



VIKRAMA VAHINI

WORLD CHOCOLATE DAY



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07 July, 2026 | Tuesday | Krishna Paksha | Panchami | Vikrama Samvata | Bengaluru | Volume: 09 | Issue: 106

Actress Kajal Aggarwal says motherhood has reshaped her film choices, adding that she now selects roles she can be proud of for her son, and expresses pride in her upcoming films 'Ramayana' and 'The India Story'.

Malayalam actor Mohanlal has declared possession of 10 elephant tusks and 13 ivory artefacts, including idols, to the Kerala Forest Department under an amnesty scheme for voluntary disclosure of wildlife items.

INSIDE

Good morning

Just one small positive thought in the morning can change your whole day.

BRIEFS

Fake Flipkart Sale Ads Trigger Scam Wave

Vikrama Vahini | Thiruvananthapuram

Cyber fraudsters are exploiting the ongoing Flipkart GOAT Sale by circulating fake advertisements on social media to lure customers with steep discounts on electronics, Kerala Police said on Monday.

According to police, fake Facebook pages with names resembling official Flipkart handles are promoting smartphones, laptops and other gadgets at unusually low prices to trap unsuspecting buyers.

Victims are redirected to counterfeit websites or WhatsApp chats, where they are pressured to make advance payments or booking fees. After receiving money, scammers either fail to deliver products or demand additional charges before cutting off contact.

Microsoft Cuts 4,800 Jobs Amid AI Push

Vikrama Vahini | New York

Microsoft has announced plans to lay off around 4,800 employees, representing about 2.1% of its global workforce, as part of a broader restructuring aimed at boosting investments in artificial intelligence (AI) and improving operational efficiency.

The move comes amid rising costs and heavy spending across the tech sector on AI development.

The company's decision follows similar workforce reductions by major technology firms, including Amazon and Meta, as the industry shifts focus toward large-scale AI infrastructure.

Analysts estimate that global tech companies could invest more than \$700 billion on AI systems by 2026, increasing pressure on firms to balance innovation with profitability.

Jaishankar Meets Bahrain King, Strengthens Ties

Vikrama Vahini | Manama (Bahrain)

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday met Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

Jaishankar, who arrived in Bahrain from Qatar on the second leg of his four-nation Gulf tour, also met Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. The visit is part of his July 5-10 diplomatic tour covering Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman.

In a post on X, Jaishankar said he was honoured to have an audience with King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and appreciated the opportunity to engage with Bahrain's leadership on expanding cooperation.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives in Jakarta, expressing gratitude for the warm welcome by Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto. During the visit, PM Modi is set to hold discussions to further strengthen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Indonesia, and also visit the Prambanan Temple complex in Yogyakarta to deepen cultural ties between the two nations.

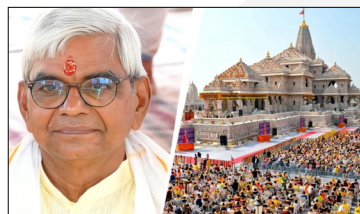
KRISHNA MOHAN APPOINTED RAM MANDIR TRUST INTERIM CHIEF

Vikrama Vahini | Ayodhya

Krishna Mohan has been appointed as the interim General Secretary of the Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust following a decision taken at a meeting in Ayodhya, according to Trust Treasurer Govind Giri. The appointment comes amid discussions over alleged irregularities in donations and fund misappropriation within the Trust.

Officials said the administrative change is part of internal arrangements being made as the Trust continues to deal with the ongoing controversy. Krishna Mohan had earlier lodged an FIR in connection with the alleged donation theft case on June 25.

Following his appointment, Krishna Mohan said those found guilty in the matter should face strict punishment in accordance with the law. He added that he



would work to address shortcomings in administration and restore public confidence in the Trust, which he said had been affected by recent developments.

The Trust has also accepted the resignations of General Secretary Champat Rai and trustee Anil Mishra, both of whom stepped down after the controversy surfaced.

Meanwhile, Trust Treasurer Swami Govind Dev Giri said the investigation into the alleged misappropriation was ongoing and urged that the matter not be politicised.

NDA Flags K'taka SIR Irregularities

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

NDA leaders on Monday submitted a complaint to Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer V Anbukumar alleging "massive irregularities" in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and demanded an immediate inquiry along with mandatory door-to-door re-verification of enumeration forms.

The delegation, comprising Union Ministers H D Kumaraswamy, Pralhad Joshi and Shobha Karandlaje along with Opposition leaders R Ashoka and Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, met the CEO and alleged that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were not following Election Commission guidelines.

In their memorandum, the leaders claimed that mandatory house-to-house verification was being ignored and enumeration forms were instead being filled at community halls, mosques and private residences instead of households.

NDA leaders seek re-verification of all forms and strict action against officials and political functionaries.

Opposition alleges possible inclusion of illegal immigrants and misuse of election machinery.

CEO directed officials earlier to ensure strict adherence to Election Commission guidelines for house-to-house verification.

Following earlier complaints, the Chief

NDA delegation led by H.D. Kumaraswamy, Pralhad Joshi, Shobha Karandlaje and R. Ashoka meets Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer over SIR exercise

Leaders allege "massive irregularities" in Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls and demand immediate probe

Complaint claims Booth Level Officers are not following mandatory door-to-door verification guidelines

Allegations raised that enumeration forms are being filled at community halls, mosques and private residences instead of households

NDA leaders seek re-verification of all forms and strict action against officials and political functionaries

Opposition alleges possible inclusion of illegal immigrants and misuse of election machinery

CEO directed officials earlier to ensure strict adherence to Election Commission guidelines for house-to-house verification

Electoral Officer had already directed officials to ensure that BLOs strictly follow house-to-house verification guidelines. The SIR exercise in Karnataka began on June 30 and will continue until July 29.

Manipur Ambush: 2 Soldiers Killed

Two Assam Rifles personnel were killed and several others injured after suspected militants ambushed a convoy in Manipur's Ukhrul district. Security forces have launched search operations, while top leaders have strongly condemned the attack and assured strict action against those responsible.

Vikrama Vahini | Imphal

At least two Assam Rifles personnel were killed and several others injured after suspected militants ambushed a paramilitary convoy in Manipur's Ukhrul district on Monday afternoon, police said. Security forces have launched a massive search operation in the area to trace the attackers.

