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Subject: ESSAY

Name of Candidate

TUSHAR SINGLA

Test Code

428

Schedule

12/07/14

Registration No.

4850

Place

Rajinder Nagar

Time

3:15 pm

Module

149

Classroom



Distance Learning

Classroom & Distance Learning

EVALUATION INDICATORS

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

INDEX TABLE

Q.No.	Page No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			

Total Marks Obtained

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, ID Number and Test Code)
The Candidate should fill the index table, especially for him/her.
2. In the left margin, she/he should write only question number and in the right margin, nothing should be written.
3. The page number should be coded by the candidate himself and the range of page number related to the answer of the question should be used to complete the index table.
4. All Parts of the questions should be written at one place.
5. No Supplementary sheet shall be provided by the management. So the candidate is advised to accommodate required information within the space provided.
6. The candidate need not write anything in his/her answer that derogates the dignity of an individual or an organization.
7. The candidate should respect the instructions, given by the invigilator.
8. The Examinee has to submit the answer sheet to the invigilator after completion of examination.
9. However, he/she is allowed to take away the question paper.

2. The real success story of modern India lies not in the domain of economics, but in that of politics

Many doubted the Indian project when it was started in 1947 after a long freedom struggle against occupiers. Looking at the circumstances in which India got independence, many hard core patriots were also somewhat sceptic about the very survival of the country in near future. Deprivation, partition, societal cleavages, war, huge geography, diversity naturally were some of the fundamental challenges that help in realizing the contextual setting of those times. But India has not only survived, but thrived. And there are many factors that have contributed in fundamental transformation of the country. In fact, not only for India, but for any nation to develop and progress in present era, many factors, approaches, ideas have to work in sync. However, and here is the cliché, has

This been really true for India, although looking at the face value it may seem so? Well, upto a certain context, especially when we go into detail in coming paras about the transformation of the country, but at the same time we will look as to why politics in India, with all its deficiencies to drawbacks has played so much an important or to say dominant role in the functioning of our democracy. At the same time focus all needs to be given to immense challenges that have come up in these last 66 years to the functioning of parliamentary democracy and to the very body politic of this country. It will help in putting ~~it~~ in proper context that the real achievement of our country is the still harmonious and respectful attitude of politics towards constitutional norms and rule of law, especially with all the diversity and developmental challenges, and it's the politics that has led to reform in India's economic scenario thus emerging as a major

economy rather than the other way around.
Our discussion will be under three different phases in chronological order i.e. since independence to emergency, from emergency to liberalization of Indian economy, and from liberalization upto the present. And, it is the third phase which we will ~~discuss~~ ^{discuss} in more detail to bring home the point.

From independence to emergency →

As already mentioned the contextual setting of India's formative years, it was natural for the leadership of the country to focus on stability and at the same time on economic growth. India was severely underdeveloped in many sectors of the economy and it was natural for the government to focus on these areas and many initiatives were started, be it in agriculture, physical infrastructure, education, community development etc. But at the same time, many fundamental problems were

staring at the face with ^{mutually} conflicting solutions.
As ~~all~~ nearly all erstwhile princely states were now part of the Indian nation and Constitution was being framed at the same time, a solid Constitutional and administrative framework was laid down. But still many parts of the country were not in the mood to accept the Delhi's writ leading to severe constraints in our polity. Be it the issue of North East, Language issue of South vs North, dispute of Jammu & Kashmir leading to wider communal overtones and development of these grievances into secessionist tendencies, it was the politics of the country that had to play a role of conciliator as ^{whether} ~~rather~~ these may be judges, administrators, protagonists of economic development or media, these could not have solved the basic issues of identity or discrimination.

It must be said that it was the wisdom of political leadership at that time that had laid down a strong foundation of moral political

culture leading to handling of all these matters with calmness, foresightedness and pragmatism. Also in 1960s and early 1970s, although there ~~was~~ ^{was} turbulence in politics especially at the state level, one thing that was in nobody's mind was the disintegration of India. All the propaganda about Indian politicians being immature, not being able to run the democratic form of government that was a frequent talking point in Britain in pre-independence years and even after was ~~not~~ ~~not~~ proved wrong but ^{democratic form of govt. in India} also showed that it is possible to achieve a representative democracy in a developing country. In those years it must be mentioned that economic growth was although the priority of many governments but the ~~very~~ economic growth itself could not have come if a country could not have been stabilized and dissipated tendencies could not have been plugged. ~~Also~~

Also, as India was essentially a one-party democracy ^{until} ~~since~~ 1967, when many state governments had different political parties governing there, it

would not have been difficult to alter the course of the nation towards dictatorship and imposition of majoritarianism, but it was the ~~is~~ political parties, politicians achievement and above all Indian people's strong belief in constitution and freedom struggle values that led to mature politics being practised.

