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STATE OF THE STATE: BIG BROTHER IS STILL KEEPING TABS

All Hindu-Muslim love marriages under probe

Sanjeev Shivadekar | TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which is meant to probe high-profile cases, will now investigate love affairs that have resulted in marriages between Hindu girls and Muslim boys.

The state CID has been told to check whether Muslim boys are enticing Hindu girls as part of a larger 'conspiracy'. Minister of state for home (rural) Nitin Raut announced this step in the legislative assembly on the last day of its session.

BJP MLAs Eknath Khadse and Devendra Fadnavis had alleged in the assembly that young Muslim boys in rural areas were wooing Hindu college girls and then marrying them. This, they claimed, was part of a 'conspiracy' to increase the strength of the community. Khadse had further alleged that some Hindu girls had also been sent to the Gulf.

► State ministers slam probe, P 8

Police arrest 29 youths for drinking & dancing

Mihir Tanksale & Kartikeya | TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: There was shock and disbelief among parents and within the legal community after police arrested 29 youths from a birthday party held in a private bungalow in Lonavla on Thursday. All 29 were sent to police custody for a day by a magistrate. Aged 20 to 25, the youths (26 from Mumbai, 3 from Pune) were charged with obscene behaviour, playing loud music and possessing and drinking liquor without permits. The alleged obscene behaviour involved dancing.

Defence lawyer Sanjay Wandre told TOI, "All the charges against the suspects are bailable. We were shocked when they were sent to police custody."

The brother of one of the youths said, "It was a private party, so I don't think the police have the right to intervene." Mumbai-based advocate Vivek Kantawala said the section applied to the alleged obscenity was only applicable in public places. P 2

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