their tasks, provided they are given the conducive environment to be so. It is the responsibility of the Indian state, which lays down that it's the fundamental duty of every citizen to cultivate a scientific temper, to foster an ecosystem where we have our next generation of startups from rural areas, we celebrate our own Elon Musk from marginalised backgrounds, we create independent thinkers who embrace entrepreneurship and count themselves out of the socially-constructed rat race, we develop ethical citizen who demonstrate their ingenuity to the furthering - and not detriment - of society. Such an India is not far off, as we enter the last 25 years of a century of independence!

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**Feedback**

Feedback to be provided in terms of (1) Introduction (2) Sentence Constructions (3) Parapgraph Formation (4) Legibility (5) Deviation from Topic (6) Coverage of dimensions (7) Simplicity / ease of reading

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**SECTION - B**

1. Is modernism at a crossroads with cultural and civilisational ethos?  
क्या आधुनिकतावाद सांस्कृतिक और सभ्यतागत लोकाचार के दौराहे पर खड़ा है?
2. Man often enjoys the comfort of opinion without the discomfort for thought.  
मनुष्य अक्सर चिन्तन के असुविधा के बिना विचार के सुविधा का आनंद लेता है।
3. The rise of populism in democratic societies is a threat to the rule of law and constitutionalism.  
लोकतांत्रिक समाजों में लोकलुभावनवाद का उदय विधि के शासन और संवैधानिकता के लिए खतरा है।
4. It's time for us to turn to each other, not on each other.  
यह हमारे लिए एक-दूसरे की ओर मुड़ने का समय है, न कि एक-दूसरे के विरुद्ध।

3.) THE RISE OF POPULISM IN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES IS A  
THREAT TO RULE OF LAW AND CONSTITUTIONALISM.

It was January 2021 and unprecedented scenes were unfolding at the seat of power of the oldest democracy and arguably most powerful nation in the world. Discontented voters, who were supporters of Mr. Donald Trump, were dissatisfied with the result of US presidential elections 2020. Convinced that the results were rigged, they took law into their own hands, stormed Capitol Hill and infiltrated the presidential palace.

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Even as the democracies world over were coming to grasp the gravitas of the event, a black mark in the democratic history of USA, it was clear that the role of populism was unmissable in the riots. A powerful hate campaign, combined with misinformation on social media had led to utter disregard for the law of the land and an event that would stand as a warning sign for other democracies.

Populism has been employed in various countries for various purposes, often to mobilise public opinion or garner majoritarian support even by unethical means. This essay would deal with the rise in populism, its expressions and ramifications for rule of law and constitutionalism along with policy proposals to address the same.

POPULISM - BACK TO 'BASICS':

If a broad definition can be given, populism refers to the polarisation of citizenry or "gathering



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their support" by any means possible, often by pandering to their basal instincts. The logic of its existence is shockingly simple. Democracy runs with the support of the majority or the tyranny of the majority. In this game of numbers, populism is employed as a tool to mobilise public opinion, of either the masses or an influential minority, to achieve the ends of those in power, be it the furtherance of their socio-political ideology or to monopolise the elixir, called power.

Vote-bank politics is another ~~other~~ end which is sought to be achieved through populist measures. For instance, on the eve of 2021 elections for Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, the then government announced an internal quota for the Vanniyar community in government employment, a day before model code of conduct was to come in force. This was widely perceived to be a populist measure.

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"It is dangerous when ignorance and intolerance  
combines with Power"  
- Voltaire.

Though populism may be an ugly by-product in  
democracies, the recent rise in populism is of particular  
concern. Several factors could have played a role in this  
trend. Firstly, the rise of strongman politics with <sup>the</sup> political-  
right coming to power in many countries. There is a  
tendency to demonise migrants, stoke nationalist passions  
by portraying a 'foreign' country as the only problem in the  
country and further majoritarianism. Ex: The proposed '  
boundary wall' with Mexico during the reign of Donald  
Trump.

Secondly, the rise of social media. In the digital  
age, where UGC (User generated content) is largely outside  
the regulatory framework, vested political interests can  
easily spread misinformation, create virality of content  
and generate political heat. For instance, during COVID, the  
poorly-executed Tablighi Jamaat was singled out as the

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cause of pandemic, putting Muslims on the receiving end.

Thirdly, questions over institutional independence, of those entities whose role is to act as a check and balance have arisen. Instances of police targeting the minorities (death of George Floyd), human rights abuses by the military, extension of terms of the heads of investigative agencies etc. have contributed to the unchecked use of power.

Though various other factors also are at play, the rise in populism is empirically evident and poses a grave threat to rule of law and constitutionalism.

