

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:

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All the Best

'Tolerance is the key to
national unity'

Tolerance indicates the virtue to respect dissent or an opposing view. Such a virtue is very common in the ethos of Indian culture and is a part of our life.

However, it came into debate in recent years due to rising incidents of domination by some fringe orthodox group of majority community. In states of Maharashtra and Karnataka journalist like NM Kalbergi, Dabholkar etc. were shot dead. They wrote against the prevailing orthodoxies in Hindu culture. In several regions of North India, people from minority community were targeted in name

of beef. Further, there were campaigns like 'Ghar Wapsi' and 'love jihad', which seriously threatens our credentials of being a tolerant society.

But the question arises 'Is tolerance the key to national unity?' let's see.

Since time immemorial, we've plethora of examples where intolerance led to mass revolutions. People's view need to be respected and whenever, a ruling authority have tried to outbid ~~to~~ ~~so~~, they have been overthrown or we have seen breakage. Globally, ~~to~~ the ~~to~~ dismemberment of USSR leading to end of cold war is one such example! A tight Communist control over the local regime ultimately broke the system and USSR as a block was divided.

In Indian context too, we have great Mughal empire, which was at its epitome during the reign of Akbar. He was one of the most tolerant and liberal ruler of his time. He used to conduct religious debates in 'Ibadat khana'; each started his own religion of peace. Though his 'Din-e-Ilahi' was followed by few, he never forced anyone for the same and remained tolerant to all. During this period India saw ~~an~~ to an extreme, the harmonising of communal faiths and a strongest nation, not only physically, but spiritually and socially as well.

However, the same declined with orthodoxy of Aurangzeb, and the gained unity gradually declined. Now people from different community conspired against each other, leading to a gradual fragmentation of the

matter. An intolerant society, as a result broke down one of the most strongest empires of the time.

Not only this, Indian culture since history is known for its tolerance. The Hindu culture, that developed to the south of Himalayas, is nothing but a 'way of life', as noted by honorable Supreme Court. Under its umbrella people following different customs/cultures evolved and we get resulting in a diversity we cherish today.

The culture accepted any opposition/dissent to it e.g., Buddhism and Jainism, which started as a protest against the Brahminical domination, eventually became a part of Hinduism itself. As a result it became one of the most spiritually sound religion, sustained through years. It's not the case that there

are no flaws. But the strength of the Hinduism itself is to accept those, making it the most tolerant. Due to this only Indian sub-continent identifies itself as one unique culture despite being several of it.

In contrast, we saw a strict divisions among ~~Muslim~~ Islam, whereby even countries align themselves as per the Shunni-Sunni faith. It had a huge burden in the Middle-East and Arabian peninsula, whereby lack of tolerance had made the religion one of the most hostile.

The same can be contextualised in case of nation-building. Voices of dissent need to be listened to and respected or else, balkanisation results. Recently, in Spain, heavy usage of force on the supporters of Catalonia, led to ~~highest~~ a huge sentiment against the Spanish establishment. In a referendum, more than 90% of the Catalonian favoured

for a new state. Before, the brutal use of force, there was around 42% favour for the independence. The issue of independence itself came due to refusal of state of Spain to grant higher autonomy to the region with distinct culture. The minorities feels a sense of alienation, and a dominance by the majority community, which often forced them to demand a new state.

we have seen the same in case of ~~West~~ ^{East} Pakistan, which was ~~made~~ partitioned from Eastern India ~~due to~~ on religious line but was later (in 1971), resulted in a new country, as the older regime didn't tolerate local leadership. Hence, a sense of domination by ~~western~~ ^{western} part, created a new state in Eastern region.

Hence, tolerance need to be the key for unity of a nation like

India. It's an entity where people of diverse, sect, faith, creeds live together under a common nationalism. Any threat to their existence will lead to disintegration of nation into numerous states, which at time of independence was 526 states itself.

The Constitution of India realising this has provided significant impetus or space for tolerance.

Article 19 (freedom for Association, Speech, assembly, Movement, Residence, and Profession) specifically says for the same. Similarly, under Article 21 i.e., Right to life and liberty; we have liberty for dissent views, as interpreted by judicial orders also. Similarly, Article 29 and 30 provides for minority institutions, for their cultural propagation.

