Need for an Anti-Superstition Law

What is the issue?

\n\n

\n
- There are many regions in the country which still witness human sacrifices, abuses and exploitation in the name of religion.
\n
- India needs a targeted legislation to effectively curb such inhuman superstitious practices.
\n

\n\n

What is the need?

\n\n

\n
- **IPC** - The provisions in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is not equipped to take care of crimes committed on account of black magic and other superstitious practices.
\n
- The cognisance of human sacrifice is in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) only after the murder is committed.
\n
- **Nature** - The relationship between a devotee and so-called godman is of a peculiar nature, often marked by subtly identifiable violence.
\n
- Also, the acts involving human sacrifice cannot be stopped as they are often preceded by some puja and offerings.
\n
- These religious ceremonies are certainly not banned under any law.
\n

\n\n

What is Maharashtra's legislation in this regard?

\n\n

\n

- Maharashtra has implemented the Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and Other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act, 2013.
\n
- This anti-superstition law primarily addresses exploitation in the name of religion.
\n
- The legislation has a capacity to act as a deterrent for many inhuman practices.
\n
- It has considerably curbed the act of human sacrifice as it is banned under the law.
\n
- A section in the legislation specifically addresses and checks claims made by ‘godmen’ who say they have supernatural powers.
\n
- The law also makes it possible to curtail activities of so-called godmen before they become too powerful.
\n

\n\n

What is the way forward?

\n\n

\n
- Opponents to the legislation in Maharashtra had claimed that the law would affect the religious practices of the Hindus.
\n
- However, superstitious practices that are utterly dehumanising, brutal and exploitative need to be dealt with by a specific law.
\n
- India should seriously consider bringing in place a legislation similar to that of the Maharashtra anti-superstition law.
\n
- It is not to be denied that every superstition could not be removed by the force of law; social and mental changes are also necessary.
\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Hindu

\n



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering