



PROGRESS PULSE

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

2026

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESSES



Dear Friends,

As we look toward the horizon of Vidarbha 2030, our mission at the Vidarbha Economic Development (VED) Council has never been clearer: we are not just building an economy; we are building a legacy. Economic growth is often measured in GDP and industrial output, but true prosperity is found in the health of our environment, the readiness of our workforce, and the strength of our democracy.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are embarking on a series of ambitious initiatives designed to touch every sector of our economy.

The Ballot: Our Foundation of Growth Prosperity begins at the ballot box. In the lead-up to the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) elections, I have urged every citizen to recognize that voting is a duty, not an option. A thriving economy requires a functional, representative local government. When we show up to vote, we signal to global investors from Japan to Germany that Nagpur is a city of responsible, engaged citizens—the precise environment needed for stable, long-term investment.

The Environment: A "Silent Tax" on Progress Our recent "Breathe Green" initiative highlighted a fundamental truth: industrial expansion is a "house built on sand" if our environment is compromised. We cannot ignore the "silent tax" that air pollution and a poor AQI levy on our healthcare system and workforce productivity. At VED, we believe that a clear sapphire sky and a booming economy are not mutually exclusive. Sustainability is the bedrock upon which Vidarbha's future must be built.

The Workforce: Empowering Our Greatest Asset To transform Nagpur into a global hub, we must bridge the gap between education and industry. Our Nagpur Cluster-wise Skill Development Report, recently submitted to district authorities, serves as a diagnostic roadmap to ensure our youth are "industry-ready." By fostering "Many Small Fires"—clusters of resilient SMEs—we are creating a diverse job market that empowers the local workforce with the specific competencies required by the tech and defense sectors.


Whether it is pitching international-standard golf courses, promoting heritage tourism, or advocating for the "Naveen Nagpur" initiative, our goal remains the same: to ensure Nagpur is not just a place to work, but a world-class place to live.

I invite you all to join us in this vital mission. Let us work together to ensure that the Vidarbha of 2030 is defined by its innovation, its purity, and its unwavering civic spirit.

Warm regards,

Rina Sinha President,
VED Council

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STRATEGIC SYNERGY: VED COUNCIL AND LEMON IDEAS LAY GROUNDWORK FOR GLOBAL CONCLAVE



Nagpur | January 12, 2026 — "On January 12, 2026, the President of VED and leadership from Lemon Ideas convened at the VED office for a strategic meeting to lay the groundwork for the upcoming Vikasit Bharat Global Startup Conclave. The discussion focused on aligning organizational synergies to foster a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem and exploring collaborative frameworks to maximize the conclave's impact. This partnership signals a significant step forward in connecting emerging innovators with global opportunities and driving the vision of a developed India."

A CALL TO THE POLLS: VED COUNCIL URGES NAGPUR TO VOTE



Nagpur | January 12, 2026 —In the lead-up to the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) elections, the Vidarbha Economic Development (VED) Council has stepped into the spotlight—not to endorse a candidate, but to champion the democratic process itself.

The Duty of the Citizen

Speaking at a recent press conference, VED Council President Rina Sinha issued a powerful appeal to the people of Nagpur. Addressing concerns over historically low voter turnout, Sinha emphasized that the health of a democracy relies entirely on the active participation of its citizens.

"If politicians are responsible towards the people, then the public, too, is duty-bound to turn out and vote during elections," Sinha stated.

Development Through Democracy

While VED is primarily focused on the economic and overall growth of the Vidarbha region, the organization views civic engagement as a fundamental pillar of progress. By positioning itself as a strictly apolitical body, the Council aims to strip away the noise of party politics and refocus the public's attention on their "sole purpose": exercising the right to vote.

For an organization dedicated to the prosperity of Nagpur, the message is clear: a thriving economy requires a functional, representative local government—and that starts at the ballot box.

The Vidarbha Economic Development (VED) Council has evolved into a formidable strategic engine for the region, moving far beyond its role as a mere civic watchdog. Since its inception in 1995, this non-profit advocacy group has dedicated nearly three decades to bridging the critical gap between government policy and industrial execution. Today, under the historic leadership of Rina Sinha—the Council's first female President and a seasoned chemical engineer—the organization is rallying the public to recognize that economic prosperity begins at the ballot box. By urging a high turnout for the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) elections, VED is signaling to global investors that Nagpur is a city of responsible, engaged citizens, a prerequisite for the stable local governance needed to attract foreign direct investment from industrial giants like Japan and Germany.

SOME MORE GLIMPSE FROM PRESS CONFERENCE



CHARTING THE FUTURE: STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR MINCON '26 AT VED

Nagpur | January 13, 2026 —,the VED Council hosted a pivotal preparatory meeting at its office to discuss the roadmap for MINCON '26. Led by President Rina Sinha, the session brought together industry experts and key stakeholders, including Shiv Kumar Rao and Bhupesh Shukla, to deliberate on the region's vast mineral potential and the evolving legislative landscape. With a strategic focus on sustainable extraction and value addition, the meeting solidified the agenda for the forthcoming national conclave, which aims to position Vidarbha as a premier global hub for the mining and metals industry.



