



Record Women's Participation in MNREGS in UP | Uttar Pradesh | 27 Sep 2025

Why in News?

Women's participation in the [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme \(MNREGS\)](#) in Uttar Pradesh reached a **record high of 42.31%**, signalling a **shift in rural economic dynamics** and gender roles, despite challenges in sustaining employment.

Key Points

- **About:** Women's participation in MNREGS in Uttar Pradesh reached a historic 42.31% in the **2025-26 fiscal year**, slightly surpassing the previous high of **42.26% in 2023-24**, after a dip to 41.87% in 2024-25.
- **National Average:** Despite the record increase, women's participation in MNREGS in Uttar Pradesh **remains below the national average of 53%**. Experts attribute this disparity to:
 - **Systemic Constraints:** Heavy manual work, lack of crèche facilities, and wage gaps.
 - **Seasonal Employment Fluctuations:** Delays in wage payments and job instability have discouraged sustained participation.
- **Factors Leading to Rise:**
 - **Economic Necessity:** Rising household expenses, inflation, and **limited job opportunities** have driven more women to seek employment under MNREGS.
 - **Shift in Rural Attitudes:** There is a growing acceptance of women working in wage labour, which was once traditionally reserved for men.
 - **Government Support:** The UP government has been actively promoting women's inclusion in [self-help groups \(SHGs\)](#) and rural livelihood missions, boosting women's confidence to participate in MNREGS.
 - **Post-Pandemic Migration:** With more men migrating to urban areas for work post-[Covid-19](#), women have increasingly filled the employment gap in rural areas.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

- **About:** The MGNREGA is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** for social security aimed at providing guaranteed rural employment in India.
 - It was enacted in 2005 under the Ministry of Rural Development as nodal ministry.
- **Purpose:** To provide at least **100 days of guaranteed wage employment** to registered adult rural households willing to undertake unskilled manual work.
- **Coverage:** The scheme extends across the entire country, excluding districts with 100% urban populations.
- **Demand-Driven Framework:** Employment is provided on demand; if not granted within 15 days, workers are entitled to an **unemployment allowance**, which is one-fourth of the minimum wage for the first 30 days and half of the minimum wage thereafter.
- **Decentralized Planning:** The scheme emphasizes grassroots planning, with at least 50% of work executed by **Gram Panchayats** based on Gram Sabha recommendations.
- **Fund Sharing:** The Central Government **covers 100% of unskilled labor costs** and 75% of material costs, while State Governments contribute 25% of material costs, ensuring cooperative federalism in implementation.

- **Wage Payment Mechanism:** Wages are linked to **state-specific Minimum Wage rates** and paid directly to workers' bank or Aadhaar-linked accounts for transparency.
 - Compensation for delayed payments is provided at 0.05% of unpaid wages per day, starting from the 16th day after the muster roll closure.

6th Nadi Utsav | National Current Affairs | 27 Sep 2025

Why in the News?

Union Minister for Jal Shakti, **Shri C. R. Patil**, inaugurated the **6th Nadi Utsav**, stressing the collective responsibility of citizens to **protect and conserve rivers**.

- He emphasised the **Namami Gange project**, which focuses on maintaining river cleanliness, preventing encroachments, and preserving sacred rivers that hold religious and cultural value.



Key Points

- **Objective:** The Nadi Utsav, organised by the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)** under the **Ministry of Culture**, highlighted the importance of rivers as essential lifelines and cultural reservoirs.
 - The festival brought together various aspects of rivers, including **ecological, cultural, and artistic perspectives**, fostering a deeper understanding of their significance.
- **Event Duration:** The event took place from 25th to 27th September 2025 in Delhi, offering an extensive program that included seminars, film screenings, performances, and exhibitions.
- **Seminar:** The seminar titled **Riverscape Dynamics: Changes and Continuity** delved into traditional riverine knowledge, river gods and folk narratives, and the role of rivers in art, craft practices, and science.
- **My River Story:** This festival segment showcased documentaries focusing on ecological issues and human connections to rivers. Featured films include *Gotakhors: Disappearing Diving Communities*, *River Man of India*, *Arth Ganga*, *Molai - Man Behind the Forest*, *Cauvery - River of*

Life, and Ladakh – Life along the Indus.

- **Nadi Anubhav:** Curated by Anuj Agarwal, this exhibition features contemporary artworks, **Kalighat paintings**, photographs, and poetry, all centred around rivers, blending artistic imagination with ecological awareness.

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