Progressively, in the recent Puttaswamy case, Supreme Court also ~~advocate~~

underlined the principle for tolerance in nation-building.

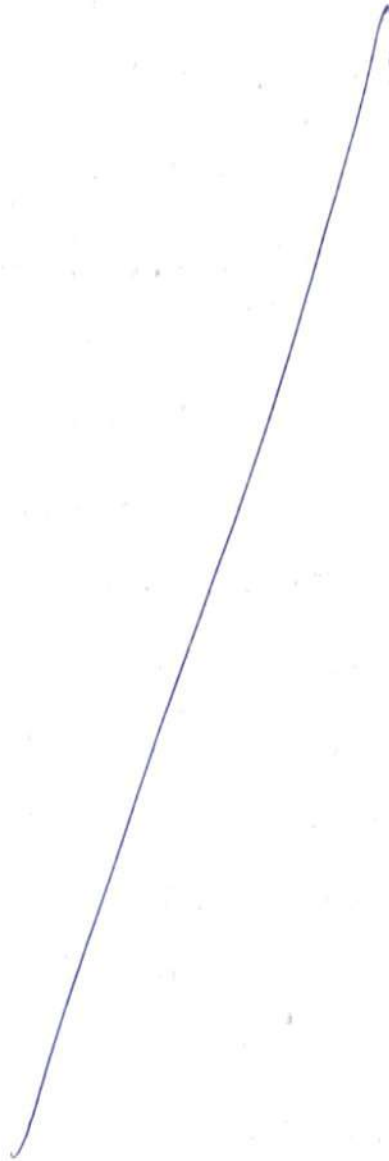
Renowned economist and former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan linked tolerance with economic development, which also aids in nation building. An economic power is a powerful nation, which sits on the platform of tolerance.

In this light, we also need to focus on the Shreya Singhal vs Union of India case, where honorable Supreme Court struck down Section 66A of IT Act, which didn't allowed speaking against any person over Internet, but goes violation of principal of tolerance. Similarly, Section 124(A) of IPC, which makes Sedition a crime needs to be revisited. It's a colonial era law and hence is archaic. Not only this, we have defamation Sutes where

Even minor criticism, invites legal battles. Such provisions, greatly hamper the tolerant character of our nation. A nation which is build on the platform of 'unity in diversity'. ~~oppose~~

Opposing views if accepted, leads to creation of ideas, never seen before. Since ancient times India was known for such healthy debates and arguments. We have had traditions of 'shasth', whereby scholars debated and discussed spiritual ideas, leading to a ~~has~~ such a robust 'spiritualism' of the country. It attached ourselves into a culture which we know today as 'India', hence, this key need to be preserved.

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'Electoral reforms: a dream in pipeline'

India is a vibrant democracy, with credentials for regular free and fair elections. It's success was seen in recent conducted 16th Lok Sabha elections. Many countries ~~to~~ around the world have failed in conducting regular elections in a peaceful and unbiased environment.

In this regard India is a shining example! Our Election Commission have been invited by many countries for guidance, as they manage one of the largest and most complex election process.

However, no system is perfect and there is always room for betterment. The same holds too in case of Indian, and we require electoral reforms for deepening of our democracy and reaching it to last

male.

One of the most prominent electoral reform in the country was introduction of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), which was first used in the assembly elections of Kerala in 1982 and later used in the Lok Sabha elections of 1992 in entire country. It checked the gross misuse of muscle power in the previous ballot-box system and incidence of booth capturing, ballot box stuffing etc. were quite common.

EVMs have time-delay and fixed number of votes per machine, which reduces the impact of such incidents. Moreover, Election Commission under RoPA have now power to dismiss any such election on that booth and conduct, fresh elections.

Election Commission have demanded same power in case of use of money power also. ~~It hands~~

~~also~~ A Section needs to be introduced under amended Representation of People Act, 1951 (ROPA) to dismiss elections in such constituency, where large involvement of money is seen.

Recently, in a by-election in Tamil Nadu, Election Commission uncovered such use of money power and resorted under Article 324, to cancel the election.

In addition, there is also proposed to declare bribing a legislabile crime. Use of money to bribe voters, vitiates the free and fair ~~maner~~ environment conduct of elections.

