



Law / Governance / Society

Karnataka has tabled the **Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025** — the first State law in India to explicitly define hate speech and create a comprehensive framework to tackle hate-motivated offences.

The Bill targets rising incidents of hate crimes, including those spread through digital platforms, and focuses on both **prevention and punishment**. It defines hate speech as expressions that provoke injury, hostility, or disharmony against individuals or groups on grounds such as **religion, caste, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, disability, or place of birth**.

Penalties range from **2 to 10 years of imprisonment**, along with fines, with stricter punishment for repeat offences and aggravated circumstances.

APSC relevance: Criminal law reform, regulation of hate speech, digital era crimes, Centre-State legislative dynamics.