

5 November [Evening Batch]

Ethics

### Influence and implication of Kantianism :-

Kantian principle of respect leads to the doctrine of Universal Human Rights. Kantian Principle of respect for humanity leads to the doctrine of Universal Human Rights. He held that justice requires us to respect and uphold the human rights of every person simply because of the fact that he is a human being worthy of respect regardless of who he is, where he is from etc. Kantian this idea that there is humanity in every person irrespective he is male or female, rich or poor, black or white, Indian or Pakistani, whoever that is beyond every fact that defines a person at the root of it is humanity, that is our nationality, our ability to over ~~the~~ ride the nature and set our own values. This ability of human to create its own values or ~~create~~ lead his own life. This gives special dignity to human beings, that cannot be found anywhere else not in a physical object not in animals. And it is our duty as a rational person to respect that autonomy nationality of every human being in the world. This principle of respect further leads to what we called today as the doctrine of human rights.

Such ideas like Kantianism does not occur in vacuum. There were strong influence of intellectual background of Europe and America of that time. He was an 18<sup>th</sup> century philosopher, his first book on ground work on metaphysics of morals published in

(1782+4). So, that was the age of high intellectual development. Historically Kant ideas became prominent between two of the greatest revolution

- (i) American revolution (around 1776)
- (ii) French Revolution (1789) → 1st book

2nd book, The critique of practical reason, where he expands further the ideas of ground work. Kant idea was strongly influenced by these revolution, not only that, his ideas were influenced this revolution further. Large number of people talked about these ideas; (Locke, Rousseau, Montesquieu, Adam Smith, Bentham, David Hume) etc.. Kant ideas were influenced by the intellectuals of that age. But importance of Kant was that he took all of them and presented it in a very concise manner. It became defining feature of the world that came after that. Both of these revolution make certain declaration that became masterpiece of ethics in the world every where

→ American revolution led to American Declaration of Independence. (Thomas Jefferson) → All men are created equal and they are endorsed by their creator (god) certain inalienable rights including the right to life, liberty and pursuit to happiness. We hold that, this as a self evident truth. The right to life, liberty and happiness was actually by John Locke and Thomas Jefferson was highly influenced by John Locke. American revolution changed into right to life, liberty and property of John Locke to right to life, liberty and happiness as property was a political concept and in order to avoid controversies.

'All person are equal' → This idea was a revolutionary idea as each person was different and have different rights, obligation and duties. Through out the history anywhere in the world human being are graded into hierarchy so, in this case for the first time it was revolutionary statement to declare that all men are equal. Today we take it for granted but that time it was a revolutionary idea.

