



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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India takes 24th spot in Free Speech Survey

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Context

A new global survey by the Future of Free Speech, an independent U.S.-based think tank, has ranked India 24th out of the 33 countries surveyed on the question of support for free speech.

Scandinavia dominated the top rankings, with Norway and Denmark finishing at the apex of the Future of the Free Speech Index with scores of 87.9 and 87.0.

Indonesia (56.8), Malaysia (55.4), and Pakistan (57.0) showed the biggest improvements, though they remained at the **lower end** of the ranking.

India, with a score of 62.6, was placed **24th**, between South Africa (66.9) and Lebanon (61.8).

At the same time, some authoritarian-leaning nations — such as Hungary (85.5) and Venezuela (81.8) — scored high, “suggesting a disconnect between government restrictions and public attitudes”.

Article 19

Article 19 of Indian Constitution guarantees certain freedoms to all citizens of India. It encompasses six fundamental rights:

- 1 Right to freedom of **speech and expression**,
- 2 Right to **assemble peacefully** and without arms,
- 3 Right to **form associations, unions, or co-operative societies**,
- 4 Right to **move freely** throughout the territory of India,
- 5 Right to **reside and settle** in any part of the territory of India,
- 6 Right to **practice any profession** or to carry on any occupation, trade, or business.

Note: **Originally**, Article 19 of Indian Constitution contained **seven rights**. However, the right to **acquire, hold, and dispose of property** was deleted by the **44th Amendment Act of 1978**

Restrictions under Article 19 (2)

Article 19 (2) of Indian Constitution empowers the State to instil **reasonable restrictions** on the following grounds:

- 1 **Security** of the State
- 2 **Friendly Relation** with Foreign States

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3Public Order

4Decency and morality

5Contempt of court

6Defamation

7Incitement to offence

8Integrity and sovereignty of India