

Supreme Court's Decision on Khap Panchayats

Why in news?

\n\n

Supreme Court has ruled that Khap panchayats has no right to interfere in any marriage.

\n\n

What are Khap Panchayats?

\n\n

\n

- Khap panchayat is the union of a few villages, mainly in north India though it exists in similar forms in the rest of the country.

\n

- These village councils run by unelected elders turned in to a quasi-judicial body promotes conservative, anti-women values in the name of preserving Indian culture and tradition.

\n

- Most cases are reported in northern states such as Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, where caste councils wield enormous power in village life.

\n

- Khaps have not only continued to flourish, but also have found patronage from mainstream political leaders.

\n

- Viewing communities as vote-banks and so-called khap leaders as the key actors which can swing the community's votes, political leaders have steered clear of them.

\n

- Taking a cue from the political leadership, the police, bureaucrats and administrators have also not crossed paths with the khaps.

\n

\n\n

How badly Khaps interfere in the freedom of youths?

\n\n

- \n
- Indian society is unwilling to accept the choices made by young women when it comes to their marriage.
- \n
- Often the perpetrators are relatives seeking to punish young couples for bringing "shame" to the family.
- \n
- There were 291 honour killings in India between 2014 and 2016, as per data from the National Crime Records Bureau.
- \n
- The regressive marriage diktats and intimidation tactics like ostracism, social boycotts, etc. issued by the khaps denies adults basic freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.
- \n
- In few villages the khaps had even banned mobile phones for women.
- \n

\n\n

What was the recent ruling of SC is about?

\n\n

- \n
- Supreme Court directed the Khaps to stay away from marriages between consenting adults.
- \n
- The Supreme Court told the khaps that they had “no right to interfere” in fact, nobody had the right to interfere in any marriage.
- \n
- SC clarified to the Khaps that not to fancy themselves as conscience keepers of society, which is absolutely illegal.
- \n
- The SC also mentioned that solution for consanguineous marriages must be derived from counselling such couples rather than encouraging hostility against them.
- \n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: Financial Express, The Hindu

\n



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering