



MGNREGS

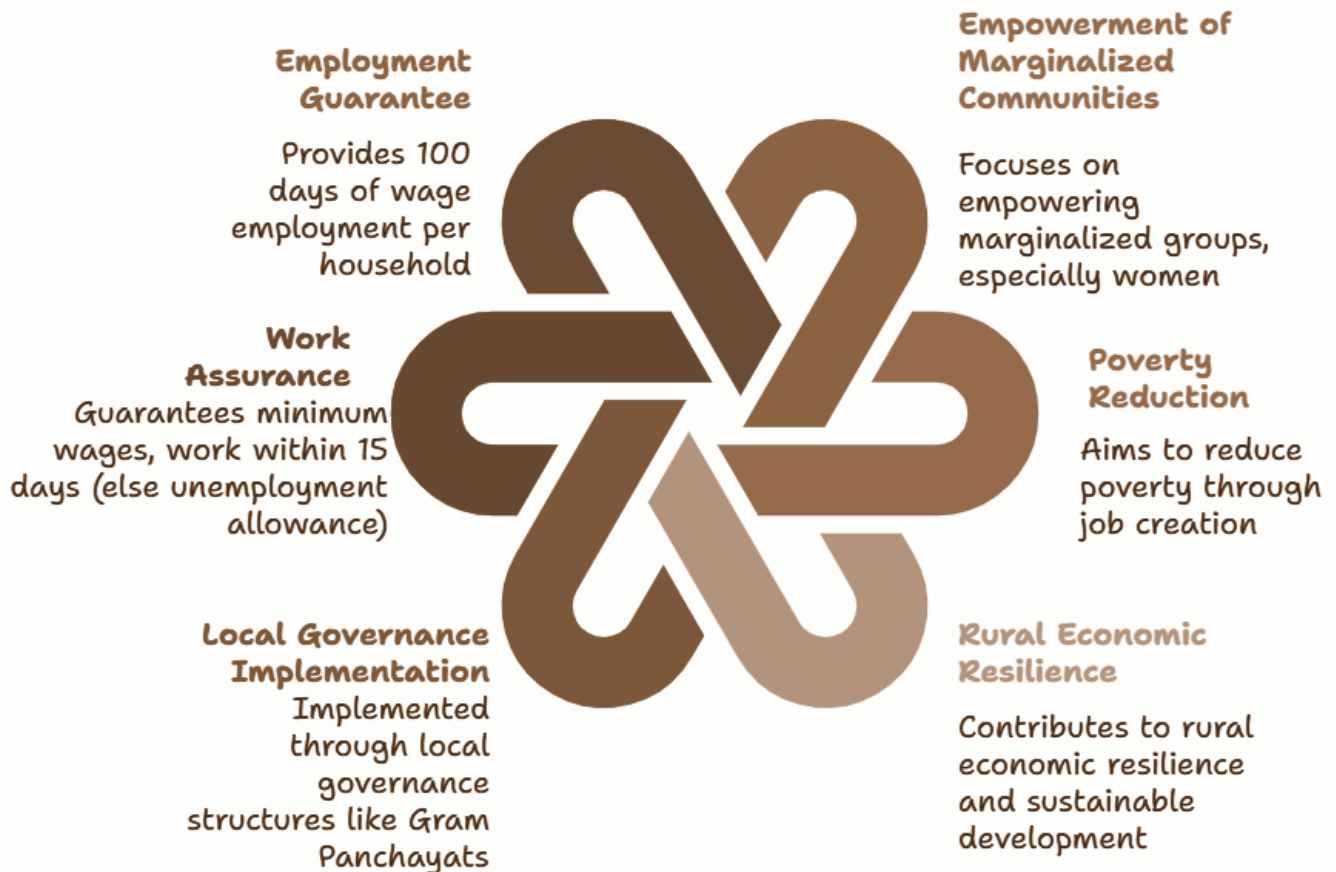
Key Points

- **Launched:** 2005
- **Type of Scheme:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development
- **Purpose:** To provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to rural households undertaking unskilled manual work & enhance livelihood security.
- **Target Group:** Adult members (18+ years) of registered rural households willing to do unskilled manual labor.

About MGNREGA Scheme

- **Legal Right to Work:** The **MGNREGA Act (2005)** guarantees **100 days** of wage employment for **rural households**, ensuring **unskilled manual labor** as a legal right and promoting livelihood security.
 - It also provides an additional **50 days** of employment in **drought or calamity-affected areas**, fostering rural development through public works.
- **Coverage:** The scheme covers the entire country, excluding districts with **100% urban populations**, thereby focusing solely on rural areas for creating **sustainable livelihood opportunities**.
- **Demand-Driven Framework:** Employment under the scheme is provided on demand, ensuring that rural households can **self-select work**.
 - If employment is not granted within **15 days** of request, beneficiaries are entitled to an unemployment allowance.
 - The unemployment allowance 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-level planning by giving significant roles to **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)**.
 - At least **50%** of the works under the scheme must be executed by **Gram Panchayats** based on recommendations from the **Gram Sabha**.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)



What are the Other Key Features of the MGNREGA Scheme?

