



## Drive Launched to Curb Child Labour

### Why in News?

Recently, the administration in **Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district** has intensified efforts to **combat [child labor](#) and [begging](#)** while taking measures to **address the challenges faced by children living on the streets.**

### Key Points

- According to the officials, **collective efforts are essential to eradicate child exploitation** and create a safer environment for children.
- Authorities urged citizens to stay vigilant and **report any instances of child exploitation or violations.**
- **Anti-Beggary Drive in Katra:**
  - A joint '**Anti-Beggary and Children in Street Situations'** drive was conducted in Katra by the Child Helpline, in partnership with the Police and Health Departments.
  - During the drive, **11 children forced into beggary were rescued.**
- **Ongoing Rescue Initiatives:**
  - The Social Welfare Department will continue similar drives across the district.
  - The **objective is to rescue children from exploitation and ensure they lead a dignified life.**

### Child Labour in India

- According to the last available [Census 2011](#), there were 10.1 million child labourers in India.
- **India's biggest child labour employers** states are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra.
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
  - **The [Article 23](#)** of the Indian Constitution prohibits human trafficking and begar (forced labour without payment) to protect the millions of underprivileged and deprived people of the country.
    - The right is available to **citizens of India as well as to non-citizens.**
    - The right provides against human trafficking in the form of:
      - Selling and buying of men, women and children.
      - Prostitution
      - [Devadasis](#)
      - Slavery.
  - The [Immoral Traffic \(Prevention\) Act, 1956](#) has been enacted to deal with violations of this fundamental right.
  - [Article 24](#) of the Indian Constitution forbids employment of children below the age of 14 years in hazardous work like factories and mines.
    - However, it did not prohibit their employment in any harmless or innocent work.
    - The [Child Labour \(Prohibition and Regulation\) Act, 1986](#) (renamed as [Child & Adolescent Labour \(Prohibition and Regulation\) Act, 1986](#) in 2016) specifically deals with the violations related to Prohibition of employment of children (below the age fourteen years) in factories, etc.
      - The [2016 amendment](#) of this act completely prohibited employment of

children below 14 years of age in all occupations and processes.

- It also **prohibited the employment of adolescents** (14-18 years of age) in hazardous occupations or processes.
- **Articles 39** states that, the State shall in particular, direct its policies towards securing:
  - Right to an adequate means of livelihood to all the citizens.
  - The ownership and control of material resources shall be organised in a manner to serve the common good.
  - The State shall avoid concentration of wealth in a few hands.
  - Equal pay for equal work for both men and women.
  - The protection of the strength and health of the workers.
  - Childhood and youth shall not be exploited.

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