

An Overview of Human Rights in India

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ABSTRACT

Human rights are inalienable rights of the human being. Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world, regardless of their nationality, race, religion, gender, or any other status. These rights include the right to life, liberty, and security; freedom from slavery and torture; freedom of opinion and expression; the right to work and education; and many others. The concept of human rights has evolved over time and is based on the idea that all individuals are entitled to certain fundamental rights simply by virtue of being human. The modern concept of human rights gained significant momentum after the atrocities of World War II, leading to the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations in 1948. The UDHR was the first international document to set out fundamental human rights to be universally protected, and it has since served as the foundation for numerous international human rights treaties and conventions. The declaration consists of 30 articles that outline a wide range of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. The status of human rights in India is marked by a combination of legal protections and persistent challenges. The Indian Constitution guarantees fundamental rights, reinforced by bodies like the National Human Rights Commission. However, issues such as restrictions on freedom of speech and the press, discrimination and violence against religious and ethnic minorities, and gender-based violence remain prevalent. Furthermore, child labour, insufficient protections for indigenous communities, and reports of police and security force abuses continue to undermine human rights. Efforts to address these issues include legal reforms, advocacy, and heightened public awareness, but significant work is still needed to ensure comprehensive human rights protections for all citizens.

Keywords: human rights, protections, citizens, cultural rights

INTRODUCTION

Human rights are those minimal rights that a person has inherited by virtue of being a member of the human family, irrespective of any other considerations like race, colour, caste, etc. It means the right to defend yourself against any personal attack; it gives you the right to choose your means of livelihood by legal means; it confers on you the right to enjoy health and education; and it allows you to participate in the cultural life of the community. It means having the right to practice one's religion without fear, freedom of movement, and residence. Even criminals and prisoners have human rights, including the right to a fair trial by independent and impartial tribunals.

The origins of human rights may be found both in Greek philosophy and in the various world religions. Stoic thinkers postulated a cosmopolitan philosophy, guided by the principles of equality for all men and the universal application of natural law or law based on reason. The Romans applied the Stoic conception of natural law to the formation of a body of legal rules for the administration of justice. The Middle Ages laid stress on the concept of natural law as the higher principles of law to be derived from reason.

The introduction of human rights in India has been a pivotal journey intertwined with its historical, social, and political evolution. Post-independence in 1947, India's Constitution, ratified in 1950, enshrined fundamental rights for all citizens, laying a solid foundation for human rights protection. These rights, articulated in Part III of the Constitution, guarantee civil liberties such as equality before the law, freedom of speech and expression, and protection against discrimination. India's commitment to human rights is also reflected in its participation in international treaties and conventions. It became a founding member of the United Nations and a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. Subsequently, India has ratified several international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

Over the decades, India has seen significant milestones in advancing human rights. The judiciary, through landmark decisions, has expanded the scope of rights protection, ensuring that constitutional guarantees are upheld. One such milestone was the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973), where the Supreme Court articulated the doctrine of basic structure, safeguarding fundamental rights from legislative infringement. However, challenges persist. India faces issues related to socio-economic rights, including poverty alleviation, access to education, healthcare, and gender equality. Marginalised communities, such as Dalits, Adivasis, and religious minorities, continue to experience discrimination and violence despite legal protections.

Civil society and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) play a crucial role in advocating for human rights in India. They monitor violations, provide legal aid, and campaign for policy reforms. Movements like the Right to Information (RTI) and the Right to Education (RTE) have empowered citizens and enhanced transparency and accountability. Furthermore, India's human rights framework has evolved through legislative reforms. The Protection of Human Rights Act (1993) established the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to investigate violations and promote awareness. State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs) were subsequently established to address local grievances. In recent years, India's human rights landscape has witnessed debates over issues such as freedom of expression, privacy rights in the digital age, and challenges to the rights of marginalised communities. These debates highlight the dynamic nature of human rights discourse in the country.

India's journey with human rights has been marked by significant achievements and ongoing challenges. While the constitutional framework provides a robust foundation, ensuring effective implementation and addressing persistent inequalities remain crucial tasks. As India continues to evolve, its commitment to upholding human rights will shape its path towards a more inclusive and just society.

