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Indian legislators have tried to limit the abuses committed by people promising a better future through ritual and magical practices. However, these efforts have met with resistance, as opponents claim that religion itself is menaced. Indeed, the notion that the future may be foreseen through astrology or godly power, and that appropriate rituals can remedy or attenuate misfortune, is widely accepted in Indian society. While such practices are part of ordinary social and religious life, criminal developments sometimes happen as consequences of predictions, promises, threats, or perceived danger. A study of relevant court cases in India points to the pervasiveness of these situations, and suggests that the few existing ‘antisuperstition’ laws are actually seldom invoked: most of the issues are framed and decided according to general categories of the Indian Penal Code (fraud, extortion, rape, homicide, murder, etc.), for which the religious (or ‘superstitious’ according to the courts) dimension is at most a context but is not addressed per se. Figuring the future, and trying to forge it, is thus at the heart of two entangled debates in India: a religious one fuelled by the lack of consensus for distinguishing between ‘religious’ practices and ‘superstitious’ ones; and a juridical one, on whether it is advisable or not to enact specific new laws.