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Daily News Decoding

Current Affairs

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MGNREGA

Prelims & GS Paper - II & III

Context: *The Union Rural Development Ministry has decided to withhold the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) funds for West Bengal for the financial year 2023-24, extending the imposition of Section 27 of the MGNREGA that allows for stoppage of funds for violation of rules in implementation of the scheme by the State.*

About:

- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), also known as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) is Indian legislation enacted on August 25, 2005.
- The MGNREGA provides a **legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year.**
- This scheme is **applicable for adult members of any rural household** willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage.
- The **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)**, Govt of India is **monitoring the entire implementation** of this scheme in **association with state governments.**
- This act was **introduced with an aim of improving the purchasing power** of the **rural people**, primarily **semi or unskilled work** to **people living below poverty line** in rural India.
- It attempts to **bridge the gap between the rich and poor** in the country.
- Roughly **one-third of the stipulated work force** must be women.

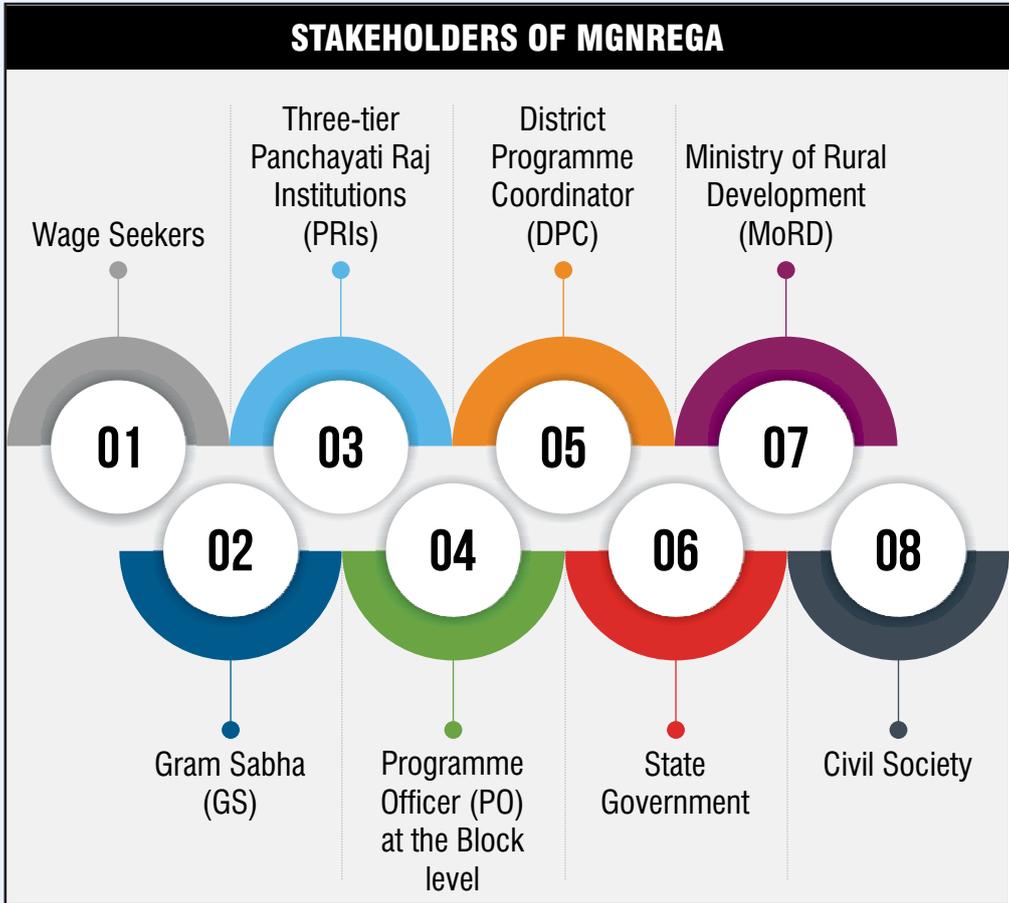
- **Individual beneficiary oriented** works can be taken up on the cards of **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**, small or marginal farmers or beneficiaries of land reforms or beneficiaries under the Indira Awaas Yojana of the Government of India.
- **Within 15 days of submitting the application** or from the day work is demanded, wage employment will be provided to the applicant.
- **Right to get unemployment allowance** in case **employment is not provided** within fifteen days of submitting the application or from the date when work is sought.
- **Receipt of wages within fifteen days** of work done.

