RASHTRA JYOTI

ANALYSIS BRIEF
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Women · From the reporting archive

How Celebrity Interfaith Marriages Can Mislead Ordinary Women

Original analysis by **Swati Goel Sharma**

The author argues that celebrating Swara Bhaskar’s interfaith marriage can obscure the pressure some women face to convert. The article cites police complaints alleging forced conversion and a divorce filing alleging harassment after a marriage registered under the Special Marriage Act.



Representative image

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- Yasir Nadeem Al Wajidi challenged the religious validity of Swara Bhaskar's marriage because she had not converted, while acknowledging its possible legal validity.
- The Special Marriage Act permits interfaith marriage without either spouse converting; the account identifies Bhaskar's marriage as one registered through this route.
- A woman who married under that Act later sought divorce, alleging persistent insults from her in-laws for retaining her Hindu identity.
- The critique also challenges a selective celebration of interfaith love, arguing that relationships involving Muslim women receive less enthusiasm from the same celebrants.

THE TAKEAWAY

The Special Marriage Act lets couples marry without converting, but civil registration alone cannot prevent families from pressuring a spouse to convert.

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Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma in February 2023. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.