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The Analyst

CURRENT AFFAIRS Handout

2nd July 2026



Policy Architecture for India's Energy future



CONTEXT: The editorial highlights how India has become economic powerhouse in the last decade which demands phase wise transition to "Green energy" in the future

Chapter 1: Does there exist need for "New" Energy Strategy?

Peak power demand to be at 270 GW this summer, no affect due to West Asia crisis: MoS Shripad Naik

Ministry of Power had projected 277 GW of peak power demand during the last summer, April 2025 onwards. Peak power demand in June 2025 was 242.77 GW

Context of News :

"As India looks ahead to the goals of Energy self - reliance by 2047 & Net Zero emissions by 2070, the next phase of energy transition requires an integrated approach to planning & governance"

"Complexity of India's Energy system"

Large scale dependence on imports for Oil & Gas

Dependence continues due to Limited infra & Storage capacity

Vision of being "Margdarshak" on Climate Change

Reality? 68-71% of Electricity generation comes from Coal (CEA report)

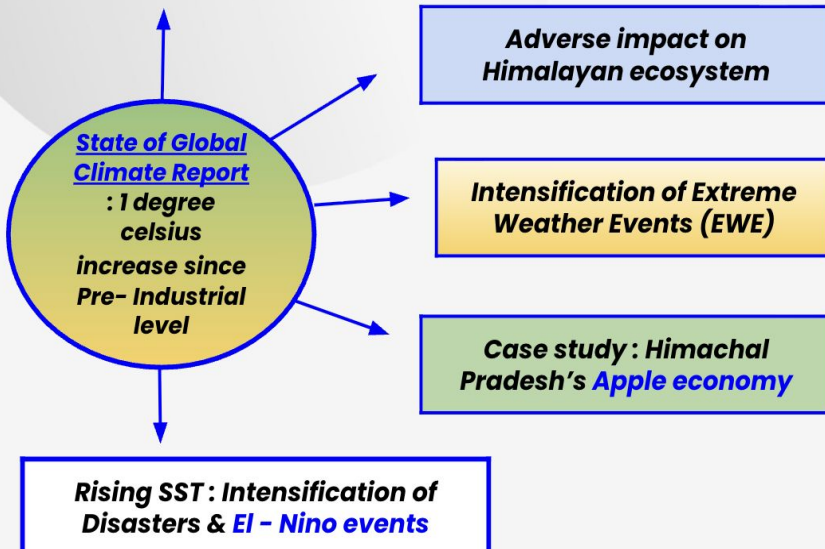
"Surge" in power demand

Data to validate arguments?

- **Supply Chain bottlenecks:** India's LPG imports account for 60% of domestic consumption & 90% comes from Strait of Hormuz
- **Infrastructural gaps:** India had strategic capacity of LPG of ONLY 22 days
- **IEA:** India is 87% import dependent for Crude oil needs
- **PIB (2025):** \$646 million for purchase of Oil For Strategic Petroleum Reserves
- **India's Cooling demand:** ~200 GW by 2030

Chapter 1: Does there exist need for "New" Energy Strategy?

Greenwatch Report: 7th most climate change vulnerable country



Monsoon tracker updates: Monthly average rainfall over India expected to be below normal in July, says IMD

Climate change impact harsher on poorer farmers in India: FAO report

FAO recommends enhanced social security net for all, Niti Aayog member says India doing its best to deal with climate change.

One day of extreme heat causes 3,400 excess deaths across India, study estimates

The result has direct and urgent implications for how India designs and funds its heat resilience architecture, the researchers said



Policy Architecture for India's Energy future



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India lost 18 times more forest than it gained between 2015–2019, study finds

From 2015 to 2019, all States in India experienced a net loss in forest cover; overall, India lost 18 square kilometres of forest for every 1 square kilometre gained.

Chapter 1: Does there exist need for "New" Energy Strategy?

| Previous Target | Progress Made | New Target to achieve by 2035 | Hurdles |
|---|--|--|---|
| Reduce Carbon emission intensity of GDP Growth by 45% | Reduced by 36% till 2025 | Reduce by 47% by 2035 from 2005 Level | Majorly dependent on Fossil fuel based energy production |
| 50% Installed power capacity from Non – fossil fuel power | Currently installed power capacity : 52.5% from Non – Fossil | Achieve 60% installation by 2035 | Generational power capacity = ~ over 20% |
| Adding 2.5– 3 Billion tonnes of Co2 carbon sink | Current carbon sink by forests : 2.2 Billion tonnes of Co2 | 3.5–4 Billion tonnes of CO2 Equivalent | India's Total Forest & Tree Cover : 24.67% of total Geographical area |

Ministry of Power

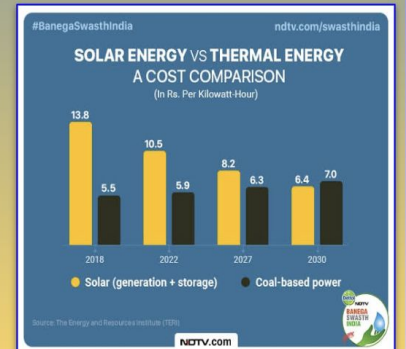
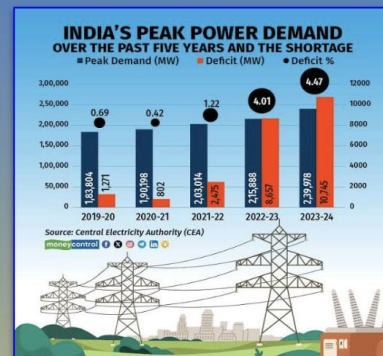
India achieved Historic milestone in power sector: Surpasses 500 GW and Renewable Generation Exceeds 50% of demand

Posted On: 29 OCT 2025 5:46PM by PIB Delhi

Chapter 2: The "Paradoxical" Effort?

