



# SANKALP

SUPPORTIVE ACTION FOR NURTURING  
& KNOWLEDGE BASED ADVANCEMENT,  
LAST MILE DELIVERY & POTENTIAL  
REALIZATION OF WOMEN

सक्षम नारी, सशक्त भारत

Hub for Empowerment of Women - Booklet  
(Compendium of Schemes of Women Welfare)

**MISSION SHAKTI**







# SANKALP: HUB FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Women Empowerment: A Compendium of Schemes for Welfare  
of Women

Ministry of Women and Child Development

Government of India







**MESSAGE**

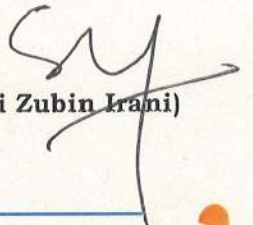
In the era of 'Amrit Kaal' and to achieve the 'Panch Pran', the Government of India has taken various steps to ensure empowerment of women and to signal the transition from women's development to women-led development. The Government of India has implemented and upgraded several schemes with the objective of social, economic, cultural and political empowerment of women and to empower women to achieve the goal of 'Women-led Development'. Besides welfare policies and schemes, the Government of India has implemented/notified various Acts and Rules, among other legislative and constitutional provisions, that provide legal sanctity to Government's commitment to ensure social, economic and political upliftment of women.

In order to ensure that the benefits of Government policies reach the last mile, a need was felt to institutionalise a mechanism that would disseminate knowledge and information regarding Government schemes, Acts, Rules and Helplines to girls and women as well as serve as Project Management Unit for Mission Shakti. On 01 April 2022, under the Samarthyaa sub-scheme of Mission Shakti, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has implemented the SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) at National, State and District Level to reach all sections of women, especially at the district and block level. The SANKALP: HEW functions as a safe space for women and will work in convergence with different departments and units of Governance to ensure that women get last mile access to schemes and policies and welfare measures implemented for their safety, security and empowerment. At present, SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women is functional across 34 State/UTs in the country.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has undertaken the mammoth task of compiling the schemes and policies implemented by various Ministries of Government of India. The effort has resulted in this handbook that is a compendium of various schemes related to women empowerment in the domain of education, health, livelihood, and skill development. The handbook contains information pertaining to different Central schemes implemented across the country, including the objectives, type of benefits and the means to access them. Besides the schemes, the handbook also provides an overview of some of the key international conventions, constitutional and legislative provisions and landmark judgements related to women empowerment and helpline numbers meant to ensure safety and security of women. The handbook would be distributed to the personnel at the state and district SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women to be used as a reference document to disseminate information to women beneficiaries and to facilitate their access to rightful entitlements, besides building capacity of SANKALP: HEW functionaries. The handbook would be periodically updated to ensure that the information on schemes and policies remain relevant.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is glad to release the Handbook on welfare initiatives for SANKALP: HEW.

I extend my warm greetings to all citizens of Bharat on launch of this initiative.

  
(Smriti Zubin Irani)







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महिला एवं बाल विकास और आयुष  
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### MESSAGE

The Government is committed to ensuring last-mile delivery of services to beneficiaries and hence, an institutional mechanism that would serve as a single window for facilitating access to schemes was envisaged and hence, SANKALP: Hubs for Empowerment of Women, under Samarthya sub-scheme of Mission Shakti, was implemented from 01 April 2022.

The SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women, at all levels, is well-equipped with infrastructure as well as the necessary manpower, to reach out to women beneficiaries with information as well as assistance to enrol them in various Government programmes, besides providing them with awareness of critical issues affecting them on a life-cycle continuum basis. The SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women, will also be vital in monitoring the progress of schemes implemented under the aegis of Mission Shakti, thereby ensuring wider outreach among women at various levels of Governance. In order to complement the efforts of the SANKALP: HEW as a single window inter-sectoral convergence mechanism, it is important that the personnel at the Hub are provided with accurate information regarding various schemes, policies, constitutional and legal provisions implemented by the Government. To effectively bridge the knowledge and information gap among women and to provide a read reference material for HEW personnel to disseminate information about Government schemes and policies, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has prepared the handbook on schemes related to women empowerment.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is glad to release the Handbook on welfare initiatives for Hub for Empowerment of Women.

I extend my warm greetings to all citizens of Bharat on launch of this initiative.

(Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai)





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Government of India

Ministry of Women & Child Development



### MESSAGE

India is moving towards women-led development. It is, therefore, important that women have unhindered access to different schemes and welfare policies being implemented for their empowerment. The SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women, under Samarthya sub-scheme of Mission Shakti, has been implemented with the motto to ensure that women have effective and real access under one roof to all the program implementing agencies. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is delighted to announce that the SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment is now functional across 34 states and their districts.

To ensure maximum reach of Government's developmental initiatives, it is important that the efforts undertaken by various ministries and departments are compiled and disseminated through these State and District level SANKALP Hubs for guiding the beneficiaries to the right schemes. Hence, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has undertaken an exercise to compile legislations, acts, schemes and policies related to women empowerment after consulting with different Ministries and departments.

It is hoped that this handbook will prove to be an important tool in ensuring that women beneficiaries become rightful holders of entitlements that will further improve their sense of empowerment, safety and security. It will also be periodically updated to include new Acts, legislations or schemes implemented by various agencies.

I extend my warm greetings to all the stakeholders on the launch of this initiative.

(Anil Malik)





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## **Foreword**

The Ministry has undertaken the task of creating a single repository of information related to various women-centric schemes, policies, legislation and Acts implemented with the purpose of ensuring safety, security and empowerment of women. This will be a milestone in ensuring that women become rightful holders of entitlements and benefits meant to empower them in the journey towards 'Viksit Bharat'.

This booklet is the result of efforts of many contributors, especially various line ministries and departments, and we acknowledge their contribution.

It is to be noted that the list of schemes compiled is not exhaustive. States are encouraged to supplement the document through listing of state schemes.



## 1. Introduction

Women's empowerment in India goes back to Vedic period. Our ancient scriptures demonstrate that women were not merely confined to the domestic sphere; they served as instrumental pillars, within their families, communities and in the broader context of societal development. Rig-Veda & Upanishads mention several names of women sages and seers, notably Gargi & Maitri. Women had access to knowledge and education, independent agency and exercised choice in choosing partner for marriage, remarriage and in religious rituals. This period set the cornerstone for women's rights and empowerment in India, a journey that has seen manifold progressions and challenges in the centuries to follow.

However, in the intervening period, due to various reasons, significant societal changes happened that pejoratively impacted women's rights, mobility, access to knowledge, and consequently, their position in society. Resultantly, various forms of gender-based discrimination emerged, wherein women were subject to patriarchal norms. Social practices such as child marriage, Sati (widow-burning), prohibition on widow remarriage, amongst other forms of discrimination against women and girls became prevalent.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, during the social reforms movement, India saw a surge in advocates for women's rights, led by prominent figures such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy, who worked to abolish the practice of Sati, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, who fought to introduce widow remarriage and oppose child marriage, Savitribai Phule, who advocated for girls' education, amongst several other reformers. Their efforts attained fruits, laying the legal foundation for elimination of different forms of discrimination against women. This era saw the enactment of landmark laws that provided significant impetus to women's rights, including the Act of Sati (1829), the Hindu Widow Remarriage Act (1856), the Child Marriage Restraint Act (1929), Women Property Right Act (1937), thereby empowering women. The women also played a pivotal role in the independence struggle. Women participated not only in resistance movements, such as the Civil Disobedience movement, and Quit India Movement, but also played a catalytic role in framing the Constitution of India, laying the foundation for the world's largest democracy, ensuring the inclusion of equality and affirmative action for equitable development.

The founding members of the Constitution of India ensured that the Constitution provides for gender equality not only through its Preamble and Fundamental Rights but also through Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles of State Policy. The right to equality of opportunity, including in matters of public employment under Article 16, abolition of untouchability, prohibiting discrimination on grounds of sex under Article 15, amongst other provisions, not only grant equality to women but also empowers the State to adopt measures to empower women.

Since its independence, India has displayed a significant commitment to uplifting the status of women by enacting several significant legislations. The Hindu Succession Act of 1956 granted women equal inheritance rights. The Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961 stipulated severe penalties for the traditional practice of dowry. The Maternity Benefit Act of 1961, and its recent Amendment in 2017 provisioned for maternity benefits, thus ensuring pay and job security for pregnant women, providing for paid maternity leave. The Equal Remuneration Act of 1976, and the subsequent Code on Wages Act, 2019 mandate equal pay for men and women for equal

work. To promote women's equal participation in public decision-making, and to promote the devolution of power in the truest sense of a democracy, the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments provide for reservation of at least one-third of seats for women and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in urban and rural local bodies, thus resulting in the participation of women in the largest matrix of grassroots decision making in the three-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions. This has been expanded further by states; today over 21 states/ UTs have provisioned for reservation of at least 50 percent of seats in local governments for women. As a result, today, out of the 3 million elected representatives in grassroots bodies, 1.45 million are women, constituting the largest representation of women in local governments globally.

Recently, the pathway for women's representation across the federal structure from Panchayats to the Parliament was laid out through the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, which provides for one-third of the total number of seats for women in Lok Sabha, the Lower House of the Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies. To ensure women's safety at home, in workplaces and in public spaces, numerous legislations, centering women's rights have been enacted. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 offers comprehensive protection to women experiencing different forms of abuse within a household, the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 ensures the right to a safe working environment and is one of the earliest legislations globally covering women working in the informal sector. The Criminal Law Amendment Acts of 2013 and 2018 also expand women's rights. Further, the Bhartiya Nyaya Samhita, Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 replace the colonial era codes, thus modernizing and improving the criminal justice system where the key word is not "dand" but "nyaya". These legislations have played a significant role in promoting gender justice and advancing women's rights in India.

The above laws are guided by the Constitution as well as India's normative commitments globally to uphold women's rights, as outlined in several international conventions. The United Nations declared 1975 as the International Women's Year and hosted the first World Conference on Women, which served as a catalyst for increased focus on women's issues worldwide. In 1979, the first ever global Convention focused on women, the Convention for Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), was drafted, which has been ratified by India. The 1990s witnessed significant institutionalization of women's empowerment, particularly with the Fourth World Conference on Women resulting in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, which highlighted the empowerment and advancement of women as key strategies for development and human rights and outline 12 critical areas of concern for women.

The discourse on women's development has been gradually evolving, notably in the past decade, wherein there has been a paradigm shift in the vision of the Government under the guidance of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi – from "women-development" to "women-led development," which envisages that women should not be seen as passive recipients of the fruits of development but as the architects of the development process of the country. This compendium comprehensively captures laws pertaining to women, schematic interventions of the Government of India across Ministries towards women-led development that will act as a guidance document for the officials and practitioners engaged in the field of empowerment and development of women and girls.

## 2. Constitutional and Legislative Provisions in India for Women

The Constitution of India not only guarantees equality to women but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women for neutralizing the cumulative socio economic, education and political disadvantages faced by them. Fundamental Rights, among others, ensure equality before the law and equal protection of law; prohibits discrimination against any citizen on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, and guarantee equality of opportunity to all citizens in matters relating to employment. Articles 14, 15 (1), 15(3), 16, 39(a), 39(d), 39(e) and 42 of the Constitution are of specific importance in this regard. <sup>1</sup>

### Constitutional Provisions

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles.

Constitutional Provisions	Brief Description
<b>14</b>	Women to have Equality before law and Equal protection of the laws
<b>15 (1)</b>	The State not to discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.
<b>15 (3)</b>	The State to make any special provision in favour of women and children.
<b>16</b>	Equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State.
<b>19 (1)</b>	Freedom of speech and expression and freedom to practice any profession or to carry out any occupation, trade or business.
<b>21</b>	Protection of life and personal liberty including the right to privacy.
<b>39(a), 39(d) &amp; (e)</b>	The State to direct its policy towards securing for men and women equally the right to an adequate means of livelihood (Article 39(a)); and equal pay for equal work for both men and women (Article 39(d)); and the health and strength of workers irrespective of whether men, women or children not to be abused or manipulated (Article 39(e)).
<b>39A</b>	To promote justice, on a basis of equal opportunity and to provide free legal aid by suitable legislation or scheme or in any other way to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities.
<b>42</b>	The State to make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief.



<b>46</b>	The State to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.
<b>47</b>	The State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and to improve public health.
<b>51A(e)</b>	To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.
<b>243D (2)</b>	Not less than one-third of the total number of seats reserved under clause (1) shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes or, as the case may be, the Scheduled Tribes.
<b>243D (3)</b>	Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat to be reserved for women and such seats to be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat.
<b>243D (4)</b>	Not less than one- third of the total number of offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats at each level to be reserved for women.
<b>243T (2)</b>	Not less than one-third of the total number of seats reserved under clause (1) shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes or, as the case may be, the Scheduled Tribes.
<b>243T (3)</b>	Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Municipality to be reserved for women and such seats to be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Municipality.
<b>243T (4)</b>	Reservation of offices of Chairpersons in Municipalities for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and women in such manner as the legislature of a State may by law provide.
<b>300A</b>	Right to property- No person shall be deprived of his property with certain conditions.

### **Legal Provisions**

**To uphold the Constitutional mandate, the State has enacted various legislative measures intended to ensure equal rights, to counter social discrimination and various forms of violence and atrocities and to provide support services specially to working women.**

The crimes that are directed specifically against women, are characterized as Crime against Women.

These are broadly classified under two categories.

### **The Crimes Identified under the Indian Penal Code (IPC)<sup>i</sup>**

#### **1. Rape (Sec. 375- 376 (A-D) IPC)**

A rapist shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than ten years, but which may extend to imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine. Section 376 A to D - Deals with the punishment for causing death or a persistent vegetative state during rape, rape on a woman under twelve years of age, sexual intercourse by a husband with his wife during separation, by a person in a position of authority, gang rape, with a minimum punishment of **20 years** and Address the punishment for repeat offenders.

#### **2. Kidnapping & Abduction for different purposes (Sec. 363-373)**

Any person who is abducting a minor for the purpose of begging or kidnapping minor/women for prostitution or illicit intercourse, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

#### **3. Homicide for Dowry, Dowry Deaths, or their attempts (304-B IPC)**

Where the death of a women is caused by any burns or bodily injury or occurs otherwise than under normal circumstances within seven years of her marriage and it is shown that soon before her death she was subjected to cruelty or harassment by her in laws or husband, for or in connection with, any demand of dowry, such death shall be called —dowry death<sup>ll</sup>. Whoever commits dowry death shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than seven years, but which may extend to imprisonment for life.

#### **4. Causing miscarriage without woman's consent (Sec 313 IPC)** defines non-consensual miscarriage as causing a miscarriage without the woman's consent. The punishment for this offence is imprisonment for life or imprisonment for up to 10 years, along with a possible fine.

#### **5. Death caused by act done with intent to cause miscarriage (Sec 314 IPC )** Whoever , with the intent to cause a miscarriage, does an act that results in the death of a pregnant woman, they can be punished with imprisonment for up to ten years, and may also be fined; if the act is done without the woman's consent.

#### **6. Voluntarily causing grievous hurt by use of acid, etc. Section 326A**

#### **7. Voluntarily throwing or attempting to throw acid.(Section 326B)**

#### **8. Cruelty by Husband or relatives of husband (Sec. 498-A IPC)**

Husband or relative of husband of a women subjecting her to cruelty, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

#### **9. Outraging modesty of a Woman (Sec. 354 IPC)**

Whoever assaults or uses criminal force to any women, intending to outrage or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby outrage her modesty, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine.

- **Sexual harassment and punishment for sexual harassment (Sec 354A)**- addresses sexual harassment including physical contact and advances involving unwelcome and explicit sexual overtures, demand or request for sexual favors, showing pornography against the will of a woman, making sexually colored remarks.
- **Disrobing 354 B**- Any man who assaults or uses criminal force to any woman to disrobe or compel her to be naked, shall be punished with imprisonment of not be less than three years but which may extend to seven years and fine.
- **Voyeurism 354C**- Any man who watches, or captures the image of a woman engaging in a private act or disseminates such image shall be punished with imprisonment of which shall not be less than one year, but may extend to three years, and fine, and be punished on subsequent conviction, with imprisonment which shall not be less than three years, but which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.
- **Stalking 354 D**- specifies the punishment for stalking. It includes the punishment for a term that may not exceed three years' imprisonment and must pay the fine liability. Subsequent conviction may not exceed five years as well as the fine

#### **10. Sexual Harassment with intent to insult the modesty of woman (Sec. 509 IPC)**

Whoever, intending to insult the modesty of a woman, utters any word, makes any sound or gesture, or exhibits any object, intending that such gestures or object shall be seen, by such woman, or intrudes upon the privacy of such woman, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Although all laws are not gender specific, the provisions of law affecting women significantly have been reviewed periodically and amendments carried out to keep pace with the emerging requirements. Some acts which have special provisions to safeguard women and their interests are:

#### **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023**

The Union Government has notified the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023 on 28 September 2023, for reservation of one-third of seats for women in the House of People (Lok Sabha) and in the State Legislative Assemblies including Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi. The act will come into force on such date as the Central Government may notify.

#### **The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 and 2018:**

The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013, has broadened the definition of rape to include non-penetrative sex and made the criminal provisions relating to rape and sexual violence more stringent. New offences such as acid attack, stalking, sexual harassment, voyeurism, and disrobing have also been included. Duty has been cast on all hospitals to provide free medical treatment to victims of acid attack and rape. Similarly, it is mandatory for all police officers to lodge FIR of all offence punishable under section 326A-B, 354-B, 370-A, 376, 376A-E, 509 IPC; failure to do the same will attract penal provisions against the officer concerned. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 was enacted to prescribe even more stringent penal provisions including death penalty for rape of a girl below the age of 12 years. The Act inter

alia mandates the completion of investigation and trials in two months respectively. The amendments also prescribe prison sentence of 20 years to life-or-death sentence, for the rape or gang rape of a girl under 12 years of age.

#### **The Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017**

The Act has been enacted to protect the human rights of persons affected by the said virus and syndrome. The Act expressly prohibits discrimination against HIV-Positive persons or persons who are currently, or have in the past, lived, resided or cohabited with an HIV-Positive person. Sterilisation or abortion of an HIV positive pregnant woman without obtaining her informed consent has also been expressly prohibited under this legislation.

#### **The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act)**

It provides for strengthened provisions for children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with the law. Further, taking cue from the Delhi gang rape case in December 2012, the Shakti Mill rape case in Mumbai in July 2013 and the Guwahati rape case of September 2013 involving child offenders who could get away even after committing horrific crime, the new JJ Act, 2015 provides that juveniles who are of 16 years of age or above could be tried as adults for heinous offences like rape, murder or which attracts the imprisonment for seven years or more.

#### **The Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Prevention, Protection and Redressal) Act, 2013 (the SH Act):**

The Hon'ble Supreme Court declared that "each incident of sexual harassment of women at workplace results in violation of fundamental rights of 'Gender Equality' and the 'Right to Life and Liberty.'" Hence, to provide a safe and secure environment to women at the workplace, the SH Act, 2013 was enacted. The Act came into force on 9th December 2013. It covers all women, irrespective of their age or employment status and protect them against sexual harassment at all workplaces both in public and private sector, whether organized or unorganized. The domestic workers are also included under the ambit of the Act. The law provides for a mechanism in the form of Internal and Local Committee to provide redressal in cases of sexual harassment. It also casts a duty on employers to sensitize employees by carrying out various awareness generation programmes and workshops.

In order to ensure effective implementation of the Act, Ministry has developed an online complaint management system titled Sexual Harassment electronic-Box (SHe-Box) [<http://www.shebox.nic.in/>], which provides an online platform to every woman, irrespective of her work status, whether working in organised or unorganised, private or public sector for registration of complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace.

#### **The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO):**

The Government is implementing the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 as a special law to protect children from Sexual Assault, Sexual harassment, and pornography. The Act is a comprehensive law to provide for the protection of while safeguarding the interests of the child at every stage of the judicial process by incorporating child-friendly mechanisms for reporting, recording of evidence, investigation, and speedy trial

of offences through designated Special Courts. The Act provides for stringent punishments which have been graded as per the gravity of offence. POCSO has been amended in 2019 to make it more effective in dealing with cases of Child Sex Abuse in the Country. The strong penal provisions, including the option of 'Death penalty' are expected to deter the possible perpetrators from committing the Crime. It indicates towards the strong resolve of Government to protect children and zero tolerance to violence against children.

#### **The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006:**

The Ministry has enacted the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 with the objective to prohibit child marriages rather than only restraining them. The Act prohibits the solemnization of child marriages where a person who if a female has not completed 18 years of age and if a male has not completed 21 years of age. According to the Act, child marriage is a cognizable and a non-bailable offence.

#### **The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA):**

The PWDVA recognizes the right of all women to live free from violence occurring within the private sphere of home. The objective of the law is to prevent violence and provide emergency relief in case of such situations irrespective of the status of their relationship with the respondent. The law is civil in nature and defines domestic violence to include all acts of omission and commission that causes injury to a woman's physical, sexual or mental health and includes specific forms of violence such as physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic abuse. It seeks to provide relief to women in the form of protection orders, residence orders, monetary relief, custody order and compensation orders. It also protects women living in live-in relationships, provided that such relationships are in the nature of marriage.

#### **The Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act):**

Nowadays, with the advent of technology, digital space is being increasingly used to perpetuate violence upon women and girls. This utilisation of cyber platforms to commit violence upon women and girls is emerging as a global threat with serious implications for societies and economies around the world. Cyber platforms are misused by the perpetrators to harass, blackmail, cheat, stalk and voyeur girls and women. Though the Act is gender neutral, there are adequate provisions to deal with most of the present-day cybercrime aspects including the ones related to women security, such as identity theft (S. 66C), cheating by personation (S. 66D), violation of privacy (S. 66E), publication or transmission of obscene material/material containing sexually explicit act /material depicting children in sexually explicit act in electronic form.

#### **The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987:**

Enacted on 3rd January 1988, the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 provides for the prevention of the commission of Sati and its glorification. Under this Act, attempt to commit Sati, abetment of commission of Sati and glorification of Sati is a punishable offence.

#### **The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986:**

This was enacted with the specific objective of prohibiting the indecent representation of women through advertisement, publication, writing, and painting or in any other manner. It prohibits such representation in any form in any advertisement, publication etc and prohibits



selling, distribution, circulation of any books, pamphlets, and such other material containing indecent representation of women.

### **The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976**

An Act to provide for the payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers and for the prevention of discrimination, on the ground of sex, against women in the matter of employment and for matters, connected there with or incidental thereto.

### **The Dowry Prohibition Act (DPA), 1961:**

Recognising the need to address the social evil of dowry, the Dowry Prohibition Act was enacted in 1961. The Act defines dowry and penalises the giving, taking, abetting the giving, and taking or advertising for of dowry with imprisonment and fine. It also lays down a built-in implementation mechanism in the form of Dowry Prohibition Officers to ensure effective and efficacious enforcement of the law.

### **Maternity Benefit Act, 1961**

The Government has amended the **Maternity Benefit Act, 1961** in the year 2017 vide enactment of Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 which inter-alia provides for increased paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks, pre-natal leave from 6 weeks to 8 weeks, provisions for facility of crèche in the establishments having 50 or more employees, time-off for feeding children and permitting women workers in the night shifts with adequate safety measures, etc. The Act also provides for the facility of ‘work from home’ under certain conditions to the woman. The Act also provides for grant of leave for Medical Termination of Pregnancy and pregnancy related complications, with full pay and entitles the mother for an additional medical bonus.

### **The Hindu Succession Act, 1956<sup>ii</sup>**

Under the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, an amendment was made in 2005 leading to the removal of discriminatory provisions against women. Under the Act, females are granted ownership of all property acquired either before or after the signing of the Act, abolishing their “limited owner” status.

form (S. 67, 67A-B).

### **The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA):**

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 is the Central legislation dealing with the issue of prostitution in India. The Act defines prostitution as commercial sexual exploitation and penalizes those who facilitate and abet commercial sexual exploitation, including clients and those who live off the earnings of prostitutes. It also provides for welfare measures towards rehabilitation of victims in the form of protective homes to be set up and managed by state governments.

### **The Family Courts Act, 1954**

The Court established to conclude upon matters relating to family law like matrimonial reliefs, custody of children, maintenance for wife and children etc is termed as Family Court. The Status of Women Committee in 1975 together with the report of the 59th Law Commission

recommended the Central Government to establish a separate judicial forum to settle family disputes immediately before the beginning of the trial proceedings. Hence it was decided to establish a family court in India by the Act of 1984. The Family Court shall have the same status as that of a District Court and shall exercise the jurisdiction accordingly and empowered to initiate suits and proceedings in par with the conditions stipulated by the Act. Under the Act a party to the dispute cannot claim the service of a legal practitioner as of right, but the Court shall have the power to appoint a legal professional. An aggrieved party may, however, prefer an appeal to the High Court from an order of the Family Court. The High Court shall frame rules in the matters connected there with, after publishing in the Gazette. The Act also confers power on the Central and State Government to formulate rules as prescribed under the Act.

