



VIKRAMA VAHINI

WORLD POPULATION DAY

11 July, 2026 | Saturday | Krishna Paksha | Dwadashi | Vikrama Samvata | Bengaluru | Volume: 09 | Issue: 110



Nayanthara is reportedly set to receive ₹12 crore for her pivotal role in Yash's upcoming pan-India film Toxic, making it one of the biggest pay cheques of her career.

US President Donald Trump has announced that the United States has agreed to hold talks with Iran following a request from Tehran, even as he declared that the ceasefire between the two countries has come to an end.

INSIDE

Good morning

A meaningful life is not being rich, being popular, being highly educated, or being perfect. It's about being real, being humble, being able to share ourselves and touch the lives of others.

BRIEFS

Kambala Makes Dasara Debut in Mysuru

Vikrama vahini | B'luru Karnataka's traditional coastal buffalo race, Kambala, will be held in Mysuru for the first time as part of the Dasara celebrations in 2026, marking a major addition to the state's flagship cultural festival.

The proposal to organise a two-day Kambala event on October 18 and 19 was discussed during a high-level Dasara review meeting chaired by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at Vidhana Soudha on Friday. The meeting also considered a separate budget allocation for the event. **PG2**

RSS Unveils Centenary Growth Roadmap

Vikrama Vahini | Belagavi The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has begun the next phase of its centenary-year programmes with its annual All India Prant Pracharak meeting in Belagavi, focusing on organisational expansion and future strategies.

The high-level meeting is being attended by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale, senior office-bearers, department heads, executive committee members, and representatives from all 46 provinces. According to the RSS, the three-day meeting will review efforts to strengthen the organisation's grassroots network, including expansion of shakhas, implementation of local-level action plans and outcomes of training programmes conducted across the country. **PG2**

Rajnath Hails Navy's Maritime Vigil

Vikrama Vahini | Visakhapatnam Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday praised the Indian Navy for its vital role in safeguarding the country's maritime interests and maintaining peace and stability in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Addressing naval personnel ahead of the commissioning of INS Mahendragiri, the sixth indigenous stealth frigate under Project 17A, Singh highlighted the Navy's role in protecting maritime borders, securing vital sea lanes and ensuring national interests amid evolving global security challenges.

Singh noted that over 90% of India's trade by volume is carried through sea routes, making maritime security crucial for economic growth, energy security, the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and island territories. **PG2**

NDA Closes In on Rajya Sabha Milestone

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is inching closer to achieving a two-thirds majority in the Rajya Sabha following political developments within opposition parties, including defections from the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Recent resignations and the likely election of former TMC leaders on BJP tickets from West Bengal are expected to further increase the ruling alliance's strength in the Upper House.

TMC Leaders Shift to BJP Fold

Former TMC Rajya Sabha MPs Sukhendu Shekhar Roy, Sushmita Dev and Prakash Chik Baraik resigned from the party and the Rajya



Sabha before joining the BJP.

The BJP has nominated the three leaders for the upcoming Rajya Sabha by-elections in West Bengal, scheduled for July 24.

Their victory is considered certain, which will increase the BJP's numbers in the Upper House.

BJP Strength Set to Rise

The BJP currently has 114 members in the 245-member Rajya Sabha. With the addition of three members from West Bengal, its strength is expected to rise to 117.

The NDA, including its alliance partners, currently has 26 members.

With the support of three independent members backed by the BJP, the alliance's strength could reach around 146.

NDA Short of 13 Members for Two-Third Majority

Including seven nominated members who are generally considered supportive of the ruling side, the NDA's effective strength could rise to 153.

A two-thirds majority in the Rajya Sabha

requires 164 members, leaving the alliance short by around 13 members.

AAP Split Boosts BJP Numbers

The recent political shift in the Aam Aadmi Party has also contributed to the NDA's growing strength.

Seven AAP Rajya Sabha MPs, including Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak, Harbhajan Singh and Swati Maliwal, are reported to have resigned from the party and joined the BJP.

More Crossovers Possible

Political circles are also speculating that some remaining TMC Rajya Sabha members may switch sides. If further defections take place, the BJP could move significantly closer to achieving the two-thirds mark in the Upper House.

435 Km Footpaths Cleared

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the Bengaluru footpath encroachment drive will continue across all five city corporations, with 435 km of footpaths already cleared. The government plans to create designated vending zones while taking action against illegal encroachments to improve pedestrian safety.

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday said the footpath encroachment clearance drive will continue across all five city corporations, stating that 435 km of footpaths have already been cleared to improve pedestrian safety and ease traffic movement.

Reviewing the ongoing operation with Bengaluru Urban Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, the Chief Minister said authorities had removed encroachments, including shop extensions, push-carts, tin sheets, ramps, pillars, signboards and temporary sheds. He added that repair works on cleared footpaths are also being taken up simultaneously.

Alternative Spaces for Vendors

Shivakumar said the government was committed to protecting the livelihood of street vendors and would identify designated vending zones for them. He said the process of issuing identity cards to vendors



would resume after legal hurdles are resolved.

He clarified that vending would not be allowed on busy roads, footpaths or in front of private properties, but suitable alternative locations would be identified where vendors could conduct business without causing inconvenience to the public.

Action Against Encroachment Mafia

The Chief Minister alleged that an

organised mafia was exploiting street vendors by collecting illegal money and said the police and Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials had been given a free hand to act against such activities.

He said the encroachment removal drive was aimed at ensuring safer roads and footpaths, noting that more than 900 pedestrians had lost their lives in the city over the

past three years.

Jayanagar Market Decision Soon

Shivakumar also announced that a decision on the pending Jayanagar Market project would be taken shortly. He said the remaining construction work would be completed under an appropriate scheme while ensuring the protection of public assets and improving civic infrastructure.

HDK SLAMS CM OVER NORTH KARNATAKA TOUR

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Union Minister and JD(S) state president H.D. Kumaraswamy on Friday launched a sharp attack on the Karnataka government, describing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's recent two-day tour of North Karnataka as a "jolly trip" that failed to address the problems of drought-hit farmers, agricultural labourers and migrant families.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy alleged that the Chief Minister's visits to Kalaburagi, Bidar and Belagavi did not provide any relief or assurance to people facing severe drought and livelihood losses.