"As the consumption increases, Focus on **Faster adaptation**"

| "The Demand"? | The Supply: |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd largest energy consumer 3rd largest fossil fuel consumer 4th largest refiner & LNG importer globally Energy demand : Grow 2.5 times by 2047 25% incremental demand by 2047 will come from India | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoPNG : Unblock 42 billion tonnes of Natural Gas Streamlining licensing under OALP Promotion of PPP projects in exploration & ownership Extension of City Gas Networks & PNG connections |



Policy Architecture for India's Energy future



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Chapter 3 : Focusing on "New" Model : The Molecular Energy :

The age of "Molecules" is giving way to "Electrons": Clean & Reliable Energy

Economic Survey 2025 :
Generation of **78.5 Lakhs** Non - Farm jobs every year till 2030

Molecules: Oil, Gas, LPG, Coal & Biofuels

Electrons are delivered
By a Centralised Grid

More electrons = Higher automation & easier decarbonisation

Combusted directly in engines, boilers & furnaces

Electric motors convert **90% input into useful energy v. ICE = Convert less than 35%**

Coal has shifted from on - site combustion to **centralised power generation**

Industrial electrification snapshot

Green and grey electrons versus molecules

Global picture: industrial electrons and their quality

| Region | Green electrons (%) | Grey electrons (%) | Total electrons (%) | Molecules (%) |
|-----------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| China | 18 | 29 | 47 | 53 |
| The EU | 16 | 18 | 34 | 66 |
| U.S. | 12 | 20 | 32 | 68 |
| India | 7 | 20 | 27 | 73 |
| The world | 12 | 18 | 30 | 70 |

Whole-economy context

| Region | Green electrons (%) | Grey electrons (%) | Total electrons (%) | Molecules (%) |
|-----------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| China | 12 | 19 | 31 | 69 |
| U.S. | 13 | 19 | 32 | 68 |
| The EU | 17 | 17 | 34 | 66 |
| India | 8 | 19 | 27 | 73 |
| The world | 12 | 18 | 30 | 70 |

Editorial : China's Playbook for "Electron" based energy : Renewable Energy Law 2005

Identification of Wind & Solar Farms : Gansu, Inner Mongolia & Jinagsu

State Owned Enterprises (SPEs)

NDRC

NEA

PSBs

Heavy Collateral Free Loans for Long Period

Technology Upgradation through R & D

Expansion through programmes like BRI

Important role of SPEs :

Focused on "Sunrise sector"

55% of Global Energy investment

"Build at Cost" Mentality

Reserve molecules only for no immediate alternative

- Exploration of Raw Materials : **\$19.4 Billion** investment
- **87%** of Rare Earth Elements processing & **58%** of World's Lithium refining
- Ministry of Mines Report 2023 : India explored **10%** OGP & mined **2%** of potential reserves
- **Lack of Incentive for Private Sector**

Govt backed "Electron" Transition



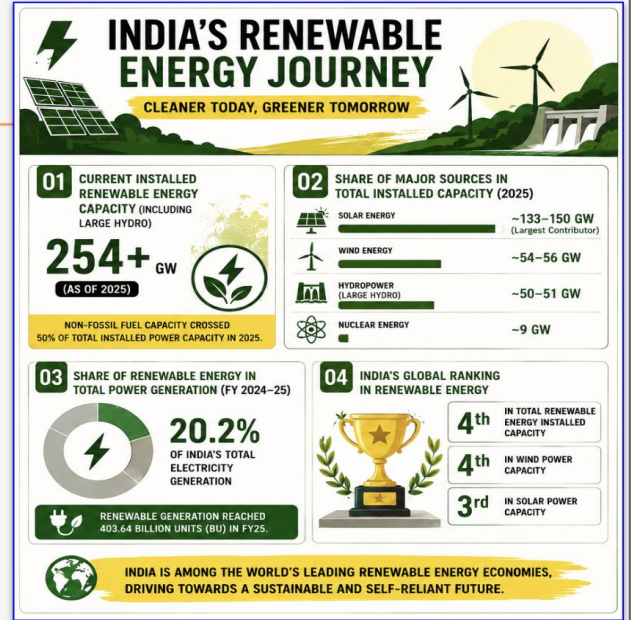
Policy Architecture for India's Energy future

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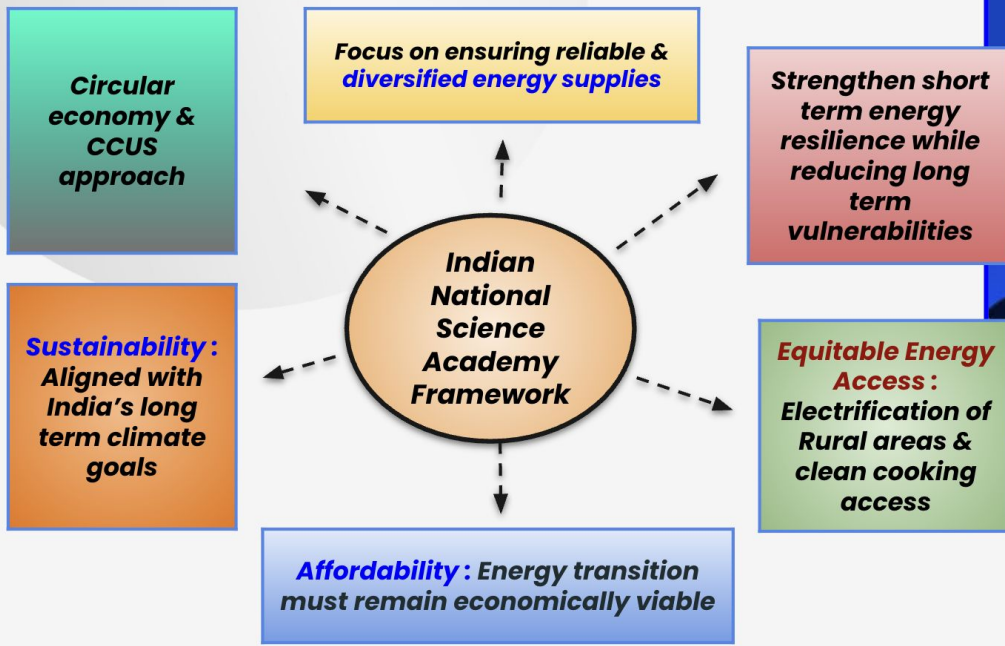
Chapter 4 : What are the Steps taken so far?

