



THE BRIEFCASE



ISSUE #11

PGCL
NEWSLETTER

November 2025



Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come!

'The Briefcase' is back with a Children's Day edition, celebrating the day we honour the smallest citizens with the biggest rights. November 14th reminds us that children may be young, but they shape conversations, challenge norms, and question the world with surprising precision.

This edition looks closely at the environments in which children live, learn, and grow, from access to education and basic protection systems to the digital spaces that now form a significant part of their lives. It also reflects on how current laws and policies address these realities and where meaningful gaps still remain.

We're not here to debate whether homework is a human rights violation (yet). Instead, this issue explores key themes such as vulnerability, welfare mechanisms, digital dilemmas, and the broader structures that define childhood today.

Our writers have examined legislation, stories, and social theory to bring together an edition shaped by insight, context, and clear reflection. Through this process, one thing becomes evident: children are not only the future; they are an active presence whose needs and perspectives deserve careful attention.

Whether you're curious about children's rights or simply enjoy thoughtful reading, welcome. Expect measured takes, grounded observations, and ideas that stay with you.

Let's step into this issue with curiosity and care, because understanding childhood is essential to shaping a responsible tomorrow.

The Editorial Board x

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- Tracing the Evolution of Juvenile Justice in India

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THE POST-ITS

- Your monthly dose of 'Did you know?'

THE BINDER



Your essential collection of the latest legal updates, neatly organised for a quick reference.

Guarding Childhood in the Digital Age: Analysing MEITY's 2025 Draft Data Protection Rules

India's trajectory towards a structured child-data governance framework began with the enactment of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act), which provided baseline rights for data principles and obligations for data fiduciaries. However, operative details were left to delegated legislation. To address some of these ambiguities, the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) issued the 2025 Draft Data Protection Rules ("Rules"), seeking to operationalise the Act by setting out compliance mechanisms, standards for verification, sector-specific responsibilities, and consent mechanisms, especially in relation to children.

The Rules acknowledge that children occupy a unique status in the digital ecology, as early adopters of technology and especially vulnerable data subjects. Research suggests that Indian children are now getting online earlier than ever, often without parental engagement, thereby increasing risks to their rights through profiling, manipulation, addictive design, and targeted advertising. In this context, the 2025 Draft Rules aim to establish a more consistent compliance framework for those processing children's data while recognising the operational needs of schools, healthcare institutions, and service providers with a child user base. Sections 9 and 10 of the DPDP Act are central to this architecture as they define consent standards, notice obligations, and duties of entities processing a child's personal data. Section 9 of the draft rules builds a procedural bridge between the DPDP Act's broad protections and the practical need for verifiable, auditable, and transparent data-handling norms in digital environments used by minors.

Key Provisions for Children Under the 2025 Draft Rule

The Rules put in place a more formalised system for the governance of children's data, aiming to bring functional clarity to the statutory protections under the DPDP Act. Section 9 remains the focal point for defining how data

fiduciaries should engage with children and their parents or guardians.

- **Verifiable Parental Consent**

The Rules require verifiable parental consent for data processing of a child in accordance with the requirements of the DPDP Act under Section 9 of the DPDP Act, and Rule 10 of the Draft Rules lays down verification mechanisms that might be applied: DigiLocker-based identity checks, self-declarations supported by details on the identity of adults, or token systems issued by authorised verification entities. In allowing flexibility, the Rules accommodate different operational models while maintaining the protection of the child as the main objective.

- **Profiling and Behavioural Tracking Restrictions**

The Rules reinforce the prohibition under the Act against platforms engaging in tracking, behavioural monitoring or targeted advertising likely to have a "detrimental effect" on children (S.9(4)). Rule 10(3):

-Profiling or behaviour prediction,
-cross-service tracking, and targeted or personalised advertising to minors.

This aligns with global standards of the UK Age-Appropriate Design Code (ICO Code), which also restricts manipulative digital design. However, the Rules also introduce limited exemptions, where Central Government might grant permission for behavioural monitoring or age-appropriate recommendations if the platform processes the data and does so in a 'verifiably safe manner.' This is indicative of a risk-based approach rather than an outright prohibition.

