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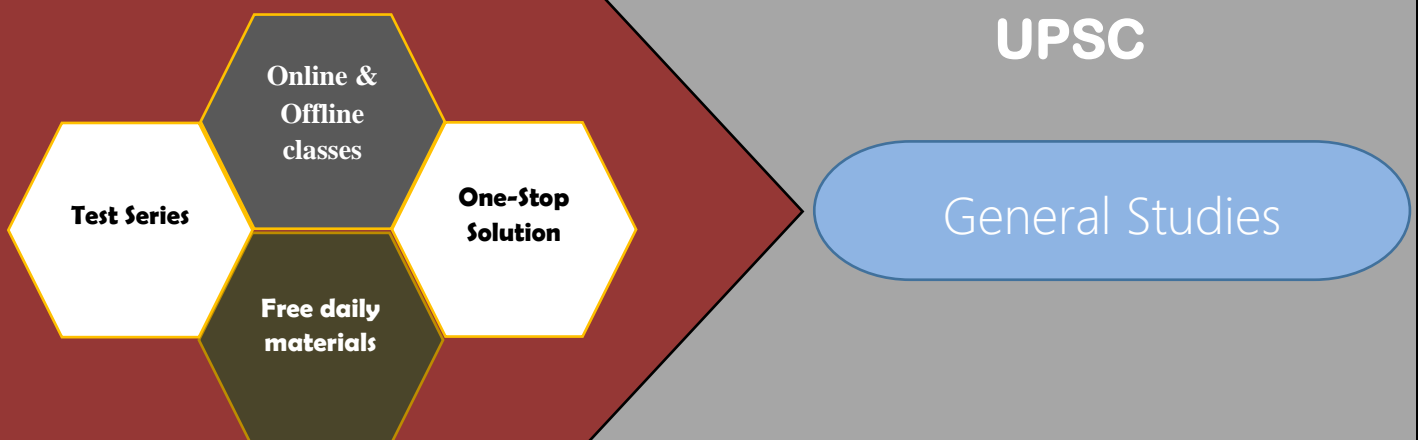
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Autocratisation Goes Viral Report

Notes for civil services preparation



Autocratisation Goes Viral Report

- India has been classified as an “**electoral autocracy**” in the annual report named **Autocratisation Goes Viral** of Sweden-based Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Institute.
- This report comes just after the US watchdog **Freedom House** **downgraded India’s status to “partly free”** in its ‘**Freedom in the World 2021**’

Key Points

- **About V-Dem:**
 - The V-Dem Institute, an **independent research organisation** founded in 2014 by Swedish political scientist Staffan Lindberg
 - It produces its **annual report on the state of democracy** around the world based on a dataset of almost 30 million data points for **202 countries**
- **Global Scenario:**
 - The global **decline of liberal democracies** was ‘steep’ in the past 10 years in the Asia-Pacific region, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin
 - Apart from India, countries like **Brazil and Turkey** **figured among the top 10 countries that slipped in rankings** that were part of the **G-20**
- **India’s Position:**
 - India was previously classified as an **electoral democracy**, however the latest report classified it as **electoral**

- India is now as autocratic as is **Pakistan**, and **worse than** both its neighbours **Bangladesh and nepal**
- **Political rights** and **civil liberties** in the country have **deteriorated since 2014**, with increased pressure on human rights organizations, rising intimidation of academics and journalists, and a spate of bigoted attacks, including lynchings, aimed at Muslims
- **Reasons for the Downgrade:**
 - Recently, Indian government has used laws on **sedition (Section 124A)**, **defamation (Section 499)**, and **counter-terrorism** to silence critics.
 - It has used the **Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA) 2010** to restrict the entry, exit and functioning of civil society