- **Fund Sharing:** The **Central Government** funds **100%** of **unskilled labor** costs and **75%** of material costs.
 - State Governments contribute **25% of material costs**, ensuring cooperative federalism for scheme implementation.
- **Wage Payment Mechanism:** Wages are determined based on the **quality of work** performed and linked to rates specified by the state under the **Minimum Wages Act, 1948**.
 - Payments are made directly to workers' **bank accounts** or **Aadhaar-linked accounts**, ensuring transparency.
 - Individuals are entitled to receive **compensation for delayed payment** at a rate of **0.05%** of the unpaid wages per day, starting from the 16th day after the closure of the **muster roll** (list of workers).
- **Accident Compensation:** Beneficiaries injured during work are eligible for compensation, and in case of death or permanent disability due to worksite accidents, ex-gratia payments are made to families.
- **Focus on Women Empowerment:** A minimum of **one-third** of the beneficiaries under MGNREGA must be women.
 - This provision empowers women by offering them equal access to **wages and work opportunities**.
- **Special Provisions for Vulnerable Groups:**
 - In forested areas, tribal households without private property other than land rights under the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006**, are eligible for additional employment benefits.
 - **State Governments** may extend workdays beyond the guaranteed period using state funds.



What are the Components of the MGNREGA Scheme?

▪ Scheme Components:

- **Project Unnati:** Project 'UNNATI' aims to upskill MGNREGA beneficiaries, helping them transition from **partial to full-time employment** and reducing their dependence on the scheme.
 - The project trains one adult per household (18-45 years) with 100 days of **MGNREGA work**, providing a stipend for up to 100 days, fully funded by the **Central Government**.
- **Cluster Facilitation Project (CFP):** The CFP aims to provide rural livelihoods under MGNREGA in aspirational and backward districts, targeting 250 blocks from 117 aspirational districts and 50 from other backward areas.
 - The project focuses on poverty alleviation through convergence with government programs and leveraging CSR, philanthropic organisations, and think tanks, led by the **District Programme Coordinator (DPC)**.
- **Barefoot Technician (BFT):** The **BFT Project**, launched in FY 2015-16, trains local MGNREGA workers or supervisors in 20 states in civil engineering skills for identifying, estimating, and measuring works under MGNREGA.
 - The 90-day residential training, using a module in English and Hindi, covers topics such as **MGNREGA features**, construction of rural roads, measurement techniques, and relevant documents.
- **Ombudsperson:** As per the **MGNREGA Act 2005**, an Ombudsperson is appointed in **each district** to handle grievances, investigate, and issue awards.
 - States must ensure complaints are received both electronically and physically, with receipts provided to complainants.

- **Awareness measures** include displaying the Ombudsperson's contact details on **Citizen Information Boards** and their participation in **Social Audit Public Hearings**.
- **Mission Amrit Sarovar:** Launched in 2022, **Mission Amrit Sarovar** aims to construct or rejuvenate 75 Amrit Sarovars in every district to conserve water.
 - The mission **covers all rural districts**, except Delhi, Chandigarh, and Lakshadweep, with each Amrit Sarovar having a minimum 1-acre pondage area.
 - It was implemented through a "Whole of Government" approach, utilizing schemes like **MGNREGA and CSR funds**.
- **Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS):** This system ensures direct and transparent wage payments to beneficiaries by linking their Aadhaar numbers to bank accounts, reducing fraud and delays.
- **Social Audit:** MGNREGA empowers the **Gram Sabha** to conduct **Social Audits** of all works and expenditures, ensuring access to records and proactive disclosure.
 - **Section 17** mandates the **Gram Sabha** to monitor works, conduct regular social audits, and make relevant documents available for audit purposes.\

What are the Initiatives for Effectively Implementing MGNREGA?

- **GeoMGNREGA:** It is a collaboration between the **Ministry of Rural Development** in association with **National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)**, **ISRO** and **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** to geo-tag assets created under MGNREGA in each Gram Panchayat, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2016.
- **Janmanrega:** Janmanrega is a **multilingual mobile app** developed by **NIC, Ministry of Rural Development**, and NRSC, providing essential services for MGNREGA stakeholders.
 - Key features include attendance tracking, payment status, asset location, feedback on completed works, grievance redressal, and scheme information.
- **NREGASoft:** It is a web-based **Management Information System (MIS)** designed to record all activities under the MGNREGA.
 - It is available in both offline and online modes to capture data at the central, state, district, block, and panchayat levels.

Latest Update

- **Budget 2024-25:**
 - **MGNREGA Allocation:** MGNREGA budget has steadily increased from Rs 33,000 crore in FY 2013-14 to **Rs 86,000 crore** in FY 2024-25, marking the highest allocation since its inception.
 - **Wage Rate Increase:** The minimum average wage rate increased by 7% in FY 2024-25.
- **Economic survey 2023-24:**
 - **Women Participation:** Women participation in MGNREGA increased from 54.8% in FY 2019-20 to **58.9%** in FY 2023-24.
 - **Geotagging & Transparency:** MGNREGA ensures 99.9% payments through the **National Electronic Management System**, with geotagging of assets before, during, and after the work.
 - **Person-Days Generated:** The person-days generated increased from 265.4 crore in FY 2019-20 to **309.2 crore** in FY 2023-24.
 - **Shift to Asset Creation:** The share of individual beneficiary works on land rose from 9.6% in FY 2014 to 73.3% in FY 2024, promoting sustainable livelihoods.
 - **Support for Rural Enterprises:** Programs like **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM)**, Lakhpati Didis, and **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)** support rural entrepreneurship and financial access.
- **Technological Advancements:**
 - **Geospatial & AI Collaboration:** An MoU was signed between the Ministry of Rural Development and IIT Delhi in **March 2024** to leverage geospatial technology and artificial intelligence applications for enhancing rural development.
 - The MoU focuses on the **BhuPRAHARI project**, which aims to use **geospatial technologies** and **Artificial Intelligence** to monitor and manage MGNREGA assets.

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/mahatma-gandhi-national-rural-employment-guarantee-scheme-mgnrega>

