



# 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. **P8**

**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. **P11**

**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



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

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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**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 US 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. Cont'd on P7

### '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**



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu reviews agriculture, horticulture and aquaculture sectors at the Secretariat in Amaravati on Wednesday

**EL NINO CONCERNS**

## CM calls for crop diversification

- ▶ Directs officials to focus on market-driven cultivation, natural farming
- ▶ Seeks solutions for problems of chilli, tobacco, totapuri mango growers

HANS NEWS SERVICE AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday directed officials to formulate crop cultivation strategies suited to the changing weather conditions associated with the El Nino phenomenon, with a special focus on crop diversification and market-linked farming.

Reviewing the agriculture, horticulture and aquaculture sectors at the Secretariat, the Chief Minister instructed officials to guide farmers on the cultivation of agricultural, commercial and

horticultural crops based on last year's experiences and prevailing market trends. Naidu emphasized the need to accelerate the adoption of natural farming across the state and stressed the importance of certification and traceability to improve market access. He said he would personally participate in awareness programmes to encourage farmers to adopt scientific and sustainable cultivation practices.

The Chief Minister directed officials to address issues affecting chilli, tobacco and totapuri mango farmers.

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## '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

**WINDOWS**

## 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 Prime Minister Narendra 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. Besides Von der Leyen, the President of the EU Commission, the meeting was joined by European Council President Antonio Costa.

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## GOING THE GOA WAY! AP introduces beach shack bar policy



HANS NEWS SERVICE VIJAYAWADA

THE Andhra Pradesh government has announced a new Excise Policy under which bar licences will be granted to beach shacks along the State's coastline, aiming to promote coastal tourism, generate employment, and create a transparent regulatory framework for tourism-linked enterprises.

The policy, which will be effective from September 1, 2026, to August 31, 2029, follows recommendations made by the Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted to review and reform the State's excise policies. The

government has approved detailed guidelines for the establishment and operation of bars in beach shacks and notified the same through an Extraordinary Gazette issued on Wednesday.

Andhra Pradesh has a coastline stretching over 975 kilometres across 12 coastal districts, offering significant potential for tourism development. Although a regulatory framework for beach shacks was introduced in 2016, no licences were issued and the policy lapsed in 2022. The new policy seeks to revive the concept with stronger safeguards and clear operational guidelines.

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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. As the matter came up before a vacation bench of Justice Tejas Karia, Telegram's counsel claimed the curbs were illegal, but Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta defended the government action, saying the platform was being misused and he would reveal "something shocking" on Thursday. The court adjourned the hearing to Thursday and issued notice to the Centre. During the hearing, Telegram's counsel questioned the legality of the government order blocking the platform. **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.

Continued on Page 7

## 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 Samajwadi Party (SP) surfaced after state minister OP Rajbhar claimed that the Opposition party could face a major exodus. **Continued on Page 7**

## DEAL NOT FINAL: TRUMP

### Changes tune on Tehran ■ Threatens to drop bombs

EVIAN-LES-BAINS

JUST as things were looking up for the peace efforts in the Middle East, US President Donald Trump on Wednesday crushed hopes again, with fresh warnings to Iran.

During his remarks at the G7 Summit in France, Trump said that no deal had been finalised with Iran and warned he would



resume "dropping bombs" and go back to shooting if Tehran did not abide by its obligations. Trump clarified that only

a memorandum of understanding was in the works, and that no deal had been finalised. "If I don't like it, we will go back to shooting at them," Trump said, adding: "If they don't behave, we'll go right back to dropping bombs right smack in the middle of their head." He made the remarks sitting alongside Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

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## Take yoga to every household: CM to officials

### Baba Ramdev to join CM at Undavalli for Yoga Day fet

HANS NEWS SERVICE

AMARAVATI: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday directed officials to take yoga to every household in Andhra Pradesh by integrating the practice with the state's flagship Sanjeevani health programme, while calling for the successful implementation of the Yogandhra initiative.

Reviewing preparations for International Yoga Day celebrations at the Secretariat, the Chief Minister stressed the need to encourage people to adopt yoga as part of their daily lives and focus on preventive healthcare. He instructed officials to prepare a year-long action plan under the theme "Yoga for Every Household" and suggested instituting special awards next year for yoga master trainers who deliver exceptional performance.

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## Meta starts charging for Insta, FB & WhatsApp

NEW DELHI

### Launches a new 'Meta One' subscription brand

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, ring-tones, 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

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**

Competitive exams may soon come with a nationwide lockdown