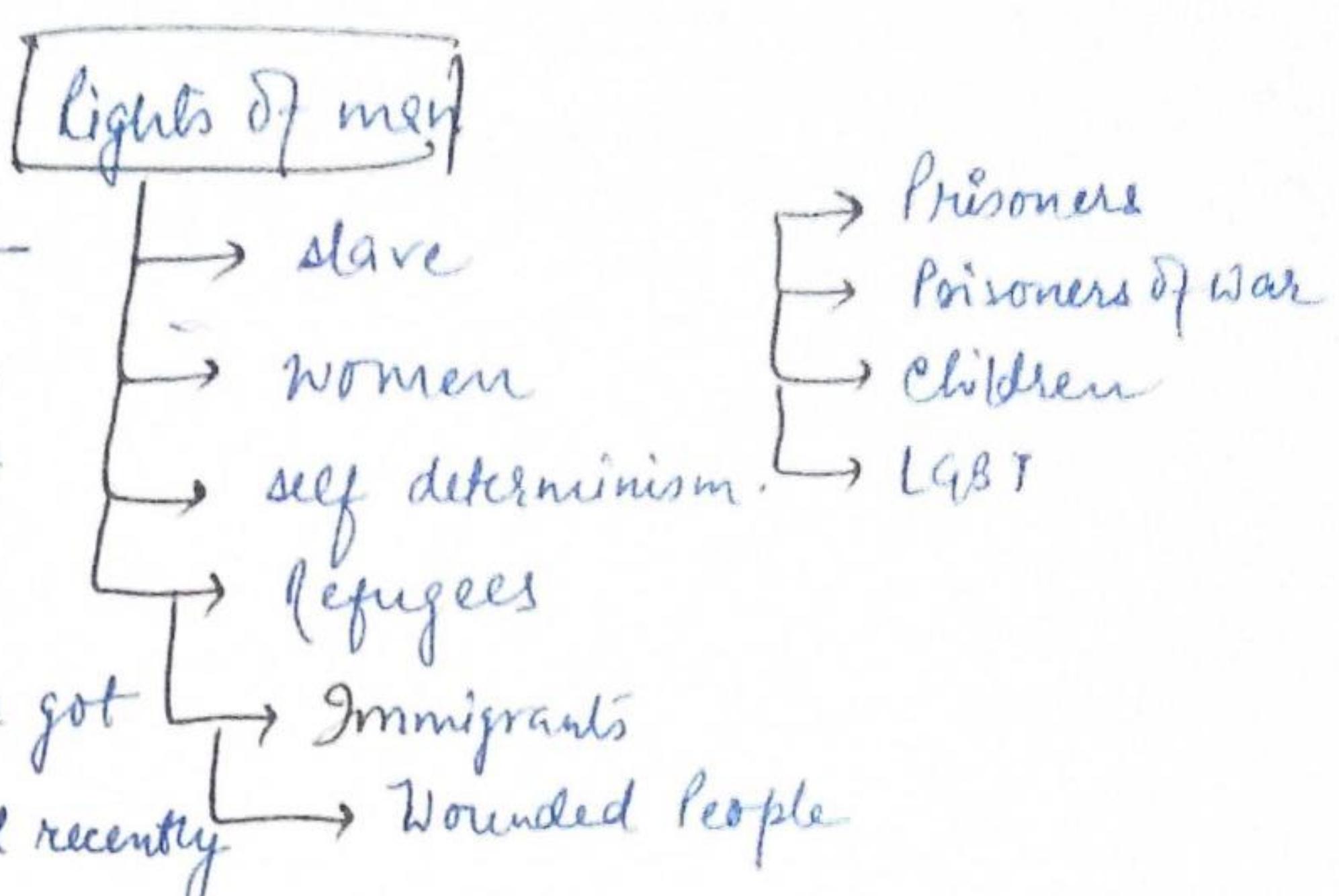
Further, French revolution also made French declaration of Rights of men, and it was delineated what are the rights of human being that are inalienable. The American talked about Rights of life, ~~property~~<sup>liberty</sup> and pursuit for happiness. In French revolution it became more specific that even king cannot take those rights from people. As Thomas Hobbes believed that king has all the capacity to take right from us. King cannot do anything wrong. But in this case it was decided that there are certain rights given to us by nature as state does not give us the right, state or king does not have the right to take away these right from us. So, French declaration of Rights of man are declared in French revolution. These are the ideas of revolution. But those people who were talking about the revolutionary ideas don't know the contradiction in their own declaration. Example, those who declared these all were the <sup>owner</sup> ~~slaves~~ of the slaves. (George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin).

Kant said that, our sayings should not be contradictory in itself. So an owner of a slave saying all men are equal was itself in contradiction. Similarly when French declaration on Rights of man was declared, it was not rights of men of all human being, but rather only small group of people particularly male only. Kant recognised these ideas only after that

ethical system changed. As the time passed the rights of men include rights of slave as well. Even Kant was strongly opposed to slavery. One human selling another human being is act of contradiction, and violates both categorical imperative of Kant. So Kant says slavery is an unethical system. It can never be morally right. Then with in 100 yrs slavery was abolished.

