



Centre on Integrated Rural Development
for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)

*“Towards Vibrant, Prosperous &
Happy Rural Communities”*

The 2nd Celebration of

WORLD RURAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

2026

6 JULY 2026



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Ministry of Rural Development
Government of India



EMPOWERING
FARMERS



WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT



CONNECTING
RURAL INDIA



BUILDING STRONG
RURAL COMMUNITIES



MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY (RURAL DEVELOPMENT) FOR WORLD RURAL DEVELOPMENT DAY-2026

World Rural Development Day, observed on 6 July each year, provides an important opportunity for the global community to reaffirm its commitment to inclusive, sustainable and people-centric rural transformation. It is a day to recognize the vital contribution of rural communities to national development, food security, environmental sustainability and cultural heritage, while renewing efforts to address the challenges that continue to affect rural populations across the world.

It gives me immense pleasure to greet you all on the occasion of World Rural Development Day 2026, a day dedicated to recognizing the transformative power of rural communities and reaffirming our commitment to inclusive and sustainable development.

Rural India is the backbone of our nation. The progress of our villages is inseparable from the progress of India. Guided by the vision of ***Viksit Bharat (Developed India) @ 2047***, the Ministry of Rural Development has been working relentlessly to improve livelihoods, strengthen infrastructure, empower communities, and create opportunities for every rural household.

A major milestone in this journey has been the transition from ***Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)*** to the ***Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin), or VB-G RAM G Act, 2025***, which comes into effect from 1st July, 2026. Under the erstwhile ***MGNREGA***, more than 49 billion persondays of employment had been generated. The new ***VB-G RAM G Act*** establishes a statutory guarantee of 125 days (100 days under MGNREGA) of wage employment in every financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work. This enhanced guarantee is expected to provide renewed momentum to rural household incomes, livelihood security, village-level infrastructure creation, and sustainable rural development. Simultaneously, it seeks to create durable and productive rural infrastructure that strengthens water security, rural infrastructure, rural livelihoods, local economic growth, and resilience against climate-related challenges. Further, the Act establishes a modern, transparent and technology-enabled governance architecture to ensure effective implementation, accountability and high integrity service delivery.

The Ministry's efforts have also focused on improving the quality of life through **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin**. More than 30 million houses have been constructed under **PMAY-G** and rural households have received safe and dignified houses, which have transformed their lives and strengthened social security. These houses, supported by access to sanitation, electricity, clean cooking fuel, and drinking water, are helping create healthier and more prosperous rural communities.

Women's empowerment remains at the centre of our development strategy. Through **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission**, more than 100 Million women have been organised into Self-Help Groups, enabling financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, and community leadership. Today, these women are not only contributing to household incomes but are also emerging as agents of social and economic transformation.

Connectivity has been another key priority. Through **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana**, rural roads have connected remote villages to markets, schools, healthcare facilities, and economic opportunities, reducing disparities and accelerating development. Since the inception of the scheme, more than 800 Thousand Kilometers of rural roads have been constructed across the country.

Our commitment to sustainable development is also reflected in skill development of the rural youth being imparted through 786 training centres under the **Deen Dayal Grameen Kaushalya Yojana** and 636 **Rural Self Employment Training Institutes** spread across the country. Under these programmes, approx. 8 million rural youth have been successfully trained to promote sustainable livelihoods through skill development, wage employment and entrepreneurship. These programmes are helping build resilient rural economies capable of meeting future challenges while creating opportunities for our rural youth.

As we celebrate World Rural Development Day, we acknowledge the dedication of farmers, workers, women, youth, community institutions, Panchayati Raj (local self-government) representatives, and development partners who have contributed to this remarkable journey. Their participation and determination continue to drive rural transformation across the country.

Together, let us reaffirm our resolve to build stronger villages, create sustainable livelihoods, empower every citizen, and realize the vision of a prosperous, inclusive and developed India.

Thank you.