



Pride Month

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Why in News?

Pride Month, celebrated every June, is a time of reflection, celebration, and advocacy for the [LGBTQ+ community](#). Its origins trace back to the Stonewall Uprising of 1969.

- Over the decades, Pride Month has evolved from a single day of remembrance to a month-long celebration recognised globally.

Why is Pride Month Celebrated in June?

- Pride Month commemorates the Stonewall Uprising of 1969(New York), a pivotal event in the LGBTQ+ rights movement.
- In 1999, [President Bill Clinton](#) declared June as **“Gay and Lesbian Pride Month.”** Subsequent presidents, including Barack Obama and Joe Biden, have continued this tradition, recognising June as LGBTQ Pride Month.

What were the Stonewall Riots?

- **Riots:** In the **1960s, homosexuality was illegal and solicitation was a punishable** offence in the US. LGBTQ people sought acceptance and community in places like the Stonewall Inn, a refuge for the LGBTQ community in Greenwich Village, New York.
 - On 28th June 1969, New York police raided the Stonewall Inn for selling alcohol without a licence, sparking rage among the LGBTQ community and leading to six days of riots.
 - The riots are seen as a turning point in the LGBTQ community's struggle for rights and recognition.
 - **Marsha P. Johnson**, a transgender sex worker, played a key role in the riots and is now seen as a significant figure in the LGBTQ community.
- **Post Riots:** After Stonewall, activists organised a march to commemorate its anniversary with the theme **"gay pride" to celebrate the community's sense of pride** and unity in their sexual and gender identities.
 - The celebration of Pride **expanded to a month-long event and gained official recognition**, becoming a call for visibility and unity within the LGBTQ community.
 - The celebration of Pride in America was adopted worldwide, with regional variations to make the movement more inclusive.
- **Impact of the Riots:** **The riots at Stonewall were a movement against police brutality and discrimination faced by queer people for decades. The riots gave public visibility to non-conventional gender identities and sexual orientations, and Pride Month now represents fearless identity and proud unity.**

LGBTQIA+ Rights in the United States

- The US Supreme Court ruled that all states allow **same-sex marriages and recognize those performed out of state.**

- There is **no federal law specifically prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation** or gender identity.
 - However, the US Supreme Court's ruling implies that discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is a form of sex discrimination, which is prohibited under the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

LGBTQIA+ Rights in India

- In 1994, **voting rights were legally granted** to individuals identifying as a third sex.
- In 2014, the **Supreme Court of India** ruled that transgender people should be treated as a **third gender category**.
- In 2017, the LGBTQIA+ community in India was given the **freedom to express their sexual orientation**, protected by the **Right to Privacy**.
- **The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019** to provide for the protection of rights and welfare of transgender people.
- **Same-sex marriage is not expressly recognised as a fundamental or constitutional right under the Indian Constitution**, but it provides **some limited recognition** to cohabiting same-sex couples.
 - The SC has held that the **right to marry a person of one's choice is integral to Article 21 of the Constitution**, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community are entitled to the full range of constitutional rights, including equal protection under the law.

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