



THE Hans India



Indian women top medal charts with 4 gold
The Indian women's team delivered a historic performance at the Asian Boxing Championships 2026, finishing on top of the medal charts with a total of 10 medals, including four gold, two silver, and four bronze, underlining their dominance. **P6**

When global fragility becomes everyone's burden
When fuel prices surge on the streets of Colombo, fertilisers slip beyond the reach of African farmers, and Asian governments exhaust fiscal space to hold down subsidies, the reflex explanation is domestic mismanagement. That diagnosis is convenient—and often wrong. **P4**

TCS Q4 net profit jumps to Rs13,718 cr
Country's largest IT services company TCS on Thursday reported a 12.22 per cent jump in its March quarter net profit at Rs 3,718 crore. The Tata Group company reported a net profit of Rs12,224 crore in the January-March period. **P7**

Priyanka Mohan captivates with striking photoshoot
Actress Priyanka Mohan made a strong impression in Tamil cinema with her breakout performance in Doctor alongside Sivakarthikeyan. The film became a massive success, and Priyanka's charm, natural acting, and confident screen. **P8**

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WINDOWS

Fire erupts at Terminal 1 of Mumbai airport

MUMBAI: A fire broke out at Terminal 1 of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai on Thursday evening, a civic official said, adding that dousing operations were underway. No casualties have been reported, he said. The fire was reported at a three-storey structure near I-B Circle at 6.35 pm and vehicles of the Mumbai Fire Brigade were rushed to the spot, the official said. The flames were confined to the ground floor, he said.

Har: 11 injured as gas leak triggers fire, blast

YAMUNANAGAR: Eleven people, including seven children, suffered burn injuries on Thursday after a gas cylinder leak triggered a fire and an explosion at a residential quarter for migrant labourers in Haryana's Yamunanagar, police said. SHO Police Station Jagadhari (Sadar) Tarsem Kumar said over the phone that a family was preparing food in the morning using firewood when the incident took place in the Salempur Bangar area here, adjacent to a factory. "There was a gas leak from a cylinder kept nearby, and soon it caught fire and turned into a massive fireball, causing an explosion, and the walls of the quarter were severely damaged," he said. Among the injured were a two-month-old infant, two 43-year-old men, a 40-year-old woman, and an 18-year-old. Officials said the other injured children were between 5 and 10 years old.

3 men from Pb held for stabbing bus passengers

SHIMLA: Three men from Punjab have been arrested for allegedly stabbing the driver, conductor and two passengers of a Delhi-bound bus after an argument over a road rage incident in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district, police said on Thursday. The accused have been identified as Nishan Pal (46), resident of Sagla village in the Hoshiarpur district, Balvinder Singh (45) and Alish (21), both residents of Pathankot, Punjab. According to police, the incident took place on Wednesday night near Thural village when a dispute ensued when the accused, who were travelling in a Thar, tried to overtake the bus but were unable to do so.

Delhi Assembly orders time-bound action on CAG Health Audit

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat has directed all concerned departments to implement the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) stemming from the CAG audit on public health infrastructure and management of health services, setting July 31, 2026, as the deadline for compliance. Departments have been instructed to submit

Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta emphasised that effective healthcare delivery is a cornerstone of good governance and a critical responsibility towards citizens



a comprehensive Action Taken Report indicating the status of implementation as

of June 30, 2026. The move follows the formal adoption of the

PAC's first report by the Assembly, based on the CAG audit for the financial

year ending March 31, 2022. The directive underscores a shift from audit findings to enforceable administrative outcomes, with a focus on measurable progress and accountability.

To ensure execution at the administrative level, formal communication has been sent to the Health Minister and the Secretary of the Health and Family Welfare Department, seeking a detailed and time-bound response to the committee's findings. The Action

Taken Report must include the status of departmental assurances, progress on each recommendation and clearly defined timelines for their completion, so that it can be placed before the Assembly. The audit report provides a comprehensive review of public health infrastructure, service delivery mechanisms and overall healthcare management in Delhi. The Assembly Secretariat has also put in place a structured follow-up mechanism to ensure that PAC observa-

tions translate into concrete administrative action within a defined timeframe.

Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta emphasised that effective healthcare delivery is a cornerstone of good governance and a critical responsibility towards citizens. He called for sustained efforts to strengthen public healthcare infrastructure, expand service reach and ensure equitable access to quality medical care for all sections of society.