Social Audit:

- Section 17 of the MGNREGA has mandated Social audit of all Works executed under the MGNREGA.
- Social Audit is different from Financial Audit.
- Financial audits involve inspecting and assessing documents related to financial transactions in an organization to provide a true picture of its profits, losses and financial stability.
- Social audits focus on the performance of a programme in fulfilling its intended social objectives and ethical vision through consultation with a range of stakeholders including social programme beneficiaries, community members, government officials and verifying the information obtained with documents and physical evidence.
- Thus social audits examine and assess the social impact of specific programmes and policies.



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Red Notice

Prelims & GS Paper - II & III

Context: *In a major setback to Indian agencies, the Interpol has taken down from its website the Red Notice against fugitive diamond merchant Mehul Choksi, who is wanted in connection with the ₹13,578-crore Punjab National Bank fraud cases.*

Interpol:

- The **International Criminal Police Organization** (commonly known as Interpol) is an international organization that facilitates **worldwide police cooperation** and **crime control**.
- It's headquarter is in **Lyon, France**.
- It is the **world's largest international police organization**, with seven regional bureaus worldwide and a National Central Bureau in all 195 member states.
- Interpol was conceived during the first International Criminal Police Congress in 1914.
- It **brought officials from 24 countries** to discuss **cooperation in law enforcement**.
- It was founded on **7 September 1923** at the **close of the five-day 1923 Congress session** in **Vienna** as the **International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC)**.
- In 1956, the ICPC adopted a new constitution and the name Interpol, derived from its telegraphic address used since 1946.
- Interpol provides **investigative support, expertise and training** to **law enforcement** worldwide, focusing on three major areas of transnational crime: **terrorism, cybercrime** and **organized crime**.

- India joined the organization in **October 1949**.

Structure:

- It is governed by a **General Assembly composed of all member countries**.
- The General Assembly elects the **executive committee** and the **President** (currently Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi of the United Arab Emirates).
- The function of the executive committee is to **supervise and implement Interpol's policies and administration**.
- **Day-to-day operations** are carried out by the **General Secretariat**.
- The Secretariat is led by the **Secretary-General**.

Emblem:

The current emblem of Interpol was adopted in 1950 and includes the following elements:

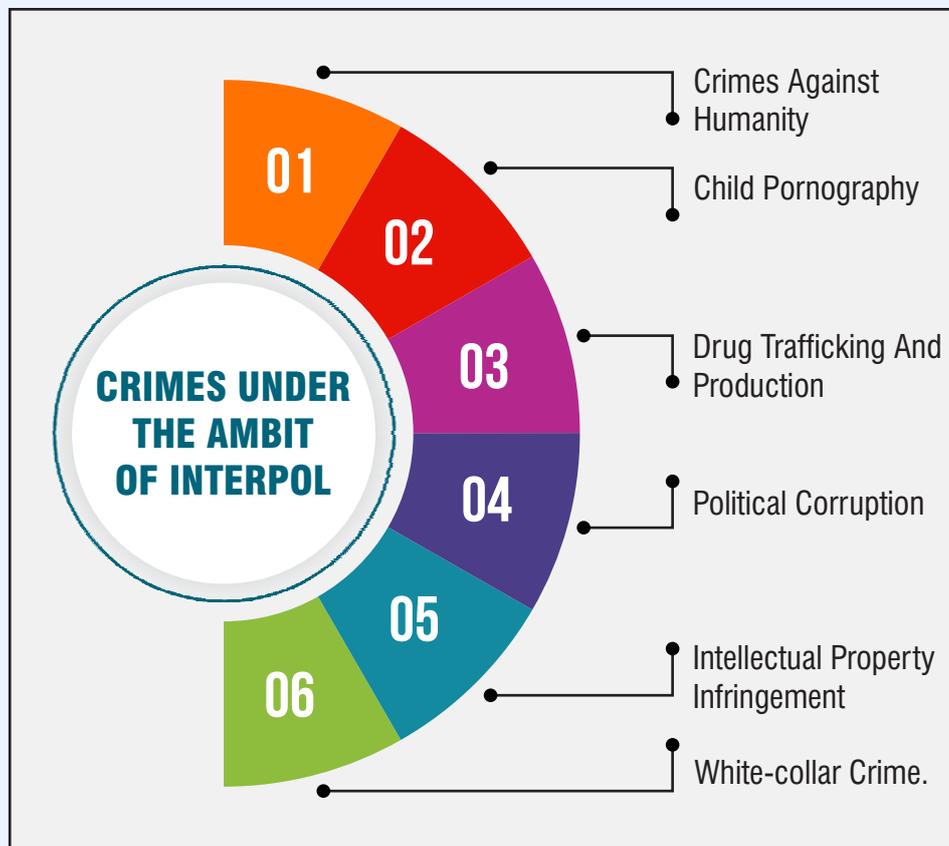
- Globe indicates worldwide activity
- Olive branches represent peace
- Sword represents police action
- Scales signify justice

