



Surajpur Becomes Model for Child Marriage Eradication | Chhattisgarh | 22 Sep 2025

Why in News?

Surajpur district in Chhattisgarh has made a remarkable achievement by declaring 75 of its village panchayats as "**Child Marriage-Free Panchayats**" on 17th September 2025.

- This recognition marks a major victory for the district's relentless social reform efforts and public awareness campaigns under the "**Healthy Women, Empowered Families**" initiative.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - The announcement of the 75 child marriage-free panchayats coincided with the launch of [National Nutrition Month](#) and the ongoing "Healthy Women, Empowered Families" campaign. These panchayats were recognized for having reported no cases of child marriage in the past two years.
 - On 10th March 2024, Chief Minister **Vishnu Deo Sai** launched the "**Child Marriage-Free Chhattisgarh Campaign**" with the support of [UNICEF](#). The initiative aims to make the entire state child marriage-free through active awareness, monitoring, and community participation.
- **Implementation:**
 - The **Women and Child Development Department** led consistent awareness drives in the region.
 - **Anganwadi workers, panchayat representatives, and voluntary organizations** played a crucial role in spreading awareness about the detrimental effects of child marriage.
 - Educational dialogues emphasized the importance of **child rights, education**, and the necessity of **delaying marriage** to ensure better health and socio-economic outcomes for girls.
 - This created a shift in mindset where **parents began prioritizing education and self-reliance** for their daughters over early marriage.

Child Marriage

- [UNICEF](#) categorizes child marriage as a human rights violation due to its adverse impacts on the development of both girls and boys.
- [Sustainable Development Goal 5.3](#) states that Child marriage elimination is pivotal in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5, aiming for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls by 2030.
- According to the UN, 1 in 5 young women worldwide (19%) were married in childhood in 2022.

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

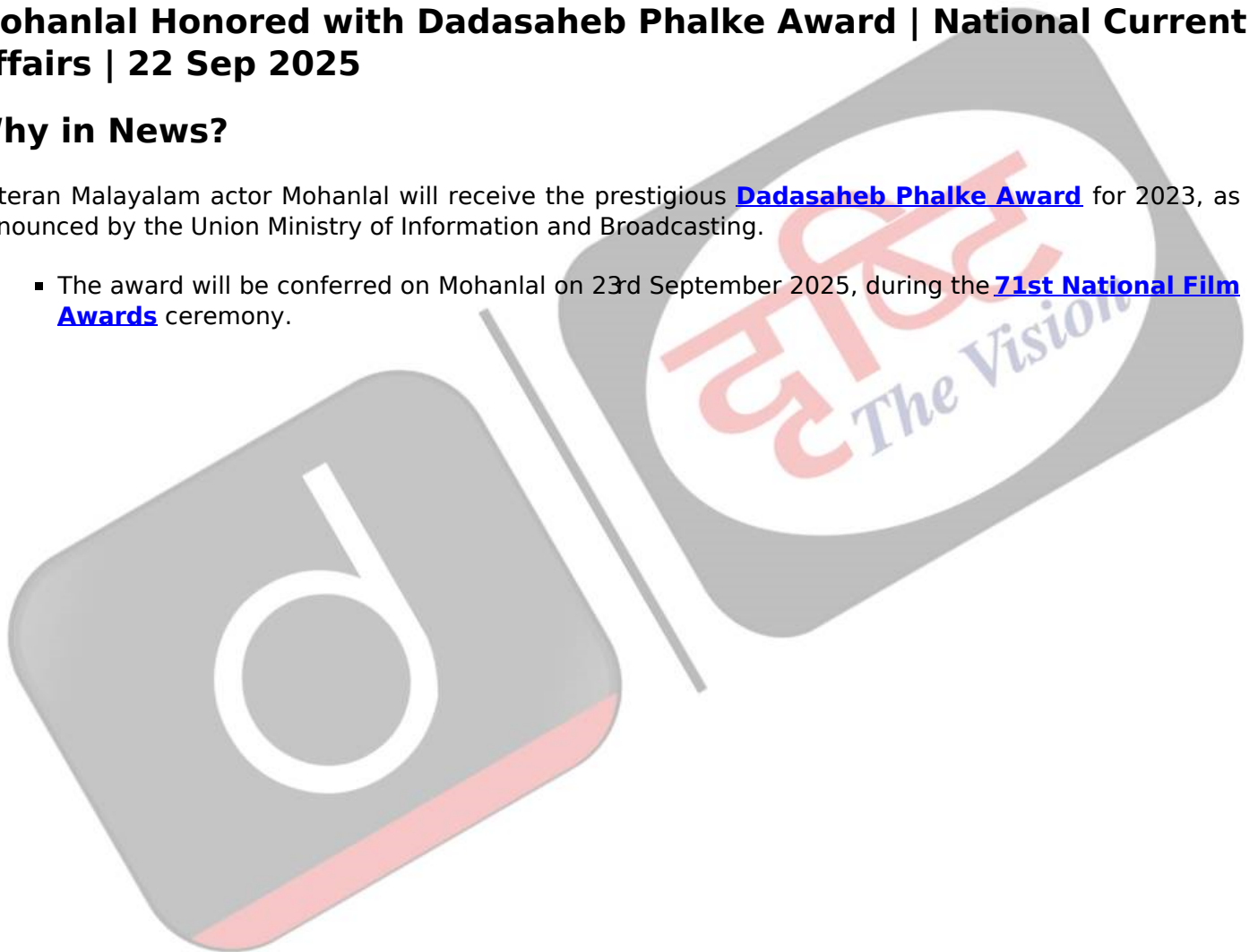
- 'Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPO)' for specific areas.
- CMPOs are responsible for preventing child marriages, collecting evidence for prosecutions, counseling against promoting or aiding such marriages, raising awareness about their harmful effects, and sensitizing communities
 - The government 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 men.
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Mohanlal Honored with Dadasaheb Phalke Award | National Current Affairs | 22 Sep 2025

Why in News?

Veteran Malayalam actor Mohanlal will receive the prestigious [Dadasaheb Phalke Award](#) for 2023, as announced by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

- The award will be conferred on Mohanlal on 23rd September 2025, during the [71st National Film Awards](#) ceremony.





Key Points

- **About:** Born on 21st May 1960, in Pathanamthitta, Mohanlal began his acting career with **Thiranottam (1978)** and debuted as a villain in **Manjil Virinja Pookkal (1980)**.
 - By 1986, his role in **Rajavinte Makan** established him as **Malayalam cinema's first modern superstar**.
 - With over 45 years and 400 films to his name, Mohanlal remains a defining figure in **Mollywood**, starring in notable films like **Thanmathra, Iruvar, Drishyam**, and **Lucifer**.
 - He won the **National Film Award for Best Actor** in 1991 and received the **Padma Shri** in 2001 and the **Padma Bhushan** in 2019.
- **Dadasaheb Phalke Award:**
 - It is the **country's highest film honour**, introduced in 1969, conferred for "Outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema".
 - It was awarded for the first time to **Devika Rani**, "the first lady of Indian cinema".
 - This award includes a '**Swarna Kamal**,' a cash prize of INR 10 lakh, a certificate, a silk roll, and a shawl.
 - The **President** of India presents it.
- **Dhundiraj Govind Phalke:**
 - He was an Indian producer, director, and screenwriter who directed India's first feature film, **Raja Harishchandra (1913)**.
 - He is known as the "**Father of Indian Cinema**".

