



## **VB G RAM G Bill, 2025**

### **Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)**

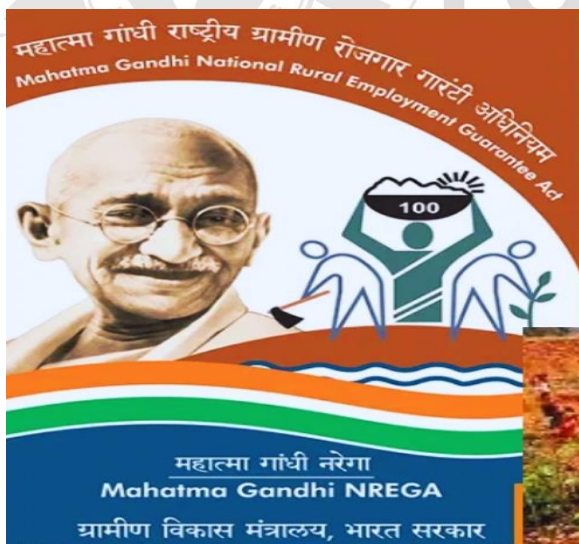
**(UPSC MAINS GS -03)**

#### **In News**

- The Union Minister of Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare introduced the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin): VB G RAM G Bill, 2025 in Lok Sabha.

#### **About**

- It will replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA).
- The move will mark a shift from a “demand-driven framework” to a “supply-driven scheme”.



#### **Key Statutory Provisions**

- Enhanced Livelihood Guarantee:** It will enhance the statutory wage employment guarantee to 125 from 100 days per rural household in every financial year, for adults who volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work.
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme:** The scheme will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with shared responsibilities between the Centre and States.

- The fund sharing pattern will be **90:10 for North-Eastern** and Himalayan States/UT and **60:40 for all other States**.
- **Normative Allocation to States based:** States will ensure transparent and need-based intra-State distribution of funds across Districts and Gram Panchayats, taking into account the category of the Panchayats and local developmental needs.
- **Wage rate specification:** Wage rates for unskilled manual work will be specified by the **Central Government**; until separate rates are notified, existing MGNREGA wage rates will apply.
- **Securing peak agricultural seasons:** States will be empowered to notify in advance, a period aggregating to 60 days in a financial year covering peak sowing and harvesting during which works under the Bill will not be undertaken, **facilitating sufficient farm labour at critical times**.
- **Unemployment allowance:** If eligible applicants are not provided work within the stipulated period, **State Governments will be obliged** to pay **unemployment allowance**.
- **State schemes within six months:** Every State Government must notify its Scheme to operationalise the guarantee within six months of the Bill's commencement.
- **VGPP based planning:** Planning will be undertaken through Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans, prepared by Gram Panchayats and integrated with national spatial planning systems.
- **Institutional Oversight:** The Central Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Council and the State Gramin Rozgar Guarantee Councils shall be constituted for review, monitoring and effective implementation of the provisions of the legislation in their respective areas.

## Concerns with the Bill

- **Excessive burden on States:** Unlike MGNREGA, where the Centre bears 100% wage cost and 75% of material cost, the VB-G RAM G Bill mandates a **60:40 Centre–State funding pattern**, many states may struggle to mobilise their 40% share.

## VB-G Ram G Bill-2025: 3 Key Features



- The employment guarantee will be increased from **100 days to 125 days**.
- Earlier, the entire expenditure was borne by the Centre; now **states will also have to contribute 10% to 40% of the funds**.
- **No employment will be provided during sowing/harvesting (60 days)** so that labourers remain available for agricultural work.

- It increases the risk of uneven implementation across states, reinforcing regional disparities.
- **Lessons from PMFBY:** Similar cost-sharing under PM Fasal Bima Yojana led to delays due to states' inability to pay their 50% premium subsidy, causing poor coverage and credibility loss.
- **Shift from demand-driven to supply-driven allocation:** Earlier approach in MGNREGA was Bottom-up, demand-based estimation by states.
  - New Bill introduces Top-down “normative” allocation, with parameters decided unilaterally by the Centre.

### Conclusion

- To cater to the changing aspirations, stronger convergence is required to establish an integrated, Whole-of-Government rural development framework covering several complementary Government schemes.
- As national development advances, rural development programs require periodical revision to remain aligned with emerging needs and further aspirations.

## Appointment to Chief Information Commissioner

**Syllabus: GS2/ Polity and Governance; Statutory Body**

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### In News

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- The President of India administered the oath of office to Raj Kumar Goyal as the Chief Information Commissioner of the Central Information Commission.



### About Central Information Commission

- The Central Information Commission (CIC) is a **statutory body** in India, established under the provisions of the **Right to Information Act (2005)**.

- The Central Information Commission consists of a **Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)** and **not more than ten Information Commissioners (IC)**.
- The members are **appointed by the President** on the recommendation of a Committee consisting of:
  - The Prime Minister as the Chairperson,
  - The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and
  - A Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.
- **Term of office:** The Chief Information Commissioner, or Information Commissioners, as the case may be, shall hold office for a period of **three years** from the date on which he enters upon his office.
- **Jurisdiction:** It extends over all Central Public Authorities.

## Eligibility Criteria

- **Section 12(5) of the RTI Act 2005** provides that the CIC and IC shall be
  - **Persons of eminence** in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.
  - **Shall not be a Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislature** of any State or Union Territory as the case may be, or hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession.

## Powers and Functions

- While inquiring, the Commission has the **powers of a civil court** in respect of the following matters:
  - Summoning and enforcing attendance of persons and compelling them to give oral or written evidence on oath and to produce documents or things;
  - Requiring the discovery and inspection of documents;
  - Receiving evidence on affidavit;
  - Requisitioning any public record from any court or office;
  - Issuing summons for examination of witnesses or documents; and
  - Any other matter which may be prescribed.
- During the inquiry of a complaint, the Commission may **examine any record which is under the control of the public authority** and no such record may be withheld from it on any grounds.
- The decisions of the Commission are **final and binding**.