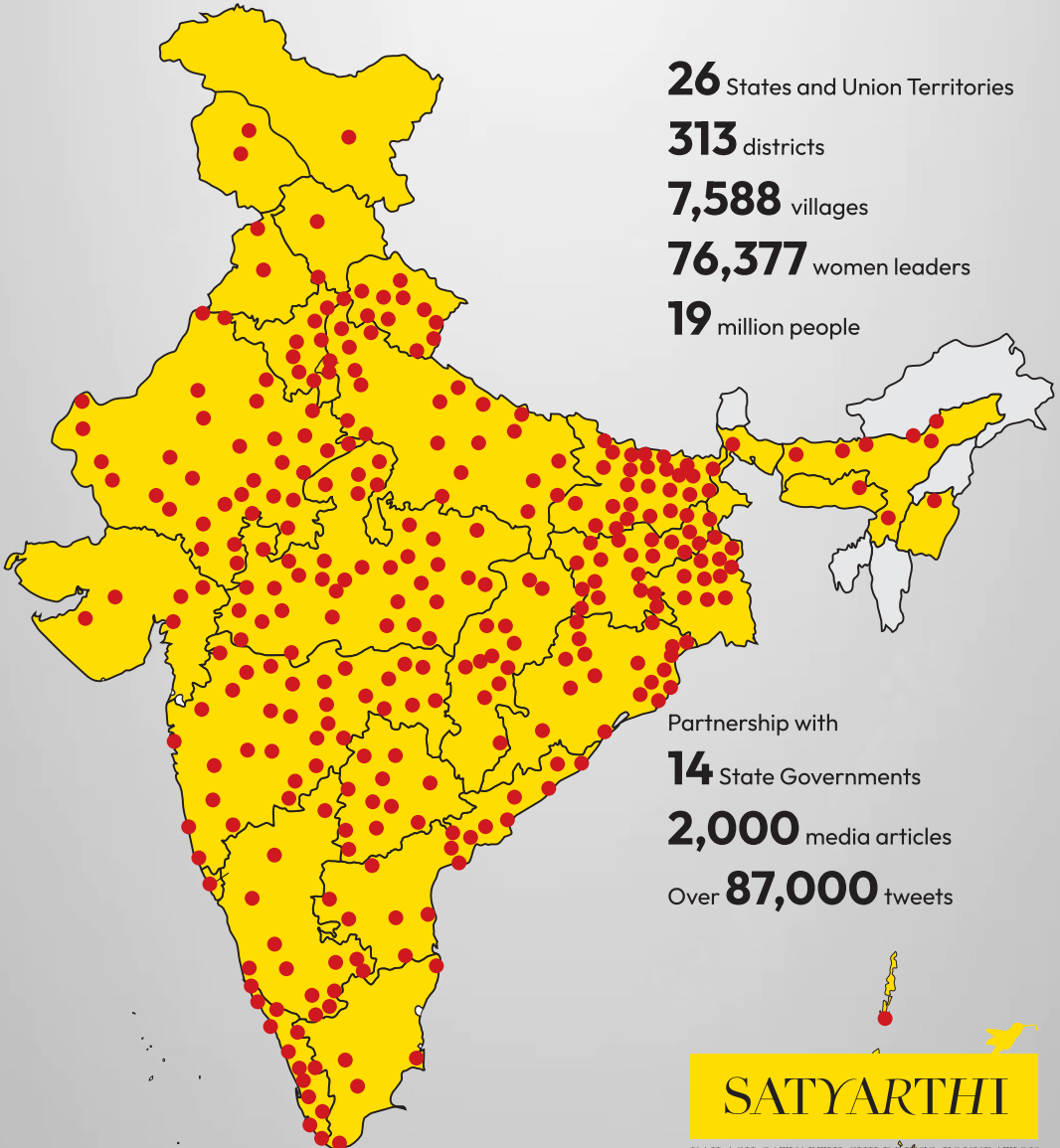


बाल विवाह मुक्त भारत CHILD MARRIAGE FREE INDIA

सुरक्षित बचपन, सुरक्षित भारत | SAFE CHILDHOOD, SAFE INDIA

LARGEST SINGLE DAY CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGE



26 States and Union Territories

313 districts

7,588 villages

76,377 women leaders

19 million people

Partnership with

14 State Governments

2,000 media articles

Over **87,000** tweets

SATYARTHI

KAILASH SATYARTHI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