He accused the government of ignoring farmer distress while focusing on political programmes.

Questions River-Linking Proposal

Kumaraswamy also criticised the Chief Minister's remarks on the proposed



Krishna-Godavari-Cauvery river-linking project, alleging that Karnataka had agreed to the proposal without first securing a clear allocation of water for the state.

He clarified that he was not opposed to river-linking projects but said Karnataka's interests should be protected before extending consent. He urged the government to consult irrigation experts and legal authorities before making public statements on inter-state water issues.

Raises Concern Over Farmer Distress

The JD(S) leader claimed that large

parts of Kalyana Karnataka and North Karnataka were witnessing drought, crop losses and migration of rural families in search of employment. He questioned whether the Chief Minister had announced any concrete relief measures during the tour.

Kumaraswamy also sought details on the government's announcement of ₹1 crore for drinking water works in every Assembly constituency, asking how the funds would be mobilised and implemented. **PG2**

Cabinet Delay Fuels Congress Discontent

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The delay in the expansion of the Karnataka Cabinet has reportedly led to growing dissatisfaction within the ruling Congress, with several aspirants expressing frustration over the prolonged wait for ministerial berths.

Following D.K. Shivakumar's swearing-in as Chief Minister on June 3, only 13 ministers have been inducted into the Cabinet, leaving several key portfolios, including School Education, Higher Education, Agriculture, Cooperation, Horticulture, Social Welfare, Backward Classes Welfare and Forest, under the Chief Minister's charge.

The absence of ministers for these departments has raised concerns over administrative delays, particularly with the academic year underway. **PG2**



Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said, We are in consultation with the party's central leadership regarding the Cabinet expansion. The process will be completed at the appropriate time after discussions with senior leaders. Our priority is to ensure efficient governance and provide leadership to all important departments.

South Bengaluru Gets Second Airport Nod

Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday indicated that Bengaluru's proposed second international airport will be developed in the southern part of the city, putting to rest speculation over its location. The government said the project would prioritise minimal displacement of residents and low-cost land acquisition while ensuring technical feasibility.

Chairing a high-level meeting with Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil and senior officials, Shivakumar reviewed the progress of the long-awaited greenfield airport project, which is aimed at easing congestion at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), India's third-busiest airport. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Shivakumar said officials had been instructed to identify a site that would avoid the displacement of villages and minimise the social impact of the project. **PG2**

SC to Hear Ayodhya Donation Probe Pleas

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Supreme Court will hear a batch of petitions on July 13 seeking a court-monitored investigation into alleged misuse of donation funds linked to the Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, which manages the Ayodhya Ram Temple.

A Bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant, along with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, will take up the petitions after the court reopens on Monday.

The pleas have sought an independent and time-bound inquiry into alleged financial irregularities, including a CBI probe, forensic audit, and examination of the Trust's financial records.

The petitions have been filed by various individuals, including Narendra Kumar Goswami, advocates Ajay Kumar Rai and Dinesh Kumar Yadav, and RJD MP Sudhakar Singh.

The Uttar Pradesh government has already formed a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to examine allegations of donation fund misuse. Meanwhile, a criminal investigation is underway, with several accused facing legal proceedings in connection with the case.

The petitioners have urged the Supreme Court to direct the Centre, the Uttar Pradesh government and the Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust to strengthen monitoring, transparency and audit mechanisms to safeguard public donations and maintain the confidence of devotees.

The petitioners maintain that a fair and time-bound inquiry would help establish the facts and restore public trust, while the investigation already initiated by the SIT continues alongside the ongoing criminal proceedings. **PG2**

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Amarnath Ice Lingam Melts in Five Days

> Vikrama Vahini | Srinagar
Pilgrims visiting the holy Amarnath cave shrine in Jammu and Kashmir have expressed disappointment after the naturally formed ice lingam, regarded as a sacred symbol of Lord Shiva, melted almost completely within just five days of the annual pilgrimage.

The Amarnath Yatra, which attracts lakhs of devotees every year, is known for the naturally formed ice stalagmite that develops inside the cave during the summer months. Traditionally, the ice lingam remains visible for a significant part of the pilgrimage season. However, this year, many devotees who reached the shrine found only a partially melted formation.

Experts believe the unusually rapid melting may be linked to rising temperatures, changing weather patterns and the broader impact of climate change. Meteorologists have noted that the Kashmir Valley has been experiencing temperatures higher than the seasonal average in recent weeks, accelerating the melting of ice formations in the region.

According to experts, the combination of warmer weather, changing rainfall patterns and increased temperatures inside the cave may have contributed to the faster melting of the ice lingam. The development has also renewed discussions on the impact of climate change on fragile Himalayan ecosystems and religious pilgrimage sites.

The Amarnath ice lingam is formed naturally when water droplets from the cave roof freeze in extremely low temperatures, gradually creating a vertical ice structure. As per traditional belief, the size of the ice lingam waxes and wanes in harmony with the lunar cycle, making it a revered symbol for devotees of Lord Shiva.

Despite the melting of the ice formation, the annual Amarnath Yatra is continuing as scheduled. Thousands of pilgrims are continuing to visit the shrine every day to offer prayers and seek blessings. Devotees said that while the absence of the full-sized ice lingam was disappointing, their faith and spiritual significance of the pilgrimage remain unchanged.

Authorities have maintained all security, medical and logistical arrangements for the smooth conduct of the yatra. Officials said adequate facilities, including accommodation, healthcare services and crowd management measures, have been put in place to ensure the safety and convenience of pilgrims throughout the pilgrimage season.

BJP-JD(S) LEADERS MEET IN BENGALURU

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru
BJP Karnataka president and MLA B.Y. Vijayendra on Friday met Union Minister, former Chief Minister and JD(S) state president H.D. Kumaraswamy in Bengaluru to discuss the prevailing political developments in the state.

The leaders held detailed discussions on formulating the next course of agitation against the Congress government, which they alleged is anti-farmer, anti-people and corrupt.