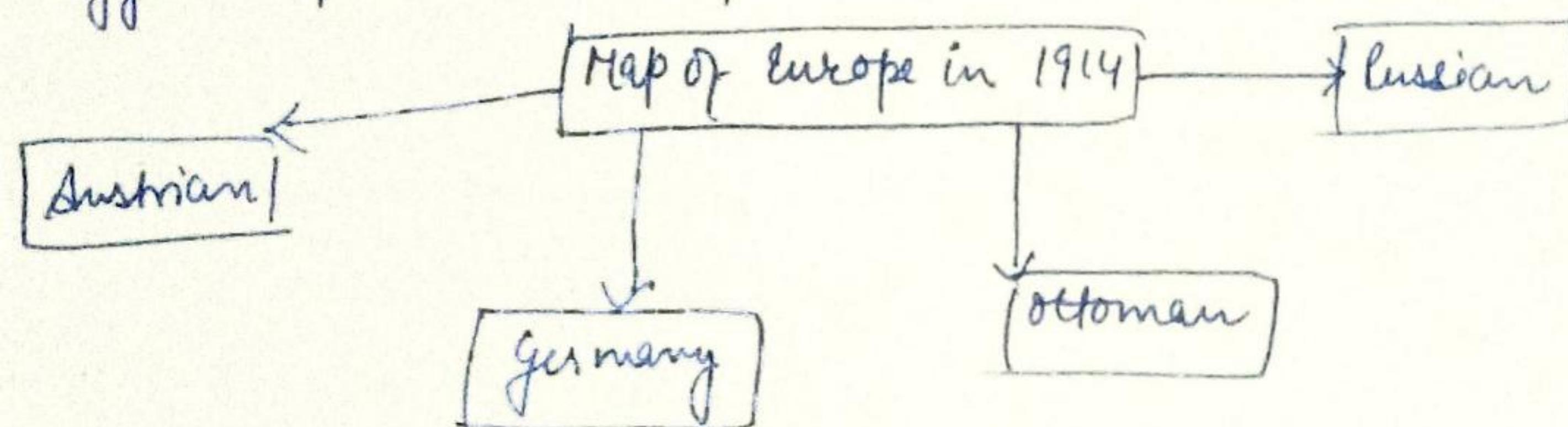
A French revolutionist, Mary Wollstonecraft, an active person, when she found the rights of men she wrote about rights of women, and thus many people got right to women. Before that till recently 100 yrs women rights were not so recognised, but the ideas were so powerful that women were given voting rights. It was assumed that women manage the household task and thus cannot manage the political affairs. It was on this grounds, women were denied voting rights. Kant ideas were strongly against that. He said that, to say that women cannot make political decision, which is a part of rationality and denying rights to women is a disrespect to humanity. Kant and Mill are considered to be the father of modernity. People like Kant and Mill were in great support of women being given political right.

In around 1900, only one country, New Zealand, became 1st country in the world that gave voting right to women, 1920 America gave, and soon like this all other particularly democratic country women got voting right. By 1960s, <sup>and onwards</sup> only one country where men have voting rights



and women cannot in Vatican city?

Then, by the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century, after the ideas of Kant were published, the right to self determination was proclaimed. The idea of individual autonomy was extended to political domain. Ethics required that I can make my own decision about the life I want unless and until I am not using other person as a means to achieve my end. Similarly, every person is having the right to decide what kind of person he is ready to be ruled by. This right became very powerful after the first world war, and its biggest impact was seen post WWI.



After the end of WWI, atleast 14 new nation emerged, under the right of self determination. [Finland, Norway, Latvia, Hungary etc..]. This gave strong morale uplift to the Indian freedom movement also. After the new nation emerged, problem of refugee also emerged, many refugees were denied rights and then it was recognised that, they are also human beings with same rights. It is the duty of the state to protect the rights of ~~refugees~~ Europe with same rights. And thus rights to refugees were also included in the rights of man.

Similarly 100 yrs and so, these rights were enlarged further such as rights to immigrants and then wounded people. In Europe perennial wars would take place and many soldier would die, whose were the people who get wounded in the battle field. A person

visited the similar kind of battle field and he was so much moved by it that he started his own society called International Red Cross Society and gave petition to all other nations of Europe that when war happens, they would take care of the wounded people irrespective of without biasness. Women played a important role in this mission as nurse. It was recognised as human rights and later on it became medical right.