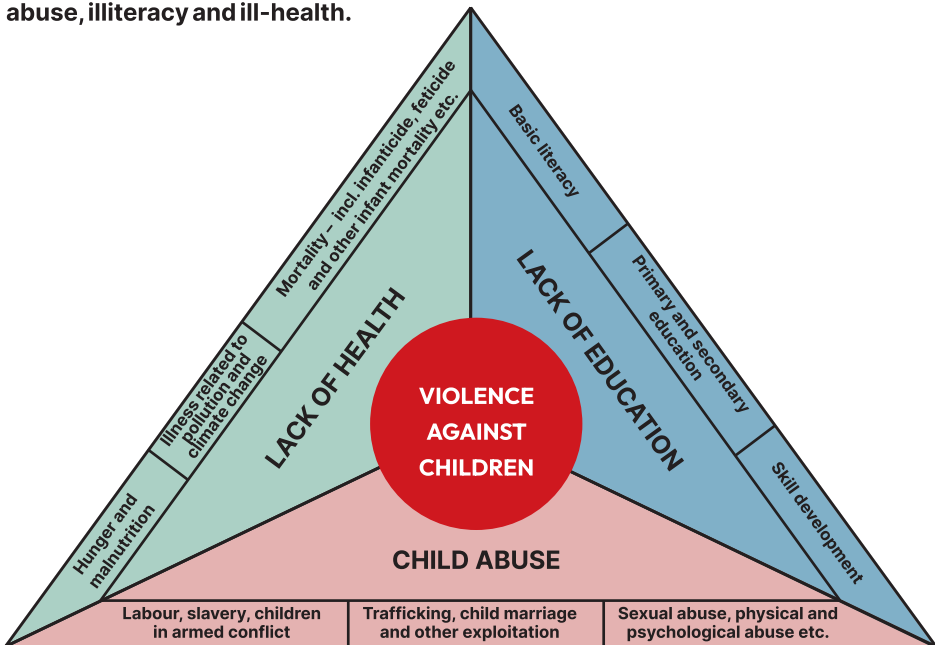
*Map not to scale

The most definitive and audacious commitment to end child marriage was made by the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation on 16 October 2022 in India. A small spark initiated by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi was carried forward by 76,377 courageous women across 7,588 villages in nearly half of all districts in India igniting the people and the politics, through an honest partnership.

