



27 January 2025

## National and International News

MGNREGA	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), which guarantees 100 days of employment for rural workers, has not received extra funding in 2024-25 despite a budget deficit, causing delays in wage disbursement.</li> <li>Section 3(3) of the MGNREG Act states that daily wages must be disbursed weekly, or at the latest, within two weeks of the work being completed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MGNREGA is the abbreviation for the <b>Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005</b>.</li> <li>It is a law passed by the Indian government in 2005 that guarantees the <b>"right to work"</b> to rural citizens of India.</li> <li>Under this, the government assures a <b>minimum of 100 days of unskilled manual work to an adult member of an eligible rural household</b>.</li> <li>The main objective of the MGNREGA is to <b>provide employment to rural citizens and improve their economic conditions</b>.</li> <li><b>Eligibility Criteria:</b> For receiving the benefits of the MGNREGA Scheme, the following eligibility criteria are to be met by the applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Citizen of India</li> <li>18 years of age at the time of application</li> <li>Rural Household</li> <li>Willing to do unskilled work</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Guaranteed Employment:</b> The MGNREGA program guarantees 100 days of unskilled employment to all willing rural citizens, at the government-set minimum wage.</li> </ul>
Places in news: Indore and Udaipur	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Indore and Udaipur</b> have become the first two Indian cities that made it to the global list of accredited wetland cities under the Ramsar Convention, an intergovernmental treaty that provides a framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.</li> <li><b>Accreditation is an international recognition for the cities that value their natural and human-made wetlands.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Ramsar Convention</b> during COP12 held in the year <b>2015 approved a voluntary Wetland City Accreditation system under Resolution XII.10</b></li> <li>• It recognizes cities which have taken <b>exceptional steps to safeguard their urban wetlands.</b></li> <li>• It also recognizes the <b>importance of wetlands in urban and peri-urban environments and to take appropriate measures to conserve and protect these wetlands.</b></li> <li>• This voluntary scheme provides an opportunity for cities that value their natural or human-made wetlands to gain international recognition and positive publicity for their efforts.</li> <li>• This scheme aims to further <b>promote the conservation and wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands, as well as sustainable socio-economic benefits</b> for local populations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>India -Indonesia Bilateral Relations</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's visit to India as the chief guest at the Republic Day parade was rich in symbolism, reflecting the historically significant ties between the two countries, though it lacked concrete outcomes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cultural &amp; Historical Ties:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ India and Indonesia share over two millennia of close cultural and commercial contacts.</li> <li>○ <b>Hinduism, Buddhism, and later Islam</b> spread to Indonesia from India.</li> <li>○ Indian epics like <b>Ramayana and Mahabharata</b> influence Indonesian folk art and dramas.</li> <li>○ The <b>Bali Yatra festival</b> is celebrated in both countries with enthusiasm.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Political Relations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>President Sukarno of Indonesia was the Guest of Honour during India's first Republic Day in 1950.</b></li> <li>○ Both nations were instrumental in the independence movements of Asia and Africa, and contributed to the <b>Bandung Conference (1955) and the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement (1961).</b></li> <li>○ <b>India's 'Look East Policy' (1991) and 'Act East Policy' (2014)</b> have accelerated bilateral relations, particularly in politics, security, defense, commerce, and culture</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Economic Relations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ India is a major buyer of <b>Indonesian coal, crude palm oil, and other resources.</b> India exports refined <b>petroleum, vehicles, agricultural products, and more.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Digital &amp; Technological Cooperation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Both India and Indonesia are highly digitalized and use technology for public services and e-governance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ India's success with <b>Digital Public Infrastructures (DPI)</b> can serve as a model for Indonesia, which is also developing its DPis.</li> <li>○ <b>Cybersecurity</b> is a key area for cooperation as both countries face new security risks in digital public services.</li> <li>● <b>Defence:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ India and Indonesia have strong defence and security cooperation. In May 2018, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, both nations signed a new Defence Cooperation Agreement, marking the elevation of their relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.</li> <li>○ <b>Exercise GARUDA SHAKTI</b> is a joint training exercise between Indian Special Forces and the Indonesian Special Forces.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Chandrayaan-4 Mission &amp; Bharatiya Antariksh Station</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● India's space program enters 2025 in 'mission mode,' with the PSLV-C60 mission laying the groundwork for Chandrayaan-4 and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station. Upcoming test flights will bring India closer to human spaceflight, supported by a new launch pad at Sriharikota, ongoing work on the NGLV, and a leadership change at ISRO.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <p><b>Chandrayaan-4 Mission:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This ambitious project <b>aims to achieve a soft landing on the Moon, collect lunar rock samples, and return them to Earth.</b></li> <li>● If successful, India would join the ranks of the <b>United States, Russia, and China</b> in accomplishing this challenging feat.</li> <li>● <b>Key Objectives of the Mission</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Achieving a safe and gentle landing on the lunar surface.</li> <li>○ Collecting and storing lunar samples.</li> <li>○ Lifting off from the Moon's surface.</li> <li>○ Docking and undocking in lunar orbit.</li> <li>○ Transferring samples between spacecraft modules.</li> <li>○ Returning the collected samples safely to Earth.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>About Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● BAS will be <b>India's first own space station</b> and it will be established in <b>2028.</b></li> <li>● BAS is envisaged as a <b>national space-based facility that will support advanced microgravity research and technology development.</b></li> <li>● <b>Vision:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The station's creation is part of India's broader vision</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	for space during the Amrit Kaal, which includes launching an <b>operational space station by 2035 and pursuing a crewed lunar mission by 2040.</b>
<b>Guillain-Barre Syndrome</b>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) cases, a rare neurological disorder, has surpassed 100 in Pune.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It's a <b>neurological disorder</b> in which the <b>body's immune system attacks the peripheral nervous system.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is the part of the nervous system outside the brain and spinal cord.</li> <li>It <b>controls muscle movement, pain signals, and temperature and touch sensations.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>GBS is also called <b>Acute Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyradiculoneuropathy (AIDP).</b></li> <li>It can <b>occur at any age</b>, but it most <b>commonly affects people between 30 and 50.</b></li> <li><b>Cause:</b> The exact cause of the disease remains unclear, but it is often observed following a <b>viral or bacterial infection, vaccination, or major surgery.</b></li> <li><b>Symptoms:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It begins with an unknown fever, followed by weakness and other nervous system-related symptoms.</li> <li>It can increase in intensity over a period of hours, days, or weeks until certain muscles cannot be used at all.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Treatment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is <b>no known cure</b> for this syndrome.</li> <li>The most commonly used treatment is <b>intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG)</b>, which is made from donated blood that contains healthy antibodies.</li> <li>This helps calm down the immune system's attack on the nerves.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Blue Carbon</b>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent studies suggest that mangroves and coastal wetlands annually sequester carbon at a rate 10 times greater than mature tropical forests.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blue Carbon is the carbon <b>captured by the world's ocean and coastal ecosystems.</b></li> <li>The <b>world's mangroves, sea grasses and salt marshes together comprise 'blue carbon ecosystems.'</b></li> <li>Coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrass meadows sequester and store more carbon per unit area than terrestrial forests and are now being</li> </ul>



