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Impact of Viksit Bharat- Mission (VB-RAM JI) Bill on Rural Nalgonda Progress – An Over View

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Abstract:
The rate of unemployment or joblessness in the country among persons aged 15 years and above rose moderately to 5% this January from 4.8% in December 2025, according to the government's periodic labour force survey released in February. The latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data also reflect a lower labour force participation rate (LFPR) as well as lower workers population ratio (WPR) across the rural and urban areas. Overall LFPR for persons aged 15 years and above reported as 55.9% in January, 2026 compared to 56.1% in December, 2025. According to the National Statistics Office (NSO) under the Central Government the drop in LFPR and WPR, and rise in Unemployment Rate in January was primarily rural India-driven, with seasonal factors including post-harvest slack playing a key role. The use of machines in otherwise labour intensive works, and bypassing of digital attendance systems. The funding structure is based on cost-sharing ratio of 60:40 between the Centre and states with enhanced support of 90:10 for North Eastern and Himalayan states, and 100% central funding for Union Territories without legislatures.

Keywords: *Employment, Rural Poverty, Schemes, Budget, Beneficiaries*

INTRODUCTION

The VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 is a new rural employment guarantee law that replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 after two decades. The Act aims to strengthen rural livelihoods, improve the quality of public assets, and introduce technology-driven implementation. Along with increasing the annual employment guarantee from 100 days to 125 days, the Act raises the minimum daily wage to 300/-, introduces a mandatory 60-day agricultural pause, and brings AI, GPS, and biometric-based monitoring into rural employment.

The VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 aims to strengthen rural livelihoods by enhancing employment opportunities, supporting agriculture, and promoting sustainable rural development.

- To provide guaranteed wage employment to eligible rural households.
- To enhance livelihood security and reduce rural unemployment.
- To improve the income and financial stability of rural families.
- To support agricultural productivity by ensuring adequate labour availability during peak farming seasons.

VB-G RAM G ACT 2025 OBJECTIVES

- To create durable rural infrastructure and productive community assets.
- To promote sustainable management of natural resources, including water and forests.
- To strengthen climate resilience through environmentally sustainable public works.
- To ensure timely employment and protect workers' rights.
- To increase transparency, accountability, and efficiency in program implementation.
- To encourage inclusive and equitable rural development across the country.

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VB-G RAM G ACT 2025 KEY FEATURES

The VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 introduces several reforms to strengthen rural employment, improve transparency, and promote sustainable rural development through technology-driven implementation.

- 125 Days of Guaranteed Employment: Increases the statutory employment guarantee from 100 days to 125 days per rural household annually.
- Minimum Daily Wage of ₹300: Raises the base daily wage to ₹300, with average earnings around ₹327.
- 60-Day Agricultural Pause: Introduces a mandatory 60-day suspension of public works during peak sowing and harvesting seasons to ensure farm labour availability.
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme: Operates with a 60:40 Centre-State funding ratio for most states and 90:10 for special category states.
- Higher Administrative Expenditure: Increases the administrative expense limit to 9% for better implementation and monitoring.
- AI-Based Work Planning: Uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) for efficient project planning and prioritization.
- Real-Time GPS Monitoring: Tracks worksites through GPS-enabled monitoring to improve transparency and prevent irregularities.
- Mandatory eKYC and Biometric Authentication: Requires eKYC and biometric verification to ensure genuine beneficiary identification and reduce fraud.
- Unemployment Allowance: Makes it mandatory for State Governments to pay a daily unemployment allowance if work is not provided within 15 days of demand..

Focus on Durable Assets: Prioritises projects related to water conservation, rural infrastructure, irrigation, roads, and renewable energy.



VB-G RAM G ACT 2025 BENEFITS

The VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 aims to improve rural livelihoods, strengthen agricultural productivity, and promote sustainable development through enhanced employment opportunities and better governance.

- ✓ Increases rural employment by guaranteeing 125 days of wage employment to eligible rural households.