Attack on Assam Rifles convoy

The incident took place around 1:30 PM when armed militants opened fire on a convoy of the 40 Assam Rifles at Nungshang Kong. The sudden attack led to a brief exchange of fire, after which the assailants fled from the spot. Reinforcements were rushed immediately, and the area was

cordoned off.

Security forces launch search operation

Following the ambush, joint teams of security forces began combing operations in and around the region to identify and apprehend those responsible. Officials said security has been tightened across sensitive areas in Ukhrul district to prevent further incidents.

Political leaders condemn attack

Manipur Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam condemned the attack, calling it a "deeply unfortunate ambush" and assured that strict action would be taken against the

perpetrators under law.

Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla expressed grief over the loss of lives, terming the incident a "dastardly act of

violence" and extended condolences to the bereaved families while praying for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Chief Minister Khemchand Yumnam also strongly condemned the attack, describing it as a "cowardly militant ambush" and reiterated

the state government's commitment to maintaining peace, security, and justice for the victims.

Authorities have intensified security deployment in the region, and search operations are continuing to trace the militants involved in the attack.



Protests Erupt Over ₹2,000 Chamundi Darshan Fee

Vikrama Vahini | Mysuru

A controversy erupted in Karnataka on Monday after the State Government introduced a ₹2,000 special darshan ticket for devotees visiting the Chamundeshwari Temple during the Ashada Friday celebrations.

Members of the Karnataka Sene Pade staged a protest in front of the Old Deputy Commissioner's Office in Mysuru, demanding that the government withdraw the new premium ticket and restore the earlier ₹50 and ₹300 special darshan categories.

Commercialising Faith

The protesters accused the Congress government of commercialising religious faith and turning one of Karnataka's most revered temples into a revenue-generating venture.

They alleged that the new fee discriminates against ordinary devotees by allowing only those who can afford the premium ticket quicker access to the shrine.

The organisation also criticised the

reported discontinuation of the ₹50 and ₹300 special darshan tickets during this year's Ashada festivities, saying it had deprived devotees of affordable options.

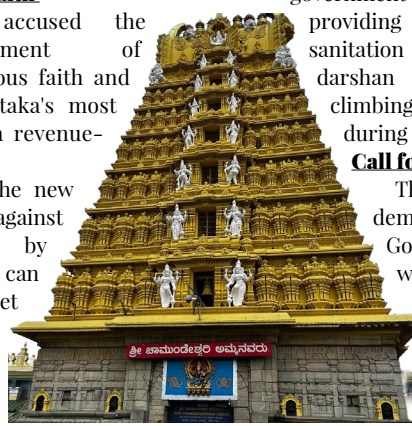
Demand Better Facilities

The activists claimed that no major pilgrimage centre, including Tirupati, Dharmasthala or Kukke Subrahmanya, charges ₹2,000 for special darshan.

They also alleged irregularities in the distribution of devotee kits linked to the premium ticket and demanded a transparent audit of the scheme. The protesters urged the government to focus instead on providing better drinking water, sanitation facilities and a direct darshan system for pilgrims climbing Chamundi Hill on foot during the festival.

Call for Immediate Rollback

The Karnataka Sene Pade demanded that the State Government immediately withdraw the ₹2,000 special darshan ticket and reinstate the previous ticket categories before the Ashada Friday celebrations begin.



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WHERE YOUR SUCCESS MAKES HEADLINES

Editorial

Reduce the Pressure on Officials Engaged in the SIR Process

The foundation of any democracy lies in free, fair, and transparent elections. The credibility of elections depends largely on the accuracy of the electoral roll, making the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists a crucial exercise. However, the officials entrusted with this responsibility are currently working under immense pressure, raising concerns about both their well-being and the effectiveness of the process.

Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and election staff are responsible for visiting households, verifying voter details, collecting documents, processing applications, updating records online, addressing public queries, and responding to objections raised by political parties. Completing these demanding tasks within strict deadlines adds to their workload and stress.

In recent weeks, the SIR process has become the subject of intense political debate. Allegations and counter-allegations between political parties have placed frontline officials under unnecessary scrutiny, criticism, and pressure. While election officials are expected to function strictly according to the guidelines of the Election Commission, political interference and public suspicion can adversely affect their ability to work impartially.

Ensuring transparency in the revision process is essential, but it is equally important to provide officials with a safe, supportive, and pressure-free working environment. Any errors or complaints should be investigated through proper procedures rather than by prematurely blaming field staff. Such an approach not only affects their morale but can also undermine public confidence in the electoral process.

Reports of election personnel experiencing physical and mental stress during the SIR exercise highlight the need for better administrative support. The Election Commission should provide adequate manpower, realistic timelines, and technical assistance to ease the burden. Citizens, too, have a responsibility to cooperate by providing accurate information and necessary documents on time.

A reliable electoral roll strengthens democracy. Therefore, protecting the independence, dignity, and well-being of officials engaged in this critical task is as important as ensuring the accuracy of the voter list itself. A transparent process built on cooperation, accountability, and trust will ultimately reinforce public confidence in the democratic system.

-Editor

Ashok Opposes Industries on Farmland

Vikrama Vahini | Anekal

Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly R. Ashok on Monday urged the State Government to stop acquiring fertile agricultural land for industrial projects and layouts, and instead utilise barren land or promote industrial development in North Karnataka.

Addressing farmers protesting against the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) land acquisition at Sarjapura in Anekal taluk, Ashok alleged that the government was forcibly acquiring farmers' lands despite court intervention in the matter. He said many affected farmers owned only small landholdings and depended on silk cultivation and vegetable farming for their livelihood. 'Industries should be established on barren land, not on



fertile agricultural land. If more industries are required, they should be encouraged in North Karnataka instead of concentrating everything around Bengaluru,' he said.

Ashok expressed concern that the continued expansion of layouts and industries in the Bengaluru region would put further pressure on infrastructure, worsen traffic congestion and adversely affect groundwater and lakes.

Alleging that the government was promoting layouts to generate revenue

through commissions, the BJP leader claimed that projects in areas such as Sarjapura and Bidadi were being undertaken with political motives. He also accused the Congress government of neglecting the interests of farmers.

Condemning the police action against protesting farmers, Ashok said such incidents were unacceptable and announced that he would raise the issue during the upcoming session of the Karnataka Legislature.

Wheelie Bikers Block Ambulance, Spark Outrage

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

A viral video showing a group of bikers allegedly performing wheelies in front of an ambulance carrying a critically ill patient has sparked widespread outrage, with citizens demanding strict action against those involved.