- **Limited Exemptions for Essential Services**

The Rules contain a narrow exemption for limited processing of children's data by certain entities under the Fourth Schedule of the Draft, but only to the extent strictly necessary for the service and subject to safety and data minimisation transparency obligations for children's data remaining in place to prevent over-collection or secondary use. These entities include schools, healthcare providers, transport providers for children, and childcare providers, for the processing of children's data to provide essential services.



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- Transparency and Right to Withdrawal

The platforms should give clear and accessible notice regarding what information is collected, the reason for processing, and how a parent may revoke consent. Entities processing children's data need to designate contact points through a Data Protection Officer for addressing relevant grievances.

Implications and Remaining Obstacles

The Rules lay down significant operational obligations for platforms that interact with children. EdTech companies, games and social media will need to develop revised onboarding protocols, verification requirements, and advertising practices. However, smaller service providers may not benefit from this flexibility and may find compliance burdensome. For parents, the Rules provide increased visibility and control over their child's data, but may also incur frictional costs in terms of accessing digital spaces, particularly in shared-device households. Beyond this change of law, there are still challenges to overcome: verifying parenthood in a country with varied guardianship arrangements, eradicating potential misuse of

self-declarations, and monitoring whether exemptions are excessively relied on by organisations tasked with children's sensitive data and information.

Conclusion

MeitY's Draft Data Protection Rules 2025 represent a significant step in India's attempt to establish a safer digital environment for the minor population. Through promoting operationalising child-specific provisions set out by the DPDP Act, the Rules aim to mitigate risks of digital manipulations, profiling and obscured data practices. The success of the Rules will depend on the execution of practical practices, industry responsiveness, and parental efforts to understand the changing digital landscape.

Ms. Rucha Kankal
Student, 3rd year



Credits: Pinterest



Credits: InsightsIAS



Credits: Pinterest



THE BINDER

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Tracing the Evolution of Juvenile Justice in India

India's shift from punitive juvenile policy to a children rights-oriented system began with its first uniform legislation Juvenile Justice Act, 1986. This statute was procedure-centric. After India ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992, it became clear that the 1986 Act lacked rehabilitation-centric safeguards.

Reforming the Juvenile Regime

The global alignment necessitated an overhaul of the juvenile justice framework. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 was enacted to introduce diversion, child-friendly mechanisms, and a uniform age of 18 years for all juveniles. It explicitly distinguished children in conflict with law (CCLs) from children in need of care and protection (CNCP). It carved two distinct categories for adjudication and welfare intervention.



Credits: Bhatt and Joshi Associates

In Pratap Singh v. State of Jharkhand, 2005 (3) SCC 551, the Supreme Court fortified the protective intent by ruling that juvenility is determined on the date of the alleged offence. This principle ensured that the benefit of juvenility could not be denied because of delays in investigation or trial.

Despite progressive legislative intent and supportive judicial precedent, ground realities remained concerning. There existed operational inefficiency, shortage of trained personnel, weak monitoring of child care institutions, and delays in establishing Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) which created significant gaps in implementation. Public dissatisfaction grew, especially with the perception that juvenile offenders were escaping accountability.

Reconfiguring Juvenile Responsibility

The infamous 2012 Delhi gang-rape incident (Mukesh & Anr. v. State of NCT of Delhi, [2017] 6 S.C.R. 1) placed the 2000 Act under intense national scrutiny. The brutality inflicted on the victim shocked the nation, leading to public outcry to lower the age of juvenility. However, SC in Dr. Subramanian Swamy and Ors. v. Raju Through Member, Juvenile Justice Board and Anr., 2013 (10) SCC 465 reaffirmed that the juvenile justice system must remain fundamentally reformative.



Credits: Advocate Tanwar

Against a backdrop of intense public pressure, Parliament adopted a calibrated approach through the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. The statute introduced a dual-track system for children aged 16 to 18 who are alleged to have committed heinous offences. Under Section 15, the JJB conducts a preliminary assessment of the child's mental and physical capacity, ability to understand consequences, and the circumstances of the alleged act. This assessment is a threshold inquiry and not a trial. Upon finding adequate grounds, it may transfer the matter to the Children's Court under Section 18 (3). The Act also created statutory classification of offences into petty, serious, and heinous categories under Section 2.