### Three New Criminal Laws

The Government of India with an aim to modernize and improve the criminal justice system has enacted **Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam** on December 25, 2023. The three new laws would replace the colonial era codes namely Indian Penal Code, 1860 Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. The new laws will come into effect from the date notified by the Government of India.

1. New Provisions incorporated in **Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS)** with respect to Women and Children:-
  - i. The offences against women and child were earlier scattered in Indian Penal Code, 1860 have been brought together and consolidated under **Chapter-V** of BNS.
  - ii. The term “Child” has been used uniformly and has been defined as any person under the age of eighteen years.
  - iii. A new offence of Organized Crime has been added to combat the unlawful activities orchestrated by syndicates, which pose a grave threat to internal security of country (**Section 111 of BNS**).
  - iv. Marital rape is an offence if the wife is under 18 years of age (**Section 63 of BNS**).
  - v. Sexual intercourse on false promise of marriage, employment, promotion or by suppressing the identity etc is now an offence. (**Section 69 of BNS**).
  - vi. Punishment has been enhanced for offence of Gang-rape where the victim is a woman under 18 years of age (**Section 70 of BNS**).
  - vii. Various sexual offence have been made Gender neutral in terms of both the victim and perpetrator (**Sections 76, 77 & 141 of BNS**).
  - viii. A person involved in hiring or purchase of child for the purpose of beggary shall be punished under BNS (**Sections 95 & 143 of BNS**).
2. New procedure incorporated in **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (BSA)** with respect to Women and Children:-

- i. Women have been included as an adult member of the family for the purpose of service of summons (**Section 66 of BNSS**).
- ii. ‘Proclaimed offender’ now covers all heinous offences punishable with imprisonment of 10 years or more, or with life imprisonment, or with death including rape, trafficking, etc. (**Section 84 of BNSS**).
- iii. Maintenance proceedings for dependent father or mother may be initiated at the place where he/she resides (**Section 145 of BNSS**).
- iv. Audio Video means for recording victim’s statement in rape cases, ensuring transparency and protection (**Section 176(1) of BNSS**).
- v. Women/ senior citizen/ persons with acute illness are exempted from physical attendance at police station which will also prevent undue harassment by police (**Sections 179 & 195 of BNSS**).
- vi. An additional safeguard to Rape victims- statement to be recorded only by a lady Judicial Magistrate and in her absence, by a male Judicial Magistrate in the presence of a woman (**Section 183(6) (a) of BNSS**).
- vii. BNSS mandates victim centric approach requiring police to inform the victim progress of investigation within 90 days, allowing technology as a valid mode of communication (**Section 193(3) (ii) of BNSS**).
- viii. Failure to record information given to a public servant is now a cognisable criminal offence with respect to offences of rape, sexual assault against women etc. (**Section 173(1) of BNSS**).
- ix. BNSS introduces Witness Protection Schemes, acknowledging the critical need to shield witnesses from threats and intimidation.
- x. Evidence now includes any information given electronically. This will permit the appearance of witnesses, accused, experts and victims to depose their evidence through electronic means (**Section 2(1)(e) of BSA**).
- xi. Documents now includes- Electronic or digital record on emails, server logs, documents on computers, laptop or smartphone, messages, websites, cloud, locational evidence and voice mail messages stored on digital devices (**Section 2(1)(d) of BSA**).

3. Improvement of existing provision and punishment related to women and children:-

S.No.	New Section and Punishment		Old Section with Punishment	
	Section	Punishment	Section	Punishment
1.	99 [buying child for the purposes of prostitution, etc]	shall not be less than seven years but may extend to 14 years.	373	may extend to 10 years
2.	144(1) [exploitation of a trafficked person]	Shall not be less than 5 years but may extend to 10 years	370A(1)	Shall not be less than 5 years but may extend to 7 years

3.	144(2) [exploitation of a trafficked person]	Shall not be less than 3 years but may extend to 7 years	370A(2)	Shall not be less than 3 years but may extend to 5 years
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4. Mandatory Minimum Punishment Introduced in respect of following offences:

S. No.	Section No.	Imprisonment shall not be less than
1.	S. 99- Buying Child for Purposes of Prostitution, etc.	7 years
2.	S. 111(2)(b)- Organised Crime	5 years
3.	S. 111(3)- Abetting, attempting etc. of an Organised Crime.	5 years
4.	S. 111(4)- Being a member of Organised Crime.	5 years
5.	S. 111(5)- Harboring a member of Organised Crime.	3 years
6.	S. 111(6)- Possessing property derived from Organised Crime.	3 years
7.	S. 111(7)- Possession of property on behalf of member of Organised Crime.	3 years
8.	S. 139(1)- Kidnapping or Maiming a Child for Purposes of Begging.	10 years
9.	S. 139(2)- Kidnapping or Maiming a Child for Purposes of Begging.	20 years

### Special initiatives for protection and empowerment of women

Apart from the above mentioned legal and constitutional provisions the Government of India has set up few special initiatives for the protection and empowerment of women:

1. **National Commission for Women** is a statutory body of the Government of India, generally concerned with advising the government on all policy matters affecting women. It was established in January 1992 under the provisions of the Indian Constitution, as defined in the 1990 National Commission for Women Act. The objective of the NCW is to represent the rights of women in India and to provide a voice for their issues and concerns. The subjects of their campaigns have included dowry, politics, religion, equal representation for women in jobs, exploitation of women for labour and police abuses against women.
2. **National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001:** The Department of Women & Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resource Development has prepared a —National Policy for the Empowerment of Women” in the year 2001. The goal of this Policy is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women. The Policy will be widely disseminated so as to encourage active participation of all stakeholders for achieving its goals.
3. **Childcare leave policy for women:** The women employees having minor children are granted child care leave (admissible in different spells) for a maximum period of two years (i.e. 730 days) during entire service for taking care of up to two children whether



for rearing or to look after any of their needs like examination, sickness etc. Childcare leave (admissible in different spells) for a maximum period of two years (i.e. 730 days) during entire service for taking care of up to two children.

### 3. Landmark Judgements

#### The Secretary, Ministry of Defence v. Babita Puniya & Ors. (2020)

In a quest for equality of opportunity for women seeking Permanent Commissions in the Indian Army formed the basis of present case, where a decade and more was spent in litigation, by women engaged on Short Service Commissions in the Army to seek parity with their male counterparts in obtaining PCs. The ruling was made by a bench comprising Justice DY Chandrachud and Ajay Rastogi with directions that “*Permanent Commission shall be granted to women in the army regardless of their service, in all the ten streams where the Union Government has already taken a decision to grant the Short Service Commission for women.*”

#### Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI) v. Union of India & Ors. (2019)

In the matter, Supreme Court of India observed that “Giving preference to a male child is violative of Article 39A of the constitution and against the mandate of Article 51A (e) which casts a Constitutional duty on citizens to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.”

While upholding the constitutional validity of Section 23 of the **Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994**, the bench comprising Justice Arun Mishra and Justice Vineet Saran observed that female foeticide is the most inhumane, immoral, and anti-social act. The court said that the PCPNDT Act is a social welfare legislation, which was conceived considering the skewed sex-ratio of India and to avoid the consequences of the same.

The court also observed that skewed sex-ratio is likely to lead to greater incidences of violence against women and an increase in practices of trafficking, 'bride-buying' etc. The rigorous implementation of the Act is an edifice on which rests the task of saving the girl child, the court said.

#### Joseph Shine v. Union of India (2018)

“The five-judge bench unanimously struck down Section 497 IPC saying that it was unconstitutional since the very basis for **criminalising adultery** was the assumption that a woman is considered as the property of the husband and cannot have relations outside the marriage. The said section violated the right to privacy as well as the liberty of women by discriminating against married women and perpetuating gender stereotypes.”

The bench comprising Justice Deepak Misra, Justice AM Khanwilkar, Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice Indu Malhotra and Justice RF Nariman dealt with the petition challenging the constitutionality of the offence of adultery under Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code read with Section 198(2) of the CrPC. Section 497 of IPC criminalised adultery by imposing culpability on a man who engages in sexual intercourse with another person's wife. The same was punishable with a maximum imprisonment of five years. A married woman could not bring

forth a complaint under Section 497 IPC when her husband was found to be engaged in sexual intercourse with an unmarried woman.

### Danamma & Suman Surpur v. Amar (2018)

“The right of a daughter to be entitled to an equal share as a son in ancestral property, including daughters who were born before the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 ("HSA") came into force.”

The Supreme Court has held that daughters who were born before the enactment of **Hindu Succession Act 1956** are entitled to equal shares as son in ancestral property. The ruling was rendered in an appeal filed by daughters challenging a decree in a partition suit, which excluded them from partition. The Court also held that the daughters were entitled to the benefit of 2005 amendment as well, and on that basis also they were entitled to shares.

### Shayara Bano vs Union of India (2017)

In this case Supreme Court declared the practice of **Triple Talaq** as unconstitutional by 3:2 majority. Justices Kurian Joseph, UU Lalit and RF Nariman delivered the majority Judgment.

### Roxann Sharma v. Arun Sharma (2015)

The Supreme Court observed that “The custody of the child below five years should be with the mother who was well-educated and self-sufficient whereas the father was jobless.”

The division bench comprising of Justice Vikramajit Sen and Justice C. Nagappan held that the Hindu Marriage and Guardianship Act, 1956 protects the father's right as a guardian over the property but not over the child who is below five years of age. It was also stated that no provision of any law/act disqualifies the mother with custody of the child after five years of age. This case was a landmark because it exclusively specified the right of the **mother to have custody of a child below five years** of age provided that the mother is not unfit for the same.

### Shamima Farooqui v. Shahid Khan (2015)

The apex court, in this case, considered four main points

- (1) whether Sec 125 CrPC applied to divorced Muslim women.
- (2) how was the amount of maintenance to be fixed in these cases;
- (3) whether this amount was payable by the husband only during the *iddat* period;
- (4) whether the High Court was right in reducing the quantum of maintenance.

The Court ruled that “The divorced Muslim women are covered under **Section 125 of CrPC, and maintenance** is an absolute right of a woman, unless it is disqualified. The quantum of maintenance to be paid by the ex-husband should be such that it allows the divorced women and her children if any to live with dignity.” The division bench comprising Justice Dipak Misra and Justice Prafulla C. Pant said that the delay in granting the order of interim maintenance by the family court is an 'unacceptable situation' as well as a 'distressing phenomenon'.

### Laxmi v. Union of India (2015)

Considering increasing **acid attacks** and easy availability of acid, the Supreme Court issued directives for the prevention of such incidents by imposing restrictions on the sale of acids. The

Court instructed the governments, at both levels, to chalk out a plan and prohibit the unauthorised sale of acids across the nation. It also went ahead to declare that all victims shall be provided compensation and rehabilitation by the respective governments. This decision paved way for the legislature to introspect and enforce harsher punishments for offenders committing such horrendous crimes.

### **State v. Ram Singh and others (2013)**

The Nirbhaya rape case brought several anomalies in the legal system to light and led to significant changes. The Criminal Amendment Act, 2013 (Anti-Rape Act), introduced new offenses like stalking, acid attacks, and voyeurism under the definition of rape. The minimum sentence for rape was increased, especially in cases leading to the death or vegetative state of the victim. The character of the victim was declared irrelevant to rape cases. Additionally, the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, amended the age for being tried as an adult for violent crimes like rape from 18 to 16 years, addressing the issue of juvenile offenders.

The Supreme Court bench of three judges unanimously upheld death penalty of all the accused who exploited the victim's identity and dignity. The crime touched the 'rarest of rare' threshold and is by far the worst our nation has ever seen. The judges went on to observe the following on the issue of women's rights-

"Public at large, in particular men, are to be sensitized on gender justice. The battle for gender justice can be won only with strict implementation of legislative provisions, sensitization of public, taking other pro-active steps at all levels for combating violence against women and ensuring widespread attitudinal changes and comprehensive change in the existing mind set. We hope that this incident will pave the way for the same."

### **Suchita Srivastava & Anr. v. Chandigarh Administration (2009)**

"The pregnancy cannot be terminated without the consent of the victim. The reproductive choice of the victim needs to be respected and she should be given the choice to go ahead and bear the child."

The appeal was filed challenging the decision of the High court of Punjab and Haryana which gave directions for termination of the pregnancy of a mentally retarded woman. The appellants stated that the woman in question had been pregnant for more than 19 weeks and the statutory limit for terminating the pregnancy was 20 weeks. The bench comprising Chief Justice KG Balakrishnan, Justice P Sathasivam and Justice BS Chauhan held that pregnancy can only be terminated when a medical expert was satisfied that there was a risk to the life of the pregnant women or a grave injury was possible to the physical strength.

### **Vijay Lakshmi v. Punjab University & Ors. (2003)**

"Giving preference to women in women colleges/ hostels is a form of preventive, protective and precautionary measure based on the public morals particularly in a view of the young age of the girl children to be taught."

The division bench comprising Justice MB Shah and Dr. Ar. Lakshmanan also opined that considering the peculiarities of the situation, it does not seem that preference given to women is arbitrary and unjustified.



### Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes (CEHAT) v. Union of India (2003)

“The apex court, in this case, issued Guidelines to **prevent female foeticide**. It was further directed that information should be published by way of advertisements as well as on electronic media. The **National Monitoring and Inspection Committee** constituted by the Central Government for conducting a periodic inspection shall continue to function till the Act is effectively implemented. The reports of this Committee were directed to be placed before the Central Supervisory Board and State Supervisory Board for any further action.”

### Daniel Latifi v. Union of India (2001)

“**Liability of Muslim husband to his divorced wife arising under Section 3(1) (a) of the Act to pay maintenance is not confined to iddat period.**”

The Bench comprising of Justice G.B. Pattanaik, Justice S. Rajendra Babu, Justice D.P. Mohapatra, Justice D. Raju and Justice Shivraj Patil held that a Muslim husband is liable to make reasonable and fair provision for the future of the divorced wife which obviously includes her maintenance as well. Such a reasonable and fair provision extending beyond the iddat period must be made by the husband within the iddat period in terms of Section 3(1) (a) of the Act. According to the Court, a divorced Muslim woman who has not remarried and who is not able to maintain herself after iddat period can proceed against her relatives who are liable to maintain her in proportion to the properties which they inherit on her death according to Muslim law from such divorced woman including her children and parents. If any of the relatives being unable to pay maintenance, the Magistrate may direct the State Wakf Board established under the Act to pay such maintenance.

### Municipal Corporation of Delhi v. Female Workers (Muster Roll) (2000)

“A just social order can be achieved only when inequalities are obliterated, and everyone is provided what is legally due. Women who constitute almost half of the segment of our society must be honoured and treated with dignity at places where they work to earn their livelihood. Whatever be the nature of their duties, their avocation, and the place where they work; they must be provided all the facilities to which they are entitled.”

In the case, the female workers (muster roll) who were engaged by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi raised a demand for the grant of maternity leave which was made available only to regular female workers. The same was denied to the female workers (muster rolls) since their services were not regular female workers. The same was denied to the female workers (muster rolls) since their services were not regularised.

The bench comprising of Justice S. Saghir Ahmad and Justice D.P Wadhwa held that the provisions of the **Maternity Benefit Act, 1961** indicate that they are wholly in consonance with the Directive Principles of State Policy, as set out in Article 39 and in other Articles, especially Article 42. A woman employee, at the time of advanced pregnancy, cannot be compelled to undertake hard labor as it would be detrimental to her health and also to the health of the foetus. It is for this reason that it is provided in the Act that she would be entitled to maternity leave for certain periods prior to and after delivery.

### Ms. Gita Hariharan & Anr. v. Reserve Bank of India & Anr. (1999)

**“Both the father and the mother are the natural guardians of a minor Hindu child.”**

The Hon’ble Court held that the mother or the father whoever is capable of and available of taking care of the child and is deeply interested in the welfare of the child can be the natural guardian, and that need not necessarily be the father.

**Gaurav Jain v. Union of India & Ors. (1997)**

“The children of the prostitutes have the **right to equality of opportunity, dignity, care, protection, and rehabilitation** so as to be part of the mainstream of social life without any pre-stigma attached to them.”

**Vishaka & Ors. V. State of Rajasthan & Ors. (1997)**

“Issued Guidelines to prevent **sexual harassment against women in workplaces**. All complaints of sexual harassment by any woman employee would be directed to this committee.”

These directions were made binding as law and courts had to mandatorily follow them. These guidelines were later converted verbatim into **The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013** which is the most gifted piece of law acting as the saviour of working women. This case is a remarkable example of judicial activism where the honourable court took appropriate measures for a healthy work environment.

**Uttarakhand Mahila Kalyan Parishad v. State of UP (1995)**

“No justification for women teachers being paid less or having fewer promotional avenues than their male counterparts and directed the **state to ensure parity between women and men teachers.**”

**Air India v. Nargesh Meerza (1981)**

“**The clauses regarding retirement and pregnancy under Regulation 46 of the Air India Employees Service Regulations was held unconstitutional and therefore struck down.**”

In this gender-bending judgement by the Supreme Court, an inclusive reading of Article 14 was done and it was decided that employment cannot be denied to any person on the grounds of sex. Such conditions were derogating the natural course of a woman’s life.

**CB Muthamma v. Union of India (1979)**

“**If a woman has to obtain permission from the government before marriage, then the same set of reasoning is also applicable to men.**”

## 4. International Conventions

The International Bill of Human Rights, 1948, comprising the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), outlining fundamental rights and freedoms for all individuals globally, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 1966, which protects civil and political rights, including the right to life, freedom of speech, and fair trial, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), 1966, which safeguards economic, social, and cultural rights such as the right to education, health, and decent work, both of which India ratified on April 10, 1979. Within Human Rights, the term 'women's empowerment' started gaining prominence in the global development strategy during the 1970s in the midst of the second wave of global women's rights movement. The United Nations declared 1975 as the International Women's Year and hosted the first World Conference on Women, which served as a catalyst for increased focus on women's issues worldwide. In 1979, the first ever global Convention focused on women, the Convention for Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), was drafted, which has been ratified by India. The 1990s witnessed significant institutionalization of women's empowerment, particularly with the Fourth World Conference on Women resulting in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, which highlighted the empowerment and advancement of women as key strategies for development and human rights and outline 12 critical areas of concern for women. These twelve areas of concern pertain to women and poverty, health, education, nutrition, rural women, violence against women, amongst others. More recently, the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals, aligned to the Agenda 2030 for Development, have foreground an interlinked approach to gender equality. India is aligned to accelerating progress on the above normative frameworks, and the schemes and initiatives undertaken by the Government of India to improve the educational, health and livelihood status of women besides the key constitutional and judicial provisions to ensure well-being and welfare of women.

## 5. Schemes undertaken by Government of India for ensuring women welfare and health

### 5.1 Ministry of Women and Child Development

#### Mission Shakti

##### Introduction

The Government has launched 'Mission Shakti', an Integrated Women Empowerment Programme, as Umbrella Scheme for the Safety, Security and Empowerment of Women for implementation during the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission period from 2021-22 to 2025-26. It aims at strengthening interventions for safety, security, and empowerment of women in a mission mode through institutional and convergence mechanism. Mission Shakti seeks to realise the Government's vision for 'women-led development' by addressing issues affecting women across the life-cycle continuum, while making them equal partners in nation-building through convergence across Ministries/ Departments and different levels of governance, greater participation and support of Panchayati Raj Institutions and other local self-governance bodies and Jan Sahabagita, while also strengthening digital infrastructure for last mile tracking of service delivery.

##### The broad objectives of the Mission Shakti are as under:

- To provide immediate and comprehensive continuum of care, support and assistance to women affected by violence and in distress.
- To put in place quality mechanisms for rescue, protection, and rehabilitation of women in need of assistance and victims of crime and violence.
- To create awareness among masses for inducing mindset change towards women and girls and to disseminate information about Government schemes and programmes as well as about legal provisions to fight social evils and to promote gender equality etc.
- To improve accessibility to various government services available for women at various levels.
- To build capacity and training of functionaries/ duty bearers under various schemes/ Legislations.
- To collaborate with line Ministries/ Departments/ States/ UTs for convergence of policies, programmes/ schemes and to create an enabling environment for public private partnership for women across sectors.

##### Some special features in the implementation of Mission Shakti are:

- The delivery capacity has been enhanced by improved training of the functionaries and stakeholders in the areas of the technology, legislations etc.
- Advocacy, IEC, Media, etc. are brought under one umbrella.



- A common pool of counsellors and vehicle(s) to cater to all institutions under Mission Shakti within a district.
- A flexi-fund is kept with the National Hub for Empowerment of Women (NHEW) to be set up under Mission Shakti for critical gap funding for safety, wellbeing, empowerment and progress of women and girls.
- Anganwadi/ PRI Infrastructure to be used for skilling, education and other activities for women empowerment.
- Convergence with programmes, schemes and initiatives of other Ministries and States/ UTs, as well as with Anganwadi infrastructure and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to achieve the objectives of Mission Shakti.

The components of Mission Shakti have been designed in such a way that it takes care of the women's need on life cycle continuum basis. **Mission Shakti has two sub-schemes 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya'**. While the "Sambal" sub-scheme is for safety and security of women, the "Sambal" sub-scheme which is for safety and security of women. The component-wise details are as under:

**(A) Sambal – for safety and security of women: -**

- i) **One Stop Centres (OSCs)** provide integrated services like legal counselling and help, psycho-social counselling, and support, providing information about help and facilities available for women etc. under one roof. 816 OSCs sanctioned by the government so far out of which 759 functional OSCs across the country having assisted more than 8.26 lakh. They will act in coordination and convergence with other initiatives under Nirbhaya Fund and Shakti Sadans. OSCs will be provided with vehicles. Most importantly, OSCs, along with District Hubs for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), will be developed as the mainstay and the key convergence and coordination points for matters pertaining to women in their respective districts.
- ii) **Women Helplines (181-WHL)** are already running on telephonic short-code 181-WHL in 35 States/ UTs as an emergency/non-emergency response system on a toll-free telephonic short code 181. They work in tandem with OSCs and connect to various institutional setups for safety and security of women. Under Mission Shakti, the WHLs will be integrated with ERSS (112) set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs with the help of Nirbhaya Fund for emergency like fire and ambulance, rescue and police support related services, as well as with OSCs and other helplines for providing services like legal counselling and help, psycho-social counselling and support, providing information about help and facilities available for women etc. and other existing helplines/ institutions. Their linkages with other helplines will also be strengthened. Most importantly, WHLs, along with State Hubs for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), will be developed as the mainstay and the key convergence and coordination points for matters pertaining to women in their respective States/ UTs. So far, WHLs have handled over 1.39 crore calls and assisted over 71.31 lakh women.

- iii) **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** is implemented for strengthening social, cultural and initiating mindset change for safety, empowerment and dignity of women and girls from a lifecycle continuum perspective. It will be the main initiative for behavioural and mindset change. It is being expanded to cover all districts of the nation and upscaled so as to be the main initiative for behavioural and mindset change. Under BBBP, convergence with skill development programmes is also envisaged.
- iv) **Nari Adalat** - A new sub-component for providing women with an alternate grievance redressal mechanism through a women collective comprising of 7 – 11 socially respectable women of the local community for resolving cases of petty nature such as harassment, subversion, curtailment of rights or entitlements etc. This will be implemented initially on pilot basis in identified States / UTs.

**(B) Samarthya – for empowerment of women**

- i) **Shakti Sadan** is the main schematic set up providing homes and institutional support for empowerment of women facing destitution of any kind, including through recovery, rehabilitation, repatriation, and reintegration of such women, including women victims of trafficking. The existing schemes of Swadhar Greh (for women in difficult circumstances) and Ujjawala (for prevention/ rescue/ rehabilitation/ repatriation of trafficked women) has been integrated into the component of Shakti Sadans, including integrated Relief and Rehabilitation Homes and related matters for women. This will also help in better and more organic integration of women victims of trafficking into society and will further expedite their rehabilitation. **A new important aspect of this component will be monthly deposit of Rs 500 in bank accounts of women residing in Shakti Sadans, to be given to them on moving out for their self-empowerment.** The women residents will also be provided health benefits under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana through convergence.
- ii) **Sakhi Niwas** are established to provide safe and secure place for stay for working women in the cities and the areas having job potential. The existing scheme of **Working Women Hostels (WWH) has been renamed as Sakhi Niwas** and to be expanded geographically as well as in terms of users (viz. single women, women whose family members do not reside in the area, girls pursuing higher education or undergoing training, etc.) in a manner which is responsive to the needs of working women. Children of working mothers i.e., girls up to the age of 18 years and boys up to the age of 12 years shall also be permitted to live with their mothers in Sakhi Niwas.
- iii) **Palna** (erstwhile scheme of **National Creche Scheme**) is meant to provide a safe and secure place for children of working women to act as a catalyst for enhancing Female Labour Force Participation. It is to be upscaled and expanded to act as a catalyst for enhancing Female Labour Force Participation. The scheme will largely run on the model

of Anganwadi-cum-Creches, appropriately supplemented by standalone creches. Palna has two components: Stand-alone creche and Anganwadi-cum-creche.