Initiatives to boost Renewable Energy in India :

| | |
|--|--|
| PM – Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of New & Renewable Energy Install rooftop solar panels on 1 crore households 40% subsidy cost borne by Govt Save ₹75,000 crore annually in electricity costs |
| Green Hydrogen Mission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of New & Renewable Energy Produce 5 MMT of Green Hydrogen by 2030 Add 125 GW of Renewable Energy Capacity by 2030 India's 1st Green Hydrogen Plant : Jorhat, Assam |
| Green Energy Corridors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter & Intra State Transmission Systems 20 GW of Power projects in RE Rich states like Gujarat, TN & Uttar Pradesh |



Chapter 5 : Suggestions by Editorial?



MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION: What is the current status of Energy sector in India? What are the challenges that persists in complete "Green Transition" of Energy sector? What are the steps taken by the Government of India in this context?

(15 Marks, 250 words)



Wage hikes for VB- GRAM G workers

CONTEXT: The opposition has launched a “scathing” attack on the Union Government for the shortcomings that prevails in the Central flagship scheme for Unskilled manual workers

Pillar 1: Need of “Unskilled” Employment Scheme in Rural Areas?

Context of News?

Section 10 of VB - G RAM G Act 2025 empower Centre to specify the wage rates for “Unskilled” manual work which shall not be less than prevailing wage rate under Section 6 of MGNREGA 2005

•HIKE IN WAGES: TOP 10 STATES

| State/UT | MGNREGA wages | | | VB GRAM G wages (Rs/day) | Increase (in%)# |
|-------------------|---------------|---------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| | 2024-25 | 2025-26 | Increase (in %) | | |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 234 | 241 | 2.99 | 300 | 24.48 |
| Nagaland | 234 | 241 | 2.99 | 300 | 24.48 |
| Himachal Pradesh* | 236 | 247 | 4.66 | 300 | 21.46 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 237 | 252 | 6.33 | 300 | 19.05 |
| Uttarakhand | 237 | 252 | 6.33 | 300 | 19.05 |
| Bihar | 245 | 255 | 4.08 | 300 | 17.65 |
| Jharkhand | 245 | 255 | 4.08 | 300 | 17.65 |
| Assam | 249 | 256 | 2.81 | 300 | 17.19 |
| Tripura | 242 | 256 | 5.79 | 300 | 17.19 |
| Sikkim | 249 | 259 | 4.02 | 300 | 15.83 |

* (Non-scheduled areas) # for FY 27 in VB GRAM G wages; Source: notifications for respective years

Economic Survey 2026 :

- **65-66% (~90 crore) people live in Rural India**
- **55-60% Rural population engaged in Agriculture**
- **World Bank : 5.3% population faces Extreme Poverty**
- **Two - Third of India's poor reside in Rural Areas**
- **60-70% Rural population earns less than ₹1 Lakh per annum**
- **NABARD : Average monthly income : ₹10,218**
- **Rural Unemployment Rate : 4.2% (PLFS 2026)**

MGNREGA
RIGHT TO WORK, RIGHT TO DIGNITY

Guarantees at least **100 days** of legal unskilled manual work as guaranteed employment in a fiscal year to every rural household as per demand

Pillar 2: Provisions of MGNREGA?

KEY FEATURES

- Ministry of Rural Development
- Gram Panchayat – generates job card after enquiry
- 33½% work for Women
- Mandatory Social Auditing
- Unemployment Allowance



IS IT A CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEME?



EMPLOYMENT WITHIN



NOT PROVIDED WITHIN



NOT JUST A SCHEME, IT'S A STEP TOWARDS RURAL EMPOWERMENT.

Centre's Share

- **100% wage cost**
- **100% wages for Skilled & Semi - Skilled work**
- **75% Material cost**
- **100% Administrative Expense**
- **What if failure in payment is due to Centre not releasing funds?**

