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Mukh Mantri Mawan Dheeyan da Satkar Yojana: Punjab’s Cash-Transfer Scheme for Women

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Punjab's new scheme does not pay every woman the same amount. Scheduled Caste women get 50% more each month than other women. Most state schemes use one flat rate, so this tiered design stands out.

At a glance

Four key facts on this topic

01 **Announced**8 March 2026, in the Budget speech.

02 **Rates**₹1,000 a month; ₹1,500 for Scheduled Caste women.

03 **Pilot**Nine constituencies from 14 April.

04 **Budget**₹9,300 crore sanctioned for 2026-27.

What is the Mawan Dheeyan scheme?

1 What the Scheme Is

1.1 What is the Mawan Dheeyan scheme?

Mukh Mantri Mawan Dheeyan da Satkar Yojana is Punjab's monthly cash scheme for women. "Mawan Dheeyan" means "mothers and daughters" in Punjabi.

Each eligible woman gets a fixed sum every month. The money goes straight into her bank account. This is called Direct Benefit Transfer.

1.2 Who announced it, and when?

Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema announced the scheme in his Budget speech on 8 March 2026. The Cabinet cleared it in late March.

It was a key poll promise of the ruling AAP in the 2022 Punjab elections. The state votes again about a year after the launch.

1.3 How much does a woman get?

The rate depends on the group. Most women get ₹1,000 a month. Scheduled Caste women get ₹1,500 a month.

Monthly amount

Group	Per month
General category and others	₹1,000
Scheduled Caste women	₹1,500

> **Quick check 1.** True or false: Under Punjab's Mawan Dheeyan scheme, Scheduled Caste women get ₹1,500 a month. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: etvbharat.com

Who can join, and how?

2 Who Can Join and How

2.1 Who is eligible?

A woman must be 18 or older. She must be a registered voter in Punjab. She needs a valid Aadhaar that shows Punjab residence and a valid Voter ID.

There is no limit on how many eligible women in one family can join. The government says the scheme covers all women aged 18 and above, with only limited exclusions.

2.2 What papers does she need to register?

- Aadhaar with a Punjab address
- A Punjab Voter ID
- A bank passbook
- A Scheduled Caste certificate, for Scheduled Caste women only

2.3 Where can women register?

There are 26,000 registration centres. Mahila Satkar Sakhis, the women who help with signing up, work in every village and ward.

The government also planned outreach to help women finish papers and activate bank accounts. Rural areas were a special focus. There is no last date to register.

2.4 Do pensioners lose their pension?

No. The scheme does not replace existing welfare schemes. Women who get widow, disability or old-age pensions keep them in full. They also get the new monthly money.

5. **Think it through:** Why does the scheme insist on a Punjab address on Aadhaar and Voter ID? See answer ↓

Quick check 2. True or false: A Punjab woman who already gets an old-age pension loses it once she joins this scheme. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: oneindia.com; drishtiias.com

How has the rollout gone?

3 Rollout and Payments

3.1 How did the rollout begin?

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann rolled out the scheme on 14 April 2026. That is the birth anniversary of B.R. Ambedkar.

It began as a pilot in nine constituencies: Adampur, Malout, Sri Anandpur Sahib, Dirba, Sunam, Moga, Kotkapura, Batala and Patiala Rural. Registration opened there on 15 April.

3.2 When did the rest of Punjab join?

Registration in the remaining 108 constituencies was to start on 15 May. Monthly payments were to begin in July 2026.

3.3 How much was paid in the first round?

Punjab transferred ₹1,147 crore to nearly 33 lakh women. They had registered by 25 June 2026. More than 66 lakh women had enrolled by then.

Each Scheduled Caste woman received ₹4,500, which is three monthly instalments of ₹1,500. Other women received ₹3,000, which is three instalments of ₹1,000.

3.4 What came next?

A second round followed at an event in Pathankot on Saturday, 1 August 2026. It was to send funds to 35.5 lakh more women. That would bring the total to 68.5 lakh.

Key dates in 2026

When	What happened
8 March	Announced in the Budget speech
Late March	Cabinet approves the scheme
14 April	Rollout; pilot in nine constituencies
15 April	Registration opens in the pilot areas
15 May	Registration due to start in the other 108 constituencies
July	First payments; ₹1,147 crore to nearly 33 lakh women
1 August	Second round for 35.5 lakh more women

6. **Think it through:** What does the rise from about 33 lakh to 68.5 lakh women tell us? See answer ↓

Quick check 3. True or false: In the first payment round, a general-category woman received ₹3,000. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Sources: newsable.asianetnews.com

How big is the scheme, and what is debated?

