



Evangelists Arrested in Rajasthan for Alleged Mass Conversion Attempt

Why in News?

Recently, an incident happened in **Rajasthan**, where two evangelists were arrested and eight others were detained for allegedly trying to **convert hundreds of people to Christianity** by offering them money and healing.

Key Points

- The incident took place in Bharatpur, where the evangelists had organised a large-scale programme with **450-500 people**.
- The **Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP)**, claimed that the evangelists used objectionable language against **Hindu gods** and misleading people.
- The police arrested two of the evangelists, identified and booked them under various sections of the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)** for promoting **enmity, outraging religious feelings, and causing hurt**.
- The police also detained eight other people held under **preventive measures** of **section 151** of the **Code of Criminal Procedure** and later released on bail.

Preventive Detention

- Preventive detention means detention of a person without trial and conviction by a court.
- Its purpose is not to punish a person for a past offense but to **prevent him from committing an offense** in the near future.
- The detention of a person cannot exceed **three months** unless an **advisory board reports sufficient cause** for extended detention.
- **Protection:**
 - **Article 22** grants protection to persons who are arrested or detained.
 - **Article 22** has two parts—the first part deals with the cases of ordinary law and the **second part deals with the cases of preventive detention law**.

Freedom of Religion

- **Freedom of religion** in India is a **fundamental right** guaranteed by **Article 25-28** of the **Constitution of India**.
 - **Article 25** (Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion).
 - **Article 26** (Freedom to manage religious affairs).
 - **Article 27** (Freedom as to payment of taxes for promotion of any religion).
 - **Article 28** (Freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain educational institutions).

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