

Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act

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In news— After over 200 failed attempts by the Congress in hundred years, the US President has signed the Emmett Till Anti-lynching bill recently.

Key features of the bill-

- It is a United States federal law which makes lynching a federal hate crime.
- The **Act is named for the black teenager whose brutal murder in Mississippi in 1955** helped spark the civil rights movement.
- **Lynching, which typically refers to when an illegal mob kills a person based on their race** without due process for the victim, has a long history in the US – tracing back to the 1800s.
- Over the 19th and 20th centuries, thousands, mainly African Americans, were lynched across the United States, particularly prevalent in the southern part of the country after the Civil War.
- Under the new act, **an action can be prosecuted as a lynching when a person conspires to commit a hate crime that results in death or serious injury.**
- **It essentially amends the US' existing federal hate crime laws**, enshrined in the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which was signed into law by former President Barack Obama in 2009.
- As per the bill, perpetrators of a lynching – death or injury resulting from a hate crime – will face up to **30 years in jail.**
- In 1900, the first anti-lynching Bill was introduced by George Henry White, who was then the only black man in the Congress.
- Later in the 1920s, the US-based civil rights organisation National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) attempted to pass an anti-

lynching Bill, which ultimately led to a federal hate crime legislation being passed.