



# Calcutta High Court asks Centre to resume implementation of MGNREGA in West Bengal

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## Context

- The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday directed the Union government to resume implementation of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)** in West Bengal from August 1.
- The scheme, which provides **100 days of wage employment** to rural households, has remained suspended in the State since March 2022.
- A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice T.S. Sivagnanam and Justice Chaitali Chatterjee noted that the Ministry of Rural Development had invoked **Clause 27 of the MGNREGA** to withhold funds to the State, a provision permitting fund flow stoppage for a reasonable period of time.

## MGNREGA

- MGNREGA is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world launched in **2005** by the **Ministry of Rural development**.
- MGNREGA is a social security scheme guaranteeing **100 days of work to any rural household** willing to do public work-related **unskilled manual work** at the **statutory minimum wage**.
- The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) is monitoring the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments.
- The **wages are revised according to the Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL)**.
- The act obligates the state to **give rural households work on demand**.
- The applicant becomes eligible for an **unemployment allowance** if such employment is not provided **within 15 days of registration**.
- The employment will be provided within a radius of **5 km**. If it is **>5 km**, an **extra wage** will be paid.
- Under the act, **priority shall be given to women**, and **at least one-third** of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested work.
- All work sites should have **crèches, drinking water and first aid facilities**.
- **Social Audit** must be done by the **Gram Sabha**