Significance of the Study

The study of human rights in India is profoundly significant in addressing various societal challenges and advancing the country towards a more equitable and just future. India, a diverse nation with a rich cultural tapestry, grapples with complex issues of inequality, discrimination, and social exclusion. Understanding human rights provides a crucial framework to tackle these challenges effectively. Human rights education in India is essential for promoting a culture of respect and dignity for all individuals, regardless of their background or identity. It fosters awareness about fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution and encourages active citizenship. This knowledge empowers marginalised communities, including Dalits, Adivasis, women, and religious minorities, to assert their rights and challenge discriminatory practices.

The study of human rights strengthens accountability mechanisms within the country. It enables citizens to hold authorities accountable for human rights violations through legal avenues and activism. This is particularly relevant in addressing issues such as police brutality, gender-based violence, and violations of socio-economic rights like access to education and healthcare. Human rights education contributes to conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts in India. By promoting tolerance, understanding, and dialogue across different communities, it mitigates communal tensions and fosters social cohesion.

It plays a crucial role in addressing underlying causes of conflict and promoting reconciliation in diverse regions like Jammu and Kashmir and the North East. Studying human rights is integral to India's international standing and commitment to global norms. As a signatory to various international human rights treaties and conventions, India has pledged to uphold universal human rights standards. Knowledge of these standards enhances India's capacity to engage diplomatically on human rights issues at the international level and contribute meaningfully to global human rights discourse.

The study of human rights in India is not only about legal frameworks and policies but also about fostering a culture of empathy, justice, and inclusivity. It equips individuals and institutions with the tools necessary to address systemic inequalities and ensure that all Indians can live with dignity and freedom.

Statement of the problem

In India, while significant strides have been made in enshrining human rights within its constitutional framework and participating in international human rights treaties, there exist persistent challenges and issues that undermine the full realisation of these rights for all its citizens.

One of the foremost issues is the prevalence of discrimination and inequality based on various factors such as caste, gender, religion, and socioeconomic status. Despite constitutional guarantees of equality before the law and non-discrimination, marginalised communities such as Dalits, Adivasis, and religious minorities continue to face systemic discrimination in

various spheres of life, including access to education, employment, and healthcare. Caste-based violence and atrocities against Dalits remain a critical concern, highlighting the gap between legal protections and everyday realities.

Another pressing problem is the state of civil liberties and freedom of expression. While India boasts a vibrant democracy with a free press and an active civil society, there have been increasing incidents of restrictions on freedom of speech and expression. Journalists, activists, and dissenting voices face harassment, intimidation, and legal challenges under laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and sedition laws, stifling freedom of expression and dissent.

Furthermore, issues related to gender-based violence and women's rights persist despite legislative reforms and campaigns for gender equality. Instances of rape, domestic violence, and trafficking continue to plague Indian society, reflecting deep-rooted patriarchal attitudes and inadequate enforcement of laws designed to protect women's rights.

The situation of socio-economic rights in India also presents significant challenges. While the Constitution guarantees rights such as the right to education and the right to work, access to these rights remains unequal, particularly for marginalised and vulnerable populations. Poverty, lack of infrastructure, and unequal distribution of resources contribute to persistent socio-economic disparities, denying many their basic rights to education, healthcare, and a dignified livelihood. Moreover, issues related to human rights violations in conflict zones, including areas affected by insurgency and internal displacement, remain a concern. States like Jammu and Kashmir and parts of Northeast India witness ongoing security operations and allegations of human rights abuses, raising questions about accountability and justice.

While India has made progress in recognising and protecting human rights through its legal and institutional frameworks, significant challenges persist. Addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort from government institutions, civil society, and the international community to bridge the gap between legal protections and their effective implementation, ensuring that all individuals in India can enjoy their rights and freedoms without discrimination or fear.

Objectives of the Study

1. To describe the historical perspective on human rights
2. To explore the progress of human rights in India
3. To examine the implementation of human rights in India
4. To discuss the positive and negative effects of globalisation on human rights

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

It is descriptive research. Secondary sources were chosen for this study. The data taken from various books, journals, articles, and websites, as well as government reports, are referred to in this research paper.

