

Patel community and 4 others that stirred reservation agitations in India

Hardik Patel, a 22-year-old convener, led Gujarat's Patel community in a massive rally demanding reservations under the OBC quota, warning the BJP government that not fulfilling their demand will affect the elections in 2017.



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Members of Patidar Patel community protest in demand of reservation seats. Photo: PTI

In 1990, 20-year-old Rajiv Goswami had set himself on fire in a stance to protest against reservations when the anti-Mandal commission agitation was at its peak. A couple of decades later, another young man rises to fame with the cause of reservation, but only this time it is for it.

Hardik Patel, a 22-year-old convener, has led Gujarat's Patel community in a massive rally demanding reservations under the OBC quota on Tuesday. However, the Patel community is not the first to campaign for reservation in the country. Time and again, communities from various parts of India have put forward their demand to get special quota or fight against the revocation of reservation accorded to them. Here are five such movements when the protests took a violent turn:

1. The Patel community

The Patel community, led by Patidar Aarakshan Andolan Samiti Convener Hardik Patel, has been demanding a 27 per cent reservation in government jobs and education under the OBC category in Gujarat. A massive rally of over 10 lakh Patidars hit the streets of Ahmedabad on Tuesday with this demand.

2. The Gurjar community

Former Lieutenant Colonel Kirori Singh Bainsla led the Gurjar Arakshan Sangharsh Samiti in Rajasthan demanding the inclusion of the Gurjar community in the OBC category and 5 per cent quota in government jobs and educational sectors. Many of the protest marches of the movement ended in violent clashes with the authorities, resulting in several deaths and property damage. Train services between Delhi and Mumbai were hit everytime Col Bainsla's protesters took to squatting on the tracks.

3. The Jat community



member of the Jat community holds an axe during a rally. Photo: Reuters

The Jat community was awarded reservation under the OBC category in 1999. But in 2015, eight writ petitions were filed challenging the reservation. Following that, the Supreme Court dismissed the Central Government's decision to include Jats in the Other Backward Classes category, stating that caste cannot be the sole factor to decide backwardness of a community.

4. The Nishad community





Satyagraha protest by Nishad community over reservation. Photo: News18

The Nishad community's demand for 5 per cent job reservation under Scheduled Caste category resulted in violent agitations in the Gorakhpur district earlier this year when followers of Rastriya Ekta Parishad and Nishad Mahasabha took their protest to the streets and clashed with police. This provoked many other protests across the state such as in Damodarpura village where protesters went on Jal Satyagraha, immersing themselves in chest-deep water to protest for the cause.

5. The Muslim community in Maharashtra





Opposition protests against the scrapping of the five per cent Muslims reservation in education in Maharashtra. Photo: PTI

The Maharashtra government's decision to scrap 5 per cent reservation for Muslims in government jobs incurred the wrath of the Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), who went ahead to launch an agitation against the decision.

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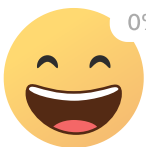
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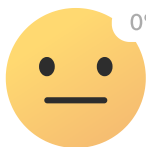
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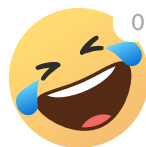
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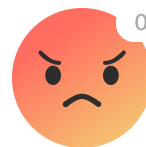
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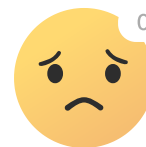
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