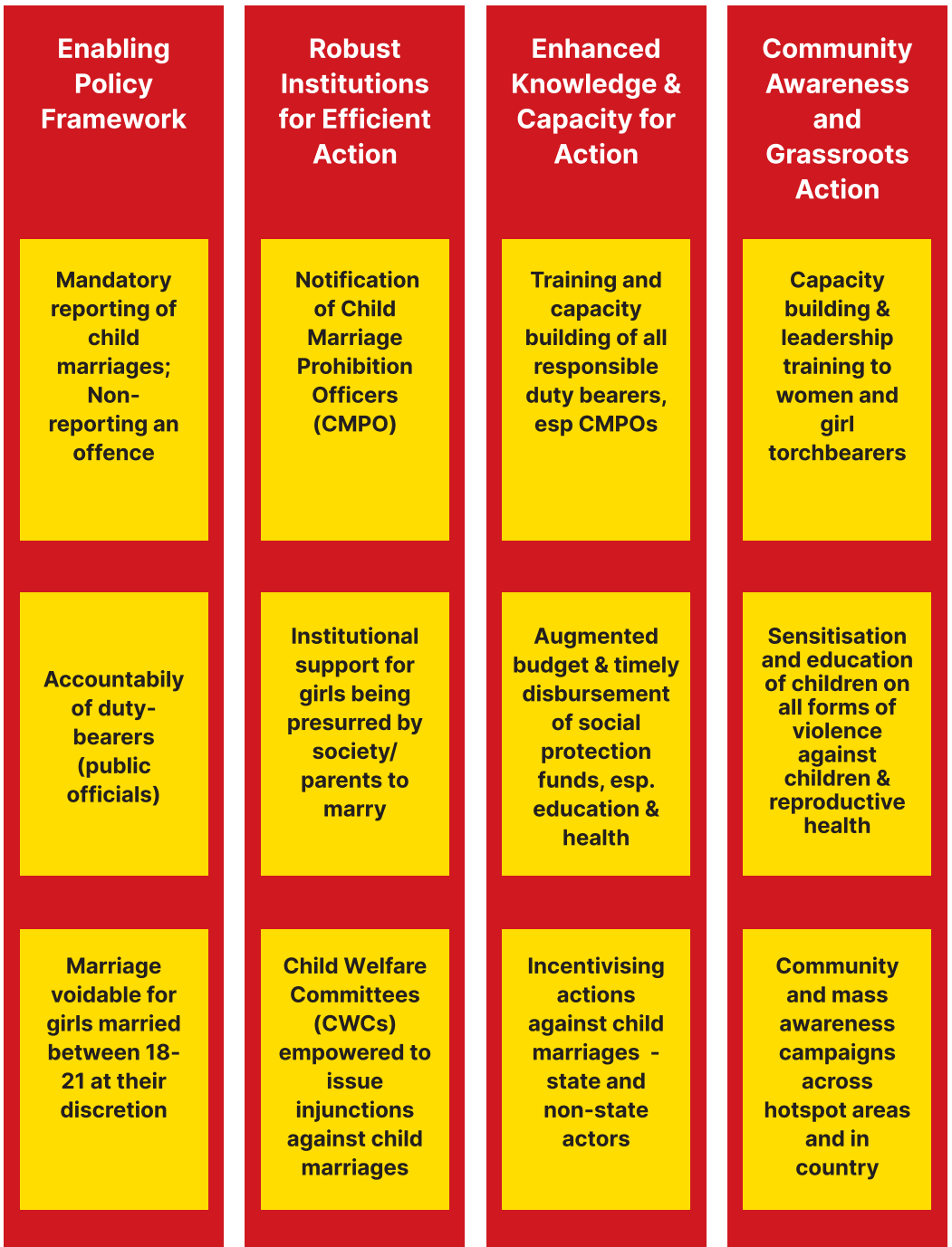
Child marriage is an age-old rampant practice in India, and in many countries of the world. It robs the girls (and the boys) married off at a young age, of their childhood, hurtling them to become adults overnight. In India, 23.3 percent of women were child brides (married before the legal age of 18 years), while only a miniscule 1,000 cases were reported of child marriage in 2021. That's an unbelievable one reported case of child marriage per district! Not only does child marriage robs a child of her childhood, it is a crime of unprecedented horror. It is repeated and continuous child sexual abuse (rape) Child rapists and paedophiles in the garb of spouses continue to roam unchallenged in our society. Till now, child marriage has been viewed from the lens of social evil, instead of the crime that it really is.

The leadership and participation of the nearly 100,000 women across the country demonstrates their deep seated and strong belief that what they might have faced as girl brides, MUST NOT be the future of their daughters. The moral capital and conviction of these women leaders is a living force behind the CHILD MARRIAGE FREE INDIA movement.

With the women leaders as the pivot, the Child Marriage Free India movement rests on KSCF's triangular paradigm on violence against children interlinking child abuse, illiteracy and ill-health.



To address the crime of child marriage, KSCF is adopting a four-pronged strategy:



This four-pronged strategy will ferment a nation-wide movement that will through enabling policy framework, robust institutions and trained actors stifle the practice of child marriage, while community awareness, and overall social protection focused on education and healthcare, will dismantle the vulnerabilities pushing families into child marriages. Use of technology, including big data, artificial intelligence and other cutting-edge predictive tools is the cross-cutting tactics to accelerate the pace of change in favour of children's rights.

