

UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · [UJIYARI.COM](http://UJIYARI.COM)**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

# Valuing the Homemaker: The Supreme Court on "Loss of Domestic Care"

17 June 2026 ·

**SOCIAL ISSUES****POLITY****GS1****GS2**

CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**[bharatnotes.com](http://bharatnotes.com) →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

[epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)



# Valuing the Homemaker: The Supreme Court on "Loss of Domestic Care"

17 June 2026 · 3 min read ·

 Source: [ujjyari.com](https://ujjyari.com) — researched, fact-checked & UPSC-mapped

 ✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources (<https://ujjyari.com/how-we-verify/>)

## WHY IN NEWS

A recent Supreme Court ruling valuing the unpaid work of homemakers has drawn renewed attention to how Indian law and the economy account for domestic care. In *Shishu Pal v. Surjeet* (delivered June 11, 2026) the Court set a minimum notional income for homemakers and described them as “nation builders”.

This explainer examines what the Court held, the legal lineage of the decision, and why the recognition of unpaid care work is a major social and economic issue for UPSC. The ruling itself was delivered earlier in June; the discussion here is analytical rather than a fresh news report.

## WHAT THE COURT HELD

In a motor accident compensation case, the Supreme Court addressed how to value the life of a homemaker who has no formal salary. The key holdings:

ELEMENT	DETAIL
Minimum notional income for homemakers	₹30,000 per month
Escalation	10% increase every three years
Legal context	Compensation under the Motor Vehicles Act
Description of homemakers	“Nation builders”
Compensation in this case	Enhanced to about ₹62.78 lakh

The Court reasoned that the services a homemaker provides, including cooking, cleaning, childcare, eldercare and household management, have clear economic value even though no wage is paid. Assigning a notional income corrects the invisibility of this labour in compensation calculations.

## THE CONCEPT OF “LOSS OF DOMESTIC CARE”

When a homemaker dies or is disabled, the household loses real services that would otherwise have to be purchased in the market, such as paid help, childcare and cooking. This is the “loss of domestic care”. Courts recognise this loss by assigning a notional income, ensuring that families of homemakers are not under-compensated simply because the deceased earned no formal salary.

## LEGAL LINEAGE

### Kirti v. Oriental Insurance (2021)

The current ruling builds on the landmark **Kirti v. Oriental Insurance Company (2021)**, in which the Supreme Court held that the notional income of a homemaker must be calculated fairly and that fixing a low value sends a regressive (<https://ujjiyari.com/vocab/regressive/>) message about gender roles. That judgment firmly established the principle that homemakers’ work has economic value.

### Why the Update Matters

By prescribing a minimum floor of ₹30,000 per month with periodic escalation, the recent ruling brings predictability and prevents the wide variation that earlier left compensation to the discretion of individual tribunals.

## THE WIDER ISSUE: UNPAID CARE WORK

### The Economic Dimension

Unpaid care and domestic work is overwhelmingly performed by women and is excluded from conventional GDP measurement. Recognising its value challenges the invisibility of women’s contribution to the economy.

### Data: The Time Use Survey

India’s National Statistical Office Time Use Survey provides evidence on the time women spend on unpaid domestic and caregiving work, which is several times that spent by men. This data is the empirical backbone for arguments to value, share and support unpaid care.

## UPSC RELEVANCE

Ujijari Current Affairs - [ujijari.com](https://ujijari.com) - Free Daily Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

- **GS1 Society:** Role of women, gender division of labour, and the social recognition of women's work.
- **GS2 Polity and Governance:** Judicial reasoning, the Motor Vehicles Act framework and the role of the judiciary in advancing social justice.
- **GS1 and GS2 overlap:** Gender and the economy, and the link between law and social change.
- **Mains angle:** Use the ruling to discuss valuing unpaid care work, the NSO (<https://ujijari.com/terms/nso-mospi-statistical-architecture/>) Time Use Survey, and policy options such as care infrastructure, parental leave and shared domestic responsibility.
- **Ethics (GS4) hook:** The recognition of dignity and the moral worth of caregiving labour.

## Way Forward

Beyond compensation law, the recognition should feed into broader policy: investment in public care infrastructure, recognition of care work in social security, and the use of Time Use Survey data to design gender-responsive budgeting.

## FACTS CORNER

### ★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

Case: *Shishu Pal v. Surjeet* (delivered June 11, 2026).

Held: Minimum notional income of ₹30,000 per month for homemakers under Motor Vehicles Act compensation, rising 10% every three years.

Description: Homemakers called “nation builders”.

Compensation: Enhanced to about ₹62.78 lakh in this case.

Precedent: Builds on *Kirti v. Oriental Insurance* (2021).

Data source: NSO Time Use Survey measures unpaid domestic and care work.

Sources: *The Hindu* (<https://www.thehindu.com>), *Indian Express* (<https://indianexpress.com>)

Source: Valuing the Homemaker: The Supreme Court on "Loss of Domestic Care" — Ujijari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

## RELATED EDITORIALS

---

Ujjari Current Affairs · [ujjari.com](http://ujjari.com) · Free Daily Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

### INDIAN EXPRESS

#### [Campus Distress Has Social Causes](#)

17 Jun

---

### THE HINDU

#### [Primed to Treat: On Kerala and Nipah](#)

17 Jun

---

### THE HINDU

#### [Politics over People: On Demographic Change and Profiling](#)

16 Jun

---

### THE HINDU

#### [Peace with Peace: On Misuse of Preventive Detention](#)

16 Jun

---

## RELATED KEY TERMS

---

### KEY TERM

#### [42nd Amendment Freeze on Delimitation](#)

The constitutional freeze that locked Lok Sabha seat allocation to the...

---

### KEY TERM

#### [Active Case Finding \(TB\)](#)

A proactive public health strategy where health workers systematically...

---

### KEY TERM

#### [Advance Directive \(Living Will\)](#)

A legal document in which a competent adult specifies their medical...

---

### KEY TERM

#### [AERB](#)

India's regulatory body for nuclear and radiological safety,...

---

Ujiyari Current Affairs · [ujiyari.com](https://ujiyari.com) · **Free Daily** Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS

CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

## Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari →](#)<https://ujiyari.com/daily/2026/06/17/supreme-court-homemaker-loss-of-domestic-care/>

### ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

## BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing → bharatnotes.com](https://bharatnotes.com)

### 📌 OPPORTUNITY

## Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

**Ideal for:** Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · [ujiyari.com](https://ujiyari.com) · [bharatnotes.com](https://bharatnotes.com)