VED Council delegation during the 'New Nagpur' presentation with NMRDA Commissioner Shri. Sanjay Meena

Nagpur | January 17, 2026 –The VED team attends the "New Nagpur" urban development plan in a strategic meeting with NMRDA Commissioner Shri. Sanjay Meena. The presentation outlined key infrastructure milestones aimed at positioning Nagpur as a premier destination for global business. This partnership remains a cornerstone in VED's mission to drive planned, sustainable growth across the region's landscape.



Breathe Green: VED Council Champions Environmental Sustainability as the Bedrock of Vidarbha's Economic Future

Nagpur | January 24, 2026 The Vidarbha Economic Development (VED) Council recently reinforced its unwavering commitment to holistic regional growth by hosting "Breathe Green," a high-impact awareness event held at the Narayani Memorial Hall in Nagpur. This initiative, dedicated to addressing the escalating concerns of air pollution and the critical nuances of the Air Quality Index (AQI), underscored a pivotal shift in the Council's narrative. Under the leadership of President Rina Sinha, VED is championing the belief that industrial prosperity and environmental health are not just compatible, but inextricably linked.



By assembling a powerhouse of expertise—featuring Senior Principal Scientist Ms. Asha Lalwani from CSIR-NEERI, environmentalist Ar. Awantika Chitnavis, and renowned pulmonologist Dr. Abhishek Faye—the event transcended typical corporate dialogue. Instead, it provided citizens, policy-makers, and industry stakeholders with a comprehensive, data-driven, and medical roadmap to combat the deteriorating air quality that threatens the region's long-term viability.

In a poignant and stirring opening address, VED President Rina Sinha challenged the traditional, purely fiscal definition of progress. She posed a fundamental question to the assembly: what is the ultimate value of economic expansion if the region's basic life-support systems are fundamentally compromised? Sinha masterfully characterized air pollution as a "silent tax" on Vidarbha's development. She noted that beyond the visible haze, poor air quality exerts a heavy toll on the economy by straining the local healthcare infrastructure and diminishing the productivity of the workforce through chronic illness. Furthermore, she pointed out that a city struggling with high pollution levels fails to attract the global talent and high-value investment necessary for a modern economy. "If our air is not safe, our development is not sustainable—it is a house built on sand," Sinha remarked, urging the community to view every breath as a precious gift that requires collective protection.

The event's expert panel delved deep into the multidimensional nature of the crisis. Ms. Asha Lalwani provided the empirical foundation, presenting CSIR-NEERI's latest data on air resource management and localized pollution hotspots.

Breathe Green: on 24 Jan 2026



Charting the Future: VED Council Delivers Strategic Blueprint for Nagpur's Industrial Workforce



Nagpur | January 24, 2026 In a landmark move toward transforming the regional economic landscape, the Vidarbha Economic Development (VED) Council has officially submitted its Nagpur Cluster-wise Skill Development Report to the district authorities. This strategic document, presented by VED President Rina Sinha and Joint Secretary Aliasger Wagh to Ms. Sunanda Bajaj, Assistant Commissioner of the District Skill Development, Employment & Entrepreneurship Guidance Centre, marks a critical juncture in the

Vidarbha 2030" vision. By handing over this diagnostic roadmap, the Council has effectively bridged the long-standing communication gap between the evolving needs of modern industry and the grassroots reality of vocational training.

Bridging the Industry-Skill Gap

The report is far more than a simple data set; it is a meticulously crafted strategy designed to identify sector-specific skill deficiencies across Nagpur's various industrial clusters. Drawing on the VED Council's extensive industry connections and diverse membership base, the study highlights emerging training opportunities that are vital for local manufacturers. The primary objective is threefold:

- Strengthening Employability: Aligning vocational training programs with current market demands.

- Fostering Entrepreneurship: Pinpointing high-growth areas for local startups.

- Creating a Ready Workforce: Equipping workers with the specialized competencies required by the tech, defense, and manufacturing sectors.

A High-Level Collaborative Vision

During the formal handover, President Rina Sinha emphasized that an "industry-ready" workforce is the primary engine for the economic acceleration of Vidarbha. Without a skilled talent pool, even the most ambitious infrastructure projects risk stagnation. The initiative was warmly received by Ms. Sunanda Bajaj, who noted that such data-driven insights are essential for the government to design effective interventions that actually resonate with the private sector's requirements. The meeting saw a significant gathering of key administrative officials, including Mr. Ritik Awathare (District Skill Development Employment Guidance Officer) and representatives from Ernst & Young LLP, highlighting a robust public-private partnership. As VED continues to act as a catalyst between the government and the private sector, this report stands as a testament to their commitment to ensuring that Nagpur's growth is not just rapid, but inclusive and sustainable. By focusing on human capital today, the Council is securing the industrial prosperity of tomorrow.



