



# THE Hans India



**Mbappe rewrites World Cup history**  
France talisman Kylian Mbappe has carved his name deeper into football history, becoming the youngest player to feature in 20 FIFA World Cup matches and the fastest to reach the milestone of 20 World Cup goals

**India needs a political culture where facts should matter not propaganda**  
India's political system is both unique and complicated. Until the early 1990s, Parliament and state legislatures were known for serious debates, policy alternatives and constructive criticism. Over the years, however, political discourse has increasingly shifted from governance

**Tech stocks lead charge as Sensex, Nifty extend winning run**  
Benchmark equity indices extended gains for a second straight session on Friday, with the Sensex rising 827 points and the Nifty climbing over 1 per cent, driven by strong buying in IT, banking and heavyweight stocks amid easing crude oil prices

**'Lenin' review: A gripping rural drama**  
Lenin marks an important milestone in the career of Akhil Akkineni as it reunites the young hero with director Murali Kishor Abburu and comes backed by Manam Enterprises LLP and Sithara Entertainments.

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**WINDOWS**  
**16 IVP councillors join BJP in CM Rekha's presence**

**NEW DELHI:** Sixteen councillors of the Indraprastha Vikas Party, a breakaway faction of the AAP, merged with the BJP on Friday in the presence of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Delhi BJP president Harsh Malhotra. Welcoming the Indraprastha Vikas Party (IVP) councillors into the BJP, Gupta said they took a big decision keeping in mind Delhi's development. "It's a good signal that will speed up development in their wards," Gupta told a press conference. "Development of the city is the top priority of the BJP government. The joining of the IVP councillors will further strengthen the BJP in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, and boost civic work in their municipal wards," she said.

**Sexual assault bid: Teacher suspended**

**BALLIA :** A teacher at a government primary school here has been suspended for allegedly attempting to commit unnatural sexual assault on a 14-year-old boy, an official of the Basic Education Department said on Friday. District Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) Manish Singh said that Ghulam Mustafa alias Pappu (50), a teacher at the government primary school in Sisotar village was suspended on Thursday. He said orders have been issued for a disciplinary inquiry into the matter. Strict action will be taken against the accused teacher after the inquiry report is received, he added. According to police, Mustafa called the boy to his house on July 5 on the pretext of some work. After luring the boy to his house, Mustafa locked the door and attempted to commit unnatural sexual assault on him.

**68-year-old man killed by bear in Jammu**

**RAJOURI :** An elderly man succumbed to injuries suffered in a bear attack in the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Thursday, officials said. The incident took place at Dhok Jangwala, a high-altitude grazing area of remote Darhal area, where the man was staying with his family, they said. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Amin (68), a resident of Thandkote village in Darhal tehsil. According to family members, the bear was hiding in the bushes and suddenly attacked Amin, leaving him critically injured.

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## One Nation One Election rollout possible by 2029: Panel chief

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

THE joint committee of Parliament examining the bills on simultaneous elections is working to create a mechanism that could make the 'One Nation, One Election' reform fully operational by the 2029 General Elections, its chairperson said on Friday.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the panel's two-day meeting in Goa, PP Chaudhary claimed that nearly 99 per cent of civil society stakeholders consulted so far have backed the proposal, which aims to

**99 per cent of civil society stakeholders consulted so far have backed the proposal, which aims to curb an estimated Rs 7 lakh crore economic loss caused by frequent polls**

curb an estimated Rs 7 lakh crore economic loss caused by frequent polls. The committee began its deliberations in Goa on the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, with an interaction with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and members of his cabinet, seeking their views on the challenges involved in

implementing simultaneous elections and ways to address them. "We had an informal interaction with the chief minister and cabinet ministers, who represent the people of Goa. We discussed how 'One Nation, One Election' can be implemented, what challenges exist and how they can be mitigated while main-

taining a fine balance acceptable to all," Chaudhary said.

He said that the committee has visited several states, including Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi, where it interacted with constitutional experts, civil society organisations, educationists and other stakeholders. An overwhelming majority of those consulted have supported the idea of simultaneous elections, said the BJP MP from Pali in Rajasthan. "We have found that almost 99 per cent of stakeholders, particularly from civil society



and various organisations, favour simultaneous elections. The effort now is to evolve a mechanism that is acceptable to all political parties," he said.

