



# Achievement of Bihar Alcohol Ban

## Why in News?

According to new research published in the Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia journal, Bihar's alcohol ban in **2016** prevented **2.4 million cases** of daily and weekly consumption, and 2.1 million cases of intimate partner violence.

- The ban is also estimated to have prevented **1.8 million** men in the state from becoming overweight or obese.

## Key Points

- A team of researchers, including those from The [International Food Policy Research Institute](#), Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division, US, analysed data from national and district level health and household surveys.
- **Strict alcohol regulation policies** may yield significant population level **health benefits** for frequent drinkers and many victims of intimate partner violence.
- In April 2016, the [Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act, 2016](#) brought about a near complete halt on the manufacture, transport, sale, and consumption of alcohol throughout the state.
  - It's strict enforcement made the ban an "attractive natural experiment to estimate the true causal impacts of a strict alcohol restriction policy on health and domestic violence outcomes".
- According to [National Family Health Surveys-3, 4, and 5](#) before the ban, males in Bihar increased their frequent alcohol intake from **9.7 % to 15 %**, while in neighbouring states, it increased from **7.2 % to 10.3 %**.
- "After the ban 4.6 % points decrease in emotional violence and a 3.6 % points decrease in sexual violence have been observed.

## Constitutional Provisions Related to Intoxication

- **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) (Article 47):**
  - **Article 47** mentions that "in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health."
  - While DPSPs are not in themselves legally enforceable, they set goals that the state should aspire towards to establish conditions under which citizens can lead a good life.
  - Thus, alcohol is seen by the Constitution and by extension, the Indian state, as an undesirable evil that needs to be regulated.
- **Seventh Schedule:**
  - According to the [Seventh Schedule of the Constitution](#), alcohol is a state subject, i.e., state legislatures have the right and responsibility to draft laws regarding it, including "the production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of intoxicating liquors."
  - Thus, laws regarding alcohol differ from state to state, falling in the whole spectrum between prohibition and private sale.

# Domestic Violence Against Women

Domestic violence refers to any form of abuse, whether physical, emotional, sexual, or economic, within the confines of the home, family or domestic unit.



## National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS), 2019-2021

- ④ 29.3% of married women experienced domestic/sexual violence
- ④ 3.1% of pregnant women suffered physical violence during pregnancy
- ④ 87% of married women who are victims of marital violence do not seek help

### Legal Frameworks in India

<b>Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Covers physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse</li> <li>■ Provides various orders for protection, residence, and relief</li> </ul>
<b>Indian Penal Code, 1860</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Section 498A</b> deals with cruelty by a husband or his relatives</li> <li>■ Criminalises acts of <b>cruelty, harassment, or torture</b></li> </ul>
<b>Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Makes <b>giving or receiving dowry</b> a crime</li> </ul>
<b>Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Section 354A</b> amended the IPC to include <b>new offenses</b> related to <b>sexual harassment</b> in cases of <b>domestic violence</b></li> </ul>
<b>National Commission for Women Act, 1990</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Safeguards women's rights and plays a key role in addressing domestic violence</li> </ul>
<b>The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Prevent child marriages and prohibit domestic violence against child brides.</li> </ul>

### Global Initiatives

- ④ **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW):** Adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly
  - ④ Eliminating discrimination against women in all areas of life
- ④ **UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW):** First international instrument explicitly addressing violence against women
  - ④ Provides a framework for national and international action
- ④ **Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces:** Flagship program by UN Women
  - ④ Preventing and responding to sexual harassment and other forms of violence in public spaces
- ④ **Beijing Platform for Action (1995):** Identifies specific actions for governments to take to prevent and respond to violence
- ④ **SDG 5 (Gender Equality):** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere



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