रिकॉर्ड मतदान करने की अपील

■ नागपुर, बिजनेस कनेक्ट. लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया में सक्रिय भागीदारी की अपील करते हुए विदर्भ इकोनॉमिक डेवलपमेंट (वेद) काउंसिल की अध्यक्ष रीना सिन्हा ने कहा कि नागपुरवासियों को बड़ी संख्या में घर से बाहर निकलकर रिकॉर्ड मतदान करना चाहिए. नागपुर के विकास के लिए प्रतिबद्ध प्रशासन के चुनाव हेतु नागरिकों को अपने मताधिकार का प्रयोग करना चाहिए. नागपुर महानगर पालिका चुनाव के लिए मतदान 15 जनवरी को होगा. इस पृष्ठभूमि में जन जागरूकता के उद्देश्य से वेद काउंसिल की ओर से पत्रकार परिषद का आयोजन किया गया. सिन्हा ने कहा कि वेद काउंसिल नागपुर और विदर्भ के आर्थिक विकास के लिए कार्यरत एक संस्था है. सरकार, उद्योग, नागरिकों और सामाजिक संगठनों के बीच समन्वय स्थापित कर शहर के विकास के लिए हम निरंतर प्रयासरत हैं. उन्होंने मतदान प्रक्रिया में वास्तविक रूप से भाग लेने वाले पात्र मतदाताओं के प्रतिशत में लगातार हो रही गिरावट पर गंभीर चिंता व्यक्त की. उन्होंने कहा कि विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों से जुड़े मतदाता भी कई बार मतदान के लिए बाहर नहीं निकलते, जो लोकतंत्र के लिए चिंताजनक स्थिति है. उन्होंने कहा कि यदि नागरिक वास्तव में विकास के ठोस परिणाम चाहते हैं, तो उन्हें अपनी पसंद स्पष्ट रूप से व्यक्त करनी होगी.

VED appeals to Ngp: Come out and vote in NMC polls

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Nagpur: Vidarbha Economic Development (VED) Council president Rina Sinha on Monday appealed to the public, on behalf of the organisation, to come out and vote in the NMC elections on January 15.

She emphasised that VED is an apolitical body, and the appeal's sole purpose is to encourage citizens to exercise their democratic right.

"If politicians are respon-

sible towards the people, then the public, too, is duty-bound to turn out and vote during elections," she said at a press conference.

Expressing concern over low turnout, Sinha said, citizens must participate actively, as voting is a key function of a healthy democracy.

Sinha further added that VED is committed to the economic and overall development of Nagpur and the Vidarbha region.

PRESS & MEDIA

लोकमत समाचार

जनभागीदारी से ही सतत शहरी विकास संभव

वेद ने नागरिकों से की रिकॉर्ड मतदान की अपील



रीना सिन्हा

नागपुर : विदर्भ इकोनॉमिक डेवलपमेंट (वेद) काउंसिल की अध्यक्ष रीना सिन्हा ने नागपुरवासियों से बड़ी संख्या में घर से बाहर

निकलकर मनापा चुनाव में रिकॉर्ड मतदान करने की अपील की है. उन्होंने कहा कि नागपुर के विकास के लिए प्रतिबद्ध प्रशासन के चुनाव हेतु नागरिकों को अपने मताधिकार का प्रयोग करना चाहिए. पत्र परिषद में रीना सिन्हा ने कहा कि वेद काउंसिल नागपुर और विदर्भ के आर्थिक विकास के लिए कार्यरत एक संस्था है. सरकार, उद्योग, नागरिकों और सामाजिक संगठनों के बीच समन्वय स्थापित कर शहर के विकास के लिए हम निरंतर प्रयासरत हैं. उन्होंने मतदान प्रक्रिया में वास्तविक रूप से भाग लेने वाले पात्र मतदाताओं के प्रतिशत में लगातार हो रही गिरावट पर गंभीर चिंता व्यक्त की. साथ ही कहा कि विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों से जुड़े मतदाता भी कई बार मतदान के लिए बाहर नहीं निकलते, जो लोकतंत्र के लिए चिंताजनक स्थिति है. उन्होंने कहा कि लोकतंत्र केवल चुनाव तक सीमित नहीं है. मतदान करना, जागरूक निर्णय लेना और चुने हुए प्रतिनिधियों से उनके कार्यों के लिए जवाबदेही तय करना भी प्रत्येक नागरिक का कर्तव्य है. सक्रिय जनभागीदारी से ही पारदर्शी शासन और सतत शहरी विकास संभव है. यदि नागरिक

नागपुरवासियों से रिकॉर्ड मतदान की अपील : वेद काउंसिल

राष्ट्रवाणि

नागपुर. लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया में सक्रिय भागीदारी का आह्वान करते हुए विदर्भ इकोनॉमिक डेवलपमेंट (वेद) काउंसिल की अध्यक्ष रीना सिन्हा ने नागपुरवासियों से आगामी नागपुर महानगरपालिका चुनाव में घर से बाहर निकलकर रिकॉर्ड मतदान करने की अपील की है. उन्होंने कहा कि नागपुर के समग्र विकास के लिए प्रतिबद्ध और जवाबदेह प्रशासन के चुनाव हेतु नागरिकों को अपने मताधिकार का अवश्य प्रयोग करना चाहिए.

नागपुर महानगरपालिका के चुनाव 15 जनवरी को होने जा रहे हैं. इसी पृष्ठभूमि में जनजागरूकता के उद्देश्य से वेद काउंसिल की ओर से प्रेस क्लब में पत्रकार परिषद का आयोजन किया गया. पत्रकारों से बातचीत में रीना सिन्हा ने बताया कि वेद काउंसिल नागपुर एवं विदर्भ के आर्थिक विकास के लिए कार्यरत



मतदान करना, जागरूक निर्णय लेना और चुने हुए प्रतिनिधियों से उनके कार्यों के लिए जवाबदेही तय करना प्रत्येक नागरिक का कर्तव्य है. सक्रिय जनभागीदारी से ही पारदर्शी शासन और सतत शहरी विकास संभव है. उन्होंने आगे कहा कि यदि नागरिक वास्तव में विकास के ठोस परिणाम चाहते हैं, तो उन्हें अपनी प्रावधिकताएँ स्पष्ट रूप से व्यक्त करनी होंगी. "मतदान अपने विचार दर्ज कराने और चुने हुए प्रतिनिधियों से जवाबदेही मांगने का सबसे सरल और प्रभावी माध्यम है." उन्होंने जोड़ा. अंत में, रीना सिन्हा ने नागपुरवासियों से अपील की कि वे बड़ी संख्या में मतदान कर लोकतंत्र को सशक्त बनाएँ और नागपुर के विकास में सक्रिय भागीदार बनें.

