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SUBJECT:	ESSAY	Test Code:	2	1	2	2		
Name of Candidate	ISHITA KISHORE							
Medium Hindi/Eng.	ENGLISH	Registration Number	7	8	7	4	5	6
Center	02, ORN	Date	2	9	0	7	2	2

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Page No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks :

INSTRUCTIONS

- 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)।
- All questions are compulsory.
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
- The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
- 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।
- Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
- 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।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

SECTION A

INFORMATION IS THE CURRENCY OF DEMOCRACY

" If All but one, has a difference
of opinion, we must listen...

For the truth can emerge from
anywhere "

- JS Mill, on
Democracy

As one of the first champions of democracy,
Mill has highlighted the paramount importance
of every piece of information. This prevents
both, the tyranny of one over majority, as well
as that of majority over one.

This is best understood from the
story of a common Indian man, who was
yet to make a name for himself.

His genius was shunned by the world, his in depth analysis was found in the shredding machines of monetary policy authorities, his warnings discarded as bearish paranoia.

But when the American and European banks and financial authorities started falling like dominoes, culminating into the

Global Financial Crisis of 2008, there was

only one place to go. The world's best economists brushed off the dust from the

book 'Fault lines' and reached out to

the common Indian man who had predicted and forewarned a global meltdown -

Raghuram Rajan. Had the discussions been 'democratic', his 'information' could have prevented a catastrophe.

In this essay, we will understand the origin and essence of democracy, the role information has played in shaping its different interpretations, its contemporary significance, and finally we'll take a peak into what the future looks like.

DEMOCRACY : ORIGIN & ESSENCE

In Ancient Greece, Aristotle held that 'Common men working together can arrive at better decisions than philosophers in isolation'. He showed that when information emerges democratically from all directions, it creates a solid foundation for dialectics. Deliberation and debate are the heart and soul of a democracy, and information is the key to it.

This was also showcased in the cultural traditions of Ancient India. Amartya Sen in his book 'Argumentative Indian' talks about India's democratic roots; from the debates between Gargi and Yajnavalkya in Chandogya Upanishad, to the Buddhist Sabhas and Samitis. The individual experiences flowing through a network of capillaries in society were the grounds for informative and intellectually stimulating discussions.

The essence of democracy lies in each one of us having an equal opportunity of being heard. This is because of the doctrine of 'Anekantvada' of Jainism wherein

each one of us carries our own perspectives & versions of the same truth. This makes any piece of information fluid and dynamic.

Today, modern democracies provide its citizens the 'Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression'. Such a Right has a dual nature under the Indian Constitution (Art-19). Firstly, it includes the Right to an informed opinion, and secondly, it also encompassed the Right to be heard before the conclusion of any trial. This is what makes any democracy substantive, where despite charges of misconduct, the person is lawfully given an opportunity to present their case with information that can potentially change judgements.

India even recognises the 'Right to Information' as a statutory right which has not only empowered citizens but also deepened democracy.

Modern day experiments have thus created different notions of democracy, as each experiment reveals varied information

DEMOCRACY: VERSIONS & INTERPRETATIONS

It was rightly held by McGrew that 'Every thinker is a child of his times' as the prevailing situations shape the conclusions derived by one.

For Mahatma Gandhi, democracy was the spiritual and physical mobilization of economic, social, political resources. His description relied on the information he had

collected - the masses needed empowerment, village republics needed strengthening for 'Ram Rajya' and the youth needed vocation for true 'Swaraj'.

This is in contrast to Marx, who also envisaged a ~~soed~~ classless society, but relied on violent methods. His information ie capitalists exploit workers shaped his idea of democracy.

Another interesting contrast is that of J.L. Nehru and Sunderlal Bahuguna. While the former believed in heavy industrialisation based on the information that his country had been subjected to centuries of 'Drain of wealth', the latter dedicated his life to saving trees & forests (Chipko Andolan)

based on his derived information that 'Ecology is permanent economy'. This showcases how information is the currency for the very definition of democracy.