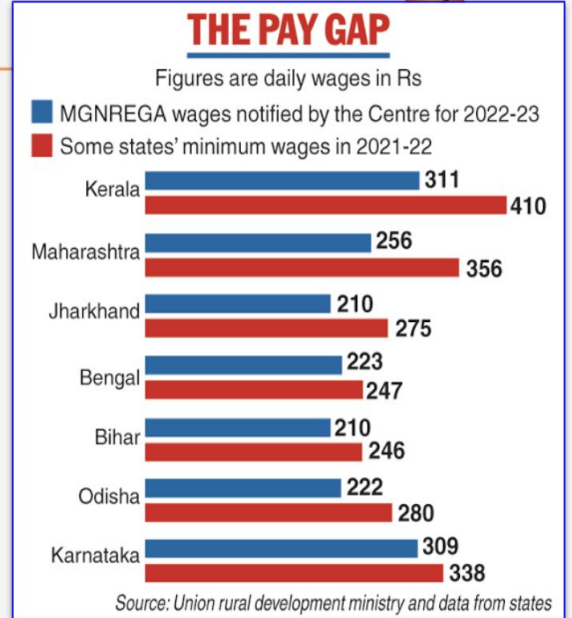
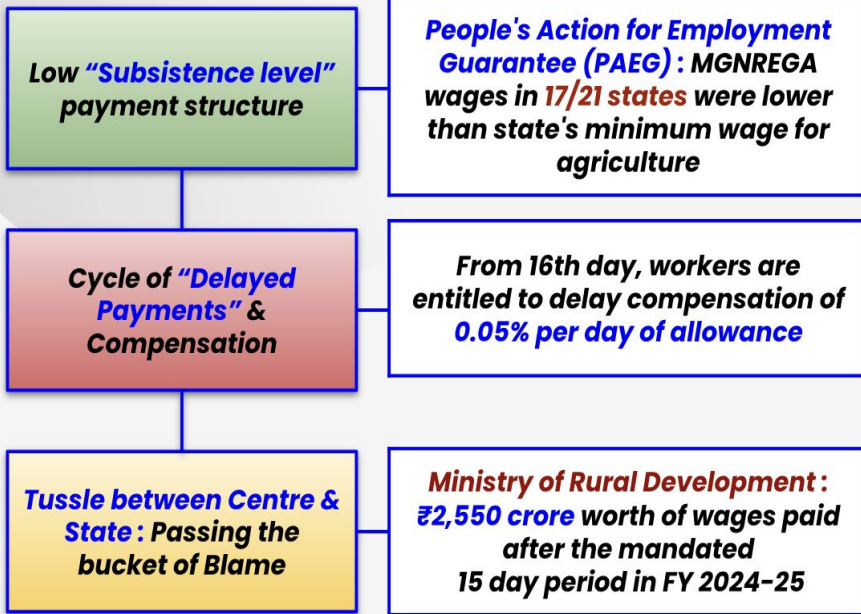
State's Share

- **100% Unemployment Allowance**
- **25% Material cost**
- **Cost of Land Acquisition**

Wage hikes for VB- GRAM G workers

CONTEXT: The opposition has launched a “scathing” attack on the Union Government for the shortcomings that prevails in the Central flagship scheme for Unskilled manual workers

Pillar 3 : Need of NEW Act? Persisting Issues in MGNREGA :



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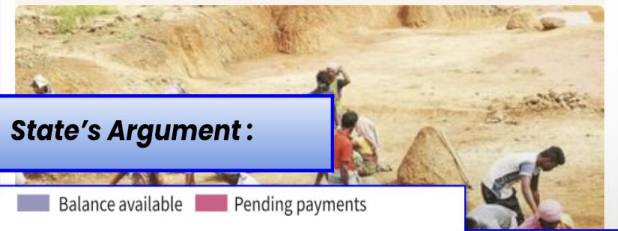
Datasheet for "Delayed Payments" :

State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of approved delay compensation, delay compensation paid and delay compensation due under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. (In Rs.)

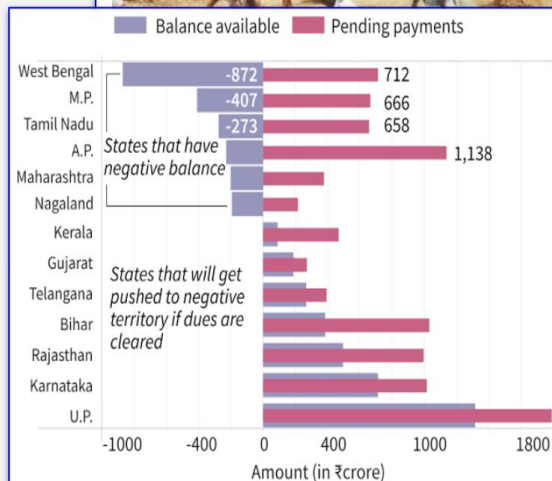
| Sl. No. | State/UT-wise | Financial Year 2024-25 (as on 25.03.2025) | | |
|---------|-------------------|---|-------------------------|------------------------|
| | | Approved delay compensation | Delay compensation paid | delay compensation due |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 12 | 7 | 5 |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | 27440 | 0 | 27440 |
| 3 | Assam | 41357 | 27876 | 13481 |
| 4 | Bihar | 102178 | 0 | 102178 |
| 5 | Chhattisgarh | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| 6 | Goa | 93792 | 0 | 93792 |
| 7 | Gujarat | 355 | 0 | 355 |
| 8 | Haryana | 53600 | 44208 | 9392 |
| 9 | Himachal Pradesh | 13330 | 5701 | 7629 |
| 10 | Jammu and Kashmir | 665366 | 330754 | 334612 |
| 11 | Jharkhand | 4109 | 3427 | 682 |
| 12 | Karnataka | 16080 | 7836 | 8244 |

Work demand under MGNREGA job scheme increased by 4.2% in May, shows data

Data shows that historically, May is a month when MGNREGA work demand is among the highest as traditional activities around agriculture weaken due to the lean cropping season



State's Argument :



Wage hikes for VB- GRAM G workers

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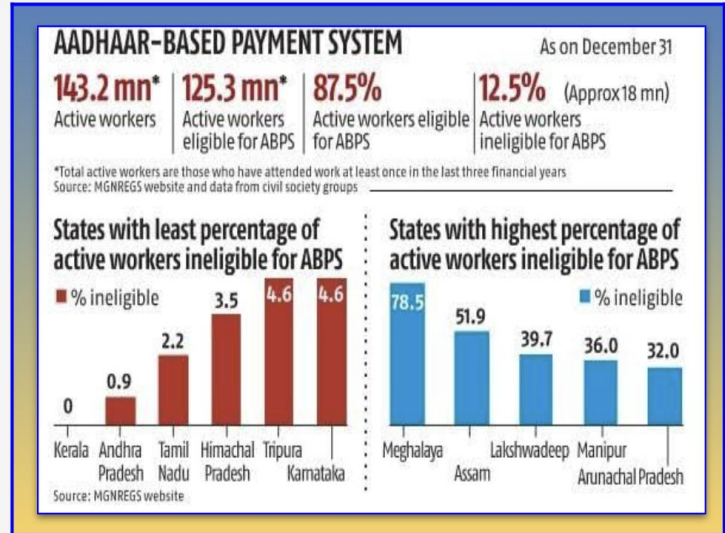
National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) App :

