

# Mission Shakti Scheme Explained — A 2026 Guide for Job Applicants

If you have been applying for state government women-welfare jobs anywhere in India, you have probably seen the words “Mission Shakti” on the notification. It is the umbrella scheme that funds most of these posts. This guide explains what Mission Shakti actually is, what jobs come up under it, what salaries to expect, and how the recruitment usually works. The aim is simple: by the time you reach the end, you should know whether a Mission Shakti vacancy is worth your application and what the post you are applying for actually does on the ground.

This is an evergreen explainer, not a vacancy notification. For live openings, check the latest notifications from the official Mission Shakti portal and your state Women & Child Development department.

## What Is Mission Shakti?

Mission Shakti is an umbrella scheme of the **Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD), Government of India** for the safety, security and empowerment of women. It is being implemented during the 15th Finance Commission period (2021-22 to 2025-26), with scheme norms in force from 1 April 2022. The total financial implication of the scheme is around **Rs. 20,989 crore**, of which the central share is Rs. 15,761 crore and the state share is Rs. 5,228 crore.

The scheme rolled up several older standalone schemes (One Stop Centres, Women Helpline, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Ujjwala, Swadhar Greh, Working Women Hostel, the National Creche Scheme, and PMMVY) into a single integrated programme. From a candidate’s perspective, this matters because most of these schemes still run under their old names at the field level, but the funding, recruitment authorisation and reporting now flow through Mission Shakti.

## The Two Sub-Schemes: SAMBAL and SAMARTHYA

Mission Shakti has two verticals. Knowing which one your job falls under tells you what kind of work, funding pattern and reporting line to expect.

Sub-scheme	Focus	Funding Pattern
<b>SAMBAL</b>	Safety and security of women	100% central funding from Nirbhaya Fund / MWCD budget
<b>SAMARTHYA</b>	Empowerment of women	60:40 between Centre and States (90:10 for North East and Special Category States; 100% central for UTs without legislature)

### SAMBAL Components (Safety and Security)

- **One Stop Centre (OSC)**, also called Sakhi Centre — single-window support for women affected by violence (medical, police, legal, psychological, and temporary shelter).
- **Women Helpline (181-WHL)** — 24-hour toll-free emergency response number for women, currently operational across 34 states and union territories.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** — to address declining child sex ratio and promote education of the girl child.
- **Nari Adalat** — a newer component, set up as women’s collectives at the Gram Panchayat level for alternative dispute resolution.

### SAMARTHYA Components (Empowerment)

- **Shakti Sadan** — merger of the earlier Swadhar Greh and Ujjwala schemes. It is now a single integrated relief and rehabilitation home for women in distress, including trafficking survivors.
- **Sakhi Niwas (Working Women Hostel)** — safe and affordable hostels for working women, with day-care for residents' children. Open to working women earning up to Rs. 50,000 per month in metros and Rs. 35,000 per month in other areas; maximum stay is 3 years, extendable to 5 in special cases.
- **Palna** — the National Creche Scheme, now a Mission Shakti component, providing day-care for children of working mothers.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** — direct cash incentive of Rs. 5,000 (two instalments) for the first child and Rs. 6,000 (single instalment) for a second girl child.
- **Hub for Empowerment of Women (SANKALP: HEW)** — set up at national, state and district levels to bridge the information gap on women-centric schemes. The district unit is called DHEW.
- **Gap Funding for Economic Empowerment** — newer Mission Shakti add-on to plug funding gaps in women's livelihood projects.

Two earlier schemes (Mahila Shakti Kendra and Mahila Police Volunteers) have been discontinued under the Mission Shakti consolidation.

## What Job Roles Come Up Under Mission Shakti?

Most Mission Shakti recruitments at the state level are for the One Stop Centre, Sakhi Niwas, and Hub for Empowerment of Women setups. Posts and qualification bars are broadly standardised across states, with small variations.

Post	Typical Qualification	Typical Salary (per month)
Centre Administrator (OSC)	Post Graduate in Law / Social Work / Sociology / Social Science / Psychology, with 5 years of women-sector experience	Rs. 22,000 to Rs. 30,000
Case Worker	Graduate in Law / Social Work / Sociology / Psychology, 2 to 3 years of experience	Rs. 14,000 to Rs. 18,000
Para Legal Personnel / Lawyer	Law graduate with legal training or practicing lawyer with 2 years of court experience	Rs. 18,000 to Rs. 22,000
Para Medical Personnel	Diploma in Paramedics with health-sector background	Rs. 18,000 to Rs. 22,000
Psycho-social Counsellor	Degree or diploma in Psychology / Psychiatry / Neurosciences	Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000
IT Staff / Office Assistant	Graduate with diploma in computer / IT, 3 years of data management experience	Rs. 14,000 to Rs. 18,000
Multi-purpose Staff / Cook / Helper	High school pass preferred	Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 13,000
Sakhi Niwas Manager	Graduate in Social Work / Psychology / Sociology, 3 years of supervisory experience, must live on-site	Rs. 14,000 to Rs. 17,000
Caretaker (Sakhi Niwas)	Higher Secondary / 10+2 with 2 years of caretaker experience	Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 13,000
Multi-Tasking Staff (Hub)	High school pass preferred	Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 13,000

*The salary ranges above are editorial benchmarks compiled from recent Mission Shakti notifications across*

northern, eastern and northeastern states in 2024-2026. Exact figures will be specified in each state's notification — never assume.