Credits: Michigan Alliance for Families

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Administrative Realignment and Procedural Streamlining

The Juvenile Justice Amendment Act, 2021 attempted to correct operational deficiencies. It reassigned several offences from the heinous category to the serious category, empowered District Magistrates to issue adoption orders under Section 61, and vested them with authority over registration, inspection, and grievance mechanisms for Child Care Institutions.

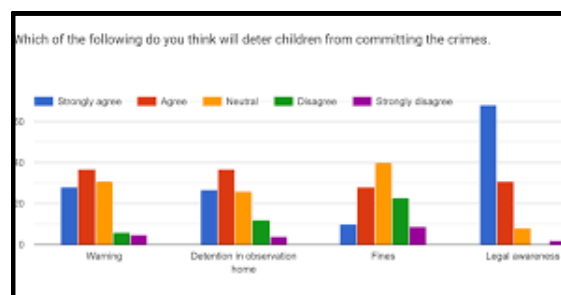
These reforms aimed to streamline administration, although concerns were raised about expanding executive control in sensitive child protection matters. In Om Prakash v. Union of India, 2025 INSC 43, the SC held that a claim of juvenility may be raised at any stage, including after disposal of the case, and reiterated the centrality of rehabilitation as the governing objective.



Credits: Hindustan Times



Credits: Business Standard



Conclusion

Nearly four decades have passed since the first central law on juvenile justice, however it still has procedural irregularities and weak enforcement of mandate. The vulnerable segment continues to suffer from the lack of accessibility and often attain majority before their cases conclude, resulting in lost rehabilitative opportunity. While juveniles in conflict with law declined from 37,402 in 2017 to 33,261 in 2022, the proportion apprehended for violent offences has increased.

The trend signals that, despite successive reforms, effective and uniform implementation remains the system's central challenge.



Credits: The Print

Ms. Ishani Mohan
Student, 3rd Year

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THE GAVEL



The strike of the mallet, in recent judgements, summarised for easy reading.

Society for Enlightenment and Voluntary Action & Anr. V Union of India & Ors

Introduction

The Society for Enlightenment and Voluntary Action filed a writ petition under Article 32 of the Indian Constitution, raising serious concerns over the continued prevalence of child marriages in India. The NGO seeks stronger enforcement of Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA) and greater support for children affected by this practice.

Background

The primary concern of the petitioner is that despite the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006, the rate of child marriages in India has not declined. Child marriage continues to be a social evil, and its commission is a criminal offence. The primary causes leading to this practice are gender inequality, lack of education and awareness, and widespread unemployment. Importantly, the UN Convention on Rights of Child also regards child marriage as a violation of human rights, underscoring the urgent need for both national and global action.

Procedural History

On 13 April 2018, the Supreme Court of India served a notice to the Union of India. Later, on 13 April 2023, it ordered the Ministry of Women and Child Development to submit a detailed report outlining the information gathered from different States regarding child marriage prevalence, the measures adopted to enforce the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), and the policy initiatives taken by the central government to achieve its objectives.

Issues

- Whether the competent authorities have taken measures during last five years in effectively preventing and prosecuting the cases of child marriage as provided under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
- Whether more awareness campaigns, community involvement and more extensive structural reform is urgently needed if the practice of child marriage is to be eliminated.
- If Child betrothal may have any legal recognition under current law.
- Whether the appointment and functioning of Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) are adequate and in conformity with the legislative mandate.



Credits: Council of Foreign Relations



Credits: UNICEF

THE GAVEL



The strike of the mallet, in recent judgements, summarised for easy reading.

Ruling

The bench consisting of former CJI DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Mishra noted that child marriages interfere with the autonomy, free will of a child. Disagreeing with the decision The Supreme Court recommended the parliament to review PCMA Act (Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006).

The Court declared child marriage, and child betrothals illegal. It also released a set of recommendations to prevent and eliminate child marriage in India.

The Court also directed that this judgement would be circulated to all relevant ministries and organisations under the Government of India.

Conclusion

The court upholds the belief that every child, irrespective of gender, has the right to autonomy and freedom from coercive social practices to bring forth equality with dignity. By ruling both child marriage and betrothals illegal, the court has reasserted the constitutional provision to save children from being exploited. The judgment has reinforced the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and would enable proper functioning of CMPOs. This would not only help promote awareness but all education in different communities.

