

DALIT MOVEMENT

- INTRODUCTION:
- 1. Who are dalits ?
- The word dalit means broken or crushed.
- Dalits are also known as scheduled castes.
- Till very recently they were also known as untouchables.
- Gandhi called them as **Harijans**.

What is dalit movement ?

- It is a movement of individuals and groups to bring an end to caste discriminations and exploitations.
- It is a struggle for human rights of the dalits and other oppressed sections of our society.
- This movement seeks to build both a national and global union against the caste system, inhuman oppression and discriminations.
- **The movement wants to put an end to India's silent apartheid of 3000 years.**

Objectives of dalit movement:

- Following are its objectives –
- 1. Ending caste discriminations.
- 2. Eliminating caste based violence against the people of depressed castes.
- 3. Eradicating bonded child labour which is a crime against humanity.
- 4. Rejecting gender based oppression and trafficking of girls.
- 5. Rejecting of cultural nationalism of the Hindu right.

Objectives:

- 6. Promotion of full time transformation and empowerment of dalits.
- 7. Demolishing the tyranny of caste hierarchy to end the oppression of dalits.
- Thus, the dalit movement is the organized resistance of the ex-untouchables to caste oppression.
- It is a movement or struggle of lower castes against the hegemony of Brahmanism.

Features of dalit movement:

- Following are some important features of dalit movement –
 1. Indian society as a whole never fully accepted hierarchy as a basic value system.
 2. The anti-caste movements were essentially movements opposed to the creed of Brahmanism.
 3. The dalit movement was the one organized against oppressive aspects of the Hindu religion.

Features:

- 4. This movement materialised in the conversion and adoption of a different faith which was perceived to be better.
- 5. This movement required political support to become effective.