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- ✓ Enhances household income through a minimum daily wage of 300/-, improving financial security.
- ✓ Supports agriculture by introducing a 60-day pause in public works during peak sowing and harvesting seasons.
- ✓ Promotes transparency with AI-based planning, GPS monitoring, eKYC, and biometric authentication.
- ✓ Creates durable rural assets, including water conservation structures, roads, irrigation facilities, and community infrastructure.
- ✓ Strengthens climate resilience through projects focused on flood management, drought mitigation, afforestation, and natural resource conservation.
- ✓ Protects workers' rights by ensuring a mandatory unemployment allowance if work is not provided within 15 days of demand.
- ✓ Improves governance and accountability through digital monitoring, better fund utilisation, and efficient program implementation.
- ✓ The latest state statistics for VB-G RAM G (Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar & Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), which replaced MGNREGA) in Telangana outline the operational performance, worker demographics, and expenditure for the ongoing 2026–2027 fiscal year:

LITERATURE:

The empirical evaluation of MGNREGS constitutes one of the most extensively studied policy interventions in Indian development economics. The literature divides into three streams. The first, dominant after the 2006 rollout, examined wage and income effects using difference-in-differences and propensity-score designs on national survey data. These studies converged: MGNREGS raised rural wages, supported lean-season consumption smoothening, and reduced distress migration without substantially displacing private agricultural employment (Imbert & Papp, 2015; Klonner & Oldiges, 2014). The second stream drew on primary household surveys at state or district level.

Saxena and Singh (2020) documented a recurring triad of operational deficits in Andhra Pradesh — insufficient days against the 100-day ceiling, delayed wage payments, and a narrow menu of works dominated by earthwork. Kadrolkar (2011), studying Karnataka, identified the absence of meaningful skill-development components as the most consequential design failure for beneficiaries' longterm employment trajectory. The third stream interrogated MGNREGS's effects outside the wage-employment dyad i.e., women's autonomy, child schooling, agricultural productivity, distress asset sales. Particularly relevant here is a substrand questioning whether headline employment effects capture what an employment guarantee was designed to do.

Bedamatta (2021) argues that MGNREGS's institutional design is demand-driven, self-targeted, capped at 100 days and positions it inherently as supplementary rather than primary, with the implication that conventional employment status outcomes will systematically understate its impact. The argument is theoretically compelling but rarely tested by comparing employment status and income effects within the same sample using the same statistical apparatus.

VB-RAM Ji SCHEME: TELANGANA OVERVIEW

Despite strong execution on the ground, the Telangana Legislative Assembly had initially expressed concerns and unanimously opposed the transition from MGNREGA to VB-G RAM G over fears regarding central allocations and potential labor migration affecting vulnerable SC, ST, and OBC groups. However, local panchayat and rural development authorities continue to scale up works centered around water conservation, farm ponds, and durable village assets.

Worker & Job Card Demographics

- Total Job Cards Issued: 52.51 Lakh
- Total Workers Registered: 108.44 Lakh
- Active Job Cards: 31.63 Lakh
- Active Workers: 52.44 Lakh
- Social Metrics (Percentage of Active Workers):
  - Scheduled Castes (SC): 20.70%
  - Scheduled Tribes (ST): 20.53%

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- Women Participation (out of total generated person-days): 61.02%

Telangana Achievements under VB-Ram Ji Scheme (Erstwhile MGNREGS)

Year	No. of cards issued	No. of individuals in the job card	No. of individuals provided employment (in Lakh)	Person-Days generated (in Crore)	Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)			Total Expen-diture (Rs. in Crore)
					Wage	Material	Admin	
2023-24	1,05,767	2,64,241	40.62	12.09	2,178.19	1,630.30	266.05	4,074.54
2024-25	84,027	2,32,825	42.44	12.23	2,610.94	1,500.87	229.24	4,341.05
2025-26(Up to 06.03.2026)	40,867	1,31,576	32.64	6.53	1,762.12	1,096.99	239.53	3,098.64
Total	**2,30,661**	**6,28,642**	**115.7**	**30.85**	**6,551.25**	**4,228.16**	**734.82**	**11,514.23**

Source: Rural Development Department, Government of Telangana

Progress & Employment Metrics (FY 2026–2027)

- Total Person-days Generated: 144.96 Lakh (1.45 Crore)
- Annual Target Set by State: 12 Crore workdays
- Average Wage Rate: ₹290.51 per day/person
- Average Days of Employment per Household: 19 days
- Total Households Benefitted: 7.63 Lakh

Project Execution & Infrastructure Focus

- Total Works Taken Up: 6.37 Lakh (6.28 Lakh ongoing, 9,044 completed)
- Key Asset Categories:
- Agriculture & Allied Works: 30.25% of total expenditure.