- iv) **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** aims to compensate for loss of wages due to pregnancy and childbirth. It also would contribute to improving the Sex Ratio at Birth and in better care of pregnant women, lactating mothers and the new-born. Earlier, the scheme was formulated to cater to the birth of one child. PMMVY 2.0 will cover the second child born to a woman, provided that such second child is a girl and with higher rate of incentive. Under the revised scheme, the provision of providing the name of father is discontinued. Amount of Rs. 5000 spread over three instalments will be provided to the mother through DBT.
- v) A **National Hub for Empowerment of Women (NHEW)**, State Hubs for Empowerment of Women (SHEW) and District Hubs for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) are envisaged for (i) **drilling down effective delivery, implementation, monitoring and feedback for all components of Mission Shakti**; (ii) convergence of all schemes and initiatives of central and state governments for enhanced results for empowerment, security and safety of women, (iii) research, publication, gender budgeting etc.; (iv) gap funding for empowerment of women. At national level 'Centre of Excellence for Women' to be a repository of knowledge and to facilitate research and innovation in the field of women empowerment and for monitoring for Gender Budgeting will be part of NHEW.

The goal is to enable women to reach their full potential through assisting, directing, and connecting them to a variety of resources for empowerment and development. Those resources include:

- Safety and security
- Financial inclusion
- Employment
- Legal Awareness
- Entrepreneurship
- Access to healthcare
- Quality education
- Digital literacy
- Social security

**vi) Nirbhaya Fund**

The Government of India had set up a dedicated fund called '**Nirbhaya Fund**' for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country. An Empowered Committee (EC) of officers constituted under Nirbhaya Framework appraises and recommends the proposals for funding under Nirbhaya Fund in conjunction with the concerned Ministries/ Departments/ Implementing Agencies. After appraisal by the EC, the concerned Ministries/ Departments obtain approval of their respective competent financial authorities to release funds out of their respective budgets and implement the approved projects/ schemes directly or through States/ UTs/

Implementing Agencies. Under the Nirbhaya Fund, one of the schemes namely “One Stop Centre (OSC) Scheme” is implemented across the country since 1st April 2015. OSCs aim to facilitate women affected by violence with a range of integrated services under one roof such as Police facilitation, medical aid, providing legal and psycho-social counselling and temporary shelter. OSCs are to be set up within 2 kms radius of the hospitals or medical facilities either in new constructed building in an approved design or in pre-existing buildings. Under the scheme, One Stop Centres are being set up in all districts of the country. So far, 759 OSCs are functional across the country and more than 8.26 lakh women have been assisted.

### List of Initiatives taken by Ministries under Nirbhaya Fund

Table 1 List of initiatives taken by Ministries under Nirbhaya Fund

Scheme Name/Initiative	Brief Description
<b>Ministry of Women and Child Development</b>	
<b>One Stop Centers</b>	Implemented since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015, to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces under one roof and facilitate immediate, emergency and non-emergency access to a range of services including police, medical, legal aid and counselling, psychological support to fight against any forms of violence against women.
<b>Women Helpline</b>	Implemented since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015, to provide an immediate and 24-hour emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence across the country by referral service.
<b>Ministry of Home Affairs</b>	
<b>Emergency Response Support System</b>	Pan-India, single, internationally recognized number, i.e., 112 based system for various emergencies, with computer aided dispatch of field resources to the location of distress.
<b>Central Victim Compensation Scheme</b>	A one-time grant to States/UTs to support and supplement the Victim Compensation schemes in respective States/UTs and expenditure from this fund is allowed to States/ UTs after consuming non-budgetary resources with them.
<b>Cyber Crime Prevention against Women &amp; Children (CCPWC):</b>	Ministry has provided grant to all States/UTs to set up cyber forensic cum training laboratories, hiring of Junior Cyber Consultant and training/capacity building to provide hands-on training to Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) Investigators, prosecutors and judicial officers. Also, A National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal ( <a href="http://www.cybercrime.gov.in">www.cybercrime.gov.in</a> ) was launched on September 20, 2018, which allowed citizens to report online content pertaining to Child Pornography/Child Sexual Abuse Material or sexually explicit content such as Rape/Gang Rape Content. In consultation with the stakeholders, a revamped portal has been launched on August 30, 2019 to enable citizens to report all types of cybercrimes with special focus on cybercrimes against women and children.

<b>Central Cybercrime Reporting Portal</b>	It has also been launched to report complaints pertaining to Child Pornography/ Child Sexual Abuse Material or sexually explicit content. One can also report complaints pertaining to cybercrimes such as mobile crimes, online and social media crimes, online financial frauds etc. through this portal
<b>Safe City Projects</b>	The objective of safe city projects is to plug in gaps in the existing infrastructure, for the safety of women. The technology to aid smart policing and safety management for the future would be enabled under the it. The projects were sanctioned in FY 2018-19 and are targeted to be completed in 3 years, i.e. by FY 2021-22. Adding many dimensions to safety of women and children, like the use of drones, installation of CCTV cameras with Facial Recognition or Automatic Number Plate Recognition to track and alert Police about criminals and criminal activity, technology-enabled infrastructure like smart lighting systems which glow as soon as it gets dark to eliminate dark alleys and crime hot-spots from cities, and toilets for women which can be located on Google Maps.
<b>New building with women centric facilities for Special Police Unit for Women &amp; Children (SPUWAC) and Special Police unit for North East Region (SPUNER) at Nanakpura, Delhi</b>	Delhi Police is undertaking a project for modernization of Special Police Unit for Women & Children (SPUWAC) and Special Police unit for North East Region (SPUNER) and Police Station Crime Against Women Cell (CAW Cell) including facilities for counseling, mediation and gender sensitization and Special Police Unit for North Eastern Region (SPUNER) including facilities for counselling of North Eastern women etc.
<b>Hiring of Professional Counsellors/ Social workers at the District, Sub-Division and Police Station level in Delhi Police</b>	The Professional Counsellors/ Social workers give counselling support to the aggrieved women and their families. It also seeks to establish an effective multi-agency coordinated response by the State to all forms of violence against women and children including sexual assault through trained social workers providing quality psycho-socio-legal services for violence affected women and children. Social Workers/ Counsellors have been appointed as part of the project at Sub-Division Level in Districts to extend the counselling services to victims.
<b>Various other Activities under Delhi Police– Safety of Women Scheme</b>	Undertaking various activities which are inter alia include holding Camps for Self Defense Training in School/ Colleges, Publicity in mass media, procurement of essential items/ equipment to enhance the capability of women police force for imparting training, procurement of cyber equipment and making short films/pamphlets on women safety for distribution.
<b>Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL)</b>	MHA has approved setting-up of a state-of-the-art DNA Analysis facility at Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) in Chandigarh. This Laboratory has a capacity and capability for examining 2000 DNA crime cases per annum for speedy disposal of cases relating to sexual assault and POCSO Act related cases. The Laboratory will contribute to address the gap of forensic



	DNA analysis of pending sexual assault cases in the country. Funds for the project were sanctioned in the FY 2018-19. The Laboratory was operationalized on December 23, 2019.
<b>Training of Investigation Officers/ Prosecution Officers/ Medical Officers in forensic evidence and Procurement of Forensic Kits for sexual assault cases</b>	In this recent project which commenced in FY 2018-19 for training and skill building programs for Investigation Officers, Prosecution Officers and Medical Officers and procurement of Forensic kits for sexual assault cases. Additionally, approval has been given for procurement of nearly 14000 (SAECK) kits for distribution to States/UTs in FY 2019-20. The Kits will facilitate expeditious and efficient collection of DNA samples in the crimes of sexual nature, identification of dead bodies etc.
<b>Strengthening of SFSLs (in 30 States)</b>	The aim and objective of the project is to strengthen the DNA analysis and Cyber Forensic Facilities in these states relating to cases of sexual assaults in 30 States/ UTs i.e: Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Goa, Odisha, Puducherry, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, A&N Islands, Bihar, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Nagaland, Assam, Meghalaya, Haryana, Telangana, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh).
<b>Setting up and strengthening Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in all districts of States &amp;UTs</b>	Approved in FY 2019-20, The AHTUs will provide counselling and support to the victims of trafficking. Sanctions are being issued to States/UTs.
<b>Setting up/ strengthening Women Help Desks (WHDs) in Police Stations in all States &amp; UTs</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs has approved a project in FY 2019-20 for setting up and strengthening of Women Help Desks in Police Stations, including Police Stations in rural areas. This project would be implemented by the respective States and Union Territories. Women Help Desks would focus on making the Police Stations more women friendly and approachable, as they would be the first and single point of contact for any woman walking into a police station. Essentially, lady police officers would be deployed at these help desks. The officials of Women Help Desk would be trained to be sensitive towards women. These help desks would have enlisted panel of experts like lawyers, psychologists and NGOs to facilitate legal aid, counselling, shelter, rehabilitation and training etc. Sanctions are being issued to States/UTs.
<b>Proposal for training of Investigation Officers (IOs)/ Prosecution Officers (POs) through Bureau of Police</b>	For the training of 4500 IOs (180 courses) and 500 POs (20 courses), which shall cover almost 1/3 of police stations in all States/UTs. The project outlines the measurable outcomes as imparting skills related to DNA evidence collection at crime scene by SAEC kits, sensitizing them towards victims of sexual assault. The goal is to enable IOs/POs to identify, document and

<b>Research &amp; Development (BPR&amp;D) for three years</b>	collect physical and biological evidence at the scene of crime with great care and thoughtful approach so that the forensic report withstands judicial scrutiny.
<b>Ministry of Railways</b>	
<b>Integrated Emergency Response Management System (IERMS)</b>	CCTVs and Monitoring rooms are being installed at major railway stations to provide 24x7 security to women passengers at stations.
<b>Proposal for procurement of Tabs for Security of Women</b>	Currently 1705 tabs have been procured and distributed among the Divisions of Zonal Railways.
<b>Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology</b>	
<b>Development of Panic Switch for Women's Safety</b>	Development & Field Testing of Panic Switch based safety Device for Cars and Buses for aiding Women's Safety through IIT Delhi and MEITY.
<b>Department of Justice</b>	
<b>Setting up of 758 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs)</b>	As per data submitted by various High Courts, upto December 2023, 758 FTSCs including 411 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts are functional in 30 States/ UTs across the country which have disposed of more than 2,14,000 cases.
<b>Ministry of Road Transport and Highways</b>	
<b>Abhaya Project Proposal (Andhra Pradesh)</b>	The proposal is for installation of ' IoT (Internet of Things) device and related software in public transport vehicles in Vishakhapatnam and Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh on pilot basis.
<b>Women's safety in public transport, UPSRTC, Govt. of U.P.</b>	The proposal includes 50 ladies pink Buses, CCTV, Panic buttons and controllers on 12500 buses, 24 interceptors, Advocacy/ Advertisements/ Awareness Campaign'. Proposal of UPSRTC has been sanctioned
<b>Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation, Govt. of Karnataka on Training women for heavy passengers' vehicles</b>	The proposal include Women Lounges at important stations, Gender Sensitization and women safety protocol training for ground staff, Sarathi Squads/ Mobile Police Patrol Vehicles, Advocacy, advertisement and Awareness Campaign on Women's safety, Training women for Heavy passenger Vehicle (HPV) and Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) licenses, CCTV Surveillance cameras for 1000 buses, Mobile application to improve functionalities on women safety and Passenger information Display in Bus Stops.
<b>Proposal for customization, deployment and management of State-</b>	Customization, deployment and management of State-wise vehicle tracking platform.

## National Commission for Women<sup>115F</sup><sup>iii</sup>

### Objectives:

The National Commission for Women was set up as statutory body in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 (Act No. 20 of 1990 of Govt. of India).

The Commission has been mandated to investigate and examine the legal safeguards provided to women under the Constitution and other laws and recommends to the Government, the measures for their effective implementation. The Commission is also mandated to review the existing provisions of the Constitution and other laws affecting women and recommend amendments to meet any lacunae, inadequacies or shortcomings in such laws; to look into complaints and take *suo-moto* notice on matters relating to deprivation of women's rights, etc. and take up issues with appropriate authorities; take up research studies on issues of relevance to women, Gender Sensitization for Police Officers; participate and advise in the planning process for socio-economic development of women; evaluate socio-economic progress, inspect jails, remand homes, etc. where women are kept under custody and seek remedial action wherever necessary.

The Commission comprises the Chairperson, five Members and Member Secretary. The maximum tenure of the Chairperson and the Members of the Commission is three years. The Commission is assisted by a Secretariat, consisting of sections/ units dealing with administrative matters including coordination, RTI related issues, IT, Official Language, Public relations etc. Accordingly, the cells are providing support to the Commission in the discharge of its day to day functions.

The Commission addresses a large number of complaints received from women with a view to ensuring that the rights of women are not compromised, and justice is not denied to them. Wherever considered, complaints are also forwarded to various State Commission for Women, National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes and their State counterparts for necessary action.

The objectives have been listed below:

- 1) Review the Constitutional and Legal safeguards for women.
- 2) Recommend remedial legislative measures.
- 3) Facilitate redressal of grievances and
- 4) Advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women.

### Key Benefits:

NCW Cells

#### 1) Complaints and Investigation Cell:

Processes the complaints received orally in writing or online via official website National Commission for Women. Deals with the complaints received from all over the country

including those relating to deprivation of rights of women and involving injustice to women takes suo motu cognizance of incidents related to commission of heinous crimes against women U/S 10 of the National Commission Act, 1990

**2) Legal Cell:**

In accordance with the mandate of the Commission, as per Section 10 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, that is to review the existing provisions of the constitution and other laws affecting women and recommend amendments thereto so as to suggest remedial legislative measures to meet any lacunae, inadequacies or shortcomings in such legislations, the commission during the year 2015-16 reviewed various laws and made recommendations thereto.

**3) NRI Cell:**

National Commission for Woman has been nominated as the Coordinating agency at the National level for dealing with issues pertaining NRI marriages vide Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs order dated 28th April 2008.

Based on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Woman (14th Lok Sabha) on the subject " Plight of Indian Woman deserted by NRI husbands " which was discussed and deliberated upon the Inter-Ministerial Committee meeting held on 7th July 2008.

**4) North-east Cell:**

National Commission for Women has constituted a Northeast Cell in the Commission to address problems being faced by North East women all over the country and to take special steps for development and empowerment of them. In addition, NE Cell, has been created to enhance the focus on the women of NE and their special problems/challenges, and to intervene with State and Central Governments whenever required. Objectives of the North-east cell:

- a. Coordinate all activities for addressing issues concerning women in the North-Eastern States including special problems/challenges and to take initiatives for their development and empowerment.
- b. All matters relating to seminars/workshops/consultation/research studies/legal awareness programmes, etc. in North-east States.
- c. Organise meetings and conferences in North-East States.
- d. Capacity Building Training of Elected Women Representatives in Panchayati Raj Institution.
- e. Coordination for home-stay tourism in North-East with Governments and State Commissions for Women.

**5) Suo-moto cell:**

Objectives of the cell:

- a. Suo-motu cognizance of cases/instances of violation/deprivation of the rights of women and constituting Inquiry Committees/Fact Finding Teams, facilitating their visits, processing Report of such Committees/teams and all follow up action.
- b. Non-implementation of laws enacted to provide protection to women and also to achieve the objective of equality.
- c. Non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating hardships and ensuring welfare and empowerment of women.

#### **6) Psychiatric and Custodial Homes Reform Cell:**

Functions of Psychiatric and Custodial Homes Reform Cell-

- a. Examination of Policy framework relating to welfare, safety, skill development and empowerment of women in custody and also other institutions including Psychiatric Homes.
- b. Preparatory work relating to conduct of inspection of Prisons/Custodial Homes and Psychiatric Homes, etc. as also finalising the report of inspections.
- c. Follow-up action on inspection Reports with all stakeholders for further necessary action.

#### **7) RTI Cell:**

Functions of RTI Cell

- a. All matters relating to RTI, includes appeals in such cases, su-motu disclosures, related reports and returns
- b. Coordination in case of RTI matters

#### **8) J&K and Ladakh Cell:**

Considering the Multi-dimensional challenges faced by the women in the newly constituted UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, NCW has set-up a Special-Cell "J&K and Ladakh Cell" specially to investigate the complaints of women received from these UTs and to facilitate their development in all spheres. Functions of the J&K and Ladakh Cell will primarily to: -

- a. Look into the complaints of women received from these UTs and to redress the grievances received from women of these regions
- b. Coordinate all activities for addressing issues concerning women in the UTs J&K and Ladakh including special problems/challenges and to take initiatives for their development and empowerment.



- c. All matters relating to seminars/workshops/consultation/research studies/legal awareness programmes,
- d. Organize meetings and conferences with various stakeholders to discuss the challenges faced by the women in these regions

Presently, NCW register the mandated complaints in the Complaint and Investigation Cell under following 23 categories with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019:

1. Acid Attack
2. Bigamy/Polygamy
3. Cyber Crime against women
4. Denial of Maternity Benefits to women
5. Dowry death
6. Free legal aid for women
7. Gender Discrimination including equal right to education & work
8. Harassment of married women/Dowry harassment
9. Indecent Representation of Women
10. Outraging modesty of women/Molestation
11. Police Apathy against women
12. Protection of Women against Domestic Violence
13. Rape/Attempt to Rape
14. Right to exercise choice in marriage/ Honour Crimes
15. Right to live with dignity
16. Sex selective abortion/ female foeticide/amniocentesis
17. Sexual Assault
18. Sexual Harassment
19. Sexual Harassment of Women at workplace
20. Stalking/Voyeurism
21. Traditional practices derogatory to women rights i.e. sati-pratha, devdasi pratha, witch hunting
22. Trafficking / Prostitution of women
23. Women's right of custody of children in the event of divorce.

## Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0

### Introduction

Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (hereinafter referred to as Poshan 2.0) is an Integrated Nutrition Support Programme. It seeks to address the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers through a strategic shift in nutrition content and delivery and by creation of a convergent ecosystem to develop and promote practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity, along with early childhood care. Poshan 2.0 shall focus on Maternal Nutrition, Infant and Young Child Feeding Norms, Treatment of MAM/SAM, and Wellness through AYUSH. Adequate health care, nutrition, security, safety, responsive care giving and opportunities for early learning are essential for children to achieve their full human potential. Therefore, Early Childhood Care and Education is an integral component of the programme. The programme is specifically designed to reach disadvantaged and low-income groups, for effective disparity reduction.

### Objectives

To prepare a comprehensive strategy to address the challenge of malnutrition, the Supplementary Nutrition Programme under Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Poshan Abhiyaan have been aligned under Poshan 2.0 as an Integrated Nutrition Support Programme.

The objectives of Poshan 2.0 are as follows:

1. To contribute to human capital development of the country.
2. Address challenges of malnutrition.
3. Promote nutrition awareness and good eating habits for sustainable health and wellbeing; and
4. Address nutrition related deficiencies through key strategies.

### Target Beneficiaries

Pregnant women, Lactating mother, Children below 6 years

#### **Important components of Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0**

With a view to address various gaps and shortcomings in the on-going nutrition programme and to improve implementation as well as to accelerate improvement in nutrition and child development outcomes, the existing scheme components have been re-organized under Poshan 2.0 into the primary verticals given below:

1. Nutrition Support for POSHAN through Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) for children of the age group of 06 months to 6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers (PWLM); and for Adolescent Girls in the age group of 14 to 18 years in Aspirational Districts and North-eastern Region (NER);
2. Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years]and early stimulation for (0-3 years); Anganwadi Infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadi; and Poshan Abhiyaan

## Initiatives under ICDS and POSHAN Abhiyan

### *ICDS and Anganwadi Services* 10F<sup>iv</sup>

#### Objectives

Launched in 1975, ICDS is a unique early childhood development programme aimed at addressing health, nutrition and the development needs of the young children, pregnant and nursing mothers. 11F<sup>v</sup> Anganwadi centre is the focal point where these services are provided.

Objectives of the Scheme are:

- to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years;
- to lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child;
- to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout;
- to achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development; and
- to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

#### Key Benefits

The ICDS Scheme offers a package of six services, viz.

- Supplementary Nutrition
- Pre-school non-formal education
- Nutrition & health education
- Immunization
- Health check-up and
- Referral services

#### Target Beneficiaries

Pregnant women, Lactating mother, Children below 6 years

### *POSHAN Abhiyan*

To ensure the objective of malnourishment free India by 2022, POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) is a flagship programme of Ministry of Women and Child Development which ensures convergence with various programmes i.e., Anganwadi Services, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) of MWCD, Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), National Health Mission (NHM), Swachh Bharat Mission, Public Distribution System (PDS). It focuses to lay emphasis on the first 1000 days of the child, which includes the nine months of pregnancy, six months of exclusive breastfeeding and the period from 6 months to 2 years to ensure focused interventions on addressing under nutrition. Besides **increasing the birth weight**, it will help **reduce both Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)**.

#### Objectives:

The programme through the targets will strive to **reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia, and low birth weight babies**. It will create synergy, ensure better monitoring, issue alerts for timely action, and encourage States/UTs to perform, guide and supervise the line Ministries and States/UTs to achieve the targeted goals.

### *Jan Andolan and Community mobilization*

At a national level, the Rashtriya Poshan Maah is celebrated in month of September across the country while Poshan Pakhwada is celebrated in March. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Poshan Pakhwada was observed, following COVID protocols, from 16th – 31st March 2021 in which 40+ crore Jan Andolan based activities and 3.70 crore Community based events (CBEs) were conducted.

### **Mission Vatsalya**

The scheme aims to:

- i) Support and sustain Children in difficult circumstances.
- ii) Develop context-based solutions for holistic development of children from varied backgrounds.
- iii) Provide scope for green field projects for encouraging innovative solutions.
- iv) Cement convergent action by gap funding, if required

Mission Vatsalya aims to take initiatives for protection and comprehensive development of children and shall subsume the existing scheme of Child Protection Services along with introduction of new elements.

#### **Components of the mission:**

##### **a) Support for statutory services including**

- ii. Child Welfare Committees,
- iii. Juvenile Justice Boards,
- iv. District Child protection units,
- v. State Child Protection Society (SCPS) & State Adoption Resource Agencies.

##### **b) Strengthen Structures for Institutional and Non-Institutional care, including family and community-based care, emergency outreach, counselling, and support services at the national, regional, state and district levels, for providing support to children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law.**

##### **c) Service Delivery Structures: The Scheme envisages a Central Project Monitoring Unit for coordination and monitoring with the State governments, while implementing the Scheme, which will function under overall supervision of the Joint Secretary, Child Welfare in the Ministry. The State Child Protection Society shall be responsible for situational analysis, planning, convergence, and implementation of the scheme in the state, while the State Adoption Resource Agency shall coordinate with Central Adoption Resource Authority and District Magistrates, for promoting incountry and inter country Adoptions.**

The District Child Protection Unit will assist District Magistrate in ensuring service delivery and taking all necessary measures in the district, for care and protection of children. The Child Welfare Committees are mandated to be established (at least one per district) under the JJ Act, 2015, to oversee the best interest of children in need of care and protection and take action for their care, protection, treatment, development & rehabilitation, inter alia.

Similarly, the Juvenile Justice Board (at least one per district) is mandated under the JJ Act, 2015 to hear the cases pertaining to children in conflict with law and take decision for their treatment and rehabilitation. The scheme proposes to provide funding support for these service delivery structures at all levels, which will enable a framework of child protection in the Country.

- d) **Institutional Care:** The scheme supports Childcare Institutions (Children Homes, Observation Homes, Special Homes, Place of safety, Specialised adoption agencies and Open shelters) for boarding lodging and comprehensive rehabilitation of children in need of care and protection and Children in conflict with law.

Separate homes based on age, gender or special needs of children could be established/ supported by the State/District and shall have similar facilities in terms of infrastructure and services. The CCIs could be either for fifty (50) children or twenty-five (25) children, depending upon the need of children in a particular area.

Specialised adoption agencies (SAA) shall provide care and protection of ten (10) children in the age of zero to six (0-6) years. These Specialised Adoption Agencies (SAA) can also be established near or within jail premises, to provide care and protection to young children of jailed mothers.

The Open shelters will provide care and protection to children of working parents requiring short time day or night care support.

Under Mission Vatsalya per child per month maintenance grant for children @ Rs 2500/- in Specialised adoption agencies and Open Shelters, @ Rs 3000/- in other Child care institutions (Children Homes, Observation Homes, Special Homes, Place of safety) respectively.

