



## **THE DEMOCRATIC HEALTH OF INDIA: AN EVALUATION**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Democracy is a form of government where leaders are elected by the people and for the people. The main principle is that leaders are merely representative of the people and main power is vested in the people themselves. So, there are some basic elements necessary for living democracy in a country like the freedom to choose your leader, active participation of people in govt., the formation, fundamental rights, and rule of law. Based on these factors, only a country can be said to be more democratic, average democratic, and less democratic. The system of democracy is very old; it first appeared in Greek politics in the city of Athens. The word comes from ‘demos’ meaning people and ‘Kratos’ means to rule, so the word means the rule of the people. Greece is considered the oldest democracy in the world, which was started in the 5th century BC. After gaining power and becoming leaders, the mindset has grown that political leaders are the rulers and they started to rule as per their own wishes. This raged people to demand more democracy in their society by asking for equality, freedom, and many such things which are basic for democracy. After independence in 1947, India became a democratic country and it has been now 73 years since being as democratic. Many incidents occur which shake the pillars of democracy. Many reports and indexes have also been published which show the condition of democracy in many nations as per their views.

**Keywords:** Democracy, India, Reports, CAA, NRC, Freedom.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

India became independent in 1947 and after that, it is evolving and trying to get the best democracy, but every country has some restrictions or problems in achieving it. There can't be a law that can please everyone, as in democracy always a majority will form the govt. but that doesn't mean that the only majority opinion will matter. In the past few years, many reports and indexes and been published and data is being presented which are showing the democratic health of a country. Reports like Freedom of Press, Democracy Index, Bribery Index, Corruption Index, etc. which rank many nations as per their performance. In recent times many indexes published which showed that India is becoming less democratic, India is not having a free press, degrading level of secularism, degrading level of free speech, lowering the status of the judiciary, and many more elements which define the democracy of a country. This paper will analyze many such indexes and reports and will try to reach a conclusion that the democracy of India is degrading. There are many articles published which are talking about these reports and discuss in their own terms how these indexes are impacting the country's democratic health. There are many articles which are talking about the free press and also discuss free speech and all this. In India, the opposition is majorly slamming the current govt. for undermining the democracy of the country. To get a fair understanding, we have done a goggle form-based survey and asked some basic questions pertaining to democracy. We will also use that data to showcase how people think of democracy in their nation. So, this paper will try to look upon each perspective that is India becoming less democratic or more democratic.

### Research Questions

1. Is India becoming less democratic?
2. What do the people of India think about the democracy of their nation?
3. Are the indexes published is giving a biased or impartial report of the democratic health of the nation?

### Research Objective

1. To know what democracy means for a nation and what are its basic components.
2. To know the democratic values of India.
3. To analyze the indexes published showing democratic values of India.

## Review of Literature

### Stop lecturing India about democracy<sup>1</sup>

Author: A Surya Prakash

Source: The New Indian Express (2020)

This is the article that came after the publication of the V-Dem report by Sweden which says about the rank of the different nations according to their democratic health. This article gave me the idea to write this paper and brings a lot of information that is never talked about. According to this report, India is ranked at 90 which is very low and countries like Denmark, Sweden, Norway are at the top rank democratic country. The author is of the view that the nation which is on the top list lacks the very basic elements of democracy. That is Sweden lacks the principle of Equality before Law, Denmark is not fully secular, and many such countries which lack republic values, equality, secularism, etc. are being placed at high ranked. The author slammed these nations to stop lecturing about democracy to India which has equality, freedom of expression, secularism, and many such things. The article also argues that doesn't see India with the western eye. But author lacks to discuss the good points of the nation which topped this index. So the author put up a view which was very necessary for both Indian people and western nations to think about what they want us to do.

### Is India becoming less democratic?<sup>2</sup>

Author: C Uday Bhaskar

Source: Hindustan Times (2020)

This is an article that is a kind of informative and argumentative and written ahead of Republic day of India in 2020. The author talks about the report of the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) which was published ahead of Republic day. It lowered the rank of India from 41<sup>st</sup> to 51<sup>st</sup> this year and placed in the flawed democracy category. It also talked about the nation which topped the list and was considered as best democracy around the world. This report was first published in 2006 and from the time it shows that the democratic health of India is deteriorating year by year. If it is talked about the democratic health of the world so 2020 is the year which is the lowest average global democracy. It talked about the policy or incidents like CAA, NRC, NPR, Article 370

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<sup>1</sup> Stop lecturing India about democracy, [www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/2020/dec/15/stop-lecturingindia-aboutdemocracy-2236358.html](http://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/2020/dec/15/stop-lecturingindia-aboutdemocracy-2236358.html) accessed 14 January 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Is India becoming less democratic?, [www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/analysis-is-india-becoming-less-democratic/story-PROXi6x0bZwSIN8faOBILM.html](http://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/analysis-is-india-becoming-less-democratic/story-PROXi6x0bZwSIN8faOBILM.html) accessed 14 January 2022.

abrogation that impacted the rank of India in these indexes. The author also talked about the condition of people after the internet shutdown and all that curb after Article 370 abrogation but it fails to look another side of the coin. Like why the govt. put a ban on this activity and what are the benefits associated with CAA, NRC, and Article 370. Articles only present a one-way view and compared the CAA protest with student-led protest in Hong Kong and said that death of protestor is more in India than authoritarian govt. like China. It is known that China never presents real facts and figures so we can't come to a conclusion by just comparing it with a nation like China. The author also talked about the need for debate and discussion on these issues in Parliament which is very necessary and also the essence of any democratic country.

### **Here's why Freedom House is misleading and inaccurate<sup>3</sup>**

Channel: NEWS9 live

Source: YouTube (2021)

This is a video uploaded very recently which talks about the report published by freedom house citing it as misleading and dubious. The host Priyanka Deo says every aspect of it as she says that report published is not providing any evidence or any supportive argument to support its claim. All the claims and points are only objectifying and do not have any proper data to support them. This video is something that is eye-opening to every citizen because every people just look at the rank and figures and doesn't look into on what basis they derive into that conclusion. This video is kind of exposing one and exposes Freedom House for their dubious report.

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<sup>3</sup> Here's why Freedom House is misleading and inaccurate, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRp9l9lwFqE>> accessed 14 January 2022.

## II. DEMOCRACY

Without proper government, no political entity can be held together and maintained on good terms<sup>4</sup>. Democracy is one of the oldest and eminent forms of govt. which has existed for a long time. For democracy, there are certain principles and elements which should be followed.

### *The Principles of Democracy*

1. Democracy is based on similar values or thought shared by people all over the world regardless of their thought, culture, opinion, economy, or social differences. So it is a right to be enjoyed by a citizen under freedom of equality, transparency, and respect of odd views.
2. Democracy is of both types, as ideal and also as a mode of govt. to be followed which shows the difference of views and culture without disrespecting worldwide acceptable ideas. So, its success is based on many types of social, political, cultural, and economic factors.
3. It is the only kind of system which allow self-correction and aims to preserve value such as social justice, lessen the economical gap, strengthen the bond of society, and provide an environment that is suitable for international peace.
4. Democracy ensures that accession of power is more politically accepted that people should get a fair chance to actively participate.
5. Democracy is built on the pillar of law and policy in the limit of human law. In a democratic society, no person is above the law and the law will treat everyone equally.
6. Social, peaceful, economic, and cultural developments are conditions as well as the result of democracy. The interdependence is followed among rule of law and human rights<sup>5</sup>.

### *Democratic Government Elements and Exercises*

1. Democracy is founded on the basis of the will of society or community as a whole, and their rights and responsibilities.
2. It is the work of democracy to mitigate tensions and maintain normalcy between the competing party, individuals in order to increase social unity and solidarity.
3. Democracy is set on the principles that people are required for participation in public affairs, so it requires institutions at all levels. A parliament, in particular, is necessary for every democratic society which assembles people from each sect and expresses their wills.

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<sup>4</sup> Han Shuifa & Hu Jinglei, 'The Concept of Democracy' (JSTOR 2008)  
<[The Concept of Democracy on JSTOR](#)> accessed 14 January 2022.

<sup>5</sup> Cherif Bassiouni, 'Democracy: Its principle and achievement' (The Inter-Parliamentary Union, 1998)  
<[archive.ipu.org/PDF/publications/DEMOCRACY\\_PR\\_E.pdf](#)> accessed 14 January 2022.

4. Free and fair election at regular intervals is a must for a democratic nation and this election should be based on universal suffrage. There should be impartiality followed in party organization, activities, funding and finances must be properly regulated.
5. It is the responsibility of the government to ensure the enjoyment of political, civil, cultural, and social rights to citizens. Thus democracy is leader-defined if it is freely chosen, honest, effective, and transparent.
6. Citizen has the right to get access to a public authority, govt. activities, and to seek redress from the govt.
7. There should not be any discrimination against any individual and no intimidation by any state or non-state actor.
8. The judicial institution should be developed and should be impartial and each person gets a fair chance to be represented for getting justice.
9. It is a precondition for a democratic society to provide free expression of opinions without any hindrance.
10. The democratic institution must provide centralized and local govt. for a wide coverage of the public<sup>6</sup>.

