

## ARTICLE

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### child policy in India

Assam and Uttar Pradesh are taking steps to bring in two-child policies in the states, which will limit government benefits to people with only two children. Legislation that bars people from availing of government subsidies and other government benefits if they have more than two children is known as a two-child policy. India does not have a national child policy but two BJP states Uttar Pradesh and Assam have moved towards this direction.

In 2017, Assam had brought in the Population and Women Empowerment Policy in which government employees were asked to strictly follow the two-child norm. The new law may bring loan waiver and other government schemes under this population rule. But Sarma has said that tea garden workers and SC/ST community will not be included in that. In the first week of July, Sarma met the indigenous Muslim community and said that similar such discussions with Bengali-speaking Muslims will also be held. "Population explosion in some parts of Assam has posed a real threat to the development of the state," Sarma said. The proposal is on the lines of what the Assam government already has – a person with more than two children can not apply for a government job or contest local body election.

"The personal law governing A allows polygamy. A has three wives B, C and D. A and B, A and C, and A and D shall be counted as three distinct married couples so far as the status of B, C and D is concerned but as far as the status of A is concerned, it shall be counted as one married couple for the purpose of calculation of the cumulative number of children," the draft says

While these two states are new in this direction, there are several other states which have this rule for specific things like contesting in local body elections etc. In Rajasthan, if a person has more than two children, they are disqualified from contesting the local elections. A similar provision barring people with more than two children from contesting local elections exist in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

two-child policy is a government-imposed limit of two children allowed per family or the payment of government subsidies only to the first two children. A two child policy has previously been used in several countries including Iran, Singapore, and Vietnam. In British Hong Kong in the 1970s, citizens were also highly encouraged to have two children as a limit (although it was not mandated by law), and it was used as part of the region's family planning strategies. From 2016 to 2021, it has been implemented in China, replacing the country's previous one-child policy, until it was replaced by a three-child policy to mitigate the country's falling birth rates

The Republic of India is a country in South Asia that has 29 states, its capital state being New Delhi. It has six bordering countries including Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. India has a lot of diversity in customs, traditions, and languages of which Hindi is the most used. India's

current population standing at 1.21 billion, it is the second most populous and seventh most extensive country in the world. It is a vast country and among the top developing nations in the world. Despite the fact that the country has shown remarkable progress in terms of economic growth, with an average of 7.3% over the past five years. It continues to face similar challenges to other BRICS countries- high growth rates being accompanied by persistent poverty and inequality. This inequality is reflected in the low human development attainments of the countries most marginalized groups including casts, tribal and rural population, women, transgendered people living with HIV and migrants. Despite India's significant progress in addressing poverty, access to education, and HIV levels, the results have mainly been uneven. India's children continue to face some of the harshest conditions anywhere in the world, with high malnutrition rates (stunting), child labour and forced begging, and childhood illnesses such as diarrheal disease.