4 Money, Scale and Open Questions

4.1 How much money is set aside?

The state sanctioned ₹9,300 crore in its 2026-27 Budget. The scheme is meant for nearly 90 lakh women.

4.2 Is the 97% figure a fact?

The government says more than 97% of Punjab's women are expected to benefit. That is an official estimate, not an audit.

It rests on the rule that all women aged 18 and above can join, with limited exclusions.

4.3 Why does the timing matter?

The scheme was a promise from the 2022 campaign. It began about a year before the next state election.

See the state-by-state directory, Haryana's Lado Lakshmi and Madhya Pradesh's Ladli Behna for comparison.

4.4 Is a higher rate for Scheduled Caste women fair?

Supporters say it targets groups that start with less. Critics may ask whether income, not caste, should decide the amount.

To see why caste matters here, read Caste as a Tool of Social Stratification.

> 7. **Think it through:** What would you check before judging the scheme a success? See answer ↓

Quick check 4. True or false: Women must register before a fixed last date or lose their chance to join. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Remember this

- **Announced:** 8 March 2026, in the Budget speech.
- **Rates:** ₹1,000 a month; ₹1,500 for Scheduled Caste women.
- **Rollout:** pilot in nine constituencies from 14 April 2026.
- **Money:** ₹9,300 crore sanctioned for 2026-27.

Explain it back: Say how this scheme pays different groups different amounts, and why that is debated.

Practice MCQs

1. How is the Mukh Mantri Mawan Dheeyan da Satkar Yojana being rolled out, as of its registration opening?

A. Only for women above 60 years of age

B. Only in Chandigarh, as a union-territory pilot

C. Statewide, across all of Punjab's constituencies at once

D. Piloted first, across nine assembly constituencies

See answer ↓

2. How much does a Scheduled Caste woman get each month under Punjab's Mukh Mantri Mawan Dheeyan da Satkar Yojana?

A. ₹1,500

B. ₹1,000

C. ₹2,100

D. ₹2,500

See answer ↓

3. Which pair of documents shows that a woman is eligible for Punjab's Mawan Dheeyan scheme?

A. Ration card and PAN card

B. Passport and driving licence

C. Job card and Jan Dhan passbook

D. Aadhaar showing Punjab residence and a Punjab Voter ID

See answer ↓

4. How much did Punjab sanction in its 2026-27 Budget for the Mawan Dheeyan scheme?

A. ₹93,000 crore

B. ₹9,300 crore

C. ₹930 crore

D. ₹3,000 crore

See answer ↓

5. A woman in Punjab already gets an old-age pension. What happens to it under the Mawan Dheeyan scheme?

A. She keeps the pension and also gets the scheme's money

B. She loses the pension

C. She gets the scheme only after turning 60

D. She must choose one of the two

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **D.** Registration opened on 15 April 2026 in a pilot phase covering nine assembly constituencies, not statewide. ↑ Q1
2. **A.**
   Scheduled Caste women get ₹1,500 a month. All other eligible women get ₹1,000 a month.
   The money goes straight into their bank accounts by Direct Benefit Transfer.
   ↑ Q2
3. **D.**
   A woman must be 18 or older and registered as a voter in Punjab. She needs an Aadhaar that shows a Punjab address. She also needs a valid Voter ID.
   At registration she also shows a bank passbook. Scheduled Caste women add a caste certificate.
   ↑ Q3
4. **B.**
   The state sanctioned ₹9,300 crore in the 2026-27 Budget. Reports say the scheme is meant for nearly 90 lakh women.
   ↑ Q4
5. **A.**
   The scheme does not replace existing welfare schemes. Pensioners keep their pensions in full. They also get the new monthly money.
   ↑ Q5

Quick-check answers

1. **True.** Others get ₹1,000 a month. ↑ 1
2. **False.** The pension continues in full. She gets the new money on top. ↑ 2
3. **True.** That was three monthly instalments of ₹1,000. ↑ 3
4. **False.** There is no deadline for registration. ↑ 4
5. **Think it through.** The money comes from the state's own budget. The papers show that a woman lives in Punjab. They also let the state check who is already registered as a voter. ↑ 5

6. **Think it through.** The scheme almost doubled its reach in a few weeks. Registration was still growing. The Budget plans for nearly 90 lakh women, so about three-quarters of that target was covered by August. ↑ 6
7. **Think it through.** Look at whether money reaches women on time. Check whether the state can afford it year after year. See whether women gain real control over how it is spent. ↑ 7

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