### **Democracy Report 2021 by V-Dem**

V-Dem is an independent research institute established by Professor Staffan. Its research on world democracy distinguishes them in five principles electoral, liberal, participatory, deliberative, and egalitarian<sup>7</sup>.

**Indexes:** Many types of indexes were published under this report to show individual remarks of each factor.

- **Liberal Democracy Index**

Components are – Equality before the law and individual liberty, judicial constraint, legislative constraint. It indicates institutional robustness and liberties in the judiciary, parliament, and rule of law.

India's rank is 97 among 179 nations and the top country is Denmark<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> Stephan Kyburz, '8 Principles of Direct Democracy' (Center for Global Development 2019) <<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/8-principles-direct-democracy>> accessed 14 January 2022.

<sup>7</sup> V-Dem, 'V-Dem: Global Standards, Local Knowledge', (2021) <<https://www.v-dem.net/>> accessed 14 January 2022.

<sup>8</sup> ibid

- **Electoral Democracy Index**

It shows to what level states hold a clean, free and fair election, and how is their freedom of expression, private source of information and association, as well as male and female participating ratio in electoral politics.

Some elements are Govt. censorship media, harassment of journalists, media self-censorship, media bias, freedom of academic and cultural expression, freedom of discussion for men and women.

India's rank is 101 with a score of 0.45 and the top country is Denmark<sup>9</sup>.

- **Liberal Component Index**

It is based on the importance of protecting individual and minority rights against both the govt. and major party. It checks and balances between institutions that are effective for ensuring citizen rights. It checks for an independent judiciary, civil liberties, and strong parliament.

India's rank is 88 and the top country is Denmark<sup>10</sup>.

- **Egalitarian Component of Democracy**

It checks to what extent all social groups are participating political arena. How the resources are distributed among all social groups.

India's rank is 124 and the top country is Denmark<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>9</sup> ibid.

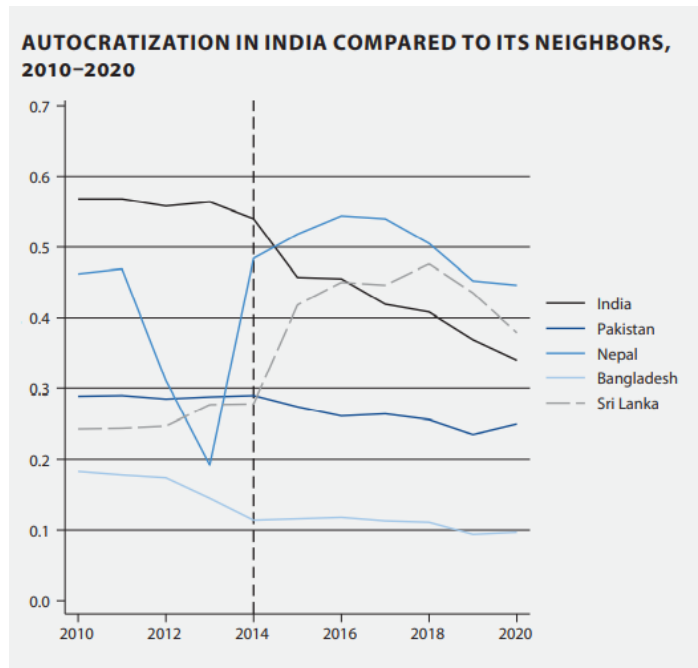
<sup>10</sup> '2021 Index of Economic Freedom' (2021) < <https://www.heritage.org/index/ranking> > accessed 14 January 14, 2022.

<sup>11</sup> ibid.

### Democracy Break Down in India

India is the world's largest democracy and this report shows that it turned into an electoral autocracy. The process of democratization started in the last ten year and it is increasing year by year, a gradual deterioration of freedom houses, media houses, and civil society were retrenched first and to a large extent.

It says that after the rule of Narendra Modi led govt. in 2014, the decline of democracy started in India. They are propagating Hindu-nationalist agenda. It



is on the list with countries like Brazil, Hungary, and Turkey. India's score in a liberal democracy was 0.57 in 2013 (highest) and it decreased to 0.34 in 2020<sup>12</sup>.

It says the election management body is wholly autonomous and discusses its severe decline. And overall clean, fair, and free election process is also decreased under the Narendra Modi regime of 2019 and it has moved toward electoral democracy.

The report also shows the diminishing of freedom of speech and expression for media houses and critics. The score in censorship was 3.5 out of 4 before 2014 and now in 2020, it came to 1.5 meaning censorship efforts are no longer restricted to sensitive issues and it is done on regular basis. It says that critics are not allowed to criticize the govt. and often charged for defamation, sedition, and under UAPA. The law on defamation is used by silent journalists and news outlets that go against the policy of the Modi Govt<sup>13</sup>.

