

Global State of Democracy Report, 2021

November 25, 2021

In news– International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International-IDEA) has released the Global State of Democracy Report, 2021 recently.

About Global State of Democracy Report-

- **The report reviews the state of democracy around the world** over the course of 2020 and 2021, with democratic trends since 2015 used as contextual reference.
- **It is based on analysis of events that have impacted democratic governance globally** since the start of the pandemic, based on various data sources.
- **The reports refer to three main regime types:** democracies, hybrid and authoritarian regimes (Hybrid and authoritarian regimes are both classified as non-democratic).
- Democracies, at a minimum, hold competitive elections in which the opposition stands a realistic chance of accessing power.
- Hybrid regimes tend to have a somewhat more open—but still insufficient—space for civil society and the media than authoritarian regimes.
- It has said that **20 countries moved in the direction of authoritarianism**, seven countries moved towards democracy.
- The report **highlighted the case of Brazil and India** as some of the most worrying examples of backsliding.
- However, **India remained in the category of a mid-level performing democracy** as it has since 2000.
- The **United States and three members of the European Union (EU) [Hungary, Poland and Slovenia**, which holds the chair of the EU in 2021] have also **seen concerning**

democratic declines.

- The **pandemic had a particularly damaging effect on non-democratic countries**, further closing their already reduced civic space.
- The **uneven global distribution of COVID-19 vaccines**, as well as anti-vaccine views, undermine the uptake of vaccination programmes and risk prolonging the health crisis and **normalising restrictions on basic freedoms.**

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance-

- It is an **inter-governmental organisation supporting democracy.**
- It has **regional offices in** Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Africa and West Asia.
- The organization is **headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden.**
- It is an **official United Nations Observer.**
- **The Founding Conference of International IDEA took place on 27–28 February 1995** and involved **14 founding states:** Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, **India**, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain and Sweden.
- **The institute's four initial fields of activity were defined as:** The creation of a data bank and provision of information services; research; establishing and promotion of guidelines and offering advisory and capacity-building services.