



Casteism & Gujarat

Why in news?

\n\n

\n

- Caste related violence has been a regular occurrence lately in Gujarat.
- Studies also point to rampant discrimination against Dalits in rural areas of the state.

\n

\n\n

What are the recent incidences?

\n\n

\n

- 20-year-old dalit youth was murdered for watching the garba function of an upper caste gathering.
- Two dalits from Gandhinagar had been attacked by upper-caste Hindus for sporting a moustache.
- In 2016, several youngsters were thrashed and paraded in Una village on the suspicion of cow slaughter. (Click [here](#) to know about **Una Model of Dalits Protest**)

\n

\n\n

How has the political contours changed with time?

\n\n

\n

- Post the Mandal commission report, anti-reservation riots dominated Gujarat's polity in the 1980s.

\n

- In the 1990's – after Babri Masjid episode, it was the politics of Hindu consolidation, which culminated in the 2002 riots.
\n
- Over the next decade, the pursuit of justice for the riot victims, kept the question of Muslims alienation & discrimination alive.
\n
- As years passed, the memory of the riots has effectively faded without proper justice and reconciliation.
\n
- Currently, the fault-lines within the Hindus are coming to the fore.
\n
- The Patidar agitation for OBC reservation in 2015 and last year's Dalit protests following the Una outrage were notable ones.
\n
- Importantly, the Una episode triggered a massive mobilisation in the state that culminated in the "Dalit Asmita Yatra".
\n
- This even pressured the government into setting up special courts for speedy trial in cases registered under the "SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act -1989".
\n

\n\n

How could the future be best approached?

\n\n

- The much-touted Gujarat Model was about projecting high economic growth in building physical infrastructure.
\n
- The Patidar agitation demanding reservations in education and employment - indicates that the Gujarat Model could not lift all.
\n
- The anti-dalit violence must be addressed before it further imperils social peace in an already restless state.
\n
- While, free market economics provides for big GDP numbers, it doesn't mean the betterment of the masses.
\n
- Hence, economies need to embrace principles of 'Social Justice' to ensure that fruits of development is shared by all.
\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Indian Express

\n



IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative