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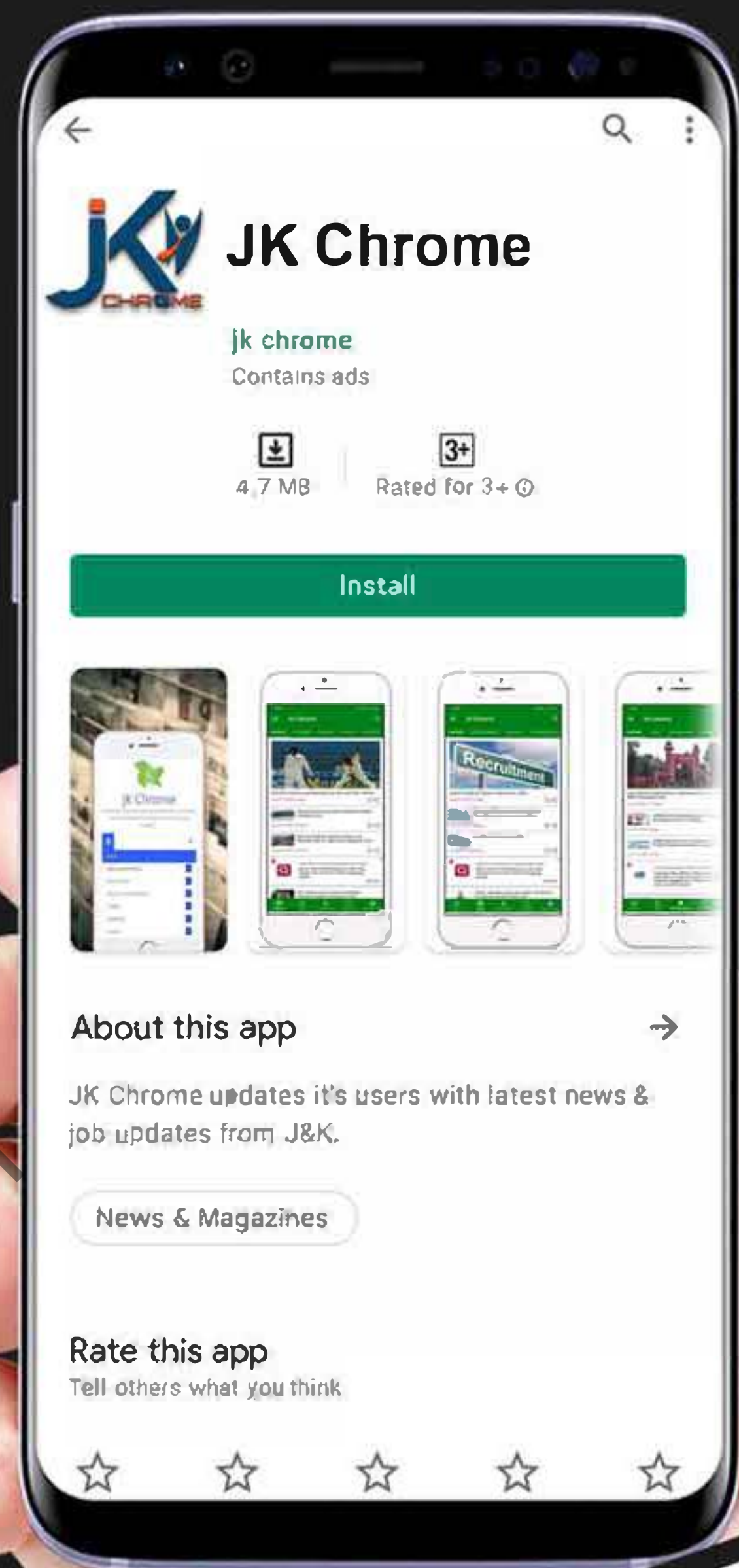
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# NCERT Class 11 Polity notes-Political Theory

**(PS: This PDF deals with political concepts in very brief.)**

## **Chapter 1- Political Theory: An Introduction**

- Political theory has been made one of the sub fields with the rise of political science as a subject.
- Political theory is the study of the state from the philosophical and empirical point of view.
- Political theory manages an understanding between the persons and the state and sort out the ways to improve the shortcomings.
- A political theory can be referred to as a combination of thoughts, philosophies and sciences or arts.
- Politics is referred to struggle for power to maintain relationship between power and authority which is a desire of an act of will.
- Political theory deals with how the present has come and on what assumptions, it may stay and in future, what it will lead.
- India is a free country where issues concerning freedom, equality and democracy arise from time to time and implemented also by the intervention of the state.
- As freedom has been guaranteed by the constitution, still many discriminatory issues are raised and encountered with the interpretations of the state.
- Along with the changes in time and periods, people's aspirations and needs are also changed and new dimensions are discovered as well.
- Political theories debate and examine the diverse meaning and opinions in a systematic manner and easily to be understood by the ordinary peoples.

