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# VB-G RAM G Act: 318 Works Notified as MGNREGA Makes Way

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CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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# VB-G RAM G Act: 318 Works Notified as MGNREGA Makes Way

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## WHY IN NEWS

Ahead of the July 1, 2026 commencement of the , the Department of Rural Development has notified an **interim list of 318 permissible works**. On that date, the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA)** stands repealed, and India's flagship rural wage-employment framework is recast around climate resilience (<https://ujyari.com/vocab/resilience/>) and asset creation.

## THE NOTIFICATION: 318 PERMISSIBLE WORKS

The Department of Rural Development has circulated an **interim list of 318 permissible works** to facilitate the operationalisation of the VB-G RAM G Act from **July 1, 2026**. The 318 works span:

- **Natural resource management** (watershed, afforestation, land development)
- **Irrigation** (canals, micro-irrigation, water harvesting structures)
- **Rural connectivity** (all-weather roads, culverts, bridges)
- **Community infrastructure** (anganwadi (<https://ujyari.com/terms/anganwadi/>) buildings, panchayat assets, sanitation)
- **Livelihood assets** (agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, storage, markets)
- **Climate resilience and disaster preparedness** (embankments, flood-management structures, forest-fire control)

The interim list has been circulated to States for feedback, with States invited to recommend further works for possible inclusion under **Schedule I** of the Act, based on local developmental needs.

## WHAT IS THE VB-G RAM G ACT, 2025

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The **Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025** is the new statutory (<https://ujijari.com/vocab/statutory/>) framework for rural wage employment, aligned to the vision of **Viksit Bharat @2047** (<https://ujijari.com/schemes/viksit-bharat-by-2047/>). It replaces MGNREGA, 2005, and adopts a “**Single Plan - Multi Funding**” approach, allowing different schemes to converge towards common development outcomes while retaining their own mandates and funding.

### 100 Days vs 125 Days

The most visible change is the expansion of the statutory guarantee:

PARAMETER	MGNREGA, 2005	VB-G RAM G ACT, 2025
Guaranteed wage employment	<b>100 days</b> per rural household / FY	<b>125 days</b> per rural household / FY
Orientation	Demand-driven safety net	Asset creation + climate resilience
Job card	MGNREGA job card	Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Card (e-KYC verified cards remain valid till new ones issued)

The guarantee rises from **100 to 125 days** per rural household per financial year, with wage employment linked directly to village infrastructure, water security and livelihood creation.

### The Four Thematic Focus Areas

The 318 works are organised under four thematic focus areas:

#	THEMATIC FOCUS AREA	ILLUSTRATIVE WORKS
1	<b>Water Security</b>	Water harvesting, irrigation, watershed development, rejuvenation of water bodies
2	<b>Core Rural Infrastructure</b>	Rural roads, connectivity, community buildings, panchayat assets
3	<b>Rural Livelihoods</b>	Productive assets for agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, storage, markets, skilling
4	<b>Special Works for Mitigation</b> ( <a href="https://ujijari.com/vocab/mitigation/">https://ujijari.com/vocab/mitigation/</a> ) <b>of Extreme Weather Events</b>	Embankments, flood-management structures, shelters, forest-fire control, climate-resilient assets

## WHAT MGNREGA WAS: THE FRAMEWORK BEING REPEALED

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MGNREGA, enacted in **2005** and operational from 2006, was a landmark **rights-based** law. Its defining features were:

- **Justiciable** (<https://ujivari.com/vocab/justiciable/>) **legal guarantee** of 100 days of unskilled manual wage employment per rural household per year.
- **Demand-driven** design: work provided on demand within **15 days**, failing which an **unemployment allowance** was payable.
- **15-day wage-payment rule**: wages to be paid within 15 days of work, with compensation for delay.
- **Social audits** by the Gram Sabha as a statutory accountability mechanism.
- **Strong women's participation**: women accounted for roughly **55%** of person-days generated, well above the one-third statutory minimum.

### Continuity vs Change

The transition is designed for continuity. **Ongoing works as on June 30, 2026** may continue under VB-G RAM G provisions and will be prioritised for completion. e-KYC verified MGNREGA job cards remain valid until new Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Cards are issued. The **substantive** (<https://ujivari.com/vocab/substantive/>) change is the reorientation from a pure demand-driven safety net towards **planned, convergence** (<https://ujivari.com/vocab/convergence/>)-**led asset creation** with an explicit climate-resilience focus.

## ANALYSIS AND WAY FORWARD

The recast carries genuine merit. Embedding **extreme-weather mitigation** as a dedicated thematic area institutionalises climate resilience into rural employment, the **125-day** ceiling enlarges the safety net, and the convergence model can reduce the fragmentation that long plagued rural spending. Linking wages to durable, productive assets responds to a recurring critique that demand-driven works sometimes produced low-value outcomes.

The concerns, however, are structural and must be addressed:

- **Preserving the justiciable guarantee.** MGNREGA's power lay in being a legally enforceable right. The new framework must ensure the 125-day guarantee remains **justiciable**, not a target subject to administrative discretion or fund availability.
- **Social audits.** The Gram Sabha social audit (<https://ujivari.com/terms/social-audit/>) was a rare, working accountability tool. Its statutory continuity, independence and funding must be protected.
- **Wage-payment timelines.** The **15-day payment rule** and delay-compensation are central to worker trust. Any dilution risks reviving the wage-arrears problem.

- **Women's participation.** With women at ~55% of person-days under MGNREGA, the new work-mix and asset orientation must not inadvertently reduce the share of works accessible to women workers.

**Way forward:** retain the demand-driven, rights-based core; codify (<https://ujjyari.com/vocab/codify/>) social audit and the 15-day wage rule in subordinate rules; ensure transparent, real-time MIS continuity; and finalise Schedule I with adequate State consultation so local needs and women-friendly works are protected.

## UPSC RELEVANCE

- **GS Paper 2 (Welfare Schemes / Governance):** rights-based welfare, justiciability of statutory guarantees, social audit as an accountability mechanism, Centre-State convergence.
- **GS Paper 3 (Rural Economy / Employment):** rural wage employment, asset creation, climate-resilient infrastructure, “Single Plan - Multi Funding” convergence model.
- **Mains angle:** “Evaluate the shift from a demand-driven employment guarantee (MGNREGA) to an asset- and climate-oriented framework (VB-G RAM G). Does it strengthen or dilute the rights-based architecture of rural welfare?”
- **Prelims angle:** year of enactment, commencement date, guaranteed days, four thematic areas, repeal of MGNREGA 2005.

## FACTS CORNER

### ★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

Full name: Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB-G RAM G Act).

Commencement: July 1, 2026, across all rural areas of India.

Repeals: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA).

Guaranteed employment: 125 days per rural household per financial year (up from 100 days).

Permissible works: interim list of 318 works notified by the Department of Rural Development.

Four thematic focus areas: Water Security; Core Rural Infrastructure; Rural Livelihoods; Special Works for Mitigation of Extreme Weather Events.

Approach: “Single Plan - Multi Funding” convergence model, aligned to Viksit Bharat @2047.

Nodal: Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development.

*Sources: Ministry of Rural Development (<https://rural.gov.in>), Press Information Bureau (<https://pib.gov.in>), The Hindu (<https://www.thehindu.com>)*

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