## Who Funds These Posts and What Does “Co-Terminus With Project” Mean?

SAMBAL posts get 100% central funding routed through the Nirbhaya Fund or the MWCD budget. SAMARTHYA posts are cost-shared, generally 60:40 between the Centre and the state, with northeastern and special category states getting the more favourable 90:10 ratio.

This funding pattern is why most Mission Shakti job notifications use the phrase “**temporary / co-terminus with the project**”. In plain language: your post exists only as long as the scheme runs and is funded. The current Mission Shakti cycle ends with the 15th Finance Commission period in March 2026, so existing project posts depend on the scheme being renewed under the next finance commission. Treat these as **contractual government postings**, not permanent civil-service jobs.

That said, scheme renewals are common — the underlying components (OSC, Sakhi Niwas, Helpline) have run for over a decade and predate Mission Shakti's umbrella structure. The risk is renewal-cycle disruption, not sudden closure.

## How Are Mission Shakti Vacancies Filled?

The MWCD funds the scheme, but recruitment happens at the **state level**, through the respective state Department of Women & Child Development (or equivalent, for example, the Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department in Sikkim, or the Department for Women, Children, Differently Abled and Senior Citizens in Andhra Pradesh).

Three patterns are common:

1. **Walk-in interview only** — applications submitted offline, no written exam. The application window is usually short, between 7 and 15 days.
2. **Written test plus interview** — used by some states for senior posts like Centre Administrator and Psycho-social Counsellor.
3. **Document scrutiny followed by interview** — used when there is heavy oversubscription, especially for Multi-purpose Staff posts.

Whichever the pattern, the application process is almost always offline, with the prescribed application form submitted in person at the state department's headquarters or the District Magistrate's office. Online application portals are rare for these recruitments.

## Eligibility Patterns Across States

Across notifications, certain eligibility patterns repeat:

- **Domicile requirement** — almost every state restricts these posts to local candidates. You will be asked for a State Subject Certificate, Permanent Residence Certificate, or Certificate of Identification, depending on the state.
- **Women candidates preferred** — for Sakhi Niwas Manager, Caretaker, and counselling posts, several states explicitly prefer or restrict to women applicants given the nature of work.
- **Sector experience matters more than rank of degree** — a graduate with 3 years of NGO experience in women's domains will often outweigh a postgraduate with no field experience for Case Worker or Para Legal posts.
- **Age limit as per state government norms** — there is no central age ceiling. Each state applies its own service rule, typically 18 to 40 years with category-wise relaxations.

## Career Progression After a Mission Shakti Posting

Mission Shakti project staff who do well in their tenure commonly move in three directions. The first is lateral movement into similar centrally-sponsored schemes such as POSHAN Abhiyaan, ICDS, the National Rural Livelihood Mission's women's components, or BBBP convergence cells at the district level. The second is upward within the state Women & Child Development department, either as a continuing contractual upgrade or via state PSC recruitments where field experience counts as a weightage. The third, most common for psycho-social counsellors and legal personnel, is a return to NGO work at a higher pay grade, using the government experience as credentialing.

Read this honestly: Mission Shakti posts are a credible foothold in the women's welfare sector, not a permanent career. Plan a 3 to 5 year horizon and use the time to build documented project experience.

## How to Find Live Mission Shakti Vacancies

There is no single all-India job portal for Mission Shakti recruitments. Notifications come state by state, usually published as PDFs on the state WCD department website and in the local newspaper. Best practice:

1. Bookmark the **official Mission Shakti portal** at [missionshakti.wcd.gov.in](http://missionshakti.wcd.gov.in).
2. Track the **state WCD department website** of every state you are domicile-eligible for.
3. Set up alerts for keyword combinations like "One Stop Centre recruitment," "Sakhi Niwas recruitment," and "Mission Shakti walk-in interview".

## Important Links

Resource	Link
Official Mission Shakti Portal	<a href="http://missionshakti.wcd.gov.in">missionshakti.wcd.gov.in</a>
Ministry of Women & Child Development	<a href="http://wcd.gov.in">wcd.gov.in</a>
Sakhi Niwas Scheme details	<a href="http://wcd.gov.in/offering/sakhi-niwas-working-women-hostel">wcd.gov.in/offering/sakhi-niwas-working-women-hostel</a>

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Are Mission Shakti jobs permanent or contractual?

Contractual. Almost every state notification specifies the posting as temporary or co-terminus with the project. The post is tied to the scheme's funding cycle. If the scheme is renewed by the central government, contracts are usually extended; if not, the post ends.

### Can men apply for Mission Shakti posts?

Yes, for most posts. Women applicants are usually preferred or restricted for Sakhi Niwas Manager, Caretaker, and certain counselling roles given the work involves women in distress. Other posts like IT Staff, Para Medical, and Para Legal are typically open to all candidates.

### Is there a single national application for Mission Shakti recruitments?

No. Each state runs its own recruitment through its Women & Child Development department, with separate notifications, application forms, and selection schedules. There is no national-level common application portal.

### Do Mission Shakti posts count as government service for future job applications?

They count as project experience under a state government, not as permanent government service. This is useful credentialing for state PSC, SSC, and NGO sector applications, but does not carry pension benefits or seniority for civil-service promotions.

### What is the difference between Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya?

Both are MWCD umbrella schemes. Mission Shakti covers women's safety, security and empowerment. **Mission Vatsalya** covers child protection and welfare (Juvenile Justice Act implementation, adoption, child care institutions). Job profiles differ, though some sociology and social work candidates apply to both.

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