



One Stop Centres Scheme

[Source: HT](#)

Why in News?

The Delhi High Court issued multiple directions to the Delhi government concerning the poor condition of **One Stop Centres (OSCs)** set up under the [One Stop Centre scheme](#) to aid **women affected by violence**.

What is One Stop Centres Scheme?

- **About:** Launched by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)**, OSCs aim to provide **integrated support and assistance** to **women affected by violence** in **private and public spaces**, including family, community, and workplace settings.
 - Also known as **Sakhi Centres**, they form a key component of the **Sambal vertical** under [Mission Shakti](#).
 - It is **100% centrally funded** through the **Nirbhaya Fund** and implemented by **State/UT governments**.
- **Objectives:** They ensure **immediate and long-term access** to **medical, legal, psychological, and counselling services** for women facing **physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, or economic abuse**.
- **Target Beneficiaries:** It supports **all women and girls**, including those **below 18 years**, affected by **any form of violence**, regardless of **caste, class, religion, region, marital status, education, sexual orientation, or culture**.
 - It is linked to the [Juvenile Justice Act, 2015](#) and [POCSO Act, 2012](#) to ensure protection for **minor girls**.
- **Services Offered:**
 - **Emergency response & rescue** (including **police assistance**)
 - **Medical aid** (first aid, treatment, referral services) and **Legal aid & counselling** (FIR filing, legal advice via **NALSA**)
 - **Psycho-social counselling** (mental health support) and **Temporary shelter** (short-stay facilities)
 - **Video conferencing** (for remote legal/medical consultations)
- **Coverage:** **At least one OSC per district** is encouraged, with **additional centres in high-crime, large, or aspirational districts**.
- **Financial and Audit Mechanism:** Funds are disbursed as per [Public Financial Management System \(PFMS\)](#) via **Single Nodal Agency (SNA)** or **SNA SPARSH**.
 - Auditing is done as per [Comptroller & Auditor General \(CAG\)](#) norms, along with **social audits** by **civil society groups**.

What was the Need of OSC Guidelines?

- **Staffing Shortages:** **Many OSCs**, especially in **hospitals**, lack **dedicated staff** and are run by **existing hospital personnel**, with **counsellors** called in from external agencies when needed.
- **Non-Compliance with SoPs:** The **SoPs for OSCs** (in case of Delhi) mandate specific staffing-5

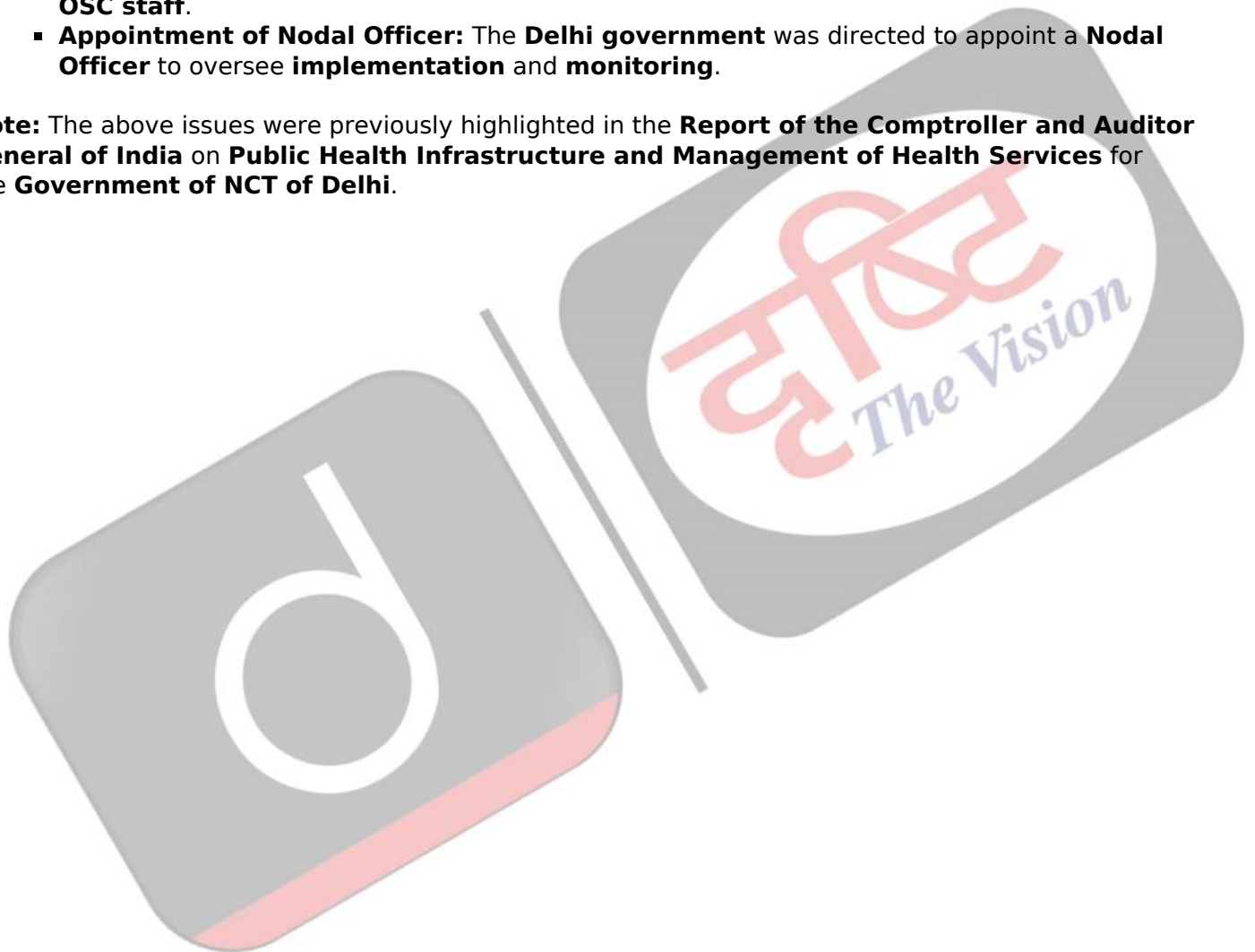
counsellors, 5 senior resident doctors, 5 staff nurses, and 5 nursing orderlies-but audits found these norms were **not consistently followed**.