A more ~~in~~ formal means of bribing is passing 'freebies' by different political parties. There is a spurt in recent times of the giving such freebies like Tablet, laptops, cycles etc. Honorable Supreme Court have taken quite

a strict stand over issuing such 'freebies', before elections.

The system of EVM, however is not completely devoid of controversy. Supreme Court, in Subramiam Case 2013 directed Election Commission for the use of Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs), to ensure a check on misuse of EVM.

Recently, EVM came under increasing attack from political parties, due to alleged ~~to~~ tampering with EVMs and making it favourable to a particular party ruling at Union level.

However, EC came out clear over the issue by dissuading fears by providing proof:-

- EVMs are standalone device and not networked, hence can't be ~~hack~~ hacked from remote device.
- The micro chip used is one time programmable

Moreover, EC also proposed an open challenge for any hacking, opened to all.

VVPATs will ensure that no such concerns or doubt occurs in future, as voter can now see the candidate and party on a printable slip, to which ~~his~~ vote has gone to. These slips will be used to check the election results.

Election Commission has ~~has~~ made provisions for VVPATs in all the upcoming elections at state and national level.

In addition, it is also wished is for Totaliser machines to mix the votes from different booths. Government is also mulling for the same, as it will help in making voters more freedom while casting votes. At present, it's easy to get the booth-wise trends and it may be used by winning party to

settle political scores towards, least
not in their favour.

An informed voter is basic need
for a election that is free and
fair. Realising this, Supreme Court
in 2003 ordered for correct information
under election affidavit. Court was
of the view that right to know
the credentials of candidate is
essential. Further, in 2013 Supreme
Court further made mandatory to
filling up all sections of affidavit.
However, issue of false affidavit
is still there, as seen in the contro-
versy of 'degree row' of present
Textile minister. The election
Commission need to have more penal
provisions in this regard.

On this light, it is
also imperative to discuss the issue
of 'paid news', as only recently
election Commission have to disqualify
a senior Minister of MP government.

In deficit of any provision in specific to paid news, EC used powers under money-expenditure limits.

In addition, there are government backed ads, whereby the sitting government of the day uses machinery for political benefit.

Apart from above, the most ~~import~~ pressing issue of today is 'Criminalisation of politics', where there is an increasing number of members in parliament with criminal backgrounds, as reported by survey done by Association for democratic research.

Section 8 of the PoPA, 1957, debar a person with serious criminal case for six year. Case involves punishment for two or more years of imprisonment. Supreme court in 2013 made it automatic, where any sitting MP/NLA is automatically

disqualified. However, Election Commission have demanded for a lifetime ban, to reduce criminal involvement.

Further, Dinesh Goswami Committee in 1990, ~~set up for~~ recommended for 'State funding', whereby the expenditure of parties will be charged from public exchequer. It is a long-pending, debatable reform, needs ~~to~~ thorough deliberation.

It is seen as one of the way to decrease the influence of money in elections and make it more accessible to everyone.

At present, influential people with high capital easily gets the nomination due to perceived high election expenditure. However, the manner and ~~way~~ of implementation of state funding remains debatable.

The independence of agency that conducts the election is also necessary for a fair election, and is one of the imperative electoral reforms.

EC has made the following demands:-

- Constitutional status to all the election commissioners apart from CEC.
- Making the expenditure of EC 'charged' over consolidated fund rather than voteable as of now.
- Providing an 'independent secretariat' to EC, despite of depending over government machinery.

Recently, Supreme Court also ordered government at Union for a statutory provision, for the appointment of election commissioners, which is at executive discretion as of now. Hence, in addition to security of tenure, provided under

Constitution, above provisions are also required.

~~At~~ last, but not the least, ~~also~~ expected electoral reform also include the manner, election are held, some issues debated are:-

→ Simultaneous election at national and state level, to check the frequent disruptions of governmental work. The step was recommended by Parliamentary Standing Committee, advocating for elections in two phase i.e., mid year (in 2½ years) and 5 years. The present prime minister has also pressed for the same.

→ Single phase election, to avoid influence over other constituency voters for trend in earlier polls.

The present system of 'first-past the post system' is also under criticism, as the government formed is generally 'minority one' representing wishes of few.

Eg., In 2014 Lok Sabha election, BJP won more than 50% of seats despite getting only 37% of votes. Parties like BSP, didn't win any seat, though getting significant vote share.

