



## World Children's Day

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World Children's Day is celebrated on **20<sup>th</sup> November** each year to promote international togetherness and awareness among children worldwide, and improve children's welfare.

- 20<sup>th</sup> November is an important date as:
  - The **United Nations (UN) General Assembly** adopted the **Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959**.
  - The UN General Assembly adopted the **Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989**.
- To commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the **United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF)** undertook the '**Go Blue**' **campaign** wherein landmark buildings around the world lit up blue on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to show support for child rights.  
**Indian Parliament** was also part of the same.

### Convention on the Rights of the Child

- It is a treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in **1989**.
- Under the Convention, every human being **under 18** years old is **recognized as a child**.
- It sets out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities.
  - It includes rights such as Right to Education, Right to Rest and Leisure, Right to Protection from Mental or Physical Abuse including Rape and Sexual Exploitation.
- It is the **world's most widely ratified human rights treaty**.

### Initiatives Taken by India

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- **India** celebrates **Children's Day** on **14<sup>th</sup> November** every year.
- India **ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child** in 1992.

- The **under-5 mortality rate has fallen** significantly from the 1990 level of 117 per 1000 live births to **39 in 2016**.
- The number of **children having access to drinking water** has increased from 62% in 1992 to 92% in 2019.
- The **National Policy for Children, 2013** was adopted to affirm the Government's commitment to a rights based approach in addressing the continuing and emerging challenges in the situation of children.
- **The Right to Education Act 2009**, has increased primary school attendance rates for girls from 61% to near universal in the same period.
- **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006** saw prevalence of child marriage declining from 47% girls married before age 18 in 2005-2006, to 27% in 2015-2016.
- With novel programmes and approaches like **Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao**, child friendly schools, child budgets and **POSHAN Abhiyan**, the States and the Union government are ensuring that children have adequate protection and opportunities for growth and development.

## Way Forward

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- The Government needs to **focus on the nutrition of children** as presently 21% of children under age five years are wasted and 36% of children under age five years are underweight.
- The Government also needs to ensure **inclusive education** by placing special focus on securing education to the more vulnerable differently abled children.

**Source: PIB**