- e) **Non-Institutional Care:** The Scheme provides for Non Institutional Care of vulnerable children by way of Kinship care, sponsorship, Foster care and Aftercare (upto the age of 21 years). Rs 4000/- in non-Institutional care (Kinship care/Sponsorship/ foster care/ Aftercare). The per child maintenance cost has been rationalised to meet the basic expenses as per current prices. Allocation and rate of per child per month maintenance grant for non-institutional care is proposed to be increased for encouraging rehabilitation of children in their organic eco-system, extended families, and communities.



f) **Child Helpline:** An emergency outreach helpline for children as mandated under the JJ Act, 2015 is proposed to be supported under the scheme with improved coordination with State and District functionaries and integration with 112 Helpline of MHA.

**h) Other Initiatives:** A series of new initiatives are contemplated for addressing the concerns related to the Children in India namely

- i. Conducting a national Child Survey in collaboration with MoSPI (including children with all types of disabilities, as acknowledged by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment).
- ii. Investing in development, institutionalization, and assessment of Child Index
- iii. Developing and hosting a uniform portal to maintain database of children.
- iv. Grading of Child Care Institutions.
- v. Child Protection Awards.
- vi. Gap funding amounting to 20% of project cost, in case of convergent activities;
- vii. Advocacy & IEC activities.
- viii. Research and documentation etc.

In addition to the foregoing, Mission Vatsalya aims to maximise the outcomes of important initiatives being taken by the other Ministries and departments by way of integrating efforts and following symbiotic practices in implementation.

## **5.2 Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

### **National Urban Health Mission (NUHM)**

#### **Objectives:**

To effectively address the health concerns of the urban poor population through formation of Mahila Arogya Samiti and Jan Aarogya Samiti through active involvement of ANM/ASHA workers

#### **Key Benefits:**

- Need-based city specific urban health care system to meet the diverse health care needs of the urban poor and other vulnerable sections.
- Institutional mechanism and management systems to meet the health-related challenges of a rapidly growing urban population.
- Partnership with community and local bodies for a more proactive involvement in planning, implementation, and monitoring of health activities.
- Availability of resources for providing essential primary health care to urban poor.
- Partnerships with NGOs, for profit and not for profit health service providers and other stakeholders.

#### **Target Beneficiaries:**

Urban population

## **RMNCHA+N Programme (Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child, Adolescent Health Plus Nutrition)**

### **Objectives:**

Following the Government of India's "Call to Action (CAT) Summit" in February 2013, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare launched Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn Child plus Adolescent Health (RMNCHA+N) to influence the key interventions for reducing maternal and child morbidity and mortality.

The RMNCHA+N strategy is built upon the continuum of care concept and is holistic in design, encompassing all interventions aimed at reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, adolescent health and nutrition under a broad umbrella, and focusing on the strategic lifecycle approach. The RMNCHA+N strategy promotes links between various interventions across thematic areas to enhance coverage throughout the lifecycle to improve child survival in India.

### **Key features of RMNCH+A Strategy:**

The RMNCH+A strategy approaches include:

- **Health systems strengthening (HSS)** focusing on infrastructure, human resources, supply chain management, and referral transport measures.
- Prioritization of **high-impact interventions** for various lifecycle stages.
- Increasing effectiveness of investments by prioritizing geographical areas based on evidence.
- Integrated monitoring and accountability through good governance, use of available data sets, community involvement, and steps to address grievance.
- Broad-based collaboration and partnerships with ministries, departments, development partners, civil society, and other stakeholders.

Improving the maternal and child health and their survival are central to the achievement of national health goals under the National Health Mission (NHM). The **Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child Adolescent Health & Nutrition (RMNCAH+N)** strategy is built upon the continuum of care concept and is holistic in design, encompassing all interventions aimed at reproductive, maternal, new-born, child, and adolescent health under a broad umbrella, and focusing on the strategic lifecycle approach. With concerted efforts made under RMNCAH+N, India has made unprecedented progress in improving the health status of both mother and children.

## **Janani Suraksha Yojana**

### **Objectives**

Reducing maternal and neo-natal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among the poor pregnant women.

### **Key Benefits**

JSY is a 100 % centrally sponsored scheme, and it integrates cash assistance with delivery and post-delivery care.

### **Target Beneficiaries**

Pregnant women especially with weak socio-economic status i.e. women from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and BPL households delivering in government /private accredited health facilities.

### **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram**

#### **Objective**

Providing all pregnant women delivering at public health facility with absolutely free and no expense delivery, including caesarean section.

#### **Key benefits**

The initiative entitles all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free and no expense delivery, including caesarean section. The entitlements include free drugs and consumables, free diagnostics, free blood wherever required, and free diet for 3 days during normal delivery and 7 days for C-section. This initiative also provides for free transport from home to institution, between facilities in case of a referral and drop back home.

In 2014 these entitlements extended to all antenatal & post-natal complications of pregnancy. Similar entitlements have been put in place for all sick new-borns and infants (up to one year of age) accessing public health institutions for treatment.

#### **Target Beneficiaries**

Pregnant women delivering at public health facility and sick infants (up to one year of age) availing services at public health facilities in India

### **Surakshit Matritva Ashwasan (SUMAN)**

#### **Objective**

Assured, dignified and respectful delivery of quality healthcare services at no cost and zero tolerance for denial of services to any woman and newborn visiting a public health facility to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths and morbidities and provide a positive birthing experience.

#### **Key Benefits**

- Provision of at least 4 ANC check-up and 5 home-based visits in the postnatal period.
- Safe motherhood booklet and mother & child protection card
- Deliveries by trained personnel (including midwife/SBA)
- Free and zero expense access for identification and management of maternal complications
- Early initiation and support for breastfeeding
- Respectful care with privacy and dignity
- Choice for delayed cord clamping beyond 5 minutes/up to delivery of placenta
- Elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV, HBV, and syphilis
- Zero dose vaccination

- Free transport from home to health institution (dial 102/108) and back
- Assured referral services with scope of reaching health facility within 1 hour of any critical case emergency
- Management of sick neonates and infants
- Birth registration certificates from healthcare facilities
- Conditional cash transfers/direct benefit transfer under various schemes
- Postpartum FP counselling
- Counselling and IEC/BCC for safe motherhood

### **Target Beneficiaries:**

All Pregnant Women/New-borns visiting public health facilities

### **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)**

#### **Objective**

The scheme aims to provide assured, comprehensive, and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the **9th of every month**. PMSMA guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their 2nd / 3rd trimesters of pregnancy at the designated government health facilities

#### **Key Benefits**

- Ensure at least one antenatal check-up for all pregnant women in their second or third trimester by an OBGY specialist/physician.
- All applicable diagnostic services and screening for applicable clinical conditions
- Appropriate management of any existing clinical condition such as Anaemia, Pregnancy induced hypertension, Gestational Diabetes etc.
- Appropriate counselling services and proper documentation of services rendered
- Identification and line-listing of high-risk pregnancies based on obstetric/ medical history and existing clinical conditions
- Appropriate birth planning and complication readiness for each pregnant woman especially those identified with a risk factor or a co-morbid condition
- Special emphasis on early diagnosis, adequate and appropriate management of women with malnutrition

#### **Strategies on efficient and effective implementation of PMSMA alongwith individual tracking of High Risk Pregnancies:**

For further improving the individual HRP tracking and strengthening their follow-up activities, Extended-PMSMA (E-PMSMA) has been launched recently. Followings are the silent features of the extended PMSMA;

- An additional day of the month is identified (over and above the existing 9th of every month) for organizing the PMSMA clinics, to make up for missed out HRP cases or those requiring frequent follow ups

- Cash-based incentives to ASHA for mobilizing high risk pregnant women to PMSMA session for follow up visit
- Cash-based incentive to Beneficiary towards transportation cost to attend follow up ANC visits

### **Target Beneficiaries**

All pregnant women

### **Labour Room Quality Improvement initiative (LaQshya)**

#### **Objective:**

Under the initiative, multi-pronged strategy has been adopted such as improving infrastructure, ensuring availability of essential equipment, providing adequate human resource, capacity building of health care workers and improving quality processes in labour room. The key objectives of the scheme are:

- Reduce maternal and new-born morbidity and mortality
- Improve quality of care during delivery and immediate post-partum period
- Enhance satisfaction of beneficiaries, positive birthing experience and provide Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) to all pregnant women attending public health facilities.

#### **Key Benefits:**

- LaQshya program envisages to improve quality of care in labour room and maternity OT.
- Implementation of ‘fast-track’ interventions (NQAS assessment, Trainings, Mentoring, Reviews etc.)
- Capacity-building of healthcare workers by skill-based training like Dakshta & improving quality processes in the labour room.
- To strengthen critical care in Obstetrics, dedicated Obstetric ICUs at Medical College Hospital level and Obstetric HDUs at District Hospital are operationalized under LaQshya program.

#### **Target Beneficiaries:**

Pregnant woman and new-born delivering in public health institutions

### **Midwifery Programme**

#### **Objective:**

- To provide access to quality maternal and newborn health services and promote natural birthing by promoting positive child birthing experience
- To promote respectful maternity care throughout pregnancy and childbirth
- To identify, manage, stabilize and/or refer as needed, women and their newborns experiencing complications
- To decongest higher level of healthcare facilities



- To expand access to quality maternal and neonatal services in remote areas including pockets of high home delivery rates and urban slums

**Key benefits:**

- Midwives will be the first point of contact for pregnant women in areas where midwifery-led unit is functional. Only eligible women will have access to midwife-led care.
- Pregnant women identified with complications will be referred to a medical officer or specialists for further management. The midwife will follow model of continuum of care to provide services to pregnant women ranging from family planning, ANC, delivery, PNC to safe abortion services. Midwife will promote natural birthing process with Respectful Maternity Care.

**Target Beneficiaries:**

- Pregnant woman and new-born delivering in public health institutions.

**Optimizing Postnatal Care**

**Objective:**

- To ensure quality care and individual tracking of high-risk postnatal mothers during home based postnatal visits.

**Key Benefits:**

- Quality screening during home-based visits for identification of high-risk mothers.
- Early identification of danger signs in postnatal mothers – excessive bleeding, fever, convulsions, severe abdominal pain, swelling on face/hand/legs, foul-smelling lochia, difficulty in breathing, pale skin/eyes, yellowness of urine/skin/eyes, cracked/painful nipples, fatiguability, inability to pass urine, burning micturition, dribbling of urine, incontinence of stool, abnormal behaviour.
- Tracking, management and timely referral of high-risk postnatal mothers including their follow up
- Ensuring healthy outcome for mother & her baby at 45th day post-delivery.
- Reduction in Maternal morbidity and mortality during postnatal period.

**Target Beneficiaries:**

- All mothers in postnatal period.

**Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC)**

Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC) is being provided as it is an important element in the reproductive health component of the RMNCH+A strategy as 8% (2001-03 SRS) of maternal deaths in India are attributed to unsafe abortions. More than 20500 Medical Officers have been trained in CAC trainings. Across the country, more than 6600 public health facilities are equipped with Drugs, Equipment & Trained Providers for the provision of safe abortion care

services. This program is governed by the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act which ensures safe and legal abortion service to the women across country.

Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021: The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act recognized the importance of providing safe, affordable, accessible and legal abortion services to woman who need to terminate a pregnancy due to certain therapeutic, eugenic, humanitarian or social grounds. The Act was amended for expanding base of beneficiaries to provide safe abortion services.

After the assent of Hon'ble President of India, the MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021 was enacted on 25th March 2021, followed by its notification for commencement on 24th September 2021. The Rules were formulated and notified for commencement on 12th October 2021.

### **Home Based New-born Care (HBNC)**

#### **Objective:**

For reduction of neonatal mortality, the scheme has incentivized **Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA)** for making 6-7 home visits to all new-borns and their mothers according to specified schedule up to first 42 days of life.

#### **Key Benefits:**

**The incentive to ASHA amounts to a total of Rs. 250** for six visits in case of institutional delivery and seven visits in case of home delivery, subject to the following:

- a) recording of weight and temperature of the new-born in Mother Child Protection (MCP) card, early identification of danger signs and referral of child to facility
- b) ensuring BCG, 1st dose of OPV and DPT vaccination
- c) both the mother and the new-born are safe till 42 days of the delivery, and
- d) registration of birth, early initiation of breast feeding and exclusive breast feeding to child

Further, provision for extra care to all new-born discharged after treatment of sickness from Special New-born Care Units (SCNU) and those who are born as preterm or low birth weight babies is being ensured through structured home visits follow up by ASHA till 1 year of life

#### **Target Beneficiaries:**

All new-borns up to 42 days of life and their mothers according to specified schedule.

### **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)**

#### **Objective:**

Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) is one of its kind programs to improve the overall quality of life of children enabling all children achieve their full potential; and provide comprehensive care to all the children in the community.

#### **Key Benefits:**

This program involves screening of children from birth to 18 years of age for 4 Ds- Defects at birth, Diseases, Deficiencies and Development delays, spanning 32 common health conditions for early detection and free treatment and management, including surgeries at tertiary level. Children diagnosed with identified selected health conditions are provided early intervention services and follow-up care at the district level. These services are provided free of cost, thus helping their families to reduce out of pocket expenditure incurred on the treatment. To facilitate screening of children, there is convergence with the Ministry of Women and Child Development for screening children the age group 0 – 6 years enrolled at Anganwadi centres and with the Ministry of Human Resource Development for screening the children enrolled in Government and Government aided schools.

**Target Beneficiaries:**

Children from birth to 18 years of age

**Home Based Care of Young Children (HBYC)**

**Objective:**

Home-Based Care for Young Child Programme (HBYC) is rolled out as an extension of the Home-Based New-Born Care programme (HBNC) which is currently implemented across the country. Under HBNC, home visits by ASHAs to the infants ends at 42nd day after birth and there existed a gap in the household contact of ASHAs with the child beyond this period except the ones for immunization. Realizing the importance of interventions for reducing diarrhoea, pneumonia, and under nutrition including the role of WASH on overall child survival, growth and development, addressing this gap in health system contact was crucial. Therefore, additional home visits by ASHAs between 3rd and 15th months were proposed under HBYC to fill this gap.

**Key Benefits:**

ASHA will provide home visits on 3rd, 6th, 9th, 12th, and 15th months to promote exclusive breast feeding till 6 months and continued breast feeding till 2nd year of life along with adequate complementary feeding, to ensure age-appropriate immunization and early childhood development, early identification management and referral of sick child and promote WASH practices and family planning methods. AWW will continue to provide ‘Take Home Ration’ and nutrition specific counselling to the mothers. Recording of weight and growth monitoring to be recorded in MCP card. Underweight children and children with developmental delay as per age specific milestones will be identified and taken up for further management.

**Target Beneficiaries:**

Children from 3 to 15 months of age group

**Mother’s Absolute Affection (MAA)**

**Objective:**

- Build an enabling environment for breastfeeding through awareness generation activities, targeting pregnant and lactating mothers, family members and society in

order to promote optimal breastfeeding practices as an important intervention for child survival and development.

- Revitalizing efforts towards promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding practices through health systems to achieve higher breastfeeding rates. Reinforce lactation support services at public health facilities through trained healthcare providers and through skilled community health workers.
- To incentivize and recognize those health facilities that show high rates of breastfeeding along with processes in place for lactation management.

### **Key Components:**

- Promotion of early initiation of breastfeeding and emphasis on exclusive breastfeeding till 6 months of age through ASHA worker and health care provider at health facilities.
- Communication for enhanced awareness and demand generation through mass media and mid media.
- Implementation of breastfeeding policy for hospitals. Training and capacity enhancement of nurses at government institutions, and all ANMs and ASHAs. They will provide information and counselling support to mothers for breastfeeding.
- Community engagement by ASHAs for breastfeeding promotion, who will conduct mothers' meetings. Breastfeeding mothers requiring more support will be referred to a health facility or the ANM sub-centre or the Village Health and Nutrition Day (VHND) organized every month at the village level.
- Celebration of World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) from 1st to 7th August every year across the country to increase engagement and create positive momentum for breastfeeding with diverse stake holders. Recognition and team awards will be given to facilities showing good performance
- Establishment of comprehensive lactation management centres and lactation management units for ensuring availability of safe pasteurized donor human milk and expressed mother's own breast milk suitable for feeding sick, preterm and low birth weight babies.

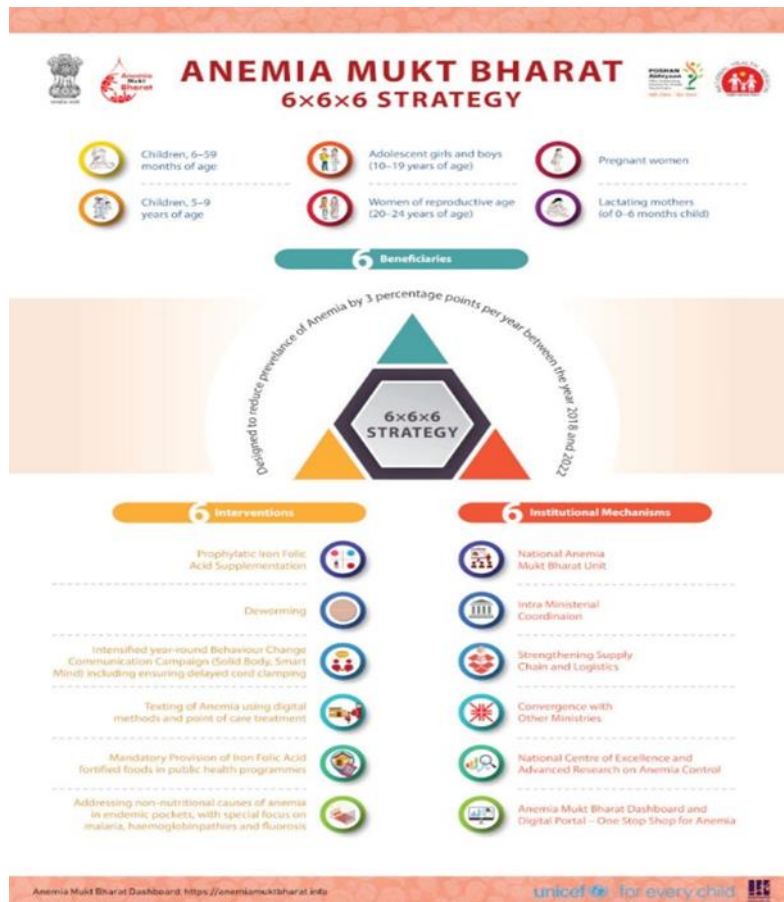
### **Target Beneficiaries:**

- Pregnant and lactating mothers, Families Members and Community Members

### **Anemia Mukht Bharat Programme (AMB)**

#### **Objective:**

To reduce anaemia in the vulnerable age groups such as women, children and adolescents in life cycle approach providing preventive and curative mechanisms through a 6X6X6 strategy including six target beneficiaries, six interventions and six institutional mechanisms for all stakeholders to implement the strategy



### Target Beneficiaries:

- Children aged 6-59 months
- Children aged 5-9 years
- Adolescent boys 10-19 year
- Adolescent girls 10-19 years
- Women of reproductive age
- Pregnant women
- Lactating women

### Key Components:

- Prophylactic Iron Folic Acid tablets/ syrups /injectables supplementation
- Deworming
- Intensified year-round Behaviour Change Communication Campaign (Solid Body, Smart Mind) focusing on four key behaviours – (a) Improving compliance to Iron Folic Acid supplementation and deworming, (b) Appropriate infant and young child feeding practices, (c) Increase in intake of iron-rich food through diet diversity/quantity/frequency and/or fortified foods with focus on harnessing locally

available resources and (d) Ensuring delayed cord clamping after delivery (by 3 minutes) in health facilities

- Testing of anemia using digital methods and point of care treatment with special focus on pregnant women and school-going adolescents
- Mandatory provision of Iron Folic Acid fortified foods in public health programmes
- Intensifying awareness, screening and treatment of non-nutritional causes of anemia in endemic pockets, with special focus on malaria, haemoglobinopathies and fluorosis

## **Universal Immunization Programme**

### **Background**

- Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) is one of the largest public health programmes targeting close of 2.67 crore newborns and 2.9 crore pregnant women annually.
- Under UIP, immunization is being provided free of cost against 12 vaccine preventable diseases:
  - Nationally against 11 diseases- Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Rubella, severe form of Childhood Tuberculosis, Rotavirus diarrhea, Hepatitis B, Meningitis & Pneumonia caused by Hemophilus Influenza type B and Pneumococcal Pneumonia
  - Sub-nationally against 1 disease - Japanese Encephalitis; JE vaccine is provided only in endemic districts.
- A child is said to be fully immunized if child receives all due vaccines (BCG, 3 doses of OPV, 3 doses of Pentavalent and one dose of Measles and Rubella containing vaccine) as per national immunization schedule within 1st year age of child.

### **Objective:**

- To reach and sustain 90% Full Immunization coverage annually.

### **Focus:**

- Ensuring vaccination of all eligible children and pregnant women across the country with all vaccine doses administered under the Universal Immunization Programme.

### **Key benefits:**

- Protects children against vaccine preventable diseases improving the quality of life and decreasing the morbidity, mortality, School drop out rates due to vaccine preventable diseases.
- Td vaccine administered during pregnancy prevents the occurrence of maternal and neonatal tetanus among mothers and neonates.

### **Target beneficiaries:**

1. Children upto 2 years of age
2. DPT booster to children at 5 years of age



3. Adolescents- Td vaccination at 10 and 16 years of age
4. Pregnant women – 2 doses of Td vaccine/one Booster dose of Td

### MusQan Initiative

#### Objective:

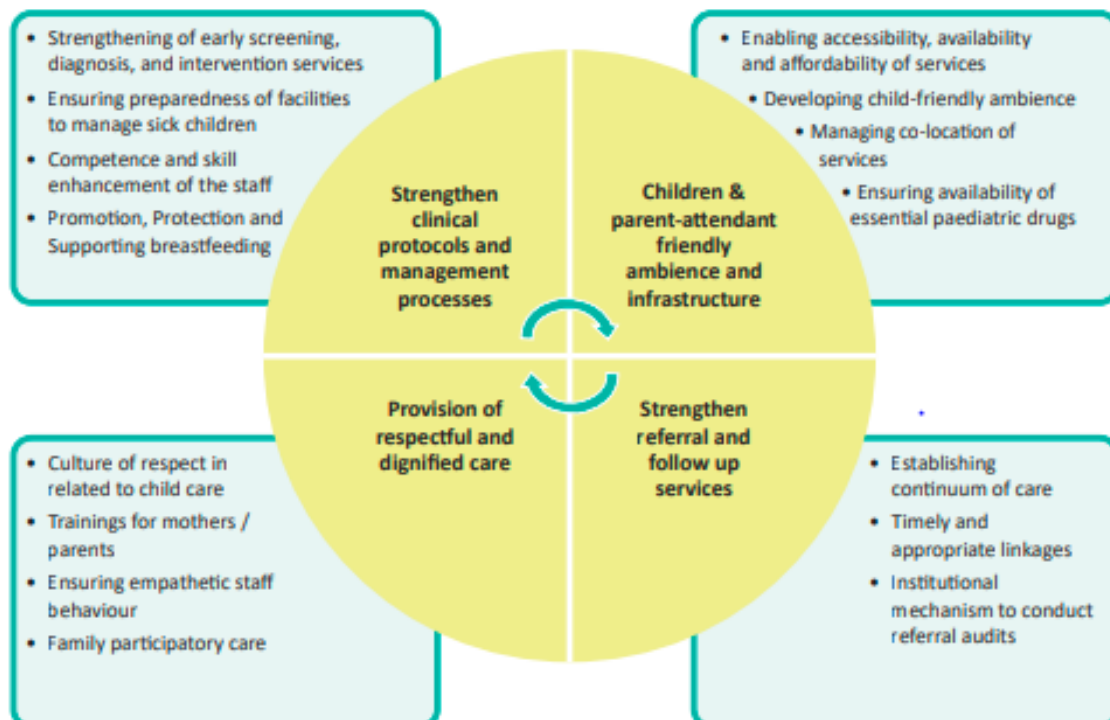
- To reduce preventable mortality and morbidity among children below 12 years of age.
- To enhance Quality of Care (QoC) as per National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS).
- To promote adherence to evidence-based practices and standard treatment guidelines & protocols.
- To provide child-friendly services to new-born and children in humane and supportive environment.
- To enhance satisfaction of mother and family, seeking healthcare for their child.

#### Target Beneficiaries:

Public health facilities for assured Child friendly, quality and safe care for children up to 12 year of age in all stages of growth and development.

MusQan program envisages to improve quality of care in Special Newborn Care Units, Newborn Stabilization Units, Paediatric OPD, Paediatric Ward and Nutritional Rehabilitation Centers.

#### Key Strategy:



### **Menstrual Hygiene Scheme (MHS)**

#### **Objectives:**

- To increase awareness among adolescent girls on Menstrual Hygiene
- To increase access to and use of high-quality sanitary napkins to adolescent girls in rural areas.
- To ensure safe disposal of Sanitary Napkins in an environmentally friendly manner.

