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Universal index to know democracy

Bangalore: If democracy is security for Pakistan, it implies justice and welfare for India. The definition of democracy varies from one country to another.

At the end of a two-day meet in Bangalore, members of Global Barometer Survey decided to develop a universal index to understand democracy. "Democracy is expanding but unfortunately the imagination of democracy is not. Through our survey, we plan to establish linkages between poverty, development and democracy," said Sandeep Shastri, founder-member of the State of Democracy in South Asia Project.

Elaborating on the concept, members of the Global Barometer Survey said there are certain popular perceptions about democracy – economic, social and cultural, which vary from region to region. The focus of the study is to introduce uniformity in the way people view democracy.

While in countries like Nepal and Pakistan, the concept is largely restricted to stability, security and frequent elections, in India, the variables are justice and welfare. Members of the six barometers will conduct surveys in their countries and arrive at common variants at the global, regional and country levels. **TNN**

