

6. Halt the Hate

Prelims: Rights Issue

Mains: GS-I Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India; Social Empowerment, Communalism, Regionalism & Secularism.

Context:

- ▶▶ 'Halt The Hate' is an interactive website on Amnesty International that documents reports of alleged hate crimes in India.
- ▶▶ A hate crime tracker has recorded 181 incidents of alleged hate crimes in the first half of 2019, the steepest rise in such incidents since 2015.

About the Website:

- ▶▶ 'Halt the Hate' documents alleged hate crimes in India starting from 28 September 2015, when Mohammad Akhlaq, a Muslim resident of Dadri, Uttar Pradesh, was murdered in his home by a mob claiming that he had eaten beef.
- ▶▶ This website documents alleged hate crimes against Dalits, Muslims, Adivasis, Transgender people, Christians, and Other vulnerable groups.
- ▶▶ Amnesty International India understands Hate Crimes as 'criminal acts against people or property, where the victim or target of offence is selected because of their real or perceived connection or membership of a particular group, including but not limited to caste, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity, descent, nationality and disability among others.

Key Findings:

- ▶▶ The 181 recorded incidents of alleged hate crimes in the first half of 2019 is almost double that of the same period last year, when 100 such cases were recorded.
- ▶▶ Over two-thirds of the victims were targeted because they were Dalits, while 40 of them suffered because of their Muslim identity.
- ▶▶ In 37 reported incidents, the victims were killed. In 30 cases, victims were raped or sexually assaulted.
- ▶▶ Between January and June 2019, 72 mob attacks were reported. Of the 37 such attacks against Muslims, the victims were lynched in 5 cases. Dalit victims were lynched in 8 of the 28 mob attacks.
- ▶▶ There were 7 honour killings and 12 cases of violence against Adivasis.

Amnesty International:

- ▶▶ Amnesty International (commonly known as Amnesty or AI) is a London-based non-governmental organization focused on human rights.
- ▶▶ The stated mission of the organization is to campaign for “a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.”
- ▶▶ The organization was awarded the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for its “defence of human dignity against torture”, and the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights in 1978.
- ▶▶ In the field of international human rights organizations, Amnesty has the third longest history, after the International Federation for Human Rights and broadest name recognition, and is believed by many to set standards for the movement as a whole.

