



KERALA STATE CIVIL SERVICE ACADEMY



Established under Centre for Continuing Education Kerala (CCEK)

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

MAGAZINE



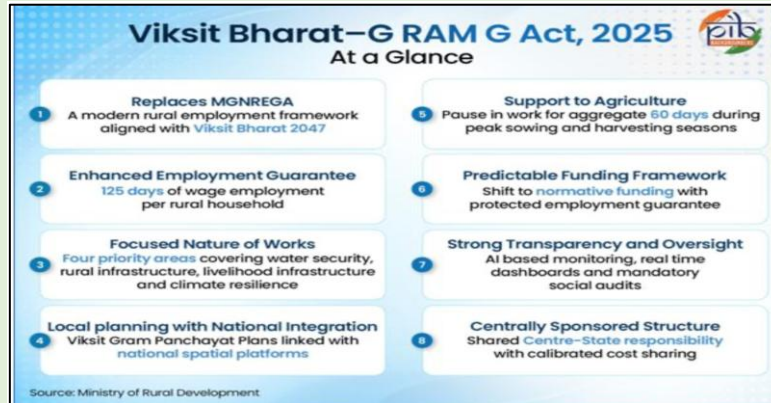
May 01 to May 15, 2026

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Monthly Current Affairs Magazine

VIKSIT BHARAT-G RAM G ACT, 2025

The Central Government has announced that the Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), or VB–G RAM G, will replace MGNREGA starting July 1, 2026.



About VB – G RAM G Act, 2025:

What it is?

- The **Viksit Bharat-G RAM G Act, 2025** is a comprehensive rural employment and development legislation that replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005. It provides a legal guarantee for unskilled wage employment while shifting the program’s focus toward creating productive, future-ready rural assets aligned with the **Viksit Bharat @2047** vision.

Aim:

- The mission aims to foster long-term financial resilience and sustainable rural development. It seeks to transition from mere survival-based employment to livelihood-linked asset creation through a convergence-based planning model.

Key Features of the Act:

- **Enhanced Employment Guarantee:** Increases the statutory guarantee from 100 days to **125 days** of unskilled manual work per financial year for every rural household.
- **Centrally Sponsored Fund Sharing:**
 - **90:10** for North-Eastern and Himalayan States.
 - **60:40** for other States and UTs with legislatures.
 - **100% Central funding** for UTs without legislatures.
- **Agricultural Season Pause:** To ensure labor availability for farming, states must notify a **60-day pause period** annually during peak sowing and harvesting seasons when works will not be undertaken.
- **Thematic Work Domains:** Projects are restricted to four key areas:
 1. Water Security.
 2. Core Rural Infrastructure.
 3. Livelihood Infrastructure.
 4. Extreme Weather Mitigation.

Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP): A single-plan, multi-funding approach where works must originate from a participatory, evidence-based plan integrated with the **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan**.

Technology Integration:

1. Face authentication-based attendance for workers.
2. Biometric authentication for all financial transactions.
3. Geospatial technology for real-time monitoring and tracking.

Safeguards for Workers:

1. **Unemployment Allowance:** If work is not provided within 15 days of demand.
2. **Transport Allowance:** Extra 10% of the wage rate if work is beyond a 5 km radius.
3. **Weekly Payments:** Wages must be paid weekly, or at most within 14 days, directly via DBT.

Significance:

- By increasing the guaranteed days and ensuring timely DBT payments, it provides a stronger safety net for the rural poor.
- Unlike the often temporary nature of MGNREGA works, VB-G RAM G focuses on high-impact, durable infrastructure that aids long-term rural growth.

Somnath temple

Context: Prime Minister of India participated in the 'Somnath Amrut Parv' in Gujarat, marking the 75th anniversary of the temple's reconstruction.



About The Somnath Temple:

What it is?

- The Somnath Temple is one of the most sacred pilgrimage sites in India, revered as the **first among the twelve Jyotirlinga** shrines of Lord Shiva. Known as The Eternal Shrine, it has a legendary history of being destroyed and rebuilt multiple times, symbolizing the immortal spirit and resilience of Indian civilization.

Location:

State: Gujarat, India.

Region: Situated in **Prabhas Patan**, Veraval, on the western coast of the Saurashtra peninsula.

Geographical Context: It is located at the confluence of three rivers – Hiran, Kapila, and Saraswati – known as the **Triveni Sangam**.

History:

- **Ancient Origins:** The temple's first structure is believed to have been built in gold by the Moon God (Soma), followed by silver, wood, and stone versions by various deities and kings.
- **Invasions and Destruction:** The temple was famously attacked and plundered multiple times, most notably by **Mahmud of Ghazni** in 1024 AD, followed by subsequent destructions by the Delhi Sultanate and Aurangzeb.
- **Modern Reconstruction:** Following India's independence, the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, took a solemn resolve to reconstruct the temple.
- **Pran Pratishtha (1951):** The modern temple was completed and the idol was consecrated on **May 11, 1951**, by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India.