However due to circumstances prevailing in 1970s and also personality factors coming into play, India did experience ~~emerge~~ dictatorship ~~and~~ but Indian people's response was equally emphatic.

It can be said that in this period, i.e. ~~up to~~ 1975, if India had progressed to where it was, it was the politics successful functioning within the constitutional framework laid down by visionaries that was the fundamental factor in this journey. Real success story, thus in this period was more so in the domain of politics than any other field.

From emergency to liberalization

When emergency was imposed, it was again thought

that India as a nation is coming to an end and politics would be responsible for it. But looking in the hindsight and proper perspective, Indian electorate's maturity trumped even many developed democracies when they threw out the regime imposing emergency. Here again certain political forces came to the fore that ~~played~~ played a crucial role not only in ~~the~~ opposing the dictatorship, but also governing the country. Here began the era of some kind of multi party democracy which fully developed in 1980s and 1990s.

In this period especially in 1980s, there was realization that for country to remain in harmony, development was imperative and thus certain view points were setting dominance regarding the economy i.e. opening up the economy, increasing role of private sector, delicensing although these were not implemented wholeheartedly in 1980s. Another crucial thing that was happening with implications of huge magnitude for India's future was the consolidation

of different sections of society on different ideologies and regional interests leading to the emergence of regional parties. Although Tamil Nadu and Punjab had already their respective regional politics, now this phenomenon was going to spread to vast Hindi Heartland, along with ~~to~~ Andhra Pradesh and North East.

Many sections of elite were frightened at the prospect of regional ~~of~~ parties practising the dominance in Delhi, but ~~the~~ the emergence of regional politics was the natural phenomenon where any homogeneous section of society organizes itself for political power after achieving certain amount of prosperity, as happened with landowning classes benefitting from Green Revolution, or due to neglect of their problems and grievances for a prolonged period, as happened with emergence of Dalit politics.

Two other phenomenon that was predominant in this time was the realization that local participation in development programmes was imperative if they have to benefit from ~~these~~

schemes leading to growing acceptance of local self-governments in official circles.

Now one of these phenomenon i.e. coalition and ~~fractured~~ ^{divided} politics could have impeded economic growth, other i.e. ^{democratic} decentralization could have led to increased prosperity at local level, although many vested interests were not in favour of this. It must be to the credit of political leadership of the time that ~~It must be to the credit of~~

despite many entrenched interests, efforts were made to realize the dream of constitutional mandated local governance in India and despite formation of coalition government at Centre, imperative for economic reforms was realized.

This was the moment where again it came to the fore that if India is to succeed, its politics has to be at the forefront to realize its long term interests and if they do that economic success and social development will naturally follow.

From liberalization to present

India has perhaps not seen a massive transformation in such a short period since last 1000 years. As it has seen in last 23 years, Indian economy was open ~~for~~ ^{to} the world and era of globalization beckoned. At the same time participative democracy rather than representative democracy ~~was~~ ^{was} getting more and more traction leading to passing of constitutional amendments that created rural and urban local bodies. At the same time it must be remembered that coalition politics was redefining the nature of Indian politics and a party with as few as one tenth ~~of~~ or one fifteenth of MPs of total Lok Sabha could play a big role in making or falling the government. Also, a fundamental debate regarding role of religion into politics was at its peak in these years and it led to severe tension at times. Many depressed sections of ~~p~~ society, be they scheduled castes organizing themselves as political power

On scheduled tribes demanding separate states for their contiguous territories, there was a tectonic shift taking place in Indian politics. It naturally led to clashes among different viewpoints and ideologies, sometimes regional interests superseded national interests, debating gave place to name-calling in legislatures and animosity among different sections led to gridlock in progressing on serious policy issues.

Still, the biggest paradox is or it may not be a paradox as ~~we~~ we will see it that India experienced some of its highest growth rates in 1990s and 2000s despite coalition era. Now how was this possible? Here again come the usual scenarios that had provided the stability in turbulence in India's past.

