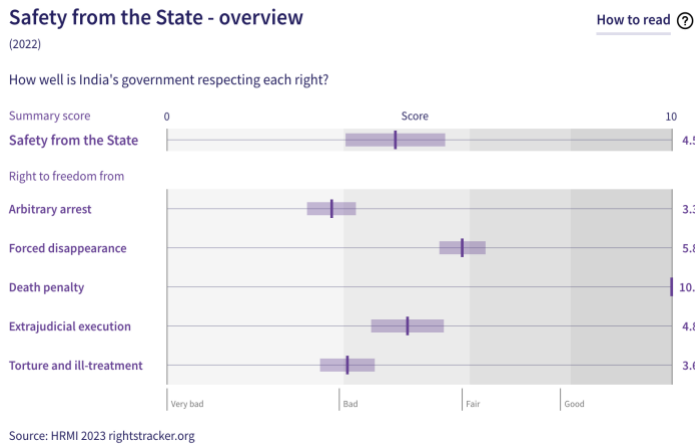


India – Summary Statement 2023

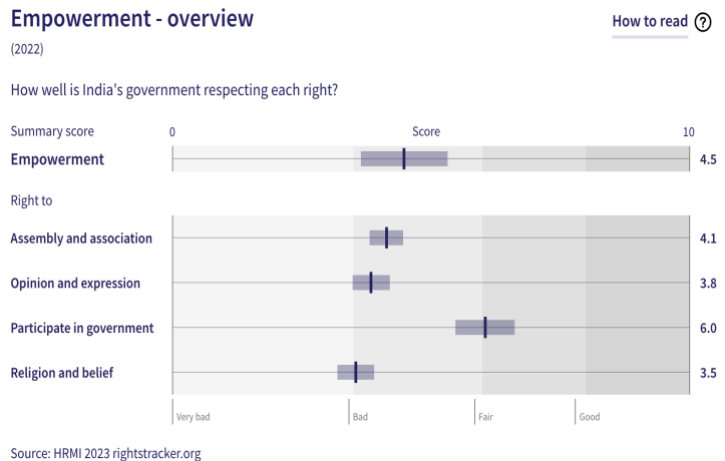
In 2023, the Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) conducted its second human rights expert survey in India. This survey asked local experts for their insights on the human rights landscape in the country in 2022. The pool of survey responses allowed HRMI to produce a complete human rights dataset for India, available freely on the [Rights Tracker](#), which includes scores for five economic and social rights, nine civil and political rights, and some contextual information about people groups at risk.

HRMI's 2023 data show that civil and political rights continue to be a pressing issue in India. Out of the three broad categories of rights that HRMI measures, India has a summary score of **4.5 out of 10 on physical integrity rights**, i.e., **the right to be safe from the state**. The score for right to be free from arbitrary arrest is 3.3 out of 10 which falls in the 'very bad' range, and is the lowest across all the nine civil and political rights we measure. This is followed by a score of 3.6 out of 10 for freedom from torture and ill-treatment. The scores for extrajudicial execution and forced disappearance are 4.8 and 5.8 respectively. India, however, scores a 10 out of 10 on freedom from death penalty indicating that no person was formally executed in the country in 2022.



A significant number of human rights experts identified **human rights defenders, protestors, journalists, political opponents, critics of the government, among others**, as being especially vulnerable to the violations of these physical integrity rights. Other contextual information indicated that religious, caste, and Indigenous identities (people from Muslim, Dalit, and Adivasi communities) further heightened the risk of these violations.

India's summary score on the four **empowerment rights is 4.5 out of 10**. These include scores on freedoms of assembly and association (4.1 out of 10), opinion and expression (3.8 out of 10), political participation (6.0 out of 10), and a new score on freedom of religion and belief (3.5 out of 10). Apart from the freedom of political participation, which is in the 'fair' performance range, the three other rights fall in the 'bad' range.



However, looking the overtime score for these rights from 2020 to 2022, the scores for assembly and association, and opinion and expression have marginally improved, whereas that for political participation has shown a slight decline.

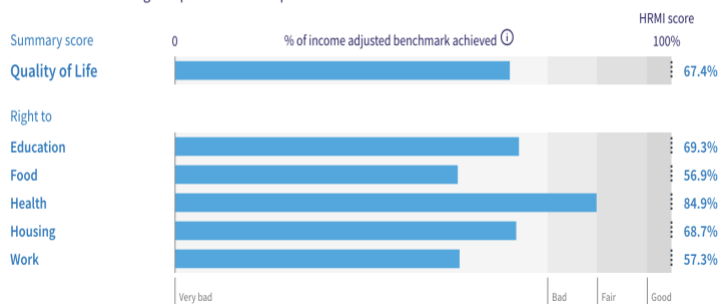
Experts particularly identified **human rights defenders, journalists, people from certain religious, caste or Indigenous backgrounds, political opponents**, among other groups, as being at risk of violation of empowerment rights. On freedom of religion and belief, the survey responses alluded to various contexts in which people from Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Dalit, and Indigenous communities — together with multiple marginalisation of gender and caste — were vulnerable to restrictions of these rights by the state as well as to violations by non-state actors.

On **economic and social rights** measured using SERF Index methodology, India has an **overall income-adjusted score of 67.4%**. This indicates that the government can do much better at its existing income levels to ensure that its people are enjoying their rights to education, food, health, housing, and work. In this category, India scores the lowest on the right to food (56.9%), while it does comparatively better on the right to health (84.9%). While overtime graph for India shows a gradual upward trend from 2017 to 2020, the scores highlight a significant scope for improvement.

Quality of Life - overview

(2020)

How well is India doing compared to what is possible at its level of income?



Source: HRMI 2023 rightstracker.org

Through the survey, human rights experts from India identified **socio-economically disadvantaged people, people from Dalit and Adivasi communities, migrants, refugees, women and girls, people living in particular geographies and remote areas**, among other groups, to be at risk of being unable to enjoy these rights. Limitations of accessibility and infrastructure were cited as barriers to their fulfilment.

HRMI Spokesperson Thalia Kehoe Rowden said, ‘All people in India deserve to have all their human rights protected and upheld by their government. HRMI’s scores, based on both local reporting and international databases, show that the government is currently not keeping the promises it has made under international law.’

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All the data are freely available on the [Rights Tracker](#), and more information can be found on the [HRMI website](#).