### POPULISM - IMPACT ON RULE OF LAW:

Populist tendencies work to replace rule of law with rule 'by few<sup>(no)</sup> men'. When populist sentiments get out of hand, they lead to strikes, protests and in general disorder. The Capitol Hill's riot seen in introduction, the infiltration of Khalistanis in the

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anti-farm law protests etc. are a case in point. The "Rath yatra" of the 1990s to unite the "cause" of the Hindus is another populist movement, again to stoke communal passions. In more recent manifestations, concentrated attack on Muslims on Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti are not an uncommon sight.

Loss of lives and property is another major consequence resulting from populist movements. While the political organisations make merry in creating new faultlines in society, the ultimate brunt of the populist riots are borne by the common man. The internationally acclaimed Indian film "Nisaar" is a case in point, which empathetically portrays the lives of minorities, caught between populist sentiments.

Manifestation of populism also takes the form of unbridled subsidies and doles promised before elections. As a result, various states in India have a high debt-to-GDP ratio, much above the 20% recommended by

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The N-K-Singh Committee. While India is a welfare state, welfarism has turned into populism as state expenditure is used even to distribute private goods and without any targeting. Excessive subsidies impact the fiscal prudence of the states, with scant regard to the Fiscal Responsibility Act of the Centre and states.

POPULISM - IMPACT ON CONSTITUTIONALISM:

It could be stated <sup>unequivocally</sup> that populist policies are an affront to the constitutional morality of any country. If a minister in power openly declares that a certain community must be eliminated from the country as they are 'stealing jobs', it directly goes against the spirit of fraternity enshrined in the preamble of the constitution of India.

Dr. B-R-Ambedkar while laying down essential conditions for a successful democracy enlisted "public conscience" as one of the features. Public conscience is the collective morality of a society,

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which promotes harmony & pre-empted havoc in the social relations. It is disconcerting to note that out of all the cow-lynching cases registered since Independence, 97% of them have come from the past decade. These are specifically targeted towards minorities, which impacts upon their freedom of religion and choice of food.

Mobocracy is a direct result of populism and it goes directly against the judicial setup, which is the ultimate adjudicator of criminal cases and <sup>for</sup> dispensing judgements. For instance, a mob in Assam 'felt threatened' by an outsider who was believed to kidnap children. They decided to beat him to death. It is anybody's guess if social media or vested interests behind such false news is to blame.

Populism takes the ugly form of hate speech which directly infringes on the right to life and dignity of the targeted community. Hate speech deploys the

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Psychology of 'othering' and seeks to divide people as majority and minority. This is a far cry from the democracy and constitutionalism that the forefathers of India envisaged.

~~TACKLING HATE SPEECH~~

TACKLING THE RISE IN POPULISM:

Responsible politics by the political parties is a critical pre-requisite in the battle against populism. Parties must be quick to act against members who use divisive language which has a potential for creating violence. Intra-party democracy, by way of laying down a party constitution in line with the Constitution of India must be explored.

The rising menace of hate speech must be tackled by a dedicated law, as Law Commission has suggested. It must be made clear that power cannot provide impunity to indulge in speech or

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Expression of hostility against certain communities  
or castes.

The <sup>weaponisation</sup> ~~state~~ of technology and social media for  
populism must be reversed effectively. Digital  
intermediaries must be responsible to identify sensitive  
content and take it down, without undue prejudice  
to the right to free expression on the internet. Use  
of AI to detect deepfakes doctored specifically to  
create fake news and communal tensions is a  
must in the digital age. The new draft Digital India Bill  
must address the same.

Though promise of subsidies in Model of  
Conduct has been upheld by the Supreme court, there  
must be a way to prevent parties from treating the  
treasury of the state as an unending resource to  
make deals and promises. Enforceability of model  
code of conduct where parties are made to state ~~the~~  
how they plan to raise funds for all the electoral



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promises is a valid suggestion which must be implemented.

Not the least, populism is ultimately because citizens are uncritically open to the manoeuvres of the party in power. Political and digital literacy is a fundamental duty of every citizen in any democracy.

An ideal citizen must call out those engaging in divisive politics, identify unfair freebies and reject the party which engages in the same during the next election. She must be a careful and diligent user of social media, and promote only that content that doesn't harm any particular person due to their social identity. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's warning would serve as an ideal advice in our battle against populism:

"Any ~~law~~ constitution is only as good as those implementing it"

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**Feedback**

Feedback to be provided in terms of (1) Introduction (2) Sentence Constructions (3) Paragraph Formation (4) Legibility  
(5) Deviation from Topic (6) Coverage of dimensions (7) Simplicity / ease of reading