

Global State of Democracy Report, 2021 released

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The number of countries moving towards authoritarianism in 2020 was higher than that of countries going in the other direction, towards democracy, the Global State of Democracy Report, 2021 released by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International-IDEA) recently said.

While 20 countries moved in the direction of authoritarianism, seven countries moved towards democracy, the report said.

Key Highlights

- 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 report showed.
- In non-democratic regimes, the trend was deepening, it said. “The year 2020 was the worst on record, in terms of the number of countries affected by deepening autocratisation. The pandemic has thus had a particularly damaging effect on non-democratic countries, further closing their already reduced civic space,” the report said.
- The report cited the example of former U.S. President Donald Trump’s baseless

allegations about electoral integrity as part of the increasing trend of questioning elections in established democracies.

- The International-IDEA, which is an inter-governmental organisation supporting democracy, was chaired by Australia and includes India as a member-state.

SOURCE: *The Hindu*