



# MGNREGS Wage Rates Revised for Different States

## Why in News?

Recently, wages under the [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme \(MGNREGS\)](#) have been revised, with hikes ranging between 4 and 10% for different states.

## Key Points

- **Haryana has the highest wage rate for unskilled workers** under the scheme at **Rs 374 a day**, while **Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland have the lowest at Rs 234**.
- **The increases have been made on the 2023 wage rates** under the scheme that is aimed at enhancing the livelihood security of households in rural areas by providing **at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year** to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

## Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

- **About:** It is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world.
- **Launch:**
  - It was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006
  - The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was passed on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2005.
- **Objective:**
  - 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.
- **Legal Right to Work:**
  - Unlike earlier employment guarantee schemes, the act **aims at addressing the causes of chronic poverty through a rights-based framework**.
  - 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](#).
- **Demand-Driven Scheme:**
  - The most important part of MGNREGA's design is **its legally-backed guarantee for any rural adult to get work within 15 days** of demanding it, failing which an 'unemployment allowance' must be given.
  - This demand-driven scheme enables the self-selection of workers.
- **Decentralized Planning:**
  - There is an emphasis on strengthening the process of decentralisation by giving a significant role in [Panchayati Raj Institutions \(PRIs\)](#) in planning and implementing these works.
  - The act mandates [Gram sabhas](#) to **recommend the works** that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works must be executed by them.

