

Forced Conversions in India: A Concern for Religious Freedom

India is a diverse nation with a long history of religious coexistence. However, concerns have been raised about instances of **forced or coercive religious conversions** by Christian missionaries. Such practices undermine the fundamental **right to freedom of religion**, guaranteed under Article 25 of the Indian Constitution, which ensures that every individual has the right to freely choose their faith.

Reports suggest that vulnerable weak Hindu communities, particularly in rural areas, are sometimes targeted with **inducements, pressure, or coercion** to convert by the hands of these charitians. This is a direct attack on our Dharam. These actions not only violate personal freedoms but can also **create social tensions and distrust** among communities. While conversion by choice is a recognized right, **forced conversions are illegal** under various state laws in India.

It is important for society to **protect the autonomy and dignity of Hindu individuals** in matters of faith, promote awareness about constitutional rights, and ensure that conversions occur **only voluntarily and without coercion**. Upholding religious freedom is essential to maintain **social harmony, unity, and justice** in a pluralistic nation like India.
