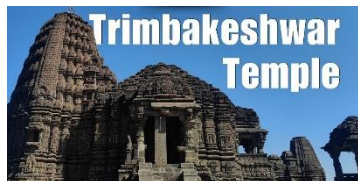


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TRIMBAKESHWAR TEMPLE



A unique Shivling—which has remained hidden for centuries—has been discovered from the Amrit Kund inside the Trimbakeshwar Temple complex in the Nashik district of Maharashtra recently.

- It is an **ancient** and historic **Hindu temple** dedicated to **Lord Shiva**.
- It is located in **Trimbak village** in the **Nasik district** of **Maharashtra**.
- It lies **near the mountain** named **Brahamagiri**, from which the **river Godavari** flows.
- It is **one of twelve famous Jyotirlingas** in India.
- The spiritual history of the Trimbakeshwar Temple dates back many centuries and is **mentioned in sacred texts** such as the Shiva Purana, Skanda Purana, and Padma Purana.
- The **present temple structure** was constructed by the **third Peshwa, Balaji Bajirao (1740-1760)**, on the site of an old temple.
- **Architecture:**
 - The temple is constructed in the **Hemadpanthi style**, a traditional architectural form **known for its strength, symmetry, and minimal use of mortar**.
 - It is **built entirely from black basalt stone**.
 - Its walls and tower (shikhara) have many small carvings.
 - The courtyard is wide, and small shrines line the outer walls.
 - The sanctum houses the **three-faced Jyotirlinga**, which is adorned with a dazzling jewelled crown, believed to be from the Pandava era.
 - Within the temple premises lies the **Kushavarta Kund**, a sacred pond **regarded as the origin of the Godavari River**.

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MARINE PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



Recently, the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) concluded the National Skill Olympiad on Seafood Value Addition, held during Seafood Expo Bharat 2026 in Kochi.

- It is a **statutory body** entrusted with the primary task of **promotion of export of marine products**.
- **History:** It was set up by an **act of Parliament during 1972**. The erstwhile Marine Products Export Promotion Council established by the Government of India in September, 1961 was merged into MPEDA on 24th August, 1972.
- **Functions:**
 - **Developing and regulating off-shore and deep-sea fishing** and undertaking measures for the conservation and management of off-shore and deep-sea fisheries;
 - **Registering fishing vessels**, processing plants or storage premises for marine products and conveyances used for the transport of marine products; fixing of standards and specifications for marine products for purposes of export;
 - **Regulating the export of marine products**; registering of exporters of marine products on payment of such fees as may be prescribed;
- It has set up five **full-fledged Quality Control Laboratories**, at Kochi, Nellore & Bhimavaram, Bhubaneswar and Porbandar.
- In order to reach out to the exporters in different parts of the Country, it has set up 18 – Regional / Sub Regional Divisions / Desk offices.
- **Headquarters:** Kochi, Kerala
- It has Trade Promotion offices at **New Delhi, Tokyo and New York**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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HUL DIWAS



- It is observed every year on **30th June** to commemorate the **Santhal Rebellion of 1855**.

- In the Santhali language, the term “Hul” means **revolution, uprising, or resistance**.

- It is a **day of cultural pride**, remembrance, and resistance for the tribal communities of Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Assam, and Bihar.

Key Facts about Santhal Uprising:

- Santhal Rebellion was one of the **first tribal uprisings** against British colonial rule and the feudal-zamindari system.
- The movement was **initiated by the Santhal tribe**, primarily led by **Sidho Murmu and Kanhu Murmu**, with the support of thousands of tribal men and women.
- The rebellion **began on 30th June 1855** in Bhognadih village, located in present-day Sahibganj district of Jharkhand. The rebellion **lasted until January 3, 1856**.
- **Leaders:**
 - **Sidho Murmu and Kanhu Murmu**
- **Reasons for Santhal Uprising:**
 - **Land alienation:** Santhals were displaced from their ancestral lands by outsiders.
 - **Economic exploitation:** Local moneylenders, zamindars, and British agents imposed harsh taxes and usurious loans.
 - Loss of tribal autonomy and interference in their **traditional governance and justice systems**.
 - British apathy to tribal **grievances and increasing oppression**.
- **Impact:** The **Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act of 1876 (SPT Act)** enacted by the British, which prohibits the transfer of Adivasi lands (urban or rural land) to non-Adivasis, was the result of the Hul.

