



Child Marriages in Rajasthan

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan High Court** directed the state government to ensure that **no child marriages are solemnised in the state** and that village heads and panchayat members would be held accountable if such marriages happened.

Key Points

- The court's order came ahead of the [Akshay Tithiya festival on 10th May 2024](#), as several child marriages were solemnised on Akshay Tithiya in Rajasthan.
- The court, while hearing a [Public Interest Litigation \(PIL\)](#) by **Just Rights for Children Alliance** seeking the court's intervention to prevent child marriages, noted that despite the [Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006](#), child marriages are still taking place in the state.
 - Under **Section 11 of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006**, Sarpanch and Panch will be held responsible if they negligently fail to prevent child marriages from being solemnised.
- As per [Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Rules 1996](#), a duty is cast upon Sarpanch to restrict child marriages.

Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

- This Act replaced the **Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929** which was enacted during the British era.
- It defines a child to mean a male below **21 years and female below 18 years**.

Related Initiatives:

- **Dhanalakshmi Scheme:** It is a conditional cash transfer scheme for a girl child with insurance coverage.
 - It also aims to **eliminate child marriage by offering parents insurance** coverage of medical expenses and encouraging the education of the girl child.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP):** It aims to empower girls through education, health and protection, and discourage child marriage.