Prisoners were often considered as bad people but it was recognised that they were also humans and they do have some rights and being human it is our duty to recognise those rights.

Prisoners of war<sup>(POW)</sup> were soldier of enemy nation, and whenever they were captured they were treated in an extreme torture. It was recognised that POW also have dignity and we shall respect their dignity as well. Then rights of POW were also recognised as in Vienna conventions.

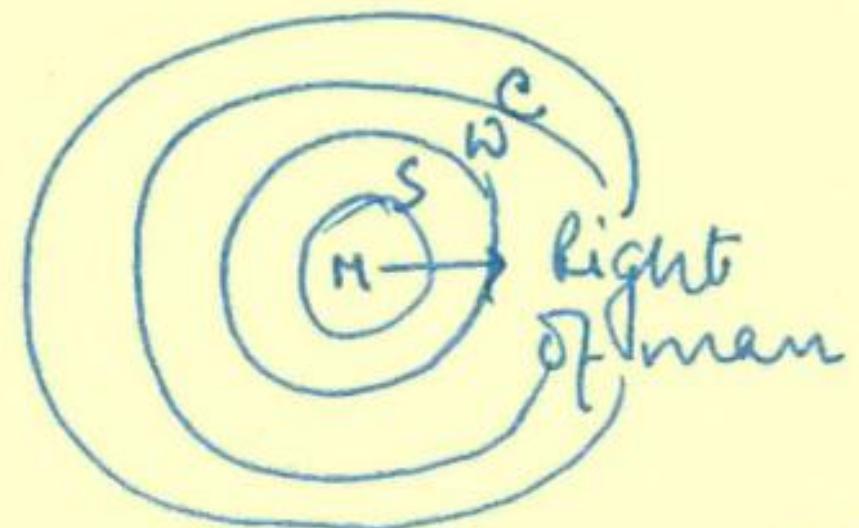
children are the most vulnerable people because they donot know about their rights being violated. Children all over the world are treated badly irrespective of class. It was recognised in 1989, International convention on rights of children were recognised and every country of the world continuously adopted that convention. In India also awareness is increasing.

Workers condition were also in extreme inhuman condition, even after abolition of slavery. The theory of communist thinkers like Karl Marx, Gramsci emerged from here only. Later on the rights of workers were recognised and they were given certain basic rights.

LGBT community or Homosexual were criminals and homosexuality was a crime, later on their rights being human were also recognised.

→ Old people were also in the same way given rights.

→ slowly, with time, rights of various section of people were recognised and more and more people were included and rights of men was expanded.



For the first time, what should be called as rights were to be declared as human rights, and

was talked by American President

Woodrow Wilson <sup>after WWI</sup>, and these rights were one of the fundamental principle of League of Nation. and then there was a problem with the human rights idea and National sovereignty. It became highly controversial issue. In Hitler regime, a Jew professor in university of Germany was fired from his job with the reason being Jew. He went to League of nation and League of nation took up the case being it violation of human rights. and as a reaction to that WWII took place.

Today, in the name of human rights, these conflict still emerged as in case of Rwanda, Syria.

In 1945, post WWII, 'The Commission on Human Right' a commission of 15 member under Eleanor Roosevelt, to identify the rights which should be human rights and one person Hansha Mehta from India as well. She became member of constituent assembly. 3 years of intense deliberation took place and the result was UDHR, Universal Declaration

Declaration

of Human Rights was accepted by UNO, consist of [30] fundamental

rights, which should be available to every human being. This was a very powerful document and was strongly opposed by various ~~first~~  
~~world~~ countries to convert or translate ~~of~~ into international language by colonial countries. Now these rights has the ~~was~~ world record of being written in large no. of languages. Within 10 to 15 yrs of UHCR the whole world was decolonised.

