

Gathwala khap too pitches in

Our Correspondent

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The Gathwala (Malik) khap, the largest khap of Jats in north India, today resolved to curb female foeticide and took a pledge to make it a movement in society.

The resolution was adopted at a large congregation of representatives of the khap from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi to participate during the 145th birth anniversary celebrations of Dada Ghasi Ram at Tihar Malik village today.

The khap identified mainly two reasons for female foeticide -- one of the dowry practice and wasteful expenditure in marriages and other the atmosphere of insecurity for girls outside the house. They resolved to stop this wasteful expenditure and open mahila suraksha samitis at the village level on the pattern of UP.

The khap also announced that it was against honour killing and no khap panchayat had given such decisions. The khap also demanded an amendment in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, saying that the government should ban same gotra marriages.

The khap representative resolved that Baljit Singh Malik, Dada of the khap, and the Chhota Dada, Baba Harishan Malik, of Lisad village in Uttar Pradesh, would represent the khap before the Supreme Court in the case relating to the role of khap panchayats.

Baljit Singh Malik paid tributes to Dada Ghasi Ram who expired in 1951 at the age of 82. He said he was known for his honesty, social justice and impartiality. He was elected member of the Provincial Council in 1921 and designated with the powers of honorary magistrate.

Former union minister Satpal Malik, former MP Dharam Pal Singh Malik, former Deputy Speaker of the Haryana Assembly Kulbir Singh Malik, former minister Ved Singh Malik, vice-chairperson of the Haryana Women Commission Chander Prabha Malik, educationist Hoshiar Singh Malik and other prominent persons of the community also spoke.

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