Himachal's Apna Parivar Sukhi Parivar Yojana: ₹1,500 a month for women

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News

The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu at Shimla on 13 November 2026, approved the launch of a new scheme, the 'Mukhya Mantri Apna Parivar Sukhi Parivar Yojana' (Chief Minister's 'Our Family, Happy Family' scheme). Under it, eligible women aged 18 to 59 will get ₹1,500 a month; about 3.5 lakh women have been identified as beneficiaries; families with an annual income above ₹75,000 or with an income-tax payer are not eligible (The Tribune, 5 Sept 2026). Eligible beneficiary families will also get 300 units of free electricity a month. Industries Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan said monthly aid for women above 59 had already been raised from ₹1,050 to ₹1,500. The same meeting approved the 'Khelo Himachal Chitta Mukt Abhiyan 2026' (a sports-based anti-drug drive) in all 12 districts, a rise in the minimum support price for naturally grown ginger from ₹30 to ₹40 a kg, and the engagement of 1,000 'Rogi Mitras' in the health department.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Scheme	Mukhya Mantri Apna Parivar Sukhi Parivar Yojana
State	Himachal Pradesh
Approved	Cabinet, Shimla – 13 Nov 2026

Point	Details
Chief Minister	Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
Beneficiaries	Women aged 18–59; ~3.5 lakh; family income up to ₹75,000 a year; income-tax-payer families excluded
Benefit	₹1,500/month + 300 units free power for eligible families
Other decisions	Khelo Himachal Chitta Mukt Abhiyan 2026; ginger MSP ₹40/kg; 1,000 Rogi Mitras
Statehood	25 January 1971 – 18th State

Background

- Himachal Pradesh – history: on 15 April 1948 about 30 hill princely states were merged into a Chief Commissioner's Province; it became a Part 'C' State in 1950 and a Union Territory on 1 November 1956; Punjab's hill areas were added in 1966; and on 25 January 1971 it became India's 18th State. Its capital is Shimla; it has 12 districts.
- Constitutional basis: while Article 15(1) bars discrimination on grounds of sex, Article 15(3) allows the State to make special provisions for women and children. The Directive Principles in Article 39(a) – adequate livelihood for men and women – and 39(d) – equal pay for equal work – also underpin direct cash-support schemes for women.
- Direct cash support for women – a national trend: Himachal's scheme joins Madhya Pradesh's 'Ladli Behna', Maharashtra's 'Ladki Bahin', Jharkhand's 'Maiyan Samman' and Tamil Nadu's monthly assistance for women heads of families. They are said to raise women's economic say in the household, though their burden on State finances is also debated.
- Anti-drug drive: use of adulterated heroin, called 'chitta', is a serious problem among Himachal's youth – hence the 'Khelo Himachal Chitta Mukt Abhiyan'. Nationally, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the 'Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan' (Drug-Free India Campaign) on 15 August 2020.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu is among the pioneers of direct cash support for women. Tamil Nadu also gives monthly financial assistance to women heads of families; the scheme began on 15 September 2023. 'Pudhumai Penn' (Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme), paying ₹1,000 a month to girls who studied Classes 6–12 in government schools and pursue higher education, began on 5 September 2022; 'Tamil Pudhalvan' for boys followed in 2024.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Scheme: Mukhya Mantri Apna Parivar Sukhi Parivar Yojana; State: Himachal Pradesh; Approved: Cabinet, Shimla – 13 Nov 2026; Chief Minister: Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

What is the background to this news?

Himachal Pradesh – history: on 15 April 1948 about 30 hill princely states were merged into a Chief Commissioner's Province; it became a Part 'C' State in 1950 and a Union Territory on 1 November 1956; Punjab's hill areas were added in 1966; and on 25 January 1971 it became India's 18th State.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. In which year did Himachal Pradesh attain full statehood?

A) 1966

B) 1971

C) 1956

D) 1948

Answer: B – Explanation: 25 January 1971 – India's 18th State. Hill princely states merged into a province in 1948; it became a Union Territory in 1956.

2. Which Directive Principle Article asks the State to secure equal pay for equal work for both men and women?

A) Article 39(d)

B) Article 41

C) Article 42

D) Article 43

Answer: A – Explanation: Article 39(d). 41 – work, education, public aid in old age; 42 – humane work conditions, maternity relief; 43 – living wage.

3. The nationwide 'Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan' against drug abuse is run by which Union ministry?

A) Home Affairs

B) Health

C) Social Justice

D) Youth Affairs

Answer: C – Explanation: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment; launched 15 Aug 2020. The Himachal Cabinet also cleared the 'Khelo Himachal Chitta Mukt Abhiyan'.

4. Which Tamil Nadu scheme pays ₹1,000 a month to girls in higher education who studied Classes 6–12 in government schools?

A) Pudhumai Penn

B) Tamil Pudhalvan

C) Naan Mudhalvan

D) Illam Thedi Kalvi

Answer: A – Explanation: Pudhumai Penn (Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar scheme) – 5 Sept 2022. Tamil Pudhalvan is for boys (2024).

5. In the 1972 Simla Agreement, signed in Shimla where the Cabinet met, who signed for Pakistan with Indira Gandhi?

A) Ayub Khan

B) Yahya Khan

C) Zia-ul-Haq

D) Z.A. Bhutto

Answer: D – Explanation: Zulfikar Ali Bhutto – 2 July 1972; after the 1971 war it set bilateral talks as the path and established the Line of Control in J&K.

Sources: ThePrint/PTI (13–14 Nov 2026); ANI (13 Nov 2026); UNI (13 Nov 2026); The Tribune (5 Sept 2026, Mandi – eligibility) – tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/eligible-families-can-apply-for-apna-parivar-sukhi-parivar-scheme-till-september-20-in-mandi/; HP Government portal – himachal.nic.in and Know India – knowindia.india.gov.in (State history); PIB (Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan); The Hindu (Pudhumai Penn launch, Sept 2022). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.