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	<p>recognised for their role in mitigating climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Activities that are causing loss of coastal blue carbon ecosystems include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The main causes of conversion and degradation of blue carbon ecosystems vary around the world but are largely driven by human activities.</li> <li>○ Common drivers are <b>aquaculture, agriculture, mangrove forest exploitation, terrestrial and marine sources of pollution and industrial and urban coastal development.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Importance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ They have the potential to help people and coastal environments mitigate and adapt to climate change.</li> <li>○ They help sustain the environment by mitigating climate change.</li> <li>○ These ecosystems also provide essential benefits for climate change adaptation, including coastal protection and food security for many coastal communities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Awards &amp; Honors: Padma Awards 2025</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Padma Awards 2025 have been announced.</li> <li>• For detailed recipient list: <a href="https://currentaffairs.adda247.com/padma-awards-2025-announced-check-complete-winners-list/">https://currentaffairs.adda247.com/padma-awards-2025-announced-check-complete-winners-list/</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Padma Awards - <b>one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.</b></li> <li>• The Awards are given in various <b>disciplines/ fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for <b>exceptional and distinguished service.</b></li> <li>○ 'Padma Bhushan' for <b>distinguished service of high order</b></li> <li>○ 'Padma Shri' for <b>distinguished service in any field.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• The awards are announced on the <b>occasion of Republic Day every year.</b></li> <li>• These Awards are <b>conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions</b> which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan.</li> <li>• For the year 2025, the President has approved conferment of <b>139 Padma Awards including 1 duo case (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one).</b></li> <li>• The list comprises <b>7Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri Awards. 23 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10</b></li> </ul>



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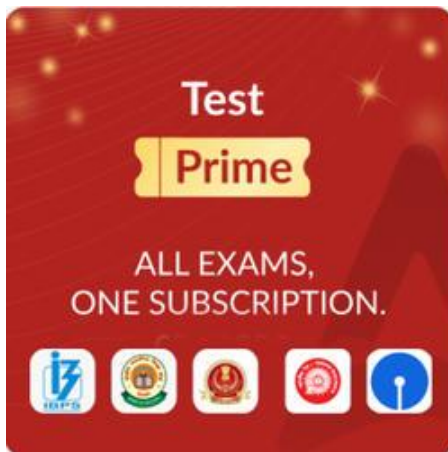
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persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 Posthumous awardees.



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