WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

DEMOCRACY IN INDIA

In terms of the participants alone, the seminar on Indian democracy in Berkeley in May was something to write home about. It was a rare opportunity to engage with a diverse range of Indian scholars, activists, and policy makers, all of whom have contributed significantly to the development of democracy in India.

Two Union ministers, a state minister, a former chief minister, and some of the better known citizen activists of India, attended the seminar, which was organized by the Center for South Asia Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, in collaboration with the Foundation for Democratic Reforms in India. The seminar provided a platform for participants to exchange ideas and brainstorm on ways to strengthen democracy in India.

The seminar was well attended, with over 50 participants from different parts of India. The discussions were lively and ranged from issues related to political parties, media, and civil society to specific issues such as anti-elite politics, affirmative action, and the role of the judiciary.

The seminar also included two days of intensive discussion on issues such as the role of political parties, the media, and civil society in promoting democracy. The discussions were facilitated by experienced moderators and were open to all participants.

The seminar was a success and provided a valuable platform for the exchange of ideas on democracy in India. The participants shared their insights and experiences, which will be useful in shaping future policies and initiatives to promote democracy in India.

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Whether it will lead to something more enduring remains to be seen. There'll be another seminar next year, but will anything more substantive come out? It's a bit early to tell, but organizers should guard against this effort ending up being all talk and no action. III