Architectural Features:

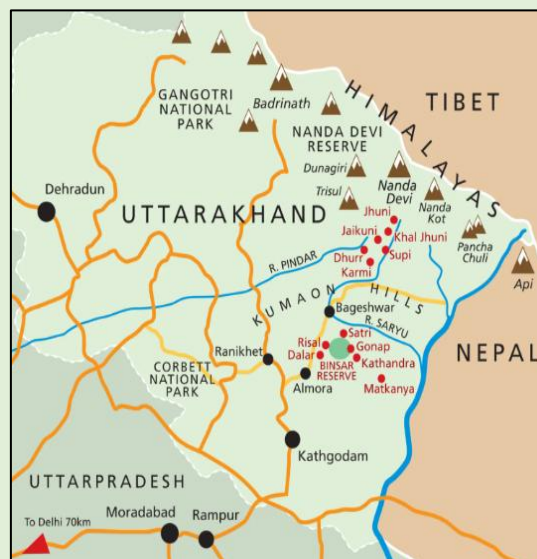
- **Māru-Gurjara Style:** The current temple is built in the **Māru-Gurjara style**(Chaulukya style) of Hindu temple architecture.
- **Shikhara:** The main spire (Shikhara) rises to a height of **155 feet**, adorned with a 10-ton stone vessel (Kalash) at the top.
- **Intricate Carvings:** The temple features the *Garbhagriha* (sanctum sanctorum), *Sabha Mandap* (assembly hall), and *Nritya Mandap*.
- **Baan Stambh (Arrow Pillar):** A famous pillar on the sea-protection wall indicates a straight line to the South Pole, with no landmass between the temple shore and Antarctica.

Significance:

- As the first Jyotirlinga, it is a primary center for Shaivism and a focal point of faith for millions of Sanatan Hindus globally.
- The Prime Minister described the temple as a living symbol of the nation's resolve, proving that the ideological and spiritual strength of India cannot be erased by invaders.

BINSAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The forest department launched a comprehensive scientific wildlife census in the Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary to assess the population and movement of key species.



Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary

About Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary:

What it is?

- Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary is a prominent protected area in the Central Himalayan region, spanning approximately **59–47.59 sq km**. It was primarily established to conserve the shrinking broad-leaf **oak (Quercus) forests** and serves as a vital habitat for high-altitude flora and fauna.

Established in: 1988.

Location: Situated in the **Almora district** of the Kumaon region in **Uttarakhand**, India. It lies atop a mountain about 30 km north of Almora town.

History:

- **Chand Kings:** Between the 11th and 18th centuries, Binsar served as the summer capital of the **Chand rulers** of Kumaon.
- **British Era:** The British utilized the region for its cool climate. **Sir Henry Ramsay**, the Commissioner of Kumaon (often called the 'King of Kumaon'), built the **Khali Estate** and the **Grand Oak Manor**, which served as his administrative center.

Key Features:

- **Topography:** The sanctuary is characterized by a series of rugged ridges and deep gorges. The altitude varies significantly from **900 metres to 2,500 metres**.
- **Flora:** It is home to 25 types of trees and 24 types of bushes. The landscape is dominated by **dense Oak and Deodar forests**, with ruby-red **Rhododendrons** blooming in spring.
- **Zero Point (Jhandi Dhaar):** The highest point in the sanctuary, offering a 360-degree panoramic view of Himalayan peaks, including **Nanda Devi, Kedarnath, Trisul, Panchachuli, and Shivling**.
- **Fauna:**
 - **Mammals:** Leopards, Himalayan gorals, musk deer, Sumatran serow, red foxes, and wild boars.
 - **Avifauna:** A birdwatcher's paradise with over **200 species**, including the Kalij pheasant, Monal, Koklass pheasant, and Eurasian jays.

Significance:

- It protects the fragile Himalayan ecosystem and acts as a refuge for several rare and threatened vertebrate species.
- The 2026 census is significant for documenting missing data on species like foxes and identifying critical movement corridors for large carnivores.

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KERALA STATE CIVIL SERVICE ACADEMY

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NURTURING YOUNG MINDS TOWARDS TOMORROW'S CIVIL SERVICE

COURSES

➤ Prelims Cum Mains Regular Batch

Course Fee: : ₹ 49,200 (₹ 40,000 + 18% GST ₹ 7,200 + Caution Deposit ₹ 2,000)

➤ Prelims Cum Mains Weekend Batch

For the Working Professionals & students who are doing their UG/PG

◆ Course Fee: Ongoing Degree/PG students: ₹ 41,300 (₹ 35,000 + 18% GST ₹ 6,300)

◆ Course Fee: Working Professionals : ₹ 49,200 (₹ 40,000 + 18% GST ₹ 7,200 + Caution Deposit ₹ 2,000)

➤ Civil Service Foundation Course

For Higher Secondary School Students

Course Fee: ₹ 5,900 (₹ 5,000 + GST ₹ 900)

➤ Talent Development Course

For High School Students

Course Fee: ₹ 4720 (₹ 4,000 + 18% GST ₹ 720)

➤ REHEARSE- Prelims Test Series

38 Test papers including 3 exclusive current affairs tests and 5 CSAT papers

➤ RESILIENCE- Mains Test Series

17 Tests including compulsory papers

➤ REKINDLE- PCM REPEATERS BATCH

Mentorship, Weekly Current Affairs classes, Bi Weekly CSAT classes, Prelims Test Series, Revision classes, Extensive Answer Writing class / Practices

➤ REPHRASE- Mains Answer Writing Programme

This answer writing exercise will cover Essay, General Studies - I, General Studies - II, General Studies -III & General Studies -IV papers

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Prelims & Mains test series with All Kerala rank list.
- Expert faculties.
- Library facility across the centres.
- Instalment facility for fee payment available to BPL category students.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Geography, History, Malayalam, Political Science & International Relations, Public Administration and Sociology

Course Fees : Rs. 11,800/- (Fees Rs 10,000/- + GST Rs.1,800/-).

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