They also deliberated on strengthening the BJP-JD(S) alliance and coordinating



efforts to effectively face the challenges of the upcoming elections.

JD(S) MLC S.L. Bhojgowda was also present during the meeting.

Karnataka Seeks Poll Deadline Extension

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

The Karnataka government has moved the Supreme Court seeking an extension until December 31, 2026, to conduct elections to the five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), citing administrative constraints due to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The plea comes despite the apex court's earlier direction granting what it had termed a final extension until August 31, 2026, while expressing displeasure over



repeated delays in holding the long-pending civic elections.

According to the state government, nearly 56,000 officials, including Booth Level Officers (BLOs), are currently engaged in the house-to-house SIR exercise involving more than 1.03 crore registered voters in Bengaluru,

making it difficult to complete the election process within the court's deadline.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the government remains committed to complying with the Supreme Court's directions but acknowledged that the ongoing electoral roll revision has created practical challenges.

"The court has directed us to complete the process. There are practical difficulties due to the ongoing SIR exercise. I have left the matter to the officials. As a political

> From PG1

He said increasing geopolitical competition and the presence of extra-regional powers have made maritime vigilance more important than ever.

Calling India the largest and most responsible stakeholder in the Indian Ocean Region, he said, "The region is our courtyard, and securing the courtyard is our responsibility."

Describing INS Mahendragiri as a symbol of India's growing indigenous defence capability, the Defence Minister said the warship reflects the country's progress towards self-reliance in defence manufacturing under the 'Aatmanirbhar

Bharat' initiative.

Singh said the nature of warfare is changing rapidly, with future conflicts likely to involve new technologies and unconventional methods, including undeclared wars. He assured the armed forces that the government would continue providing them with world-class weapons, technology and resources while emphasising that victory ultimately depends on the courage and capability of the personnel operating them.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan and other senior naval officers were present during the event.

RSS Unveils Centenary Growth Roadmap

> From PG1

The meeting is expected to discuss ways to increase public outreach, strengthen organisational presence and review decisions taken during earlier organisational programmes.

The annual All India Prant Pracharak meeting serves as a key platform for RSS functionaries from across the country to share regional feedback and set priorities for future activities. The RSS said its centenary celebrations, which began in 2025, will continue through 2026 with a focus on organisational growth.

SC to Hear Ayodhya Donation Probe Pleas

> From PG1
Petitioners Seek CBI Probe and Audit

One petition filed by Narendra Kumar Goswami has requested a CBI investigation into the alleged misuse of donation funds and an audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

Another plea filed by advocates Ajay Kumar Rai and Dinesh Kumar Yadav has sought the formation of a CBI-led Special Investigation Team to investigate alleged financial irregularities and other issues related to the functioning of the Trust.

RJD MP Sudhakar Singh has also filed a petition seeking a Supreme Court-monitored CBI probe along with a forensic audit of the Trust's complete financial records.

Calls for Greater Transparency

The petitions have urged the Centre, Uttar Pradesh government and the temple trust to establish stronger monitoring and audit mechanisms to ensure transparency and protect the interests of devotees and

donors.

The petitioners argued that an independent investigation by a specialised agency would help restore public confidence and address concerns over the allegations.

SIT Probe Already Underway

The Uttar Pradesh government had formed a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) on June 13 after the temple trust sought an inquiry into allegations of donation fund misuse.

The SIT includes Lucknow Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant, Inspector General of Police Kiran S and Special Secretary (Finance) Neel Ratan.

Meanwhile, a criminal investigation into the alleged donation theft case is also underway, with eight accused currently facing legal proceedings.

The Supreme Court will examine the pleas seeking an independent probe and decide on the further course of action after hearing all parties involved.

South Bengaluru Gets Second Airport Nod

> From PG1

He said the government had asked officials to choose a technically suitable location with lower land prices and favourable terrain. While a few isolated houses, if affected, could be compensated, the government did not want entire villages to be relocated for the project.

South Bengaluru Confirmed

Although the exact site has not yet been finalised, Shivakumar confirmed that the airport would come up in South Bengaluru, in line with earlier proposals.

He said the government's objective was to reduce the financial burden of land acquisition by selecting a location

where land values are comparatively lower, while ensuring the site meets all technical and operational requirements.

Three Sites Under Evaluation

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already inspected three shortlisted locations identified by the state government.

Two of the proposed sites are near Harohalli on Kanakapura Road in South Bengaluru, while the third is near Nelamangala on Kunigal Road in the western part of the city.

The final site will be selected after evaluating technical feasibility, connectivity, environmental considerations and land acquisition

requirements.

Proposal to be Sent to Centre

The state government had announced in the 2026-27 Budget that a feasibility report for the second airport would be prepared after obtaining technical advice from the AAI.

Once the preferred location is finalised, the proposal will be submitted to the Central Government for statutory approvals.

The second international airport is expected to play a key role in meeting Bengaluru's growing passenger and cargo traffic demands while supporting the city's long-term economic and infrastructure growth.

HDK SLAMS CM OVER NORTH KARNATAKA TOUR

> From PG1

Criticises Government Priorities
Alleging that the Congress government was giving priority to political activities over governance, Kumaraswamy said the administration should focus on addressing drought, irrigation and employment concerns instead of blaming the Centre for every issue.

He urged the state government to safeguard Karnataka's water interests and take immediate steps to support farmers and drought-affected families.

Kambala Makes Dasara Debut in Mysuru

> From PG1

Traditionally associated with coastal districts such as Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada, Kambala is expected to showcase Karnataka's diverse cultural heritage and attract more visitors to Mysuru Dasara.

The meeting finalised the schedule for Dasara-2026, with preparations set to begin well in advance.

The Gajapayana programme, marking the journey of the Dasara elephants from forest camps, will begin on July 26.

The elephants will receive a ceremonial welcome at the Mysuru

Palace entrance on August 26. The festival will be officially inaugurated on Chamundi Hill on October 11, while the grand Jamboo Savari procession will be held on Vijaydashami on October 21.