The incident reportedly occurred around 2 a.m. on the Yeshwanthpur-Goraguntepalya stretch in Bengaluru. According to reports, the ambulance was transporting a patient to a hospital with its siren on when several bikers allegedly overtook the vehicle and continued performing dangerous stunts instead of giving way.

Family members accompanying the patient recorded the incident on their mobile phones, and the video soon went viral on social media, drawing sharp



criticism over the riders' reckless behaviour.

Following the circulation of the video, many social media users urged the police to identify the riders and initiate criminal proceedings against them for endangering lives and obstructing an emergency vehicle.

Police have taken note of the viral footage and are examining the video to identify the bikers. Further action will be initiated after verification of the vehicles and those involved.

Rain Expected in Coastal Karnataka

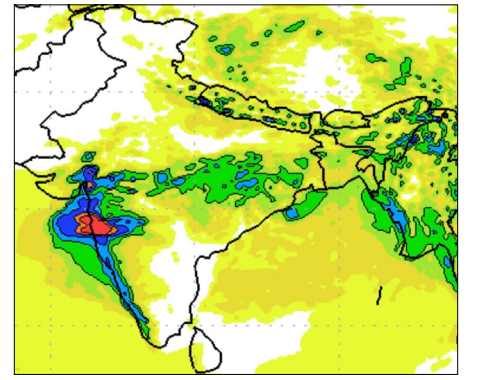
Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Karnataka Meteorological outlook up to 8 am on July 7 indicates varying weather conditions across the state, with rainfall activity continuing in coastal and Malnad regions while northern and southern interior districts remain partly dry.

In the coastal belt covering Kasaragod, Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts, skies are expected to remain partly cloudy with intermittent winds and scattered light rain.

Uttara Kannada district is likely to receive relatively heavier showers with strong winds. The current weather pattern is expected to continue till July 8, after which rainfall intensity may reduce, and dry, sunny conditions are likely to prevail from July 11 onwards.

In the Malnad region, including Kodagu, Hassan, Chikkamagaluru and Shivamogga, cloudy conditions with scattered light to



moderate rainfall are expected.

In North Interior Karnataka, districts such as Belagavi, Dharwad and Haveri are expected to receive moderate rainfall, while parts of Kalaburagi bordering Maharashtra may see scattered showers. Other districts may experience cloudy skies with light drizzle.

KARNATAKA EYES BIGGER HONG KONG INVESTMENTS

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Karnataka is looking to strengthen its economic partnership with Hong Kong by attracting investments in Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM), semiconductors, startups, fintech, biotechnology, clean mobility and advanced manufacturing, Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil said on Monday.

The Minister made the remarks after meeting Rajesh Narayan Naik, Consul General of India in Hong Kong and Macau SARs, in Bengaluru.

Patil said Karnataka plans to showcase its strengths in chip design, electronics, Internet of Things (IoT) technologies and its globally recognised startup ecosystem to investors, venture capital firms and technology companies based in Hong Kong.

He said the State Government has proposed closer institutional collaboration between



Invest Karnataka and the Consulate General of India in Hong Kong.

The proposal includes organising a Karnataka-focused investment roundtable in Hong Kong and establishing a dedicated

mechanism to facilitate investor leads, business delegations and sector-specific partnerships.

The government is also targeting investments from Hong Kong's family offices,

financial institutions and venture capital funds into key sectors, including ESDM, semiconductors, fintech, clean mobility, biotechnology and advanced manufacturing.

Patil highlighted Hong Kong's position as a global financial hub and gateway to Mainland China and other Asian markets, saying it offers significant opportunities for Karnataka-based companies to expand internationally and access global capital.

He noted that Hong Kong-linked companies such as Lenovo, HSBC and CLP Group already have operations in Karnataka and said stronger collaboration would further boost investment, technology partnerships and innovation-led industrial growth.

According to the Minister, India-Hong Kong bilateral trade stood at US\$25.8 billion during 2024-25, reflecting the growing economic relationship between the two regions.

NEWS

HDK Alleges Bid to Block HMT Revival

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy on Monday accused the Karnataka Government of attempting to derail the Centre's efforts to revive Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) by using the State Forest Department to create hurdles at a crucial stage of the proposed revival package.

Addressing a press conference, Kumaraswamy alleged that the Forest Department's recent notice directing HMT to surrender 430 acres of land was issued with 'malicious intent' just when the Centre was finalising a special financial package for the public sector undertaking.

Questions Forest Department's Action

Kumaraswamy said the land dispute is already pending before a court and questioned the legality of the Forest Department's order.

He alleged that the Deputy Conservator of Forests had exceeded his jurisdiction by directing HMT to hand over the land, adding that the company would challenge the order legally. He also questioned why the notice was issued barely 15 days before the officer's retirement.

Revival Package Searing Approval

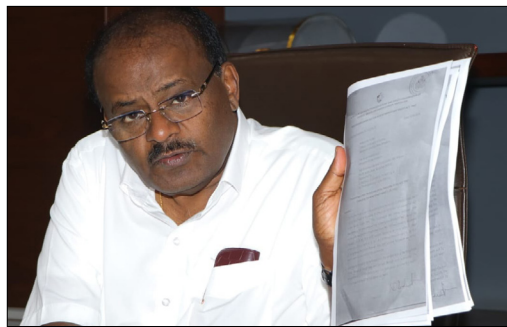
The Union Minister said he had been holding discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Finance Ministry to secure a special revival package for the Bengaluru-headquartered PSU, which has been struggling financially for several years.

According to him, a key meeting on the package is scheduled next week, and the Centre is close to taking a decision to revive HMT.

Alleges HMT Land Grab

Kumaraswamy alleged that nearly 175 acres of HMT land had been illegally encroached upon and sold in the past. Claiming to possess documentary evidence, he said multi-storied buildings and apartment complexes had come up on the encroached land without any action from the authorities.

He further alleged that the land grab continued



until he became Chief Minister in 2006, when he halted further sale of HMT land to protect it from real estate interests.

Attack on State Government

Accusing the Congress government of neglecting public sector industries, Kumaraswamy claimed that several state-run enterprises, including NGF and Mysore Paper Mills, had already declined due to government policies.

He said the State Government's actions were creating an unfavourable environment for industries and questioned how Karnataka could attract fresh investment if government-owned enterprises were not protected.

Assures Employees

The Union Minister assured HMT employees that the Centre remained committed to reviving the iconic company.

He said HMT continues to manufacture machinery for strategic sectors such as defence, space and research, while its watches still enjoy strong demand. Kumaraswamy expressed confidence that the Centre would restore HMT's former glory despite the alleged obstacles.

He also alleged that the State Government had similarly created hurdles for the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company and urged Karnataka to emulate neighbouring states in working with the Centre to attract industries and investments. HMT employees need not worry as the Centre is committed to reviving the PSU, Kumaraswamy asserted.

HEALTH & Lifestyle

Cut Sugar, Boost Your Health

Health experts have advised people to reduce their daily sugar intake, warning that excessive consumption of added sugar can increase the risk of obesity, diabetes, heart disease and other lifestyle-related illnesses.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), added sugar should account for less than 10 per cent of a person's daily calorie intake. For better health, the WHO recommends limiting added sugar to 5 per cent of total daily calories—equivalent to about 25 grams or six teaspoons per day. This recommendation applies only to added sugars found in processed foods and beverages, and not to the natural sugars present in fruits and milk.

Health Benefits of Reducing Sugar

Experts say lowering sugar consumption helps maintain a healthy body weight, keeps blood sugar levels under control and reduces the risk of Type-2 diabetes. It also supports better heart health, lowers the chances of tooth decay, improves energy levels throughout the day and contributes to healthier skin and better sleep.

Hidden Sources of Sugar

Many commonly consumed foods contain high amounts of hidden sugar, including soft drinks, packaged fruit juices, energy drinks, biscuits, cakes, chocolates, sweets, flavoured yoghurt, breakfast cereals, ketchup, sauces and ready-to-eat processed foods.

Health professionals advise consumers to read nutrition labels carefully, choose products with lower sugar content and adopt a balanced diet to promote long-term health and well-being.



One of the simplest ways to reduce sugar intake is to replace sugary drinks with water, buttermilk, coconut water or unsweetened beverages.

Preparing fresh meals at home and limiting the consumption of processed and packaged foods can also help reduce hidden sugar intake significantly.

Nutritionists advise avoiding the habit of consuming sweets, desserts and sugary snacks every day. Instead, fresh fruits, nuts, seeds and unsweetened dairy products can be healthier alternatives that provide essential nutrients while satisfying hunger.

Children and teenagers are among the highest consumers of added sugar through soft drinks, chocolates, candies and packaged snacks. Experts say encouraging healthy eating habits from an early age can help prevent obesity, diabetes and other chronic diseases later in life.

Doctors also recommend combining a low-sugar diet with regular physical activity, adequate sleep and a balanced lifestyle.

SCIENCE & Technology

Google Says Court Video Policing Impossible

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Google has informed the Delhi High Court that it is not technically or legally possible to proactively monitor YouTube for unauthorised recordings of court proceedings uploaded by users.

In an affidavit filed before the court, the company said it can remove or block specific videos only after they are identified through valid legal orders or flagged by their URLs, but it cannot independently determine whether millions of uploaded videos violate court rules. The submission came in response to a petition concerning viral videos of court proceedings involving former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Google argued that the recordings are made outside its platform and that YouTube has no way of determining whether a video was recorded with permission or whether it violates judicial guidelines. It also pointed out that rules governing the recording of court proceedings vary across different courts in India.

The company maintained that deciding the legality of online content is the responsibility of a competent court and not that of an intermediary platform. It said requiring social media platforms to prevent the re-upload of unauthorised court recordings would be impractical and legally untenable.

The petition was filed by advocate Vaibhav Singh, who sought action against those who uploaded videos of Arvind Kejriwal addressing Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma during court proceedings. The Delhi High Court had earlier expressed concern over the circulation of such videos, describing it as an issue affecting the larger interests of the judiciary.

HDK Alleges Congress Misusing SIR Process

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Union Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy on Monday accused the Karnataka Congress Government of undermining the objective of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls by allegedly violating the Election Commission of India's guidelines and misusing the administrative machinery to safeguard its "illegal vote bank."

Speaking to reporters after leading a joint BJP-JD(S) delegation to meet Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer V. Anbukumar, Kumaraswamy said the NDA had submitted a formal complaint seeking action against alleged irregularities in the ongoing voter list revision exercise.

He alleged that instead of conducting mandatory house-to-house verification, enumeration was being carried out by gathering people at community halls, marriage halls,



mosques and other public places, which, he claimed, was contrary to the Election Commission's prescribed procedures.

Kumaraswamy further alleged that some Deputy Commissioners and officials involved in the SIR exercise had acted under pressure from the State Government and participated in the alleged violations. He said reports and visual evidence of such practices had appeared

in the media and on social media platforms.

The Union Minister accused the Congress of attempting to retain "illegal votes" for electoral gains while publicly claiming to uphold constitutional values. He also criticised the party for questioning similar voter roll revision exercises in other states while allegedly violating the guidelines in Karnataka.

The NDA has demanded that all voter roll

revision carried out so far under the present SIR exercise be cancelled and conducted afresh in accordance with Election Commission guidelines. Kumaraswamy also sought the appointment of an officer from outside Karnataka to supervise the revision process and said the matter would be taken up with the Election Commission of India in New Delhi.

He said the BJP-JD(S) delegation included Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi and Shobha Karandlaje, former Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka, Legislative Council Opposition Leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, former Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, MPs M. Mallesh Babu and Govind Karjol, MLA Arvind Bellad, MLCs S.L. Bhoje Gowda and C.T. Ravi, JD(S) Core Committee Chairman M. Krishnareddy, former MLC K.A. Thippeswamy and other senior NDA leaders.



Sringeri Jagadguru Shankaracharya Sri Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati Mahaswamiji performed Kumbhabhisheka & Vishesh Puja to Sri Venkateswara Swamy at Jamalapuram, located in the Khammam district of Telangana.

TRUST OFFERS LAND, MOSQUE TO END MATHURA ROW

Vikrama Vahini | Mathura

In a fresh bid to resolve the long-pending Shri Krishna Jannabhoomi-Shahi Eidgah dispute through an out-of-court settlement, the Shri Krishna Jannabhoomi Sangharsh Trust has offered the Muslim side 10 acres of land in Mewat, Haryana, along with financial assistance for the construction of a new mosque.

The proposal states that if the Muslim side voluntarily relinquishes its claim over the disputed land at the Shri Krishna Jannabhoomi site in Mathura, the Hindu community would provide the land and bear the full cost of constructing the mosque.

