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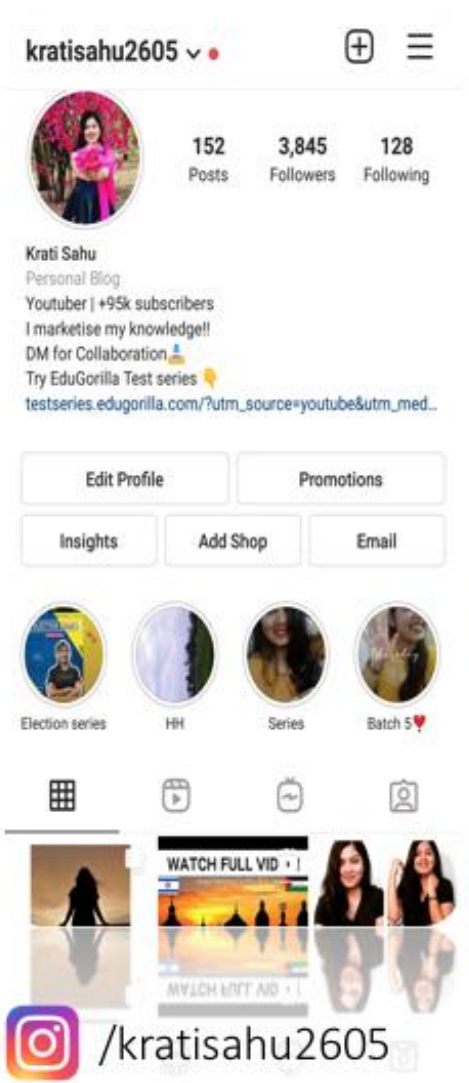
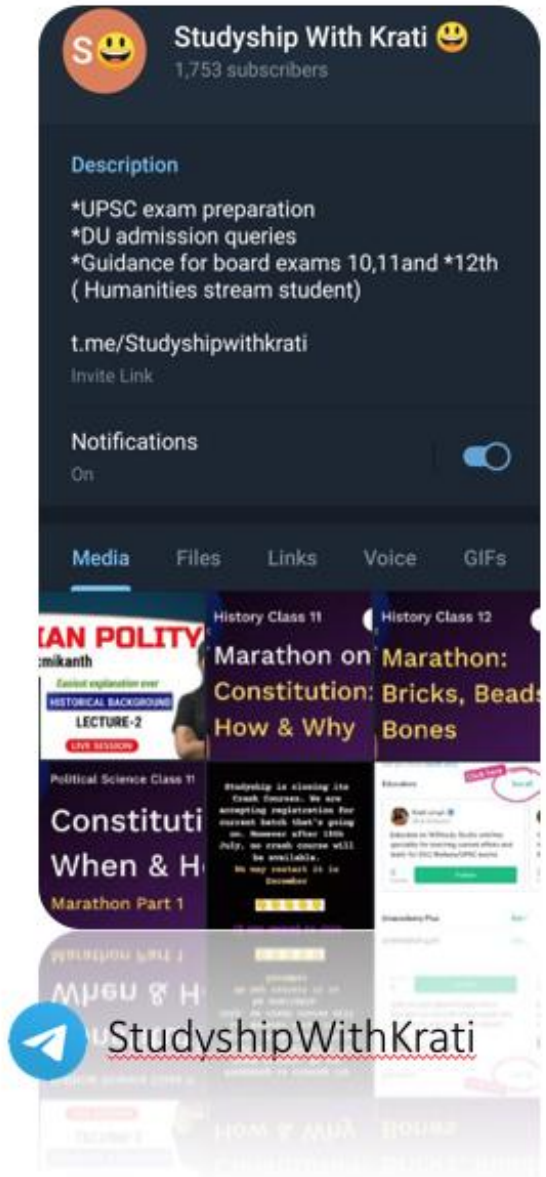
LET'S CONNECT