INFORMATION : THE FLIP SIDE

In an era that is fast becoming synonymous as the age of information, internet and social media, we are now facing a typical 'Problem of plenty'.

WHO Chief Scientist Somya Swaminathan calls this peculiar issue an 'infodemic'.

The problem now is not the lack of information, but excess of it. This created serious health concerns during the pandemic. Information sharing within the forewalls of democracy has become

so rampant that we no longer know what to believe. A case in point is of Americans (inhabitants of the oldest democracy) who did not know whom to believe -

Dr Fauci who recommended perpetual use of masks, or President Trump who called the virus a farce!

Besides health, it has also created challenges for the survival of democracy in its pure sense. On one hand, government bodies themselves were alleged to have misused information of citizens for private gains, revealed in the famous Pegasus snooping diaries. On the other hand, Big Tech firms shrug off all responsibility when democratic elections were tampered with

by the manipulation of information, in the Cambridge Analytica case.

This makes one wonder if information, which was once the foundational pillar of democracy, is fast becoming the very cause for its decline.

DATA IS THE NEW OIL

Data is the organised and filtered stage of information. With Industrial Revolution 4.0 on its way, data is the currency not just for democracies, but now corporates.

Tools like AI, Big data, Analytics have revolutionized the essence of information.

It makes it imperative to follow what H. Truman suggested in the 20th century:
"Trust, but verify."

Responsible use of information is the prerogative of democracies now, to ensure 'Right to Privacy' to persons. We have now entered an era where democracy will be the currency that can tame limitless information.

On 15th August 1947, India made a trust with destiny to emerge as a democracy. As people of the world are fear Orwellian tendencies, we must strive for a society 'where the mind is without fear, and head is held high?'

If JS Mill were alive today, he would advocate the same to prevent the 'tyranny of information' in a democracy.

SECTION B

A SELF THAT GOES ON CHANGING, IS A SELF
THAT GOES ON LIVING

Sudha Murthy was born to a teacher. She learnt early that teaching was not just a vocation that was noble, but one that changes the world. She went on to marry Narayan Murthy - a socialist by blood. When the benedictions of capitalism arrived in their lives, they combined their energies and channelised it towards the betterment of society. Mrs Murthy has utilized the wealth of Infosys to weed out social ills like the Devadasi System. She has worked in the spirit of a Karmayogi and become an institution herself.

She believes that changing her approaches, inhibitions and methods has enabled her to change the world, in her own little ways. Her changes have fulfilled the Gandhian dream of oceanic circles of empowerment, where one small positive change creates ripple effects in society.

As she goes on changing (herself and those around), she goes on living her simplistic yet fulfilling life, and her legend will go on living, beyond her mortal existence.

In this essay, we will understand how change is the only constant, the need to adapt to survive, the ideas which have evolved and lived on & the

importance of change in 21st century.

CHANGE IS THE LAW OF NATURE

The universe is in constant motion thereby setting the ball of time rolling. This has made scientists proclaim that nothing is ever static.

If the world around us is constantly changing, does it not make it imperative for us to change in line with it? This is Darwin's theory of 'Survival of the fittest'. Those who adapt, go on living, and those who are rigid, perish. This principle is the foundation of the earth's evolution, and also the fulcrum of an individual's existence.

A reversed personality in this regard is Helen Keller, who lost her eyesight and hearing capacity at an age of 19 months. Her story has been a lifelong journey of change - of learning and unlearning constantly, to emerge as the icon she became.

Such an indomitable spirit which does not bow down to its own rigidity, is the culmination of the determination to keep moving.

'Be a bush, if you can't be a tree
If you can't be a highway,
just be a trail.

For it isn't by size that you win or fail,
Be the best of whatever you are.'

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

M.L. King Jr's was a crusader of the Civil Rights Movement. He embraced the changes that a new dawn of equality demanded, and he urged others to embrace those changes too. Decades later, his followers have embraced the same changes with the 'Black Lives Matter' movement.

