

# **Governance in India: Some thoughts**

**by**

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**Table 3: *Pride in nationality in the Eleven Longstanding Federal Democracies***

*(per cent).*

	<i>Very Proud</i>	<i>Quite</i>	<i>Not Very</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Don't know / Not Applicable</i>	<i>Total</i>
USA	71	23	4	0	2	100
Australia	70	23	2	0	5	100
India	67	21	5	2	5	100
Canada	65	28	3	2	2	100
Argentina	65	24	4	3	5	100
Brazil	64	19	14	2	1	100
Spain	51	36	6	3	4	100
Austria	50	37	6	2	5	100
Belgium	20	46	15	7	11	100
Switzerland	23	47	16	7	7	100
Germany	15	46	22	7	9	100

Source: The data for all countries is from response to the question “How proud are you to be (nationality)?” *Human Beliefs and Values: A Cross-Cultural Sourcebook Based on the 1999-2002 Values Survey*, edited by Ronald Inglehart et al. (Mexico D.F.: Siglo XXI Editores, 2004).

All tables are from ***Crafting State – Nations: India and other Multinational Democracies***, by Alfred Stepan, Juan Linz and Yogendra Yadav; Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, 2011

**Table 4: Pride in India for all citizens and for marginal groups, 2005**  
*(Figures in percent)*

	<i>All India</i>	<i>Muslim</i>	<i>Scheduled Caste</i>	<i>Scheduled Tribe</i>	<i>Non-literate</i>
Very Proud/Proud	89	88	85	81	78
Not proud	3	3	5	3	5
Don't Know/ No answer	8	9	10	15	17
Total	100	100	100	100	100
N	5227	636	901	427	1964

Source: *State of Democracy in South Asia: A Report* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2008).

**Table 6: Support for democracy in India by disadvantaged social groups, NES 2004**  
(figures in percent)

	<i>All India</i>	<i>Scheduled Caste</i>	<i>Scheduled Tribe</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Very poor</i>
Democracy is always preferable	70 (88)	65 (87)	61 (81)	71 (88)	61 (87)
Sometimes authoritarianism is preferable	4	3	5	4	3
No difference	6	6	8	6	6
Don't Know/ No answer	20	25	26	19	30
Total	100	100	100	100	100
N	27145	4967	2356	9409	8117

Figures in parentheses in the first row are for per cent of valid responses if the DKs are treated as missing data. Source: *National Election Study [India] 2004*

**Table 7: Growing Support for Democratic Political Institutions in India, 1971, 1996, 2004**

	NES 1971	NES 1996	NES 2004
"Do you think that the government in this country could be run better if there were no parties or assemblies and elections were not held?" (those saying 'no')	43 (74)	69 (86)	72 (91)
N	Not Available	9614	27189

Note: all figures in per cent of all respondents. Figures in parentheses are for valid responses, if 'Don't know' are treated as missing value. All the NES data are from the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies.

**Table 10: Sense of Political Efficacy and Support for Democracy among Marginalized Groups in India: 1971, 1996, 2004**

Group	Political Efficacy			Support for Democracy		
	1971	1996	2004	1971	1996	2004
National Average	48	59	68	43	69	72
ST	31	48	59	41	66	68
Women	36	51	61	32	64	67
Illiterate	36	47	55	31	62	61
Very Poor	38	51	60	32	64	66
SC	42	60	65	38	67	69
Poor	43	55	68	37	68	71
Rural	44	57	66	39	69	70
Muslims	50	60	66	40	72	73

Source: India NES, 1971, 1996 and 2004. The efficacy question was: "Do you think your vote has effect on how things are run in this country or do you think your vote makes no difference?" The support for democracy question was: "Do you think that the government in this country can be run better if there are no parties or assemblies or elections?"

**Table 11: Views on Household Financial Situation in the Previous Five Years, 1996-2009**

	<i>NES 1996</i>	<i>NES 2004</i>	<i>NES 2009</i>
Improved	25	27	46
Same	56	52	34
Worsened	19	17	11
Ratio of Improved to Worsened	1.3	1.5	4.2
N	9614	27189	34000 +

**Table 12: Views on Household Financial Situation in the Previous Five Years by marginalized groups, NES 2004**

	<i>National Average</i>	<i>Schedule Caste</i>	<i>Schedule Tribe</i>	<i>Muslim</i>	<i>Very Poor</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Illiterate</i>
Improve	27	22	24	19	19	25	24	20
Same	52	51	54	53	54	54	53	54
Worsen	17	24	16	24	24	18	18	21
Don't Know	4	3	5	5	3	4	4	5
N	27189	4319	4274	3254	8097	9550	12410	8416



# Looking ahead: Some Issues and Propositions

- 1. Division of authority between Prime Minister and Congress President has not worked well.**
- 2. Crony capitalism has been a rising threat to effective governance, especially at level of State Governments. What can we do to curb it ?**
- 3. Quality of government recruitment has been declining for 30 years and is significantly weakening governance. How can the trend be reversed ?**
- 4. Citizens interact with government for services mainly at Tier 2 (State Government) and Tier 3 (Local Government) levels. So there is a huge variation in quality of service from reasonable to abysmal. How do we improve the performance of the lower 60% ?**
- 5. In particular, how to improve voice and accountability in provision of basic government services: law and order, primary education and health, road maintenance etc. ?**
- 6. Lok Pal issue is a red herring. But then what are the viable approaches to curb widespread corruption?**

**THANK YOU**