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INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY



According to a new report by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), renewable energy projects commissioned in 2025 helped avoid an estimated \$480 billion in fossil fuel costs globally.

- It is an **intergovernmental organisation** that was **founded in 2009** to support countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future.
- **Mandate:** It serves as the **principal platform** for international cooperation, a centre of excellence, and a repository of policy, technology, resource and financial knowledge on **renewable energy**.
- **Member countries:** It has **170 Members** (169 States and the European Union). **India** is also **one of the founder members** of IRENA.
- **Headquarters:** It is located in **Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**.
- **Governance of International Renewable Energy Agency:**
 - **Assembly:** It is IRENA's **ultimate decision-making authority**, made up of one representative from each Member.
 - **Council:** It is composed of **21 Member States** elected for a **two-year term** and is accountable to the Assembly.
 - **Council members serve on a rotating basis** to ensure the effective participation of both developing and developed countries and a fair and equitable geographical distribution.
 - **Secretariat:** It comprises the **Director-General** and his staff, provides administrative and technical support to the Assembly, the Council and their subsidiary bodies.
 - It is an **official United Nations observer**.

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ESARAS PLATFORM



eSARAS platform has significantly expanded its reach over the years and more than 8.62 crore women Self-Help Group members now have access to a digital storefront through eSARAS.

- It is developed by the **Ministry of Rural Development** under the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.
- eSARAS is the official online marketplace built exclusively for products made by **women Self-Help Groups and their federations**.
- It has emerged as a flagship initiative that combines **Digital India’s technological framework** with grassroots entrepreneurship.
- The platform lists local products **across major categories**:
 - Home and Living
 - Men's Apparel and Accessories
 - Food Items
 - Women's Apparel and Accessories
 - Personal Care
 - Kids Toys & Accessories

Features of eSARAS Platform:

- It enables artisans to sell directly to consumers without relying on multiple intermediaries.
- It is integrated with the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** and **UMANG** platform.
- To cater to institutional and corporate buyers, the Ministry has introduced the premium “**SARAS Shakti Collection**”, a curated range of products.

Significance: It is positioning India’s rural artisans to compete in larger markets without losing the authenticity of their craft.

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VIKRAM-1 ROCKET



India's first privately developed orbital-class rocket is all set for its maiden launch.

- It is India's first privately developed orbital-class rocket.
- It is developed by Skyroot Aerospace.
- Features of Vikram-1 Rocket:
 - Vikram-1 is a seven-storey-tall, **multi-stage orbital launch vehicle**.
 - It is built with an **all-carbon composite structure**, and powered by in-house developed propulsion systems, **including 3D-printed engines** and high-thrust solid-fuel rocket boosters.
 - **Carrying Capacity:** It is designed to carry small satellites **weighing up to 350 kg to Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** and **260 kg into a sun-synchronous orbit (SSO)**.
 - **Design:** The design emphasises simplicity, reliability, and the ability to launch within 24 hours from any location.
 - **Stages:** It has four stages and the **first three stages are solid-fuelled**, providing robust initial thrust, topped by a **hypergolic liquid upper stage** for precise orbital adjustments.
 - Stage 4 uses a cluster of **four Raman engines**. These are **hypergolic engines**, (meaning they ignite instantly when two chemicals, MMH fuel and NTO oxidiser, come into contact).
 - It is built to **target the small-satellite segment** and is capable of **placing multiple satellites** into orbit in a single mission.
 - **Innovation:** Other key innovations include, **ultra-low-shock pneumatic separation systems**, and advanced avionics for real-time guidance.

