Democracy evolves slowly, ensuing from compromises. Of late a new, dangerous peril to democracy has surfaced: the threat of populism, posing serious menace to liberal and democratic thought, practice and institutions. Its insidiousness lies in its adoption of language and idiom of democracy while being intrinsically nonpluralistic and authoritarian. Populism may be of the right or left or may be born in the bowels of barracks, but they all share commonalities: the 'people' are glorified above a corrupt elite, appealing to emotions, distorting facts to achieve contrived agendas for power, belief in political infallibility, millennialism, xenophobia and misogynism. Economic discontent and cultural insecurity provide fertile soil. There is a tendency to project an imagined, higher good of a community, juxtaposing social over individual freedoms. The communal good takes precedence over an elitist establishment, while denigrated old guards often surround populists.In the pursuit of the imagined 'higher social good', sacrosanct institutions of democracy like the constitution, the executive, legislature, judiciary and free press are challenged and maligned. It is only a small step from this to the so-called 'communal weal' becoming the preserve of an intolerant, authoritarian leadership. Any opposition is regarded as betrayal of a holy cause. Rather than being focused on a narrative partaking of facts and evidence, competent governance, service delivery, social amelioration, freedom of expression and rule of law, the emphasis is on acquisition and retention of political power by whatever means possible. Resort is made to use of psychological tools like subliminal messaging through TV, social media and fake news, manipulating minds and conduct, especially of the aspirational middle classes, educated but economically and politically excluded, directing discontent against minorities, towards xenophobia and ultra-nationalism. Less rather than



rather than more democracy is conceived to be the remedy for accountability. No real effort is made for social restructuring, land reforms and redistribution of wealth. Putative reformist agenda becomes a tool for political engineering and witch-hunting of the opposition. Anti-corruption hysteria becomes a front for personal deviant malfeasances. Democracy is castigated as an inefficient system and, in absence of serious land and tax reforms, politicians are deprecated as urban or rural boors and incompetent thieves, while other powerbrokers are conveniently kept outside the accountability net. The purpose of such an illiberal ideology is to shake popular belief in government by the elected representatives of the people, paving way for justifying unelected autocracy and intolerant authoritarianism.



use marker for the title values does not slows down it diminishes or reduces 130 to 135 what about fake the message in this sentence??? this portion is beyond permitted