## **Chapter 2 - Freedom**

- Freedom is a liberty to do whatever a person likes to do or a positive power of doing and enjoying the worth of work.
- Freedom has the two aspects, i.e. positive and negative.

- Positive freedom refers to those rights which do not reach any harm to others if enjoyed as well essential for an individual's development.
- Negative freedom implies the absence of any restraints on freedom.
- Freedom can be classified as natural freedom, civil freedom, political freedom, economic freedom, religious freedom, individual freedom, etc.
- Various safeguards have been provided for freedom, i.e. democratic setup, equal rights for all, economic security constitutional provisions, etc.
- Freedom of expression require non-interference or should not be restricted because it is a fundamental value to be possessed by the people.
- Though, a number of times, the demands have been raised to ban books, films, articles, journals, etc.
- Banning is an easy solution for the short term to meet the immediate demand but it is very harmful for long term prospects of freedom in a society.
- Because once one begins to ban, then one develops a habit of banning. Constraints of different kinds thus exist and we are subject to them in different situations.

### **Chapter 3- Equality**

- Equality refers that all human beings are equal in all aspects because they are equal by birth as a human being. And everybody should be equally educated, wealthy, and equal status in the society.
- But this is a negative aspect of equality because every person cannot be equal in all the spheres as human beings are created even equal by God.
- The human beings differ from each other in intelligence, height and physique also.
- Positive aspects of equality refers to give adequate opportunities to develop one's own potentialities and to abolish special privileges to be given to some sections of society.
- Equality can be classified as natural, social, civil, economic and political.

- Article 14 of the constitution of India guarantees equality to all the citizens before law and equal protection within India.
- Freedom and equality are closely interrelated with each other and work as a basis of democratic set up.
- Equality refers to be eligible to enjoy various opportunities provided by the state.
- Some inequalities existing in country are:
  - Disparity of income
  - Gender inequality in society
  - Existing slums
  - Inequality among educational institutions.

## **Chapter 4 - Social Justice**

- Justice was associated with dharma in ancient society to be a primary duty of a king.
- The Greek philosopher Plato interprets justice in his book 'The Republic' as a life of people conforming to the rules of functional specialization.
- Justice has been defined in a various ways, i.e. at sometimes it believed "As you sow, so shall you reap", and sometimes considered the result of actions in previous birth or the will of God.
- According to Prof. Selmond justice is a means to distribute the due share to every body while Marxist considers from each according to his ability to each according to his needs".
- John Rawls describes justice as thinking under a 'veil of ignorance' where position and status in society, everybody would decide as per one's own interests.
- The fundamental elements of justice are equality before law, respect for the necessities of nature, truth and freedom, etc.
- Justice exercises four dimensions, i.e. political, legal, social and economic.

- Social justice refers to equal treatment to each and everybody in the society without any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, color, race, religion, etc.
- Justice and liberty and justice and equality are closely related to each other.

## **Chapter 5 - Rights**

- Rights are primarily those claims which are necessary for leading a life of respect and dignity.
- Rights are those conditions or guarantees which the state provides to every citizen in order to attain best self in the society.
- The legal rights are given by the government to its citizens which are classified as social rights, political rights and fundamental rights.
- Duty is an obligation by which, we are bound to do something which can be classified as fundamental duties, legal duties and moral duties.
- A bill of rights is enshrined in the constitution to be given a primary importance, known as fundamental rights.
- Political rights give to the citizens the right to equality and to participate in political processes.
- Economic rights gives the right to enjoy the opportunities to earn one's own livelihood to fulfill their basic needs.
- But rights can be enjoyed only, if a person is committed towards the duties also.
- Moral duties include duties towards self, family, society, neighbors, humanity, etc.
- Legal duties include obedience of law, payment of taxes, to participate in military services if required as well as to cooperate with government employees.
- On 10th of December 1948, the General Assembly of the UN adopted and proclaimed the universal declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.

