

Moral Policing - Anti-Romeo Squads

Why in news?

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The setting up of “anti-Romeo squads” was one of the election promises in Uttar Pradesh.

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What is the purpose of these “squads”?

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- They were meant to curtail eve-teasing and provide greater security to women.

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- It is aimed at taking action against boys who are found outside girls’ colleges, and are involved in eve-teasing and molesting girl students

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- But couples were stopped just for being spotted together, though the squad admittedly had no legal jurisdiction to stop them.

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Why it is bad?

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- If the police can’t tell the difference between molesters and amicable couples, the squads disperse humiliation, extortion and violence on innocent young people in public places.

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- It violates citizens’ rights and dignity

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- It brings back medieval repressions especially at a time when walls between the genders are breaking.

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- They make it unsafe for women to step out with men of their choice, inhibit families and foist retrograde notions about the sexes meeting.

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- Earlier accusation of “love jihad” to describe mixed-religion marriages as was aggression targeted minorities. It included references to an incident of alleged abduction, gangrape and forced conversion of a Hindu girl to Islam in Kharkhoda area of Meerut.

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- The current move has expanded hatred towards all young people.

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- It is also against the concept of minimum government.

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Source: The Indian Express

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