

B G-RAM-G Act to reform MGNREGA for Viksit Bharat: Saini

Rs. 1.51 lakh cr allocation marks break from flawed MGNREGA

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini said the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025 represents a fundamental overhaul of rural employment policy in India, ensuring more guaranteed workdays, higher wages, transparent payments and creation of durable assets, while putting an end to the corruption and inefficiencies that plagued the earlier MGNREGA framework.

Addressing a press conference here, he said the Viksit Bharat-G-RAM-G Act is designed to support genuine labourers who were betrayed under previous governments.

He said this law ensures real-time monitoring, transparent wage payments and higher guaranteed employment. Rural workers will now contribute to building a truly developed India, rather than enriching



corrupt contractors, officials or politicians.

He said MGNREGA, launched nearly two decades ago, was conceived in a different economic and social context.

Like all public welfare schemes, it required reform as circumstances changed. However, successive governments failed to address its structural weaknesses.

He said that under the

new law, the employment guarantee has been increased from 100 to 125 days, significantly enhancing assured income for rural workers.

He said this would lead to an average annual income increase of over Rs. 7,000 for an unskilled rural worker across India. In Haryana, where wage rates are the highest in the country, each worker would earn at least Rs. 10,000 more annually, he

said.

Saini said the new law incorporates biometric authentication, direct digiting of assets and satellite monitoring through ISRO's Bhuvan.

He said weekly public disclosures and a multi-level grievance redressal system with a seven-day resolution timeline would ensure accountability and transparency.

- » VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 overhaul of rural employment policy
- » Will support genuine labourers betrayed by erstwhile govts
- » Employment guarantee hiked from 100 to 125 days. Each worker to earn at least Rs 10,000 more annually

He said that works have been clearly categorised into priority sectors to prevent creation of fake projects for financial manipulation.

Cabinet Ministers, Dr. Arvind Sharma, Sh. Ranbir Gangwa, Sh. Krishan Kumar Bedi, Chief Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Sh. Rajesh Khullar and Media Secretary to Chief minister, Sh. Praveen Atrey also remained present on this occasion.

BJP starts campaign on VB-G RAM G scheme

New Delhi: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday launched a nationwide public awareness campaign titled 'VB-G RAM G Janjagaran Abhiyan' to promote and explain the provisions of the newly enacted VB-G RAM G Act, 2025.

The campaign, to be conducted primarily across rural India, will be carried out under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The directive for the outreach drive was issued by BJP National General Secretary Arun Singh through an official letter dated January 4, 2026.

According to the party, the campaign aims to take the key benefits of the VB-G RAM G scheme directly to farmers, agricultural labourers, and rural communities. The BJP has described the Act as a landmark reform aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat, positioning the scheme as a transformative alternative to MGNREGA.

The VB-G RAM G scheme seeks to accelerate rural development, strengthen the rural economy, curb corruption, and expand employment



Arun Singh

opportunities. One of its key features is the enhancement of guaranteed employment from 100 to 125 days, along with a stronger emphasis on livelihood generation and infrastructure development.

The Janjagaran Abhiyan has been designed to explain the scheme's benefits in simple terms, particularly in comparison with MGNREGA; counter what the party describes as misinformation spread by the Opposition portraying the scheme as anti-farmer or anti-poor; and reaffirm the Prime Minister's commitment to farmers and workers. The BJP has also projected the scheme as a crucial pillar of the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision for comprehensive rural transformation.

TMC MP, cricketer asked to appear in SIR hearing



Kolkata: Celebrities and their family members have received summons from the Election Commission to attend the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) hearings in West Bengal.

Sources said on Monday that this time, actor and Trinamool Congress MP Dev, also known as Deepak Adhikari, has received a summons for an SIR hearing.

It has been reported that three other members of his family have also been sent hearing notices regarding the SIR.

However, the date and time when they are required



to appear at the hearing centre with their documents are not yet known. Following the development, there has been no official reaction from Dev or his family after receiving the SIR hearing notice.

Meanwhile, Indian cricketer Mohamud Shami has been summoned for an SIR hearing as well. Although born in Uttar Pradesh, Shami has been a long-time voter in the Jadavpur Assembly constituency in south Kolkata.

According to sources, Shami has been summoned for the hearing due to some complications related to his enumeration form.

Modi to attend Somnath Swabhiman Parv

Prabhas Patan: Year-long activities are set to take place at Somnath Temple in Gujarat to mark the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, officials said on Monday.

Many spiritual and social activities will take place in the temple premises from January 8 to 11.

Additionally, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also visit Somnath Temple on January 11 to attend the Somnath Swabhiman Parv programmes.

Somnath Swabhiman Parv is being organised to mark 1,000 years since the first major attack on the Somnath Temple in 1026, celebrating the shrine's enduring spirit and India's cultural resilience as it was rebuilt every time after several destructions by invaders.

PM Modi initiated the observance as a symbol of faith, destruction, and rebuilding, highlighting its continuous restoration over centuries, culminating in its



Narendra Modi

1950s reconstruction and reflecting national pride and civilisational strength.

The central theme is 'Unbroken Faith', emphasising the temple's significance as a symbol of India's enduring culture and spirit despite repeated assaults.

Earlier, PM Modi, in a blog post, said that the Somnath Temple is the eternal proclamation of the Indian soul, asserting that while hate and fanaticism may have the power to destroy for a moment, faith and conviction in the power of goodness have the strength to create for eternity.

