



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

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

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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