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Protests in the 21st century

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ABSTRACT

Protests has been present in the society from the time immemorial, whether it is for the particular group or for the whole society. There are various protests that had happened in the history of India. Satyagraha Movement, Save Silent Valley Movement 1973, Chipko Movement 1973, and Narmada Bachao Movement 1985 are some of the examples of protests that happened in Indian history. But now we see that it has become a global phenomenon.

This paper deals mainly with the protests in the 21st century in India and also in World. The people in the 21st century are more aware of their rights and also know what is good for their society. It also tells about the meaning of protest and its various form like rally, March. Protests are generally peaceful, but in some cases, it becomes violent causing harm to the society. This paper also tells about various famous protests that happened in the 21st century in the World including India. Some famous protests are Nirbhaya Movement, Shaheen Bagh protest, Anti-war protest, Me Too Movement and so on.

I. INTRODUCTION

The people of the world of 21st century are more aware of their rights. There are not ready to accept any government policy, idea, action or social prejudices being implemented / imposed on them which hinder the interests and the welfare of an individual or the society. So, they are compelled to protest against these policies/actions/practices to make certain that they get back their rights.

A protest is a form of self-expression. It means disapprobation, rejection, condemnation or objurgation of a particular idea or action by an individual or mass/public.

Protestors protest/demonstrate to make their opinions heard by the public, government or the concerned department. A protest may be against a particular political policy, religious orthodoxy, social malpractice, an incident or a person.

Various forms of protests are rally, march, vigil, picket, civil disobedience, strike, boycott, press conference etc. Protests are generally peaceful and non-violent. But in some cases, these

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protests become violent causing great harm to the society and the country.

The world has undergone a vast social transformation due to these protests in the 21st century. India also has experienced many changes.

II. VARIOUS PROTESTS THAT HAPPENED IN 21ST CENTURY-

1. Nirbhaya Movement, 2012²- In 2012, India's biggest incident of this year took place, which shocked the whole country and that was Nirbhaya gang rape incident, in Delhi.

This incident saw a huge outrage from the people of the country who thought that now it's the time for the action. After the incident, many people came out on the roads to protest in various parts of the country. The protest also created a disturbance in social media.

Seeing the anger of the people and also what happened with Nirbhaya, the Government at centre and various other states had taken several steps in order to ensure the safety the safety of women.

2. Pro-Jallikattu Protests, Tamil Nadu, and 2017³- This protest is regarding the ban which Supreme Court put on the traditional bull-taming sport Jallikattu being practiced in Tamil Nadu .As PETA complained about animal cruelty in this game for several years. tBut people were not able to accept this ban. They said that this sport is very much close to their cultural identity. The protest turned violent when police tried to force out the protestors. Around 2, 00,000 people came out on the roads near Chennai's Marina beach to show their unity.

After seeing all this, Tamil Nadu Government on 23rd January legalized Jallikattu and passed a bill to amend the PCA (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act) 1960 Act.

3. Anti- reservation protests, 2006⁴- This protest was regarding the decision of the Union Government of India.

In 2006, people opposed the decision of Union Government of India, led by the Congress, when they execute reservations for the other backward classes (OBCs) in central and private institutes of higher education.

² GARIMA BAKSH, *THE 'NIRBHAYA' MOVEMENT: AN INDIAN FEMINIST REVOLUTION*, Gnovisjournal, (MAY2,2017)

<http://www.gnovisjournal.org/2017/05/02/the-nirbhaya-movement-an-indian-feminist-revolution/>

³ Jallikattu: The Making of a Tamil Identity, SAHAPEDIA, (18 April 2019)

<https://www.sahapedia.org/jallikattu-making-tamil-identity>

⁴ Muzaffar Assadi, *The Muted Anti-Reservation Agitation*, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY Vol. 41, No. 29 (Jul. 22-28, 2006), pp. 3146-3150

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/4418458?seq=1>

4. Indian Anti-Corruption Movement (2011)⁵ - This movement was started in 2011 to stop corruption which will give equal rights and opportunities to all citizens. But the situation in the field of corruption in India did not stop worsening. As a result, huge protests were organized. This movement was led by many influential leaders. Protestors started making groups across the whole country, but the most significant and longest protests were held at Ramile Maidan in India for almost 40 days. As a result of this protest, the Government provided citizens with medical facilities, drinking water, toilets and a media center.

5. Shaheen Bagh Protest, 2019⁶ - This protest is an ongoing protest mainly led by the Muslim women against the passing of the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019. Students also protested against this act at Jamia Milia Islamia in Delhi.

6. Tamil Nadu protests for kaveri water sharing, 2018⁷- This protest was between the two states of India, i.e. Tamil Nadu and Karnataka regarding the problem of water sharing from the Kaveri river between the states.

7. Jadavpur University protests, 2014⁸- This protest was led by the students in front of the administrative building, regarding the investigation into the molestation of a female student in campus. Students went on a hunger strike and also nearly 100 students refused to take their degrees during convocation.