He pointed out that 2026

marks thousand years since the Somnath Temple was first attacked by the invaders in January 1026.

Recounting the history of the Somnath Temple and its destruction by invaders centuries ago, the Prime Minister said there can be no better illustration of India's indomitable civilisational spirit than Somnath, which continues to stand tall despite repeated attacks and immense adversity.

Recalling the period when Somnath, revered by millions, was attacked by foreign invaders, PM Modi said their agenda was destruction rather than devotion. Calling 2026 a significant year for the shrine, he pointed out that it would mark 1,000 years since the first attack on the temple.

He added that another important milestone would be completed in 2026, marking 75 years since the restored temple was opened to devotees.

Kavitha announces new party in Telangana

Hyderabad: Kalvakuntla Kavitha turned emotional during her last speech in Telangana Legislative Assembly on Monday and declared that Telangana Jagruthi, which she is heading, will be turned into a political party.

The daughter of former Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) alleged that she suffered utter humiliation in the party.

Kavitha, who quit BRS after being suspended from the party and also sent her resignation as a Member of the Legislative Council in September last year, made her last speech in the House. She urged the Council Chairman to accept her resignation.

Kavitha, who had floated Telangana Jagruthi, a cultural organisation, during the Telangana movement, announced that Telangana



Kalvakuntla Kavitha

Jagruthi would be turned into a political party now.

She vowed to return to the Legislature as a new political force. "A new political platform is coming up in the State. It will work for students, unemployed and all other sections," she said.

Appealing to people to bless her, she stated that she came out for them after snapping all ties with the paternal home due to the humiliation she had to suffer.

Kavitha alleged that individuals around her father KCR conspired against her and she was politically sidelined and finally sent out.

MahaYuti's hunger for power ending democracy: Cong

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) President Harshwardhan Sapkal on Monday launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led MahaYuti government in the state, alleging that the principles of "free and fair elections" were being systematically destroyed in the ongoing local body polls.

Sapkal accused Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar of bypassing democratic norms, stating that a "market for horse-trading" has opened even before polling day.

Addressing a press conference Sapkal remarked,



Harshwardhan Sapkal

"The BJP-MahaYuti's hunger for power has reached a point where it is swallowing democracy itself.

In the Municipal

Corporation elections, we are witnessing a tragic drama of 'Baap Bada Na Bhaiya, Sabse Bada Rupaiya (Money is greater than any relationship)."

Sapkal emphasised that while elections are a routine part of a healthy democracy, the current administration is attempting to eliminate the Opposition entirely.

He contrasted this with the traditions of India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, whose Cabinet included six non-Congress ministers.

"Today, the BJP and MahaYuti have developed a mindset where they want no opposition.

To ensure 'unopposed' victories, the ruling parties are stooping to extreme levels—preventing Opposition candidates from filing nominations, issuing threats, and deploying pressure tactics.

This is being done with the blatant support of the police and administration, while the Election Commission remains a mute spectator," Sapkal alleged.

He further demanded that in constituencies where candidates were declared unopposed, voters should still be given the right to exercise the "NOTA" (None of the Above) option to uphold their constitutional right to vote.

In deep Grip of Festivity



Union Home Minister Amit Shah participated in the Namma Ooru Modi Pongal festival celebration, in Tiruchirappalli on Monday.

Thousands thronging Sangam ghats for holy dip

UPSRTC engages 3800 buses to facilitate transportation of pilgrims in Magh Mela

Prayagraj: On the third day of the ongoing Magh Mela in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, devotees have been arriving at the Sangam ghats since early morning to take a holy dip at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers.

The 44-day-long Magh Mela began on January 3 at the Sangam in Prayagraj with the auspicious bath on Paus Purnima.

Reporters spoke to several devotees who expressed their spiritual enthusiasm and appreciation for the arrangements made by the administration.

A devotee from Hyderabad said, "We have come here



from Hyderabad. Earlier, we had visited the Mahakumbh, and now we have come to take a holy dip during the Magh Mela. After the sacred bath, with the blessings of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati, we will visit the

Kashi Vishwanath temple tonight. Tomorrow, we plan to go to Ayodhya for darshan at the Ram Mandir and then return to Hyderabad. The Yogi government has made very good arrangements." Another devotee highlighted the

unique spiritual atmosphere of the event, saying, "The Magh Mela has a distinct charm of its own, and we truly enjoy coming here. The administration had made good arrangements last time as well, and they have done the same this year, too."

Praising the crowd management and logistical planning, a third devotee said, "The government has managed the crowd very efficiently. The traffic and vehicle arrangements are truly commendable. I would like to assure and encourage people to visit. There is no inconvenience here, and all arrangements are

excellent." Elaborate security arrangements have been put in place across the Mela area to ensure the safety and convenience of pilgrims.

The administration has made extensive preparations, with the Mela area spread across nearly 800 hectares and divided into seven sectors.

Parking facilities have been arranged at 42 designated locations to manage the large influx of vehicles.

The entire Mela area is secured with 17 police stations, 42 police outposts, and a dedicated police control room. Additionally, around 400 CCTV cameras have been installed to monitor activities.

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Sd/-
On behalf of Godrej Finance Limited

Place: Chandigarh
Date: 06/01/2026