ADDRESSING THE NEED OF THE HOUR

While civilisational ideas are the basis of any society, there is a need to change and evolve those ideas to survive. The black rights stated above aims to achieve the same.

In the Indian context, the historical sufferings under the British Raj needed to change. This was realised by

Moderates like Raja Ram Mohan Roy who appealed to the British sense of justice.

But, for the movement to survive, extremists asserted violent methods when British disregarded Indian Welfare. Even this was severely repressed.

It was finally with the emergence of Mahatma Gandhi that a new method of regime change was witnessed for the first time in the history of humankind - Ahimsa (Non violence) and Satyagraha.

This appealed to the masses and the struggle ended with India's independence.

Changing, refining and evolving is the secret of ideas that are immortal.

ECONOMY : THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY

Various economic policies and approaches have taken shape in the last two centuries. But the peculiar survival of liberalism is a curious case.

liberalism as an ideology have not just survived, but thrived. It began with Adam Smith's "Wealth of the Nations", which was given the technical term of 'Classical liberalism' in 19th century. But when the Great Depression engulfed the world with gut wrenching miseries, the idea survived because it changed itself into 'Modern liberalism'. This was the welfare expenditure done by governments

to revive their economies.

Over the decades, welfare turned into corruption & red tapism, but liberalism survived because it changed itself to proclaim market fundamentalism i.e.

Neoliberalism. This helped corporates thrive but created huge inequalities. Oxfam's Time to Care report highlights 1%.

population owns over 40% wealth.

But did this signal the death of liberalism?

No! Because it again evolved into

Social liberalism. Now, economists like

Amartya Sen asked governments to

focus on 'capability development' to ensure gains for all.

The idea that changes everytime it is challenged, but retains its principles, is

an idea that goes on living.

RELEVANCE IN 21ST CENTURY

An age that is defined by

'Problems without Passports' coined by

Kofi Annan, it requires meticulous forethought to bring sustainable changes.

A tiny virus changed the way we had known the world. A global lockdown in a world that was tending towards a global village was nothing short of impossible.

Yet life went on because we learnt to live and adapt to changes like wearing masks, working from home, reforming distance learning and most importantly staying connected with loved

ones who were far (in distance but not hearts).

Social media has redefined our lives. With virtual reunions, the online world has changed the way we socialise forever. This needs to be embraced responsibly, to avoid challenges like the silent pandemic of mental health breakdowns, ~~down~~

e-Commerce has also rejuvenated the need for 'Survival of the fittest' as Kirana stores struggle

A way to emerge victorious in this battle is of matching external changes with internal progressions is 'Atma Nireekshan', the SWOT analysis

that can help us understand ourselves,
others and the course of life. This
can help us become Karmyogi's like
Sudha Murthy and achieve our
civilisational endeavours of

'vasudhava kutumbakam'

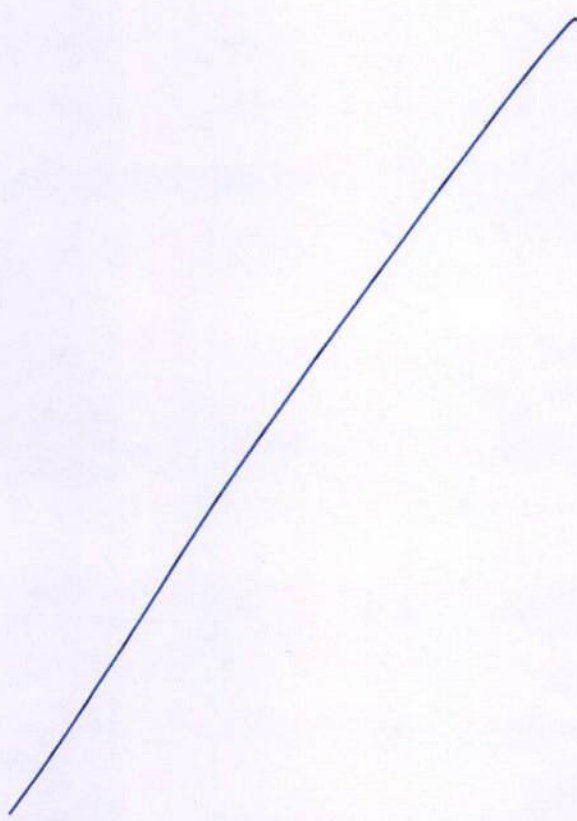
After all, as held by EM Hemley in
the famous poem 'Invictus'

