



# Task Force to Eradicate Child Marriage

## Why in News?

The Bihar government is going to constitute a state level 'task force' under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to prevent and [eliminate child marriage](#) in the state .

## Key Points

- **Objectives and functions of the Task Force:**
  - To effectively guide the police and other agencies in preventing child marriage.
  - To ensure strict disposal of cases related to **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA)**.
  - Enhancing coordination between **Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPO)** and **Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU)**.
  - Appointment of Child Marriage Protection Officers at every district and sub-division level.
- **Status of child marriage in the state:**
  - According to the [National Family Health Survey \(NFHS\)-5](#), Bihar ranks **second** after West Bengal in terms of rate of child marriage in the country .
  - According to the report, **40.8 % of women in the state are married before the age of 18**.
- **Other efforts to eradicate child marriage:**
  - Interactive meetings with girl students in schools under [the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign](#) .
  - Cash reward of up to Rs 5000 for providing verified information under [Informer Incentive Scheme](#) .
  - **Organizing awareness camps in rural areas** to inform the community about the ill effects of child marriage.

## Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Campaign

- 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.
- The programme is being **implemented across 405 districts in the country**.

## Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

- **About:**
  - Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 It is an act of the Government of India, which has been **implemented to prevent child marriage in the society**.
- **Key provisions of the Act:**
  - Under this Act, **marriage of a man below 21 years of age or a woman below 18 years of age will be categorized as child marriage**.
    - Under this child marriage has been considered a punishable offence.
  - Also, under this Act, any **adult man who solemnizes a child marriage or any person solemnizing the child marriage shall be punished** with rigorous imprisonment for a

- term of two years, or with fine of up to one lakh rupees, or with both, but no woman shall be punished with imprisonment.
- The offences committed under this Act will be **cognizable and non-bailable.**
  - Under this Act, there is also a provision to declare the marriage of a minor child invalid.

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