- **Inadequate Record-Keeping:** Crucial records like **child death case reviews** and **ante-natal care (ANC)** are **not properly maintained**, hindering effective **monitoring** and **service improvement**.

What Directions Did the Delhi High Court Issue?

- **Awareness Campaign:** The government must publicize **OSCs** through **newspapers** and **signboards** at prominent locations like **schools, hospitals, bus stops** with **helpline numbers**.
- **Infrastructure Strengthening:** The court directed the government to ensure **adequate infrastructure** and **immediate staff recruitment** to make all **OSCs fully functional**.
- **SOP Implementation:** The court mandated the circulation of **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** on **child pregnancy and child marriage** among all stakeholders, especially **police and OSC staff**.
- **Appointment of Nodal Officer:** The **Delhi government** was directed to appoint a **Nodal Officer** to oversee **implementation** and **monitoring**.

Note: The above issues were previously highlighted in the **Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India** on **Public Health Infrastructure and Management of Health Services** for the **Government of NCT of Delhi**.



Domestic Violence Against Women

Domestic violence refers to any form of abuse, whether physical, emotional, sexual, or economic, within the confines of the home, family or domestic unit.

National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS), 2019-2021

- ↳ 29.3% of married women experienced domestic/sexual violence
- ↳ 3.1% of pregnant women suffered physical violence during pregnancy
- ↳ 87% of married women who are victims of marital violence do not seek help



Legal Frameworks in India

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA)	■ Covers physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse ■ Provides various orders for protection, residence, and relief
Indian Penal Code, 1860	■ Section 498A deals with cruelty by a husband or his relatives ■ Criminalises acts of cruelty, harassment, or torture
Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961	■ Makes giving or receiving dowry a crime
Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013	■ Section 354A amended the IPC to include new offenses related to sexual harassment in cases of domestic violence
National Commission for Women Act, 1990	■ Safeguards women's rights and plays a key role in addressing domestic violence
The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006	■ Prevent child marriages and prohibit domestic violence against child brides.

Global Initiatives

- ↳ **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW):** Adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly
 - ➔ Eliminating discrimination against women in all areas of life
- ↳ **UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVAW):** First international instrument explicitly addressing violence against women
 - ➔ Provides a framework for national and international action
- ↳ **Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces:** Flagship program by UN Women
 - ➔ Preventing and responding to sexual harassment and other forms of violence in public spaces
- ↳ **Beijing Platform for Action (1995):** Identifies specific actions for governments to take to prevent and respond to violence
- ↳ **SDG 5 (Gender Equality):** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere



Drishti IAS

Drishti Mains Question:

Discuss the role of One Stop Centres (OSCs) in addressing gender-based violence in India.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. Is the National Commission for Women able to strategize and tackle the problems that women face at both public and private spheres? Give reasons in support of your answer. (2017)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/one-stop-centres-scheme>