During the procession, the Chief Minister will perform the traditional Nandi Dhawaja Puja and offer floral tributes to Goddess Chamundeshwari seated on the golden howdah.

Officials reviewed preparations related to security, traffic management, sanitation, public transport, accommodation and civic facilities to ensure the smooth conduct of the celebrations.

NEWS

PRC MOVE SPARKS SHOBHA'S OBJECTION

> Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje on Friday questioned the Karnataka government's move to introduce a Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC), alleging that it was unconstitutional and politically motivated.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP state headquarters, Jagannath Bhavan, she sought clarity from the state government on the purpose behind issuing the certificates and alleged that the move was aimed at protecting illegal immigrants and facilitating their inclusion in electoral rolls.

Karandlaje argued that India follows the principle of 'One Nation, One Citizenship' under the Constitution and maintained that only the Union government has the authority to deal with



matters relating to citizenship and foreigners. She claimed that the state government's proposed guidelines for issuing PRCs were contrary to constitutional provisions.

Alleging that the move was intended to benefit illegal migrants for electoral gains, she said the BJP would oppose the decision and examine legal options if the government proceeded with the proposal. She also said a letter had been sent to the Union Home Minister seeking

intervention and urging the state government to withdraw the proposed initiative.

The Union Minister further criticised the Congress government over law and order and accused it of functioning with political considerations instead of administrative responsibility.

BJP leaders, including MLC Lingaraju Patil, BJP Mahila Morcha state president Manjula and Bengaluru North district president S. Harish, were present at the press conference.

Cabinet Delay Fuels Congress Discontent

> From PG1

and the agriculture sector facing seasonal challenges.

Political circles had expected the Cabinet expansion to take place on July 10. However, it has reportedly been delayed as Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is currently abroad, and the final list is awaiting consultations with the party's central leadership.

Sources said Chief Minister Shivakumar has already discussed the expansion with AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The exercise is expected to move forward after Rahul Gandhi returns from his foreign visit on July

12 and holds consultations with the state leadership in New Delhi.

The approaching Ashadha month has also added urgency to the process, as many consider it inauspicious for assuming new responsibilities. Party leaders are reportedly keen to complete the Cabinet expansion before the commencement of Ashadha.

Meanwhile, aspirants hoping to secure ministerial positions have expressed disappointment over the repeated postponement, urging the government to complete the expansion at the earliest so that key departments receive dedicated leadership and governance is not affected.

HEALTH & Lifestyle

Monsoon Fruits for Better Immunity

With the onset of the monsoon, the risk of seasonal illnesses such as fever, cold, sore throat, viral infections and stomach ailments increases. Health experts say that along with medication, consuming seasonal fruits rich in vitamins, antioxidants and fibre can help strengthen immunity and support overall health.

Fruits such as jamun, pomegranate, apple, guava, peach and plum are packed with essential nutrients that help improve digestion, reduce inflammation and enhance the body's natural defence against infections. Guava, in particular, is an excellent source of Vitamin C, which helps lower the risk of common colds and throat infections.

Experts also recommend consuming papaya, kiwi, oranges and other seasonal fruits in moderation to promote gut health and improve immune function.

They advise washing fruits thoroughly before consumption, avoiding pre-cut fruits sold on roadsides and serving only fresh fruits to children and the elderly. People with diabetes, allergies or other medical conditions should consult their doctor before making significant dietary changes.

While fruits alone cannot prevent viral infections, nutritionists emphasise that a balanced diet, adequate sleep, proper

Boost Immunity Naturally

- Boost Immunity Naturally:** Seasonal fruits help strengthen immunity during the monsoon.
- Best Fruits:** Jamun, guava, pomegranate, apple, peach, plum, papaya, kiwi and oranges.
- Rich in Nutrients:** High in Vitamin C, antioxidants, fibre and essential minerals.
- Health Benefits:** Supports digestion, reduces inflammation and helps fight seasonal infections.
- Safety Tips:** Wash fruits thoroughly, avoid roadside cut fruits and eat only fresh produce.
- Medical Advice:** People with diabetes, allergies or fever should consult a doctor before changing their diet.
- Balanced Lifestyle:** Fruits complement a healthy diet but do not prevent viral infections on their own.

hydration and good personal hygiene, along with regular consumption of fresh fruits, can help maintain a healthy immune system during the rainy season.



SCIENCE & Technology

AI Bride Scam Busted, 11 Held

> Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Jhansi Police have arrested 11 people for allegedly operating a fake online marriage bureau that used AI-generated photographs of women to cheat middle-aged men seeking matrimonial alliances.

According to police, the accused collected registration fees ranging from ₹5,000 to ₹6,000 by promising suitable marriage matches. Investigators have traced suspicious financial transactions worth nearly ₹41 lakh linked to the alleged fraud.

The racket was reportedly operating from a rented house under the name 'Shadi Sansthan Dotcom.'

During a raid, police recovered mobile phones, laptops, ATM cards, SIM cards, cheque books and other electronic devices, along with jewellery and gadgets worth around ₹9 lakh.

Police said the accused allegedly used AI-generated images and hired women to pose as marriage counsellors to convince victims to register with the fake matrimonial service.

A case has been registered under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Information Technology Act. Four of the accused have been remanded to judicial custody, while the remaining were granted bail as per court orders.

Police have urged the public to verify the authenticity of online matrimonial platforms before making any payments or sharing personal information. Further investigation is underway to identify additional victims and possible links to similar fraud networks operating in other states.

Modi's Historic New Zealand Visit After 40 Years

► Vikrama Vahini | Auckland

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Auckland on Friday on the final leg of his three-nation diplomatic tour, marking the first official visit by an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in nearly 40 years.

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon personally received Modi at the airport, welcoming him with a handshake and warm greeting, underscoring the growing ties between the two countries.

Focus on Bilateral Cooperation

During the two-day visit, Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Luxon are expected to hold wide-ranging discussions on strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, defence, economic partnership and regional security.



The leaders are also expected to review the progress made in bilateral relations over the past two years and explore new opportunities for collaboration across key sectors.

