



Human Rights Violations

Why in News

Recently data related to **human rights violations in states** was provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs in [Rajya sabha](#).

- Around 40% of **human rights violation cases** lodged annually by the [National Human Rights Commission \(NHRC\)](#) in the past three financial years till this **31st October (2021)** were from **Uttar Pradesh**.

Key Points

▪ About:

- A **human rights violation** is the disallowance of the freedom of thought and movement to which all humans legally have a right.
- While individuals can violate these rights, the leadership or government of civilization most often belittles marginalized persons.
- This, in turn, **places these people in the cycle of poverty and oppression**. Individuals who approach life with the attitude that not all human lives are of equal value then perpetuate this cycle.

▪ Examples:

- Forcibly evicting people from their homes (**the right to adequate housing**)
- Contaminating water, for example, with waste from State-owned facilities (**the right to health**)
- Failure to ensure a minimum wage sufficient for a decent living (**rights at work**)
- Failure to prevent starvation in all areas and communities in the country (**freedom from hunger**).

▪ Types of Human Rights Violations:

◦ Directly or Intentionally:

- Violations can **either be intentionally performed** by the state and or come as a result of the state failing to prevent the violation.
 - When a **state engages in human rights violations**, various actors can be involved such as police, judges, prosecutors, government officials, and more.
 - The **violation can be physically violent in nature**, such as police brutality, while rights such as the **right to a fair trial can also be violated, where no physical violence is involved**.

◦ Failure by the state to Protect Rights:

- It occurs when **there's a conflict between individuals or groups** within a society.
- If the **state does nothing to intervene and protect vulnerable people** and groups, it's participating in the violations.
 - In the **US** the state failed to protect black Americans when lynching's frequently occurred around the country.

▪ Current Scenario in India:

◦ Total Violations:

- The **total number of rights' violation cases in India** lodged by the NHRC

reduced from **89,584 in 2018-19** to 76,628 in 2019-20 and **to 74,968 in 2020-21.**

• In 2021-22, till 31st October (2021), **64,170 cases were lodged.**

- **Caste-based Discrimination and Violence:**
 - According to a report released last year, crimes against **Dalits increased by 6% from 2009 to 2018** with over 3.91 lakh atrocities being reported.
- **Communal and Ethnic Violence:**
 - Many people were attacked by vigilante cow protection groups and many of those affected were minority groups.
 - People from **African countries faced racism** and discrimination in India.
- **Freedom of Association:**
 - The government cancelled the registration of several **civil society organisations** which specifically prevented them from getting foreign funding, even after the **United Nations (UN)** claimed it was not in accordance with international law.
- **Freedom of Expression:**
 - Several people were arrested under **sedition laws** for expressing their dissent with government policy and several Indians were arrested for even posting comments on Facebook.
- **Violence against Women:**
 - Recently released report **National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 5**, points to rising instances of **domestic and sexual violence against women in the state.**
 - It shows that married women, between the ages of 18-49, who have ever experienced spousal violence, has more than doubled from 20.6 in 2014-15 to 44.5%.
- **Children's Rights:**
 - **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** data reveals a total of 1,28,531 **crimes against children** were recorded in India last year (2020), implying that an average of 350 such cases were reported each day during the **pandemic.**

Way Forward

- Achieving a **sustainable, practical and effective method of protecting human rights** around the globe that also allows local values and culture to remain intact.
- Humans must **recognize the beauty of individual differences** and attempt to understand each other before a change can happen.
- Starting with the smaller steps, like **understanding victims of rape, violence and discrimination instead of perpetuating a victim-blaming culture**, might be more influential than viewing the situation through such an expansive lens.
 - Only then will these examples of human rights violations turn into examples of human kindness.

Source: TH

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