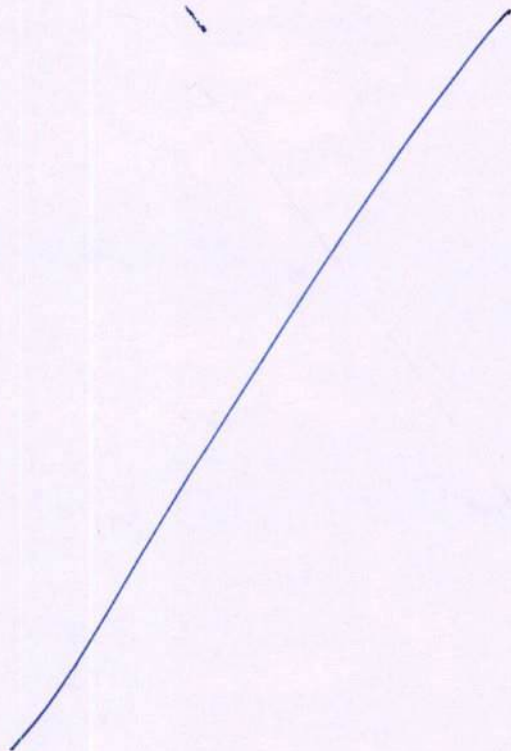
"It matters not how strait the gate
how charged with punishments the scroll,