8. Caste protests in India, 2018⁹- This protest was regarding an order of the Supreme Court on the Atrocities Act. Many people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes protested against the order of the Supreme Court.

9. People's Movement against Nuclear Energy¹⁰- The People's Movement against Nuclear Energy is a power group founded by S.P. Vdayakumar in Tamil Nadu, India. This anti-

⁵ Pradeep K Taneja, *India's anti-corruption movement*, RESEARCHGATE (01 September 2011), page 5-7.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/338450542_India's_anti-corruption_movement/citation/download.

⁶ Despite calls to move, a women-led protest in India challenges the Citizenship Amendment Act, (21 February 2020)

<https://globalvoices.org/2020/02/21/despite-calls-to-move-a-women-led-protest-in-india-challenges-the-citizenship-amendment-act/>

⁷ Nilanjan Ghosh, & Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, & Jaya Thakur, *Conflict over Cauvery Waters: Imperatives for Innovative Policy Options*, *observer research foundation*, (19 march 2020, 01:25 pm)

https://www.orfonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/ORF_Monograph_Cauvery.pdf

⁸ Supriya Chaudhuri, On making noise: Hokkolorob and its place in Indian student movements, TAYLOR & FRANCIS ONLINE (20 Jan 2019), Pages 44-58.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/citedby/10.1080/13688790.2019.1568168?scroll=top&needAccess=true>

⁹ Caste protests across India descend into deadly violence, FRANCE24, (02 April 2018)

<https://www.france24.com/en/20180402-india-protests-caste-dalit-deaths>

¹⁰ Gem Romuld, *The People's Movement Against Nuclear Energy in India*, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH AUSTRALIA, (2 march 2013)

<https://www.foe.org.au/peoples-movement-against-nuclear-energy-india>

nuclear power group wanted to close the Kudankulan Nuclear Power Plant site and to preserve the largely unconsumed coastal landscape, as well as to tell locals about nuclear power.

10. Mahatma Gandhi Central University protests, 2017¹¹- This protest was against the termination of two assistant professors Shashikant Ray and Amit Mahajan. It was led by the students of MGCU in 2017 and continued for one – month. The students got support from various political parties and student organizations.

III. PROTESTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY IN WORLD

1. **Me Too Movement¹²**- This movement was started by an African-American civil rights activist from the Bronx-New York, TARANA BURKE, against sexual harassment and sexual assault. The term “Me Too” was first used by Burke on the **MySpace** social network in order to raise awareness of the pervasiveness of sexual abuse and assault in society.

2. **Anti-war protests in Russia¹³**- This protest was held in Russia against the intervention of Russian military in Ukraine that took in 2014.

3. **Brazilian protests, 2013¹⁴**- This protest was held in Brazil, in 2013, opposing the increase in ticket prices for bus, train and subway in many Brazilian cities. This protest was initiated by a local organization called Movemento Pasee Livre, advocating free public transport.

IV. CONCLUSION

In the past two decades of the 21st century, protests have become the biggest issue on a global scale. Various mass movements/protests on the roads and the streets around the world and across India driven by a generation of young people in the first two decades of the this century shows the sagging faith in the main stream politics of a country .

These protests resulted in a vast and drastic change in the main stream politics of various countries globally. These demonstrations show that the Right to free speech and expression rightly transformed into the Right to freely express and opinion on the conduct of the

¹¹ Ankita Shree, *Protest breaks out in Mahatma Gandhi Central University*, CAMPUSVARTA,(3 June 2018) <https://www.campusvarta.com/campus-updates/protest-breaks-out-in-mahatma-gandhi-central-university/>

¹² Bhattacharyya, Rituparna, # *Metoo Movement: An Awareness Campaign*, INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INNOVATION, CREATIVITY AND CHANGE, March, 2018,page 1-12 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323816747_metoo_movement_An_awareness_campaign/citation/download

¹³ Ksenia Kirillova, *Prospects of the Russian protest movement*, ATLANTICCOUNCIL, (OCT 28, 2019) <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/issue-brief/prospects-of-the-russian-protest-movement/>

¹⁴ Shasta Darlington, *Protesters, police clash in demonstration against bus fare increases in Brazil*, CNN (14 June 2013) <https://edition.cnn.com/2013/06/14/world/americas/brazil-fare-protests/index.html>

Government or a person.

But, this does not mean that the aim of every protest is always right. As people belong to different caste, religion, cult, and sex, follow different customs and traditions and come from diverse backgrounds. They have their own point of view to see and understood an idea or a policy or an action, according to which they decide their aim of protest.

The year 2019 has concluded with various protests globally, exclusively in North Africa, Latin America, Hong Kong, the Middle East and across India which has recently blazed up against the Indian Prime minister Narendra Modi's Citizenship Amendment Act.