Anti-conversion Bill, Rajasthan

Why in News?

The Rajasthan Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2025 was introduced in the ongoing Budget Session of the state Assembly recently.

- **Provisions of the bill -** Religious conversion by misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means or by marriage has been made an offence in the Bill.
- The offence under the anti-conversion bill will be ***cognisable and non-bailable*** and triable by a court.
- Individuals who desire to convert their religion are required to give a declaration in the prescribed form ***at least 60 days*** in advance to the District Magistrate.
- The burden of proof that a religious conversion was not done through unlawful means rests on the person who has "caused" the conversion.
- The court may grant appropriate compensation to victims of unlawful conversion, which may extend to a maximum of ***₹5 lakh.***
- Repeat offenders may face double the punishment provided under the law for each subsequent offense.
- Marriages done for the sole purpose of conversion will be deemed invalid by family courts.
- **Punishment and penalties -** The Bill provisions imprisonment for a term not less than one year.
    - It may extend to 5 years with a fine of Rs 15,000.
- Those who violate the rules in respect of a minor, a woman or a person belonging to the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of 2 years.
    - It may extend to 10 years along with a fine of Rs 25,000.
- In case of ***mass conversion***, the bill provisions 3 years of jail extending up to 10 years and a fine of Rs 50,000.
- Marriages done for the sole purpose of conversion will be deemed ***invalid*** by family courts.
- Once passed, Rajasthan will become the ***12th state*** to have an anti-conversion law.
- **Other states having anti-conversion law**
    - Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Reference

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