Ms. Kinjal Sinha
Student, 2nd Year

Credits: The Medium

MILLIONS OF GIRLS
ARE MARRIED AS
CHILDREN. THIS FACT
HARMS OUR HUMAN
FAMILY AND REMINDS
US HOW DEEPLY
BIASED OUR WORLD
STILL IS AGAINST
MOTHERS, SISTERS
AND DAUGHTERS. WE
NOW HAVE A MORAL
DUTY TO END ONE OF
HUMANKIND'S MOST
DESTRUCTIVE
TRADITIONS-
DESMOND TUTU



Credits: UNICEF

THE COMMENTARY



Straight from the commentary box of our editorial board, curated reads to expand your legal mind.

Courage, Compassion, and the Quest for Child Protection

When a childhood is stolen by cruelty and deception, can justice and courage reclaim what was lost? The Hindi film *Lakshmi*, which opened the London Asian Film Festival in 2014, delves into this question powerfully through a story of a young 14-year-old girl who is deceived by a man, who she thinks is a well-wisher but she is kidnapped, trafficked and forced into prostitution. The movie is based on a true story, which portrays Lakshmi's painful yet inspiring journey from being a victim of exploitation to becoming a symbol of resilience and justice. The narrative vividly illustrates the legal, social and emotional challenges faced by children who become victims of systematic abuse and negligence.

The film highlights the objectives of Juvenile Justice Act and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, but also brings our attention to the lacunae in India's child protection and justice mechanisms and emphasizes the need of a child-friendly judicial process. The film also underscores that the juvenile law in our country recognizes children as individuals in need of protection, rehabilitation, and empowerment but at the same time critiques how in actual practice, innocent individuals and young children often get trapped into insensitive police procedures, lack of rehabilitation and rampant corruption in our country.



Credits: Bar and Bench

Lakshmi is the only survivor who refuses to succumb to fear and instead chooses to confront the very system that sought to silence her. The film portrays that even in darkest circumstances, courage and compassion can become forces of change, leaving the audience to reflect on the true meaning of justice and protection of children which goes way beyond legislative measures.

You can watch the film at the link given below:
<https://youtu.be/cwlVb5amzYc?si=KCTTJTdj-F6wAiCL>

Advocate Rachna Verma
PGCL Alumnus



Credits: BookMyShow



Credits: Hindustan Times

THE COMMENTARY



Straight from the commentary box of our editorial board, curated reads to expand your legal mind.

Hiccups: A fight with Fate

On the joyous occasion of Children's Day it would be apt to recommend something that will make you laugh and cry like a child. My suggestion for a quick watch would be a brilliant Hindi movie called 'Hichki'.

For most people who might have already watched the same, it might appear to be a tale of a teacher's passion to teach but when looked closely it reflects the plight of Indian children in the broken education system.

The story revolves around a 'Division 9F' who are the ex-students of a Municipal school and reside in a nearby slum. St Notkers a private school, under the compulsory inclusion under RTE admitted these students in a separate division (9F). The separation while builds unity among the Class 9F students it gives way to discrimination and prevents mingling of other Notker students with them, showcasing inferiority towards 9F. The instant film clearly represents the lack of acceptability in society of such children.

The story line shows the different living standards of each student from the slum area. Some of them involved in helping their poor parents with household work, others involved

in betting while some worked as mechanics. It makes one realise the disparity exists in the society itself and thus all students are at par to avail the facilities uniformly. The plot highlights that despite having access to education, the ignorance of the teachers and peers drives them towards nefarious activities and hatred towards studies.

The movie while representing these sentiments raises certain important questions of "equal opportunities" and "fair treatment" which is quite relevant in the current time period. This multi-dimensional approach of this movie has caused it to receive the award for Best Film in Giffoni Film Festival.

You can watch the film at the link given below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wtniQ7Uv2Y>

Ms. Sakshi Iyer
PGCL Alumnus
LLM Student (Kirit P. Mehta School of Law)



Credits: DNA India



Credits: The Asian Age



Credits: Reuters

THE BLACK & THE WHITE



A legal chessboard of diverse opinions, which shade of justice are you going to checkmate?

Childhood in the Digital Age: India's Technological Race

Childhood in contemporary India is being reshaped by technology in ways that are both transformative but uncertain. From smart classrooms to online video platforms, children across the country now engage daily with systems that collect, interpret, and even influence their behaviour. This rapid digitization offers a plethora of learning opportunities, but it also raises questions about autonomy, consent, and the overall well-being of children. Law, as the traditional guardian of rights, often struggles to keep pace with this complex digital reality which is evolving at a rapid and unprecedented rate.

