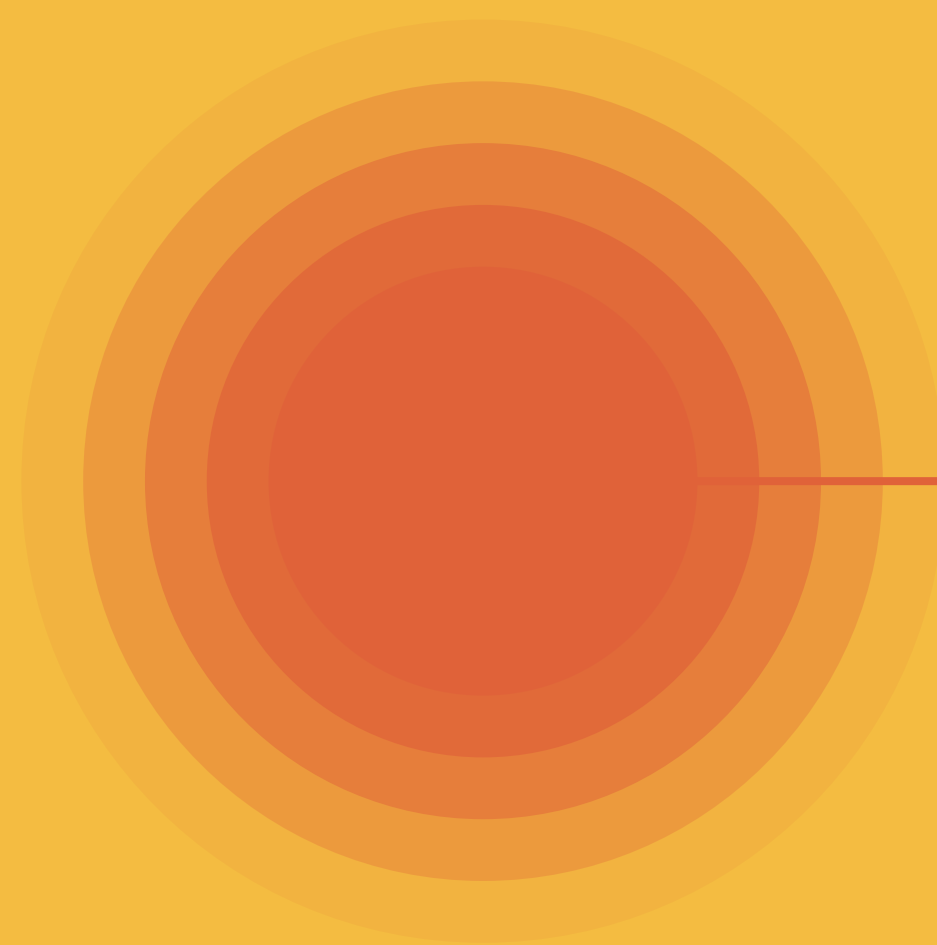


Timeline: Evolution of Abortion Rights in India

Safe abortion is healthcare – but it hasn't always been recognised as a right. Here's how India's abortion laws have evolved – from medical justification to autonomy and inclusion.

*A five-decade journey of
reproductive rights.*



1971 to 2003

The Foundation Years

From Legality to Access

1971 – MTP Act

Legalised abortion under certain medical conditions up to 20 weeks.

A landmark step, but focused on doctors' discretion, not women's choice.

2003 – MTP Rules Amendment

Enabled early medical abortion (upto 7 weeks) & simplified facility approvals.

Expanded safe access, especially in underserved areas.



2021

Reform and Restriction

MTP Amendment Act, 2021

2021

Extended the limit to 24 weeks for specific cases (rape survivors, minors, fetal anomalies).

Introduced state medical boards for post-24-week approvals.

Still used gendered language – excluding transgender & non-binary persons.



2022

Towards Inclusion

Supreme Court Expands Definition

2022

In *X vs. NCT of Delhi* (2022), the Supreme Court ruled that:

- Unmarried women can access abortion up to 24 weeks.
- The term “woman” includes anyone capable of pregnancy.

A milestone for autonomy, equality, and gender inclusion.



From Legality to Equality — The Journey Continues

Implementation gaps, stigma, and
provider shortages still persist.
But every reform moves India closer to
reproductive justice for all.

*Safe abortion is healthcare. Safe
abortion is a right.*

