Kerala Conversion Case - II

What is the issue?

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- The Supreme Court recently revised its earlier directive in a case involving religious conversion & consensual marriage of a Hindu woman.
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What does the current move signify?

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- The apex court has now quashed its earlier directive that called for a probe by the National Investigation Agency into the issue.
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- It is also examining the legality of the Kerala high court's pronouncement on the issue that annulled the marriage under powers provided in Article 226.
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Why were initial pronouncements troublesome?

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- The Kerala High Court's decision was extremely troubling as it tended to deny autonomy to the women in her choice to convert and her decision to marry.
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- The court even seemed to suggest that the woman was acting on under some sinister influence.
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- It also speculated on terrorist indoctrination of the couple even when the police couldn't discover any.
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- Following Kerala HC court's verdict, the woman was put under virtual house arrest by her parents.

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- Her opinion wasn’t even sought in subsequent hearings.
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- These directive therefore failed to upholding the rights of the individual over the diktats of the state, community and family.
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What lies ahead?

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- The SC’s decision to revisit the case is an acknowledgement of the seriousness of the isse and an openness for course correction.
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- It is hoped that the rights of the woman will be restored in the subsequent hearings.
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Source: Indian Express

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