Thus, ethics cannot be talked without Kantianism. Even in India our constitution was written in accordance with UDHR. There are certain rights in our constitution which are granted to any person irrespective of citizen and it is the duty of the state to protect his rights. India is not an ideal state, but upto a great extend it has recognised large number of rights. Ex:- Ajmal Nasab as a terrorist was also given right to be heard, and was given legal support by the state at the cost of the state, till his last <sup>breath</sup> ~~breath~~ his rights as a prisoner were also recognised. Ishret Jahan case, she was encountered was criticised as being human, her rights were not recognised.

Kant in 1794, in his book 'Perpetual Peace', how to find peace in the world. He wonder why we cannot get perpetual peace in this living world. This book was a result of this thought. He said in order to maintain perpetual peace in the world we need 5 principles and we should try to find out 3 conditions, which would be essential in establishing Perpetual peace.

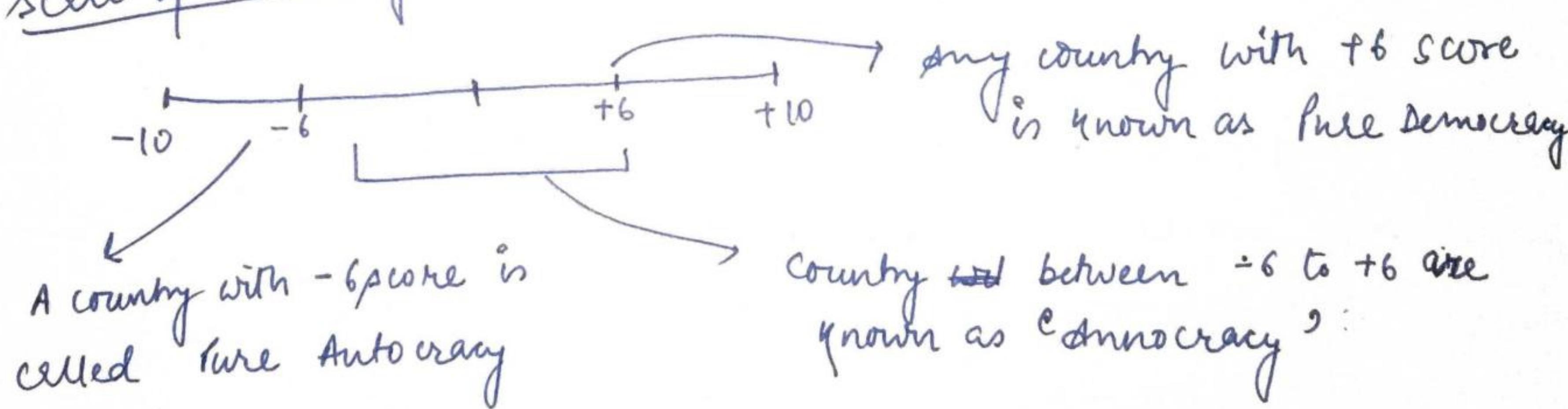
Kant did not use term Democracy instead used Democracy  
republican (republicen)



king keep war as a policy. The cost of the war is payed by the people <sup>(5)</sup>  
Except Ashoka, no other king gave away war as a policy. Democracy  
is less likely to involve in war. Tony Blair said 2 democracies have  
never fought a war i.e., when ever war take place one party need  
to be non-democratic. There is a polity Project which keeps track on demo-  
-cracies and define democracies in 3 respect :-

- ① Express political preferences (election)
- ② checks and balances or constraints on Ex. Power.  
(In India, we have rule of law) ①
- ③ separation of power. [American revolution was successful  
but French revolution was not  
because there was no separation of  
power].
- ④ Judicial review
- ⑤ Existence of independent - Institutions
- ⑥ guarantee to civil liberties
  - Association
  - Expression
  - Conscience (religion).

### Scale of democracy:-



In 2015, 103 countries were Pure Democracies <sup>with</sup> population (58%)  
17 " " Part " " (11%)  
40 " " Part Autocracy " . (6%)  
20 " " Pure " " (23%)  
80% of this is China

If we except China, we can see that, we are becoming more and more democratic. Democracy in any part of the world leads to less violence and results in the resolution of conflicts through peaceful means.

### Democracy & Conflict

2nd = "League of nation", as per Kant should have 2 functions.