#### **Key benefits:**

Provision of sanitary napkins to adolescent girls at a subsidized rate . Awareness on menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls

#### **Target Beneficiaries:**

Adolescent girls in the age group of 10-19 years.

### **Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS)**

**To reduce the prevalence and severity of anaemia** among adolescent population (10-19 years).

#### **Key benefits:**

- Administration of supervised Weekly Iron-folic Acid Supplements of 60 mg elemental iron and 500 mcg Folic acid using a fixed day approach.
- Screening of target groups for moderate/severe anaemia and referring these cases to an appropriate health facility.
- Biannual de-worming (Albendazole 400mg), six months apart, for control of helminthic infestation.
- Information and counselling for improving dietary intake and for taking actions for prevention of intestinal worm infestation.

#### **Target Beneficiaries:**

- School going adolescent girls and boys in 6th to 12th class enrolled in government/government aided/municipal schools.
- Out of school adolescent girls.

### **Family Planning:**

#### **Objective:**

The objectives, strategies and activities of the Family Planning programme are designed and operated towards achieving the family welfare goals and objectives stated in various policy documents. The initiatives help people to avoid unwanted births; to regulate the intervals between pregnancies; to control the time at which births occur in relation to the ages of the parents, to determine the number of children in the family.

#### **Key benefits**

- Family planning helps to space pregnancies, reducing the risks associated with closely spaced pregnancies. This leads to a decrease in maternal morbidity and mortality and better health outcomes for infants.

- Access to family planning services ensures that individuals can make informed choices about their reproductive health.
- Under Family Planning Schemes, beneficiaries have access to an extensive assortment of contraceptives which include Combined Oral Contraceptive Pills, Intrauterine Contraceptive Devices (IUCD), Sterilization services, Condoms, Injectable and non-hormonal pills; all provided free of cost at public health facilities. These have broadened the existing array of choices, ensuring that a variety of suitable options is available to cater to the diverse needs of women.
- Compensation for the loss of wages to the beneficiary is provided for availing Female Sterilization, Male Sterilization, PPIUCD and PAIUCD service.
- Eligible couples can also benefit from the convenience of the Home Delivery of Contraceptives Scheme, which is facilitated by Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA)
- Additionally, community awareness programs under Mission Parivar Vikas, including the 'Saas Bahu Sammelan' and the distribution of 'Nayi Peהל Kits' for newlyweds, play a pivotal role in enhancing women's ability to negotiate the use of contraception and address topics that were once considered taboo.

**Eligible Beneficiaries:** All women and men of reproductive age group

### 5.3.Ministry of Education

#### Samagra Shiksha

It is an Integrated Scheme for School Education (ISSE) for universalization of quality education throughout the country in coordination with the States and UTs. It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII.

#### Objective:

- Support State and UTs in implementing the recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020),
- Support States in implementation of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.
- Focus on Early Childhood Care and Education.
- Emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy.
- Thrust on Holistic, Integrated, Inclusive and activity-based Curriculum and Pedagogy to impart 21st century skills among the students.
- Provision of quality education and enhancing learning outcomes of students.
- Bridging Social and Gender Gaps in School Education.
- Ensuring equity and inclusion at all levels of school education.
- Strengthening and up-gradation of State Councils for Educational Research and Training (SCERTs)/State Institutes of Education and District Institutes for Education and Training (DIET) as a nodal agency for teacher training.
- Ensuring safe, secure and conducive learning environment and minimum standards in schooling provisions and
- Promoting vocational education.

In order to ensure greater participation of girls in education, various provisions under Samagra Shiksha have been targeted. These interventions include:

- Provision of free textbooks and Uniforms to girls up to Class VIII.
- Provision of gender segregated toilets in all schools.
- Teachers' sensitization programmes to promote girls' participation.
- Provision for Self-Defence training for the girls from classes VI to XII.
- Stipend to CWSN girls from class I to Class XII.
- Financial support under State specific Projects for Equity such as Life Skills, Awareness programmes, Incinerators, Sanitary Pad Vending Machines etc.
- Construction of residential quarters for teachers in remote/hilly areas/ areas with difficult terrain.
- In Kendriya Vidyalayas, girls have been exempted from paying tuition fees from class I to XII and education is free for girls in classes from VI to XII who happen to be the only child of their parents.

### **Key Benefits:**

This sector-wide development programme/scheme would help harmonise the implementation mechanisms and transaction costs at all levels, particularly in using state, district and sub-district level systems and resources, besides envisaging one comprehensive strategic plan for development of school education at the district level. The shift in the focus is from project objectives to improving systems level performance and schooling outcomes which will be the emphasis of the combined Scheme along-with incentivizing States towards improving quality of education.

### **Target Beneficiaries:**

Children from pre-school to Class 12

### **Detailed information:**

The scheme proposes to give flexibility to the States and UTs to plan and prioritize their interventions within the scheme norms and the overall resource envelope available to them.

The fund sharing pattern for the scheme between Centre and States is at present in the ratio of 90:10 for the 8 North-Eastern States viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura and 3 Himalayan States/UTs viz. Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and 60:40 for all other States and Union Territories with Legislature (except J&K). It is 100% centrally sponsored for Union Territories without Legislature.

### **How to Apply:**

All the children registered in Govt. and Govt. aided school are already covered under this scheme. The out of school children can join the Government schools under the Right to Education Act in classes I to VIII.

## National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme

### Objective:

To award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue their education at secondary stage. One lakh fresh scholarships are awarded to selected students of class IX every year and their continuation / renewal in classes X to XII for study in State Government, Government-aided and Local body schools under the scheme. The amount of scholarship is Rs. 12000/- per annum.

### Key Benefits:

To arrest drop out of students of economically weaker sections at class VIII and encourage them to continue their education at secondary stage.

### Target Beneficiaries:

Students of Class IX to XII

### Detailed Information:

Students whose parental income from all sources is not more than Rs. 3,50,000/- per annum are eligible to avail the scholarships. The students must have minimum of 55 % marks or equivalent grade in Class VII examination for appearing in selection test for award of scholarship (**can be relaxed by 5% for SC/ST students**). The students should be studying as regular student in a Government, Government-aided and local body schools. Students of NVS, KVS and residential schools are not entitled for the scholarships. There is reservation as per State Government norms.

The awardees should get minimum of 60% marks in Class X for continuation of scholarship (**can be relaxed by 5% for SC/ST candidates**) in next higher classes. For continuing the scholarship in class X and XII, the awardees should get clear promotion from class IX to class X and from class XI to class XII in the first attempt.

The scheme is fully on boarded on National Scholarship Portal (NSP) from 2018-19. The Ministry sanctions funds from Annual Budget Provision for releasing them to SBI, the implementing bank for the scheme for disbursement of scholarships to students directly into their bank accounts by Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) through Public Financial Management System (PFMS).

### How to apply:

Each State/UT conducts its own test for selection of students for the award of the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship. The test is conducted at stage of class-VIII. The students, who fulfil the eligibility criteria, must pass both the tests, i.e., Mental Ability Test

(MAT) and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) under NMMSS exam with at least 40 % marks in aggregate taken together for these two tests. For the SC/ST students, this cut off is 32% marks.

### **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya**

Residential schools for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups sanctioned in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) where rural female literacy rate is below national average.

#### **Objective:**

Bridging gender and social category gaps at all levels of school education and to encourage the participation of girls in education, the existing Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) at upper primary level and Girls Hostels at secondary level have been extended/converged to provide residential and schooling facilities upto Class-XII under the Scheme.

#### **Target Beneficiaries:**

Girls in the age group of 10-18 years aspiring to study in Classes VI to XII; belonging to SC, ST, OBC, Minority communities and BPL families in 532 EBB districts in 30 States/UTs.

#### **Key Benefits:**

To ensure smooth transition of girls from elementary to secondary and upto class XII wherever possible. KGBV provides the facility to have at-least one residential school for girls from Classes VI-XII in every educationally backward block (EBBs).

#### **How to apply:**

All girls in the age group of 10-18 years aspiring to study in classes VI to XII belonging predominantly to the SC, ST, OBC and minority communities in Educationally Backward Blocks of a State and UT can apply for admission in KGBV.

### **Swachh Vidyalaya initiative**

#### **Objective:**

To ensure that all schools in India have access to separate functional toilets for boys and girls. The initiative lays emphasis on promoting safe and appropriate hygiene practices in schools and behaviour among children.

#### **Key benefits:**

Water, sanitation and hygiene in schools refers to a combination of technical and human development components that are necessary to produce a healthy school environment and to develop or support appropriate health and hygiene behaviours. The technical components include drinking water, handwashing, toilet and soap facilities in the school compound for use by children and teachers. The human development components are the activities that promote



conditions within the school and the practices of children that help to prevent water, hygiene and sanitation related diseases.

**Target Beneficiaries:**

School-going children

**ULLAS-Nav Bharata Saksharta Karyakram**

The Government of India has approved a centrally sponsored innovative scheme called Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram or New India Literacy Programme (NILP), popularly known as ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society). The success of ULLAS, riding on the spirit of VOLUNTEERISM would catalyse the program into a citizen's movement - a janbhagidari. The scheme's effectiveness relies on the collective and determined efforts of all stakeholders to ensure that the program adequately addresses the unique needs of adult learners, fostering intense and lasting changes in their lives and communities.

**Objectives:**

The Karyakram aims to empower those adults aged 15 years and above from all backgrounds that could not get due schooling with objectives to provide:

- Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (Reading, Writing and Numeracy skills)
- Critical Life Skills (Various life skills i.e. Financial, Legal, Health, Digital, Cultural and Environmental Literacy etc.
- Basic Education (Preparatory (classes 3-5), Middle (classes 6-8), and Secondary stage (classes 9-12) equivalency,
- Vocational Skills (Process for adult neo-literates with a view towards obtaining local employment, reskilling and upskilling
- Continuing Education (Engaging holistic adult education courses in arts, science, technology, culture, sports, recreation, as well as other topics of interest or use to local learners

**Key Benefits:**

This scheme would provide Foundational Literacy and Numeracy to 5.00 crore non-literates of 15 year and above in the country. Various life skills Financial, Legal, Health, Digital, Cultural and Environmental Literacy etc. will be imparted for the neo-literates. The scheme will also benefit all citizens of India through Vocational skills and Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning components.

**Target Beneficiaries:**

All Non-literates of 15 years and above age group in the country with special focus on women and disadvantaged communities.

**Detailed information:**

The scheme is being implemented through volunteerism in hybrid (both in online and offline) mode. The training, orientation, workshops of volunteers, are being organized through face-to-face mode. The existing ICT and other infrastructure in schools and higher education institutions, Common Service Centres (CSC), community centres, etc. will be utilized. Government/Aided schools registered on UDISE portal is the unit for implementation of the scheme. The Central and State share ratio in all States and UTs with legislature 60:40, NER / Himalayan States and UT of J&K 90:10 and all UTs without legislature is 100% of GoI.

**How to Apply:**

Any Non-literate can register in their nearby Govt./Aided school registered under UDISE portal of Ministry of Education, Government of India. The non-literates can register themselves on ULLAS Mobile App which is available on both Android & IOS or through URL. <https://nilp.education.gov.in/nilp/#/>

The app provides teaching learning material for both learners and volunteer teachers.

**5.4.Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology****Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan**

**Objective:** The main objective of the Scheme is to make six crore persons in rural areas, across States/UTs, digitally literate, reaching to around 40% of rural households (one person per household). To ensure equitable geographical reach, each of the 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats across the country are envisaged to register an average of 200-300 candidates.

**Key Benefits:** Digitally literate persons are able to operate computers/digital access devices (like tablets, smart phones, etc.), send and receive emails, browse internet, access Government Services, search for information, undertake cashless transactions, etc. and hence use IT to actively participate in the process of nation building.

Special focus of the said Scheme is on training the beneficiaries on use of Electronic Payment System. The outcome measurement criteria include undertaking at least 5 electronic payments transactions by each beneficiary using UPI (including BHIM app), USSD, PoS, AEPS, Cards, Internet Banking.

**Target Beneficiaries:** The scheme aims to bridge the digital divide, targeting the rural population including the marginalized section of the society like SC, ST, minorities, BPL, women, and differently abled persons.

**Achievements:** As on 06 Nov 2023, a total of around 7.21 crore candidates have been enrolled and 6.23 crore have been trained, out of which 4.65 crore candidates have been certified under the PMGDISHA Scheme. Out of which 3.90 crore women beneficiaries have been enrolled, 3.43 crore have been trained and 2.65 crore women beneficiaries have been certified.

- i. **How to apply:** To ensure geographical spread across the country, a Panchayat centric approach is adopted with a target of around 200-250 candidates for each of 2.5 Lakh Gram Panchayats.

**Eligible Household:** A household is defined as a unit comprising of Head of the family, spouse, children and parents. All such households where none of the family members is digitally literate will be considered as eligible household under the Scheme.

➤ **Entry criteria**

- The beneficiary should be Digitally Illiterate
- Only one person per eligible household would be considered for training
- Age Group: 14 - 60 years

Priority would be given to non-Smartphone users, Antyodaya households, college drop-outs, participants of the adult literacy mission, digitally illiterate school students from class 9th to 12th, provided facility of Computer/ICT Training is not available in their schools.

- Preference would be given to SC, ST, BPL, women, differently abled persons and minorities
- A list of prospective candidates (one per household nominated by the respective household where none of the members is digitally literate) would be prepared by the Training Centre/CSC. A self-attestation from the respective candidates w.r.t. meeting the eligibility criteria as per Scheme Guidelines would be obtained.
- The list of nominated candidates would be duly approved by DeGS or its nominee. Appropriate directions would be sought from DeGS/Collector office for nominating a suitable officer(s) for granting approval to the list of identified candidates.
- The eligible candidates would be registered using eKYC on the PMGDISHA Portal.

ii. The URL-<https://www.pmgdisha.in>

**IT for Masses Programme under the Capacity Building and Skill Development Scheme of the Digital India Programme (umbrella scheme).**

**Objective:** The main objective of the programme is to narrow the digital divide by initiating/promoting activities in IECT for focus groups (Women, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Senior Citizens, Differently Abled & Economic Weaker Section (EWS) and underprivileged areas (North Eastern Region, Backward Districts and Blocks & Districts having more than 40% SC/ST population) for inclusive growth of IT Sectors through Infrastructure Creation, Training, Capacity Building & Entrepreneurship Creation activities in IT domain.

**Key Benefits:** Infrastructure Creation, Training, Capacity Building & Entrepreneurship Creation

**Target Beneficiaries:** Women, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Senior Citizens, Differently Abled & Economic Weaker Section (EWS)

**Achievements so far** - 5.55 lakh Women, 1.01 Lakh Scheduled Caste and 0.51 Lakh Scheduled Tribes.

**How to apply-** Various advertisements/promotions are being done through paper media, social media, websites by the Implementing agencies. One can contact and apply through the websites of the implementing agencies like NIELIT, C-DAC, HARTRON, IDEMI, VIT Chennai etc or through visiting the centres of these agencies directly.

**The URL** -<https://www.meity.gov.in/content/it-masses>

**Skill Development in the ESDM Sector viz. “Scheme for Financial Assistance to Select States/UTs for Skill Development in Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector” (Scheme-1) and “Skill Development in ESDM for Digital India” (Scheme-2)**

**Objective:** To provide financial assistance for facilitating skill Development for 4,18,000 persons in ESDM Sector by involving the States/UTs in the Country for improving the employability of the students/unemployed youths.

**Key Benefits:** To facilitate creation of an eco-system for development of ESDM Sector in the entire country. Attract students/unemployed persons etc. from other disciplines to get skilled in ESDM thereby enhancing their employability. Support ESDM industries with skilled manpower.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Students studying at 9th/10th, ITI holders, Polytechnics, Under Graduates (Engineering & Non-Engineering) candidates and unemployed youth who are school dropout's 8th pass onwards ITI / Polytechnics, Under Graduates (Engineering & Non-Engineering) and unemployed resources in non-formal Sector.

**Achievements:** As against the cumulative target of skilling of 4,18,000 candidates, a total of 4,60,038 candidates have been enrolled out of which 4,43,763 candidates have been trained, 3,22,082 candidates have been certified and 88,515 have been placed.

**How to apply:** Aspiring Students/ Candidates may contact the Training Partners in their respective States/UTs who are affiliated with the Key Implementing Agencies (KIAs) i.e. Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (ESSCI), Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC), National Institute of Electronics & IT (NIELIT) and Healthcare Sector Skill Council (HSSC).

**URL:**[https://esdm-skill.deity.gov.in/\(S\(xl11y1cfjmzyehzcg2aqdr0\)\)/default.aspx](https://esdm-skill.deity.gov.in/(S(xl11y1cfjmzyehzcg2aqdr0))/default.aspx)

**FutureSkills PRIME (Programme for Re-skilling/Up-skilling of IT Manpower for Employability)**

**Objective:** Re-skilling/ up-skilling of IT professionals in 10 new/emerging technologies namely Artificial Intelligence, Robotic Process Automation, Augmented/Virtual Reality, Internet of Things, Big Data Analytics, Additive Manufacturing/ 3D Printing, Cloud Computing, Social & Mobile, Cyber Security, and Blockchain. The programme aims at up-skilling/ re-skilling 4.12 lakh beneficiaries (4 Lakh Professionals, 10,000 Government Officials, and 2,000 Trainers) in these technologies with a Budget Outlay of Rs. 436.87 Crore.

**Achievements:** A total of 15.19+ lakh candidates have signed up on the FutureSkills PRIME portal (out of which 41% candidates are women and a total of 6.64 lakh candidates have enrolled in various courses, out of which, 2.75 lakh candidates have completed their course(s). Further, the Resource Centre's (Lead/ Co-Lead Centre's) have so far trained 10,528 Government Officials & 2,087 Trainers.

**URL:**<https://futureskillsprime.in>

To register for government incentives under the program, candidates can visit the "Register for Government Incentive Programme" tab or the following URL: <https://learn.futureskillsprime.in/register>.

### **Work Based Learning (WBL)**

**Objective:** To Strengthen and Empower SC/ST/Women/EWS Graduates/Postgraduates through MeitY Institutions. The project is being implemented across the following seven (7) organizations of MeitY i.e., CERT-IN, C-DAC, NIELIT, STQC, CMET, ERNET, and SAMEER.

**Key Benefits:** The WBL project provides an opportunity for candidates to get exposed to various Design/ Developmental/ Research activities being carried out by Institutions under the aegis of MeitY, Government of India. This Programme is expected to leverage the technical expertise of MeitY organizations on one hand and the updated knowledge base on fresh graduate engineers on the other hand, which is envisaged to provide a fillip to the employability quotient of SC/ST/EWS/Women candidates.

**Target beneficiaries:** SC/ST and Women/EWS

**Performance:** Under the project as of 31.10.2023, a total of 841 have been trained/enrolled out of which 296 candidates are women.

### **All Formal, Non-formal, Long term, short term skilling and Digital Competency Courses Conducted by NIELIT**

**Objective-** To Skill, Upskill and Reskill

**Key Benefits-** Capacity Building and Skill Development

**Target Beneficiaries** – Youths for skilling in Emerging Technologies as well as Digital Competency, Working Professionals for Upskilling and anyone for reskilling

**Achievements-** In the last 10 years, NIELIT has trained 86,84,681 candidates in various Degree/Diploma and Long-term courses, Short-Term skilling Courses as well as Digital Competency Courses.

**How to apply-** Any Interested candidate can apply through NIELIT website as well as through NIELIT's own Center PAN India and its Accreditation and Facilitation centers.

**The URL** -<https://nielit.gov.in/>

### **“Common Services Centre (CSC) 2.0: A Way forward”**

**Objective-** The objective of CSC 2.0 is to deliver e-services to rural citizen through Common Services Centre and to expand the CSC network till 2.5 lakh Gram panchayat.

**Key Benefits-** Reach out of G2C/B2C e-services to the citizen at the gram panchayat level.

### **Target Beneficiaries – All the Citizen**

**Achievements-** As on 30 June 2023 there are a total of 5,32,474 CSC out of which 4,24,447 are in rural areas. There are 69,219 CSCs run by Women VLEs, including 55,684 CSCs at Gram panchayat level.

**How to apply-** The project CSC 2.0 has the objective of setting of self-sustainable CSC at GP level for providing G2C/B2C -services to the citizen through common services Centre operated by the Village level Entrepreneurs(VLE) Any citizen can apply to be VLE subject to fulfilment of eligible criteria.

**The URL –** The URL for the dashboard of CSC 2.0 is “<https://csc.gov.in/>”

### **India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) and North East BPO Promotion Scheme (NEBPS)**

#### **Objective-**

- a) Generate employment opportunity in smaller cities/towns through setting up BPO/ITES operations
- b) Promote investment to expand the base of IT/ITES industry

#### **Key Benefits-**

- a) Financial Support: Up to 50% of expenditure incurred on BPO/ITES operations towards capital expenditure (CAPEX) and/or operational expenditure (OPEX) on admissible items, subject to an upper ceiling of Rs. 1 Lakh/Seat.
- b) Special incentives toward employment of women i.e. 5% incentive for employing 50% women.
- c) Special incentives toward employment of specially enabled persons.
- d) Incentive for generating employment beyond target & wider dispersal within state including rural areas.
- e) Encouragement for local entrepreneurs.
- f) Special consideration for Hilly states of HP, J&K and UK.

**Target Beneficiaries -** An Entity registered in India under The Companies Act, 1956 or The Companies Act 2013 (as amended till date) or The Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008.

#### **Achievements-**

- a) Under the IBPS & NEBPS scheme total employment generated is 52,550.
- b) Under IBPS & NEBPS scheme total **women employment generated is 22,474.**
- c) In IBPS & NEBPS, Viability Gap Funding (VGF) of Rs. 115.19 Crore has been already disbursed/ approved to the units under the scheme.

**How to apply-** Duration for participation under IBPS and NEBPS was till 31.03.2019 and 31.03.2020 respectively.

#### **The URL-**

IBPS:<https://ibps.stpi.in/>

NEBPS: <https://nebps.stpi.in/>

**Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has taken several measures including framing laws and technology solutions to address issues related to cyber security issues including that for women:**



- 1) **Provisions in Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 to deal with cyber security and provide for punishment/compensation for cybercrimes like cheating by personation, violation of privacy, obscenity/nudity, pornography, and child pornography.** Intermediary Guidelines that enjoin responsibility on intermediaries to prevent circulation of content that is harmful, harassing, obscene, invasive of privacy or otherwise unlawful.
- 2) **Mechanism for blocking of inappropriate content**, “Worst of List”, Child Sexual Abuse Material websites.
- 3) Proactive steps for **blocking of the advertisements and links appearing on social media and search engines providing the tool for determination of sex of the foetus** and links with search Engine providers Google, Yahoo, and Microsoft.
- 4) **Specific Advisory for Online Matrimonial Websites service providers.**
- 5) Launched an **online cyber-crime reporting portal, www.cybercrime.gov.in** for reporting online crimes relating to dissemination of Child Pornography/Rape and Gang Rape imagery.
- 6) **Sexual Harassment electronic Box (SHe-Box) is a government’s initiative to address the issue of sexual harassment at workplace.** Any woman facing sexual harassment at workplace can register their complaint through this portal for effective grievance redressal.
- 7) CERT-In has conducted Cyber security awareness sessions for women officials as part of its cyber awareness initiatives during the National Cyber Security Awareness month as follows:
  - i. Cyber Hygiene and Prevention measures of Cybercrime for Women Officials in October 2022.
  - ii. “Cyber Security Essentials” for officials belonging to SC/ST/Women in October 2023.
- 8) CERT-In has released a Cyber security Awareness Booklet for Digital Nagriks and Digital Enterprises. A dedicated section on cyber-attacks targeting women along with the best practices was included in the booklet.
- 9) CERT-In is sharing Cyber security awareness posters (including attacks targeting women) regularly through its social media handles (Twitter/IndianCERT, Facebook/IndianCERT, Koo/IndianCERT and Pixstory/IndianCERT) and official websites (<https://www.cert-in.org.in>, <https://www.csk.gov.in>).

## **5.5.Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**

### **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)**

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is committed to develop a skilling ecosystem, institutional strengthening, convergence quality program implementation with end objective of connecting vulnerable, unemployed, and disadvantaged section to employment / livelihood.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). It was first launched in the year 2015 and has evolved to suit the needs of the citizens of India as well as the industry. Between 2015 –

2022, three versions of the scheme have been implemented with varied approach and strategy. Currently, the Ministry is implementing the fourth version i.e., PMKVY 4.0.