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HOW INDIA'S BIGGEST TEMPLES SAFEGUARD DONATIONS — AND WHERE AYODHYA DIFFERS

The Common Chain: From Hundi to Bank

- Across India's biggest temples, the broad donation journey is remarkably similar. Offerings placed in hundis (donation boxes) are:
 - Removed by authorised personnel
 - Shifted to counting centres
 - Segregated into cash, coins, and valuables
 - Counted and recorded
 - Deposited into designated bank accounts
- The entire process runs under CCTV surveillance.

How the Major Temples Do It?

- **Ayodhya (Ram Temple)**
 - A **trust-led system**. Around 35 hundis are opened by trust officials and an SBI representative, and taken to a counting hall in the Pilgrim Facilitation Centre.
 - Staff outsourced by SBI and trust employees count cash and jewellery under a retired banker's supervision, with overall responsibility resting on a trust member.
 - Verified collections go into the **trust's SBI account**.
- **Tirupati**
 - Scale backed by institutional depth.
 - Its famed **Parakamani** system involves permanent TTD finance staff, nationalised bank representatives, and vetted volunteers (mostly serving/retired government and bank employees), all under an extensive CCTV network monitored by the temple's **vigilance wing**.
 - Personnel wear pocketless clothes, are frisked entering and leaving, cash moves in armoured transport, and access is segregated across roles.

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- **Jagannath (Puri)**
 - **Procedure written into law.** The emphasis is on codified procedure.
 - Hundis are opened under the Temple Administrator or a gazetted officer, with a Managing Committee member as **independent witness**.
 - Each hundi is sealed before and after opening, entries go into **statutory forms**, and CCTV monitors handling. It has also expanded digital donation channels.
- **Vaishno Devi**
 - **A corporate-style model.** Donation boxes are opened by committees of accounts officers, area managers, and security personnel rather than individual trustees.
 - Finance, security, and operations run through **specialised departments** under the Shrine Board, with dedicated transport (including helicopters) for the mountainous terrain.
- **Siddhivinayak (Mumbai)**
 - **Oversight at the counting table.** The main hundi is opened every Thursday in presence of an executive officer, a trustee, a bank representative, and an auditor under CCTV — ensuring multiple independent stakeholders witness every stage.
- **Kashi Vishwanath**
 - **Government inside the process.** The **district administration** is part of the chain.
 - The 56 donation boxes are opened under a Sub-Divisional Magistrate, counting happens before bank officials and a retired gazetted officer, deposit receipts create an audit trail, and jewellery is valued by government-approved appraisers.

Where the Ram Temple Stands Apart?

- This is the analytical heart of the piece. The key difference lies in the governing framework.
 - The Ram Temple is different: the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra functions through a trust deed, not a dedicated statute.
 - Day-to-day management, appointments, and finances rest entirely with the trust.

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- **Composition of management**

- In older temples, key financial processes involve executive officers, statutory administrators, government nominees, magistrates, and auditors whose duties are defined by law.
- At the Ram Temple, several key office-bearers involved in donation management have long associations with the RSS or its affiliates, and responsibility is concentrated within the trust structure rather than distributed across a broader statutory framework.

- **A flagged internal weakness**

- This distinction matters because a private internal audit (November 2020), commissioned by the trust itself, described the management structure as "highly unprofessional".
- It found no systematic financial reporting, and recommended standard operating procedures, a clear hierarchy, stronger maker-checker controls, formal HR processes, jewellery inventory registers, and tighter accounting/IT oversight.

- **No mandatory public audit**

- Unlike many temple boards, the Ram Temple trust is not subject to mandatory financial audits by the state or central government.
- Questions about public audit and oversight have reached the courts, and the trust has not publicly disclosed whether the 2020 audit's recommendations were fully implemented.

Conclusion

- Despite all the procedures, no major temple has escaped controversy. The key lesson: institutional safeguards are rarely built overnight.
- Many systems that now appear routine — layered oversight, codified procedures, independent verification, statutory accountability — were strengthened only after earlier controversies exposed weaknesses.