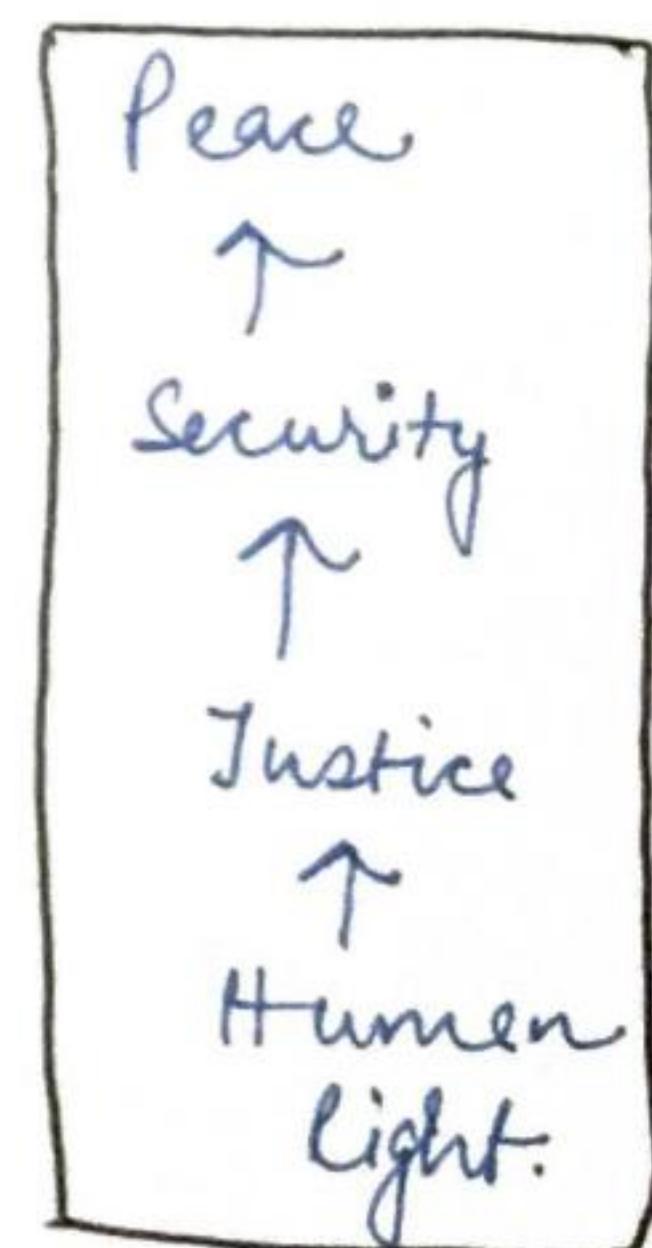
- ① guarantee of Human Rights
- ② mechanism of conflict resolution.

Before that, in Europe various wars used to take place. Kant said violence is the failure of human being being rational. Even Gandhi opined that in order to solve the issue, we just need a table for discussion.

Kant was the intellectual idea behind United Nation. Kant says ultimate aim is to establish peace. Martin Luther King Jr. said

Injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere. Unless we protect Human Right there won't be no justice and if there is no justice there is no security and without security peace cannot be established.

UN has played a very important role in establishing peace in the world. Europe particularly western Europe as the most peaceful nation of the world just because of democracy and UN. Even International organisations have helped a lot in reducing the war conflicts (NATO, ASEAN, GATT, SAFTA)



More orgn needs to more countries in part of organisation and more of such organisation leads to less conflict.

Kant said, every human being has the right to settle in any part of <sup>(6)</sup> the world. In India we have 'vasudev yatumbha kams'. People move from one part of the world to other for trade particularly. Kant also supported international trade in order to establish peaceful world. Kant said, Trade is always a better way to protect ourselves from war. Trade is always a positive sum pay off, unlike war which is a negative pay off. Traders know the language of peace.

Today we can see that, International Trade is one of the fundamental principle for International relation. Global village as a concept is also a step in this regard.