India's constitution is one of the most robustly and intelligently written documents that has embraced diversity of this land with openness and ~~has~~ envisaged every solution for any eventual ~~contingency~~ emergency measures. At the same time, it has proved flexible enough

to getting amended with the changing times. Then come the institutional edifice that has been created by Constitution and parliamentary laws be it the election commission, judiciary, auditing agencies or since 1992 local self governments that increasingly acted as a safety valve and mechanism for deepening of democratic values. Election Commission has ensured that India has achieved excellence in procedural democracy i.e. conducting elections, judiciary has laid down the rules of games before political class according to the Constitution, and parliamentary committees themselves with help of auditing agencies have led to the scrutiny of executive for every single rupee spent by it.

At the same time, many regional parties being having influence at centre level also led to balanced federal relationship leading to some equity between centre and states as a whole and among states themselves. It has led to balanced regional development.

although in the market economy this has not been much successful and backward communities and regions getting attention.

Ultimately it's the political class itself that has understood that only if India has a ~~respectful standing in the world, they themselves can justify being~~ thriving economy leading to content population, they themselves can remain in the seat of power. This has led to some pragmatic decisions being taken on economic side that have led to growth in Indian economy and change in perception in the world about India. Also, in 2008^{and later}, one can see another aspect of mature understanding and pragmatism of Indian politicians. Even though there was an ideological shift in 2004 from right of Centre to left of Centre, and in 2014 vice-versa, we have seen ^{that} good work done by previous governments have been not only appreciated but also continued ~~by~~ by the new governments. This has ~~led~~ resulted

in continuity of policies in socio-economic field and security sectors leading to stability and confidence among the people that political differences aside, broad consensus is present in Indian polity that their ultimate goal is India's progress. Again we have seen in the last phase that be it economic reforms that have led to economic progress, social welfare policies or balanced regional development or local level participation, it was the political processes aided by constitutional and other robust institutional mechanisms that resulted in all these decisions.

We have seen India's progress and success story since independence, and also placed it in contextual ~~time~~ setting to gaze upon the factors leading at that time that influenced the ~~events~~ events. One thing that have come out clearly is that India's characteristics as a nation in all aspects be it political, social, economic or

even ideological have undergone a massive ~~shift~~ shift in these years. All these factors have affected each other but it was the politics that decided the economic path the country had to take, the social cleavages the country had to tackle, and ideological battles the country had to wage. It is pertinent to note that many of the modern times prosperous regions of India, be it the Punjab, Tamil Nadu or other resource rich and strategic regions were demanding secession ~~at one or the~~ other time in India's independent history. It was the deft political manoeuvring, understanding of citizens that have led to stabilization and acceptance of Indian rule here leading to they becoming the forerunners in today's economic progress. Also, the greater assertiveness and confidence that today's Indian citizen is showing as compared to earlier times has politics to thank for rather than economic development only as it is the confidence and belief in constitutional values that shores and binds the Indian citizens with the state ~~which~~ and this has

Further deepened with establishment of local self-governing bodies. One must say, although, that despite so many checks and balances, experience and understanding of political class, belief of Indian people in constitutional values, if India has to stand in front row of developed nations and to emerge as a major power in every domain, the politics and political class has a long journey to travel.

Yes, there are many achievements but one must toil and can't sit on past laurels to take his nation forward in this fast changing world. If politics of this country imbibes this spirit, which we can be sure of due to its inherent resilience, not only ^{politics or} economics, but in every domain India's success story will leave its imprint.

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2. Real success story of modern India lies not in the domain of economics, but in that of politics

Readings - Pat 1991

LPG → economic devt.
agri, manuf., services. ✓

Politics → federal, par democracy, federalism, social diversity
Constitution → multiparty system, elections, coalition gov., parliamentary.
cooperative federalism ✓
finance, security, natural resources

socially diverse, caste, class, religion, region, gender, participation ✓

Social, Tech, Econ, Environ

Par Democracy → multiparty, representation to deprived, constitutionalism, elections, coalitions (diversity still possible to unity)

caste, class, gender, region, religion, ethnic --
Local Bodies (LSG) → secession, separation.

Economic - LPG - Agri - large farmers, land + medium, small " + cash.
Indus. - large, medium, small - organised, unorganised
Services - various domains

Tech, Space, Atomic etc

→ Unity in diversity, integrity of country
Politics → Economic Reform
→ Welfare
→ Decentralization
→ safety valve to discontented citizens.