**Objective of PMKVY 4.0:**

- Promote an enabling ecosystem for the youths to get skilled and choose a career path aligned with their abilities and aspirations.
- Enable delivery of skill training in a market-oriented and demand-driven manner by making the existing skilling ecosystem more flexible, swift, and geared to meet the emerging demand along with emphasis on improving the employability of candidates.
- Process simplification of the skill ecosystem by leveraging technology and digitalization.
- Enhance access to skilling by setting up a network of skill development infrastructure in remote parts of the country to cater to the needs of difficult geographies such as hilly terrain, LWE-affected areas, border areas, etc. by designing special projects.
- Improve inclusivity by ensuring that SC, ST, women, and other marginalized communities can undertake skill training and eventually access gainful wage and self-employment.
- Provide opportunity for lifelong skilling through the crucial pillars of upskilling and reskilling to address the dynamic needs of the ever-changing market.
- Quality training delivery through trained pedagogy, standardized assessments, and industry relevant curriculum.
- Facilitate to enhance employability of candidates through training in transferable skills and incentives for employment generation.
- Provide candidate-centric training with emphasis on industry-relevant skills.

**Focus on Women:** PMKVY focuses on skill development of unskilled and/or semi-skilled youth (Men, Women, Transgender). However, the Scheme guidelines have been designed with special focus on skilling of disadvantaged groups, Women, Transgender and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

**Participation of Women:** Since its implementation of the scheme, three version of the scheme i.e. PMKVY 1.0 (2015-16), PMKVY 2.0 (2016-20) and PMKVY 3.0 (2020-22) has been rolled out and PMKVY 4.0 is under implementation at present. As on 2nd October 2023, out of the total 1.39 crore trained/oriented candidates, 60.94 lakh are female, which is 44%. Out of the total 24.38 lakh candidates placed candidates under PMKVY, 12.64 lakh candidates (52%), are women candidates.

**Steps taken to increase women participation under PMKVY:**

Specific measures with respect to increase of women participation under PMKVY and for ensuring inclusion of Women with the following additional benefits:

- i. Cost for Boarding and Lodging as per Common Norms
- ii. Conveyance Cost as per Common Norms

- iii. Uniform, Induction Kit, Participant Handbook provided to candidates
- iv. Accidental Insurance with one year of coverage
- v. Aadhar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS) – Transaction Fees
- vi. Post-certification Tracking Allowance

**Target Beneficiaries:**

- The scheme targets school/college dropouts, out-of-education, and unemployed youths in the age group of 15-45 years. Eligibility criteria for selection of candidates is defined in the respective course curriculum of Job Role to be offered.
- Candidates looking for fresh skilling, re-skill/upskill, out-of-education candidates, School/college dropouts or unemployed youth of Indian nationality under Short-Term Training (STT) of PMKVY 4.0.
- Marginalized, vulnerable groups, etc. requiring special attention under the Special Projects of PMKVY 4.0.
- Candidates with prior learning experience or skills and willing to get assessed and certified under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

**Detailed Information about the scheme:**

All the scheme guidelines and other important information are being uploaded on the website of MSDE (<https://msde.gov.in/>). Further, all the information about the training centres, courses/ job roles being provided under the scheme, etc. may be accessed at Skill India Digital portal (<https://www.skillindiadigital.gov.in/home>).

**Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS):**

- The mandate of the scheme is to provide vocational skills in non-formal mode to non-literate, neo-literates, persons with rudimentary level of education upto 8th and school dropouts upto 12th standard in the age group of 15-45 years. The priority groups are women, SC, ST, minorities, and other backward sections of the society. JSSs are reaching to the unreached areas to cater the needs of the poorest of the poor. They work at the doorstep of the beneficiaries with a minimum infrastructure and resources.
- At present, 301 JSSs in 26 States and 7 Union Territories are functional. The annual coverage of the beneficiaries is around 4 lakh, out of which 85% are women.
- The details of the scheme such as scheme guidelines, eligible candidates, courses offered, locations of the JSSs may be accessed at <https://www.jss.gov.in/staticPages>.

**5.6. Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

**Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRSs)**

**Objectives:**

The Central Sector Scheme of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) was started in the year 2018-19 to provide quality education to the tribal children (class VI to XII) in their own environment at par with Navodaya Vidyalayas with special facilities for preserving local art and culture besides providing training in sports and skill development.

**Key Benefits:**

This was initially funded under the programme of Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, which are being upgraded as per the new model. Government has decided to establish one EMRS in every block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per census 2011). Accordingly, Ministry has set the target to set up 740 EMRSs benefitting around 3.5 lakh ST students across the country by the year 2025-26. Additionally, to encourage tribal students and provide them with a platform to enhance their capabilities, 15 Centre of Excellence for Sports (CoE for Sports) have been sanctioned. National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), an autonomous organization, has been created in the year 2019 to manage and implement the scheme of EMRS. As on date, 694 schools have been sanctioned, out of which 401 EMRSs are functional.

**Target Beneficiaries:**

EMRSs are meant exclusively for ST children where 80% seats are reserved for ST children, 5% for children belonging to PVTG, 5% for children belonging to DNT/NT/SNT community and the remaining 10% for children who have lost their parents to LWE/insurgencies/Covid-19 and children of widows/divyang parent/land donors or orphan child etc. The number of seats for boys and girls are equal i.e. a half of students are girls. As reported by NESTS (as on 31.10.2023), a total number of 1,15,169 students have been enrolled during the year 2023-24, out of which, majority are girls (58,414).

**How to Apply:**

Admission to class VI shall be made strictly on the basis of an entrance test called Eklavya Model Residential School Selection Test (EMRSST). The candidates desirous to get admission in EMRSs have to appear and qualify EMRSST.

**Pre and Post Matric Scholarship**

*Pre-Matric Scholarship*

**Objectives:**

- To support parents of ST children for education of their wards studying in classes IX and X so that the incidence of drop-out, especially in the transition from the elementary to the secondary stage is minimized, and
- To improve participation of ST children in classes IX and X of the pre-matric stage, so that they perform better and have a better chance of progressing to the post-matric stage of education.

**Target Beneficiaries:**

Students of Class 9-10 belonging to scheduled tribe whose parents' income is not more than 2.5 Lakhs per annum

**Key Benefits:**

Scholarships are paid @ Rs.225/- per month for Day Scholars and @ Rs.525/- per month for Hostellers, for a period of 10 months in a year.

**Achievements:**

During the year 2020-21 and 2021-22 the percentage of female beneficiaries was 52% under the scheme while in 2022-23 it was 54%.

**How to Apply:**

The students of A.& N. Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Dadar Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Puducherry, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand are required to submit online applications on National Scholarship Portal (NSP). (<https://scholarships.gov.in/>). The students belonging to rest of the States have to submit online applications on State Portals. For further details, interested students may contact the Tribal Welfare Department of respective State

**Post-matric Scholarship<sup>56Fvi</sup>****Target Beneficiaries:**

Students who are pursuing any recognized course from a recognized institution for which qualification is Matriculation/Class X or above. Parental income from all sources should not exceed Rs.2.50 lakhs per annum.

**Key Benefits:**

Scholarship has 2 components. First is payment of compulsory fees charged by educational institutions subject to the limit fixed by the concerned State. Second is payment of Maintenance amount varying from Rs .230 to Rs.1200 per month, depending upon the course of study pursued by the student.

**Achievements:**

During the year 2020-21 and 2021-22 the percentage of female beneficiaries was 51% under the scheme while in 2022-23 it was 52%.

**How to Apply**

The students of A.& N. Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, DNH & DD, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Puducherry, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand are required to submit online applications on National Scholarship Portal (NSP). (<https://scholarships.gov.in/>). The students belonging to rest of the States have to submit online applications on State Portals. For further details, interested students may contact the Tribal Welfare Department of respective State.

**National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Students<sup>58Fvii</sup>****Objective:**

**Fellowship:** The objective of the scheme is to encourage the ST students, a section of society with the lowest literacy levels in the country, to acquire higher education in the form of

fellowships to pursue M. Phil and Ph. D. Courses, with a view to create qualified professionals to hold posts of teachers /professionals and other higher stages of employment

**Scholarship:** ST Students is intended to encourage meritorious ST students to pursue courses at Graduate/Post Graduate level in identified Institutions of excellence, Government and Private, in professional fields such as Management, Medicine, Engineering, Information Technology, Law etc.

**Target Beneficiaries:**

**Fellowship:** The candidate belonging to ST and should have passed the post-Graduation examination.

**Scholarship:** ST students who have secured admission in the notified Institutions according to the norms prescribed by the respective Institutions will be eligible for the scholarship under the scheme

**Key Benefits:** The students who apply for the benefits will receive entitlements as in the table:

*The students receiving fellowship will be awarded as follows:*

Course	Stream	Scholarship Monthly	Contingency
		(Revised rates w.e.f.01.01.2023)	Annually
M.Phil	Humanities& Social Sciences	Rs.37000/-	Rs.10,000/-
	Science/Engineering Technology		Rs.12,000/-
Ph.D	Humanities& Social Sciences	Rs.37000/- for first two years and Rs.42000/- for remaining 3 years	Rs.20,500/-
	Science/Engineering Technology		Rs.25,000/-
<p><b>HRA for all the courses (monthly):</b> Equal to UGC rates [8% or 16% or 24% based on city]</p> <p><b>Escort Allowance for Divyanjan (monthly):</b> Rs.2000/- (at par with UGC rates)</p>			

*The students receiving scholarship will be awarded as follows:*



Component	Details
Tuition Fees/ Admin Fee	Full Admission fee, tuition fee and other non-refundable charges in respect of Government Institutes.
Books & Stationery	@ Rs. 5000/-
Stipend	Rs. 36000/- per annum
Computer & Accessories	Rs.45000/- one time assistance during the tenure

### How to Apply

**Fellowship:** The Scheme of Fellowship will be advertised in the leading newspapers, Employment News. A portal has been developed at Ministry to invite online fellowship application. Candidates shall, after getting registration/admission in the notified Universities/Institutes and after assessing their eligibility and suitability as per the criteria prescribed for Fellowship submit their applications.

**Scholarship:** The Scheme for Scholarship will be advertised in the National Scholarship Portal every year in the beginning of the academic session. Candidates shall, after getting registration/admission in the notified Universities/Institutes and after assessing their eligibility and suitability as per the criteria prescribed for Scholarship apply online through the Scholarship Portal strictly within the cut-off date and time given in the advertisement. The applications submitted after the cut-off date and time shall not be entertained/considered. National Overseas Scholarships (NOS).

### Objectives:

The scheme provides financial assistance to selected ST students for pursuing higher studies i.e., master's degree, PhD and Post-Doctoral research programme abroad.

### Key Benefits:

The scheme provides financial assistance to students selected for pursuing higher studies abroad in certain subjects at Masters level, and for PhD and Post-Doctoral research programmes. Bachelor level courses in any discipline are not covered under the scheme. 20 awards per year would be sanctioned to ST students.

### Target Beneficiaries:

There are 20 slots/awards available for National Overseas Scholarship for each year, out of which 6 slots/awards are available for girls.

Candidates applying for the National Overseas Scholarship should fulfil the requirements given below:

**Educational Qualification:** Minimum 55% marks or equivalent grade in relevant qualifying examination is required.

**Age:** Maximum age limit for eligibility for Post-Doctoral, Ph.D and Master's course is 38 years, 35 years and 32 years respectively.

**Income ceiling:** the total income of the parental income of the parents not to exceed Rs.6.00 lakh - per annum.

**How to apply:**

Candidates are required to apply on <https://overseas.tribal.gov.in>

**Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY)<sup>59Fviii</sup>**

**Objectives:**

Economic development of eligible Scheduled Tribe Women.

**Key Benefits:**

Under the scheme, the Corporation provides financial assistance up to 90% of the schemes having unit cost up to ₹2 lakh. This financial assistance is extended at highly concessional interest @4% p.a.

**Target Beneficiaries:**

Scheduled Tribe Women

**Achievements:**

For the year 2023-24, NSTFDC sanctioned financial assistance of Rs.11.49 crore for economic development of 2012 women beneficiaries as on 31.10.2023.

**How to Apply:**

The loans are given based on the requirement of the unit through the State Channelizing Agencies. For further information, please visit the Corporation website: <https://nstfdc.tribal.gov.in/>

**5.7.Ministry of Minority Affairs**

**Scholarship Schemes**

***Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme (Since 2008-09)<sup>60F<sup>ix</sup></sup>***

**Objective:**

The scholarship at pre-matric level will encourage parents from minority communities to send their school going children to school, lighten their financial burden on school education and sustain their efforts to support their children to complete school education. The scheme will form the foundation for their educational attainment and provide a level playing field in the competitive employment arena. Empowerment through education, which is one of the objectives of this scheme, has the potential to lead to upliftment of the socio-economic conditions of the minority communities.

**Key Benefits:**

- Helps in meeting basic expenses incurred in school education
- Dedicated quota for female students to encourage them to pursue education

**How to Apply:**

The scheme is implemented through the National Scholarship Portal (NSP). It is mandatory for all students to apply online on the website i.e., [www.scholarships.gov.in](http://www.scholarships.gov.in)

### **Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme (Since 2007-08)**

#### **Objective:**

The objective of the scheme is to award scholarships to meritorious students belonging to economically weaker sections of minority community to provide them better opportunities for higher education, increase their rate of attainment in higher education and enhance their employability.

#### **Key Benefits:**

- Lowers the financial burden while pursuing higher studies to promote quality education among the religious minority communities
- Dedicated quota for female students, encouraging them to participate more in higher education

#### **How to Apply:**

The scheme is implemented through the National Scholarship Portal (NSP). It is mandatory for all students to apply online on the website i.e., [www.scholarships.gov.in](http://www.scholarships.gov.in)

### **Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme (Since 2007-08)62F\***

#### **Objective:**

The objective of the Scheme is to provide financial assistance to the poor and meritorious students belonging to minority communities to enable them to pursue professional and technical courses.

#### **Key benefits:**

- Helpful in meeting expenses incurred in pursuing professional and technical courses, thus lowering the financial burden
- Dedicated quota for female for more participation in professional and technical courses

#### **How to apply:**

The scheme is implemented through the National Scholarship Portal (NSP). It is mandatory for all students to apply online on the website i.e. [www.scholarships.gov.in](http://www.scholarships.gov.in)

## **5.8. Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology**

### **WISE-KIRAN**

Women in Science & Engineering-KIRAN (WISE-KIRAN) Scheme is aimed to provide various opportunities to the women in order to strengthen their footprints in the domain of Science & Technology. WISE-KIRAN Scheme is a holistic approach that not only catering unemployed women, employed women, young girls through fellowship programmes and addressing various challenges faced by them but also strengthening infrastructure of women institutions. More than that it is also sensitizing institutions at policy level for gender equity. DST has also set up a dedicated division 'WISE-KIRAN Division' to implement all the women centric initiatives.

## **Objective of the Scheme:**

**The broad aims and objectives of Scheme are as follows:**

- To retain women in science and help re-entry of women scientist after a break into career paths within S&T sector.
- Enhance the representation of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
- To implement programmes under different categories keeping in view the individual capability, competency and aptitude in the context of basic research, societal development and self-employment.
- To provide avenues for capacity building, knowledge and skill enhancement both at national and global level.

**The different programmes under WISE-KIRAN scheme are as follows:**

### **Opportunity for Young Girls**

#### **Vigyan Jyoti:**

Vigyan Jyoti programme aims to encourage girls to pursue higher education and career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) especially in the areas where women participation is low in order to balance gender ratio across the streams. Under this programme, various activities viz. student-parent counselling, career counselling, role model interaction, additional academic support classes, tinkering activities, special lectures, visit to scientific institutions/Labs/industries, science camps, workshops, etc. are being organized to improve participation of girls in underrepresented areas of STEM.

**Objective:** The main objectives of Vigyan Jyoti are as follows:

- To increase the representation of girls in different streams of Science and Technology from an early stage.
- To facilitate a conducive and enabling environment for girls to pursue science from School level to college level and from research level to job level.
- To enhance the girls' ratio in the underrepresented areas of STEM at the UG level and ensure gender parity.
- The programme will act as a feeder to increase the gender parity in STEM at successive levels (UG, PG, PhD, Post Doc).
- Easy access to S&T information and knowledge in association with Knowledge Partners (KPs).

**Target Beneficiaries:** Meritorious girls from Class IX to Class XII.

**Key Benefits:** The programme aims to bring gender parity across the STEM fields by addressing low representation of women in certain areas of STEM.

**How to apply:** The Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) are acting as Knowledge Centres of Vigyan Jyoti and implementing this programme at District level. Meritorious

girls of Class IX and Class XI from Central/State Government Schools may approach to JNV of their district.

## **Fellowship Programmes**

**Women Scientists Scheme (WOS):** This Program was started in the year 2002-03 with mandate to provide opportunities to women scientists and technologists who had break in their scientific career. The support under WOS is available at both Post Graduate and Post Doctorate level. It has three components viz., a) Women Scientists Scheme-A (WOS-A) for research in basic and applied sciences, b) Women Scientists Scheme-B (WOS-B) for S&T intervention for societal benefit, and c) Women Scientists Scheme-C (WOS-C) for internship in Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs). Now the Women Scientists Scheme has been redesigned in to new programmes.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Women who had break in career.

**How to apply:** Call is closed for submission of new proposal, only ongoing projects are running.

**WISE Fellowship for Ph.D. (WISE-PhD):** WISE-PhD Programme aims to provide support to women who want to pursue a Ph.D. in 5 subject areas of basic and applied sciences viz. Physical & Mathematical sciences, Chemical Sciences, Life Sciences, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences and Engineering & Technology.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Women of the age group between 27-45 years are eligible to apply. However, there is 3 years' relaxation in upper age for women belonging to SC/ ST/ PH category.

**Project Tenure:** up to 5 years.

**How to apply:** Call is open throughout the year and proposal can be submitted online (<https://onlinedst.gov.in/Login.aspx>)

**WISE Post-Doctoral Fellowship (WISE-PDF) –** WISE-PDF Programme aims to provide opportunity to women to continue research after Ph.D. in Basic and Applied Sciences through independent project grant. The support is available in 5 subject areas viz. Physical & Mathematical sciences, Chemical Sciences, Life Sciences, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences and Engineering & Technology.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Women in age group of 27-60 years having PhD or equivalent degree in Science & Engineering can submit proposal under WISE-PDF.

**Project Tenure:** up to 3 years.

**How to apply:** Call is open throughout the year and proposal can be submitted online (<https://online-wosa.gov.in/wosa/>)

**Women's Instinct for Developing and Ushering in Scientific Heights & Innovations (WIDUSHI):** WIDUSHI Programme aims to encourage and support senior women scientists to conduct research in interdisciplinary areas of Science & Technology. The support is available in 6 subject areas viz. Physical & Mathematical sciences, Chemical Sciences, Life Sciences, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Engineering & Technology and S&T based Societal Research.

**Target Beneficiaries:** WIDUSHI programme provides support to women scientists who are at the verge of retirement or retired from Government service and also to the women scientists who are not at permanent position but are active researchers and continuously excelling in research field. The maximum age to apply under WIDUSHI programme is 62 years.

**Project Tenure:** up to 5 years.

**How to apply:** Call is open throughout the year and proposal can be submitted online (<https://onlinedst.gov.in/Login.aspx>)

**WISE-SCOPE:** WISE-SCOPE Programme encourages women scientists and technologists to address societal challenges through S&T interventions. The women are encouraged to submit proposals addressing challenges in following thematic areas viz. Energy, Water and Waste Management (EWWM), Engineering and Technology Development (ETD), Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development (ECSD), Agriculture and Allied Sciences (AAS) and Health, Food and Nutrition (HFN).

**Target Beneficiaries:** The women scientists in age group of 27-60 years who have completed Ph.D. or equivalent degree and wants to work at grassroots level are eligible for WISE-SCOPE programme.

**Project Tenure:** up to 3 years.

**How to apply:** Call is open throughout the year and proposal can be submitted online (<https://onlinedst.gov.in/Login.aspx>)

**WISE Internship in Intellectual Property Rights (WISE-IPR):** WISE-IPR programme provides one-year training to women in the area of Intellectual Property Rights in order to develop a core professional skill in this domain.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Women of age group between 25-45 years and having Post-Graduation/Ph.D. or equivalent degree in Basic and Applied Sciences are eligible for this programme.



**Tenure:** up to 1 year.

**How to apply:** Applications are invited once in a year and applications can be submitted online (<https://www.tifac.org.in/index.php/programmes/capacity-building/kiran-ipr>)

**Women International Grant Support (WINGS):** WINGS Programme provides opportunities to Indian Women scientists to undertake research in the International research labs and academic institutions.

There are 3 Modules in this programme:

- A. Module I: WINGS Internship
- B. Module II: WINGS Fellowship
- C. Module III: WINGS for Scientific Visit

## **Institutional Support to Women Institutions**

### **Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence (CURIE):**

CURIE Programme provides support to women institutions (women universities and women PG colleges) for establishing state-of-the art infrastructure to enhance research facilities and improving R&D activities in order to create excellence in Science & Technology (S&T) domain in these institutions. The main objective of CURIE is to strengthening research infrastructure, building research capacity and fostering a conducive environment in women institutions in the country.

The programme has 2 major components:

- A. CURIE Support to Women Universities:** CURIE programme provides support to develop research infrastructure in Basic and Applied Sciences in women universities. As special drive, facilities for research in Artificial Intelligence (AI) have also been established in 6 women universities to foster AI innovations and set up AI-friendly infrastructure to prepare skilled manpower for AI-based jobs in women universities.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Women only Universities.

- B. CURIE Support to Women PG Colleges:** CURIE support Women PG Colleges of the country for developing research facilities for benefit of large number of girls.

**Target Beneficiaries:** Women only PG Colleges.

**Project Tenure:** up to 3 years.

**How to apply:** Call opens once in a year and proposal can be submitted online (<https://onlinedst.gov.in/Login.aspx>)

## **Policy Intervention for Gender Equality in STEMM**

### **Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI):**

GATI aims to develop an indigenous Charter for Gender Equity in STEMM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics & Medicine), with a focus on bringing about transformational changes at Institutional level. The ultimate goal is to create a new ecosystem based on building competencies of institutions and provide them with ongoing mentoring support to achieve transformation. This will entail examining the full life cycle in the profession of women in STEMM at various levels in the institution.

**Target Beneficiaries:** National Labs, Institutions of National Importance, Universities.

## **Empowering Women at Grassroots Level through S&T**

### **Science & Technology for Women (S&T for Women):**

DST is also implementing a scheme “Science & Technology for Women” with a view to empower women through inputs of Science and Technology at grassroots level. The Scheme is focused on empowering women in livelihood generation through suitable technologies and available natural resources in their native areas which has led to income generation and creation of livelihood opportunities for them. Another component ‘Women Technology Parks (WTP)’ is aiming to establish a resource centres where all necessary support is made available to women on Science & Technology based training, capacity building in various technologies.

The broad objectives of this scheme are:

- To develop technologies that utilizes locally available raw material and resources for coming up with Indigenous products.
- To make rural women adapt the technology for livelihood generation, transfer of proven technologies and live demonstration of technology models.
- To address the weak links that hamper the livelihood generation for the rural women in an area and promote supplementary income generation among women.
- To generate employment opportunities for women through their skill development and capacity building.
- To address issues related to health & nutrition, drudgery reduction and addressing the occupational hazards faced by women in a particular area.

**Target Group:** S&T based Government and Non-Government Organizations working for benefit of women at grassroots level.

**How to apply:** Call opens once in a year and proposal can be submitted online (<https://onlinedst.gov.in/Login.aspx>)

## **5.9. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**

## Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Scheme 2.0

### Background:

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 1st May 2016 from Ballia, Uttar Pradesh with an objective to make a deposit free LPG connection available to the rural and deprived households which were otherwise using traditional cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, cow-dung cakes etc.

The scheme aims to safeguard the health of women & children by providing them a clean cooking fuel – LPG, so that they do not have to compromise their health in smoky kitchens or wander in unsafe areas for collecting firewood.

### Objectives:

The objectives of the Scheme are:

- To promote women empowerment
- To provide a clean cooking fuel
- To prevent health related issues, among the poor population especially in rural India, due to use of traditional cooking fuels.

### Eligibility:

1. Adult woman belonging to any of the following categories.
  - a. SC Households
  - b. ST Households
  - c. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin)
  - d. Most Backward Classes
  - e. Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)
  - f. Tea and Ex- Tea Garden tribes
  - g. Forest Dwellers
  - h. People residing in Islands and River Islands
  - i. SECC Households (AHL TIN)
  - j. Poor Household as per 14-point declaration
2. Applicant must have attained 18 years of age.
3. There should not be any other LPG connections in the household.

### Features and Benefits under the Scheme:

1. **Financial support:** Deposit free connection is provided completely free of cost to all PMUY consumers. Under the revised modalities approved for additional 75 lac connections, Government of India has increased the cost borne by it per connection to Rs. 2200 per PMUY connection for a connection 14.2kg Single Bottle Connection (SBC)/ 5 kg Double Bottle Connection (DBC)) and Rs. 1300 for a 5 kg Single Bottle Connection (SBC).