Trust President Pt. Dinesh Phalahari Maharaj has written separate letters to Samajwadi Party



president Akhilesh Yadav and Shaha Eidgah Mosque Committee Secretary Tanveer Ahmed, seeking their support for an amicable settlement.

In his letter to Akhilesh Yadav, the Trust urged him to mediate in the matter, while the letter to Tanveer Ahmed appealed for a peaceful resolution

in the spirit of communal harmony and mutual brotherhood.

The Trust maintained that the proposal was aimed at resolving the dispute through dialogue and correcting what it described as a historical injustice. It reiterated its willingness to fund the entire construction of the proposed mosque in Mewat.

The initiative comes after a recent Lok Adalat proceedings from the Supreme Court, failed to make progress as no representative of the Muslim side attended the hearing. The proposal has now shifted the focus to possible negotiations, with the response of the Shaha Eidgah Committee and the Samajwadi Party awaited.



An uprooted tree lies across a road in Dadar, Mumbai, following heavy rainfall and strong winds on Monday. The sudden weather disruption caused traffic obstruction in the area, with civic workers later being deployed to clear the debris and restore normal vehicular movement. The incident highlights the impact of intense monsoon conditions on urban infrastructure in the city.

Red Alert Halts Maharashtra Assembly

Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly was adjourned for the day on Monday as torrential rain and strong winds disrupted normal life across Mumbai and adjoining districts following a 'Red Alert' issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The House was adjourned after heated exchanges between the treasury and opposition benches over rain-related deaths in the state.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis described the weather situation as unprecedented, noting that wind speeds were expected to reach 70-90 kmph.

He said safeguarding human lives was the government's top priority and assured the House that a detailed statement on the situation would be made on Tuesday.

The Chief Minister appealed to citizens to



remain indoors, work from home wherever possible and avoid unnecessary travel until weather conditions improve.

Referring to the Mankhurd chawl collapse that claimed six lives, including five children, Fadnavis said the structure was an illegal building and that rescue operations were being closely monitored by senior ministers and officials.

PM Modi Gets Fighter Jet Escort in Jakarta

Vikrama Vahini | Jakarta

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was accorded a ceremonial welcome and escorted by Indonesian Air Force fighter jets as he arrived in Jakarta on Monday, marking the first leg of his three-nation tour.

As PM Modi's aircraft entered Indonesian airspace, it was escorted by fighter jets in a special gesture of honour. This is PM Modi's first visit to Indonesia since the two countries upgraded their relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2018. The Indonesian President had earlier visited India during Republic Day celebrations in January this year.

During his stay, cultural performances



including Ramayana-themed presentations and traditional Bharatanatyam were showcased. PM Modi also witnessed Indonesia's traditional Wayang Kulit shadow puppetry, describing it as a reflection of

shared civilisational heritage. PM Modi will continue his three-nation tour with visits to Australia and New Zealand aimed at strengthening India's strategic and cultural partnerships.

ENTERTAINMENT

Nagarjuna, Tabu Reunite for 'King 100'

Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai

Veteran actors Nagarjuna and Tabu are set to reunite on screen after 28 years for the Telugu superstar's milestone 100th film, 'King 100', an action entertainer directed by R.A. Karthik.

The film, produced by Annapurna Studios, has completed its first shooting schedule and has already generated considerable excitement among fans, marking the return of one of Indian cinema's popular on-screen pairs.

In a major highlight, Tabu will portray the film's principal antagonist, one of the rare occasions in her distinguished career where she will be seen in a full-fledged negative role.

Nagarjuna and Tabu first shared screen space in the critically acclaimed 1996 Telugu romantic drama 'Ninne Pelladata', which emerged as a major box-office success and won several awards. Their last collaboration was the 1998 Telugu comedy 'Aavida Maa Aavide', directed by E.V.V. Satyanarayana.

Tabu has earned acclaim for portraying complex characters in films such as 'Maqbool', 'Haider', 'Fitoor' and 'Andhadhun', while also

expanding her international presence with a role in HBO's 'Dune: Prophecy'. She was last seen in the horror-comedy 'Bhooth Bangla' alongside Akshay Kumar.

Nagarjuna, one of Telugu cinema's leading stars, made his Hindi film debut with Ram Gopal Varma's 'Shiva' and has featured in several notable Hindi films, including 'Khuda Gawah', 'Criminal', 'Zakhm', 'LOC Kargil' and 'Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva'. He was last seen in the Telugu crime drama 'Kuberana', co-starring Dhanush and Rashmika Mandanna.

With Nagarjuna leading the cast and Tabu taking on an unusual villainous role, 'King 100' is expected to be one of the most anticipated Telugu releases.

The upcoming film "King 100" is expected to be a milestone project in Nagarjuna's career as it marks his 100th film, bringing together a strong mix of action, drama and nostalgia for fans of the veteran actor.

Industry sources suggest that the film aims to present Nagarjuna in a powerful new avatar while retaining his signature screen charisma.

Mohanlal Declares 10 Elephant Tusks, 13 Ivory Idols

Vikrama Vahini | Kochi

Malayalam actor Mohanlal has officially declared possession of 10 elephant tusks and 13 ivory artefacts, including idols of Lord Krishna, Lord Rama and Lord Tirupati Balaji, to the Kerala Forest Department under the state's amnesty scheme for voluntary disclosure of wildlife items.

Declaration follows long legal proceedings

The declaration comes after the Kerala High Court in 2025 invalidated ownership certificates previously issued to the actor for ivory items in his possession.

The case dates back to a 2011 Income Tax Department raid at his Kochi residence, during which ivory tusks and artefacts were reportedly discovered and later seized under provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Origin and earlier claims

According to records, Mohanlal had earlier stated that the tusks came from naturally deceased captive elephants and were retained as family heirlooms or gifts. He had also claimed he was unaware that possession without valid certification was illegal.

In 2015, the state government allowed him to declare the items, and ownership certificates were issued in 2016, after which the matter remained relatively dormant for several years.

Court proceedings and ruling

The case initially reached a lower court in 2011 and later moved to the Kerala High

Court, where Mohanlal had secured interim relief. However, in 2025, the High Court ruled that the ownership certificates were not legally valid and directed the state government to issue fresh notifications.

The court, however, did not order criminal proceedings against the actor.