Interaction with Indian Diaspora

Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to meet leading business leaders and sports personalities in New Zealand. He will also address the Indian diaspora, highlighting the strong cultural and people-to-people ties

between the two nations. The visit is expected to further deepen engagement between India and New Zealand and strengthen cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Final Leg of Three-Nation Tour

The New Zealand visit marks the conclusion of Prime Minister Modi's six-day tour covering Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand. In Australia, Modi attended the third India-Australia Annual Leaders' Summit with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, where agreements on civil nuclear cooperation and maritime collaboration were signed. Earlier in Indonesia, he held talks with President Prabowo Subianto, during which the two countries signed 14 agreements covering defence, maritime security and several other sectors.

Wayanad Landslide Toll Climbs to 7

► Vikrama Vahini | Wayanad

The death toll in the Kalladi landslide near Meppadi in Wayanad has risen to seven after rescuers recovered another body on Friday.

According to the district administration, the deceased was identified as Rakesh Guhait, a surveyor from West Bengal. The body was recovered near the Meenakshi Bridge and sent to Vythiri Taluk Hospital for post-mortem examination.

Search operations are continuing for missing Himachal Pradesh-based construction manager Vikram Rana. Teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), fire and rescue services, and police personnel are carrying out searches with the help of heavy machinery. The landslide occurred on July 7 at the Anakkampoyil-Meppadi tunnel project site connecting Wayanad and Kozhikode districts. Preliminary investigations suggest that the disaster was caused by the collapse of soil stored at the construction site following heavy rainfall.

New Curbs on High-Alcohol Medicines

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Centre has amended the Drugs Rules, 1945, bringing medicines containing more than 12 per cent ethyl alcohol under stricter regulation to improve patient safety and prevent misuse.

Under the revised rules, high-alcohol allopathic and homoeopathic medicines will no longer be available over the counter and can be sold only on a valid doctor's prescription through licensed outlets.

Public health experts have welcomed the move, saying it will help curb misuse, reduce the risk of dependence and prevent accidental consumption, particularly among children and vulnerable groups. They noted that while such medicines have legitimate therapeutic uses, they should be taken only under medical supervision.

Experts also stressed that effective



implementation, quality control and enforcement will be key to ensuring the success of the new regulations without affecting access for genuine patients. They clarified that the amendment applies only to formulations containing more than 12 per cent alcohol in quantities exceeding 30 ml and will not impact most cough syrups, paediatric syrups or other low-alcohol medicines.

Rajpal Yadav Gets Jail Term in Cheque Case

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has sentenced Bollywood actor Rajpal Yadav to three months in jail in a cheque bounce case. The court delivered the order after settlement talks between both parties failed. The case relates to a financial dispute involving a loan taken by Yadav's company for the production of the film Ata Pata Laapata. Earlier, a trial court had convicted him and imposed a fine of ₹1.6 crore.

The complaint was filed by Murlu Projects Private Limited, which alleged that the actor failed to repay the amount as agreed under the loan agreement.

Yadav had denied taking a loan and claimed that the money was an investment, but the court rejected his argument and upheld the conviction.

Railway Projects Progress Reviewed

► Vikrama Vahini | Bengaluru

A review meeting on various development works under South Western Railway was held under the chairmanship of Bengaluru Central City Corporation's Deputy Commissioner (Development) Venkata Chalapatih.

The meeting discussed the progress of ongoing infrastructure projects under the South Western Railway jurisdiction, the status of pending works, and measures to ensure their completion within the stipulated timelines.

Officials were directed to resolve issues affecting the implementation of projects at the earliest and speed up development activities while ensuring that the public does not face inconvenience.

Senior officials, including chief engineers, superintending engineers, executive engineers and representatives from various departments, attended the meeting and presented updates on the



ongoing works.

The officials reviewed key aspects of project execution, including coordination between different departments, removal of administrative hurdles and ensuring effective utilisation of resources for timely completion. Emphasis was also laid on maintaining quality standards in all development works and strengthening coordination among agencies involved in railway-related infrastructure projects across the city.

JOSHI SLAMS KARNATAKA OVER SCHOOL CRISIS

Union Minister Prahlad Joshi has accused the Karnataka government of neglecting public education, claiming declining enrolment has pushed several government schools towards closure. He cited UDISE+ data and alleged administrative failures while urging steps to strengthen schools and protect students' interests.

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi has accused the Karnataka Congress government of administrative failure, alleging that thousands of government schools have been pushed towards closure due to declining student enrolment.

Joshi said the state government has been focused on internal power struggles instead of improving governance, which has affected key sectors including

education.

Citing UDISE+ data, he claimed that student enrolment in government schools has witnessed a sharp decline over the past few years. According to him, around 2.12 lakh students have left government schools in Karnataka in the last three years.

Declining Enrolment Raises Concerns: Joshi said government

school enrolment dropped from 1,19,26,303 students in 2023-24 to 1,17,80,251 in 2024-25, a decline of 1.46 lakh students. In 2025-26, the number fell further by 66,037 students to 1,17,14,214.



He alleged that instead of strengthening government schools and improving infrastructure, the Congress government has brought them to a stage where

closure is becoming a possibility.

Criticism Over Governance Issues: The Union Minister also raised concerns over the alleged rise of drug-related activities in Karnataka, stating that the younger generation is being affected by such issues. He accused the state government of neglecting public welfare and focusing more on political disputes, while urging authorities to take steps to protect students and improve education facilities.

Four Karnataka Products Eye GI Tag

► Vikrama Vahini | Tumakuru

Four unique traditional products from Karnataka, including Tiptur coconut, have received support for Geographical Indication (GI) registration from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), in a move expected to boost local producers and the rural economy.

The products identified for GI registration include Tiptur coconut, Hoysala-style stone art, Saanikatte salt and Kumbi Mudli (a climate-resilient tuber from the taro/colocasia family).

GI recognition will help these products gain wider recognition based on their geographical origin, traditional value and unique quality, providing better market

opportunities for farmers, artisans and local communities.

India currently has 822 GI-registered products, with 51 of them from Karnataka. The addition of these four products is expected to further strengthen the state's position in promoting traditional agricultural and cultural products at national and global levels.