The report says that Modi and his party are putting restrictions on civil society and are going against of constitutional principle of secularism. Indian govt. passed CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) which is against the fundamental of secularism and is using harsh force against the protestor. The report says India is in the category of Pakistan and its democracy is even worse than neighboring nations Bangladesh and Nepal.

<sup>12</sup> ibid.

<sup>13</sup> The Wire Staff, 'The Updated List of India's 'Anti-Nationals' (According to the Modi Government' (The Wire 2021) < <https://thewire.in/rights/india-modi-anti-national-protest-arrest-sedition-authoritarianism> > accessed 14 January 14, 2022.



## *Freedom in the World 2021 by Freedom House*

### **India**

According to a report by the US-based Freedom House, India's democracy status changed to a free to partly free nation. Due to the dominance of Hindu nationalists presiding over Muslims and minorities. India's total score is 67 out of 100 in which it got 34 out of 40 in political rights and 33 out of 60 in civil liberties. Last year it scored 71 out of 100 which means a free state<sup>14</sup>.

The report is based on these factors-

### *Development in 2020<sup>15</sup>*

- During protest and violence in Delhi, more than 50 people died among which mostly were Muslims.
- Sedition charges were filed against those who were criticizing the govt. for COVID-19 handling, many students, journalists, scholars were charged under this colonial-era law.
- During the lockdown, many migrant populations were locked in the city without any remuneration or any means to get back to their hometown. Most of the migrants were forced to get back their homes by foot and Muslims were targeted for spreading the virus.
- Special court ruling to acquit those who were charged for demolishing Babri Masjid in 1992.

### *Political Rights*

1. **Electoral Process:** The election was held and the head of govt. and another authority was elected free and fair. All the members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were elected through free and fair means. The body to conduct an election is independent of any political interference and they implement rules and laws impartially.
2. **Political Pluralism and Participation:** People have the right to form or organize any political party and they are free to propagate it. The only concern is political funding. There is a fair chance for the opposition to come in power and increase its support by-election. Due to some communal tension and other forces, some areas are hampered by political choices. Women are getting a fair chance to represent themselves in the political field. But the Muslims are facing many obstacles as they are winning very few seats in the Lok Sabha

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<sup>14</sup> Freedom House, 'Freedom in the World 2021' (2021) <<https://freedomhouse.org/country/india/freedom-world/2021>> accessed 14 January 2022.

<sup>15</sup> ibid.

election. Also, parliament adopted CAA which is against Muslims and does not allow Muslims migrant to settle. At the same time, NRC in Assam is also something to debar the Muslim voter as illegal immigrants.

- 3. Functioning of Government:** Elected leaders have full authority to set govt. policy. There is large-scale corruption in almost every authority and many scandals are unreported and unpublished. The public has very less information about the govt. authority. There is some provision for getting information but they are very slow or flooded with the request.

### Civil Liberties

- 1. Freedom of Belief and Expression<sup>16</sup>:** There are many private media houses operating in India. But they frequently attack them under Modi govt. are more common. Charges like defamation, sedition, anti-national, and hate speech law are being used arbitrarily against critics of govt. Many incidents happened like a death threat, physical violence targeting the press. While Hindus are in majority they are secured but the Muslims are often targeted, and anti-Muslim views are being propagated. There are many incidents that happened which lynched Muslims. During COVID 19 pandemic also Muslims were targeted as they are spreading the virus. The academicians are not free to discuss subjects that are against Hindu ideology.
- 2. Association and Organisational Rights<sup>17</sup>:** There is a legal hindrance to any assembly, as they face charges of criminal procedures code, and in many areas, they put restrictions on the internet. The non-government organization which is engaged in operating human rights are also facing backlogs like harassment, death threat, and police assault.
- 3. Rule of Law<sup>18</sup>:** The judiciary is formally independent but many judges are involved in political discourse and many decision is politically motivated. There is a high level of corruption in the lower level of the judiciary. Due process of law is not followed many citizens face obstacles in pursuit of justice. There are many cases reported of judicial and police torture. There are many such incidents that suggest discrimination on the basis of castes.

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<sup>16</sup> Ashutosh Varshney, 'India's Democratic Challenge' [2007] PL 93-106.

<sup>17</sup> Ashok Swain, 'Democratic Consolidation? Environmental Movements in India' [1997] PL 818-832.

<sup>18</sup> Amiya Kumar Bagchi, 'Towards Democratization of Education in India' [2010] PL 5-16.