2. Free First refill and Stove: All PMUY beneficiaries are provided with first LPG refill and Stove (hotplate) both free of cost by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).
3. Provision for Migrants: Under Ujjwala 2.0, migrants are no longer denied connection for want of ration cards or address proof. A self-declaration for both 'family declaration' and 'proof of address' is a sufficient proof of address and family composition.
4. Extension of PMUY: As on 01.01.2023, 9.6 Cr LPG connections had been given under PMUY across the country. However, many applications were still being received. To clear the pending PMUY applications and to provide deposit free LPG connections to all eligible households, Government has approved release of additional 75 lakh connections under PMUY Scheme over the period of three years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26.
5. Targeted Subsidy to PMUY Households: In May 2022, the Government started a subsidy of Rs 200 for PMUY beneficiaries, and this subsidy was further raised to Rs 300 in October 2023. More than 10 lakh refills are being taken by PMUY beneficiaries daily and applicable subsidy is being transferred directly to their bank accounts through PFMS.
6. LPG Panchayat: Designed as community meetings, LPG Panchayats are envisioned to discuss safe handling of LPG, and benefits of using LPG over traditional fuels for first time users. Five broad themes addressed are: - Health benefits, Economic Saving, Safety, Environment and Empowerment.

### **Health and Environment related Gains**

1. PMUY has not only empowered women but also brought about improved health outcomes for both women and children by providing access to cleaner cooking fuels, reducing exposure to harmful indoor air pollutants, and promoting overall well-being. About 9.6 Cr households have already been benefitted by the scheme as of January 2023.
2. Utilizing LPG for cooking reduces cooking time, freeing up more time for women to engage in other activities, such as pursuing income-generating opportunities contributing towards women empowerment.

### **How to Avail:**

**Offline:-** An eligible applicant should visit the nearest LPG distributorship to apply for a PMUY connection.

**Online:-** Applicants have also been provided the facility to apply online on a dedicated portal: <https://www.pmuy.gov.in>

Along with the website, information is available on the following helplines:

- 1906 (LPG Emergency Helpline)
- 1800-233-3555 (Toll Free Helpline)
- 1800-266-6696 (Ujjwala Helpline)

## **5.10. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**

**PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)**

Beneficiaries can log on to <https://pmsvanidhi.mohua.gov.in/> for application details:

PM SVANidhi is a central sector scheme launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India in June 2020 to provide a loan facility to street vendors.

The scheme is fully funded by MoHUA and has the following objectives:

- To facilitate working capital loan up to ₹ 50,000 to street vendors.
- Interest subsidy on timely/ early repayment @ 7 per cent
- Monthly cash-back incentive on digital transactions

The scheme helps to formalize the street vendors with above objectives and will open up new opportunities to this sector to move up the economic ladder.

So far, more than 73 lakh loans disbursed to 56 lakh street vendors beneficiaries, amounting to ₹.9600 Crore. Under the scheme, loans to women street vendors are given equal priority – 44% of the beneficiaries are women.

#### Target Beneficiaries:

The PM SVANidhi scheme is available to all street vendors who are engaged in vending in urban areas as on or before March 24, 2020. The eligible vendors are identified as per following criteria:



- 1) Street vendors in possession of Certificate of Vending/Identity Card issued by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)
- 2) The vendors, who have been identified in the survey but have not been issued Certificate of Vending/Identity Card; Provisional Certificate of Vending would be generated for such vendors through an IT based Platform. ULBs are encouraged to issue such vendors the permanent Certificate of Vending and Identification Card immediately and positively within a period of one month
- 3) Street Vendors, left out of the ULB led identification survey or who have started vending after completion of the survey and have been issued Letter of Recommendation (LoR) to that effect by the ULB/Town Vending Committee (TVC)
- 4) The vendors of surrounding development/peri-urban/rural areas vending in the geographical limits of the ULBs and have been issued Letter of Recommendation (LoR) to that effect by the ULB/TVC.

The scheme provides Graded Guarantee Cover to lending institutions, on a portfolio basis. To encourage digital transaction, cashback upto ₹1,200 on digital transactions at ₹100 per month is provided to the street vendors under the scheme.

The infographic is titled "BENEFITS UNDER PM SVANidhi SCHEME" and features logos for G20 India 2023, the Government of India, the Ministry of Urban Affairs, and PM SVANidhi. It lists the following benefits:

- Rate of interest (RoI) by Banks, NBFCs & MFIs as per RBI norms for respective category
- Interest Subsidy is transferred through DBT into borrowers' account in quarterly installments
- Cash Back on Digital Transactions**
  - Up to 100 per month on specified no.
  - Digital Payment aggregators to collaborate in on-boarding street vendors e.g. PayTM, Bharat Pay, PhonePe etc
  - Transaction trail so created will build the credit score for enhanced future Credit needs

Visual icons include "Digital Transaction" (two people), "QR Code" (a QR code), and "Cash Back" (a hand holding a coin). At the bottom, there is an illustration of a street vendor in a red cart.

An Integrated IT Platform has been developed to provide end-to-end solution for the paper less loan processing.

#### **SVANidhi Se Samridhi:**

In order to provide holistic development of street vendor families, SVANidhi Se Samridhi component was introduced as part of the PM SVANidhi scheme. Under this



component, socio economic profiling of the street vendors and their families are done. As identified in the profiling, the street vendor families are provided with sanctions upto eight centrally sponsored schemes through convergence with line ministries. Weeklong SSS camps are conducted 1st week of every month at ULB level across the country, during which sanctions are issued to street vendor families.

Among the eight schemes, Janani Suraksha Yojana and PM Matru Vandana Yojana are women focused schemes, under which women from Street Vendors families can avail benefits.

### **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban (PMAY-U)**

Beneficiaries are required to approach to the concerned Urban Local Body(ULB) for availing benefits under the scheme.

#### **Objectives:**

The scheme was launched in June 2015 to fulfil Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of 'Housing for All'. To ensure women empowerment, houses under the Mission are allotted in the name of the women in the family or in joint ownership. Preference in allotment of houses is being given to physically handicapped persons, senior citizens, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minority, single women, trans genders, and other weaker and vulnerable sections of the society

#### **Target Beneficiaries:**

The Mission addresses urban housing shortage among the EWS/LIG and MIG categories including the slum dwellers by ensuring a pucca house to all eligible urban households by the year 2022, when Nation completes 75 years of its Independence. In August 2022, the Union Cabinet approved continuation of PMAY-U up to 31st December 2024 with all verticals, except CLSS, for the completion of already sanctioned houses till 31st March 2022.

#### **Key Benefits:**

The scheme aims at a housing for all from the economically weaker sections.

- 1) In-situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR): Central Assistance of Rs. 1 lakh per house is admissible for all houses built for eligible slum dwellers under the component of ISSR using land as Resource with participation of private developers.
- 2) Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS): Beneficiaries of Economically Weaker Section (EWS)/Low Income Group (LIG), Middle Income Group (MIG)-I and Middle-Income Group (MIG)-II seeking housing loans from Banks, Housing Finance Companies and other such institutions for acquiring, new construction or enhancement of houses were eligible for an interest subsidy of 6.5%, 4% and 3% on loan amount upto Rs. 6 Lakh, Rs. 9 Lakh and Rs. 12 Lakh respectively. The CLSS scheme was operational till 31.3.2022.
- 3) Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP): Under AHP, Central Assistance of Rs. 1.5 Lakh per EWS house is provided by the Government of India. An affordable housing project can be a mix of houses for different categories, but it will be eligible for Central Assistance, if at least 35% of the houses in the project are for EWS category.

- 4) Beneficiary-led Individual House Construction/ Enhancement (BLC-N/ BLC-E): Central Assistance upto Rs. 1.5 lakh per EWS house is provided to eligible families belonging to EWS categories for individual house construction/ enhancement.
- 5) Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) for Migrant Workers/ Urban Poor: They need decent rental housing at affordable rate at their work sites through a sub-scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U). The ARHC scheme is implemented through two models:
  - a) Utilizing existing Government funded vacant houses to convert into ARHCs through Public Private Partnership or by Public Agencies
  - b) Construction, Operation and Maintenance of ARHCs by Public/ Private Entities on their own vacant land.

Incentives will be provided to public/ private entities by Central/ State Government for developing & operating ARHCs which will include additional F AR/FSI, Income tax and GST exemption, Single window approval within 30 days, Project finance at lower interest rate, Trunk infrastructure till project site, Municipal services at residential rates and Use permission changes for houses for the vacant land.

#### **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Missions (DAY-NULM)**

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission aims to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households by enabling them to access self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, resulting in an appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis, through building strong grassroots level institutions of the poor. The Self Help Groups (SHGs), which are formed with approximately 10 women, are federated at ward/slum level into Area Level Federations (ALF) and at the city level, as City Level Federations (CLF). In its efforts to enable the urban poor to come out of poverty, the Mission follows a comprehensive strategy covering identification, group formation, skilling and placement, undertaking livelihood activities on individual as well as group basis, and facilitating subsidized bank loans for taking up micro-enterprises.

#### **Focus on women:(as on 31stOctober, 2023)**

- The Mission aims to bring in at least one member from each of the urban poor household, preferably women, under the Self-Help group network.
- So far, 89 lakh women have been brought under SHG fold, over 80 lakh constitute women (90%).
- Each SHG is provided Revolving Fund support @ ₹ 10,000 which is used collectively by the members for lending among themselves. The members also contribute periodically so as to build a corpus to be used similarly. This encourages the savings habit among the urban poor women.
- The SHGs are also helped in accessing corpus fund based Bank Linkage on affordable rates. Additional 3% interest subvention on bank credits, over the 7% interest subvention available

to all beneficiaries under the Self Employment Programme component, is given to women SHGs, on prompt repayment.

- Of the total, 5.9 lakh individual beneficiaries who have availed loan assistance from banks, 2.3 lakh (39%) micro entrepreneurs are women. Similarly, of the 3.2 lakh beneficiaries of the Groups which have availed loans, 3 lakh (94%) are women.
- Bank loans are also provided to SHGs based on the accumulated corpus (bank linkage), under which 7.5 lakh bank linkages have been availed by the SHGs.
- Of the total 15 lakh urban poor skill trained, 10.6 lakh (71%) are women. Similarly, of the total 8.1 lakh beneficiaries who have been placed, 5.6 lakh (70%) are women.

## **5.11. Ministry of Finance**

### **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**

#### **Introduction**

- The Scheme was launched on 8th April 2015 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister with the aim to facilitate easy collateral-free micro credit of up to Rs.10 lakh to non-corporate, non-farm small and micro entrepreneurs for income generating activities. The loans under PMMY are provided by Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), i.e., Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) and other financial intermediaries.

#### **Features**

- The loans have been divided into three categories based on the need for finance and stage in maturity of the business.
  - Shishu (loans up to Rs.50,000/-),
  - Kishor (loans above Rs.50,000/- and up to Rs.5.00 lakh), and
  - Tarun (loans above Rs.5.00 lakh and up to Rs.10.00 lakh).
- Loans under PMMY are provided to meet both term loan and working capital components of financing for income generating activities in manufacturing, trading and service sectors, including activities allied to agriculture such as poultry, dairy, beekeeping, etc.

#### **Achievements under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) as on 27.10.2023**

- Of the 44.15 crore loans amounting to Rs.25.86 lakh crore sanctioned since launch of the Scheme. Approximate 69% loans of the total number of loans have been sanctioned to Women Entrepreneurs.
- Detailed information relating to Stand Up India Scheme is also available in public domain and may be accessed from the Website : <https://www.mudra.org.in>

## Stand Up India Scheme

The Stand-Up India Scheme was launched on 5th April 2016. It aims to promote entrepreneurship among the Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe and Women by facilitating bank loans of value between Rs.10 lakh and Rs.100 lakh to at least one SC/ ST borrower and one-woman borrower per bank branch of Scheduled Commercial Banks for setting up Greenfield enterprises in trading, manufacturing, services sectors & Activities allied to agriculture.

- The scheme has been extended for the entire period coinciding with the 15th Finance Commission period of 2020-25.
- Further, pursuant to an announcement by the Union Finance Minister in the Budget speech FY 2021-22, the following changes have been made in the Stand-Up India Scheme: -
  - The extent of margin money to be brought by the borrower has been reduced from 'up to 25%' to 'up to 15%' of the project cost. However, the borrower will continue to contribute at least 10% of the project cost as own contribution.
  - Loans for enterprises in 'Activities allied to agriculture' e.g., pisciculture, beekeeping, poultry, livestock, rearing, grading, sorting, aggregation agro industries, dairy, fishery, Agri clinic and agribusiness centers, food & agro processing, etc. (excluding crop loans, land improvement such as canals, irrigation, wells) and services supporting these, shall be eligible for coverage under the Scheme.

To extend collateral free coverage, Government of India has set up the Credit Guarantee Fund for Stand-Up India (CGFSI). Apart from providing credit facility, Stand Up India Scheme also envisages extending handholding support to the potential borrowers. It also provides for convergence with Central/State Government schemes.

Applications under the scheme can also be made online at ([www.standupmitra.in](http://www.standupmitra.in)) portal.

### Features of the scheme:

- i. Eligible borrowers: SC/ST/Women entrepreneurs above 18 years of age
- ii. Composite Loan (inclusive of term loan and working capital) between Rs.10 lakh and Rs.100 lakh
- iii. Loan for setting up a new enterprises in manufacturing, trading or service sectors and activities allied to agriculture.

The Scheme envisages margin money of 'up to 15%' of the project cost which can be provided in convergence with eligible Central/State schemes. While such schemes can be drawn upon for **availing admissible subsidies** or for **meeting margin money requirements**, in all cases, the borrower shall be required to bring in minimum of 10 % of the project cost as own contribution.

### Achievement:

A total number of Women borrowers benefited under Stand- Up India Scheme as on 31.10.2023 is tabulated below -

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Women	
No. of Loan A/Cs	Sanctioned Amt.

1,63,013	37,261.03
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(Source: SIDBI)

\* Detailed information relating to Stand Up India Scheme is also available in public domain and may be accessed from the Website : <https://www.standupmitra.in>.

### 5.12. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

In order to optimally tap the constructive and creative energies of the youth of the country and to empower youth of the country to achieve their full potential, the Department of Youth Affairs pursues the twin objectives of the personality-development and nation-building.

Towards this end, the Department of Youth Affairs implements the following schemes:

Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RKSK): This is an umbrella scheme with the following components/ sub-schemes namely

- Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan
- National Youth Corps
- National Young Leaders Programme
- National Program for Youth and Adolescent Development
- International Co-operation
- Youth Hostels
- Assistance to Scouting and Guiding Organizations

The Union Cabinet has also approved the establishment of an overarching mechanism-Mera Yuva Bharat, which would be an autonomous body under this department. A digital platform for MY BHARAT <https://www.mybharat.gov.in/> has also been launched. The objectives of MY-Bharat inter-alia include developing a technology platform and to provide “whole of Government” framework to engage and empower youth . The platform will connect youth to programmes that can help them to improve their capabilities and also connect them with community activities and mentors in different sectors through local mentoring networks.

### 5.13. Ministry of Railways

The Indian Railways ensures that no women in the system is discriminated on the grounds of gender and thereby ensuring empowerment in every field of activity.

Indian railways has taken various steps towards a gender equal workplace. To empower women employees, Indian Railways has taken the following noteworthy steps:

1. Operation of some of the trains by all women crew
2. Manning some of the railway stations by exclusive all women staff
3. Promoting sports especially among women
4. Indian Railways has a significant number of more than 800 women working in traditionally male dominated jobs like loco pilots, loco pilot (shunter) and assistant loco pilots.

5. An exclusive Mahila Battalion consisting of 641 women/Railway Protection Special Force personnel has been created by redistribution of existing strength of RPF, for undertaking focused challenges for security of women passengers over Indian Railways
6. Lady RPF personnel have been regularly deployed in the frontline duties of RPF; I.E. train escort, track patrolling, guarding railway establishments and in several critical law and order duties.

#### 5.14. Ministry of Tourism

##### Safe Tourism Destination for women

A total amount of Rs.27.98 Cr. has been appraised by Empowered Committee, headed by Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child development, Govt. of India under Nirbhaya Fund in its meeting held on 19.12.2019 for “Safe Tourism Destination for women in Madhya Pradesh” and the same was sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism under the head of account of “Safe Tourism Destination for women”. The sanctioned amount- central Govt as well as State Govt share has been allocated in the following manner:

<b>Fund Contribution</b>	<b>1 st year</b>	<b>2 nd year</b>	<b>3 rd year</b>	<b>Total amount</b>
Central share(60%)	62446860	60330816	45142348	167920024
State Share (40%)	41631240	40220544	30094898	111946682
<b>Total</b>	<b>104078100</b>	<b>100551360</b>	<b>75237246</b>	<b>279866706</b>

As approved, an amount of Rs. 6.24 crore was released in favour of the State govt. of M.P. as first instalment of the total sanctioned amount of Rs. 16.79 core (Central Govt. share) during the financial year 2020-21.

2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of Rs. 5.27 crore has been released during the financial year 20223-24.

**50% concession to women applicants/ candidates** in registration fee for Incredible India Tourist Facilitator/ Incredible India Tourist Guide (IITF/IITG) Certification program of the Ministry of Tourism.

#### 5.15. Ministry of Agriculture

Economic Empowerment of Women linked to Agriculture and allied sectors

##### 1. Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for in-Situ Management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi

###### Components:

- Establish Farm Machinery Banks or Custom Hiring Centres of in-situ crop residue management machinery
- Financial assistance to the farmers for procurement of agriculture machinery and equipment for in-situ crop residue management

- Information, Education and Communication for awareness on in-situ crop residue management

**Key features:**

- Provide financial assistance to farmers for procurement of in-situ crop residue management machinery and equipment.
- Provide financial assistance to the Co-operative Societies of Farmers, FPOs, Self-Help Groups, Registered Farmers Societies / Farmers Groups, Private Entrepreneurs, **Group of Women Farmers for establishment of farm machinery banks for custom hiring of in-situ crop residue management machinery.**
- Provide financial assistance to promote use of in-situ crop residue management machinery among farmers by way of on-field and off-field training and demonstrations.
- Provide financial assistance to the State Governments, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutions, Central Government institutions, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) etc. for the activities to be undertaken towards Information, Education and Communication (IEC).

**States where the scheme is implemented:**

Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi

**2. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)**

**Components:** The Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is a newly launched scheme under the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) to promote organic farming. As per previous guidelines the farmer was to form a cluster of 20-hectare land. The farmer was being provided Rs.50,000 per hectare per farmer in the cluster during a 3-year period to develop 10,000 organic clusters of 20 hectare each so as to cover a certified area of 200,000 hectare during the 3 years.

The PKVY Scheme is implemented in a cluster mode with minimum 20 ha size and states have been asked to implement in cluster size of 1000 ha in plain area and 500 ha in hilly area to facilitate marketing of organic produce. The farmer within a group can avail benefit to a maximum of 2 ha. and the limit of assistance is Rs.50,000 per ha., out of which 62% i.e., Rs. 31,000 is given as incentive to a farmer for organic conversion, organic inputs, on farm inputs, production infrastructure, etc., directly through DBT during the conversion period of 3 years. The target of an area of around 4.1 lakh ha is proposed to be covered during the period 2018-19 to 2020-21 in the 2nd phase which is double the area covered in last three years.

**Objectives:**

- To reduce cost of agriculture to farmers through sustainable integrated organic farming systems thereby enhancing farmer's net income per unit of land
- To promote natural resource based integrated and climate resilient sustainable farming systems that ensure maintenance and increase of soil fertility, natural resource conservation, on-farm nutrient recycling and minimize dependence of farmers on external inputs
- To make farmers entrepreneurs through direct market linkages with local and national markets



- To empower farmers through their own institutional development in the form of clusters and groups with capacity to manage production, processing, value addition and certification management

### **Eligibility**

For selection of Farmer Producer Groups

- **In a cluster, there should be maximum number of small and marginal farmers. Women farmers/ SHGs should be given preference**

### **How to apply:**

Cluster can approach the implementing officers of particular districts.

## **3. National Mission For Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)**

### **Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North-Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)**

#### **Features:**

Promotion of organic farming through cluster approach by using agriculture inputs from local natural resources.

#### **Where is it implemented?**

In all the eight North Eastern States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura)

#### **Eligibility:**

For selection of Farmer Producer Groups

- Organic farming under MOVCDNER will be promoted preferably in hilly, tribal and rain-fed areas.
- FPCs are formed in large patches of up to 500 ha area.
- Cluster chosen shall be in a contiguous patch, as far as possible, may be extending over a few adjacent villages (but not over large areas in sparsely distributed villages).
- In a cluster, there should be maximum number of small and marginal farmers. Women farmers/ SHGs should be given preference

#### **Procedure to apply:**

Cluster/FPCs can approach the implementing officers of particular districts.

## **Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM)**

### **a. AMI (Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure):**

The sub scheme of ISAM envisages back-ended capital subsidy for investment in eligible storage, marketing infrastructure projects as under:

#### **For storage infrastructure projects:**

Capital cost of the project for the purpose of subsidy will be calculated on the project cost as appraised by a financial institution or actual cost of eligible components as certified by a Chartered Accountant, whichever is lower subject to the subsidy ceiling per MT as well as overall ceiling given below:

Category	Rate of Subsidy (on capital cost)	Subsidy ceiling		
		50- 1000 MT in Rs./MT	More than 1000 MT and up to 10000 in Rs./MT	Maximum ceiling (Rs. Lakhs)
For Registered FPOs, Panchayats, Women, Scheduled Caste (SC)/ Scheduled Tribe (ST) entrepreneurs or their cooperatives**/ Self-help groups	33.33%	1166.55	1000.00	100.00

**For infrastructure projects other than storage (non-storage) infrastructure including farmer-consumers market and development and upgradation of rural Haats/RPMs into GrAMs:**

Capital cost of the project for the purpose of subsidy will be calculated on the Project cost as appraised by a financial institution or actual cost of eligible components as certified by a Chartered Accountant, whichever is lower.

Category	Rate of Subsidy (on capital cost)	Maximum Subsidy Ceiling # (Rs. in lakhs)
For Registered FPOs, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Women farmers/ entrepreneurs, Scheduled Caste(SC)/ Scheduled Tribe (ST) entrepreneurs and their cooperatives**	33.33%	30.00 Lakhs

**Sub-Mission on Agricultural Extension (SMAE)**

**a. Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (ATMA)**

**Objective of the scheme:**

- Encouraging multi-agency extension strategies involving public/private extension service providers.
- Ensuring an integrated, broad-based extension delivery mechanism consistent with a farming system approach with a focus on bottom up planning process.

- c) Adopting a group approach to extension in line with the identified needs and requirement of farmers in the form of Commodity Interest Groups (CIGs) & Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs).
- d) Facilitating convergence of farmer centric programmes in planning, execution and implementation.
- e) **Addressing gender concerns by mobilizing farm women into groups and providing training to them.**
- f) ATMA scheme provides funds not only for extension activities related to agriculture but also for horticulture, dairying, poultry, fisheries, sericulture, etc.
- g) Funding to Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) components have also been included in the revised guidelines of the Scheme. For more details visit [www.agricoop.nic.in](http://www.agricoop.nic.in)

#### **b. Agri-Clinics/ Agri-Business Centres**

##### **Objectives of the scheme:**

- a) Promoting involvement of agripreneurs to supplement the efforts of the public extension system by way of setting up of agri-ventures in agriculture and allied areas.
- b) Active involvement of agripreneurs in providing advisory and extension services including know-how to the farmers at grass root level.
- c) **Provision of subsidies on credits availed from banks for establishment of agri-ventures under the scheme to General Category Candidates at 36% of project cost and to women, SC&ST, candidates from North-Eastern and Hill States at 44% of project cost.**
- d)

#### **Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation**

The Central Sector Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation is the result of merger of two erstwhile schemes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, namely

- (i) Central Sector Scheme for Cooperative Education and Training
- (ii) Restructured Central Sector Scheme for Assistance to NCDC Programmes for Development of Co-operatives.

**Objectives of the scheme:** Implementation of special scheme for intensification of cooperative education and field projects through implementation of educational programmes for women, youth, minority community through the state cooperative unions, convening of Indian Cooperative Congress and other conferences, seminars etc. for cooperative development, international promotional activities, running of cooperative data bank, publication of books, journals etc., conducting training courses/workshops/seminars on various aspects of agricultural banking, promoting technical cooperation among sub regional countries of SAARC through CICTAB.