## **Chapter 6 - Citizenship**

- Citizenship refers to the collective political identity of individuals of the state who enjoy some certain rights also.
- A citizen is entitled to abide by the laws of a particular country in which one enjoys their rights as a citizen.
- An ideal citizen can be referred to possess the qualities to be educated, aware of rights and duties, to have a high gravity in character as well as to be loyal to the country.
- In a democratic setup, the citizens enjoy the political rights also, i.e. right to vote, to contest elections, to form political parties and to hold public offices, etc.
- Every citizen is entitled to perform some certain duties also associated with the rights, i.e. obedience of law, loyalty towards the state, cooperation with the public servants and payment of taxes, etc.
- A natural born citizen is the one who either born in the country or if one's parents are the citizens of a particular country.
- The citizenship of a country can be acquired by marriages, appointment as a government official, acquisition of a territory and purchases of immovable property, etc.
- A good citizenship may be hindered by in differences, poverty, narrow growing and lack of education, etc.
- Global citizenship makes the work easier to deal with the problems to extend across national boundaries and to need cooperative actions of the states on the issues of migrants, stateless people as well as to ensure basic rights and protection, etc.

## **Chapter 7- Nationalism**

- The nationalism is a sense of an independent nation that is combined together for the achievement of common goal.
- The persons of a nation are known citizens of a country to enjoy political and civil rights to obey the laws of country.

- An ideal citizen possesses some good qualities, i.e. well educated, aware of one's own rights and duties having staunch loyalty to the country and with lofty character.
- Nationalism refers to the right of self-determination to imply that every nation in the world should exercise a right to determine its destiny in all walks of life without interference of other states in the world.
- Every nationalist is supposed to perform some duties, i.e. obedience of law, payment of taxes, cooperation with public servants and loyalty with the state, etc.
- State and society are distinguished from each other, i.e. a society has been originated before state and does not enjoy any sovereignty whereas a state has fixed territory and possess sovereignty also.
- State and nation enjoy some distinctions, i.e. state has four essential elements but nation has none. Out of these sovereignty and definite territory are essential for a state.
- State and government are also distinguished, i.e. government is an essential element of state.
- The terms like state, nation and nationality have its own their separate meanings, i.e. state is a political organisation to be either co-existent with nationality.
- Where a state is exclusively composed of one nationality, it is a nation state. But where we have a state to consist of more than one nationality or where a nationality is spread over several states, the state and nation do not coincide.
- Nation refers to be a self-governing nationality.

## **Chapter 8 - Secularism**

- The word 'Dharma' has been derived from Sanskrit refer to adopt along with the basic principle to do welfare of all.
- Secularism refers equal respect for all religions, i.e. the state does not profess any religion and treats all the religions at par.
- Originally, India was not declared a secular state, the word secular was added by the 42nd Amendment Act.

- Secularism refers that political system and administration should be based upon a secular ideology to leave the task of coordination among the different religions and bring unity among them through voluntary social organisation.
- Religion and beliefs are considered as a personal matter, hence, state should have no interference in it.
- India is a secular state because India is impartial in religious matters, all citizens enjoy freedom to adopt any religion as per choice, no discrimination is made on the ground of religion. India has no state religion, religion is kept separate from politics, etc.
- India used to believe since ancient times the nation of Sarva Dharm Sam Bhava (सर्वधर्म समभाव) because India respects all religions equally.
- Hence, secular states are neither theocratic nor establish any religion.
- Indian secularism can be criticized on the grounds of being anti-religions, imported from western culture, charge of minoritism, interventionist based on vote bank politics and it is considered to be an impossible project.

## Chapter 9 - Peace

- Peace is often defined as an absence of war and nations establish the relations with each other in a peaceful and harmonious way to achieve progress in the world.
- Terrorism is a hindrance in the peace of some nations to be violent and unlawful to achieve the desired goals by terrorists.
- To maintain peace, some nations have adopted disarmament as a policy to stop the manufacturing and storage of deadly war weapons.
- India has followed the policy of non-alignment and settled international disputes through peaceful methods and cooperation.
- The 19th century German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche did not value peace because he believed that only conflict could facilitate growth of civilization.
- The non-violence refers not to injure anything on the earth in thought, word or deed but sometimes it is necessary to use the force to maintain peace but war should be the last resort only.



- Pacifism covers a spectrum of views to preach opposition to war or violence as a means to settle disputes.
- The United Nations organisation is an international organisation, founded on 24 October 1945 after the Second World War came to an end.
- The UNO established international peace and security to promote social, economic, cultural and human relationship at international level.
- For the establishment of peace, various approaches have been developed, i.e. to respect sovereignty and treat competition, to grant deep rooted nature of inter state rivalry and envisages the emergence of supranational order, etc.

