



15 Mar 2025

National and International News

MGNREGA	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A parliamentary committee has strongly advocated for the revision of wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) due to the increasing cost of living. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MGNREGA is the abbreviation for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005. It is a law passed by the Indian government in 2005 that guarantees the "right to work" to rural citizens of India. Under this, the government assures a minimum of 100 days of unskilled manual work to an adult member of an eligible rural household. The main objective of the MGNREGA is to provide employment to rural citizens and improve their economic conditions. Eligibility Criteria: 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"> Citizen of India 18 years of age at the time of application Rural Household Willing to do unskilled work Guaranteed Employment: The MGNREGA program guarantees 100 days of unskilled employment to all willing rural citizens, at the government-set minimum wage.
Aditya-L1 Mission	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have reported observations of a massive coronal mass ejection (CME) from the solar atmosphere using the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) instrument onboard the Aditya-L1 mission. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aditya-L1 is India's first space-based solar mission to study the Sun. It was launched on September 2, 2023, by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) into a halo orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrange point 1 (L1). Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding Coronal Heating and Solar Wind Acceleration. Understanding initiation of Coronal Mass Ejection (CME), solar flares and near-earth space weather. Understanding coupling and dynamics of the solar atmosphere. Understanding solar wind distribution and temperature anisotropy. <p>Significance:</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First Indian Solar Mission: It marks India's first dedicated effort to study the Sun, showcasing ISRO's expanding scientific goals. ○ Understanding Space Weather: Observing the Sun's outer layers helps understand solar flares, coronal mass ejections, and their effects on Earth's space weather, critical for satellite and communications safety. ○ Position at L1 Lagrange Point: Stationed at the L1 point, 1.5 million km from Earth, it offers uninterrupted observation of solar activities without interference. ○ Global Collaboration: The mission's findings will be shared globally, contributing to international research on solar physics and space weather. ○ Technological Advancement: Aditya-L1 strengthens ISRO's research and development in space observation, pushing the boundaries of India's space exploration capabilities.
<p>Swadesh Darshan 2.0 , Challenge-Based Destination Development (CBDD) & Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment Scheme</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Centre has approved the development of 116 new tourist destinations across the country under various schemes in collaboration with state governments, with a total investment of ₹4,088 crore. ● Of these, 34 destinations will be developed under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme, 42 have been identified under the "Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)" sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan, and 40 will be developed under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Swadesh Darshan 2.0: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Ministry of Tourism has revamped its Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) for development of sustainable and responsible tourist destinations covering tourism and allied infrastructure, tourism services, human capital development, destination management and promotion backed by policy and institutional reforms. ○ The objective for the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme envisages increase in private sector investment in tourism & hospitality. ○ It may help in increasing Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in the field of tourism and operation and maintenance of the created assets under the scheme. ● Challenge-Based Destination Development (CBDD): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is a sub-scheme under Swadesh Darshan 2.0, aiming for holistic development of tourism destinations to enhance tourist experiences and transform them into sustainable and responsible destinations across the entire tourism value chain. ● Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment Scheme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Under this Scheme, financial assistance is provided to the States Governments in the form of a 50-year interest free loan for capital investment projects.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avail the benefit for investments made this fiscal, states will have to submit details like name of the project, capital outlay, completion period and its economic justification to the expenditure department of the Union finance ministry. The loan provided under the scheme will be over and above the normal borrowing ceiling allowed to the States.
PM GatiShakti	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 89th meeting of the Network Planning Group under PM GatiShakti evaluated key infrastructure projects. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an approach launched in 2019 for growth accelerating trustworthy infrastructure through synchronized, holistic, integrated, and comprehensive planning based on knowledge, technology and innovation. The approach is driven by 7 engines - Railways, Roads, Ports, Waterways, Airports, Mass Transport, and Logistics Infrastructure. Objectives: To enhance ease of living, ease of doing business, minimize disruptions and expedite completion of works with cost efficiencies. <p>PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS NMP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has been developed by the Digital Master Planning tool developed by BISAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics) using GIS platform. It's built on open-source tech, hosted on Meghraj (Government of India's cloud) & Integrates ISRO satellite imagery and Survey of India basemaps. It provides a comprehensive database of the ongoing & future projects of various Ministries. E.g., Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, and UDAN.
World Consumer Rights Day	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every year on March 15th, we celebrate World Consumer Rights Day, a day dedicated to raising global awareness about consumer rights and needs. This day serves as a reminder of the power of the consumer and the importance of being informed, respected, and protected in the marketplace. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The origins of World Consumer Rights Day date back to President John F. Kennedy's historic address to the US Congress on March 15, 1962. He was the first world leader to formally address consumer rights, outlining four fundamental rights: the right to safety, the right to be informed, the right to choose, and the right to be heard. Theme for 2025 is, 'A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles.'



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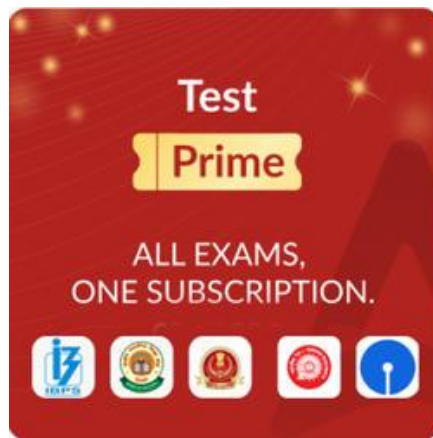
Prasar Bharti - Shared Audio Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination (PB-SHABD)

Why in news?

- PB-SHABD has completed one year, and its free subscription has been extended until March 2026 to support media organizations.

Key Points:

- **Prasar Bharti - Shared Audio Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination (PB-SHABD) platform** has been designed to provide daily news feeds in video, audio, text, photo and other formats to the subscribers from media landscape.
- It is powered by the vast network of Prasar Bharati reporters, correspondents and stringers, the service would bring you the latest news from different parts of the country.
- It will be a single point source of news content for all organizations.
- SHABD service is being offered free of cost for the first year as an introductory offer and will provide news stories in all major Indian languages across fifty categories.
- The shared feeds can be used for customized storytelling across different platforms.
- As an introductory offer, the services would be available free of cost and help the smaller newspapers, TV channels and digital portals immensely.



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