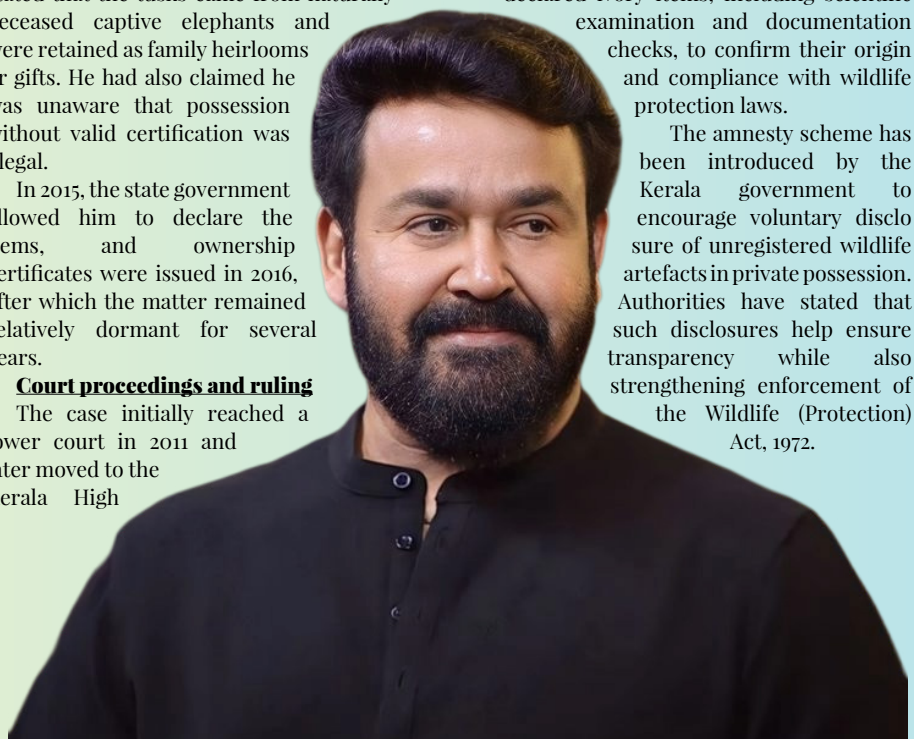
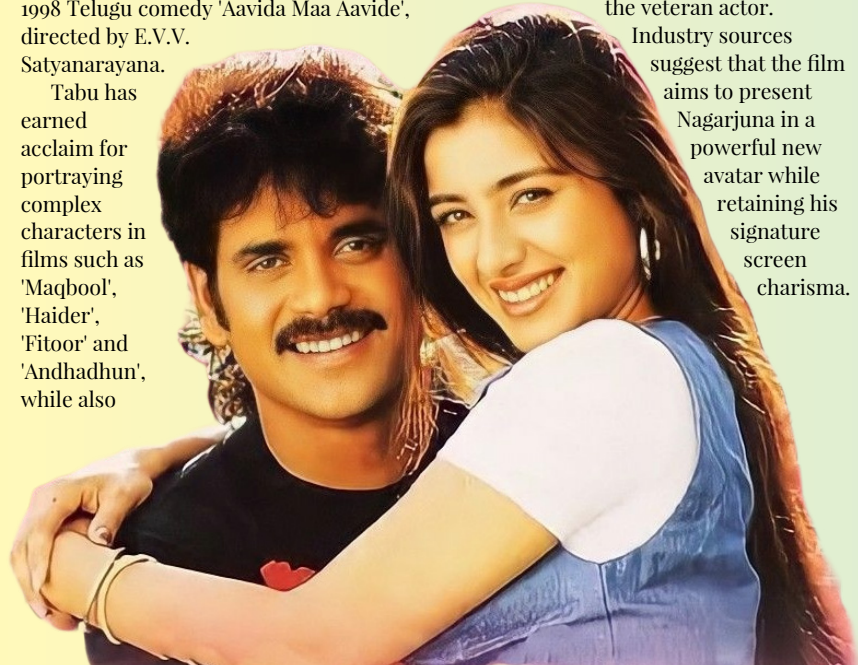
Voluntary disclosure under amnesty scheme

Following the ruling, Mohanlal has now declared a total of 10 elephant tusks—six more than previously acknowledged—and 13 ivory carvings under the Forest Department's amnesty scheme, which allows individuals to voluntarily disclose unregistered wildlife items to avoid legal action.

Officials are expected to verify the declared items, including their origin and authenticity, as part of the ongoing review process.

Officials said the Forest Department will now conduct a detailed verification of the declared ivory items, including scientific examination and documentation checks, to confirm their origin and compliance with wildlife protection laws.

The amnesty scheme has been introduced by the Kerala government to encourage voluntary disclosure of unregistered wildlife artefacts in private possession. Authorities have stated that such disclosures help ensure transparency while also strengthening enforcement of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.



BUSINESS

CRUDE SLUMP SPARKS GLOBAL SUPPLY GLUT FEARS



Vikrama Vahini | Kolkata

Global crude oil prices continued to decline on Monday as concerns over supply shortages gave way to expectations of a surplus following the easing of tensions in West Asia and the resumption of normal shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

Brent crude fell 0.4 per cent to \$71.86 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) slipped 0.25 per cent to \$68.52 per barrel, dropping below levels seen before the recent regional conflict.

The sharp turnaround comes less than three weeks after the United States and Iran signed an agreement to work towards a peace plan, easing fears of prolonged disruption to global energy supplies. The reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for nearly one-fifth of the world's seaborne crude oil trade, has restored normal shipping operations. At the same time, OPEC+ producers, including Saudi Arabia and Russia, are expected to increase oil production from August, further boosting global supply.

Analysts say the combination of higher output and improved exports from major producers has raised concerns of an oversupplied market after fears of a severe supply crunch during the conflict.

The decline in crude oil prices is expected to ease inflationary pressures across many economies by reducing fuel and transportation costs. However, experts caution that the trend will depend on the continuation of the ceasefire and lasting stability in the West Asia region.

Market analysts said sustained lower crude prices could benefit major oil-importing countries such as India by reducing import bills and easing pressure on domestic fuel prices.

However, they cautioned that any fresh geopolitical tensions or supply disruptions in the region could quickly reverse the current downward trend in global oil prices.

SPORTS

India Set for One Change in Playing XI



> Vikrama Vahini | Nottingham

India are likely to make one change to their playing XI for the third T20I against England, scheduled to be played at Trent Bridge on July 7, after losing the second match of the five-match series.