**Eligibility:** The scheme primarily envisions for development of agricultural cooperatives. However, cooperatives in the field of fisheries, tribal / SC & ST / Hill Areas, dairy, poultry, handloom, coir, jute & tobacco, sericulture, women and labour have also been identified by NCDC for assistance. Co-operative training and education programmes will continue to be

implemented through NCUI, NCCT, VAMNICOM & CICTAB for all stakeholders involved in the cooperative system

## 5.16. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises MSME

### Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana

PM Vishwakarma, a Central Sector Scheme, was launched on 17th September, 2023 by the Prime Minister to provide end-to-end support to artisans and craftspeople who work with their hands and tools. The Scheme covers artisans and craftspeople engaged in 18 trades, viz. Carpenter (Suthar/Badhai), Boat Maker, Armourer, Blacksmith (Lohar), Hammer and Tool Kit Maker, Locksmith, Goldsmith (Sonar), Potter (Kumhaar), Sculptor (Moortikar, stone carver), Stone breaker, Cobbler (Charmkar)/ Shoemsmith/Footwear artisan, Mason (Rajmistri), Basket/Mat/Broom Maker/Coir Weaver, Doll & Toy Maker (Traditional), Barber (Naai), Garland maker (Malakaar), Washerman (Dhobi), Tailor (Darzi) and Fishing Net Maker.

### BENEFITS TO THE ARTISANS AND CRAFTS PERSONS

The Scheme envisages provisioning of the following benefits to the artisans and crafts persons:

- Recognition:** Recognition of artisans and craftspeople through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card.
- Skill Upgradation:** Basic Training of 5-7 days and Advanced Training of 15 days or more, with a stipend of Rs. 500 per day, Boarding and lodging being free of cost.
- Toolkit Incentive:** A toolkit incentive of upto Rs. 15,000 in the form of e-vouchers at the beginning of Basic Skill Training.
- Credit Support:** Collateral free 'Enterprise Development Loans' of upto Rs. 3 lakh in two tranches of Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 2 lakh with tenures of 18 months and 30 months, respectively, at a concessional rate of interest fixed at 5%, with Government of India subvention to the extent of 8%. Beneficiaries who have completed Basic Training will be eligible to avail the first tranche of credit support of upto Rs. 1 lakh. The second loan tranche will be available to beneficiaries who have availed the 1st tranche and maintained a standard loan account and have adopted digital transactions in their business or have undergone Advanced Training.
- Incentive for Digital Transaction:** An amount of Re. 1 per eligible digital transaction, upto maximum 100 transactions monthly will be credited to the beneficiary's account for each digital pay-out or receipt.
- Marketing Support:** Marketing support will be provided to the artisans and craftspeople in the form of quality certification, branding, onboarding on e-commerce platforms such as GeM, advertising, publicity and other marketing activities to improve linkage to value chain.

In addition to the above-mentioned benefits, the Scheme will onboard the beneficiaries on Udyam Assist Platform as 'entrepreneurs' in the formal MSME ecosystem. Enrolment of beneficiaries shall be done through Common Service Centres with Aadhaar-based biometric authentication on PM Vishwakarma portal. The enrolment of beneficiaries will be followed by a three-step verification which will include Verification at Gram Panchayat/ ULB

level, Vetting and Recommendation by the District Implementation Committee and Approval by the Screening Committee.

Ministry of MSME is the Nodal Ministry for the scheme. PM Vishwakarma scheme will be initially implemented for five years upto 2027-28

For more details, please log into <https://pmvishwakarma.gov.in>

### **5.17. Department for Financial Services**

#### **Introduction:**

The Stand-Up India Scheme was launched on 5th April 2016. It aims to promote entrepreneurship among the Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe and Women by facilitating bank loans of value between Rs.10 lakh and Rs.100 lakh to at least one SC/ ST borrower and one-woman borrower per bank branch of Scheduled Commercial Banks for setting up Greenfield enterprises in trading, manufacturing, services sectors & Activities allied to agriculture.

- The scheme has been extended for the entire period coinciding with the 15th Finance Commission period of 2020-25.
- Further, pursuant to an announcement by the Union Finance Minister in the Budget speech FY 2021-22, the following changes have been made in the Stand-Up India Scheme: -
  - The extent of margin money to be brought by the borrower has been reduced from 'up to 25%' to 'up to 15%' of the project cost. However, the borrower will continue to contribute at least 10% of the project cost as own contribution.
  - Loans for enterprises in 'Activities allied to agriculture' e.g., pisciculture, beekeeping, poultry, livestock, rearing, grading, sorting, aggregation agro industries, dairy, fishery, Agri clinic and agribusiness centers, food & agro-processing, etc. (excluding crop loans, land improvement such as canals, irrigation, wells) and services supporting these, shall be eligible for coverage under the Scheme.

To extend collateral free coverage, Government of India has set up the Credit Guarantee Fund for Stand Up India (CGFSI). Apart from providing credit facility, Stand Up India Scheme also envisages extending handholding support to the potential borrowers. It also provides for convergence with Central/State Government schemes.

Applications under the scheme can also be made online at ([www.standupmitra.in](http://www.standupmitra.in)) portal.

#### **Features of the scheme:**

- iv. Eligible borrowers: SC/ST/Women entrepreneurs above 18 years of age
- v. Composite Loan (inclusive of term loan and working capital) between Rs.10 lakh and Rs.100 lakh
- vi. Loan for setting up a new enterprises in manufacturing, trading or service sectors and activities allied to agriculture.

The Scheme envisages margin money of 'up to 15%' of the project cost which can be provided in convergence with eligible Central/State schemes. While such schemes can be drawn upon for availing admissible subsidies or for meeting margin money requirements, in all cases, the borrower shall be required to bring in minimum of 10 % of the project cost as own contribution.

**Achievement:**

A total number of Women borrowers benefited under Stand- Up India Scheme as on 31.10.2023 is tabulated below -

<b>(Amount in Rs. Crore)</b>	
<b>Women</b>	
<b>No. of Loan A/Cs</b>	<b>Sanctioned Amt.</b>
1,63,013	37,261.03

(Source: SIDBI)

\* Detailed information relating to Stand Up India Scheme is also available in public domain and may be accessed from the Website : <https://www.standupmitra.in>.

## **5.18. Ministry of Finance**

### **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana**

With a view to increase banking penetration, promote financial inclusion and to provide at least one bank account per household across the country, a National Mission on Financial Inclusion (FI) known as **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** was announced on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. The scheme was formally launched on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 at National level by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Comprehensive financial inclusion of the excluded sections was proposed to be achieved by 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 in 2 phases as under:

**a. Phase I (15<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 - 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2015)**

- Universal access to banking facilities in all areas, except those with infrastructural and connectivity constraints.
- Providing Basic Banking Accounts and RuPay Debit card with inbuilt accident insurance cover of Rs. 1 lakh.
- Financial Literacy Programme.

**b. Phase II (15<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 - 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2018)**

- Overdraft (OD) facility upto Rs. 5,000 after six months of satisfactory operation/history.
- Creation of Credit Guarantee Fund for coverage of defaults in overdraft accounts.
- Unorganized sector pension schemes like Swavlamban.

### **Extension of PMJDY:**

PMJDY has been extended beyond 14.8.2018 with the focus on opening of accounts shifting from “every household” to “every unbanked adult” and making the scheme more attractive with upward revision in (i) OD limit from Rs.5,000 to Rs.10,000 and (ii) accident insurance cover on RuPay card holders from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.2 lakh.

A digital pipeline of Jan-Dhan Aadhaar Mobile (JAM) has been laid through linking of Jan-Dhan account with mobile number and Aadhaar. This infrastructure pipeline is

providing the necessary backbone for and easing DBT flows, adoption of social security/pension schemes, facilitating credit flows, promoting digital payments, etc

#### **Achievements under PMJDY:**

- (a) A total of 50.81 crore Jan-Dhan accounts have been opened till October 2023 under PMJDY, with a deposit balance of Rs. 2,06,159 crore.
- (b) **There are 28.25 crore (55.50%) women Jan-Dhan account holders**, with about 33.94 crore (66.80%) accounts opened in rural and semi-urban areas.
- (c) Approximately 34.51 crore RuPay cards with an inbuilt accidental insurance of Rs. 1 lakh (Rs.2 lakh for accounts opened after 28.8.2018) coverage have also been provided to PMJDY account holders.

\* Detailed information relating to PMJDY is also available in public domain and may be accessed from the Website : <https://pmjdy.gov.in>

### **5.19. Ministry of Rural Development**

#### **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**

In order to address the shortcomings of SGSY and to provide a greater fillip to women empowerment, the Government of India launched Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) in June 2011, after restructuring SGSY. DAY-NRLM, as a program builds on the strengths of SGSY and incorporates the learning from the best practices emerging from successful rural livelihoods programs implemented in several States in the country.

##### **A. Key Features of NRLM**

Rural Poverty Elimination through the Institutions of Rural Poor Women: The central objective of DAY-NRLM is to make each poor household in the rural areas come out of abject poverty, enjoy multiple livelihoods and lead a life of dignity. DAY-NRLM seeks to reach out to all the rural poor in the country, organise them into women SHGs and federations of SHGs, enable them to access financial resources, improve their livelihoods, access their entitlements through continuous handholding and nurturing till they come out of abject poverty. The critical distinction between DAY-NRLM and the previous poverty eradication measures is the core belief about the poor and, more importantly, operationalising this belief in the planning and implementation of the program. DAY-NRLM's core belief is that the poor are highly capable, and the task of the government is to unleash their full potential by organising them and capacitating them through their own institutions. This is done very effectively by targeting women.

##### **B. Strategy for Institution Building**

DAY-NRLM is a program implemented 'by the poor'. A core belief of DAY-NRLM is that this process is best managed and owned by 'transformed and empowered' women and



facilitated by the State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM). The main role of the SRLMs is to catalyse this process and enable community leaders to emerge and to take over the process. The Mission therefore plays the role of a ‘facilitator’ and not ‘implementer’.

In turn, the institutions give their members the psychological, social and material strength and resources to overcome their obstacles one by one. This is, however, an iterative process and happens step by step. As the institutions mature and the confidence of each member grows, the institutions are able to facilitate their members to achieve bigger goals beyond mere survival. The success in solving member’s problems, in turn, strengthens the institutions. The real torchbearers of the program are the ‘dedicated women leaders of the groups, community service providers and community best practitioners or community resource persons (CRPs). They make this program for the poor into a program of the poor and by the poor.

**C. DAY-NRLM is based on Large Scale Work on the Ground and will continue to evolve as experience is gained.**

As pointed out earlier, DAY-NRLM is based on 2 decades of large-scale State-wide experiences of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and dedicated NGOs across the country. It is based on the recommendations of the First Independent South Asia Commission on Poverty Alleviation (1991–1993) and the lessons learnt from the operationalisation of these recommendations in A.P (1995 onwards) and in Bihar (2006 onwards).

Under DAY-NRLM, each State evolves its own strategy and prepares a state specific poverty reduction strategy. The DAY-NRLM framework merely acts as a guide. It is enriched by experiences on the ground. There is regular experience sharing across the States, where the States share their successes and failures and learn from best practices in other states. So each state is both a ‘learner’ and a ‘teacher’. The model thus evolves continuously and the experiences from the new states will feed into the changes necessary in the design, strategy and implementation of DAY-NRLM

**D. Sensitive Support Structures**

Setting up of sensitive and dedicated mission structures from the national level to the block level is central to DAY-NRLM. A National Mission Management Unit (NMMU) has been set up to provide technical support to State missions. In turn, the State missions have positioned multi-disciplinary teams of trained and competent professionals at state level and in the intensive districts and blocks where implementation is to begin. The missions are sourcing quality human resources from the open market as well as the government.

Thus, the external support structure is meant for building strong and self-sustaining community institutions and cadres for implementation of DAY-NRLM.

Social Mobilization and Institution Building: As on August 2023, the Mission is being implemented in 7091 blocks in 742 districts across all 28 States and 6 UTs. Cumulatively, 9.36 crore women have been mobilized into more than 86.19 lakh SHGs. Further, the SHGs have been federated into 4.77 lakh village level federations and more than 30,353 cluster level federations. In order to achieve saturation, Mission has planned to mobilize cover 10 Crore Household by September 2023.

**5.20. DAY-NRLM activities towards Social Empowerment:**

**2. Community Resource Persons Strategy:** In the process for mobilizing the women from poor families into Self-Help Groups and their federations DAY-NRLM is investing largely in building a large pool of community cadres (social capital), who are known as community resource persons (CRPs) and community leaders who play a crucial role in scaling up and sustaining the program. CRPs are members of the community who have graduated out of poverty with the help of their SHGs. The CRPs visit different states/districts or blocks in teams to mobilise women to form SHGs/federations and manage them effectively. This strategy essentially rests on the premise that the community learns best from the community itself. CRPs are employed by the Community Based Organisations (CBOs) at various levels and in various verticals. There are some CRPs who specialise in certain areas, such as social mobilization and formation of SHGs/VOs, book-keeping, gender, social action, etc. The same strategy is applied for extension of livelihoods activities also through creation of livelihoods CRPs like *Krishhi Sakhi*, *PashuSakhi*, Banking Correspondent *Sakhi*, Enterprise *Sakhi* CRPs for PRI-CBO convergence, *Poshan Sakhi*, *Swachchata Sakhi* etc. A total of 3.98 lakh CRPs are supporting the various activities of the Mission Implementation as on August 2023.

### **1. Women’s empowerment and gender development**

The promotion of gender awareness is one of the key strategic focuses of NRLM in its efforts to promote gender empowerment. Apart from creating exclusive institutions of women, viz. SHGs, VOs, CLFs and Block Federations, it engages intensively with the stakeholder community, viz., PRI institutions, men, banking and financial institutions, etc., in ensuring appropriate gender understanding is developed. NRLM has also initiated special projects for mobilizing elders under SHGs, addressing vulnerabilities of women and promoting empowerment of vulnerable women including women belonging to particularly vulnerable groups, trafficked victims or at risk families and mainstream their inclusion in normal SHGs.

### **5.21. DAY-NRLM activities towards Economic Empowerment**

#### **Universal Access to all Financial Services**

- enabling women’s institutions to access full range of financial services – savings, credit, insurance, etc.
- enabling them to build their own financial institutions (S.H.G s and federations) and serve as member-owned community financial institutions and provide ‘24 x7’ services to their members;
- Cumulatively, these community institutions have been provided Rs. 33,497.62 crore as capitalization support. Further SHGs have accessed bank credit to the tune of Rs.6.83 lakh crore since 2013-14 as on August 2023.

In addition, the Mission has launched BC Sakhi model wherein SHG members are trained, certified and deployed as Business Correspondent Agents (BCAs). The BC Sakhi provides last mile delivery of financial services including deposit, credit, remittance, disbursement of pensions & scholarships, payment of MGNREGA wages and enrolment under insurance and pension schemes. As on July 2023, about 1.09 Lakh SHG members have been deployed as BC Sakhi.

Further, the Mission is working towards ensuring coverage of SHG members under insurance schemes and promoting financial literacy. As on August 2023, 4.37 crores & 5.78 crores members have been covered under PMJJBY and PMSBY respectively. Further, 6.39 Crore SHG members enrolled under health insurance.

#### **4.3.2 Livelihoods Promotion – At Least 2 Viable Livelihoods per Family Promoted by the Efforts of the Mission:**

- universal interventions covering all households strengthen existing livelihoods – agriculture, livestock, forestry and non-timber forest produce, and non-farm;
- promotion of self-employment, entrepreneurship development among local youth to generate *in-situ* employment; and
- promotion of skilled wage employment through placement linked skilling.

**Farm Livelihoods:** DAY-NRLM promotes Agro Ecological Practices (AEP) with a focus on the Mahila Kisan, with the eventual aim of turning the village into an intervention unit. Intervention with AEPs have resulted in well-diversified farming systems, marked with low cost of cultivation, higher recycling of bio-mass, adoption of sustainable agriculture practices (Azolla, NADEP, seed production and preservation, SRI, NPM etc), cultivation of vegetables as additional cash crop, aggregating marketable surplus and regular supply to market, finally positioning of these vegetables as vegetables through Organic Agriculture. Interventions in Non-Timber Forest Produces (NTFP) have been taken up in forest covered areas. Better livestock management practices have also been incorporated by the State Missions.

In addition, the Mission has initiated value chain development interventions to enable small and marginal producers access market and better returns for their produce through promotion of formal Producer Enterprises (PEs) and informal Producer Groups (PGs).

As on August 2023, over 3.00 crore Mahilakisan are covered under AEP, Dairy and NTFP interventions. In addition, 225 Producer Enterprises (PEs) are formed.

#### **Non-Farm Livelihoods:**

Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), the sub-scheme under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) programme supports the Self-Help Group (SHG) and their family members to set-up small enterprises in the non-farm sector.

SVEP develops an eco-system for enterprise development in the rural areas which consists of Community Enterprise Fund (CEF) for enterprise financing, Cadre of Community Resource Persons-Enterprise Promotion (CRP-EP) for providing Business Support Services comprising of preparation of business plans, trainings, market linkages etc., dedicated Block Resource Centre (BRC) for providing all necessary information to entrepreneurs.

As on August 2023, 325 project proposals and 221 DPRs have been approved covering 29 States and Union Territories. Till August 2023, 2.45 lakh enterprises have been supported till date.

One Stop Facility (OSF) another scheme under non-farm livelihoods which is implemented in 13 NRETP States. This scheme is approved in 365 blocks across 13 States and 55,500 enterprises have been supported till August 2023.

**4.3.3 Skilling of Rural Youth:** DAY-NRLM has two sub-schemes viz. Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Kaushal Yojana (DDUGKY) and Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI) which focuses on supporting rural youth in accessing wage-employment and self-employment respectively.

DDUGKY seeks to build the placement linked skills of the poor rural youth and place them in relatively higher wage employment sectors of the economy. As of 31st July 2023, 14.93 lakh youth have been trained and 8.95 lakh youth have been placed. State-wise details are given at Annexure-IV.

The Mission provides support for establishing RSETIs in each district of the country in collaboration with the Banks and the State Governments to provide training to the rural youth from the poor households to take-up economic activities. Cumulatively, more than 46 lakh youth have been trained and 32.8 lakh have been settled during 2014-15 to 31st July 2023. State wise details are given at Annexure-V

#### **4.4 Political Empowerment**

##### **Convergence and partnerships**

**4.4.1 Convergence:** DAY-NRLM places a very high emphasis on convergence with other programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development and other Central Ministries, and programmes of state governments for developing synergies directly and through the institutions of the poor.

**4.4.2 Partnerships with NGOs and other CSOs:** DAY-NRLM proactively seeks partnerships with Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), at two levels -strategic and implementation. The partnerships are guided by NRLM's core beliefs and values, and mutual agreement on processes and outcomes. NRLM has developed a national framework for partnerships with NGOs and other CSOs.

**4.4.3 Linkages with PRIs:** In view of the eminent roles of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) that include governance, agency, commercial and political, it is necessary to consciously structure and facilitate a mutually beneficial working relationship between Panchayats and institutions of the poor, particularly at the level of Village Panchayats. Formal mechanisms have been established for regular consultations between the institutions of the poor and the PRIs for exchange of mutual advice, support and sharing of resources whiel taking care to protect their autonomy.

**4.4.4 SHG supports on Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP):** Gram Panchayats have been mandated for the preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)

for social justice and economic development by utilizing the resources available to them.

## **6. Way forward for ‘women-led development’**

The SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women is instrumental in fostering synergy among various ongoing schemes, services, facilities and information related to women. Following is a roadmap for the same:

- Conduct legal awareness sessions on women’s rights and entitlements.
- Assist women by providing information on schemes, policies and programmes of Government of India and State Government pertaining to women.
- Provide handholding support to women in filing applications and navigating government processes etc to avail benefits.
- Disseminate information about and assist in conducting activities pertaining to Beti Bachao Beti Padhao in convergence with relevant departments at the District and State level.
- Facilitate women in obtaining loans from Banks and Non-Banking Financial Institutions.

Together, these initiatives propel the SANKALP: HEW forward, ensuring a comprehensive approach to upliftment. By empowering women with knowledge, support and access to resources, we pave the way for a more inclusive and empowered society.

### Annexure A. Schedule applicable to women victim of crimes

S.no	Particulars of loss or injury	Minimum Limit of Compensation	Upper Limit of Compensation
1	Loss of Life	Rs.5 Lakh	Rs. 10 Lakh
2	Gang Rape	Rs.5 Lakh	Rs. 10 Lakh
3	Rape	Rs.4 Lakh	Rs. 7 Lakh
4	Unnatural Sexual Assault	Rs.4 Lakh	Rs. 7 Lakh
5	Loss of any limb or part of body resulting in 80% permanent disability or above	Rs.2 Lakh	Rs. 5 Lakh
6	Loss of any Limb or part of body resulting in 40% and below 80% permanent disability	Rs.2 Lakh	Rs. 4 Lakh
7	Loss of any limb or part of body resulting in above 20% and below 40% permanent disability	Rs.1 Lakh	Rs. 3 Lakh
8	Loss of any limb or part of body resulting in below 20% permanent disability	Rs.1 Lakh	Rs. 2 Lakh
9	Grievous physical injury or any mental injury requiring rehabilitation	Rs.1 Lakh	Rs. 2 Lakh
10	Loss of Foetus i.e. Miscarriage as a result of Assault or loss of fertility.	Rs.2 Lakh	Rs. 3 Lakh
11	In case of pregnancy on account of rape.	Rs.3 Lakh	Rs. 4 Lakh
12	Victims of Burning		
12.1	In case of disfigurement of case	Rs.7 Lakh	Rs. 8 Lakh
12.2	In case of more than 50%	Rs.5 Lakh	Rs. 8 Lakh
12.3	In case of injury less than 50%	Rs.3 Lakh	Rs. 7 Lakh
12.4	In case of less than 20%	Rs.2 Lakh	Rs. 3 Lakh
13	Victims of Acid Attack		
13.1	In case of disfigurement of face	Rs.7 Lakh	Rs. 8 Lakh
13.2	In case of more than 50%	Rs.5 Lakh	Rs. 8 Lakh
13.3	In case of injury less than 50%	Rs.3 Lakh	Rs. 5 Lakh
13.4	In case of less than 20%	Rs.3 Lakh	Rs. 4 Lakh



## Annexure B. Best Practices/ Strategies for effective implementation under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme

### Best Practices/ Strategy for effective implementation:

- 1) Celebration of birth of Girl Child through Beti Janmotsav.
- 2) Tree plantation drive in name of Girl child (bag bagicha)
- 3) Umang – ek pahal- Distribution of free sanitary napkins to reduce dropout among girls.
- 4) Formation of various girls club for active participation in decision making
- 5) Know your DC/DM- Exposure visits for girls to interact with officials in various fields.
- 6) Ministry has developed an activity calendar incorporating the convergent activities and celebration of important days of various Ministries and departments
- 7) Innovative practices adopted by various districts:
  - a) **Daughters' Club (Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh)**- To create a club of parents who have daughters in every ward/village.
  - b) **Utkarsh Una (Una, Himachal Pradesh)**- To issue Deputy Commissioner (DC) Cards to the families of girls child.
  - c) **Bitiya Aur Birwa (Rewa, Madhya Pradesh)**-To reward mothers for delivering baby girls
  - d) **Prerna (Karauli, Rajasthan)**- Self Defense training for drop out girls.
  - e) **Beti Ki Peti (Datia and Ratlam District)**- A "daughter's box" has been installed outside girls' hostels, schools and all the police stations of the district to raise their complaints.
  - f) **'No' to Child Marriage (Thiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu)**- To promote ending child marriage through a mascot, 'Nandhini'
  - g) **Udyaan (Kaithal District, Haryana)**:- District Administration has created a platform for awareness about digital literacy, career counselling, gender sensitization, financial literacy, behavior change communication among girls.
  - h) **"Padhengi Betiyan Badhega Desh" (Dehradun, Uttarakhand)**- Re-enrollment Program in government/private schools on pilot basis for Drop out girls of Boksa tribe.
  - i) **Kanya Ratna Utsav (Ahmednagar, Maharashtra)**- To promote community participation for behavioural change
  - j) **Gender Sensitization of Men (Senapati, Manipur)**- To ensure the participation of men in promoting Girls' Rights
  - k) **Baalike Bhavishyathu, (Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh)**: In these initiatives, the girls are chosen in the age bracket of 11 - 16 years are made to officiate as officers at various levels in the district for a day. 502 girls officiated in every government office in the district at all levels.
  - l) **Wings to Fly (Diu, Daman & Diu)** - To empower girls by giving them an opportunity to explore the Indian Air Force as a career choice.

<sup>ii</sup> <https://blog.ipleaders.in/legal-provisions-gender-equality-analysis/>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://ncw.nic.in/>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://icds-wcd.nic.in/icds.aspx>

<sup>v</sup> <https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/IcidsMission%20-%20Broad%20Framework.pdf>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://tribal.nic.in/downloads/guidelines/post-matric/EDUPostMatricScholarshipPMSforSTstudents230513.pdf>

<sup>vii</sup> <https://overseas.tribal.gov.in/ReadDocs.aspx>

<sup>viii</sup> <https://tribal.nic.in/nstfdc.aspx>

<sup>ix</sup> [https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/default/files/Pre-matric\\_5.pdf](https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/default/files/Pre-matric_5.pdf)

<sup>x</sup> [https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/default/files/MCM\\_4.pdf](https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/default/files/MCM_4.pdf)

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Women & Child Development  
Government of India