संस्था है. उन्होंने कहा, "सरकार, उद्योग, नागरिकों और सामाजिक संगठनों के बीच समन्वय स्थापित कर शहर के विकास हेतु वेद काउंसिल निरंतर प्रयासरत है." उन्होंने मतदान प्रक्रिया में वास्तविक रूप से भाग लेने वाले पात्र मतदाताओं के प्रतिशत में लगातार हो रही गिरावट पर गंभीर

चिंता व्यक्त की. उन्होंने कहा कि कई बार विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों से जुड़े मतदाता भी मतदान के लिए बाहर नहीं निकलते, जो लोकतंत्र के लिए चिंताजनक स्थिति है. नागरिकों की भूमिका और जिम्मेदारी पर प्रकाश डालते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि लोकतंत्र केवल चुनाव तक सीमित नहीं है.

मनपा निवडणुकीत विक्रमी मतदान करा

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

नागपूर : लोकशाही प्रक्रियेत सक्रिय सहभाग घेण्याचे आवाहन करत विदर्भ इकॉनॉमिक डेव्हलपमेंट (वेद) कौन्सिलच्या अध्यक्षा रिना सिन्हा यांनी नागपूरकरांना मोठ्या संख्येने घराबाहेर पडून विक्रमी मतदान करण्याचे आवाहन केले. नागपूरच्या विकासासाठी कटिबद्ध प्रशासन निवडून आणण्यासाठी नागरिकांनी मतदानाचा हक्क बजावावा, असे त्यांनी सांगितले.

नागपूर महानगरपालिकेची निवडणूक येत्या १५ जानेवारीला होत असून, या पार्श्वभूमीवर जनजागृती करण्याच्या उद्देशाने वेद कौन्सिलतर्फे प्रेस क्लब येथे पत्रकार परिषदेचे आयोजन करण्यात आले. रिना सिन्हा म्हणाल्या, वेद कौन्सिल ही नागपूर व विदर्भाच्या आर्थिक विकासासाठी कार्यरत असलेली संस्था आहे. सरकार, उद्योग, नागरिक आणि सामाजिक संस्था यांच्यात समन्वय साधून शहराच्या विकासासाठी संस्था कार्यरत आहे. मतदान प्रक्रियेत प्रत्यक्ष सहभागी होणाऱ्या पात्र मतदारांची टक्केवारी सातत्याने घटत असल्याबाबत त्यांनी गंभीर चिंता व्यक्त केली. विशेषतः विविध राजकीय पक्षांशी जवळीक असलेले मतदारदेखील अनेकदा मतदानासाठी बाहेर पडत नसल्याचे चित्र दिसून येत असल्याचे त्यांनी नमूद केले, जे लोकशाहीसाठी चिंताजनक आहे. रिना सिन्हा यांनी नागपूरकरांना घराबाहेर पडून मतदान करण्याचे, आपला हक्क बजावण्याचे, लोकशाही बळकट करण्याचे आणि नागपूरच्या विकासात सक्रिय योगदान देण्याचे आवाहन केले.

विविध राजकीय पक्षांशी जवळीक असलेले मतदारदेखील अनेकदा मतदानासाठी बाहेर पडत नाहीत. ही बाब लोकशाहीसाठी चिंताजनक आहे. निवडून दिलेल्या प्रतिनिधींना त्यांच्या कामाबद्दल जाब विचारणे ही प्रत्येक नागरिकाची जबाबदारी आहे. पत्रपरिषदेत वेदचे नितीन मालेवार, अली अजगर, अमित येनुरकर, आतिश जिंदल यांचेही उद्दे

नागपूरकरांनो, विक्रमी मतदान करा

'वेद' कौन्सिलचे नागरिकांना आवाहन



लोकशाही वार्ता/नागपूर

लोकशाही प्रक्रियेत सक्रिय सहभाग घेण्याचे आवाहन करीत विदर्भ इकॉनॉमिक डेव्हलपमेंट (वेद) कौन्सिलच्या अध्यक्षा रिना सिन्हा यांनी नागपूरकरांना मोठ्या संख्येने घराबाहेर पडून विक्रमी मतदान करण्याचे आवाहन केले. नागपूरच्या विकासासाठी कटिबद्ध प्रशासन निवडून आणण्यासाठी नागरिकांनी मतदानाचा हक्क बजावावा, असे त्यांनी सांगितले.