Human rights are inherent entitlements possessed by individuals by virtue of being human. These rights are universally and equally applicable to all people, enduring throughout time. As stated in the quote, "All individuals are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They possess reasoning and conscience and should treat each other with a sense of solidarity." This perspective aligns with the belief that humans hold a unique intrinsic value that distinguishes them from lifeless objects. To infringe upon a human right would signify a failure to acknowledge the inherent value of human existence.

The concept of human rights has evolved over history and has remained intertwined with legal, cultural, and religious practices. Many societies have upheld principles akin to the "golden rule"—treating others as one wishes to be treated. The ancient texts of the Hindu Vedas, the Babylonian Code of Hammurabi, the Bible, the Quran (Koran), and the Analects of Confucius exemplify some of the earliest written sources addressing questions of responsibilities, rights, and duties.

Different countries ensure these rights through varying approaches. For instance, in India, these rights are enshrined in the Constitution as fundamental rights, offering statutory guarantees. Conversely, in the UK, these rights are established through legal precedent, with courts establishing various principles through case law. Moreover, international law and conventions also provide specific safeguards for these rights.

What is the history of human rights in India?

The history of human rights in India can be divided into three stages: ancient, mediaeval, and modern.

Human Rights in Ancient India

The history of human rights in India has deep roots within Indian political thinkers and philosophers, dating back to ancient civilisations.

In antiquated India, legal principles were founded on Dharma, which aimed to promote the well-being of all beings and prevent harm among them, as evident in epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata. The Bhagavad Gita emphasises righteousness as the core of Dharma. The Upanishads regard Dharma as the fundamental underpinning of the entire universe. The Vedas and Smritis advocate the concept of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,” portraying the world as a unified family. All four Vedas underscore equality and dignity for every human.

Buddha’s teachings played a significant role in safeguarding human rights. The renowned King Ashoka effectively established a welfare state for his subjects, ensuring basic freedoms and rights.

Consequently, it’s evident that ancient Indian literary works actively promoted and endorsed human rights, liberty, freedom, and equality for all individuals, regardless of discrimination based on caste, creed, gender, sex, or religion.

Human Rights in Mediaeval India

The mediaeval period in India marked the era of Muslim rule. Before the Mughal rule, there were existing rights related to society, politics, culture, and religion. However, with the arrival of the Mughals, the concept of human rights faced challenges. Nevertheless, during Akbar’s reign (1526–1605), significant emphasis was placed on social, religious, and political rights.

Akbar introduced a religious policy called Din-e-Ilahi (divine religion), which aimed to promote secularism and religious tolerance. Moreover, religious movements like Bhakti (Hindu) and Sufi (Islamic) played a crucial role in advancing the history of human rights in India. However, these advancements were sometimes suppressed by other Mughal Emperors, such as Babar, Humayun, and Aurangzeb.

Human Rights in Modern India

The British rule in India can be seen in the modern period. During this period, the British government of India not only restricted the freedom of its people but also built its foundation upon exploiting the masses, causing economic, political, cultural, and spiritual harm to India.

After enduring colonial rule, every Indian firmly believed that the recognition, safeguarding, and implementation of human rights were not only fundamental but also essential for leading a civilised life.

Key constitutional provisions in India contribute to the history of human rights in India in modern times. These include the Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy, recently added Fundamental Duties, reservations for scheduled castes and tribes, and special provisions for Anglo-Indians and other backward classes.

When examining human rights in relation to the Indian Constitution, it becomes evident that the Constitution incorporates nearly all the human rights outlined in various international agreements, covenants, and treaties. Some of these include:

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, 1976
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1976
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979
Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006

In addition to these constitutional provisions, various laws have been enacted by the Indian legislature to safeguard and promote human rights. Some significant legislation introduced by the union includes:

Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993
National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992
National Commission for Women Act, 1990
The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1995
The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989
Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1987
Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976
Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000
Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, and more.