This bold movement is born of the urgency to end all forms of violence and abuse against children, including child marriages, and is planned in 2 phases:

Phase 1: Sparking the movement against child marriage and fuelling it (2022)

- **Building partnerships with state governments and key stakeholders**
 - o State Consultations with all key stakeholders from government and civil society for a unified response hinged on trust, partnership and collective responsibility
- **Enhancing the capacity of law enforcement to stop child marriages through timely and decisive action**
 - o More than 25,000 law enforcement officers, particularly police trained on child protection and child friendly policing practices
- **Igniting women across the country and channeling it into the largest and outrageous movement against child marriage**
 - o Across 7,588 villages in 313 districts, 76,377 women have emerged as mashaal-bearers (torch bearers) in their communities to spearhead the movement against child marriage

Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi with girl leaders from the Banjara (vulnerable tribals) community in Viratnagar, Rajasthan, lighting the symbolic lamp (diya) to banish the darkness that shadows a girl bride (and a boy groom) tied in the unholy matrimony of child marriage. This symbolic lamp spread like fire across the country reaching 19 million children, women and men through KSCF and partners direct action. Through state partnerships and action in 14 States, the 16 October 2022 launch reached a staggering 39 million in 235,730 villages.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

"I promise to myself never to allow my own children to be forced to marry. I am proud to say that my own daughter Pooja is pursuing BA. I am with her today to fight side by side - together we can make India child marriage-free."



- Geeta Devi

"I fought against my own marriage when I was a minor. This gave me immense courage to stop child marriages of other girls in my community. We should come together and work collectively to end this social evil at its roots."



- Payal Jangid



"I have made it a mission to end child marriage in my community and I would not rest till all children in my community are protected."

- Tara Banjara



"We need to eradicate this malpractice of child marriage from society. Child marriage leaves a big scar in the life of the victim."

- Chhota Devi

Phase 2: Strengthening the institutions, people and sustaining actions against child marriage (2023 – 2025)

Goal : Reduce child marriages in India to 10 percent (source, NFHS round 6)

Objective: Across 5,000 villages engage with more than 10 million people, mainly women and through multi-pronged strategy (outlined earlier) reduce child marriages from 23.3 percent (NFHS 5, 2021) to 10 percent in 2025 (NFHS 6, 2025-26).

- Unleashing the power of more than 100,000 women and girl torchbearers across 5,000 villages to tip the scale in favour of children, especially girls empowerment
- Creating, bolstering and holding institutions accountable – building the capacity of the child protection duty bearers (CWCs, Juvenile Justice Boards, CMPOs, Special Juvenile Police Units (SJPUs), Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs), anganwadis, teachers, healthcare workers, panchayats, etc.)
- Incentivising reporting of child marriage negotiations, ceremonies and cases, for both the state level actors and non-state activists.
- Developing and utilising technology including artificial intelligence and big data to prompt precise and strategic decision making at grassroots levels for action against child marriages. This will be a gamechanger that will be the tool for women and girl torchbearers to initiate complaint/action in their communities and villages against impending child marriages and kickstart the district child marriage prohibition protocols. Supporting this will be another technology-enabled helpline (hotline) that will respond to girls (and boys) who are victims of child marriages and their children (if any) and provide legal recourse, rehabilitation and mental health support, as needed.



"I have been working in the villages of the country for many years, and I can claim that our daughters, our sisters and our mothers... be a young girl or an old woman... they suffer in silence because of this evil. Their pain, their tears are never visible.... they are forced to marry at a young age sometimes due to poverty, under the pressure of family or in the name of tradition.

But they are not ready to tolerate this any longer. Now they are raising their voices and these voices are the beginning of a new history. Their eyes are now gleaming, and this gleam is the beginning of a new dawn. They have the strength to get up and fight against child marriage."

**Noble Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi
on the Launch of Child Marriage Free Campaign on 16th October, 2022**





Vivekanand Rock



BBA Office, Delhi



Qutub Minar



Virat Nagar, Rajasthan



Khardungla Pass, Ladakh



Khap Panchayat, Haryana



Assam Tea Garden



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CHILD MARRIAGE FREE INDIA
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Jharkhand



Jaipur, Rajasthan



Rajghat



Jharkhand



Delhi



Mathan



Rajasthan

Child Marriage is Child Rape

The women and girls need your support,
to know how you can support, call

1800 102 7222

or visit
www.satyarthi.org.in



Vitoria Memorial, West Bengal



Delhi



Uttar Pradesh



Sundarban, West Bengal



BBA Central Office



Goa