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THE Hans India

WOMENIA
Emotional availability is the new attraction: The rise of affectional dating
Cool indifference, mystery, and emotional distance were once rewarded in the dating culture. The less invested you were, the more desirable you seemed. P11

EDIT
Fasting across religious faiths
While a vrata covers a wide range of ritual vows in Hinduism, the Christian approach is centered on voluntarily humbling oneself before God through fasting, prayer, and sacrifice to focus on spiritual growth. P6

BUSINESS
Resilient India posts all-time high $863 bn exports in FY26
India's exports reached a record $863 billion in FY2025-26, demonstrating resilience despite disruptions caused by the West Asia conflict and US tariffs, a senior Commerce Ministry official said on Wednesday. P8

YOUNG HANS
Why the first five years are the most critical stage of learning and development
Research indicates that most neural connections are formed during the first few years, with nearly 85 per cent of brain development occurring before the age of five. P9

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KEEP HORMUZ OPEN: MODI

Raises safety of seafarers with Trump at G7 Summit

EVIAN-LES-BAINS

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged US President Donald Trump to ensure the safety of seafarers and maintain freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, highlighting India's dependence on the strategically vital maritime route amid efforts to secure a peace agreement with Iran.

During a bilateral meeting with Trump on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France, Modi said the reopening and protection of the Strait of Hormuz was crucial not only for regional stability but also for the global economy. "You and I agree that keeping the Strait of Hormuz open is vital for the global economy," Modi said, stressing that India has consistently advocated unrestricted maritime movement.

Modi and Trump held wide-ranging talks focusing on the proposed bilateral trade deal, bilateral defence and security ties and the West Asia crisis.

"Lakhs of Indian seafarers operate in maritime sector; I believe that their security is equally important," PM Modi told President Trump. India lost 3 Indian seafarers in an attack by US Navy last well at MT Settebello. Two more vessels with Indian crew on board were also attacked in the same week.

Modi thanked President Trump for his efforts to restore peace in West Asia and expressed hope for a lasting resolution to the conflict. "We have always said that there should be freedom of navigation...Lakhs of Indian seafarers operate in the maritime trade sector. I believe that their security is equally important. I am confident that the deal (with Iran) will have provisions for the security of the seafarers," Modi said in his media comments.

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US President Donald Trump with PM Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Evian-les-Bains, France, on Wednesday

DON'S BIG PROMISE

'IF INDIA IS ATTACKED, WE WILL BE THERE FOR MODI'

Says Trump on defence ties with India

EVIAN-LES-BAINS: While commenting on the defence relationship between the United States and India, US President Donald Trump said even though the countries do not have a formal defence agreement, Washington would be there for New Delhi. Answering a question about defence ties, Trump said, "I think it's a great relationship.

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'A TOTAL KILLER, A TOUGH TRADER'

Trump all praise for PM at G7 bilateral

EVIAN-LES-BAINS: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday showered praise on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in France's Evian on the sidelines of the G7 Summit 2026. Assigning adjectives like "a killer and a tough trader" to PM Modi, Trump said he has immense respect for the leader. "He's a very tough negotiator... You look at this man. I'll give you a lesson. He's the most beautiful-looking man. He looks so nice, like an angel. But actually, he's as tough as a killer... But he looks so good. So he gets you by surprise. There are a few people like this," Trump said as the two leaders held a bilateral meeting in France. Continued on Page 7

'We're the most famous couple'

MELONI TELLS PM MODI AT G7 SUMMIT

EVIAN-LES-BAINS

LEADERS of the Group of Seven (G7) gathered in France's Evian-les-Bains on Tuesday to discuss key global challenges, reaffirm their support for Ukraine, and welcome the breakthrough deal between the US and Iran. Amid this serious event, a brief interaction between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni has caught all the attention on social media, with the 'Melodi' buzz making a return. A viral video shows PM Modi and Meloni greeting each other and shaking hands moments before lining up for a group photo with other leaders, including US President Donald Trump. Cont'd on P7

Modi flags concerns over impact of West Asia crisis

REPORT: P7

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy having breakfast with students after inaugurating Telangana Public School at Arutla in Ranga Reddy district on Wednesday

Maiden 'TG Public School' opens at Arutla

TPS will instil confidence in public edu system: CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

- CM suggested that all his political opponents should visit Arutla Telangana Public School and study the govt's efforts to strengthen the public education system
- Revanth affirmed that govt would establish a Telangana Public School in every Assembly constituency

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy has declared that the Telangana government has introduced the concept of Telangana Public Schools to instil confidence in the public education system among parents.

For context, the Telangana Public School (TPS) is a flagship initiative of the state government designed to provide corporate-level, English-medium education to public school students. Driven by the Telangana Education Commission, the model aims to boost public confidence by offering international-standard academics, free transportation, and full meals (breakfast, lunch, and evening snacks) at no cost.

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e-auction goes awry!

SBI moves HC claiming ownership of 'govt land'

HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD: Selling government land in e-auction for record prices is fine as long as the seller has clear title to the entire parcel sold. That precisely seems to be in question with regard to a portion of the land parcel that the Telangana government auctioned on May 28. The land parcel in question is located in Survey No. 83/1 at Knowledge City in the Raidurgam area.

It was hailed as "a landmark e-auction" as the 6.29-acre plot surpassed the Rs 170 cr/acre base price to fetch a historic Rs 237 crore per acre (won by Gowra Ventures), setting a new South India real estate benchmark. The total transaction value was put at Rs 1,490.73 crore (70.5% above the reserve price). The auction drew significant attention in real estate and government circles.