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विकासासाठी कार्यरत असलेली संस्था आहे. सरकार, उद्योग, नागरिक आणि सामाजिक संस्था यांच्यात समन्वय साधून शहराच्या विकासासाठी आमची संस्था कार्यरत आहे. मतदान प्रक्रियेत प्रत्यक्ष सहभागी होणाऱ्या पात्र मतदारांची टक्केवारी सातत्याने घटत असल्याबाबत त्यांनी गंभीर चिंता व्यक्त केली. विशेषतः विविध राजकीय पक्षांशी जवळीक असलेले मतदारदेखील अनेकदा मतदानासाठी बाहेर पडत नसल्याचे चित्र दिसून येत असल्याचे त्यांनी नमूद केले, जे लोकशाहीसाठी चिंताजनक आहे. रिना सिन्हा यांनी नागपूरकरांना घराबाहेर पडून मतदान करण्याचे, आपला हक्क बजावण्याचे, लोकशाही बळकट करण्याचे आणि नागपूरच्या विकासात सक्रिय योगदान देण्याचे आवाहन केले.

मतदारांनी शहरात विक्रमी मतदान करण्याचे वेद कौन्सिलचे आवाहन लोकशाही प्रक्रियेत सक्रिय सहभाग घ्या

▶ **नागपूर,** व्यापार प्रतिनिधी. लोकशाही प्रक्रियेत सक्रिय सहभागाचे आवाहन करताना, विदर्भ आर्थिक विकासा (वेद) परिषदेच्या अध्यक्षा रिना सिन्हा म्हणाल्या की, नागपूरकरांनी मोठ्या संख्येने बाहेर पडून विक्रमी मतदान करावे. नागपूरच्या विकासासाठी वचनबद्ध प्रशासन निवडण्यासाठी नागरिकांनी मतदानाचा हक्क बजावावा. नागपूर महानगरपालिका निवडणुकीसाठी मतदान १५ जानेवारीला होणार आहे. या पार्श्वभूमीवर, वेद परिषदेने जनजागृती करण्यासाठी पत्रकार परिषद आयोजित



केली. वेद परिषद ही नागपूर आणि विदर्भाच्या आर्थिक विकासासाठी काम करणारी संस्था असल्याचे सिन्हा यांनी सांगितले. सरकार, उद्योग, नागरिक आणि सामाजिक संघटनांमध्ये समन्वय स्थापित करून आम्ही शहराच्या विकासासाठी सतत प्रयत्नशील आहे. मतदान प्रक्रियेत प्रत्यक्षात सहभागी होणाऱ्या पात्र

मतदारांच्या टक्केवारीत सातत्याने घट होत असल्याबाबत त्यांनी चिंता व्यक्त केली. विविध राजकीय पक्षांशी संबंधित मतदार अनेकदा मतदान करण्यासाठी बाहेर पडत नाहीत, ही लोकशाहीसाठी चिंताजनक बाब आहे. नागरिकांना विकासाचे ठोस परिणाम हवे असेल तर निवड स्पष्टपणे व्यक्त केली पाहिजे, असेही त्या म्हणाल्या.

**PRESS
&
MEDIA**

**वेद कौन्सिलचे
नागरिकांना आवाहन**

नागपूरकरांनो मतदान करा

नागपूर, ता. १२ : लोकशाही प्रक्रियेत सक्रिय सहभाग घेण्याचे आवाहन करीत विदर्भ इकॉनॉमिक डेव्हलपमेंट (वेद) कौन्सिलच्या अध्यक्षा रिना सिन्हा यांनी नागपूरकरांनी घराबाहेर पडून विक्रमी मतदान करण्याचे आवाहन पत्रकार परिषदेतून केले. नागपूरच्या विकासासाठी कटिबद्ध प्रशासन निवडून आणण्यासाठी नागरिकांनी मतदानाचा हक्क बजावावा, असे त्यांनी सांगितले.

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HIGHLIGHTS



**VED COUNCIL AT ADVANTAGE
VIDARBHA 2026**

**FEB
6**



**VED COUNCIL HOSTS
INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATS
AT ADVANTAGE VIDARBHA
2026**

**FEB
7**



**VED COUNCIL UNVEILS
'TOURISM CIRCUITS BOOKLET'
AT ADVANTAGE VIDARBHA
2026**

**FEB
8**



**THE ROUND TABLE ROADMAP
FOR VIDARBHA'S MINING
FUTURE**

**FEB
18**



**VED COUNCIL CHAMPIONS
SUSTAINABLE MINERAL
WEALTH AT CII BHARAT
MININGTECH SUMMIT 2026**



**VED DELEGATION
PRESENTS NAVEEN
NAGPUR PROJECT TO
NMRDA & NIT CHAIRMAN**

**FEB
20**

VED Council at Advantage Vidarbha 2026

The Advantage Vidarbha 2026 (3rd Edition) was held from February 6–8, 2026, at the RTMNU Campus, Nagpur. As a core advocate for regional development, the Vidarbha Economic Development (VED) Council played a significant role alongside the Association for Industrial Development (AID).



Nagpur | February 6, 2026 – The skyline of Nagpur transformed this February as the third edition of Advantage Vidarbha – Khasdar Audyogik Mahotsav took center stage. Organized by the Association for Industrial Development (AID) and strongly supported by the VED Council, the three-day mega-expo and investment summit solidified Vidarbha's position as India's emerging industrial powerhouse. The event was officially inaugurated by Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari and Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis.

Their presence, alongside global ambassadors from over 23 countries and industry titans like Jeet Adani (Adani Group) and Rajesh Jejurikar (Mahindra & Mahindra), underscored the high stakes involved in the region's development.