254 killed in Lebanon

China denies reports of support to Iran's military; Iran says no negotiations on nuclear enrichment programme; permission to pass Hormuz needed: Iran; Iran publishes chart showing likely sea mines in Hormuz; Israel kills Al Jazeera correspondent in Gaza drone strike



BEIRUT

HOSPITALS in Beirut and across Lebanon are struggling to cope with hundreds of casualties after the Israeli military launched more than 100 air strikes within a 10-minute window. According to civil defence, at least 254 people have been killed and more than 1,100 injured, with the death count expected to rise as many remain in a critical condition. Rescuers are still working to reach those reported missing or trapped under the rubble of destroyed buildings.

Iran issued a stern warning against any violation of the ongoing ceasefire arrangement between the

Islamic Republic and US-Israeli coalition forces aimed at halting the hostilities in West Asia for two weeks, stating that any breach would trigger a swift and strong response, as reported by Iranian state media ISNA. China's Defence Ministry on Thursday denied reports that Chinese firms provided satellite imagery and semiconductor chip manufacturing equipment to the Iranian military in the midst of the US-Israeli war against Iran. Iran firmly ruled out any negotiations over its nuclear enrichment programme, reiterating that its right to enrichment is non-negotiable, even as it links the issue to ongoing efforts to bring a

complete end to hostilities in West Asia with the US and Israel, as reported by Iran's state news agency ISNA. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has affirmed that Israel will persist in its military operations against Hezbollah. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister said "Anybody who communicates with the Iranian authority has got permission to pass Strait of Hormuz."

Iranian news agencies released a chart indicating that the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard may have deployed sea mines in the Strait of Hormuz during the war. The move appears intended to pressure the United States, as uncertainty continues around a fragile, days-old two-week ceasefire and further negotiations are anticipated in Pakistan. The charts, published by the ISNA news agency and Tasnim—widely seen as close to the Revolutionary Guard—depicted a large "danger zone" marked in Farsi over the Traffic Separation Scheme, the main shipping route through the strait. This narrow passage at the mouth of the Persian Gulf has historically carried about 20% of the world's traded oil and natural gas. Al Jazeera's Mubasher correspondent Mohammed Wishah was killed in a drone strike west of Gaza City on Wednesday.

Kerala sees surge in voter turnout at 77%

Assam records 85.21 pc polling, CM says high voter turnout not ordinary but historic

HANS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

VOTING concluded at 6 pm on Thursday in Kerala, with a strong turnout recorded in the elections to constitute the 16th Kerala Legislative Assembly after an intense month-long campaign by the ruling LDF, Congress-led UDF and BJP-led NDA.

The updated figures released at 7 pm by the Election Commission show a turnout of 77.45 per cent, higher than the 74.06 per cent polling seen in the 2021 Assembly elections. The polling process was largely peaceful, with only minor technical issues reported at a few locations. Polling was held across all 140 constituencies in the state, with over 2.71 crore voters eligible to exercise their franchise.

Officials said the final turnout is expected to rise further as late voters in queues are counted. If the



trend continues, the overall turnout could cross 80.54 per cent registered in 1987. Chief Electoral Officer Rathan U Kelkar said the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll had an impact on turnout. He said the polling process was largely smooth and peaceful across the state. Polling for all 126 Assam assembly constituencies ended at 5 pm, with an estimated voter turnout of 85.21 per cent, surpassing the previous figure of 82.04 per cent in the 2021 elections, officials said. The polling percentage was

expected to rise further as people who had entered the booths before 5 pm would be allowed to vote, they said. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma described the high voter turnout as "not ordinary but historic". According to initial estimates, the polling percentage has crossed 86 per cent in Puducherry. As the NDA is fighting to retain power, the opposition Congress-led bloc is pushing to wrest power from the AINRC-led front in the union territory, centering its campaign on local autonomy and administrative friction.