### Personal Autonomy and Individual Rights<sup>19</sup>

Individuals face many restrictions in free movement and in changing their residential place. They face problems in employment and education in different places. Internal migrant people suffer many such backlogs. People are getting the opportunity to exercise the right to own private businesses but in some cases, they also suffer from locals. Dowry, rape, and many laws pertaining to religion are engraving violence against women. There are many people who are employed as forced labour so there are some obstacles in the enjoyment of equality and freedom from exploitation.

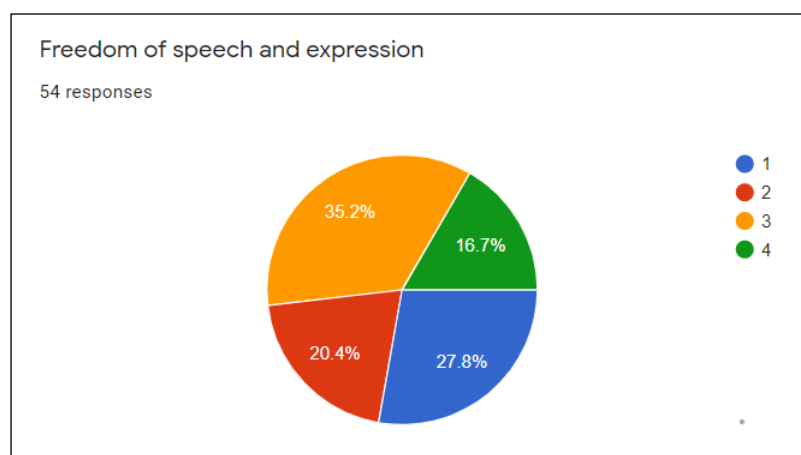
### III. SURVEY & FINDINGS

#### • SURVEY & DATA ANALYSIS

For writing this paper there was very much need of presenting the Indian people's views on some of the democratic values that India possesses. All the report which is published in western society, so it is needed to also present the Indian side of it. For this, we have done a Google form survey asking a few simple questions related to democratic values which we will present here. As paucity of time survey only include data of 54 people and all the surveyors are college students which means they are well aware of current happening. In this certain question was asked and they were asked to rank every point as **1. Good, 2. Satisfactory, 3. Average, 4. Not satisfactory**. These were the surveying point-

Freedom of Speech and Expression: This is the basic element of democracy which gives the right to express yourself without any fear but having some restriction to it<sup>20</sup>. As not any right is absolute.

This figure shows how freedom of speech and expression is in our country as per some of the student's views. This pie chart shows that 27.8% people gave 1 position which means it is good, then 20.4% gave 2 position which means that



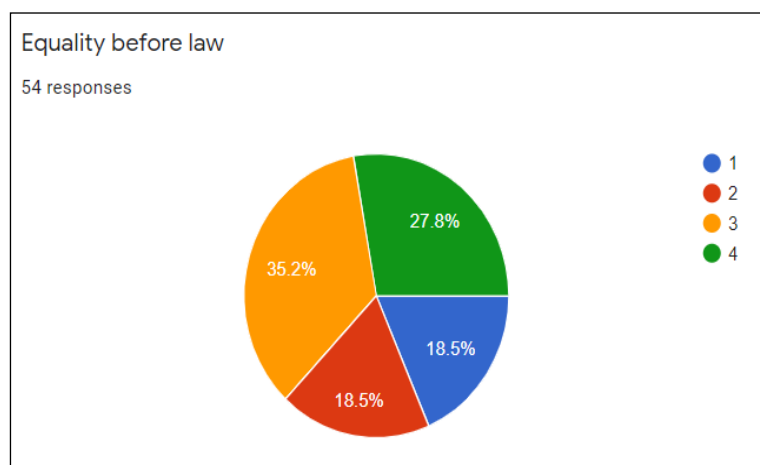
<sup>19</sup> Jean Chapman, 'Violence against Women in Democratic India: Let's talk Misogyny' [2014] PL 49-61.

<sup>20</sup> The Constitution of India, 1949, art. 19, Cl. (1) (a).

total approx. 48% of people think freedom of speech and expression is good and satisfactory. And if talk about average marks are mostly given by 35.2% people and only 16% voted for it is not satisfactory. In conclusion, it suggests that half of the people think the condition is good and satisfactory here and one-third think it is average and very minimal no. of people think it is not satisfactory.