Data, Surveillance and Child Privacy.

In today's technological landscape, children are often "datafied", which is, their actions online generate detailed digital footprints that companies use for analytics, advertising, or even algorithmic decision-making. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (hereinafter "DPDPA, 2023") recognises children's data as "sensitive" and requires the consent of a parent, which is a progressive feature of the act. However, the employed consent model assumes that parents fully understand said privacy risks, which is difficult in a country with a digital literacy gap.

For instance, popular educational apps like Byju's or Toppr collect behavioural data to "personalize learning." While this improves engagement, the same data can be repurposed for things like targeted marketing. Several platforms use "cookies" and algorithmic analytics to study factors like learning speed, attention span, and even emotional cycles which are insights that can later influence product designs or even future recommendation systems.

Unlike jurisdictions such as the European Union with the GDPR, (General Data Protection Regulations) Indian law does not accurately specify limitations on data retention. This absence leaves children vulnerable to profiling, that may shape how advertisers or even educational institutions evaluate them later in life. The challenge, evidently, lies not just in securing consent but in ensuring child-sensitive data governance.

Artificial Intelligence and Learning Inequality.

Artificial intelligence now pervades a large part of childhood. AI-powered tutoring tools can adjust difficulty levels, generate feedback instantly, and bridge access gaps, especially in rural schools through government programmes like DIKSHA.

Globally, the European Union and UNESCO have called for stronger protections around child-focused AI, emphasizing explainability and fairness. India has yet to integrate similar ethical frameworks into its own digital education policies. The implementation of the National Education Policy (2020), which promotes technology integration, offers a perfect opportunity to embed such standards before digital adoption outpaces regulation.

Child Influencers and the Commercialisation of Childhood

The rise of child influencers captures another legal grey zone. Platforms such as YouTube, Instagram, and Moj are filled with children performing sponsored acts, reviewing products, or appearing in family vlogs. These activities blur the boundary between play and labour.



Credits: Hindustan Times

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THE BLACK & THE WHITE



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In India, influencer culture is largely self-regulated by advertising bodies like the ASCI (Advertising Standards Council of India). However, their guidelines do not cover children acting as influencers. A six-year-old unboxing toys for millions of viewers, or a teenager promoting a tech brand, effectively generates income without any clarity on ownership, working hours, or profit-sharing. French law now requires platforms to guarantee earnings for minors and allows the deletion of content upon request in adulthood, measures India presently lacks.

Beyond economic concerns, exposure itself is a privacy issue. Once images or videos of children circulate online, they can be misused for data profiling or even deepfake production. Such risks call for a broader understanding of child protection that includes digital identity and reputation, not just physical safety.

Legal Lag and the Road to Reform

India's Information Technology Act (2000) predates social media and artificial intelligence. While it regulates online harm and stalking, it does not cover algorithmic manipulation, biometric data, or influencer economies. The DPDP Act (2023) introduces essential privacy provisions but remains silent on platform accountability or data portability for minors.

Reform requires a coordinated system that combines privacy, consumer, and labour law. Data protection authorities could establish minimum child-safety standards for platforms, while partnerships between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Electronics and IT

could mandate ethical audits for edtech companies. Singapore's Code of Practice for AI in Education offers a workable model of collaborative regulation that balances innovation with accountability.



Credits: Latest Laws

Building a Rights-Based Digital Culture

Ultimately, legal reform must work hand in hand with social awareness. Schools can include data and media literacy in curricula, teaching children how to question algorithms, recognize manipulation, and assert digital rights. Parents too need accessible information, perhaps built into app onboarding processes, about how data practices affect their children. Civil society groups and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights could lead awareness campaigns, making digital citizenship a mainstream part of child rights discourse.

Conclusion

The digital age has redefined what it means to be a child in India. Technology now mediates experience, identity, and opportunity. While the nation's technological push has accelerated inclusion, it has also magnified unaddressed risks around privacy, labour, and bias. Law and policy must therefore shift from being reactive to anticipatory. A rights-based, child-centered approach, grounded in transparency, accountability, and ethical design, will help ensure that digital progress supports, rather than undermines, the freedoms and futures of India's youngest citizens.

