



Autocratisation Goes Viral Report

Why in News

Recently, India has been classified as an “**electoral autocracy**” in the annual report named **Autocratisation Goes Viral** of Sweden-based Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Institute.

- This report comes just after the US watchdog **Freedom House** downgraded India’s status to “**partly free**” in its [‘Freedom in the World 2021’](#) report.

TOP-10 AUTOCRATIZING COUNTRIES, 2010–2020

	CHANGE	LDI 2010	LDI 2020	REGIME TYPE 2010	REGIME TYPE 2020
1 Poland	-0.34	0.83	0.49	Liberal Democracy	Electoral Democracy
2 Hungary	-0.32	0.68	0.37	Electoral Democracy	Electoral Autocracy
3 Turkey	-0.29	0.40	0.11	Electoral Democracy	Electoral Autocracy
4 Brazil	-0.28	0.79	0.51	Electoral Democracy	Electoral Democracy
5 Serbia	-0.27	0.51	0.24	Electoral Democracy	Electoral Autocracy
6 Benin	-0.26	0.55	0.29	Electoral Democracy	Electoral Autocracy
7 India	-0.23	0.57	0.34	Electoral Democracy	Electoral Autocracy
8 Mauritius	-0.23	0.73	0.50	Liberal Democracy	Electoral Democracy
9 Bolivia	-0.18	0.41	0.231	Electoral Democracy	Electoral Autocracy
10 Thailand	-0.17	0.34	0.17	Electoral Autocracy	Closed Autocracy

Key Points

- **About V-Dem:**
 - The V-Dem Institute, an **independent research organisation** founded in 2014 by Swedish political scientist Staffan Lindberg.
 - It produces its **annual report on the state of democracy** around the world based on a dataset of almost 30 million data points for **202 countries**.
- **Global Scenario:**
 - The global **decline of liberal democracies** was ‘steep’ in the past 10 years in the Asia-Pacific region, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.
 - Apart from India, countries like **Brazil and Turkey** figured among the **top 10 countries that slipped in rankings** that were part of the **G-20** nations.
- **India’s Position:**
 - India was previously classified as an **electoral democracy**, however the latest report classified it as **electoral autocracy**.

- India is now as autocratic **as is Pakistan**, and **worse than** both its neighbours **Bangladesh and Nepal**.
- **Political rights** and **civil liberties** in the country have **deteriorated since 2014**, with increased pressure on human rights organizations, rising intimidation of academics and journalists, and a spate of bigoted attacks, including lynchings, aimed at Muslims.
- **Reasons for the Downgrade:**
 - Recently, Indian government has used laws on [sedition \(Section 124A\)](#), [defamation \(Section 499\)](#), and **counter-terrorism** to silence critics.
 - It has used the [Foreign Contributions Regulation Act \(FCRA\) 2010](#) to restrict the entry, exit and functioning of civil society organisations.
 - More frequent use of laws like [Unlawful Activities \(Prevention\) Act \(UAPA\),1967](#).

[Source: TH](#)

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