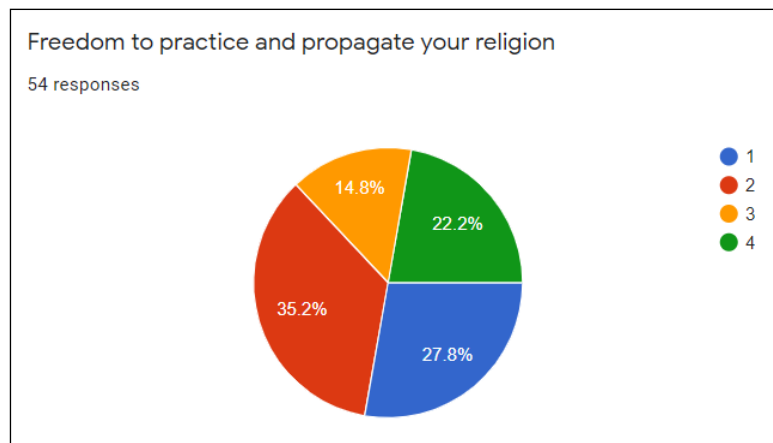
**Equality before Law:** This indicator suggests how govt. treat every group of the citizen in their country. Law does not discriminate against people or any citizen on any basis and provides each people with the same law and policy. This also says that everyone is equal in the eyes of law and the state can't provide any certain privilege to any person<sup>21</sup>.

This pie chart shows that very little percent (18.5%) of people think that law is treating them equally and a majority of percentage (35% and 27%) shows that govt. is not treating them equally and there is discrimination based on any factors.



**Freedom of Religion:**

According to article 25 of the Indian Constitution every citizen has the right to practice, profess, propagate their religion subject to public order, morality, and health. This is also a basic indicator for a democratic country<sup>22</sup>.



This pie chart shows that a majority (27.8% and 35.2%) of people think that in India there is freedom of religion and it is in good and satisfactory condition and less no. of people think it is

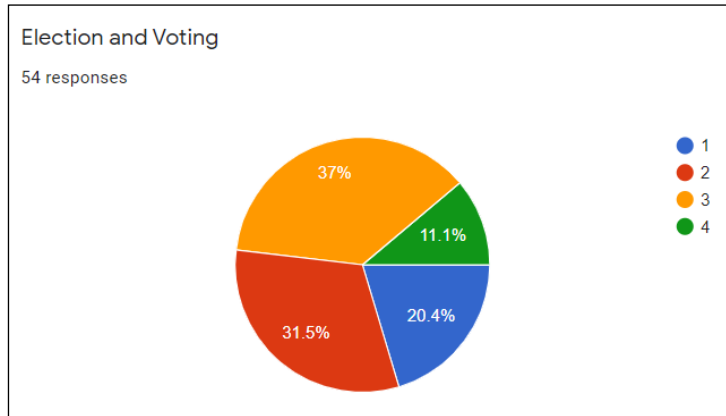
<sup>21</sup> The Constitution of India, 1949, art. 14 & 18.

<sup>22</sup> The Constitution of India, 1949, art. 25 & 28.

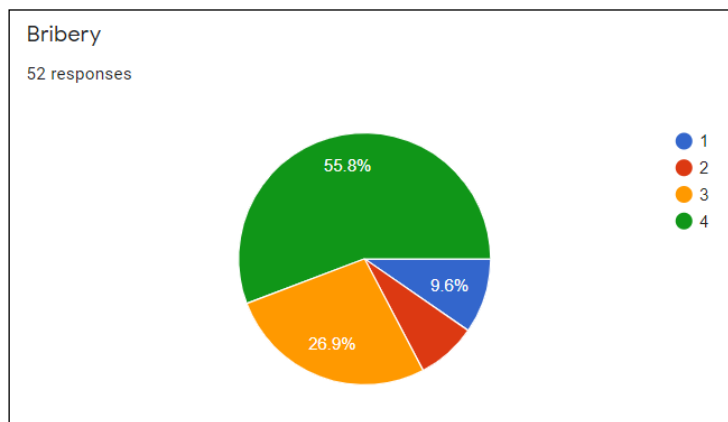
average and not satisfactory. In conclusion, a large no. of people is satisfied with the religious freedom of right.

**Election and Voting:** As for a democratic country the very essence is that govt. is democratically elected and at a regular level, the free and fair election must happen which gives the citizens chance to change or retain their government<sup>23</sup>.

This pie chart shows the working of election and voting process of India in which if more than 50% people say that election and voting process is good and satisfactory here. More people (37%) say that it is average and very minimum no. of people say that it is not satisfactory. In conclusion, it can be said that the election and voting process is satisfactory enough.



**Bribery and Corruption:** It is the basic indicator which suggests how the govt. authority functions in a country and also says how citizens are treated in terms of public services. As bribery is a disease to any form of govt. it drastically decreases the living standards of people.

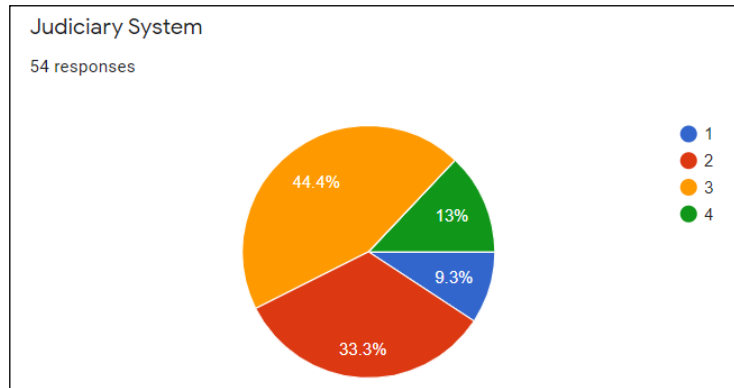


This pie chart shows that a majority (56%) of people think that bribery is common in India and it is not satisfactory in a democracy and very minimum people think that there is no bribery. In conclusion, India is having corruption and bribery intrinsic in it.

<sup>23</sup> TN Seshan v Union of India and Ors, (1995) 4 SCC 611.  
Legal Metry Law Journal (Volume 1, Issue 4)

**Judiciary:** For a democratic country judiciary must be separated from the executive and any political pressure<sup>24</sup>. It must provide a speedy trial of cases and remedy to those in need. Judiciary should interpret laws and provide justice to society.

This pie chart shows that the majority of people think that the judiciary in India is satisfactory (33%) and average (44%) and very less no. of people think that it is good. Also 13% people think it is not satisfactory. In conclusion, it can be said that India is having an average and satisfactory judiciary system.



#### • FINDINGS

These indexes show how democracy is shaping in many countries. How the average democracy of the world is decreasing. The decrease of democracy means that the citizen of that country is not free of speech and expression, there is no a free press, there is no barrier in secularism, the minority is not politically active, and many more like this. A state in which there is not enough opportunity for citizens to lead a happy life can also lead to a decreased rank of democracy. If we talk about India according to the V-Dem report published India is having autocracy which means a rule of govt. where one person is the head of the govt., which is a flawed argument. If a look is given to countries like Myanmar, China, Pakistan, etc. where democracy principle is little followed and the head of the country is only one person. Myanmar is a country where always military rule is followed and people are dragged for any right<sup>25</sup>. China is a country where minority Ughiyar Muslims are persecuted and not given any rights<sup>26</sup>. Pakistan is an Islamic state where minorities like Hindus are persecuted and converted into Muslims and they have no right<sup>27</sup>. In this country, not every citizen has the right and freedom as Indian citizens are enjoying then also India is placed with this country. According to the Freedom House report, India is not a free nation now it is partly free and its rank is lower than Sri Lanka, and many neighboring nations. Sri Lanka is a state where after the civil

<sup>24</sup> The Constitution of India, 1949, art. 50, Cl. 1.

<sup>25</sup> Bejoy Sebastian, 'Military rule comes back to haunt Myanmar again' (moderndiplomacy 2021) < [Military rule comes back to haunt Myanmar again - Modern Diplomacy](#)> accessed 14 January 2022.

<sup>26</sup> Manish Shukla, 'How China is brutally eradicating Uighur Muslims from Xinjiang' (Zee News 2020) < [Explained: How China is brutally eradicating Uighur Muslims from Xinjiang | World News | Zee News \(india.com\)](#)> accessed 14 January 2022.

<sup>27</sup> Anand Ranganathan, 'The Vanishing Hindus of Pakistan – a Demographic Study' (newslaundry 2015) < [The Vanishing Hindus of Pakistan – a Demographic Study \(newslaundry.com\)](#)> accessed 14 January 2022.

war Tamil people are not getting enough rights and are forced to leave their nation. Then also India is placed lower than Sri Lanka. This report talks that India's democracy deteriorated after the Narendra Modi-led BJP came into power in 2014 and is promoting a Hindu nation. After Narendra Modi govt. came into power much such development was done for the Muslim community like banning triple-talaq which was against the principle of humanity and was against the rights of women<sup>28</sup>. If we talk about the Ram Mandir issue also it was decided by SC and in its verdict, it not only grants temples for Hindu, an alternative piece of 5-acre land was given to the Muslim community for building Mosque<sup>29</sup>. CAA which was passed by the legislator is discriminatory as cited in the report but the report fails to cite how it is discriminatory and how it is affecting the Muslim population in India. Thus they are citing only in the air by relying on the so-called critics.

According to Google form survey, it also has some findings which say that condition of freedom of speech and expression is satisfactory, freedom of religion is also in good terms and large no. of people says that it is in good or satisfactory condition, equality before the law is not good that much as more no. of people says it is average or not satisfactory. The election and voting system is also good and the judiciary system is average and satisfactory. Bribery is the real problem of India as the majority of people say that govt. authority is affected by bribery.

