



# Rising Rule of Law Risks in India

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As the world's largest democracy, India has outsized importance in showing how a pluralist, multiethnic society can live in peace under the rule of law. Yet the risks and challenges facing India's democracy in recent years has diminished its rising star and sparked growing criticism [in the country](#) and [around the world](#).

The latest data from the [World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index 2022](#) confirms these trends and highlights specific areas of concern.

[India's global ranking on rule of law](#) — as measured by the index's eight factors, ranging from checks and balances and fundamental rights to open government and effective justice systems — has declined modestly in comparative terms from the 42<sup>nd</sup> percentile to the 47th percentile (-1.7%) since 2015. Its current overall rule of law score of .50 places India at No. 77 out of 140 countries. The underlying data, however, tells a larger and more worrisome story.

On the positive side, India's scores, which are tabulated based on primary source surveys from legal practitioners and nationally representative households in the country, have improved significantly since 2015 on such factors as open government (up 4.9%), order and security (up 10.9



