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Lecture- 22



LECTURE 22 Human rights in

Human rights in India is an issue complicated by the country's large size and population, widespread poverty, lack of proper education, as well as its diverse culture, despite its status as the world's largest [sovereign](#), secular, [democratic republic](#). The [Constitution of India](#) provides for [Fundamental rights](#), which include [freedom of religion](#). Clauses also provide for [freedom of speech](#), as well as separation of executive and judiciary and freedom of movement within the country and abroad. The country also has an independent judiciary^{...} as well as bodies to look into issues of human rights.^{...} The 2016 report of [Human Rights Watch](#) accepts the above-mentioned facilities but goes to state that India has "serious human rights concerns. Civil society groups face harassment and government critics face intimidation and lawsuits. Free speech has come under attack both from the state and by interest groups. Muslim and Christian minorities accuse authorities of not doing enough to protect their rights. The government is yet to repeal laws that grant public officials and security forces immunity from prosecution for abuses.

Civil liberties [\[edit\]](#)

In 2021, [Freedom House](#) ranked India as *partly free* in its annual [Freedom in the World](#) rankings on political rights and civil liberties.^{...} In its 2021 annual report on the state of democracy around the world Sweden-based [V-Dem Institute](#) classified India as an "electoral autocracy" because of "restrictions on multiple facets of democracy" such as civil society groups and free speech.^{...}

Use of torture by police

The Asian Centre for Human Rights estimated that from 2002 to 2008, over four people per day died while in police custody, with "hundreds" of those deaths being due to police use of [torture](#).^{...} According to a report written by the Institute of Correctional Administration in Punjab, up to 50% of police officers in the country have used physical or mental abuse on prisoners.^{...} Instances of torture, such as through a lack of sanitation, space, or water have been documented in West Bengal as well. ^{...}

A report by the National Campaign Against Torture (NCAT), an international human rights body revealed as many as 1,731 [custodial deaths](#) recorded in India in 2019. Victims were mostly from vulnerable communities, Dalits, Muslims and Adivasis.^{...} During the 10-year period to 2019-20, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) reported, on average, 139 police custody cases and 1,576 judicial custody cases annually. In the eight years to 2019-20, the NHRC reported more than 1,500 judicial custody deaths each year.^{...}