

Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

HUMPALS: PEER ACTIVE LEARNING FOR SCHOLARS

Report of the session conducted on January 19, 2026



The 28th session of HUM PALS was organised on 19 January 2026 on the topic “Multidisciplinary Impact of the Transition from MGNREGA to VB–GRAM G.” Held under the aegis of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, the session reaffirmed HUMPALS’ commitment to fostering a culture of self-learning, re-learning, and co-learning. The session began with the introduction of new scholars in the department.

It focused on the recently proposed statutory and policy transition from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 to the Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB–G RAM G] framework. Faculty members and research scholars participated in a detailed discussion examining the rationale, scope, and potential implications of this significant shift in India’s rural employment policy landscape.



Deliberations highlighted how the proposed framework seeks to introduce changes in both the objectives and design of the rural employment guarantee mechanism. Policy summaries presented during the session indicated that the proposed Act aims to enhance guaranteed employment from 100 to 125 days per rural household, while placing greater emphasis on convergence with rural infrastructure development and livelihood-oriented initiatives.

The discussion also engaged with broader debates surrounding the transition, including concerns related to cost-sharing arrangements between the Centre and the States, planning and implementation mechanisms, and institutional preparedness. Participants reflected on the possible implications of the proposed framework for workers' rights, welfare protections, and accountability in governance, particularly in vulnerable rural contexts.

Overall, the HUM PALS session enabled a multidisciplinary and critical engagement with the evolving rural employment policy, drawing insights from economic, sociological, political, and humanistic perspectives. The session concluded with an interactive exchange, allowing participants to share reflections and raise pertinent questions regarding the opportunities and challenges posed by the proposed policy shift.