



# Child Marriage Free India Campaign

## Why in News?

Recently, **Union women and child development minister launched the “Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat Campaign”** or child marriage free India campaign portal to **help girls achieve their potential** by checking practices such as [child marriages](#).

- This campaign targets **seven high-burden states**: West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Tripura, Assam, and Andhra Pradesh.
- Focus areas include 300 districts where child marriage rates exceed the national average.
- The goal is to **reduce the prevalence of child marriages to below 5% by 2029**.

## Key Points

- **Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat Campaign:**
  - The campaign advocates for **legislative changes to ensure 18 as the minimum age of marriage without exceptions**.
  - It provides **legal protection for children** and aims to prevent child marriages effectively.
- **Role of the Child Marriage Monitoring Portal:**
  - It will help monitor **Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs)** with better supervision and evaluation.
  - User-friendly tools to encourage **reporting by victims and witnesses**.
  - **Easy access to information** for better communication and support.
- **Multi-Pronged Approach to Address Child Marriage:**
  - Focus areas include:
    - National Education Policy integration.
    - Health, financial security, and safety.
    - Social awareness campaigns.
- **Citizen Participation and Gender-Inclusive Initiatives:**
  - Citizens are encouraged to **pledge to prevent child marriages and report cases to authorities**.
  - The government has launched initiatives like [Nari Adalats \(women’s courts\)](#).
    - A Guide on Gender-Inclusive Communication to address gender biases.
  - [Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative](#) that aimed to bring societal change in perceptions toward the girl child.
- **India’s Global Recognition in Reducing Child Marriages**
  - **India has been globally acknowledged**, with UN reports attributing **South Asia’s largest decline in child marriages** to India's efforts.
  - In 2006, child marriage rates were **47.4%** and in 2019-21 they are **declined to 23.3%**.
  - According to government data, child marriage rates have **declined from 47.4% in 2006 to 23.3% in 2019-21**.
- **Supreme Court’s Role and Recommendations:**
  - In October 2024, the Supreme Court ruled that [the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006](#) supersedes personal laws.
  - **Recommendations include:**
    - Community-driven approaches and preventive measures.
    - Multi-sectoral coordination and capacity building for law enforcement.

- **Vision for a Developed India by 2047:**

- The campaign aligns with the broader goal of creating a developed India by 2047 with girls at the center of women-led development.

## **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Initiative**

- It was **launched in January 2015** with the aim to address **sex selective abortion and the declining child sex ratio** which was at 918 girls for every 1,000 boys in 2011.
- This is a **joint initiative** of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development.

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/child-marriage-free-india-campaign>

