

# Maharashtra's Two-Child Policy

April 30, 2021

**In News:** A woman officer from the Maharashtra Prison Department was dismissed from service after an inquiry revealed that she violated the Maharashtra Civil Services (Declaration of Small Family) rules because she suppressed the information from the authorities that she has three children.

## What does the Maharashtra government's "two children" service rule entail?

- Maharashtra is one of the few states in the country that has a "two-child" policy for government employment and even elections to some local government bodies.
- The Maharashtra Civil Services (Declaration of Small Family) Rule of 2005 describes a small family as a wife, husband, and two children, and states that anyone with more than two children after 2005 is ineligible for a job with the Maharashtra government.
- When applying for a government position, the laws require that you submit a small family declaration.
- Adopted children are not included in the classification of children under these laws.
- The rules also give the state government the authority to grant relief in a "just and fair" manner, and they require that such reasons be recorded.
- Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, as well as Gujarat, Odisha, Uttarakhand, and Assam, have similar policies for appointing children to government jobs.

## Background

- Maharashtra is one of the few states in the country that has a "two-child" policy for government employment and

even elections to some local government bodies.

- Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, as well as Gujarat, Odisha, Uttarakhand, and Assam, were added to the list in 2019.