A more hybrid system of voting is required, combining the aspect of proportional as well as 'first-past the post' to get a more diverse representation.

Moreover, electoral reform also requires transparency in the working of entities representing democracy. Political parties, need to come under RTI, as well follow internal

democracy, to decline influence of nepotism, criminalisation and obliquism.

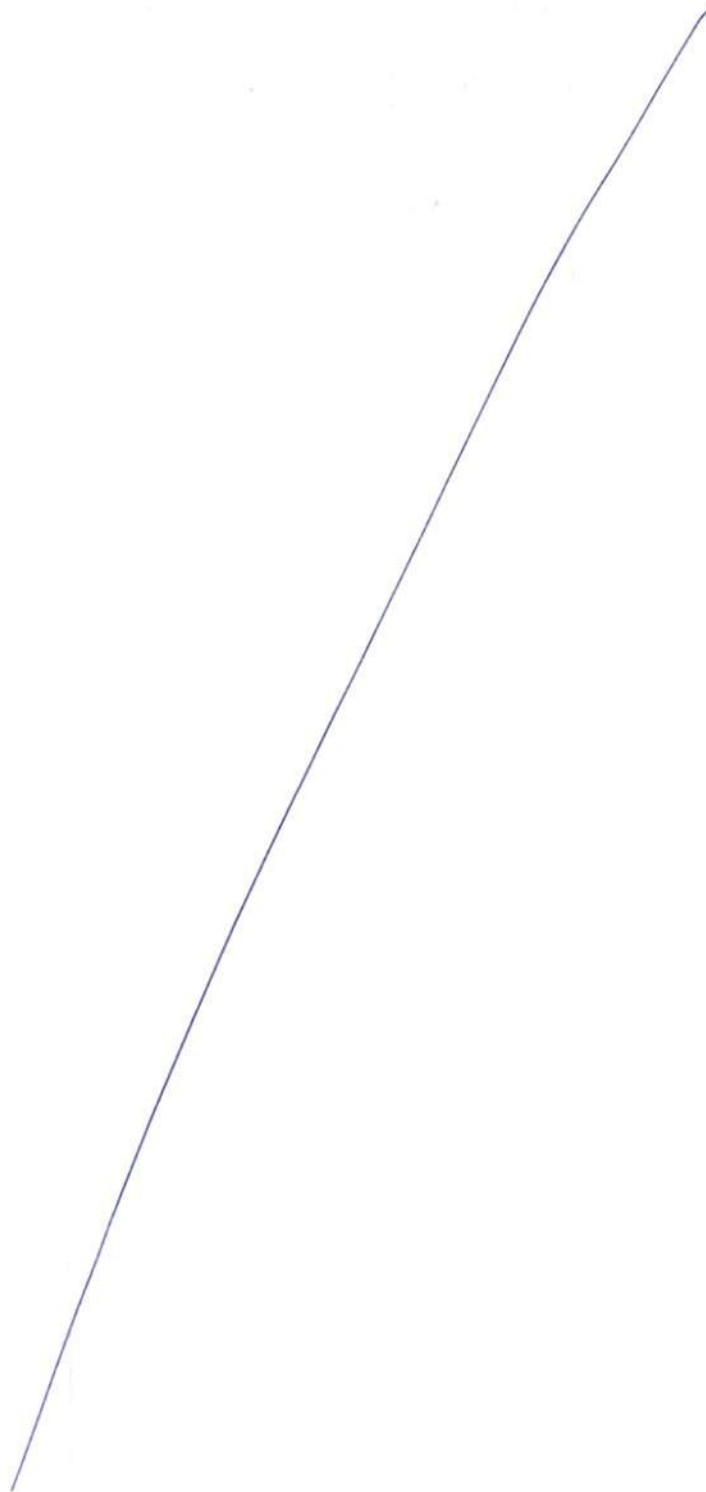
Law Commission under chairmanship of AP Shah have given numerous electoral reforms, some of which discussed above. In addition, Supreme Court also have provided many significant judgement in this regard, the case may be of introduction of NOTA (in 2013).

