

## Texas School Shooting

### Why in news?

Despite a high rate of gun violence such as the recent Texas shooting in the school, the country's politicians and voters continue resisting changes to their gun laws.

### What are the incidents of gun attack?

*The U.S. had 390 million guns in circulation in 2018 as per the Small Arms Survey. Also, three out of every ten US adults own a gun (Pew Research Center).*

- Recently, a man shot dead at least 19 children and two adults, including a teacher, at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas.
- In Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School attack (2018), a former student of the school in Parkland, Florida, opened fire, killing 17 people and wounding 17 others.
- A similar major shooting occurred at Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, in 2012, in which 20 first graders and six school employees perished.
- Overall, there have been at least 26 school shootings in 2022 alone and at least 118 incidents since 2018.
- Children are not spared when it comes to the cost of US gun violence.

### What is the stance of the politicians?

- Since the Sandy Hook attack, 13 states controlled by Democrats have enacted or expanded background checks for new gun purchases.
- However, 14 states controlled by Republicans, have passed laws allowing their citizens to carry guns with no permit process at all.
- As of 2021, Republicans remain staunchly opposed to new gun regulations, arguing that the Second Amendment is sacrosanct and should not be infringed by virtually any legislation.
- One of the key and defining characteristics of gun owners is that they associate the right to own guns with their personal sense of freedom and identity.
- In 2021, Republicans framed gun control laws as part of the country's history of racism arguing that gun control acts impinge on the rights of minority communities.

*The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution assures citizens of the right to bear arms.*

### What is the need of the hour?

- There is an urgent need for
  - an assault weapons ban

- expanded background checks for gun ownership
- boosted funding for federal enforcement agencies regulating gun proliferation
- Critics of gun control laws have often framed mass shootings as a symptom and not the disease, citing mental health illnesses as the root cause that needs to be treated.

## References

1. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/us-texas-shooting-gun-laws-opposition-explained-7936319/lite/https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/unending-tragedy-the-hindu-editorial-on-us-school-shootings-and-gun-control-debate/article65460006.ece/>
2. <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/unending-tragedy-the-hindu-editorial-on-us-school-shootings-and-gun-control-debate/article65460006.ece>