- Real time Geo - Tagging attendance of workers
- Care work responsibilities of Women
- Issue of “Digital Divide”
- Unavailability of “Smartphones” to use “Mate” App to register attendance

Fiscal Gliding Path by Government

- Insufficient Budget allocation & “Fund Crunch”: 3.2% Budget share in 2021 to 1.78% in Budget 2025
- 90% Fund exhaustion within 6 months
- Falling Person - Days generated : 50% less person days generated in 2024-25
- Delay in completing works & Poor asset quality

Pillar 3 : Need of NEW Act? Persisting Issues in MGNREGA :



Pillar 4 : VB - G RAM G : “Recipe” for “Reforms” or “Roadblocks”?

| MGNREGA | VB - G RAM G? |
|---|---|
| Guarantees 100 Days of employment in financial year to every rural household | Act increases the guarantee to 125 days per financial year |
| Unemployment Allowance = Paid by State Government if work NOT provided within 15 days | Act retain this provision |
| Central government provides entire cost of wages for unskilled manual work & 75% of material cost | Centrally Sponsored Scheme : 60 :40 share & 90 :10 for Himalayan states |
| State Govt’s share Administrative costs & compensation in case of delay in wage payments | Act retain this provision |

Table 1: This shows the key changes in the funding pattern between the two schemes (Centre:State)

| Category | MGNREGA | VB-G RAM G |
|--|----------------|---|
| Labour wages | 100% by Centre | 60:40 ratio |
| Material costs | 75:25 ratio | 60:40 ratio |
| Administrative expenses | 75:25 ratio | 60:40 ratio |
| Number of guaranteed workdays | 100 | 125 |
| Exceptions for any States or Union Territories | None | 90:10 ratio in total expenditure for NE States, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Jammu and Kashmir. Full expenditure to be borne by the Centre for UTs without legislatures |

Wage hikes for VB- GRAM G workers

CONTEXT: The opposition has launched a “scathing” attack on the Union Government for the shortcomings that prevails in the Central flagship scheme for Unskilled manual workers

Pillar 4 : VB - G RAM G : “Recipe” for “Reforms” or “Roadblocks”?

| MGNREGA | VB - G RAM G? |
|---|---|
| Central government will determine state wise normative allocation for each financial year | State governments will announce in advance a period of up to 60 days for every financial year during which works under the scheme will not be undertaken |
| Establishes Councils at the Central and state levels to undertake implementation and monitoring | Constitutes the National Level Steering Committee which will provide high-level oversight |

Similar features :

- ❑ Biometric authentication for transactions
- ❑ Geospatial technology for planning and monitoring
- ❑ Mobile application based dashboards for real time tracking

The Centre has also highlighted provisions such as:

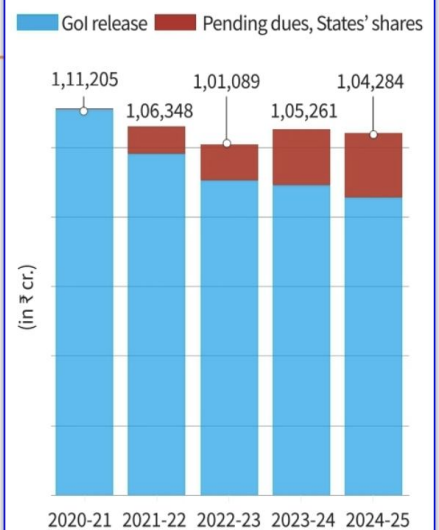
- ▶ Mandatory appointment letters
- ▶ Free health check-ups for workers aged 40 years and above
- ▶ Equal work, equal pay and equal opportunity provisions for women working in different shifts
- ▶ Creation of a National Reskilling Fund for workers who lose jobs
- ▶ Weekly working hour cap of 48 hours
- ▶ Mandatory overtime payments

Pillar 4 : VB - G RAM G : “Recipe” for “Reforms” or “Roadblocks”?

Table 2: This shows the rough estimates for 2026-27 under VB-G RAM G and the increase in the expenditure of States