## **Chapter 10 - Development**

- The idea of development became a main concern after the industrial revolution. Development refers to the achievement of social and economic progress by transforming conditions of underdevelopment as low productivity, stagnation and poverty.
- Development conveys the ideas of improvement, progress, well being and an aspiration for a better life to articulate a vision for the society as a whole and methods to achieve it.
- Development cannot be understood as only in economic terms but it can place also in social and political terms.
- Development bears the different approaches also like psychological, human needs development, dependency, Gandhian and market-friendly approaches, etc.
- Sustainable development makes the efforts to meet the well being needs of present and future generations.
- Gandhiji viewed development to be different from Western model of development and made a distinction between economic and real development.
- This concept gained importance after the second half of 20th century when many countries from Asia and Africa attained political independence.

- A criticism has taken place that development projects to be proven very costly for developing countries.
- The development pays a high social cost also because displacement has led to many struggles in the countries.
- Development should not be measured only in the terms of materials only but it can also be measured in terms of happiness, harmony and satisfaction of essential needs.

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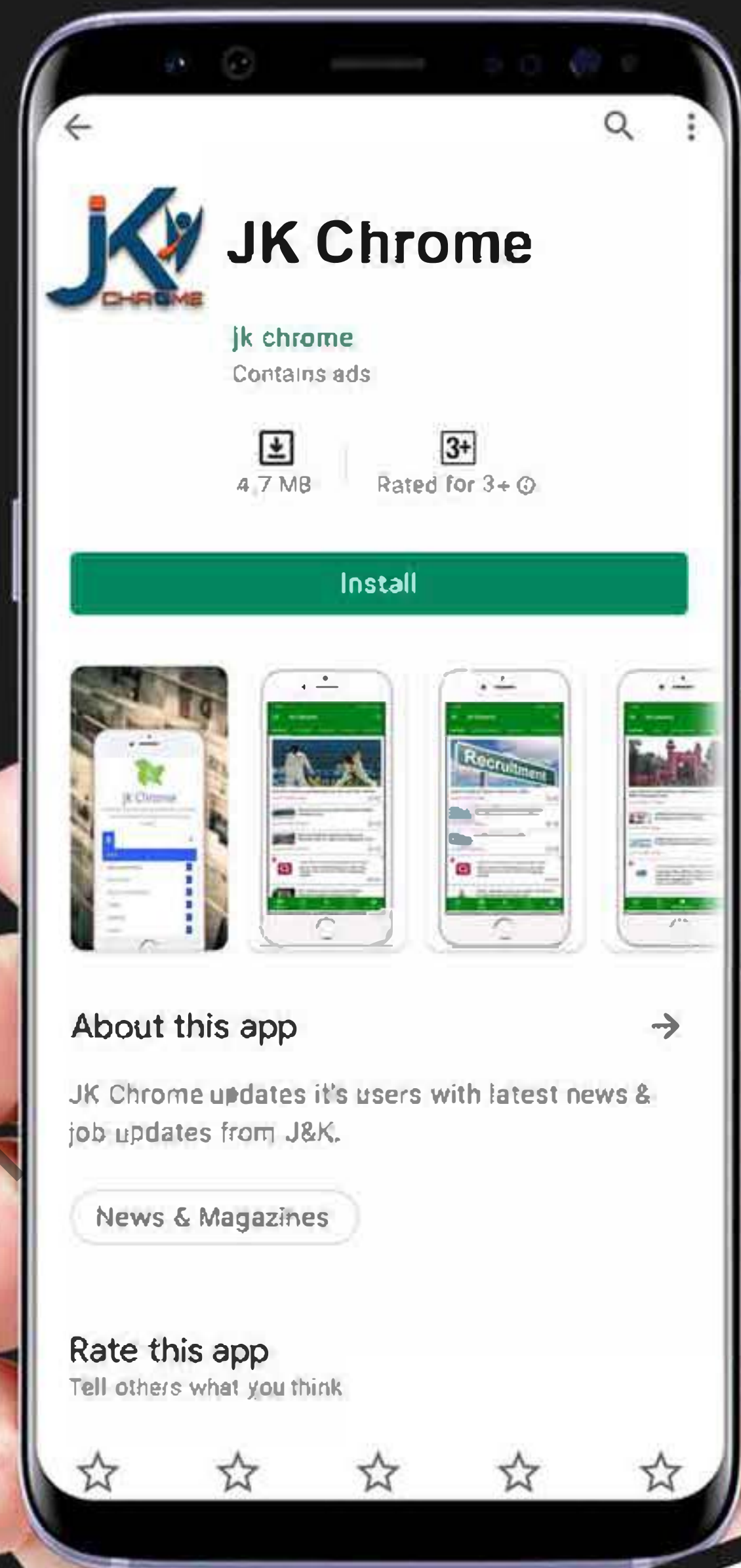
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