Ms. Tisha Manek
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Credits: NDTV

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THE BLACK & THE WHITE



A legal chessboard of diverse opinions, which shade of justice are you going to checkmate?

The Vanishing Childhood: How the Indian Education System is Reshaping the Meaning of Being a Child

*“Every child is born a genius”-
Buckminster Fuller*

Introduction

It's nearly impossible to recreate the curiosity of a child or the wonder of childhood. The questions are endless and the possibilities are infinite. But what happens when those questions are silenced and those possibilities are slowly erased? What happens when the innocence of childhood is replaced by expectations and cutoffs? Sadly, the answer lies far too close to home.

According to the latest NCRB data for 2023, suicides among children (below 18 years) in India reached a record high of 13,892 displaying an alarming surge of nearly 65% over the past decade.

India has the highest adolescents population in the world and currently also one of the highest rates of adolescent suicides in the world. The statistics are glaring but not surprising. Behind these numbers lie the quiet relentless forces such as high academic pressure, suffocating parental expectations, cultural obedience norms, stigmas around mental health struggles, growing loneliness and comparisons fuelled by social media. Together these forces have created a system that leads children to endure far more than they can express.

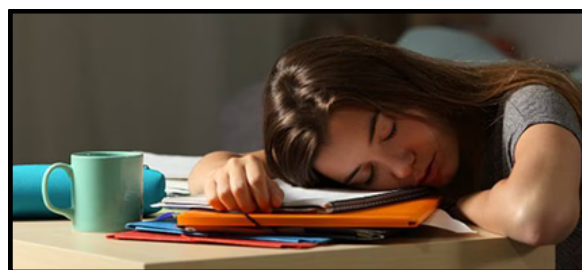
The Education System that Suffocates

India's education system has surpassed standards of excellence in the most unfortunate of ways. Children are forced to navigate a labyrinth of unreasonable school timings, intensive coaching, career blueprints, and relentless competition from a very young age.

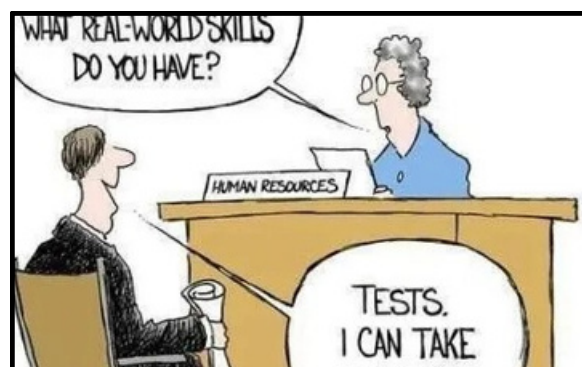
For instance, premier coaching institutions like AAKASH and FIITJEE start their online foundational coaching programs from the 6th grade itself, where children as young as ten are immersed in the principles of advanced science and mathematics for hours.

As senior psychiatrist, Dr. Amit Sen reaffirms, “One stressor that runs across all of childhood and adolescence is academics: education or the way education is viewed in our country. Schooling starts very early and a lot of our kids are not ready neuro-developmentally to engage with it in the way they are expected to by schools, by teachers, parents.”

Sociologically, India has very few avenues for upward social mobility, and education remains one of the most reliable ones. Here, everything from grades to competitive exams and college admissions becomes a social marker, not just an academic milestone. A child's place in the social hierarchy is decided long before they enter adulthood.



Credits: The Indian Express



Credits: ShutterHolic TV

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THE BLACK & THE WHITE



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This mould is pre-determined and includes a narrow range of subjects, institutions and career paths that are deemed “worthy” and the competition to fit into this mould is immense and suffocating.

Subjects and careers in STEM are awarded, social sciences are an alright option if tied to bureaucracy and governmental positions, but pursuits outside this template that involve non-STEM interests or creative ambitions are rarely encouraged, either by the society or the state. The results are repressed children with a broken childhood and abandoned swings that are tied to their desks trying to get perfect grades which will guarantee a socially acceptable stream followed by a socially approved profession.

Rights Only on Paper?

India has no shortage of laws and policies that promise safety, security and dignity for its children. For instance, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has a mandate for ‘bagless days’ and holistic stress free education. International commitments such as the UN Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC), which affirms a child’s right to development, protection and participation. Through the enactment of the Mental Healthcare Act of 2017, mental health is now also recognised as a legal right in India.