The GI tag will also help protect the traditional identity of these products and prevent misuse of their regional names in the market.

Officials said the initiative would encourage sustainable production practices and improve income opportunities for farmers and artisans associated with these products.

ENTERTAINMENT

Nabha Natesh Eyes Another Big Hit

► Vikrama Vahini | Hyderabad

Kannada actress Nabha Natesh has made a successful return to the silver screen with the pan-India film Nagabandham, which has received an encouraging response from audiences.

Riding on the film's success, the actress is now gearing up for another major release, Swayambhu, while also attracting a series of new offers in the Telugu film industry.

Nabha's performance and dance sequences in Nagabandham have won widespread appreciation, reaffirming her popularity among moviegoers.

Though the film is rooted in a spiritual theme, its commercial elements have helped it strike a chord with audiences.

Remarkable Comeback After Injury

The actress had stayed away from films for nearly two years after suffering a serious road accident that left her with a fractured left shoulder. She underwent multiple surgeries and a lengthy rehabilitation, forcing her to take a break from acting.

With Nagabandham, Nabha has successfully returned to the industry, overcoming one of the most

challenging phases of her career.

Plays a Queen in Swayambhu

Nabha will next be seen opposite Telugu actor Nikhil Siddhartha in the much-awaited period action drama Swayambhu. She plays the role of Sundaravalli, a royal character that is expected to be one of the highlights of the film.

The high-budget period drama has already generated considerable buzz, especially after the success of Nikhil's earlier films Karthikeya, Karthikeya 2 and Spy.

Top Technicians on Board

Swayambhu is directed by Bharat Krishnamachari and features music by acclaimed composer Ravi Basrur.

Cinematography is handled by Senthil Kumar, best known for his work in blockbuster films such as Baahubali and RRR.

With shooting nearing completion, the film is expected to hit theatres soon. Following the success of

Nagabandham, industry insiders believe Swayambhu could further strengthen Nabha Natesh's comeback and re-establish her as one of the leading actresses in Telugu cinema.

'Peddi' OTT Release Adds Deleted Scenes

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor's sports drama Peddi has made its digital debut on Netflix with an extended version featuring several deleted scenes that were omitted from the theatrical release.

Directed by Buchi Babu, the film is now streaming in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam, offering viewers a more complete version of the story.

Deleted Scenes Restored

According to reports, the OTT release restores multiple scenes that were removed to reduce the film's theatrical runtime. The extended version also includes sequences that were trimmed after the film's release in cinemas, including some scenes featuring Janhvi Kapoor that had generated considerable discussion.

The additional footage is expected to provide audiences with a richer narrative and deeper character development.

Story of Sport and Determination

Ram Charan plays Peddi, a daily wage worker from Vizianagaram who earns a

reputation as an exceptional cricketer, capable of changing the course of a match single-handedly. His sporting journey, however, takes an unexpected turn when he gives up cricket and embraces wrestling, with the reasons behind his decision forming the emotional core of the film.

Janhvi Kapoor portrays Achchiyamma, whose relationship with Peddi and the village plays a crucial role in the narrative. The film blends sports, rural life and social issues while highlighting the protagonist's struggle for justice and the welfare of his community.

A Complete Viewing Experience

Director Buchi Babu, known for the critically acclaimed Telugu film Uppena, has once again delivered a story rooted in emotion and realism. The extended OTT version gives fans an opportunity to experience the film with scenes that were not part of the theatrical cut, making it a more immersive watch for both returning audiences and first-time viewers.

BUSINESS

India's FDI Soars 44% in 2025

► Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

India recorded a 44 per cent increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in 2025, emerging as one of the fastest-growing investment destinations despite a challenging global economic environment, according to the latest Global Investment Report released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The report noted that Asia remained the world's leading investment hub, with India, China and ASEAN countries attracting a significant share of global FDI. India's strong economic growth, investor-friendly policies and expanding digital infrastructure were cited as key factors behind the sharp rise in foreign investments.

Key Sectors Attracting Investment

Green energy, technology, automobiles and manufacturing emerged as the top sectors receiving foreign investments. The report said initiatives such as Make in India, major infrastructure projects and the country's vibrant startup ecosystem have strengthened India's appeal among global investors.

Why Investors Prefer India

UNCTAD attributed India's growing attractiveness to its stable political and economic environment, improving ease of doing business, vast domestic market and a large pool of skilled young professionals.

Economic experts believe the rise in FDI will boost industrial growth, create employment opportunities and contribute significantly to India's GDP growth in the coming years, further reinforcing the country's position as a preferred global investment destination.

The report also noted that sustained policy reforms, improved infrastructure and growing investor confidence have positioned India as a key destination for long-term global investments, even as many economies continue to face geopolitical and economic uncertainties.

Analysts said the strong growth in FDI is expected to accelerate technology transfer, enhance manufacturing capacity and strengthen India's position as a global supply chain hub, supporting the country's long-term economic and industrial development.



SPORTS

Historic Lord's Test Begins for India Women



Vikrama Vahini | London

India Women began their one-off Test against England Women at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground on Thursday, marking the first-ever women's Test to be played at the historic venue in its 142-year history.

England captain Nat Sciver-Brunt won the toss and elected to bowl first, sending India in to bat. Led by Harmanpreet Kaur, the Indian team will be looking to continue its impressive unbeaten run against England in Test cricket over the past three decades.

India have enjoyed a dominant record against England in women's Test cricket, having remained unbeaten against the hosts since 1995. Of the 15 Tests played between the two teams, India have won three, lost one and drawn 11.

India have also won three of their last four Tests against England, with the remaining match ending in a draw.

India fielded a strong lineup featuring Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Yastika Bhatia, captain Harmanpreet Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues, wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh, Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana, Sayali Satghare, debutant Shree Charani and Kranti Goud.

Modi Seals Landmark Sports Pact in Australia

Vikrama Vahini | Melbourne

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on Friday and announced a landmark sports cooperation agreement between India and the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC), aimed at strengthening sporting ties between the two countries.