VED Council: A Catalyst for Growth

Representing the voice of regional commerce, the VED Council was instrumental in bridging the gap between policy and practice. VED Chairperson Reena Sinha and other prominent members were active participants in the inaugural ceremonies and high-level business conclaves.

The council's focus remained steadfast on promoting: Logistics & Connectivity: Pushing for Nagpur to become the "Logistics Capital" of India.

Diversified Investments: Attracting over ₹45,000 crore in committed investments across sectors like Green Steel, Aviation (MRO), and IT.

MSME Empowerment: Supporting the 100+ MSME stalls that showcased the grassroots innovation of Vidarbha's 11 districts.

The 2026 summit stood as a definitive turning point for Vidarbha's economic landscape, underscored by the presence of global ambassadors from 23 nations and industry heavyweights like Jeet Adani and Rajesh Jejurikar. At the heart of this transformation was the VED Council, led by **President Rina Sinha**, which successfully bridged the gap between high-level policy and regional execution.

A Vision for the Future

The 2026 edition wasn't just about stalls and seminars; it was about results. With over 25 technical sessions and 225 expert speakers, the summit tackled the "Change" required for the 21st-century economy—focusing on AI, renewable energy, and sustainable manufacturing.

VED Council Hosts International Diplomats at Advantage Vidarbha 2026



Nagpur | February 7, 2026 – The Advantage Vidarbha 2026 summit, organized by the Association for Industrial Development (AID), served as a historic bridge between Central India and the global market. A standout highlight of the three-day event was the International Business Conclave, where the VED Council played a pivotal role in engaging with ambassadors and trade representatives from over 23 nations.

A Global Meeting of Minds

The VED Council facilitated high-level dialogues with a distinguished gallery of international delegates, including:

- H.E. Qin Jie, Consul General of the People's Republic of China.
- H.E. Ubong Akpan Johnny, Acting High Commissioner of Nigeria.
- H.E. Dharamkumar Seeraj, High Commissioner of Guyana.
- H.E. Desire Boniface Some, Ambassador of Burkina Faso.
- Representatives and Diplomats from Russia, Brazil, Egypt, Mexico, Togo, Zambia, and Kenya.

During these bilateral trade meetings, VED Council members showcased the "Nagpur Advantage"—emphasizing the region's zero-mile logistics superiority and its readiness for foreign direct investment (FDI).

Strategic Bilateral Engagement

The conclave wasn't just about protocol; it was about partnership. Consul General Qin Jie noted the immense potential for cooperation in high-quality manufacturing, while representatives from African nations expressed keen interest in Vidarbha's prowess in Agriculture, Dairy, and Mining technology.

"Our goal is to ensure that when a foreign investor thinks of India, they think of Vidarbha first. Seeing 23 nations under one roof in Nagpur is a testament to the region's rising global profile," noted a senior VED representative during the felicitation of the diplomats.

VED Council Unveils 'Tourism Circuits Booklet' at Advantage Vidarbha 2026

Mapping the Unexplored



Nagpur | February 8, 2026 – While the roar of industry dominated the halls of Advantage Vidarbha 2026, the VED Council ensured that the region's "green gold" and ancient heritage were not overlooked. In a landmark move for regional promotion, the Council officially released its much-anticipated Tourism Circuits Booklet, a comprehensive strategic guide designed to put Vidarbha on the global travel map.

Beyond the Tiger Capital

Vidarbha is widely known as the Tiger Capital of the World, but as VED Chairperson Reena Sinha noted during the launch, the region's potential extends far beyond its famous sanctuaries.

The new booklet serves as a blueprint for investors and tour operators, mapping out untapped sectors including:

- **Spiritual & Heritage Trails:** Highlighting the ancient temples and historical landmarks of Ramtek, Lonar, and beyond.
- **Eco-Adventure Tourism:** Showcasing the rugged beauty of the Melghat and Satpura ranges.
- **Agri-Tourism:** Leveraging the region's vast orange orchards and cotton fields for immersive rural experiences.
- **Water Sports:** Aligning with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari's vision for world-class aquatic adventure hubs in Ambhora.

A Tool for Economic Transformation

The Tourism Circuits Booklet is more than a brochure; it is an economic roadmap. By identifying specific "circuits," VED aims to encourage longer tourist stays, which directly translates to job creation in the hospitality, transport, and local handicraft sectors.

"Tourism is the highest employment generator with the lowest capital investment. With this booklet, we are giving the world a reason to stay in Vidarbha, not just pass through it," stated a VED Council spokesperson.

The Round Table Roadmap for Vidarbha's Mining Future

Nagpur | February 8, 2026 – The industrial future of Vidarbha took center stage during an engaging round-table session at Advantage Vidarbha 2026, where MLA Ashish Jaiswal joined industry leaders to chart a bold course for the region's mineral wealth. The discussion, anchored by the vision of VED Council President Rina Sinha, pivoted on the immense, untapped potential of Eastern Vidarbha—ranging from the world-class iron ore deposits of Gadchiroli to the strategic reserves of coal and manganese that power the nation. Rina Sinha emphasized that the council's mission is to transition the region from a raw material exporter to a high-tech manufacturing hub.