Our paperwork is perfect, yet our children continue to struggle. The reality reflects a messy contrast involving overcrowded classrooms, long rigorous hours of academic application, overburdened teachers, outdated curriculums and assessments that are highly geared towards marks instead of learning. The majority of the academic institutions still lack appropriate mental healthcare and support systems that are accessible to students. Most Indian children still continue to navigate school systems that are unfairly demanding and rarely helpful. xCoaching hubs and centres are no stranger to anyone, estimates suggest that the numbers might easily run into hundred thousands. Most centres follow a practise of student segregation

on the basis of marks, which is yet another factor contributing to the deteriorating mental health of these students who are most often children who have left their homes and families at the tender age of 14 or 15 in the pursuit of better education. Senior psychiatrist, Neena Vijayvargia asserts that the pursuit of elite batches in this segregation system can easily lead a child into depression.

In July 2025, the Honourable Supreme Court in the case of Sukdeb Saha vs The State Of Andhra Pradesh has issued guidelines to ban marks based segregation in coaching institutions which indeed is a welcome step but whether it is successful or not will be entirely based on its implementation and monitoring. Division and categorisation of students on the basis of marks is a deeply ingrained concept in the Indian education system, its eradication will face significant hurdles in the form of cultural inertia and implementation gaps, therefore, it's imperative that the application is stringent.

Reclaiming Childhood

The reality is grim and the youth that is promised a better future is slipping through the cracks. Children need space to become their own person and that requires a shift in institutions and families alike. Subjects such as Music, Art etc. must be treated as core disciplines with real academic weightage. Students must have the freedom to shape their own subject combinations with greater emphasis on practical research based assignments instead of rote pen-paper exams. Co-curricular avenues such as volunteering, field visits etc. should be actively encouraged and our premier institutions must finally abandon archaic cut off systems in favour of application-based evaluations that will recognise not just the grade but also the child.

Ms. Sana Singh
Student, 3rd Year

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THE WIG & THE WIT

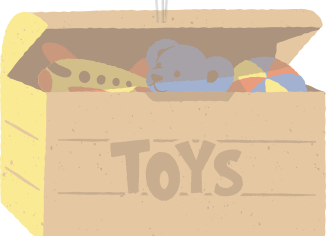
Simple and fun puzzles to judge your wit!

WORDSEARCH ON CHILDREN IN INDIA

E D U C A T I O N H A M W X X O E Z
 X T M U E Z U Z T Z C U V I T N R P
 P H C X F E B S T R J O V F E O K O
 L K X W M Q M Q B A R U R T U T B C
 O R T B K G D B D X J Y V P J B P S
 I A D O P T I O N O H C T E R L F O
 T H C Q U X M L D Q W C R K N T M Y
 A C H I L D L A B O U R B T L I Y F
 T W Q X P J F I X Q S M Y K P N L O
 I Z Y R E H A B I L I T A T I O N E
 O F X S Y S B C J Q Z E Y Z N O F Q
 N G O C Y G W J C X E F P M C I Y N

CLUES:

1. CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS IN LAW
2. EMPLOYMENT OF UNDERAGE CHILDREN
3. FORCING A CHILD INTO WORK
4. RESTORING CHILDREN RESCUED FROM ABUSE
5. FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT UNDER ARTICLE 21 A
6. ACT THAT PROTECTS CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES
7. ILLEGAL DEMAND OF MONEY OR PROPERTY RELATED TO MARRIAGE
8. LEGAL PROCESS OF TAKING CUSTODY OF A CHILD