The agreement seeks to promote collaboration in cricket, football and kabaddi by identifying and nurturing young sporting talent through advanced coaching programmes and grassroots development initiatives. It also aims to provide aspiring athletes with world-class training facilities and international exposure.

Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Modi said the partnership would help discover promising athletes from schools and local communities while encouraging greater cooperation in sports education and high-performance training.

Recalling memorable India-Australia cricket encounters, including the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, Modi said sport has played a significant role in bringing the people of both countries closer. He also referred to watching a cricket match alongside Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese during his previous visit to India as a symbol of the strong friendship between the two nations.

IAF Soars to Global No. 6

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has secured the sixth position in the World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA) Global Air Powers Rankings 2026, placing it ahead of China's People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF), which was ranked seventh. Pakistan's Air Force was placed 18th in the global rankings.

Unlike rankings based solely on fleet size, the WDMMA evaluates air forces using its TrueValueRating (TVR) system, which considers factors such as fleet modernisation, operational readiness, logistics, mission capability, force balance, and combat effectiveness.

According to the report, the IAF earned a TrueValueRating of 69.4 despite operating



India has been ranked the world's sixth-strongest air force in the WDMMA Global Air Powers Rankings 2026, surpassing China despite having a smaller fleet, while Pakistan trails far behind at 18th. The ranking highlights quality over quantity.

1,716 aircraft, outperforming the PLAAF, which has a larger fleet of 3,733 aircraft but received a score of 63.8. The IAF's inventory includes Rafale, Su-30MKI, Mirage 2000, MiG-29UPG, LCA Tejas, Apache attack helicopters and Chinook heavy-lift helicopters, enabling it to undertake a wide range of operational missions.

The Pakistan Air Force, with an active fleet

of 879 aircraft, was ranked 18th, reflecting a significant gap in overall capability, fleet balance, and operational reach compared with India. The WDMMA report notes that the rankings are based on active military aircraft inventories and do not include unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). It also separately assesses army and naval aviation wings of different countries.

US Calls Global Anti-Terror Summit



Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

The United States has invited India and more than 60 other countries to participate in a high-level summit on what the Trump administration has described as the growing threat of transnational far-left terrorism.

According to reports, invitations have been sent to senior ministers responsible for foreign affairs and internal security from countries across Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa. The meeting is expected to be held next week.

The summit will focus on strengthening international cooperation against extremist groups through intelligence sharing, enhanced security

coordination and joint measures to tackle cross-border terrorist activities.

However, the proposal has received a mixed response from several participating countries. Some diplomats reportedly questioned whether far-left terrorism constituted a significant security threat in their countries, while others expressed concern over the short notice for the meeting, which could affect the participation of senior ministers.

Despite these reservations, the Trump administration has identified transnational far-left terrorism as an emerging global security challenge and is seeking broader international cooperation to address the issue.

Passenger's Mid-Air Nightmare Averted

A Ryanair flight from Greece to Germany faced a terrifying mid-air emergency after a cabin window broke at 15,000 feet, nearly pulling a passenger out of the aircraft. Quick action by fellow travellers helped save the 61-year-old man before the plane made a safe emergency landing.

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

A Ryanair flight travelling from Thessaloniki, Greece, to Memmingen, Germany, experienced a terrifying mid-air emergency after a cabin window became dislodged at an altitude of around 15,000 feet, causing sudden cabin decompression. A 61-year-old passenger from Serbia was nearly pulled out of the aircraft before fellow travellers managed to pull him back to safety.

According to eyewitnesses, a loud explosion-like sound was heard moments before oxygen masks dropped from the ceiling and cold air rushed into the cabin.

The passenger's head and shoulders were reportedly forced outside the opening before nearby

passengers restrained him. His seat belt is believed to have prevented him from being completely pulled out of the aircraft.

The injured passenger was taken to hospital with minor injuries, including friction burns, and was reported to be in stable condition.

Ryanair confirmed that a cabin window had become dislodged during the flight and arranged a replacement aircraft to continue the journey for the remaining passengers.

Videos circulating on social media appeared to show the damaged window and deployed oxygen masks inside the cabin, though their authenticity has not been independently verified.

ASSAM'S POLYGAMY CRACKDOWN: JOBS AT RISK

Vikrama Vahini | Guwahati

The Assam government has proposed strict action against government employees found practising polygamy, including possible dismissal from service, as part of its efforts to strengthen the state's anti-polygamy measures.

The proposal was announced during the presentation of the Assam Budget by Finance Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah. The government plans to amend the Assam Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1964, to allow disciplinary action against employees who violate the proposed law against polygamous marriages.

Under the proposed changes, government servants found guilty of entering into multiple marriages



while their first marriage remains legally valid could face proceedings that may lead to termination from service.

The government has also proposed denying benefits under various welfare schemes to individuals practising polygamy. Officials said the move is aimed at discouraging the practice and promoting gender justice and women's rights.

The Budget proposals come

after the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025, was passed by the state Assembly. The legislation seeks to make polygamous marriages illegal and includes penalties for individuals who enter into or conceal a second marriage.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's government has said the law is intended to ensure stronger protection for women and bring uniformity in marriage-related regulations across the state.

Whirlwind Uproots 150 Arcanaut Trees

Vikrama Vahini | Udupi

More than 150 arcanaut trees were uprooted after a whirlwind struck parts of Byndoor taluk in Udupi district amid heavy rain and strong winds that have lashed the coastal region over the past week.

The damage was reported from Edamalli, Hakkalumane and Makkimane villages, where 15- to 20-year-old fruit-bearing trees were uprooted, causing heavy losses to farmers. Several electricity poles were also brought down by the strong winds, disrupting power supply in the affected areas.

Local authorities are assessing the damage, while affected farmers have appealed for immediate compensation and relief assistance.

Raghuram Rajan Joins Key US Fed Panel

Vikrama Vahini | Washington

Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Raghuram Rajan, renowned economist Raj Chetty and technology executive Asha Sharma have been appointed to key task forces set up by the US Federal Reserve to review its monetary policy framework and economic strategies.

The inclusion of Indian-origin experts in the high-level policy review panels has drawn global attention, as the Fed's decisions influence not only the US economy but also global financial markets.