Biometric attendance must for Delhi govt staff

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NEW DELHI

THE Delhi government has made biometric attendance compulsory for all employees across its departments, including the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), as part of efforts to improve discipline and efficiency in public offices. The decision follows the withdrawal of GRAP measures, after which offices have reverted to their regular working hours. Under the new order, MCD offices will function from 9:00 a.m. to

5:30 p.m., while GNCTD offices will operate from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The government has clarified that the earlier adjusted timings introduced during GRAP are no longer in effect and all departments must follow standard schedules. All departments have been directed to install biometric attendance systems, and offices where machines are already installed must ensure they are fully operational. The system will be used to record attendance for all employees without exception, from entry-level staff to the highest-ranking officials, including Additional Chief Secretaries, Secretaries and heads of departments.

Live fish gets lodged in toddler's throat; removed after surgery

INDORE: A routine task of cleaning a home aquarium turned into a medical emergency for an Indore family after a fish jumped into their toddler's throat. Doctors surgically removed the fish from the one-year-old boy, officials said on Thursday.

The freak incident occurred on April 3, when the child's elder siblings were cleaning their aquarium and playing with ornamental fish kept in a net. A fish suddenly jumped out of the net and fell into the toddler's mouth while he was laughing loudly, officials said. Panicked family members rushed the boy to the Government Maharaja Yashwantrao Hospital (MYH), Dr Yamini Gupta, told PTI. "The nearly three-inch fish was alive and flapping vigorously as it was stuck in his throat. It caused injuries, and blood mixed with saliva was coming out.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SURI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday went all guns blazing against the ruling TMC, accusing it of lawlessness and unleashing 'maha jungle raj' by referring to the Bagtui carnage of 2022, in which around 10 women and children were burnt alive in Birbhum district.

Modi intensified the BJP's infiltration plank, citing last week's gherao of judicial officers in Malda to slam the Mamata Banerjee administration and reiterate his conviction of getting the country rid of "illegal entrants". "I stand before you today to make this promise: Once there is a



change of guard in state power following these elections, I will initiate a special inquiry against the facilitators of infiltration in this state and put them behind bars," Modi declared. "The Trinamool Congress' slogan of 'Maa-Mati-Manush' (mother, land, people) has become nothing more than empty rhetoric. While 'Ma' is crying and 'Manush' is reeling under the fear of the goons of the TMC regime, land encroachment by infiltrators un-

der the current dispensation has reached dangerous proportions," he added. Referring to the Bagtui killings in Rampurhat, not far from where the PM spoke, Modi said the incident stood testimony to "TMC's maha jungle raj" which thrived on the unholy nexus of syndicate, mafia and corrupt politicians. "Cottage industry has been rapidly declining in West Bengal, but the TMC has turned crude bombs into a household affair in the state," the PM said. Resuming his discourse on infiltration, Modi said infiltrators were usurping the jobs of locals by accepting work contracts for less money and forcing the indigenous people to migrate.

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Kejriwal can't seek judge's recusal for attending 'legal seminar' by ABAP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

FORMER chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and other discharged accused in the liquor policy case cannot seek the recusal of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma merely because she attended a "legal seminar" by the Akhil Bharatiya Adhivakta Parishad (ABAP) as it does not demonstrate any ideological association, the CBI has told the

CBI highlighted that several sitting Supreme Court judges, including Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, and high court judges, have attended functions by the RSS-affiliated confederation of lawyers, and if their plea is accepted, all of them would have to recuse from hearing any case involving politically exposed persons as accused



Delhi High Court. In a reply filed to applications by the AAP leader and others

seeking the judge's recusal from hearing the Central Bureau of investigation's

(CBI) challenge to the trial court's discharge order, the agency highlighted that

several sitting Supreme Court judges, including Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, and high court judges, have attended functions by the RSS-affiliated confederation of lawyers, and if their plea is accepted, all of them would have to recuse from hearing any case involving politically exposed persons as accused.

The CBI asserted that making "unscrupulous" and "sweeping" allegations of bias over attending legal

seminars, which had no political topic, was an attempt to scandalise and lower the court's authority and interfere with the administration of justice, which amounted to contempt of court. Kejriwal has filed the application for recusal of Justice Sharma, claiming there was a grave, bona fide, and reasonable apprehension that the hearing in the matter before her would not be impartial and neutral. His plea stated that

Justice Sharma has decided multiple cases arising from the CBI FIR, including Kejriwal's petition against his arrest, and never given relief to any of the accused. Besides Kejriwal, the applications for recusal of the judge have also been filed by AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Durgesh Pathak.

Other respondents, including Vijay Nair and Arun Ramchandra Pillai, have also filed similar applications seeking recusal.