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 Essay: Democracy without Justice  
is Tyranny”

OUTLINE:-

1) Introduction

2) Justice is indispensable to democracy

3) How democracy without justice is tyranny?

3a) Erosion of the rule of law and arbitrary power

- preventing the powerful and punishing the weak
- 3 military coups in the history of Turkey

3b) Curtailing the power of judiciary and concentration of power (in executive)

- Pakistan's history of constitutional amendments to undermine and weaken judiciary

3c) Tyranny of majority and discrimination

- Indian Citizenship Amendment Act (2019)

3d) Elite capture and rent seeking in decision making

- Pakistan's IPP contracts and subsidies

3e) Infringement of fundamental rights and authoritarianism

- Right to movement, assembly and association

- Pakistan → World Justice Project →  $\frac{125}{142}$  → fundamental rights

3f) Curtailing the freedom of speech and suppression of dissent

- Crackdown on Journalists through PECA laws

3g) Political victimization of opponents and repressions

- Bhutto's notorious FSF (Federal Security Force)

3h) Politics on conservative ideologies and racism

- Modi → Hindutva
- Trump → "MAGA" → white supremacy

3i) Unequal access to opportunities and economic inequality

- Bangladesh Civil Services quota

3j) Systemic marginalization of women and gender divide

- 23% of low makes all women worldwide → UN Women
- 1 in 5 are married before age 18

4) What are the implications of 'democracy without Justice' on state and society:

4a) Evaporating trust of people

4b) Democratic retreat

4c) Fertile ground for social chaos - Extremism, Separatism and Terrorism

4d) Deterrence of FDI's and erasing bad image

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5) Measures to achieve a golden balance between democracy and justice :

5a) Encouraging the system of checks and balances and upholding the principles of rule of law

5b) Ensuring the independence of judiciary and non-interference

5c) Granting uninterrupted access to fundamental rights of people

5d) Encouraging a system of healthy democracy and through freedom of speech and criticism

6) Conclusion

Thesis statement :-

Democracy is becoming an unfulfilled promise of the 21<sup>st</sup> century due to the various authoritarian tendencies of ruling governments. Democracy without justice is absolutely tyranny due to various reasons. It squarely takes its toll on both the state and society. Therefore, by adopting these principles of democracy, rule of law and human rights, the path to peace, progress and prosperity can be ensured.

Democracy was born in the bazaars of Athens when traders decided to resolve their disputes through ballot than swords. Then came the constitution between the rulers and the ruled. Each organ of the state was supposed to follow the law of land. Those who do not follow and respect the laws should be punished through laid down legal process. Even, the socrates preferred drinking hemlock than disobeying the law of the land in which he lived, despite it meaning his death. However, his death implies the absurdity of democracy if justice goes missing. In this case or without justice and rule of law, democracy would be absolute tyranny, protecting the powerful and punishing the weak. Therefore, it is said that the justice is hallmark of peaceful democracies where everybody is subject to fair treatment under the legal framework or rule of law. However, detracting from the path of justice poses multidimensional threats on state and society. If one asks a question as how democracy without justice is tyranny? A long list of causative agents comes to one's mind. Without justice, democracy leads to <sup>practice of</sup> arbitrary power, concentration of power in few hands, leading to elite capture. Similarly, it leads to tyranny of majority, infringement of fundamental rights, suppression of dissent and political victimization. In a similar vein, pursuing conservative ideologies that reinforces racism is widely observed in societies having ~~weak~~ weak democracies. Democracy without justice provide a fertile ground for economic inequalities, unequal access to opportunities and poverty. Gender divide and systematic

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marginalization of women are also deeply embedded in weak democracies. These factors altogether put a heavy toll on the political, economic and social structures of society. Some of the consequences are evaporating trust of people, democratic retreat and social disintegration. These evils of society, that is, Extremism, Separatism and Terrorism continue to fracture the foundations of societies. The result of which is ensuing bad image and deterrence of FDI's in a country. Therefore, it is incumbent to take measures to achieve a golden balance between democracy and justice. Upholding the principles of rule of law, encouraging system of checks and balances, independence of judiciary and granting uninterrupted rights to people would definitely steer a country towards adopting true principles of "Justice and democracy."