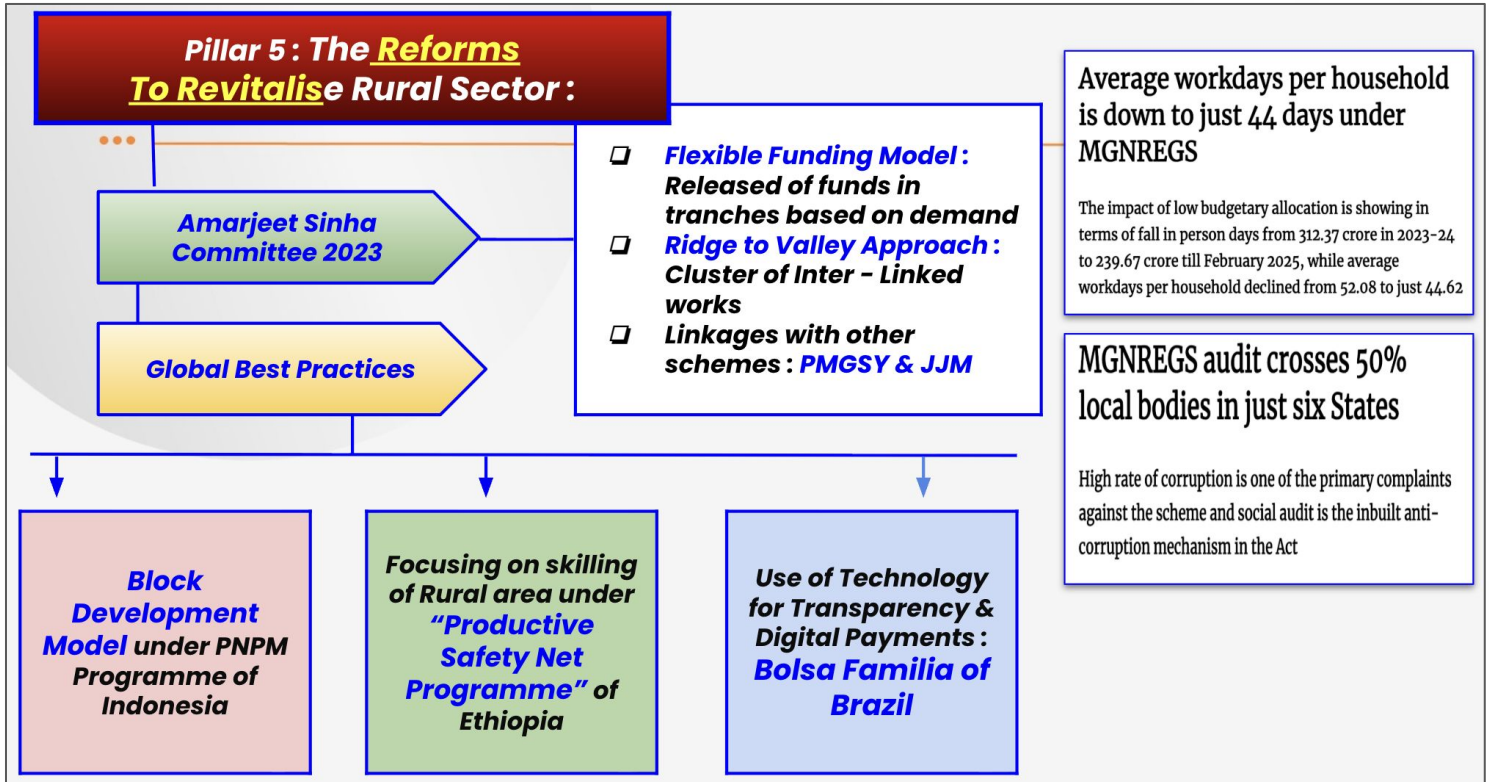
| Category | 2024-25 | 2026-27 (projections) | Calculation method |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--|
| Wages | ₹73,335.05 cr | ₹1,05,769.18 cr | 25% increase in PDG for each State multiplied by new wage rates |
| Person days generated (PDG) | 268.2 cr | 335.25 cr | 25% increase assumed (100 to 125 days) |
| Materials | ₹25,985.44 cr | ₹27,884.24 cr | Adjusted for inflation as per CPI for 2025-26 and 2026-27 (projected) |
| Admin | ₹4,770.55 cr | ₹5,119.14 cr | Adjusted for inflation as per CPI for 2025-26 and 2026-27 (projected) |
| Total | ₹1,04,091.04 cr | ₹1,38,772.56 cr | |
| Centre's contribution | ₹96,401.97 cr | ₹87,804.25 cr | |
| Centre's share | 92.6 % | 63.3% | |
| States' contribution | ₹7,689.07 cr | ₹50,968.31 cr | 10% for NE States, no cost for UTs without legislatures and 40% for the rest |
| States' share | 7.4% | 36.7% | |

Chart 2: The Centre's allocation has seen a decline. (Values above bars show total expenditure)



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MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION: Despite noble aims and objectives, why the MGNREGA scheme has been unable to deliver the desired results at the grassroot level? What are the reforms brought under VB - G RAM G? (10 Marks, 150 words)



"Value Additions" for Mains 2026

"Value Additions" for Mains 2026 :

Yes and no

Governments must respect the decision-making of gram sabhas

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Newspaper | The Hindu |
| Page Number | 6 |

Context of News :

Ministry of Rural Development Report :
"Participation fatigue" keeps citizen away from engaging in Gram Sabhas & disconnect with **over - reliance on Technology** ↓

Key Recommendations by Committees to Quote?

| | |
|---|--|
| Balwant Rai Mehta Committee 1957 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Tier Panchayati Raj system • Direct election for Gram Panchayats • 1959 : Rajasthan : 1st state to establish Panchayati Raj |
| Ashok Mehta Committee 1977 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Time : Demand for "Constitutional Status" • Compulsory power of Taxation to all Panchayats • Reservation of seats for SC & ST on basis of Population |
| GVK Rao Committee 1985 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureaucratisation of Development Process - "Grass without Roots" • Collector shall be coordinator instead of "Master of ceremony" |
| Thungon Committee 1988 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed tenure to Panchayat : 5 Years • List of Subjects for Panchayats • Reservation for Women • State Finance Commission (SFC) |

"Value Additions" for Mains 2026 :

Article 243 - 243 O :

01

Added **Part 9 & 11th Schedule : 29 functions**

02

Constitutional obligation : Form Panchayats & Hold elections at regular intervals

03

3 Tier system in every states except if population less than 20 Lakhs

04

Member at all 3 stages will be **directly elected**

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Gram Sabha : Village assembly consisting of all registered voters | Reservation for SC/ST at all 3 levels on basis of population | 33% seats reserved for Women | Dissolution of Gram Panchayats : Every 5 years |
| SEC : Appointment & Tenure : Governor | Removal of SEC : President | CAG doesn't audit the reports of Panchayats | Age to Fight election : 21 Years |



"Value Additions" for Mains 2026



"Value Additions" for Mains 2026 :

Causes behind the "Absence"?