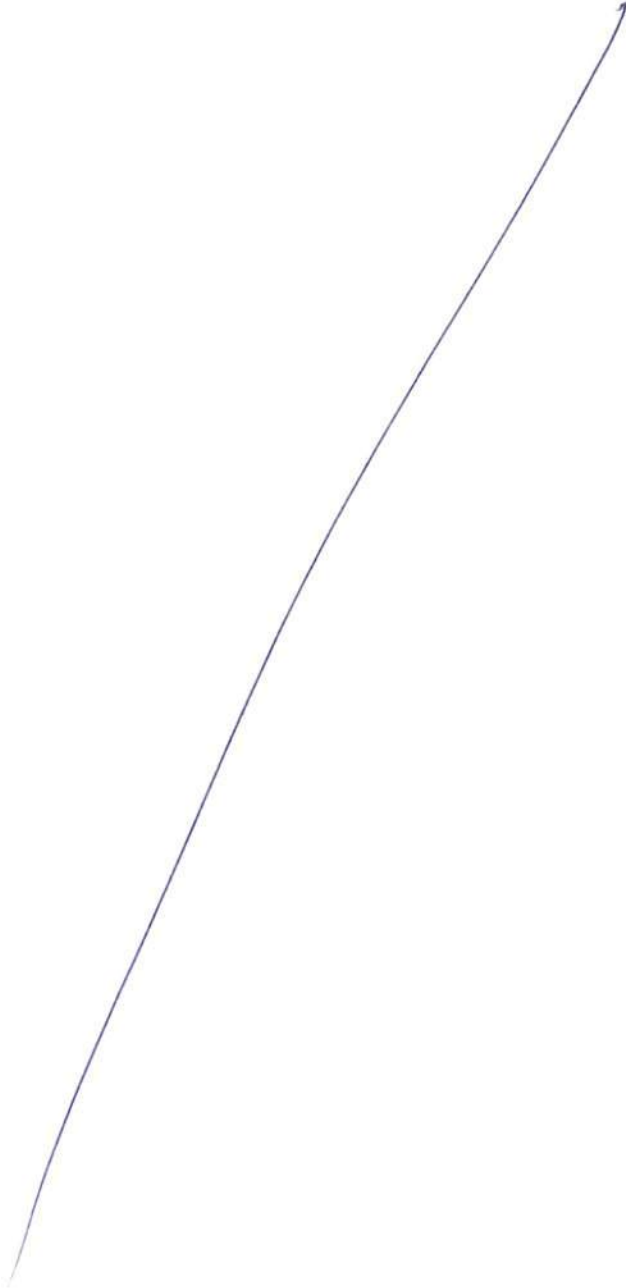
• Election Commission as a responsible and mature democratic institution have ~~meit~~ taken steps to maintain credibility of electoral process in India and is further taking more.