India has also implemented numerous labour-related legislative measures to ensure social security, significantly influenced by the standards set by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Through these means, the concept of human rights in India has evolved and firmly taken root.

Analysis of Human Rights in India

Though India guarantees a number of rights under Part III of the Constitution, it continues to face many challenges with respect to protecting the human rights of its people. For example, the following are the major instances of human rights violations.

Discrimination: Despite the constitutional guarantee of equality before the law, discrimination based on caste, religion, gender, and sexual orientation remains prevalent in Indian society. The caste system continues to marginalise and oppress millions of people, particularly those belonging to lower castes, or so-called “untouchables.” While the government has implemented affirmative action policies such as reservations, these measures have also been criticised for perpetuating inequality and not going far enough to address the root causes of discrimination.

Freedom of speech and expression: While Article 19 of the Constitution guarantees this right, there have been instances of censorship and restrictions on freedom of the press, particularly in conflict-affected areas and when reporting on government corruption or human rights abuses.

Right to life and personal liberty Extrajudicial killings, custodial deaths, and police brutality continue to be serious human rights concerns. The lack of accountability for these abuses perpetuates a culture of impunity and erodes public trust in the justice system.

Women’s rights: India’s record on women’s rights is another area of concern. High rates of gender-based violence, discrimination, and unequal access to education and employment opportunities continue to hinder the full realisation of women’s rights in India.

These are some pressing issues that need urgent resolution.

The Supreme Court’s major judgement on human rights

Following are the major Supreme Court’s judgements recognising and enforcing various human rights of citizens.

Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018): The Supreme Court decriminalised consensual same-sex relations between adults, recognising the rights of LGBTQ individuals.

Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan (1997): The Supreme Court laid down guidelines to prevent sexual harassment of women in the workplace, recognising the right to a safe and harassment-free work environment.

NALSA v. Union of India (2014): The Supreme Court recognised the rights of transgender individuals and directed the government to take measures to protect and uphold their rights, including access to healthcare and employment opportunities.

Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978): The Supreme Court expanded the scope of the right to life and personal liberty, emphasising that these rights are not limited to mere animal existence but encompass a meaningful and dignified life.

MC Mehta v. Union of India (1986): The Supreme Court issued several judgements related to environmental protection, emphasising the right to a clean and healthy environment as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Significance of the Topic

The issue of human rights violations is a major challenge that India is facing and that needs to be addressed urgently. The topic also has a direct link with the Constitution. Therefore, judiciary coaching suggests that the aspirants must have good knowledge and understanding of the topic. Also, according to the judiciary coaching, the topic must be prepared from the perspective of essays.

New dimensions of human rights

- The recognition of new horizons of human rights is vital for a nation-state to build peace, harmony, and development within its territory.
- The 1993 Vienna Conference on Human Rights put forth the important relationship between development, democracy, and human rights.
- The preference for economic development in modern nation-states left the vulnerable population with extreme poverty and unequal resource distribution, which brought a new dimension to human rights.

Media in Protecting Human Rights

- The impact of media on society today is beyond doubt and debate.
- The role of media in protecting human rights is as follows:
- Make people aware of their rights.
- Expose the violations of rights
- Focus attention on people and areas in need of protection.
- Propagation of peace, non-violence, disarmament, ecological balance, etc.
- Give publicity to individuals and organisations that fight for human rights.
- Making the authorities aware of their duties

Globalisation and Human Rights: Positive Effects

- The spread of liberal democracy with globalisation also carries the idea of human rights across borders.
- Information technology is strengthening human rights.
- Globalisation brings universalism to human rights in three ways.

1. It refers to the claims about universal validity as well as the moral justification for human rights.
2. It describes the status of human rights in international law.
3. It refers to the generality of human rights for human beings.

Globalisation and Human Rights: Negative Effects

- The concept of 'human rights only has a minimalist role in a globalised world.
- The rising inequality brought by globalisation cannot sync with human rights.
- The ideas of indigenous people's rights, local democracy, and local development have all been tampered with by the west-inspired mega-development project.

ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

The study of human rights in India is a complex and dynamic field that necessitates a multifaceted analysis encompassing legal frameworks, socio-economic conditions, political dynamics, cultural factors, and international influences. This comprehensive examination reveals both achievements and persistent challenges in the protection and promotion of human rights across the diverse landscape of Indian society. India's Constitution, adopted in 1950, provides a robust framework for protecting fundamental rights under Part III, including the right to equality, freedom of speech and expression, the right against discrimination, and the right to life and personal liberty. These rights are enforceable through the judiciary, which has played a pivotal role in interpreting and expanding the scope of human rights protections through landmark judgments. Cases like *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala* (1973) and *Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan* (1997) have shaped the jurisprudence on fundamental rights and gender equality, respectively. However, challenges persist in bridging the gap between constitutional guarantees and their effective realisation in everyday life, particularly for marginalised communities. Despite constitutional protections, discrimination based on caste, religion, gender, and socio-economic status remains pervasive in India. Dalits, Adivasis, religious minorities, and women often face systemic discrimination and violence, reflecting deep-rooted social hierarchies and prejudices. Caste-based discrimination continues to manifest in various forms, including social exclusion, access to education and employment opportunities, and violence against Dalits. Efforts to address these issues, such as affirmative action policies like reservations in education and employment, have made incremental progress but are insufficient to eliminate entrenched inequalities.

Gender inequality is a significant human rights challenge in India, despite legislative reforms and affirmative measures. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005) and the criminalization of dowry and female infanticide aim to protect women's rights, yet gender-based violence, including rape, dowry-related deaths, and trafficking, persists. The status of women in Indian society is influenced by patriarchal norms, which limit their autonomy and opportunities for socio-economic advancement. Movements like MeToo India have highlighted issues of sexual harassment and workplace discrimination, prompting calls for systemic reforms and cultural shifts towards gender equality. Access to socio-economic rights such as education, healthcare, adequate housing, and livelihoods remains unequal across India's diverse population. Despite initiatives like the Right to Education (RTE) Act and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), disparities persist, particularly in rural and marginalised communities. Challenges include inadequate infrastructure, lack of resources, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and corruption, which hinder the effective implementation of welfare schemes and entitlements designed to alleviate poverty and improve living standards.

Conflict zones in India, such as Jammu and Kashmir and regions affected by Naxalite insurgency, present unique human rights challenges. Security operations and counterinsurgency measures have been criticised for allegations of human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and enforced disappearances. The Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) grants extensive powers to security forces, leading to concerns about impunity and lack of accountability. Balancing national security imperatives with human rights obligations remains a contentious issue, requiring transparent mechanisms for accountability and justice.

Freedom of speech and expression, a cornerstone of democracy, faces challenges in India amid increasing incidents of censorship, restrictions on dissent, and threats to media freedom. Laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and sedition laws have been used to target activists, journalists, and dissenting voices, raising concerns about shrinking space for civil liberties. Judicial interpretations and public discourse play crucial roles in safeguarding fundamental freedoms and holding authorities accountable for overreach and violations of civil liberties.

Civil society organisations (CSOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and human rights defenders play pivotal roles in advocating for human rights, monitoring violations, providing legal aid, and mobilising communities for social justice. Movements such as the Right to Information (RTI), the Right to Food, and anti-corruption campaigns have been instrumental in promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen empowerment. However, CSOs often face challenges such as funding constraints, bureaucratic hurdles, and intimidation, limiting their effectiveness in addressing systemic human rights issues.

As a signatory to international human rights treaties and conventions, India has committed to upholding universal human rights standards. However, tensions sometimes arise between international obligations and national sovereignty, particularly concerning issues like minority rights, freedom of religion, and civil liberties. India's engagement in global forums and human rights diplomacy influences its reputation and standing in the international community, shaping perceptions of its commitment to human rights.

India's rapid economic growth has lifted millions out of poverty but has also exacerbated socio-economic inequalities and environmental challenges. Development projects often result in the displacement of indigenous communities, land acquisition disputes, and environmental degradation, raising ethical and human rights concerns. Balancing economic development with environmental sustainability and social justice requires inclusive policies, corporate accountability, and mechanisms for the meaningful participation of affected communities.

