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Karnataka Assembly Clears Bills on Honour Killings & Manuscript Preservation

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The Karnataka Legislative Assembly has passed key bills, including one to curb honour killings and another to preserve and digitise ancient manuscripts, aiming to strengthen social justice and cultural heritage protection.

Bill to Curb Honour Killings

The Assembly cleared the Karnataka Freedom of Choice in Marriage and Prevention and Prohibition of Crimes in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2026 (also called Eva Nammava Bill).

Seeks to prevent honour-based crimes linked to inter-caste/interfaith marriages

Upholds the right of adults to choose their partners freely

Provides strict punishment (minimum imprisonment for such crimes)

Covers not just killings but also violence, intimidation, and social boycott

The Bill is based on constitutional rights such as:

Article 14 (Equality)

Article 19 (Freedom)

Article 21 (Right to Life & Liberty)

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Bill for Manuscript Preservation & Digitisation

The Assembly also passed the Karnataka Jnana Bhandar Manuscripts and Digitisation Bill.

Proposes setting up a dedicated authority for manuscripts

Aims to digitise ~5 lakh pages annually

Focus on preserving ancient knowledge, culture, and heritage

Significance of the Bills

Strengthens protection of individual rights and social equality

Addresses rising cases of honour-based violence

Promotes digital preservation of India's cultural heritage

Enhances good governance and record management

Additional Facts:

Honour Killing:

? Killing of individuals by family/community for marrying against social norms

Supreme Court Stand:

? In *Shakti Vahini vs Union of India* (2018), honour killings were declared illegal and punishable

Basavanna (12th century):

? Social reformer promoting equality and anti-caste ideology (inspiration behind "Eva Nammava")

Manuscript Preservation in India:

? National Mission for Manuscripts (2003) under Ministry of Culture

Cultural Importance:

? India has one of the largest collections of ancient manuscripts (over 5 million estimated)