Youth Participation in Gramsabha: Case Study on Bedadukka Gram Panchayat

"Deserting" Villages: Issue of Migration

Financial barriers in participating elections

Criminalisation of Politics: Disillusionment of Youth

Less Awareness among youth about importance of Political attitude

In Madhya Pradesh panchayats, husbands of elected women taking oath

Deep rooted Patriarchal Norms

Dual role syndrome & Time Poverty

Caste & Gender based discrimination

Lack of Capacity Building or training

Following reports of husbands or male members of families taking oath instead of the elected women representatives in newly formed Madhya Pradesh panchayats, the State is coming out with an advisory to prevent a repeat of such instances. |

"Value Additions" for Mains 2026 :



Model Youth Gram Sabha 2025

Ministry of PR, Education, Tribal Welfare & Aspirational Bharat Collaborative

Simulation of Real Gram Sabha process: Students play role of Sarpanch & ward members

Youth participation in creation of Budgets & Developments Plans

Mysore Declaration 2021: Recognition of Citizen centric Governance

Phase 1: MYGS in >1000 schools across 28 States & UTs

Way Forward :

Formal Knowledge about local government under NEP 2020

Organise Annual Panchayat development seminars

Create Youth Coordination committee in every ward



Syllabus: PRELIMS: Indian Economy
Newspaper: Indian Express, Page No. 14

RBI's Upper Layer NBFC

Context of News :

In 2024, the RBI classified Tata Sons as an Upper Layer NBFC (NBFC-UL) under its Scale-Based Regulation framework because of its size and systemic importance.

Under RBI rules, an NBFC-UL is required to list on a stock exchange within three years of being notified and comply with stricter governance and disclosure norms.

Target given By Finance Minister

- Achieve goal of "Viksit Bharat" by 2047 & become \$30 Trillion economy
- NBFCs = Currently account for 24% volume of credit disbursed by SCBs
- Aim = To reach 50% of total volume
- Direct lending towards "High Growth - High Impact sectors"

What are NBFCs?

- Company or a financial institution registered under Companies Act 2013
- Defined under Section 45-1 of RBI Act 1934
- Income from Financial assets contribute more than 50% of Gross income
- Minimum net owned fund : ₹ 2 crore

RBI's Upper Layer NBFC

| Engages in | Does not include |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loans & Advances • Acquisition of: Shares, Stocks, Bonds, Government Securities • Insurance Business • Chit Business • Asset financing & Loan companies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural activities • Industrial activities • Purchase or sale of Goods • Sale or purchase of Immovable properties |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Accept Demand Deposit | NO |
| Provide Saving or Current Account Facilities | NO |
| Accept Time Deposits | YES |
| Form part of Payment & Settlement System | NO |
| Deposit Insurance facility by DICGC | NO |



RBI's Upper Layer NBFC

Syllabus: PRELIMS: Indian Economy
Newspaper: Indian Express, **Page No.** 14

RBI's Upper Layer NBFC

Criteria for Upper Layer NBFC?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Asset size of ₹1000 crore or more</p> | <p>Listed on Stock exchange within 3 years of being notified</p> | <p>Higher systematic risk: Rapid growth, Debt - Equity profile etc</p> |
| <p>Bank like prudential regulations: CRAR, Stricter disclosure & reporting norms</p> | <p>Normal composition: Top 10 NBFCs by Asset size</p> | <p>Automatic inclusion? NO.</p> |

8. What are systemically important NBFCs?

NBFCs whose asset size is of ₹ 500 cr or more as per last audited balance sheet are considered as systemically important NBFCs. The rationale for such classification is that the activities of such NBFCs will have a bearing on the financial stability of the overall economy.

POPULAR NBFCs IN INDIA

Ab Ghar Aa Jao

IIFL India Infinitive Limited

We only do what's right for you

Company's Risk, Company's Gain

Religion that binds

हरिश्चन्द्र उद्योग कर्म प्रेम
Life insurance, protection of money.



Telecommunication Rules 2026



Syllabus: PRELIMS: Government policies & interventions
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No. 8**

Telecommunication Rules 2026

Context of News :

The story so far:

The Telecommunications Act, 2023, saw a clutch of rules being notified this month, namely the Telecommunications (Authorisation for Provision of Principal Telecommunication Services) Rules, 2026; the Telecommunications (Authorisation for Captive Telecommunication Services) Rules, 2026; and the Telecommunications (Authorisation for Provision of Miscellaneous Telecommunication Services) Rules, 2026.

Status of Telecom Sector

India's total telephone subscriber base : **1.2 billion in 2025**

Mobile and broadband users : **969 million internet subscribers**

Valuation in 2025 : **US \$53.18 billion**
 Projected Growth by 2030 : **US \$83.34 billion**

Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) : **CAGR : 9.8% till 2030**

Third Largest Mobile Exporter : **Sell of US\$ 20.5 billion in FY 24-25**

Telecommunication Rules 2026

The contentious bone : AGR

| | |
|---|---|
| What is AGR? | Revenue sharing mechanism used by GOI to calculate how much telecom service providers must pay the government as statutory dues |
| What does it include as per GOI? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revenue from telecom services (calls, data, SMS) Interconnection charges Roaming charges Value-added services Rent, interest or dividend income Profit from sale of assets Foreign exchange gains |
| Licensing Fees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8% of AGR 3% : Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) or Digital Bharat Nidhi 5% : License fee to government |
| Spectrum Usage Charge (SUC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally 3%–5% of AGR Depends on: Spectrum band + Year of allocation + Auction terms |

THE GIST

The newly notified rules largely replace the old telecom licensing framework with an authorisation regime, simplify compliance for telecom operators and ISPs, and add anti-spam obligations, while leaving day-to-day operations largely unchanged.

