



Sashakt Nari, Sashakt Bharat

14 August, 2026

Women Powering India's Growth Story

Women have moved from being beneficiaries to active drivers of India's development story. Life-cycle interventions now cover the girl child, health, nutrition, skills, entrepreneurship, and leadership. Financial inclusion and leadership opportunities have expanded through Self Help Groups, entrepreneurship, and digital inclusion. Better access to sanitation, housing, clean fuel, and tap water has boosted women's dignity and safety. Growing participation in governance reflects women's expanding role in nation-building.

Protecting Beginnings, Nurturing Futures

Maternal and early childhood care have been strengthened through health services, nutrition support, and institutional delivery systems.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

- BBBP addresses the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of women empowerment over a life-cycle continuum.
- It focuses on institutional deliveries, girls' secondary school enrolment, dropout reduction, and antenatal care registration.
- **NFHS-5 (2019-21) reported a sex ratio of 1,020 females per 1,000 males**, compared with 943 females per 1,000 males in Census 2011.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

- A maternity benefit scheme giving Direct Benefit Transfers to pregnant and lactating women.
- Women receive ₹5,000 in two instalments for the first living child; ₹6,000 for a second child, if a girl.
- **Reach:** 5.13 crore beneficiaries enrolled, 4.37 crore beneficiaries paid, ₹20,571 crore paid in total (as on 31 July 2026).

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)

- It provides free antenatal check-ups at government facilities on the 9th of every month, for high-risk pregnancies.
- **Reach:** Over 7.50 crore Pregnant Women Examined; 8,812 volunteers registered; 22,000+ facilities offer PMSMA nationwide as on 13 Aug 2026.
- 6.85 crore+ antenatal check-ups conducted; 1.03 crore high-risk pregnancies identified for focused digital tracking.

Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)

- JSSK entitles every pregnant woman to free delivery, including caesarean section, in public health institutions along with the provision of free transport, diagnostics, medicines, blood, and diet.
- FY 2024-25: Over 1.99 crore pregnant women and more than 16.85 lakh sick infants assisted as beneficiaries.
- Since 2014-15, more than 18.05 crore beneficiaries receiving support under the scheme.

Outcomes

- First-trimester antenatal visits rose from 58.6% in NFHS-4 (2015-16) to 76.2% in NFHS-6 (2023-24).
- Women completing four or more antenatal care visits grew from 51.2% in NFHS-4 (2015-16) to 65.2% in NFHS-6 (2023-24).
- Institutional births rose from 78.9% in NFHS-4 (2015-16) to 90.6% in NFHS-6 (2023-24) at the national level.

Education, Skills, and Aspirational Growth

Girls' education has moved from access to continuity, progression, and measurable outcomes, anchored in NEP 2020.

- **Gender Inclusion Fund:** enables targeted support for disadvantaged girls across the school system.
- **Flexible pathways:** reduce dropouts and support continued participation through school and college.
- **Multidisciplinary options:** let girls pursue diverse academic interests under one framework.

Samagra Shiksha & Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV)

- India's school education system (2025-26): 14.67 lakh schools, 1.02 crore teachers, and 24.72 crore students nationwide.
- **Female enrolment in school:** 11.96 crore female enrolment in 2025-26.
- **KGBVs:** Enrolment increased from 6.07 lakh (2020-21) to 7.58 lakh (2025-26).

Scholarships & Financial Support

- **Central Sector Scholarship:** Reserves about 50% of scholarships for meritorious girls from economically weaker families.
- **National PG Scholarship** gives ₹1.5 lakh a year to selected students, including to 3,000 women annually.
- **AICTE PRAGATI Scholarship:** 10,000 scholarships offered annually since 2014-15; nearly 36,000 girls benefited by 2024-25.
- **Outcome:** The Female enrolment has increased in higher education to 2.18 crore in 2022-23 from 2.07 crore in 2021-22. There has been an increase of around 60.32 lakh in the female enrolment from 1.57 crore (38.4%) in 2014-15

Women in STEM & Higher Education

- **Since December 2019, Vigyan Jyoti Scheme:** has benefitted over 1.12 lakh girls (Classes IX-XII) across 300 districts (as on March 2026).
- Supernumerary seats in IITs/NITs raised women's participation from below 10% to over 20%.
- Women made up over 53% of UGC NET-JRF scholars in STEM subjects in 2024-25.

Skills & Digital Inclusion

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

PMKVY gives short-term, industry-aligned training; **nearly 45% of beneficiaries are women.**

- PMKVY 1.0: 19.85 lakh candidates were trained.
- PMKVY 2.0: 1.10 crore candidates were trained/oriented.
- PMKVY 3.0: 7.37 lakh trained.
- PMKVY 4.0: Over 28 lakh candidates trained, with more than 19.36 lakh certified.

Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls (NAVYA)

- **NAVYA (2025):** trains girls aged 16-18 in digital marketing, cybersecurity, and AI-enabled services, across 27 aspirational and North-Eastern districts and 19 states.
- As of June 2026: **1,060 girls** have been trained since inception.

Health, Nutrition, and Well-being with Dignity

Ayushman Bharat

- **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY):** provides cashless secondary and tertiary care; 45.5 crore Ayushman cards have been created as of 12 August 2026, among which 22.48 crore cards issued to women and more than 5.25 crore of the hospital admissions were of women.

- **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs:** Over 1.86 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandir is functional as on 12 Aug 2026, offering maternal and preventive healthcare for women.
- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM):** has digitally linked over 110 crore health records as on 12 Aug 2026; women hold 49.72% of ABHA accounts as on 12 Aug 2026.

Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0

Mission Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 focused on tackling malnutrition and improving early childhood development. It brings several nutrition and Anganwadi interventions under one integrated framework.

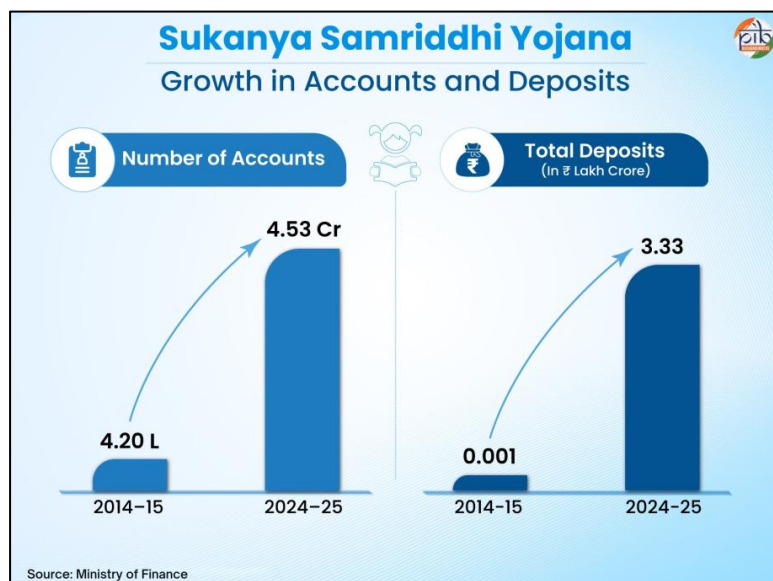
- Over 8.94 crore beneficiaries are being served including more than 64.46 lakh pregnant women, over 45.44 lakh lactating mothers and 15.68 lakh adolescent girls as on 31st July 2026.
- 1.29 lakh Anganwadi Centres upgraded to Saksham Anganwadis in the last five years.
- Around 13.31 lakh Anganwadi Workers were in position as on 31 July 2026.

Mission Indradhanush

- As of 18 March 2026, 11.87 crore children and 3.96 crore pregnant women were registered on the U-WIN portal, which digitally records and tracks immunisation services for these beneficiaries.
- 5.46 crore children and 1.32 crore pregnant women vaccinated against preventable diseases.
- 8.73 crore women screened for cervical cancer, as of 17 February 2026.
- Nationwide HPV vaccination campaign was launched on 28th February 2026 for approximately 1.2 crore eligible beneficiary girls aged 14 years across all 36 States and Union Territories.
- As of 15 July 2026, a total of 52,10,302 girls have received the HPV vaccine across the country.

Financial Inclusion and Economic Empowerment

Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana



- Deposits start at ₹250 and earn 8.2% tax-free annual interest under Section 80C.
- Allows partial withdrawal for higher education and marriage, boosting structured family savings.
- Since its inception, total deposits have exceeded ₹3.33 lakh crore (as on December 2025).