TO LEARN WITH ME





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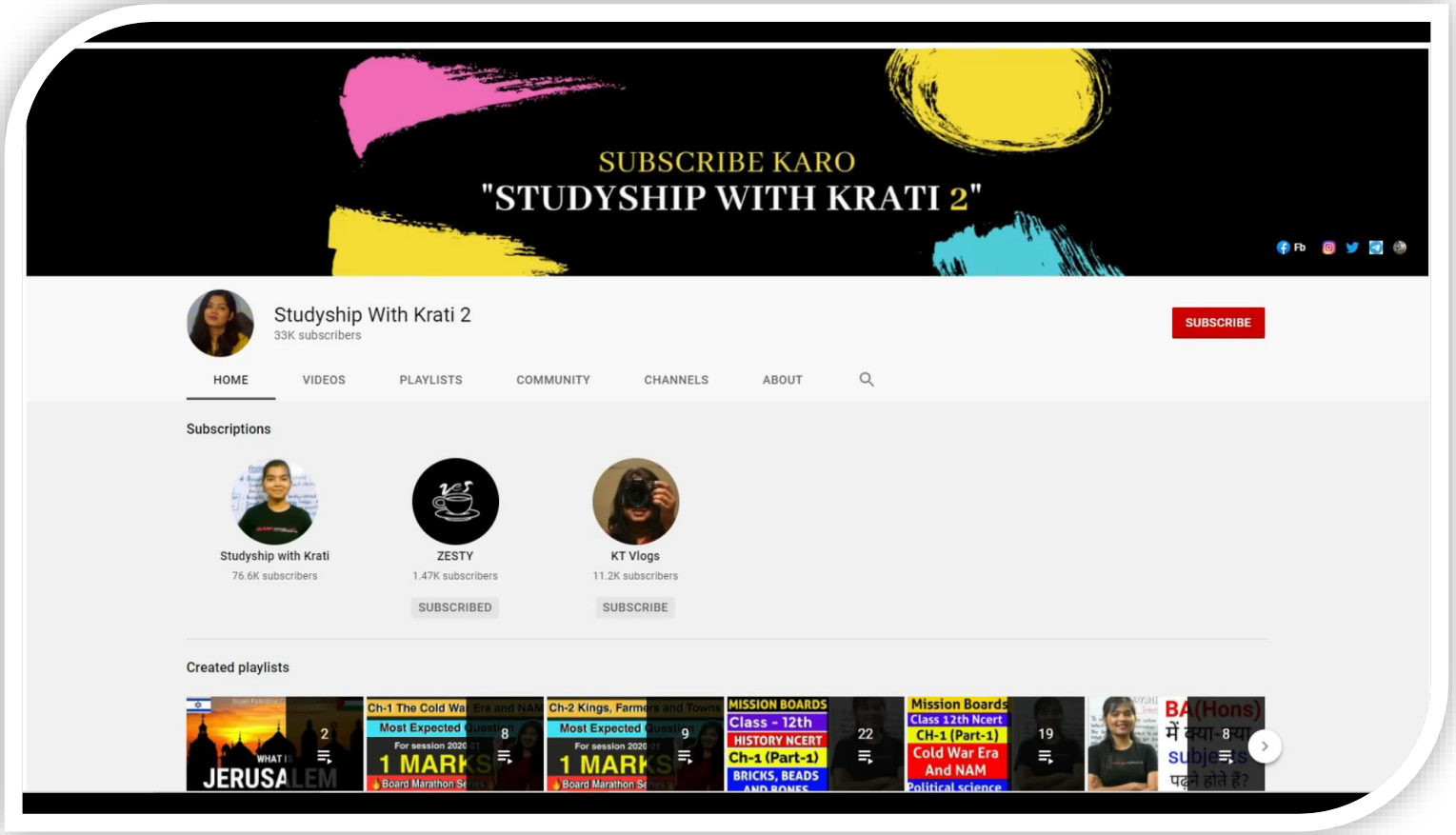

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WHAT IS POLITICS?

CLASS 11 CHAPTER: 01

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What is Politics?

- Politics is the study of power or the struggle for power.
- No society can exist without some form of political organization and collective decision making.
- A number of social institutions such as the family, tribes and economic institutions, have emerged to help people fulfil their needs and aspirations.
  → Such institutions help us find ways of living together acknowledging our obligations to each other.

• How governments are formed and how they function is thus an important focus of politics.

→ But politics is not confined to the affairs of government.
→ In fact what governments do is relevant because it affects the lives of the people in many different ways like their economic policy, foreign policy and educational policy affects people's lives.

• Since the actions of the government affect us deeply, people take a lively interest in what governments do.

• When people disagree with the policies of the government, we protest and organize demonstrations to persuade the government to change the existing laws.

• So, finally, politics arises from the fact that we have different visions of what is just and desirable for us and our society.
→ It involves the multiple negotiations that go on in society through which collective decisions are made.

- In everyday life, the term "politics" refers to the way that countries are governed, and to the ways that governments make rules and laws.

- Politics can also be seen in other groups, such as in companies, clubs, schools, and churches.

Politics is the way that people living in groups make decisions. Politics is about making agreements between people so that they can live together in groups such as tribes, cities, or countries

- Politicians, and sometimes other people, may get together to form a government.

- One of the ways the government leads the group is by making laws and rules which tell everybody what they can and can not do. The government makes these laws so that society will be safe and well-ordered.

- The government can also control people and what happens in a country in other ways besides making laws.

- Thus, Politics comprises all the activities of co-operation, negotiation and conflict within and between societies, whereby people go about organizing the use, production or distribution of human, natural and other resources in social life

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Why Do We Study Politics ?

1. Politics Helps You to Know Your Rights
2. Politics Clarifies What You Yourself Believe
3. Politics is a Living, Breathing Subject
4. Politics Helps You to Understand Our Nation's Parties

What do we study in Political Theory?

• There are certain values and principles that have inspired people and guided policies.
→ For example, Ideals like democracy, freedom or equality.

• Different countries may try to protect such values by enshrining them in their constitutions
as is the case with the American and Indian constitutions.

• These documents did not just emerge overnight; they are built upon the ideas and principles debated almost since the time of Kautilya, Aristotle to Jean Jacques Rousseau, Karl Marx, Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

- As far back as the fifth century B.C., Plato and Aristotle discussed with their students whether monarchy or democracy was better.

- In modern times, Rousseau first argued for freedom as a fundamental right of humankind.

- Karl Marx argued that equality was as crucial as freedom.

- • In India, Mahatma Gandhi discussed the meaning of genuine freedom or swaraj in his book Hind Swaraj.
  → Dr. Ambedkar vigorously argued that the scheduled castes must be considered a minority,
  and as such, must receive special protection.

  • Political theory deals with the ideas and principles that shape Constitutions, governments and social life in a systematic manner.

  • It clarifies the meaning of concepts such as freedom, equality, justice, democracy, secularism and so on.

  • It probes the significance of principles such as rule of law, separation of powers, judicial review,
  etc.

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THANKS FOR WATCHING!