Notices:

- **INTERPOL Notices** are **international requests for cooperation or alerts** allowing **police in member countries to share critical crime-related information**.
- Notices are **issued by the General Secretariat** at the request of a member country's INTERPOL National Central Bureau.

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- They are made **available for all our member countries** to consult in our Notices database.
- Notices can also be **issued at the request of International Criminal Tribunals** and the **International Criminal Court** to seek persons wanted for **committing crimes** within their **jurisdiction, notably genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.**
- They can also be **issued at the request of the United Nations** in relation to the **implementation of sanctions** imposed by the **Security Council.**
- **Most Notices are for police use only** and are **not available to the public.**
- However, an **extract of the Notice can be published** on this site **if the requesting country wishes to alert the public or seek their help.**
- All United Nations Special Notices are public.



Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

Prelims & GS Paper - II

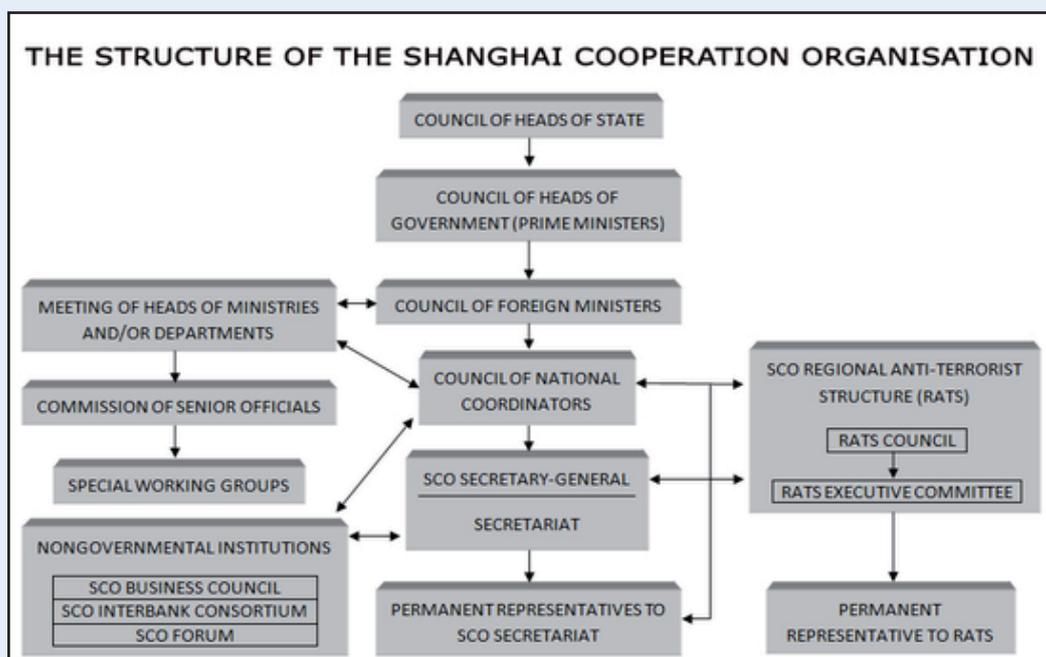
Context: *In a first-of-its-kind event, India hosted a conference on "Shared Buddhist Heritage" under the ambit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization.*

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), or **Shanghai Pact**, is a **Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance**.
- It is the **world's largest regional organization** in **geographic scope** and **population**, covering **three-fifths of the Eurasian continent, 40% of the world population**, and more than **20% of global GDP**.
- The SCO is the successor to the **Shanghai Five**, a mutual security agreement formed in 1996 between **China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan**.
- On **15 June 2001**, the leaders of these nations and Uzbekistan met in Shanghai to announce a **new organization with deeper political and economic cooperation**.

