



# Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

[Source: PIB](#)

## Why in News?

Recently, the [Ministry of Women and Child Development](#) launched the [Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat Abhiyan](#), a national campaign aimed at **eradicating child marriage** in India.

- The campaign aligns with India's commitment to gender equality and the broader vision of a **developed nation (Viksit Bharat) by 2047**.

## What are the Key Highlights of the Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat Abhiyan?

- **Child Marriage Free Bharat Portal:** An innovative online platform that allows citizens to report child marriage incidents, file complaints, and access information about **Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs)** across the nation.
  - The launch coincides with the **16 Days of Activism** against **Gender-Based Violence**, a global movement running from **25th November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women)** to **10th December (Human Rights Day)**.
    - **CMPOs** prevent child marriages, collect prosecution evidence, counsel against such marriages, raise awareness of their harmful effects, and sensitize communities.
- **Pledge Against Child Marriage:** This campaign aims to eliminate child marriage and empower every daughter in the nation, highlighting its profound significance in fostering a fair and just society.
  - The campaign will target states with higher-than-average child marriage rates namely **West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Tripura, Assam, and Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Acknowledging Achievements:**
  - During the launch of the campaign, the Minister highlighted the significant strides made in the empowerment of women, citing the improvement in the **sex ratio at birth from 918 in 2014-15 to 930 in 2023-24**.
  - The portal is a significant step in empowering citizens and enforcing the [Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006](#).
    - Under this act, marriages involving girls under 18 and boys under 21 are strictly prohibited.
- **Significance:**
  - **Support for Girls' Education and Empowerment:** Aligned with the [National Education Policy 2020](#), this campaign reflects ongoing government efforts to **promote gender equality** through initiatives supporting girls' education and social empowerment.
  - **Eradication of Child Marriage:** The campaign acknowledged the significant role of **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** and **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana** in raising awareness.

## What are the Legislative Framework Related to Child Marriage in India?

- **Legislative Framework:** India enacted the Prohibition of [Child Marriage Act in 2006](#), establishing the legal age for **marriage at 21 for men and 18 for women**.
  - **Section 16** of the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act** allows **State Governments** to

appoint '**Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPO)**' for specific areas.

- Government has introduced a bill namely 'the **Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021** for raising the age of marriage of **women to 21 years** to make it at par with the men. The Bill **ultimately lapsed** with the dissolution of the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha.

▪ **Laws Related:**

- **POCSO Act:** The men who married girls below 14 years of age would be booked under the **Protection of Children From Sexual Offences (POCSO)** Act and those marrying girls between the age of 14 and 18 years would be booked under the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006.**

## UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims

**Q. With reference to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, consider the following: (2010)**

1. The Right to Development
2. The Right to Expression
3. The Right to Recreation

**Which of the above is/are the Rights of the child?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (d)**