#### **IV. A WAY FORWARD**

It was a bit of a dark time which people witnessed in India as according to almost all the ranking and reports. In those times the democratic countries slammed India for many of its decisions and approach. There were a number of motions passed against India in the European parliament one of them was in context to the CAA and NRC which they say can bring the largest statelessness crisis in the world. Even in America the parliamentarians highly criticized India for many of its decisions. The EU as well as the Americans have many a time slammed India over the Kashmir issue as well as after that a delegation from the European countries visited the valley. On this particular matter, our humble supreme court has also taken a number of steps and criticized the government and gave a decision against the state one of them being the redemption of the internet in the valley where there was a complete crackdown overusing the Internet. All of these events show that there was a time when freedom was hampered but with the changed time today if we get to check up on the democracy, we can see a lot of improvement. We saw a number of things like many European countries praising us for example recently the Sweden prime minister stated

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<sup>28</sup> Samastha Kerala Jamiathul Ulema and Anr. V. Union of India, (2019) (C) No (s). 994/2019..

<sup>29</sup> M Siddiq Thr Lrs v. Mahant Suresh Das & Ors (2019) CA 10866- 10867/2010.

that “India and the European union are democratic superpowers.” And recently India was invited to the democracy submission hosted by the USA while many democratic countries were left out of this submit like Bangladesh, China and etc. India was one of the very limited countries which were given the chances to speak and the Indian prime minister significantly put a number of things that the global leaders admired. Recently we are seeing that leaders of a great democracy are admiring India and supporting its democratic presence.

## V. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

As the Democracy report published by both the think-tank is saying that democracy in India is not in good hands and it is kind of autocracy and its democracy is partly free. They basically rely on the recent development of 2020 in which a series of events happened like Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA), National Registration of Citizen (NRC), Article 370 and Article 35 abrogation from J&K, the verdict on Ram Mandir, migrant crisis during pandemic and Delhi violence, etc. These all incident was very large and captured a large public and worldwide covered.

As the report cites that after Narendra Modi govt. status of Indian democracy started to decline, so both the report are targeting a part and a leader particularly as in report everywhere it was written that democracy is bad due to Narendra Modi, but Modi is not present in every state. In India, every state has its own chief ministers and they belong to different party so only BJP or Narendra Modi can't be blamed for that. So both the report presented gave more party-centric data without evaluating every aspect of it. Another thing is that in both the report it was cited that India is becoming a Hindu nation and keeping Muslims in fear and suppression. No, any law or policy came in 2020 which suggests that the Muslim population is in fear or actually there is a growing no. of Muslims in govt. authority and also in high posts. It talks about the Delhi violence and CAA protest and says that most of the death occurred of Muslim's but it has to be understood that lynching has no religion and castes. First of all lynching and violent protest is unlawful and against democracy, so it is foolishness to distinct the dead body of violent protestors. It says that during these protest internet were shut-down so to prevent any large conspiracy and it is there in the constitution that this type of shutdown can occur so it can't be counted as against democracy. The abrogation of Art. 370 and the status of J&K have no relation to spread terror among any group it was done only to restore democracy in the valley. For doing any big and great work somewhat difficulty had to face. But the govt. shouldn't be so harsh and provide as much information about that place to the entire world. The report also says that the press and media houses are not free, they are attacked and harassed. I agreed that at some level crime is there but the condition is not that they are not free. They are so many media houses that are working against



the govt. and are having opposite views. They are publishing thousands of articles that they do not have any freedom to express and speech, so it is a kind of irony. There is a need for a great improvement in bribery and corruption as it is hallowing the democracy of India from the inside. There are certain laws and policies for it but they are not that much successful, so govt. should make it more strong and vigilant. The report cites that there is a decrease in civil liberties and individual freedom. If we talk about individual freedom, so don't think in the world no country provides so much freedom as India with respect to individuality.

So overall these reports are kind of dubious as it is against a single party or single party leader. The report doesn't provide enough data to support its point like it mostly relied on heresy and did not present any evidence to support its argument. It doesn't look into both sides of the coin it came to a conclusion by just viewing only one side. One more thing both report is foreign-based and they have looked through their eyes of western culture. In the list of ranking, most of the countries which are on the top spot lack the basic elements of democracy that are secularism, freedom of religion, equality, and many more thing.

There is a need of made India indexes and report to show the accurate democracy ranking according to Asian eyes. The recent development is very supportive of that, the external affairs ministries are mulling over to make world democracy index to be brought by Indian think-tank. In a concluding remark, it can only be said that Indian democracy is not that much deteriorated as it is presented by the western report.