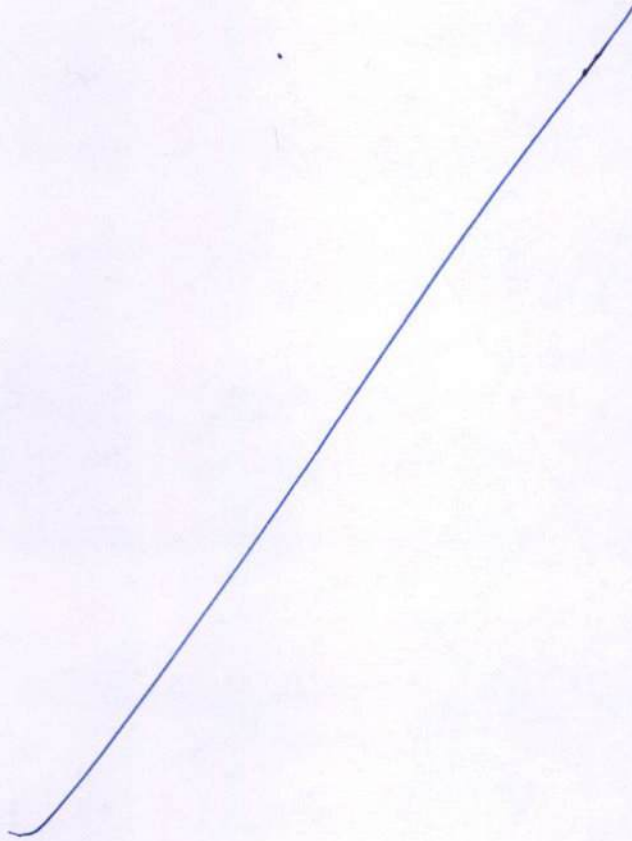
I am the master of my fate,

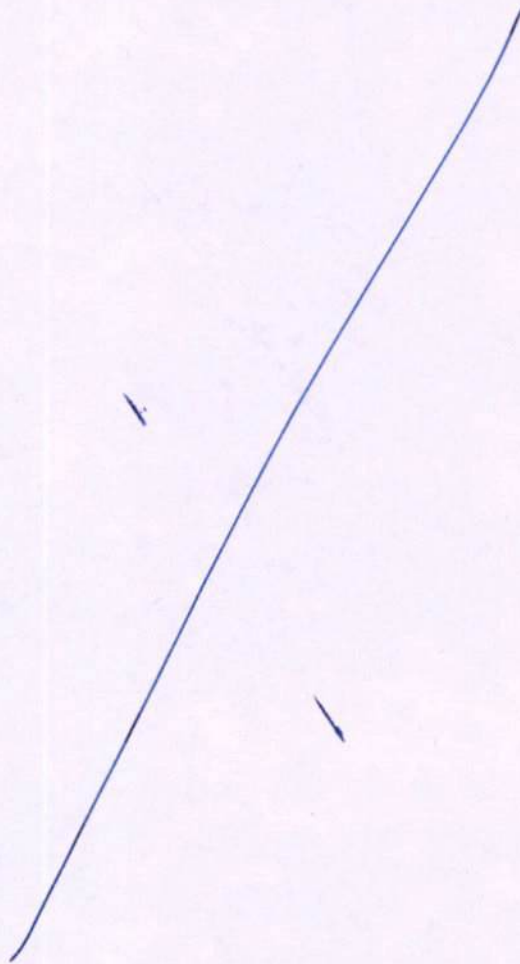
I am the captain of my soul"

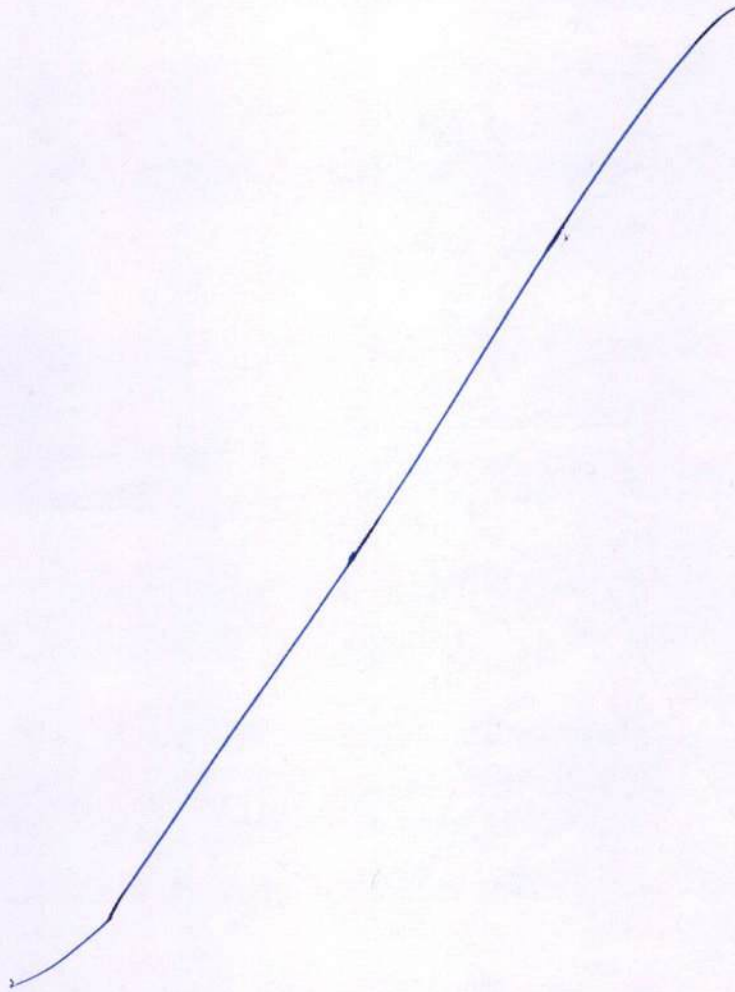
A self that embraces this, embraces
change and goes on living.

