

No. 15011/69/2024-SC/ST-W
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
(Women Safety Division)

Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium
Near India Gate, New Delhi-110002,
Dated 5th May 2025

To,

1. The Chief Secretaries
(All states, UT of Delhi and Puducherry)
2. The Administrators
(Union Territories)

Subject: Judgement dated 18th October, 2024 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (C) No. 1234 of 2017 titled "Society for Enlightenment and Voluntary Action & Anr. Vs Union of India & Ors" on effective implementation of The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA) - regarding

Sir/Madam

I am directed to invite your attention towards Judgement dated 18th October, 2024 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, pronounced in Writ Petition (C) No. 1234 of 2017 titled "Society for Enlightenment and Voluntary Action & Anr. Vs Union of India & Ors, whereby Hon'ble Court has passed several directions regarding effective implementation of The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA) (copy enclosed).

2. Hon'ble Supreme Court has noted that although the number of child marriages has declined, the malpractice is still prevalent despite enactment of PCMA Act and has further highlighted the need for multi-sectoral coordination through the collective efforts of all the stakeholders to address the issue within a broader social framework for success of PCMA Act as a social legislation to eliminate child marriage. The concerted effort from all stake holders requires an intersectional approach ranging from the enhancement of reporting mechanisms, expansion of public awareness campaigns, investment in the training and capacity-building of law enforcement officers and related actors to regular monitoring the implementation of the Act, conducting evaluations to identify gaps and establish feedback mechanisms to continually refine and improve responses to child marriage.

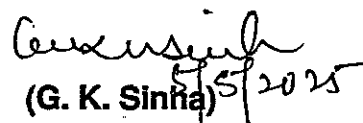
3. The Government of India attaches the highest importance to matters relating to the safety of children; and therefore, the Union Government has been advising the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time to effectively deal with crimes against children. The social evil of child marriage has severe consequences for wellbeing and holistic development of children as it foster the environment of exploitation and suffering of children, depriving them from meaningful education, training opportunities, proper growth and all possible avenues of development which results hampering of the nation's social & economic progress.

4. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has delineated specific guidelines to address the issue of prevalence of child marriages in holistic manner including effective implementation of frame-work under PCMA Act. It is therefore requested to ensure compliance of directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court and take proactive steps to tackle child marriages with enhanced focus.

5. Further, one of the directions is to consider the viability of integrating the Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) established under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 into the child marriage prevention framework. In this regard it is requested to evaluate the effectiveness of this integration and provide views/comments on benefits and drawbacks including requirement for additional resources and support for optimal performance in preventing Child Marriage.

6. You are requested to kindly issue suitable directions to all concerned on the above issues under intimation to this Ministry and provide your views on the issue mentioned in Para 5 above.

Yours faithfully


(G. K. Sinha) 5/5/2025

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Copy to:-

1. The ACS/ Principal Secretary/Secretary
Home Department (All States/ UTs)
2. The DGsP (All States/ UTs)
3. The Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police
4. The Director General, Bureau of Police Research and Training, New Delhi
5. The Director, National Crime Records Bureau, New Delhi
6. Office of Commissioner, NCPDR, New Delhi

Copy for information to :-

The Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi