Karnataka anti-superstition Bill

Why in news?

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Recently Karnataka Cabinet cleared Prevention and Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices and Black Magic Bill, 2017.

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What is the significance of this bill?

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- This bill is popularly known as the anti-superstition Bill.
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- It is expected to put an end to various inhuman practices such as black magic, witchcraft, or any act in the name of religion that causes harm to humans and animals.
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- It has provisions to deal strongly with cruel practices, such as human sacrifice, and parading naked women and sexual exploitation by invoking supernatural powers.
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- The Bill has been drafted on the lines of the Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifices and Other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act, 2013.
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What acts and practices are banned by this bill?

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- **Uruli seve -**Facilitating any person or persons roll over on the leaves of leftover food by other persons in any public or religious places.
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- **Fire-walk -** Coercing any person to perform at the time of religious festivals, causing physical injury

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- **Baibiga practice -**Practice of piercing from rods from one side of jaw to another side of the jaw and including the tongue.
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- **Banamathi -**Pelting stones in the name ofmata-mantra on the residential houses during night or day.
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- **Gandra-dora**- Prohibiting and preventing a person from taking medical treatment in the case of dog, snake, or scorpion bite, and instead giving him superstitious 'treatment.
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- This may include claiming to perform surgery by fingers or claiming to change the sex of a foetus in womb of a woman.
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- **Gaavu -**Forcing person to carry on evil practices such as killing of an animal by biting its neck, that cause harm to public health nuisance
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- **Sidi -** Persuading, propagating or facilitating rituals that involve self-inflicted injuries such as hanging from a hook inserted into the body or pulling a chariot by hook inserted into the body
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- **Betthale seve -** Subjecting women to inhuman and humiliating practices such as parading them naked in the name of worship.
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What are the acts and practices not banned by the bill?

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- **Pradakshina or Parikrama -** Circumambulation of sacred places in Hindu, Jain or Buddhist context.
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- **Yatra -** holy pilgrimage performed to religious places.
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- **Religious art forms -**The acts of teaching of ancient and traditional learning and arts, practice, propagation and circulation through Harikata, Keerthana, Bhajana, and Upassana.
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- Publicity and distribution of literature about miracles of the religious preachers which do not cause physical injury.
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- Performance of prayers, religious rituals at home, and other religious

places which do not cause physical injury.
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- All religious celebrations, festivals, prayers, procession and other act relating other rituals
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- Piercing of ears and nose of children in accordance with rituals and performance of religious ritual.
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- **Kesh Lochan -** Plucking of one’s hair instead of shaving which is practiced by the Jains.
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- Advice in regard to vaastu shasthra, and advice by jyothishya and other astrologers.
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Source: The Hindu

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