

## Scope of Parliamentary Democracy in India

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**ABSTRACT:** *On the eve of Indian independence, the world not only placed bets upon the Indian democratic exercise but also guessed the otherwise, if not worst. These moments of intense pressure and responsibility in the past have brought us to the position of self-sufficiency and sovereignty. There is no doubt regarding the efforts of early leaders and makers of the India who left no stone unturned in making the model of Indian democracy efficient and adaptable. The atmosphere back then was not conducive for Indian democracy to flourish without worries. We were engulfed with nations who brought cold war at our doors and we had to deal with it, sometimes pro-actively leaving our official stance stunned and often wisely. It was not easy to accommodate the diverse interests of such an illiterate, unemployed and deprived populace. There were serious contenders of authoritarian power in India who, from the very beginning wanted Indian trajectory to go the other side of the aisle.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Parliamentary Democracy, Integrity, Accountability, Self-Sufficiency, Power, Authority, Rights, Inequality, Diversity, Unity*

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Date of Submission: 05-02-2022

Date of Acceptance: 18-02-2022

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**Nature of Democracy:** It has always been said in the academic circles of Indian democracy that it has been a worldwide phenomenal experiment. On the eve of Indian independence, the world not only placed bets upon the Indian democratic exercise but also guessed the otherwise, if not worst. These moments of intense pressure and responsibility in the past have brought us to the position of self-sufficiency and sovereignty. There is no doubt regarding the efforts of early leaders and makers of the India who left no stone unturned in making the model of Indian democracy efficient and adaptable.

The atmosphere back then was not conducive for Indian democracy to flourish without worries. We were engulfed with nations who brought cold war at our doors and we had to deal with it, sometimes pro-actively leaving our official stance stunned and often wisely. It was not easy to accommodate the diverse interests of such an illiterate, unemployed and deprived populace. There were serious contenders of authoritarian power in India who, from the very beginning wanted Indian trajectory to go the other side of the aisle. Not only that we had to face the threat from other contenders of forms of government, however, there were people who felt wary of Prime Ministerial form of government.

It was the aspect where many felt keen to pinpoint fingers upon the choice early Indian constitution makers made for the future of country. Considering the humongous diversity and different identities, not to forget the illiteracy and colonial past as factors, our leaders opted West Minster form of the government and until today, it does seem to be a fine decision.

It also goes without doubt that there had been a short stint of authoritarianism in India where our one of the former Prime Ministers tried to restructure the rules of the game. As was expected of the apex court to handle difficult situations in Indian polity, the Supreme Court not only beautifully handled the situation but also paved the way for the *doctrine of basic structure*. Often in India during elections, both at the union and states level, we find instances of representatives of people claiming perfidy in the process of free and fair elections, pointing fingers on the integrity of Election Commission of India where majority of the times, the apex court of India has stepped in to resolve the deadlock and satisfy petitioners.

Not to let aside the role of Indian media organizations which have been seen as *fourth pillar of Indian democracy*, keeping the standards of continuity and accountability on the higher pedestal. Along with them, the civil society organizations have insignificant role to play in strengthening Indian democracy because without their active participation in the affairs of government we would not face the glorious prospects of development. Equal emphasis on *healthcare, education and access to resources* has been given by stakeholders because they

have observed the positive externalities of these sectors in the overall development trio; **Social, Political and Economic.**

**What more needs to be done?:** All the efforts at strengthening Indian democracy will find pace if stakeholders involved realize the inevitability of cooperation on today's stringent issues such as *radical fundamentalism, rising intolerance, rising xenophobic attitudes* and *declining unity in diversity*.

For that to materialize and effect, civilians need to step up their ante of behavioral change towards ethos of integrity and accountability in order to place equal footing at par with the power holders in society. The menace of poverty, hunger, unemployment, inequality and divide needs to be uprooted once and for all if we are to sustain and maintain the parliamentary democracy in India.

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