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TODAY'S IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS

UPSC PRELIMS

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TODAY'S DROPS OF NEWS:

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>IN NEWS</u>
POLITY	---
ECONOMY	Nearly 60% of MGNREGS budget already spent in first 5 months of financial year.
GEOGRAPHY	---
HISTORY AND ART & CULTURE	---
ENVIRONMENT	---
SCIENCE & TECH	---
MISCELLANEOUS	---

ECONOMY

In news: Nearly 60% of MGNREGS budget already spent in first 5 months of financial year.

➤ **MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005)** launched by Ministry of Rural development to ensure Legal Right to Work.

- The primary objective of the scheme is to guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work.
- At least one-third of beneficiaries have to be women.
- Wages must be paid according to the statutory minimum wages specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

Eligibility Criteria: For receiving the benefits of the MGNREGA Scheme, the following eligibility criteria are to be met by the applicant:

- ✓ Citizen of India
 - ✓ 18 years of age at the time of application
 - ✓ Rural Household
 - ✓ Willing to do unskilled work.
- Data on the scheme's website shows that on any given day, some 15 million people work under the programme at 1.4 million sites.
 - There has been a steady decline in the budget allocation for the scheme. The government cut the spending to Rs 60,000 crore for 2023-24 from Rs 89,400 crore in 2022-23. The budget for the scheme is the lowest in the past two years, which was Rs 98,468 crore and Rs 89,400 crore for the year 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively. But recently it is increased up to ₹86,000 crore.

Unemployment Allowance: If work is not assigned within 15 days, the applicant is entitled to receive an unemployment allowance. This allowance is 1/4 of the minimum wage for the first 30 days and a half for the following period.

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