

UPSC Civil Services Examination

Political Science & International Relations

Topic: One Stop Centre Scheme – Indian Polity Notes

Sakhi - One Stop Centre Scheme

There are several manifestations of gender-based violence in India. They not only include the universally prevalent forms of domestic and sexual violence like rape, sexual harassment, child sexual abuse but also trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, harmful practices such as honour killings, dowry, child marriage, acid attacks, witch hunting, sex-selective abortion, etc. A centrally sponsored scheme by the government for setting up a One Stop Centre has been formulated by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)**.

This scheme is sub-scheme of the National Mission for Empowerment of Women which also includes the Indira Gandhi Matritrav Sahayog Yojana. The scheme is funded by the **Nirbhaya fund**. Under this scheme, complete financial assistance will be provided by the centre to the States and the Union territories.

One Stop Centre Scheme Objectives

- The intention of the One Stop Scheme (OSC) is to support women affected by the violence that they may face within the family or at the workplace or within the community, in private or public places.
- A support mechanism and redressal for women are some of the facilities of this scheme for women who face sexual/physical/psychological/ emotional/ economic abuse, irrespective of their caste, creed, race, class, education status, age, culture or marital status.
- Specialised services would be provided to the aggrieved women facing any kind of violence due to attempted acid attacks, witch-hunting, domestic violence, trafficking, sexual assault or sexual harassment and have reached out or been referred to the OSC.

The women helpline services will be integrated with these One Stop Centre and will provide access to these services which include:

- Emergency Response and Rescue Services will be provided in linkage with already existing mechanisms like 108 service, police, National Health Mission (NHM)etc., so that the women aggrieved can be rescued and transferred to the nearest medical facility.
- Medical assistance shall be provided as per the protocols developed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Assistance in lodging First Information Report (FIR) / Non-Cognizable Report (NCR).
- Counselling and Psychosocial support to give women, confidence and support to seek justice for the violence caused. Additionally, legal aid will also be provided.
- Video conferencing facility shall be provided to the aggrieved woman in consultation with the Superintendent of Police, District and Session Judge to record her statement using audio-video electronic means.

UPSC Questions related to Sakhi - One Stop Centre Scheme

What is Sakhi One Stop Centre?

- Under the Sakhi - OSC Scheme, centres have been created that offer integrated services like medical, legal, psycho-social support and temporary shelter under one roof.
- They also provide the necessary support to women facing physical, sexual, emotional, psychological and economic abuse where they are facilitated with support and redressal irrespective of age, class, caste, education status, marital status, race and culture.
- By dialling Women's toll-free helpline 181, any woman in an adverse situation or someone on her behalf can seek help from the Sakhi Centre 24X7.