- The **SCO Charter** was signed on **7 July 2002** and entered into **force on 19 September 2003**.
- Its membership has since expanded to ten states, with India and Pakistan joining on 9 June 2017, and Iran and Belarus in 2022.

Structure of this Organization:

- The **Council of Heads of State** is the **top decision-making body** in the SCO. This council meets at the SCO summits, which are held each year in one of the member states' capital cities.
- Because of their government structure, the prime minister of the parliamentary democracies of India and Pakistan attends the SCO Council of Heads of State summits, as their responsibilities are similar to the presidents of other SCO nations.



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- The **Council of Heads of Government** is the **second-highest council in the organization**. This council also **holds annual summits**, at which time members **discuss issues of multilateral cooperation**. The council also approves the **organization's budget**.
- The **Council of Foreign Ministers** also **hold regular meetings**, where they discuss the current **international situation** and the **SCO's interaction with other international organizations**.
- The **Council of National Coordinators** coordinates the **multilateral cooperation of member states** within the **framework of the SCO's charter**.
- The **Secretariat of the SCO**, headquartered in Beijing, China, is the primary executive body of the organization. It serves to implement organizational decisions and decrees, drafts proposed documents (such as declarations and agendas), function as a document depository for the organization, arranges specific activities within the SCO framework, and promotes and disseminates information about the SCO.
- The **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) Executive Committee**, headquartered in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**, is a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of member states against the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism.





Zoonosis

Prelims

Context: *Undisclosed genetic data from a food market in Wuhan has been unearthed and is being used to support the zoonoses theory over the lab leak theory.*

About:

- A zoonosis is an **infectious disease** that has **jumped from a non-human animal to humans**.
- Zoonotic pathogens may be **bacterial, viral or parasitic**, or may involve **unconventional agents**.
- It can **spread to humans through direct contact** or through **food, water** or the **environment**.
- They represent a **major public health problem** around the world due to our **close relationship with animals in agriculture**, as **companions** and in the natural **environment**.
- Zoonoses can also **cause disruptions in the production and trade of animal products** for food and other uses.
- Zoonoses comprise a **large percentage of all newly identified infectious diseases** as well as many existing ones.
- Some diseases, such as **HIV**, begin as a **zoonosis** but later **mutate into human-only strains**.
- Other zoonoses can cause **recurring disease outbreaks**, such as **Ebola virus disease** and **salmonellosis**.
- Others such as the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19, have the potential to cause global pandemics.

Areas of Risk:

- **Zoonotic pathogens** can **spread to humans through any contact point with domestic, agricultural or wild animals**.
- **Markets selling the meat or by-products of wild animals** are particularly at **high risk**.
- It is due to the **large number of new or undocumented pathogens** known to exist in some **wild animal populations**.
- **Agricultural workers in areas with a high use of antibiotics for farm animals** may be at **increased risk of pathogens resistant to current antimicrobial drugs**.
- **People living adjacent to wilderness areas or in semi-urban areas** with higher numbers of **wild animals are at risk of disease** from animals such as rats, foxes or raccoons.
- **Urbanization and the destruction of natural habitats** increase the risk of zoonotic diseases by increasing contact between humans and wild animals.

Prevention and Control:

- **Prevention methods** for zoonotic diseases **differ for each pathogen**.
- However, **several practices are recognized as effective in reducing risk** at the community and personal levels.
- **Safe and appropriate guidelines for animal care** in the **agricultural sector** help to **reduce the potential for foodborne zoonotic disease outbreaks** through foods such as meat, eggs, dairy or even some vegetables.
- **Standards for clean drinking water and waste removal**, as well as protections for surface water in the natural environment, are also important and effective.



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- **Education campaigns to promote handwashing after contact with animals and other behavioral adjustments** can reduce community spread of zoonotic diseases when they occur.
- Antimicrobial resistance is a complicating factor in the control and prevention of zoonoses.
- The **use of antibiotics in animals raised for food is widespread** and **increases the potential for drug-resistant strains of zoonotic pathogens** capable of spreading quickly in animal and human populations.