Trade  $\propto$  conflict

out of the 5 principles in the Kant's Perpetual Peace, respect to international border was very imp. Kant said one should respect international border irrespective of war. During last 30 yr, only one country Kuwait was tried to be captured by Saddam Hussain, that too was not successful. Syria is one of the most appropriate example. Even after the end of colonialism map of Syria has not much changed.

**World order** today, <sup>been</sup> shaped from 3 competing Order :-

These 2 ideologies  $\leftarrow \{$

1. **Liberal-Democratic** (the centre idea is individual)
2. **Communism** (morality must always be decide w.r.t. class interest)
3. **Fascism** (what should be the criteria to decide the right thing is (Nation); anything in the nation is good and against the nation is bad).

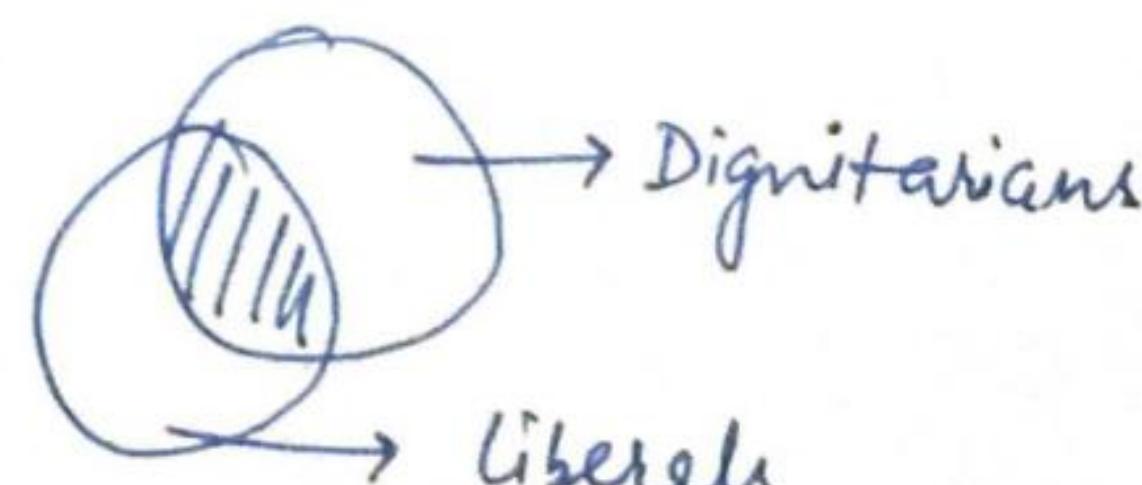
This ideology int of ~~go~~ nation is good and against the nation was defeated after WW-II.

Each individual is the creator of his own values. Every idea is born keeping in centre the individual. Today we are living in the liberal democratic world order. Kant emphasised on freedom of thought and till emphasised on freedom of expression.