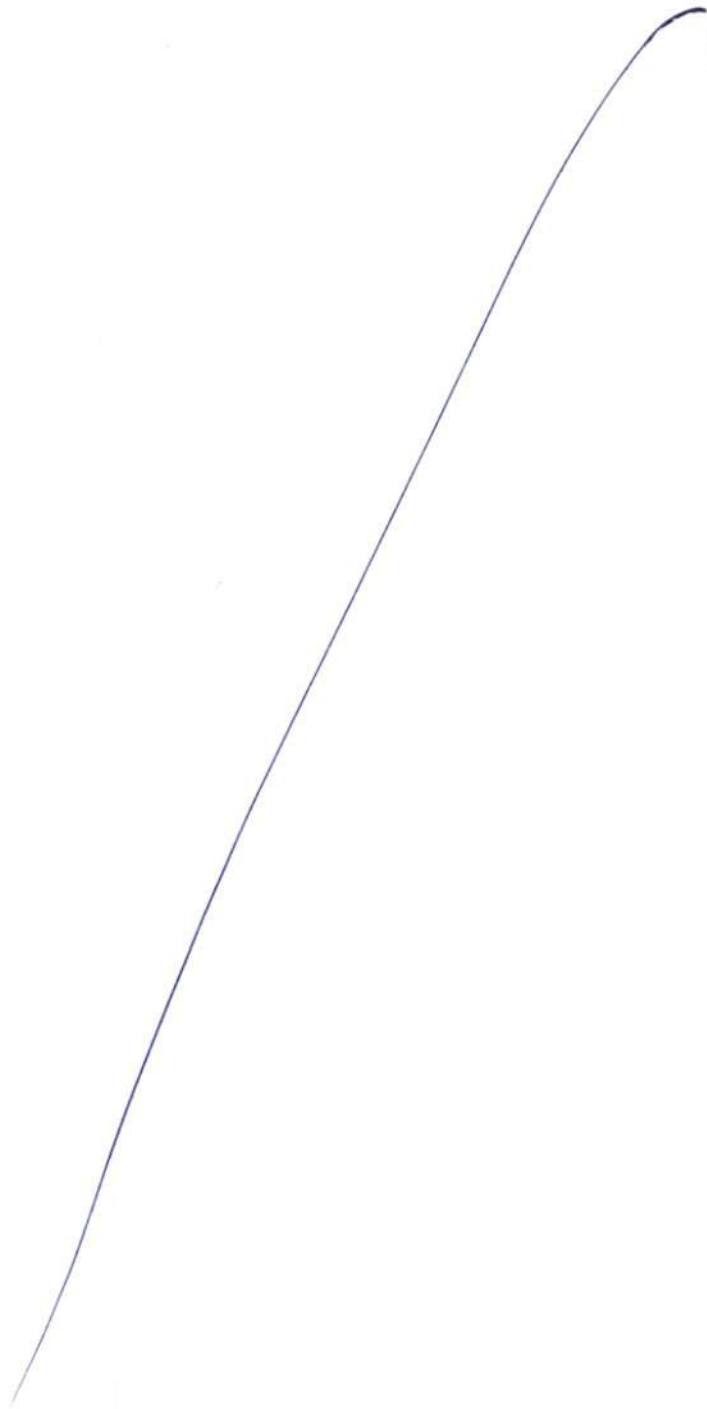
However, the real electoral reform will come when the voter ~~itself~~ takes thing in their hand and vote as per their conscience and free will. An ~~era~~ aware voter of his right is the true strength of a democracy, hence concludingly

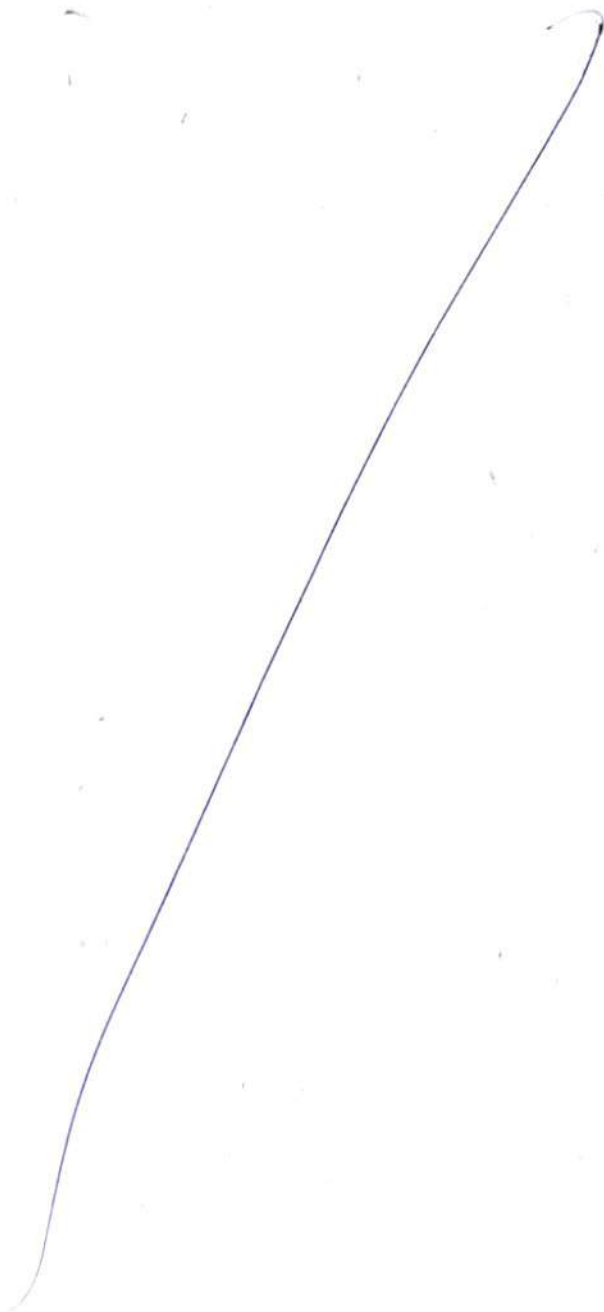
we can quote Mahatma Gandhi,
'Be the change you wish to see
in this world'