India suffered a setback in the previous game as leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi conceded 60 runs in his four-over spell, including a costly final over that shifted the momentum in England's favour.

With the series now level in intensity, team management is reportedly considering replacing him with an additional fast bowler.

Young pacer Prince Yadav and Prasadh Krishna are among the frontrunners to be included in the playing XI as India look to strengthen their pace attack and bounce back in the series.

India are expected to continue with their opening combination of Vaibhav Suryavanshi and Abhishek Sharma, followed by Ishan Kishan at No. 3.

The middle order is likely to feature Shreyas Iyer (captain), Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube and Axar Patel, while the pace attack may include Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh and the possible inclusion of Prince Yadav alongside Varun Chakravarty as the lead spinner.

Bengaluru Teen Wins Lone Chess Medal for India

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Thirteen-year-old Pratitee Bordoloi from Bengaluru has brought pride to India by winning the country's only medal at the prestigious FIDE World Youth Chess Championship held in Italy.

She secured a silver medal in the Under-18 girls' category, delivering a remarkable performance against some of the world's top young players. With this achievement, she has also earned the title of Woman FIDE Master (WFM).



The championship was held in Montesilvano, Italy, where Pratitee displayed exceptional skill and consistency throughout the tournament. Her medal stood out as India's sole podium finish in the competition this year, highlighting her as one of the country's brightest emerging chess talents. Apart from chess, Pratitee has also represented India in international mathematics Olympiads, showcasing her rare combination of sporting and academic excellence.

MEIL SETS NUCLEAR CONSTRUCTION RECORD AT KAIGA

> Vikrama Vahini | Kaiga

In a significant milestone for India's nuclear power programme, Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Ltd. (MEIL) has successfully completed one of the largest continuous monolithic concrete pours ever undertaken by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) at the Kaiga Units 5 and 6 Nuclear Power Project in Kaiga, Karwar.

The company executed the uninterrupted placement of approximately 7,250 cubic metres of concrete with a reinforcement steel density of 360 kg per cubic metre, marking MEIL's first major assignment in the country's nuclear infrastructure sector.

The large-scale operation required extensive planning and precision. MEIL established a temperature-controlled concrete production facility with a capacity of 360 cubic metres per hour and deployed high-capacity concrete pumps capable of placing 340 cubic metres per hour.

To maintain the concrete temperature at the required 19°C and minimise thermal stress, the company installed a 510-tonne-per-day ice production plant along with 400 metric tonnes of ice storage.

The project also featured a combined



storage capacity of 2,600 metric tonnes for cement and fly ash, ensuring uninterrupted material availability throughout the operation.

The Kaiga project posed several challenges due to its remote location, restricted site access and heavy monsoon conditions in the Western Ghats.

To ensure uninterrupted work despite adverse weather, MEIL erected a 75-metre-diameter rain protection canopy, enabling continuous concreting while maintaining safety standards and structural quality required for the Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR).

The operation involved hundreds of engineers, quality control specialists, safety

personnel, surveyors and skilled technicians working in multiple shifts. Stringent quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) measures were implemented at every stage, from batching and transportation to compaction and curing.

MEIL said the successful completion of the record-scale concrete pour demonstrates its capability to execute highly complex infrastructure projects meeting the stringent standards of the nuclear sector.

The achievement is expected to strengthen the company's role in India's expanding nuclear energy programme and future strategic infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing the country's clean energy capacity.

Nirav Modi Extradition Cleared by UK Court

> Vikrama Vahini | London

Fugitive diamond businessman Nirav Modi moved a step closer to extradition to India after exhausting all available legal remedies, with the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) refusing to grant him relief against his extradition.

The development follows the UK High Court's earlier refusal to allow Modi to challenge the extradition order, holding that assurances provided by the Indian government regarding prison conditions and treatment were adequate.

With no further legal avenues available, only administrative formalities remain before Modi can be extradited to India.

Modi, who has been lodged in London's Wandsworth Prison since March 2019, is wanted by the Central Bureau of Investigation



After exhausting all legal remedies in the UK and Europe, fugitive businessman Nirav Modi is set to be extradited to India, where he faces charges in the ₹13,000-crore Punjab National Bank fraud and money laundering case.

(CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the alleged ₹13,000-crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud and money laundering case.

Earlier this year, the High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division in London, had also rejected his plea to reopen the extradition proceedings.

Navy Set to Induct Sixth Stealth Frigate

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Indian Navy is set to commission INS Mahendragiri, the sixth Project 17A stealth frigate, on July 11, marking another milestone in India's indigenous warship-building programme and the country's push for self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau, Mahendragiri was delivered to the Navy on April 30 this year. The warship has nearly 75 per cent indigenous content and is equipped with advanced radar systems, surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles, anti-submarine weapons, electronic warfare systems and a modern combat management system.

The Project 17A frigates are designed to undertake a wide



range of missions, including air defence, anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare, maritime security, surveillance, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and search-and-rescue operations.

The Indian Navy has significantly accelerated indigenous shipbuilding in recent years. More than 40 indigenous warships and submarines have been inducted since 2014, while over 50 vessels, valued at around ₹90,000 crore, are currently under construction. The Navy is expected to commission 19 warships during 2026 as part of its ongoing modernisation programme.

Indian Startup Eyes Space Debris Breakthrough

> Vikrama Vahini | Hyderabad

Hyderabad-based space technology startup Cosmoserve Space has announced Mission Embrace, the world's first in-orbit demonstration of a soft robotic capture system designed for Active Debris Removal (ADR), marking a significant milestone for India's private space sector.

The technology will be launched aboard Skyroot

Hyderabad-based Cosmoserve Space announces Mission Embrace, a pioneering soft robotic system for in-orbit debris removal, set to launch aboard Skyroot's Vikram-1, marking a major milestone in India's private space sector.

Aerospace's Vikram-1 rocket during Mission Aagaman, India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle capable of carrying satellite payloads.

The launch is scheduled within

a window between July 12 and August 4.

Founder and CEO Dr. Chiranjeevi Phanindra said the mission represents a major breakthrough for India's private

space ecosystem and showcases the potential of collaboration between emerging space startups and launch providers.

The company plans to develop a cost-effective dual-spacecraft system that can capture and remove defunct satellites, helping address the growing challenge of orbital congestion as satellite launches continue to increase worldwide.