KEY PERFORMANCE METRICS FOR NALGONDA (2026)

- **Record-Breaking Daily Attendance:** On November 3, 2026, Telangana set a historic high by providing single-day employment to over 5 lakh workers statewide. Nalgonda district topped the state charts, employing 53,280 individuals on that single day alone—outperforming all other 32 districts (including Medak and Siddipet)

The Ministry of Rural Development tracking system shows that Nalgonda successfully generated **2,21,794 total Fund Transfer Orders (FTOs)** with 1,75,528 transactions fully processed, routing direct payments directly to rural bank accounts at the mandated Telangana base rate of Rs.**308 per day**.

Block	Total Expenditure (in Lakhs) 2025
Miryalaguda	**Rs.** 184.02
Peddavura	**Rs.** 161.42
Kattangoor	**Rs.** 134.21
Nalgonda (Mandal)	**Rs.** 133.94
Gurrampode	**Rs.** 125.18
Tirumalagiri Sagar	**Rs.** 123.60
Dameracherla	**Rs.** 122.36

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Financial Expenditure: The district has aggressively pushed fund utilization for infrastructure and agricultural works, recording Rs.**31.10 crore (Rs.3110.02 Lakhs)** spent exclusively on unskilled manual labor wages by early November 2026.

PANCHAYAT	Household Employed	Person Days Generated
Mothya Thanda	4	95
Mududondla	40	866
Murpunuthala	65	1437
Nallachelamolla	1	19
Peddamoola	61	1401
Pole palli	7	163
Polyanaik Thanda	26	547
Rekula gadda	34	666
Thelderapally centre	36	691
Theldevara Palli	18	375
Yepala Bai	66	1471
Total	**573**	**12376**

Source: https://vbgramgrep.dord.gov.in/VBGRAMG/ Sample Data of Chandampet

The VB-G RAM G Act has come under intense scrutiny from civil society as well as the Opposition parties, ever since it was introduced in Parliament's Winter Session last year. The Congress had launched a nationwide protest, calling it the "MGNREGA Bachao Sangram" earlier this month. The Opposition also raised slogans demanding a Impact of the Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 on Employment Generation in Rural India The Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB-G RAM G Act) has a significant potential impact on employment generation in rural India by strengthening income security, expanding work opportunities, and linking employment with long-term rural development. As a successor to the MGNREGA, the Act reflects the evolving needs of the rural economy while aligning employment policy with the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. One of the most important impacts of the Act is the increase in guaranteed employment from 100 to 125 days per rural household per year. This expansion directly enhances the availability of wage employment, especially for landless labourers, marginal farmers, women, and socially disadvantaged groups who largely depend on public works during periods of agricultural distress or lean seasons. Increased employment days contribute to roll-back of the law Wednesday, following President Droupadi Murmu's reference to the VB-G RAM G Act in her address to the joint sitting of both houses of Parliament as the Budget Session kicked off.

CONCLUSION:

improved household income, reduced vulnerability to poverty, and better food security in rural areas.
The survey further alleges that monitoring in several states revealed certain "gaps" in the implementation of the scheme. This included work not being done on ground, expenditure not matching physical progress, the use of machines in labour-intensive work, and frequent bypassing of digital attendance systems. "Misappropriation accumulated over time, and only a small proportion of households completed the full 100 days of employment post-pandemic, indicating that while delivery systems improved, the overall architecture of MGNREGA has reached its limits and warrants reassessment in light of evolving rural realities," it, therefore, says.The survey calls the new law a "comprehensive statutory overhaul" of MGNREGA, and says that the new law "represents a significant upgrade over MGNREGA, fixing structural weaknesses while enhancing employment, transparency, planning, and accountability".

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This provision helps balance farm and non-farm employment, ensuring that public employment schemes do not disrupt agricultural productivity while still providing alternative livelihood options during off-season periods. Overall, the VB-G RAM G Act has the potential to reduce rural unemployment, curb distress migration to urban areas, and strengthen the rural labour market. By combining wage employment with livelihood creation and infrastructure development, the Act moves beyond short-term relief towards sustainable rural employment generation. If effectively implemented with adequate funding and strong institutional support, the Act can play a crucial role in fostering inclusive growth and economic stability in rural Telangana.

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