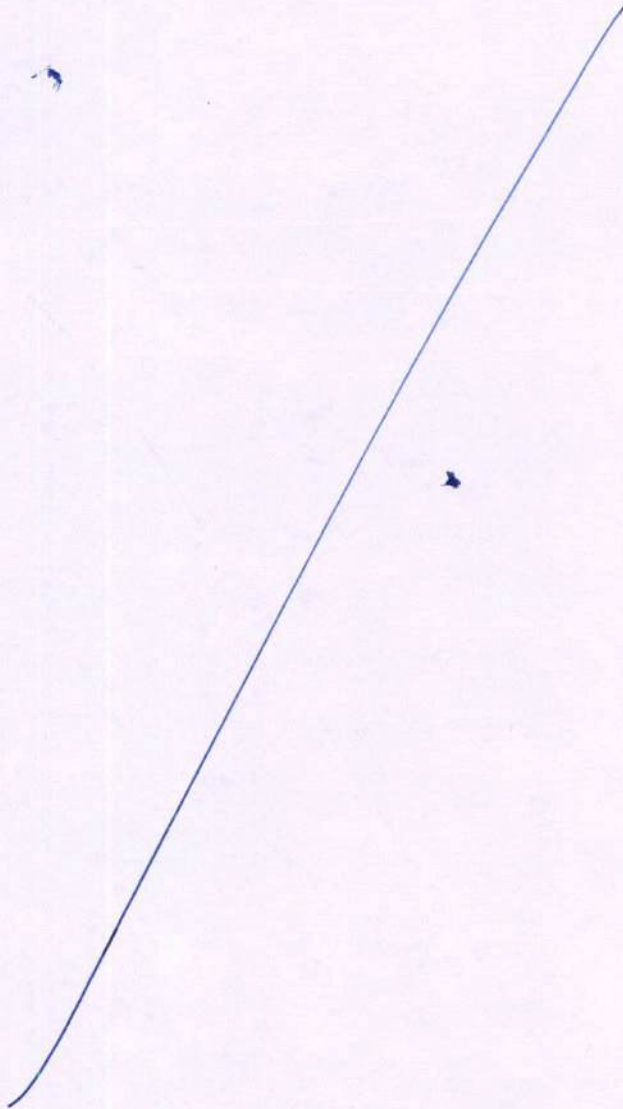












- 1) Δ is the only constant : Atma Nirvekshan
 - 2) ~~Law of nature - adapt or perish~~
 - 3) ~~History : Liberalism : Ad & lived~~
 - 4) ~~Economy : Nokia perished, Rise of~~
 - 5) ~~Personality : Helen Keller~~
NKK - Be a bush
Innitus → adversity
 - 6) 21st century : Coding NEP to stay relevant
e-commerce vs kirana stores
 - 7) India's story 1991
 - 8) COVID-19 - WFH
Masks
Distance edu
- Salesman + Kebab elements of character

(R) Info = currency of democracy

- ~~+ve • JS Mill : all but one~~
- ~~-ve • Infodemic : Somya Swaminathan~~ ~~Ram Rajya~~
dem = coup of masses
- ~~-ve • Fake News / Paid News~~
 - ~~→ Cambridge Analytica~~
 - ~~→ Pegasus snooping~~
- ~~• Origin ~ Greeks~~
- ~~+ve • Info when ppl act in concert (participate)~~
- ~~+ve • RTI (Jan Soochna)~~
- ~~-ve • Colonial legacy - culture of secrecy~~
- ~~-ve • Social Media : over info~~
- ~~+ve • Affidavit : PDR v. UOI~~

Being heard
→ legal

- 1) Essence of democracy & historical origins
- 2) Role info plays in it & contemporary relevance in age of social media
- 3) Historical origin
- 4) Other pillars of demo
- 5) contemporary relevance - social media
- 6) Future : Data is the new oil

India's trust with destiny, On 15 Aug 1947

As the world sleeps, India will awaken to freedom
mind is who hear &
When the head is held high

I have a dream

Trust but verify

- 3) Diff info of diff times has enabled diff interpretn of democracy
 - Gandhi
 - Nehru
 - Marx
 - Mill (Reluctant)
 - S. Balaguna
 - MKG → 'I have a dream'