



Haryana Records Lowest Sex Ratio

Why in News?

According to the Haryana government, the [Sex Ratio at Birth \(SRB\)](#) of Haryana, infamous for [female foeticide](#), has **reached its lowest level in eight years**.

Key Points

- **Decline in Sex Ratio in Haryana:**
 - The sex ratio in Haryana was recorded at **905 for the first 10 months of 2024, which is a drop of 11 points from 2022**.
 - This is one of the **lowest figures since 2016**, indicating a persistent challenge for the state.
 - **Districts with Lowest Sex Ratios:**
 - Gurugram: 859
 - Rewari: 868
 - Charkhi Dadri: 873
 - Rohtak: 880
 - Panipat: 890
 - Mahendragarh: 896
 - Haryana remains **below the [World Health Organization's](#) recommended ideal sex ratio of 950**.
 - Gurugram's poor performance was partially attributed to **technical issues on the state portal** during June to August 2024, **resulting in fewer birth registrations**.
- **Impact of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Campaign:**
 - The [“Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” campaign](#), **launched in 2015**, initially **raised the sex ratio to 923 by 2019**.
 - However, a **decline began again in 2020**, with the trend continuing to the present.
- **Societal and Cultural Challenges:**
 - There remains a **preference for sons in Haryana**, driven by socio-economic factors and cultural norms.
 - Families fear potential dishonor from daughters eloping, consider dowry burdens, and see limited economic returns from girls.
- **Cross-State Impact of Gender Preference:**
 - **Neighboring states** like Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Rajasthan reportedly **attract Haryana residents for illegal gender-based abortions** due to less stringent regulations.
 - Ultrasound operators in these states sometimes misreport fetal gender for financial gain.
- **Enforcement and Challenges in Gender Testing:**
 - Since 2005, Haryana has conducted around 1,200 raids to **curb illegal gender determination**, but success rates are falling as practitioners become more cautious.
- **Social Consequences of Gender Imbalance:**
 - Due to a skewed sex ratio, many men in **Haryana struggle to find marriage partners**, with some villages reporting hundreds of unmarried men.
 - In some families, **neglect and [malnutrition](#)** disproportionately affect girls, leading to

health issues or early death.

Female Infanticide and Foeticide

- India has **one of the highest rates** of female foeticide in the world.
- Female foeticide is due to strong **son preference, the practice of dowry and the patrilineal necessity of heir.**
- The **census of 2011** has recorded the lowest ever sex ratio of 914 in the age group 0-6 years with 3 million missing girls; from 78.8 million in 2001 to 75.8 million in 2011.

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