Raghuram Rajan, currently a professor at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, and Harvard economist Raj Chetty will contribute their expertise to the Fed's economic review process. Asha Sharma, an expert in technology and administration, has also been appointed to a key panel.

Focus on Monetary Policy Review

The US Federal Reserve reviews its monetary policy framework and communication strategy every five years.

The newly formed task forces will examine challenges including inflation, employment trends and global economic uncertainties.

The recommendations of these panels will help guide the Fed's future decisions on interest rates and inflation management.



Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan, economist Raj Chetty and Microsoft executive Asha Sharma have been appointed to key US Federal Reserve task forces to review monetary policy and economic strategies. Their expertise will help shape future approaches on inflation, employment and policy communication.

Roles of the Experts

Raghuram Rajan will contribute his experience in global economics and monetary policy to the panel reviewing long-term economic strategies.

Raj Chetty, known for his research on income inequality and economic mobility in the US, will provide insights into how policy decisions affect people at the grassroots level.

Asha Sharma, currently Executive Vice President and CEO of Microsoft Gaming's Xbox division, will be involved in reviewing communication strategies and adapting policy messaging in a rapidly changing technological environment.

Delhi Breathes Cleaner Air After 3 Years

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

Delhi's air quality has shown significant improvement after two consecutive days of monsoon rainfall, with the city's Air Quality Index (AQI) entering the 'good' category for the first time in three years.

According to data released by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi recorded an AQI of 48, which falls under the 'good' category as per the 0-50 range.

The AQI had stood at 59 a day earlier but improved further due to continuous rainfall, bringing relief to residents who often face severe air pollution levels throughout the year.

Experts said the rain helped remove pollutants such as PM2.5, PM10 and dust particles from the atmosphere through a process known as 'wet deposition' or the 'washout effect'.

Strong winds and increased humidity also contributed to the improvement in air quality.

The cleaner air conditions have provided temporary relief from pollution concerns in the national capital during the monsoon season.

Weather experts said the improvement is expected to continue as monsoon conditions remain active, though air quality may fluctuate with changes in weather patterns.

CEASEFIRE OVER, IRAN TALKS BEGIN: TRUMP

Vikrama Vahini | Washington

US President Donald Trump has announced that the United States has agreed to hold talks with Iran following a request from Tehran, even as he declared that the ceasefire between the two countries has come to an end.

Trump made the announcement after two days of intense US airstrikes on Iranian targets, which followed renewed tensions in the Strait of Hormuz.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said Iran had requested renewed negotiations and that Washington had agreed to engage in talks, while making it clear that the ceasefire was no longer in effect.

Tensions Escalate Again

The latest escalation comes after attacks on commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, which triggered a fresh exchange of military strikes between the two countries.

US forces launched airstrikes on Iranian military positions, while Iran responded with retaliatory attacks, raising concerns over a wider conflict in the Middle

East. Hormuz Remains Strategic Flashpoint

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most critical shipping routes, through which nearly one-fifth of global oil and natural gas supplies pass.

Iran has reiterated its demand for greater control over the strategic waterway, while the United States has maintained that ensuring free and secure navigation remains a key international priority.

Casualties Reported

According to Iranian authorities, at least 14 people were killed and 78 others injured during the first two days of the US airstrikes.

Officials said military operations remain ongoing as tensions in the region continue.

Diplomatic efforts are expected to continue alongside heightened military preparedness as the international community closely monitors the evolving situation.



Floods Unleash Snake Scare in China

Vikrama Vahini | Beijing

More than 900 snakes, including venomous cobras, escaped from breeding farms after severe floods inundated China's Guangxi region, prompting authorities to launch large-scale capture operations. Temporary medical clinics have been set up to treat snakebite victims.

The floods have claimed at least six lives, while a woman reportedly died after a snakebite as flood-related road closures delayed her access to hospital.

Around 130,000 people have been evacuated, with thousands of rescue personnel and boats deployed as heavy rains continue to batter the region.

The floods have also caused extensive damage to homes, farms and public infrastructure across Guangxi. Authorities said several snake breeding facilities and animal enclosures were submerged, leading to the escape of reptiles and other animals.

Rescue teams continue to monitor flood-hit areas as heavy rainfall and the risk of further flooding remain high.

Courtroom Drama: Petitioner Removed from SC

Vikrama Vahini | New Delhi

A dramatic incident unfolded in the Supreme Court on Friday when security personnel removed a petitioner from the courtroom after he allegedly behaved inappropriately before the bench during a hearing.

The incident occurred before a bench comprising Justices K.V. Viswanathan and Alok Aradhe while hearing a petition challenging an Allahabad High Court order.

The petitioner, who appeared in a black coat without a lawyer's band, allegedly told the judges to direct the registration of an FIR against a Lucknow ACP.

Justice Viswanathan questioned the petitioner, asking whether he was attempting to issue orders to the court. The petitioner then allegedly threw documents into the courtroom and used inappropriate language.

As the situation escalated, security officials intervened and escorted him out of the courtroom. The bench later continued hearing other matters as usual and did not pass any immediate order regarding the incident.

10 Held Over Suspected Pakistan Links

Vikrama Vahini | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has arrested 10 people over suspected links with Pakistan-based Shahzad Bhatti through social media platforms.

Among those arrested, five are from Nagpur city, while the others belong to different districts of the Vidarbha region.

The ATS conducted simultaneous operations at multiple locations and detained the suspects. During the preliminary investigation, officials found that the arrested individuals were allegedly in contact with Bhatti through social media.

The agency is probing whether they carried out any activities for him, the nature of their alleged assignments, and any possible financial transactions involved.

The ATS has also launched a statewide operation, questioning 112 people identified across 14 ATS units. Officials are collecting information about their activities and online interactions.

The action was initiated following suspicions that some youths were being influenced through social media towards anti-national activities. However, officials clarified that the arrests are based on preliminary investigations and the accused will be considered innocent until proven guilty in court.

Officials said the investigation is ongoing, and further action will be taken based on the evidence gathered during the probe. The ATS is also examining digital records and other available evidence to determine the extent of the alleged connections.