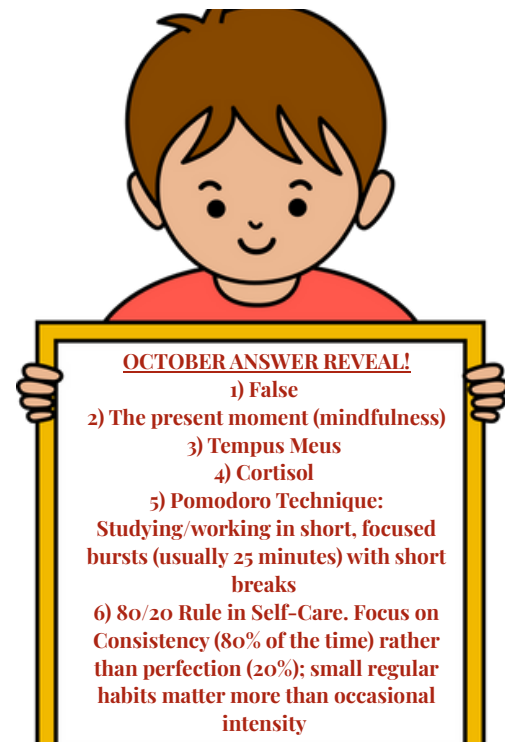
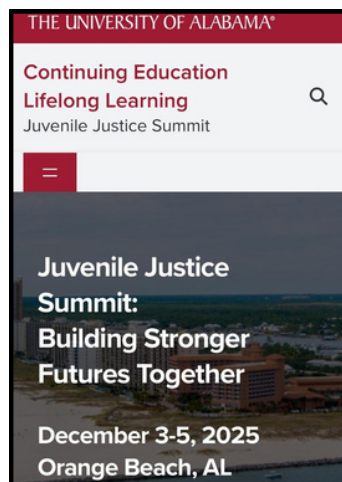
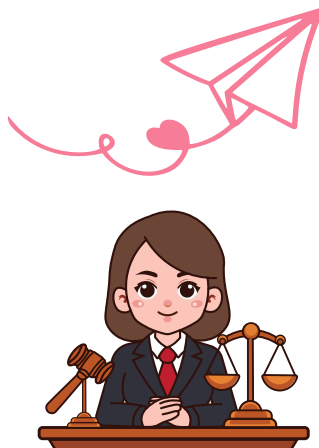
THE CAUSELIST



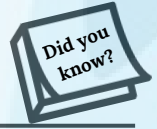
The Newsletter's schedule for all things high and happening around the world.



PGCL Fun Calendar



THE POST-ITS



Sticky Notes to tack up some fun legal facts.

The best way to make children
good is to make them
Happy



THE WORLD'S FIRST LAW REGULATING CHILD LABOUR CAME OUT OF A COTTON MILL. THE UK FACTORY ACT OF 1833, PUSHED BY TEXTILE REFORMERS, PROHIBITED CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF NINE FROM WORKING AND SET MAXIMUM HOURS FOR THOSE UNDER 16.

CHILDREN'S DAY HAS A TWIN HOLIDAY, THE WORLD'S CHILDREN'S DAY (20TH NOVEMBER) WHICH CELEBRATES THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, 1989. INDIA SIGNED THE CONVENTION IN 1992.

CHILDLINE (1098), INDIA'S TOLL-FREE EMERGENCY HELPLINE FOR CHILDREN, BEGAN IN JUNE 1996 AS A FIELD ACTION PROJECT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE AT TISS, MUMBAI. IT WAS FOUNDED BY MS. JEROO BILLIMORIA, THEN A PROFESSOR AT TISS.

INDIAN LAWS DON'T PRESCRIBE A MINIMUM AGE FOR A WITNESS. A CHILD WITNESS'S TESTIMONY CAN BE ACCEPTED IF THE COURT DETERMINES THAT THEY HAVE THE INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY TO UNDERSTAND THE PROCEEDINGS.

CHILDREN SEE *Magic* BECAUSE THEY LOOK FOR IT



Until Next Time...

As we close this special Children's Day edition of The Briefcase, we want to thank you for taking the time to dive into these pages and celebrate this day of imagination, growth, and boundless possibility with us. We hope this issue brought you a spark of wonder, a dose of insight, and maybe even a nostalgic smile.

But don't worry, this is just a festive pause, not the finale. Next month, we'll be back with more legal perspectives, fresh ideas, engaging games, and surprises that keep you turning the pages. We're only growing, and there's so much more we can't wait to unfold.

So, until we meet again, keep your curiosity alive, and your questions big. After all, the spirit of Children's Day reminds us that learning, exploring, and imagining never truly ends.

See you in the next issue, and trust us, you won't want to miss what's coming!

With gratitude,
The Editorial Board

Thank you for reading!

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We'd love to hear from you!
Share your thoughts, ideas, or
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what you loved or what you'd like
to see in our next edition!

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