The study of human rights in India reveals a complex and evolving landscape characterised by legal advancements, persistent challenges, socio-economic disparities, cultural factors, and international influences. While India has made significant strides in recognising and protecting human rights through constitutional guarantees, judicial activism, and legislative reforms, systemic issues such as discrimination, gender inequality, socio-economic disparities, and challenges in conflict zones necessitate sustained efforts for reform, advocacy, and policy interventions. Strengthening institutional mechanisms, enhancing access to justice, empowering marginalised communities, promoting inclusive development, and fostering a culture of human rights are essential for advancing dignity, equality, and justice for all individuals in India. Continued dialogue, research, and advocacy are crucial in shaping India's trajectory towards a more inclusive and rights-respecting society.

SUGGESTIONS

- To address the multifaceted challenges in the study of human rights in India, several suggestions can be considered:
- Strengthening the implementation of existing legal frameworks and policies is crucial. This includes enhancing judicial capacity to expedite human rights cases, ensuring effective enforcement of laws protecting marginalised communities, and addressing impunity for human rights violations, particularly in conflict-affected areas.
- Promoting awareness and education about human rights across all levels of society is essential. Integrating human rights education into school curricula, professional training programmes for law enforcement and the judiciary, and public awareness campaigns can foster a culture of respect for human dignity and equality.
- Empowering civil society organisations (CSOs) and human rights defenders is vital. Providing adequate resources, protection from harassment, and fostering a conducive environment for their work can strengthen their role in monitoring violations, providing legal aid, and advocating for policy reforms.
- Enhancing accountability mechanisms through independent oversight bodies and strengthening transparency in governance processes can mitigate abuses of power and ensure accountability for human rights violations.

- Promoting inclusive development policies that prioritise socio-economic rights, ensure equitable access to resources, and protect vulnerable groups from exploitation can contribute to reducing inequalities and advancing human rights for all individuals in India.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, while India's Constitution provides a strong foundation for the protection of human rights, there are still significant challenges in ensuring that these rights are upheld in practice. Discrimination, censorship, police brutality, and gender inequality continue to be major obstacles to the full realisation of human rights for all citizens. The government and civil society must work together to address these issues and create a more just and equitable society for all. Only then can India truly live up to its promise as a democratic nation that respects and protects the rights of all its people. However, challenges persist, with recent instances of domestic violence, arbitrary arrests, and concerns about freedom of expression. India's journey involves striking a balance between tradition and modernity, aligning cultural heritage with global human rights standards to ensure a just and equitable society.

The study of human rights in India underscores both achievements and ongoing challenges in the pursuit of justice, dignity, and equality for all its citizens. India's constitutional framework provides a solid foundation with robust guarantees of fundamental rights, upheld through judicial activism and legislative reforms. Landmark judgements have expanded the scope of human rights protections, setting crucial precedents in areas like gender equality, freedom of expression, and socio-economic rights. These legal advancements reflect India's commitment to international human rights standards as a signatory to key treaties and conventions.

However, significant challenges persist, particularly concerning discrimination, gender inequality, socio-economic disparities, and issues in conflict zones. Marginalised communities such as Dalits, Adivasis, religious minorities, and women continue to face systemic barriers to their rights, highlighting the gap between legal protections and their effective implementation. The persistence of caste-based discrimination, gender-based violence, and challenges in conflict-affected regions necessitate urgent reforms, effective enforcement of laws, and strengthened accountability mechanisms.

Moving forward, addressing these challenges requires a multi-dimensional approach. It includes enhancing awareness and education about human rights, strengthening the implementation of legal frameworks, empowering civil society, and promoting inclusive development policies. Effective collaboration between government institutions, civil society organisations, and international partners is crucial in advancing human rights discourse and ensuring tangible improvements in the lives of all Indians.

Ultimately, India's journey with human rights is a dynamic and evolving process that demands continuous dialogue, research, advocacy, and action. By upholding principles of justice, equality, and human dignity, India can strengthen its position as a global leader committed to the promotion and protection of human rights, contributing to a more inclusive and equitable society for future generations.

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