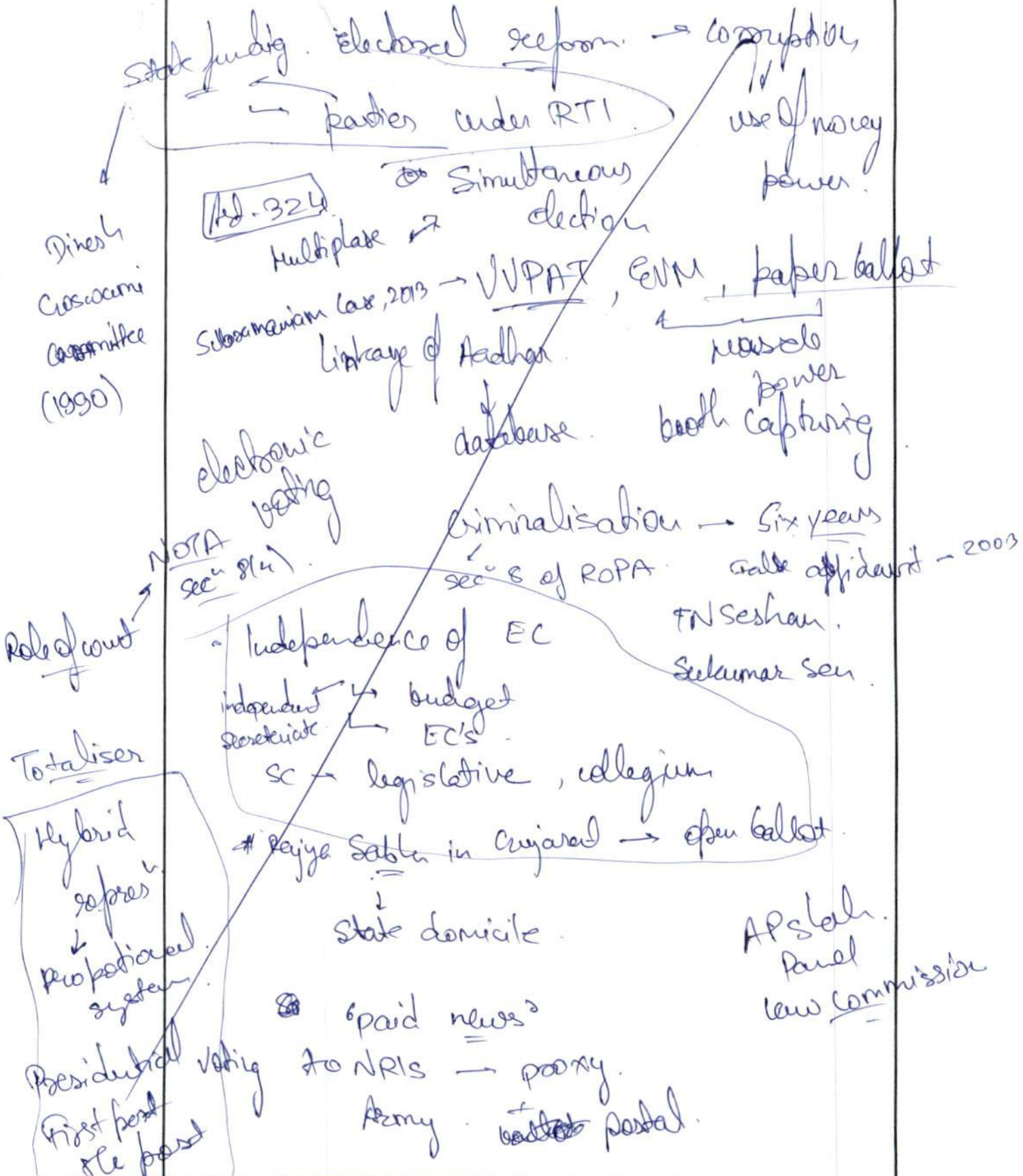












Intro
body
Conclusion

Conducting free and fair election.
16th Lok Sabha

'Be the change, you want to see in the world'

feel safe, dissent

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