Subsequently, the State Bank of India (SBI) approached the High Court claiming ownership rights over a portion of the land. The Bank claims that a 5-acre portion of the auctioned land is tied to significant loan defaults and debt recovery proceedings. So, the bank has requested the High Court to halt or review the auction proceedings. The petition seeks appropriate directions from the court regarding ownership and rights over the disputed property.

TG govt braces for de-siltation of irrigation projects

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy reviews de-siltation of major reservoirs at the Secretariat on Wednesday

HYDERABAD

BETTER late than never. Much after the Southwest Monsoon advanced into Telangana and reached Hyderabad in the second week of June, with its progression across the state currently sluggish and weak due to a "weak Bay of Bengal branch"; the state government has woken up to the dire need for de-siltation and sedimentation of all irrigation projects.

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Telegram moves Delhi HC against govt curbs

Centre claims 'shocking' activities on platform

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Centre to file its reply on Telegram's plea against its order temporarily restricting access to the messaging app ahead of the June 21 NEET-UG 2026 re-examination.

Cont'd on Page 7

Uddhav Sena stares at split

6 MPs set to join Shinde camp ■ NDA to get boost in Lok Sabha

MUMBAI

SIX Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs reportedly formed a separate group in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday and submitted a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. The six MPs are expected to join the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena on Friday, the party's foundation day. Sena functionaries said the process of forming the separate group was completed smoothly.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) has nine MPs in the Lok Sabha. Barring Arvind Sawant, Anil Desai and Rajabhau Waze, all the remaining MPs are understood to have joined the new group.

Sena (UBT) MPs Sanjay Raut, Sawant and Desai also met Birla and urged him not to recognise any separate group formed by defecting Sena (UBT) MPs. However, Sena functionaries claimed that Birla had recognised the group of six MPs as a separate bloc.Amid reports of "Operation Tiger" being underway to engineer a split in the Sena (UBT), the party has issued a whip directing all its Lok Sabha MPs to attend a meeting of the parliamentary party in Delhi on Thursday at 11 am. The whip was issued by MP Anil Desai, the party's chief whip in the Lok Sabha.

Sena (UBT) functionaries said party chief Uddhav Thackeray may also travel to Delhi in an attempt to pacify the MPs and could attend the parliamentary party meeting on Thursday.

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SAMAJWADI SPLIT NEXT?

- Claims UP minister
- Akhilesh responds

NEW DELHI: Amid turmoil in TMC and buzz of a brewing split in Shiv Sena (UBT), speculation of a possible split in former Akhilesh Yadav's SP surfaced after state minister OP Rajbhar claimed that the Opposition party could face a major exodus. In a cryptic post on X, Rajbhar alleged that senior SP leader Ram Gopal Yadav had approached the Centre amid mounting pressure over corruption cases and claimed that many party leaders were preparing to switch sides. Cont'd on P7

Meta starts charging for Insta, FB & WhatsApp

Launches a new 'Meta One' subscription brand

NEW DELHI

META has officially started charging for Instagram, Facebook and WhatsApp. Not for the apps themselves, which remain free, but for a new layer of "Plus" features that the company is rolling out globally under a fresh subscription brand called Meta One.

Meta's bet is that enough power users and creators will pay for the extras to make subscriptions a meaningful new revenue line. While that is reasonable maths for a company with three billion users, it is also a signal that the free, ad-supported, algorithm-driven social feed of the last 15 years is winding down.

Analysts believe that it's an urgent attempt to offset soaring AI costs as Mark Zuckerberg tries to play catch up in the AI space where it is lagging behind. Meta increased its 2026 capital expenditure forecast to an unprecedented $125 billion - $145 billion, primarily to fund AI compute infrastructure, data centres, and higher component costs.

Instagram Plus costs $3.99 a month. Subscribers get story insights showing how many people rewatched a story, unlimited custom audience lists beyond Close Friends, the ability to spotlight a story for a week, the option to extend a story past 24 hours, a preview mode that lets one to watch other people's stories without showing up as a viewer, and Super Heart animated reactions. One can also post straight to the profile without it appearing in followers' feeds. While Facebook Plus is also $3.99 a month and gives you a similar bundle, focused on profile customisation, reactions and analytics, WhatsApp Plus is cheaper at $2.99. "It is not about social expression. It is about personalising the messaging app: custom themes, ringtones, more pinned chats, list customisation and premium stickers," say the experts.

Then there is the AI tier. Meta is testing Meta One Plus at $7.99 and Meta One Premium at $19.99 for heavier Meta AI users. The Premium plan unlocks deeper reasoning on complex tasks and more image and video generation across Meta's apps. Free Meta AI access remains but with usage limits. These plans start testing next month in Singapore, Guatemala and Bolivia.

For creators and businesses, Meta One Essential at $14.99 bundles the Verified badge, impersonation protection and an enhanced linksheet. The top tier, Meta One Advanced at $49.99, promises higher placement in Facebook and Instagram search, a bolder Follow button on Reels, automatic follow invitations, deeper competitive analytics and team access controls. Continued on Page 7

India, EU agree to sign FTA by year-end

EVIAN-LES-BAINS: India and the European Union will sign the ambitious free trade agreement by the end of this year, top EU leader Ursula von der Leyen said on Wednesday after holding talks with PM Modi that largely focused on boosting two-way economic engagement against the backdrop of a fragile geopolitical environment. In the meeting, held on the sidelines of the G7 summit in this French commune, the two sides also resolved to step up security and defence cooperation.