DAY-NRLM - Self Help Group ecosystem

- Expanded SHGs into a nationwide platform covering 7,627 blocks with 1.51 crore community cadre members.
- Since inception, SHGs have accessed bank credit over ₹12.18 lakh crore through 50,548+ trained Bank Sakhis as of 6 Feb 2026.
- By June 30, 2026, **4.32 lakh** enterprises backed under Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Program (SVEP).

Lakhpati Didi Scheme

- Helps SHG women achieve sustainable annual incomes of at least ₹1 lakh.
- **Scale:** 34 States/UTs, 757 districts, **94.31 lakh** SHGs, and **10.14 crore** SHG members as of March 31, 2026.
- It enables implementation through a robust network of 6,611 Master Trainers, 4.09 lakh Community Resource Persons (CRPs), and 3.87 crore Potential Lakhpati Didis (PLDs).

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

- A total of 58.90 crore Jan-Dhan accounts have been opened as on 12th August, 2026.
- As of 1st July, 2026, **32.68 crore** Jan-Dhan accounts belong to women.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)

- Cumulatively, more than 57.79 crore loans have been sanctioned, amounting to ₹40.07 lakh crore of disbursement as on April 8 2026.
- Two-thirds of the loans have been sanctioned to **women entrepreneurs**.

PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (SVANidhi)

- **Reach:** The scheme is benefiting 7,824,611 vendors as on 13 Aug 2026; out of which **women are 46% of beneficiaries.**

NaMo Drone Didi Yojana

- Trains SHG women to operate drones for spraying fertilizers and pesticides on farms.
- Approved with a ₹1,261 crore outlay (2023-24 to 2025-26); targets 15,000 drones to women SHGs.
- Since inception, 1,094 drones distributed to women SHGs including 500+ under Nammo Drone Didi initiative, enhancing farm productivity and livelihoods.

Womaniya (GeM)

- Over 2.1 lakh women-led enterprises registered; 13.7 lakh orders secured in FY 2025-26.
- ₹28,000 crore+ contract value awarded to women MSME, up 27.60% over FY 2024-25; secures 5.6% of GeM's order value.

Self Help Entrepreneur Mart (SHE-Mart)

- Announced in the Union Budget 2026-27, aiming to benefit **1 crore women.**
- Helping them own and manage sustainable enterprises.

Safety, Security, Dignity and Living Standards

Mission Shakti

- Combines **Sambal** (safety) and **Samarthya** (empowerment) verticals for women's protection and support.
- 15.2 lakh One Stop Centres and 642 Nari Adalat are operational nationwide.
- Women Helpline (181) has supported over 1.05 crore women with 24x7 assistance, linked to Emergency Response (112), till 31st July, 2026.
- SHe-Box portal enables online reporting of workplace harassment for faster grievance redressal.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)

- PMAY-Urban (2015) and PMAY-Gramin (2016) provide pucca houses with basic amenities.
- **PMAY-Gramin:** Over 96.06 lakhs or 24.73% houses were allotted only to women as on 13 Aug 2026.
- **PMAY-U 2.0:** 1.25 crore houses sanctioned and **1 crore houses** allotted to women as on 9 Aug 2026.

Participation, Representation, and Decision-Making

- Women accounted for over 47.15 crore of the 96.88 crore people on the final electoral roll as on February 8, 2026.
- As on 19 March 2025, 14.5 lakh women serve as elected Panchayati Raj representatives, nearly 46% of the total.
- **The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023 (the 106th Constitutional Amendment Act)** provides 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and the Delhi Assembly, which will take effect following the post-census delimitation exercise.
- In 2025, the first batch of **17 women cadets** graduated from the National Defence Academy.
- By early 2026, a total of **158 women cadets** had joined the NDA since 2022.

Nari Shakti as the Foundation of Viksit Bharat

Government focus has reshaped welfare into a platform for women's leadership, dignity, and opportunity. Women are increasingly central to Viksit Bharat by 2047, as workers, entrepreneurs, farmers, and leaders. Access to education, income, and decision-making now extends impact to families and communities. From entrepreneurship to grassroots governance, Nari Shakti is advancing with strength and purpose.

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