### Political aspect of Kant Theory:-

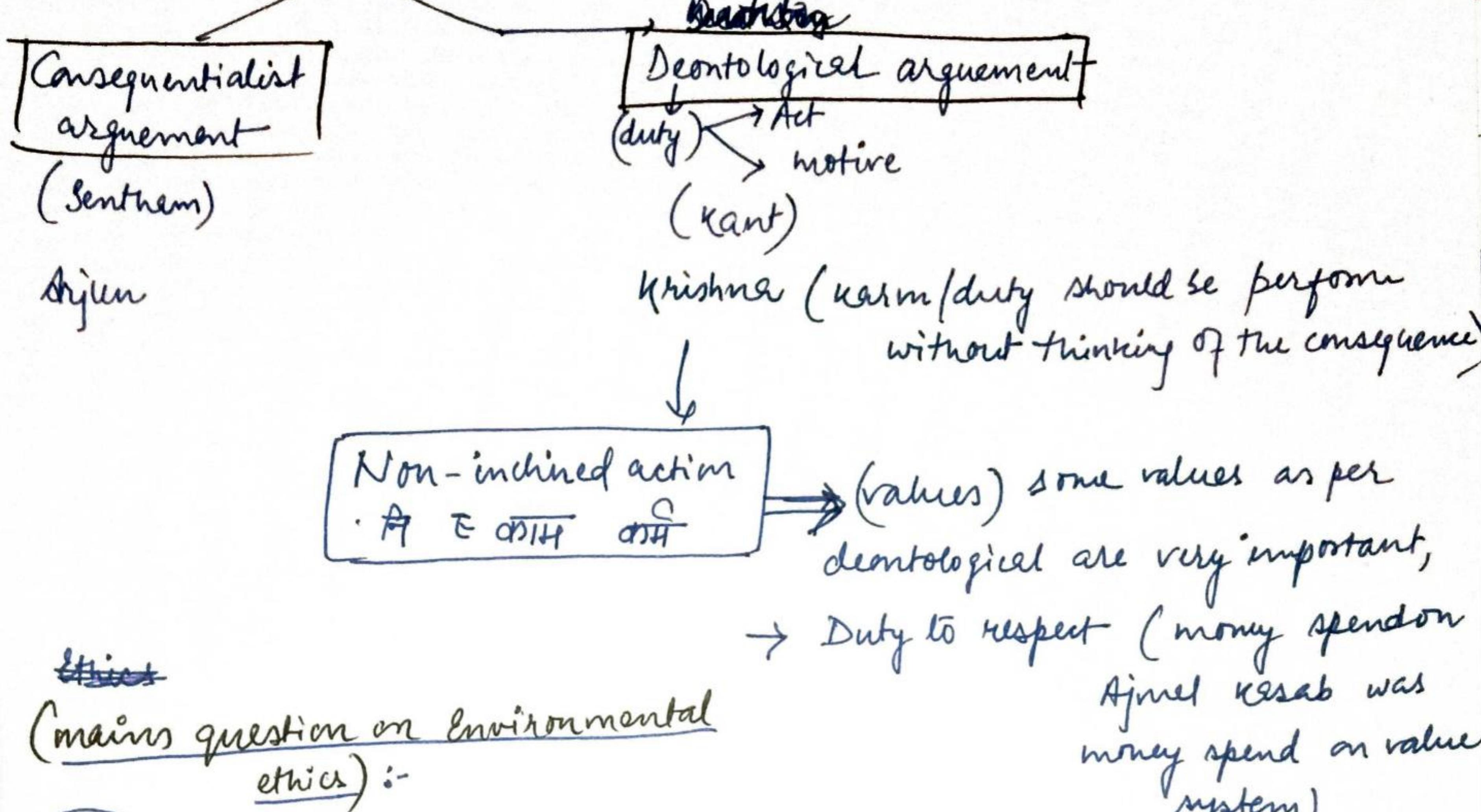
(State), Kant idea have extended to the state as well. He says the most imp function of the state is to protect and guarantee human dignity (Human Right). A libertarian state would protect only liberty. A man named <sup>Dana Majhi</sup> Dana Majhi from Odisha was denied Ambulance on economic grounds to take his wife's dead body from hospital. Later on, he carried the body all way home on his shoulder, the video later on became viral. Kant says that, duty ~~to~~ of the ~~state~~ state to protect the human dignity in the form of education, food, health etc.. as life not simply means living a life it means living the life with dignity. Liberals on the other hand, says unless there is no violence everything is justified. The difference between extreme poor and extreme rich is justified. Kant says there type of inequality is not justified. Basic rights to individual is the duty of the state and only after when the individual is given certain social security he should be given free choice. On this ground, social security in America was brought about in 1930s. In India, also, debate on Universal Basic Income is debated around.

Some difference between liberals & Dignitarians is that, liberals talk about suicide is right whereas dignitarians considered it wrong.



Dignitarians considered subsidies, UBI as right where as liberals not. It is said that, Indian Constitution is based on Dignitarian grounds.

## Moral arguments :-



(main question on environmental ethics) :-

Define:- Environmental ethics is defined as Ethics which tries to identify human obligation towards the environment.

arguments : ① Deontological argument (values):- Duty to respect  
 ② Consequentialist " (Benefits)