Although several provisions of the Telecommunications Act have already been brought into force, implementation is still incomplete, with satellite internet rules, Starlink approvals, and key operational details yet to be clarified.

Salient Provisions?

- Single authorisation framework : Centre grants permission for Telecom networks, services & spectrum allocation
- Administrative allocation of spectrum : National security, Scientific research & DM
- Protection against spam & strict identity verification
- Suspend transmission during public emergency
- Provides for "Satellite based internet"



Syllabus: PRELIMS: Population & Related Issues
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No.** 12

Civil Registration System



Context of News :

India's latest civil registration data, **CRS 2024**, released on Wednesday, suggest that registration is improving across the country, and that sex ratio at birth is improving in some places, but progress remains uneven across the States and Union Territories.

India's sex ratio at birth is **917 females per 1,000 males**, meaning that 917 girls are born for every 1,000 boys.

Factsheet For Prelims 2027

Top Performers : AP (1050) > A & N (984) > Meghalaya (974)

Worst Performers : Nagaland (865) - Lakshadweep (865) > Jharkhand (890)

Reflects at underperformance of **Beti Bachao , Beti Padhao**

"Son Meta" syndrome persists

Declining TFR (1.9) will further dent the prospect of Sex Ratio

Civil Registration System



Registration of Birth & Death is "Right of every Individual"

RBD Act 1969 : Compulsory to Report

Head of Household

Medical or Health attendant

Keeper or owner of the Place

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Compulsory Report | 21 Days |
| Reported after 21 days but within 30 Days | Penalty |
| Reported after 30 Days but within 1 year | Written permission by RBD |
| Reported after 1 year | Order of Magistrate of 1st Class |

No Provision to register death of Indian citizen occurred "Outside" the country



Provisions of UAPA

Syllabus: PRELIMS: Government policies & interventions
Newspaper: The Hindu, **Page No. 5**

Provisions of UAPA

Context of News :

Observing that “clandestine funding of extremism is among today’s gravest national security threats”, the High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday refused to interfere with a criminal case against six persons linked to U.S.-based Christian missionary organisation ‘The Timothy Initiative’ (TTI), under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967.

Salient Provisions of UAPA?

| | |
|--|--|
| What constitutes an “Unlawful activity”? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Action of an Individual or Association : Intends to bring cession or secession of Indian territory ❑ Disclaims or questions India’s sovereignty and integrity ❑ 2004 Amendment : Included the term “Terrorism” in the provisions of the Act |
| 2013 Amendment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Included “money laundering” as one of the offences ❑ Extended ban on Organisations for period of 5 years |
| Investigation & Enforcement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Section 43A–43F : Special powers to National Investigation Agency (NIA) & state police ❑ NIA can take over cases without State govt consent (post-2008 amendment) ❑ Section 25 : Property of accused can be seized |
| Arrest & Bail Provisions : | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ NIA can detain a person for 180 days without filing charge sheet ❑ Section 43D(5) : Bail denied if prima facie case exists ❑ Courts have very limited power to grant bail |

Test Your Knowledge (TYK) :

Utility of Analyst?

70. Which of the following statements with regard to Green Hydrogen is/are correct ?

1. It is decarbonized hydrogen obtained from natural gas reforming combined with carbon capture and storage (CCS).
2. It is produced using electrolysis of water with electricity generated by renewable energy.
3. National Green Hydrogen Mission of India aims for abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Select the answer using the code given below :

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

64. Consider the following statements about the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India :

1. NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits.
2. All the NBFCs operating in India have to be registered with the RBI.
3. NBFCs form part of the payment and settlement system and can issue cheque drawn on itself.
4. Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is not available to the depositors of deposit taking NBFCs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- (a) 1 and 4
(b) 1, 2 and 3
(c) 4 only
(d) 2, 3 and 4



Q1. With reference to the initiatives taken by the Government of India to promote renewable energy, consider the following statements:

1. The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana aims to install rooftop solar panels on one crore households and provides up to 40% subsidy for the installation cost.
2. The National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to produce 5 million metric tonnes of green hydrogen annually by 2030.
3. India's first Green Hydrogen Plant is located at Jorhat in Assam.
4. The Green Energy Corridors programme focuses exclusively on interstate transmission infrastructure for renewable energy.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 1 and 4 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: a

Q2. With reference to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), consider the following statements:

1. Every rural household is guaranteed 100 days of wage employment in a financial year.
2. If employment is not provided within 15 days of demand, the Central Government is liable to pay unemployment allowance.
3. The Central Government bears the entire cost of wages for unskilled manual work.
4. The State Governments are responsible for compensation in case of delay in wage payments.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: b

Q3. With reference to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India, consider the following statements:

1. NBFCs can accept demand deposits from the public.
2. NBFCs can accept time deposits, subject to the regulations of the Reserve Bank of India.
3. Deposits accepted by NBFCs are covered under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).
4. NBFCs are not a part of the payment and settlement system.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All Four

Answer: b

Q4. With reference to the Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969, consider the following statements:

1. Registration of births and deaths is compulsory in India.
2. A birth or death must ordinarily be reported within 21 days of its occurrence.
3. If a birth or death is reported after one year, registration can be done only on the order of a Judicial Magistrate of the First Class.
4. The Act provides for registration of the death of every Indian citizen occurring outside India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: b

Q5. With reference to the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), consider the following statements:

1. The Act considers questioning the sovereignty and integrity of India as an unlawful activity.
2. The term "terrorism" was incorporated into the Act through the 2004 amendment.
3. The 2013 amendment reduced the maximum period for banning an unlawful organisation from five years to three years.
4. Under the Act, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) can take over certain cases without obtaining the consent of the State Government.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) Only Three
- d) All Four

Answer: c





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