China Missile Test Rattles Indo-Pacific

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-nation visit to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand has gained added strategic importance following China's recent ballistic missile test from a nuclear-powered submarine in the South Pacific.

The missile launch, carried out by the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy, has drawn criticism from Australia and New Zealand, which described it as a development that could undermine regional peace and stability.

China said the launch was part of a routine military exercise using a dummy warhead. However, the test reportedly took place within the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone established under the Treaty of Rarotonga, prompting concerns among regional nations.

The development comes at a time when the Indo-Pacific is witnessing increasing geopolitical competition over maritime security, trade routes and strategic influence. During his visit, Prime Minister Modi is expected to strengthen India's strategic and economic partnerships with Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand under the Act East policy. The visit is also aimed at reinforcing India's commitment to a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

Australia and New Zealand have expressed concern over China's growing military activities, with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong calling for



greater transparency, while New Zealand described the missile launch as inconsistent with regional stability.

The latest development has once again highlighted the growing strategic importance of the Indo-Pacific region and the need for closer cooperation among like-minded nations to ensure maritime security and freedom of navigation.

Bilawal Bhutto Warns India Over Indus Water Treaty

> Vikrama Vahini | Islamabad

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday issued a strong warning to India over the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, claiming that Pakistan is prepared to respond "at all levels, including war" if its water rights are affected.

Bhutto alleged that India cannot unilaterally suspend or alter the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty and accused New Delhi of using water as a "weapon." His remarks come after India reiterated that the treaty remains in abeyance until Pakistan ends support for cross-border terrorism.

India had suspended the treaty following the 2025 Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 people were killed, and has maintained that normal relations and water-sharing agreements cannot continue alongside terrorism. The Indian government has also recently reaffirmed that there is no change in its position.

Bhutto said Pakistan would defend its share of river waters "by all means necessary" and would not compromise on its rights, adding that the country is ready to confront India diplomatically and militarily if required.

The statement has drawn attention amid already strained ties between the two countries, with experts noting Pakistan's ongoing economic and political challenges and suggesting that such remarks are aimed at domestic political messaging.

RAM MANDIR TRUST ACCEPTS KEY RESIGNATIONS

> Vikrama Vahini | Ayodhya

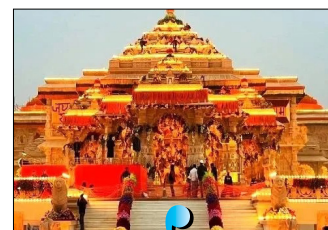
The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust on Monday accepted the resignations of its General Secretary Champat Rai and trustee Anil Mishra amid the ongoing investigation into the alleged embezzlement of donations collected at the Ram Mandir.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Trust in Ayodhya attended by seven of its nine permanent members, including Trust Chairman Nriya Gopal Das. Rai and Mishra were absent from the meeting.

According to Trust members, Champat Rai, as the then General Secretary, was expected to take moral responsibility for the alleged irregularities. The members also observed that certain decisions taken by trustee Anil Mishra had been inappropriate, prompting both leaders to step down.

Addressing the media after the meeting, Nriya Gopal Das said he was deeply saddened by the allegations of theft and stressed that those found guilty should face the strictest punishment. He also appealed against politicising an issue linked to the faith of millions of devotees.

Security was tightened across



Ram Janmabhoomi Trust accepts resignations of key members amid donation embezzlement probe: SIT investigation underway in Ayodhya case.

Ayodhya ahead of the meeting, with additional police personnel deployed around the Ram Mandir complex. Entry of private vehicles, including those of media personnel, was restricted, and access roads to the temple remained under heavy security.

Meanwhile, Trust Treasurer Govind Dev Giri clarified that he had no role in the daily collection or counting of temple donations, stating that the process was handled by local trustees and that the Trust's audit records remained intact.

The alleged donation embezzlement case is being investigated by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the Uttar Pradesh Government on June 13.

KTK Cong Chief Alleges BJP Voter Roll "Purge" via SIR

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

KPCC President B.K. Hariprasad on Monday accused the BJP-led NDA of misusing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to "disenfranchise genuine voters" in Karnataka, alleging a politically motivated attempt to manipulate voter lists.

He claimed that the exercise was being used as a "tool for voter purge" and alleged that nearly 50 lakh voters could be at risk of exclusion, while defending Congress-run voter assistance centres as necessary support for poor and illiterate citizens. Hariprasad further alleged that the BJP was unable to defeat the Congress democratically and was instead trying to influence electoral outcomes through administrative processes. He also accused BJP leaders of failing to protect Karnataka's interests and raised questions over central approvals for key state projects.



Responding to NDA leaders who recently met the Election Commission over alleged irregularities, he said any procedural issues should be examined by the EC, while insisting that no eligible voter should be removed from the rolls.

The Congress maintained that it supports the removal of duplicate and deceased voters but opposed any action that could deny legitimate citizens their voting rights.

Netanyahu Calls India a Strong Ally of Israel

> Vikrama Vahini | Washington

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected US Vice President JD Vance's claim that Israel's only major ally is the United States, asserting that countries like India are also strong and important partners of Israel.

Netanyahu said India, with its 1.4 billion people, provides significant support to Israel and called the relationship between the two nations "deep and expanding." He added that Israel continues to receive strong backing from several countries, even if such support is not always publicly expressed due to political reasons.

Responding to JD Vance's recent remarks criticizing Israel's diplomatic stance, Netanyahu said he respects the US Vice President but does not agree with his assessment. Vance had suggested that Israel should avoid straining ties with its primary ally, the United States, while addressing concerns over regional conflicts and security strategy.



Lion Holds Farmer for 30 Minutes, He Survives

> Vikrama Vahini | Gujarat

A farmer had a narrow escape after being attacked and held by a lion for nearly 30 minutes in Garajiya village of Bhavnagar district, officials said. The victim, identified as Kalu Bhai Boghai Parmar, sustained injuries but survived the attack.

According to reports, the incident occurred when the farmer had gone near his home to feed cattle.

A lion suddenly attacked him and clamped onto his legs, leaving him struggling for freedom. A viral video shows villagers shouting and attempting to scare the animal away by throwing stones.

Locals said the lion held the farmer for nearly half an hour before releasing him and moving towards nearby cattle. The injured farmer was immediately rescued and rushed to a hospital for treatment.

Residents have alleged delay in response from forest officials after the incident was reported. Authorities have launched an investigation into the attack and the circumstances surrounding it.