



# Ensuring Child Welfare and Support: Mission Vatsalya Scheme

**For Prelims:** [Mission Vatsalya](#), Ministry of women and child development, Integrated Child Protection Scheme

**For Mains:** Mission Vatsalya, Government Policies & Interventions, Issues Related to Children

**Source:** [PIB](#)

## Why in News?

[Mission Vatsalya](#), launched by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, ensures children's safety and security in India.

- **Child Welfare and Protection Committee (CW&PC) at village level will identify the children** who are eligible for support likely to be in difficult circumstances, orphans, street children etc. These children **will be facilitated under the sponsorship component of Mission Vatsalya Scheme.**
- Sponsorship facilities will be provided based on the recommendation of the **Child Welfare Committee (CWC)** and approval from the Sponsorship and **Foster Care Approval Committee (SFCAC).**

## What is Mission Vatsalya?

- **Historical Perspective:**
  - **Pre-2009:** Ministry of Women and Child Development implemented three schemes:
    - Juvenile justice program for children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with the law.
    - Integrated program for street children.
    - Scheme for assistance to children's homes.
  - **2010:** These schemes merged into the Integrated Child Protection Scheme.
  - **2017:** Renamed as the **Child Protection Services Scheme.**
  - **2021-22:** Reintroduced as **Mission Vatsalya.**
- **About:**
  - Umbrella scheme for child protection services in India.
  - Aims to secure a healthy and happy childhood for every child in the country.
  - Components of Mission Vatsalya include:
    - Improving the **functioning of statutory bodies.**
    - Strengthening service delivery structures.
    - Upscaling **institutional care and services.**
    - Encouraging **non-institutional community-based care.**
    - Providing **emergency outreach services.**
    - **Training and capacity building.**

#### ▪ Objectives:

- Ensure opportunities for **children to reach their full potential** and flourish in all aspects.
- Foster a **sensitive, supportive, and synchronized ecosystem for child development.**
- Assist states and union territories in implementing the [Juvenile Justice Act, of 2015](#).
- Achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

#### ▪ Modes of Non-Institutional Care for Children:

- **Sponsorship:**
  - **Government Aided Sponsorship:** Financial assistance provided through government funds.
  - **Private Aided Sponsorship:** Financial assistance provided through private sources or individuals.
- **Foster Care:**
  - The responsibility of **caring and rehabilitating the child** is undertaken by an unrelated family.
  - **Financial support is provided to the foster parents** for nurturing the child.
- **Adoption:**
  - Finding suitable families for children who are **legally free for adoption.**
  - The **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** facilitates the adoption process.
- **Aftercare:**
  - Financial support is provided to children **leaving a Child Care Institution upon turning 18 years old.**
  - This support helps them **reintegrate into society and become self-dependent.**
  - Assistance may be extended from the **age of 18 years up to 21 years, with the possibility of extension up to 23 years.**

**Note:** Every district will **have a SFCAC to implement and monitor the Sponsorship and Foster Care programme** as provided under the Mission.

#### What are Child Welfare Committees?

- Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) are constituted by **state governments** for each **district or group of districts to protect and care for children in need.**
- Each CWC consists of a **Chairperson and four members**, including at **least one woman and one expert on matters concerning children.**
- The **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**, mandates the establishment of at least one CWC in every district.
- CWCs perform functions and roles as defined in the Juvenile Justice Act/Rules, subject to amendments.
- CWC functions as a Bench of Magistrates and has the authority to dispose of cases related to the **care, protection, treatment, development, and rehabilitation of children.**
- Mission Vatsalya provides infrastructure and financial support to states/UTs for setting up and ensuring the effective functioning of CWCs.