Technical depth was provided by Bhupesh Shukla, a distinguished member and mining expert, who detailed the necessity of "pit-head" processing to maximize economic retention. The consensus was clear: Vidarbha is no longer just a resource hub but the designated engine for India's next industrial surge. Central to this vision is a sophisticated new mining policy designed to harmonize aggressive industry growth with environmental sustainability and the creation of high-quality local jobs. By focusing on value-added processing within the region rather than just raw extraction, the VED Council and state leadership aim to ensure that the "Viksit Vidarbha" mission translates into tangible prosperity. This session underscored that with the right policy framework and expert guidance from leaders like Shukla, Vidarbha is uniquely positioned to lead the country in sustainable industrialization and mineral security.

Processing as the key to maximizing local economic retention. By prioritizing value-added manufacturing over raw extraction, the VED Council aims to transform Vidarbha into a sustainable industrial engine. This strategic framework ensures that mineral wealth translates directly into high-quality local jobs and long-term regional prosperity.

VED Council at Advantage Vidarbha 2026 Gallery



VED Council at Advantage Vidarbha 2026 Gallery



VED Council Champions Sustainable Mineral Wealth at CII Bharat MiningTech Summit 2026

Nagpur | February 18, 2026 – NAGPUR, February 2026 – The heart of India's mineral belt became the epicenter of technological discourse as the CII Bharat MiningTech Summit 2026 took place at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Nagpur. The VED Council, consistent in its mission to leverage Vidarbha's natural resources for economic prosperity, was a prominent participant in this high-powered gathering of the nation's mining elite.

Building a Future-Ready Ecosystem

The summit served as a critical platform for over 30+ keynote speakers and industry giants to brainstorm a "Future-Ready, Globally Competitive, and Sustainable" mining sector. With Nagpur being the gateway to major coal, manganese, and iron ore deposits, the VED Council's presence underscored the regional necessity of moving from raw extraction to high-value processing.

The sessions focused on four key pillars:

Digital Transformation: Integrating AI and IoT for "Smart Mining."

ESG Integration: Prioritizing Environmental, Social, and Governance standards to ensure "Green Mining."

Policy Advocacy: Streamlining mine development and equipment manufacturing regulations.

Investment & Networking: Connecting mine developers with global technology providers.



During the Strategic Keynotes, VED Council representatives emphasized that Vidarbha's mineral wealth is the backbone of the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" vision. The Council engaged in vital networking sessions with policymakers and ESG professionals, advocating for:

Value-Addition Clusters: Encouraging the setup of processing plants within Vidarbha to generate local employment.

"Tech-Adoption for MSMEs: Ensuring that smaller mine developers have access to the "MiningTech" discussed by global leaders.

Mining is not just about what we take from the earth; it's about the technology and sustainability we bring to it. This summit proves that Vidarbha is ready to lead the shift toward responsible, tech-driven mineral extraction," noted a VED delegate.

VED Council Partners with CIMCOM '26 at IIM Nagpur to Drive '10X Growth'

Management Meets Momentum 1

Nagpur | February 20, 2026 – MIHAN, NAGPUR – The corridors of IIM Nagpur buzzed with intellectual energy as CIMCOM '26 (Central India Management Conclave) took center stage from February 20–22, 2026. Highlighting its commitment to fostering a world-class business ecosystem in the region, the VED Council participated as a prominent Partner Association, joining forces with the CIMCON Management Foundation to host what has been hailed as the "Biggest Management Conclave" in Central India.

The Vision: 10X in 10 Years

Under the theme of "10X in 10 Years," the conclave brought together over 500 delegates and a stellar lineup of industry titans. As a Partner Association, VED Council members engaged in high-level discussions aimed at redefining India's Tier-2 narrative and positioning Vidarbha as a global investment destination.

Strategic Collaborations & Key Highlights



The Biggest Management Conclave is Here..





Presents

CIMCON '26

(Central India Management Conclave 2026)

Associate Sponsor





20 | 21 | 22 February 2026
Venue : IIM Nagpur, MIHAN

Day -1 20 Feb, 2026, Time : 03:00 PM - 10:00 PM

<p>CURTAIN RAISER CIMCON '26 SETTING THE STAGE - THE BIG PICTURE</p>	<p>Topic: Vision 10X Growth with Purpose Speaker: Harish Bhat Board Chairman, Tata Steel</p>	<p>Topic: Redefining India's Tier-2 Narrative Speaker: Sangeeta Gupta CEO, Karnataka Digital Economy Mission, Bh. Nagaraja, Mysuru, IIM</p>	<p>Topic: The Rise of Central India Speaker: Vikas Agrawal Director of C-Praxis, Pune & Papat, Pat. Ltd.</p>	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION</p>	<p>NETWORKING & DINNER</p>
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Day -2 21 Feb, 2026, Time : 08:30 PM - 06:30 PM

<p>PRE-LUNCH SESSIONS</p> <p>Topic: Building Resilient Organizations By: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM, Education Media Group</p> <p>Topic: Building a Culture of Innovation Speaker: Rajesh Kumar CEO, India's Growth, Investment & Innovation Ltd.</p> <p>Topic: Business Model: Tech, Healthcare & the Beyond Speaker: Anand Kumar CEO, India's Growth, Investment & Innovation Ltd.</p> <p>Topic: The Present & Future of AI Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p> <p>Topic: The Power of AI Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p> <p>Topic: The Role of AI in Business Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p>	<p>PRE-LUNCH SESSIONS</p> <p>Topic: The Role of AI in Business Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p> <p>Topic: The Role of AI in Business Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p> <p>Topic: The Role of AI in Business Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p> <p>Topic: The Role of AI in Business Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p>	<p>PRE-LUNCH SESSIONS</p> <p>Topic: The Role of AI in Business Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p> <p>Topic: The Role of AI in Business Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p> <p>Topic: The Role of AI in Business Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p>
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Day -3 22 Feb, 2026, Time : 08:30 AM - 06:30 PM

