Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Examine the role of MGNREGA in strengthening rural livelihood security and reducing economic distress. Discuss how additional employment guarantees for vulnerable households can improve the effectiveness of rural welfare programmes.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Right to work, 100-day employment guarantee, rural livelihoods, wage income, vulnerable households, women's participation, durable assets, Centre–State coordination, timely wage payments, social audits.

Model Answer

Introduction

MGNREGA is a rights-based rural employment programme intended to provide livelihood security through guaranteed wage employment. Additional employment support for vulnerable households can help them cope with seasonal unemployment and economic hardship.

Role in Rural Livelihood Security

- **Income support:** Wage employment helps rural families meet essential expenditure and reduces dependence on informal borrowing.
- **Social inclusion:** The programme can benefit landless labourers, women and economically disadvantaged households.
- **Rural development:** Works related to water conservation, land development and rural infrastructure can strengthen local resilience.

- **Reduced distress migration:** Local employment opportunities may reduce the need for distress-driven migration.

Challenges

Delayed wage payments, inadequate work availability, weak planning and implementation gaps can reduce programme effectiveness. Poor-quality assets may also limit long-term benefits.

Way Forward

Governments should ensure timely payments, transparent job-card management, effective social audits and proper identification of vulnerable households. Employment planning should be linked with local needs and climate resilience.

Conclusion

A stronger employment guarantee, supported by effective implementation and accountability, can protect rural livelihoods while creating productive community assets.

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