



Anti-Conversion Bill

Why in News?

The Rajasthan government introduced [the Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2025](#), aiming to **prevent religious conversions through force, fraud, or inducement.**

- The Bill includes provisions for **imprisonment of up to 10 years** and a **fine of up to Rs 50,000 for various offences.**

Key Points

- **Approval and Purpose:**
 - In November 2024, the **State Cabinet approved the draft of the Bill**, aiming to **stop the "increasing instances of 'love jihad'"** in certain areas of the State.
 - The term **'love jihad'** refers to Muslim men marrying Hindu women to convert them to Islam.
- **Bill Provisions:**
 - The State Medical and Health Minister introduced the Bill, which makes offences **cognisable, non-bailable, and triable in court.**
 - The Bill **criminalizes conversions** through misrepresentation, force, coercion, allurement, fraud, or marriage.
 - Individuals wishing to convert their religion must give a declaration to the District Magistrate at least 60 days in advance.
- **Rationale Behind the Bill:**
 - According to the Bill's statement, while other states have laws on the **right to religious freedom**, Rajasthan lacked such a statute.
 - The Bill aims to balance the individual right to religious freedom with the need to prevent proselytism, which could undermine **secularism.**

Religious Conversion

- Religious conversion is the **adoption of a set of beliefs identified with one particular religious denomination** to the exclusion of others.
- Thus "religious conversion" would describe the **abandoning of adherence to one denomination** and affiliating with another.
 - For example, Christian Baptist to Methodist or Catholic, Muslim Shi'a to Sunni.
- In some cases, religious conversion "marks a **transformation of religious identity** and is symbolized by special rituals".

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