<p>PRE-LUNCH SESSIONS</p> <p>Topic: The Role of AI in Business Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p> <p>Topic: The Role of AI in Business Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p> <p>Topic: The Role of AI in Business Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p>	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION</p> <p>Topic: The Role of AI in Business Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p> <p>Topic: The Role of AI in Business Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p> <p>Topic: The Role of AI in Business Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p>	<p>POST-LUNCH SESSIONS</p> <p>Topic: The Role of AI in Business Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p> <p>Topic: The Role of AI in Business Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p> <p>Topic: The Role of AI in Business Speaker: Dr. Pradeep Speaker: Anand Kumar Managing Director, IIM</p>
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VED Council Partners with CIMCOM '26 at IIM Nagpur to Drive '10X Growth'

Management Meets Momentum 2



The three-day event featured a "who's who" of Indian industry, providing VED members with unparalleled networking opportunities:

- **The Rise of Central India:** VED leaders participated in sessions featuring regional icons like Vishal Agrawal (Director, R C Plasto Tanks & Pipes) and Prashant Ugemuge (Director, Vidarbha Infotech), focusing on the industrial surge within the Vidarbha region.
- **Global Insights:** The Council interacted with thought leaders such as Harish Bhat (Brand Custodian, Tata Sons), Sanjeev Gupta (CEO, Karnataka Digital Economy Mission), and Shiv Shivakumar (Advent International), bridging the gap between local potential and global management standards.
- **Diverse Discourses:** From "Analytics + Data" to "Sustainable Green House Emissions," the VED Council supported a curriculum that prepares regional businesses for the technological shifts of the next decade.

A Partnership for Progress

By partnering with CIMCOM '26, the VED Council has reinforced its role as a bridge-builder between academia and industry. The collaboration with IIM Nagpur and the CIMCON Management Foundation ensures that the management talent being nurtured in the city is directly aligned with the economic goals of the Vidarbha region.

"Our association with CIMCOM '26 is about more than just participation; it's about preparation. To achieve 10X growth for Vidarbha, we must adopt the 10X management mindset shared here this week," noted a VED representative.

Shaping the Future of Naveen Nagpur

VED Delegation Presents Naveen Nagpur project to NMRDA & NIT Chairman



Nagpur | February 26, 2026 – In a significant move toward transforming the landscape of "Naveen Nagpur," a high-level delegation from the Vidarbha Economic Development (VED) Council recently held a strategic meeting with Mr. Sanjay Meena, IAS, Chairman of the Nagpur Improvement Trust (NIT) and Nagpur Metropolitan Region Development Authority (NMRDA).

Led by VED President Rina Sinha, the delegation—including prominent members Rajeev Aggarwal, Bunty Rawal, Shri Ajay Singh, and Varun Vijaywargi—presented a series of concrete foreign investment proposals aimed at accelerating the development of the metropolitan region.

Fruitful and Forward-Looking"

The meeting was characterized by a high degree of synergy between the Council's vision and the administrative goals of the NMRDA. Mr. Sanjay Meena expressed a keen interest in the proposals, acknowledging the VED Council's role in bridging the gap between global investors and local administrative frameworks.

"Naveen Nagpur is the future of Central India. By bringing foreign investment proposals to the table today, we are ensuring that the city of tomorrow is built on a foundation of global excellence and sustainable economic growth," stated President Rina Sinha following the session.

Focus: Global Capital for Local Growth

The discussions centered on positioning Naveen Nagpur as a premier destination for international investors. The VED delegation highlighted specific sectors where foreign capital could act as a catalyst for rapid urbanization and economic self-sufficiency.

The Road Ahead

The "very fruitful discussions" have set the stage for a collaborative roadmap. The VED Council will continue to work closely with the NIT and NMRDA to refine these proposals, ensuring they align with the master plan for the Nagpur Metropolitan Region. This initiative marks a crucial step in VED's ongoing mission to turn Vidarbha into a global economic powerhouse.

PRESS & MEDIA

VED proposes global investment roadmap for 'Naveen Nagpur' with NMRDA chief



■ Business Reporter

IN A significant move to bolster the economic landscape of the region, a high-level delegation from the Vidarbha Economic Development (VED) Council, led by President Rina Sinha, met Sanjay Meena, Chairman of Nagpur Metropolitan Region Development Authority (NMRDA) and Nagpur Improvement Trust (NIT), recently.

Joining President Rina were

distinguished council members including Rajeev Aggarwal, Bunty Rawal, Ajay Singh, and Varun Vijawargi, all of whom emphasised the necessity of a global outlook for the city's expansion.

Sanjay Meena assured the delegation that the NMRDA and NIT would explore the feasibility of these proposals to ensure that Naveen Nagpur becomes a primary destination for foreign direct investment.



PROGRESS PULSE

VED MAG

A NEW BEGINNING

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Editor - Aliasger wagh

President - Rina Sinha

Secretary - Ashish Sharma



Vidarbha Economic
Development Council

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Pioneering Vidarbha's Economic
Development with Unwavering
Dedication