## Oz visit strengthens bilateral ties, opens new avenues: PM

**PM and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese launched the India-Australia Sports Collaboration Roadmap during a visit to the iconic MCG, marking a significant step towards expanding bilateral cooperation in sports, sports science, and infrastructure**

MELBOURNE

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Friday expressed confidence that the outcomes of his visit to Australia have further strengthened bilateral ties and opened new avenues for cooperation across diverse sectors. PM Modi on Friday explained for New Zealand after concluding his three-day visit to Australia. Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Australia's High Commissioner to India Philip Green and other

officials saw off PM Modi at the airport. "As my Australia visit concludes, I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Government and people of Australia as well as to PM Albanese for their warmth. The outcomes of this visit have further strengthened our partnership and opened new avenues for cooperation across diverse sectors. The momentum in the times to come will benefit our nation and the entire planet," PM Modi posted on X. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese at the MCG

Randhir Jaiswal stated that PM Modi's visit to Australia opened new avenues for collaboration and reinforced the deep bonds between the people of two nations. "Stronger Partnership. Greater Ambition. Shared Future. PM Narendra Modi departed Melbourne after a successful visit further strengthening the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. PM was seen off by Foreign Minister

Penny Wong at the airport," Jaiswal posted on X. Earlier in the day, PM Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese launched the India-Australia Sports Collaboration Roadmap during a visit to the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), marking a significant step towards expanding bilateral cooperation in sports, sports science, and sporting infrastructure.

**Ram temple donations row**  
**SC to hear pleas seeking investigation on Monday**



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NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court will hear a batch of pleas seeking a fair and time-bound probe into the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya on July 13. On July 7, an Ayodhya court granted one-day police remand for three of the eight accused arrested in connection with the alleged theft of donations at the Ram temple. The court authorised the remand for Anukalp Mishra, Lavkush Mishra and

Karunesh Pandey. On June 29, a local court had sent all the eight accused to 14-day judicial custody. Narendra Kumar Goswami, one of the three petitioners, has moved the top court seeking a CBI probe into the incident. He also sought a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audit of the finances of the Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Theerth Kshetra Trust, which manages the affairs of the Ram temple. The second petition has been filed by Ajay Kumar Rai and Dinesh Kumar Yadav seeking similar measures.

**Abusive outburst: Litigant forcibly removed from SC**

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NEW DELHI

IN a dramatic turn of events, a litigant appearing in person was forcibly removed from the Supreme Court on Friday after he allegedly hurled abuses and threw his legal papers during the hearing of his petition challenging an Allahabad High Court order. The incident occurred before a partial working day bench comprising justices K V Viswanathan and Alok Aradhe. At the outset, the litigant adopted an unusually confrontational tone. "Mr judicial servant. I order you to order the registration of an FIR against the ACP Lunknow," the litigant, who was wearing a black coat without a lawyer's band, said while addressing the bench. "You are ordering me? You are ordering us?" asked a visibly surprised Justice Viswanathan. "That is all from my side. Everything is on record," the litigant said and hurled an unparliamentary abuse before allegedly throwing his case papers into the air.

## Delhi Govt, WB launch orientation for Rs 8,300 crore clean air project

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NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Friday launched an orientation workshop for the proposed Rs 8,300-crore 'Clean Air, Healthy Delhi' programme, with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta saying the initiative reflects the government's long-term, science-based strategy to tackle air pollution. The seven-year programme, to be implemented between September 2026 and August 2033, will be financed through a 65 per cent loan from the World Bank, while the remaining 35 per cent will be borne by the Delhi govern-



ment. At the workshop, the World Bank formally handed over the confirmation of the Project Preparation Grant Facility to the Delhi government. Addressing officials from various departments, Gupta said improving air quality is a collective responsibility and required coordinated efforts

across agencies. 'Clean Air, Healthy Delhi' is not just a pollution-control programme but an investment in better health and a sustainable future, Gupta asserted. She said the government's strategy focuses on addressing pollution at its source, strengthening data-driven monitoring, ensuring effective enforcement through technology and promoting public participation. World Bank experts made presentations on financial management, procurement procedures, environmental and social safeguards, and institutional preparedness under the Programme for Results framework.

**BJP's Bankipur assembly bypoll nominee withdraws candidature**

PATNA: Bharatiya Janata Party's Bankipur assembly bypoll nominee Abhishek Kumar Sinha on Friday withdrew his candidature citing family reasons, a day after filing nomination. The saffron party had on Tuesday named the youth wing leader as its candidate for the bypoll in the assembly constituency in Bihar, which fell vacant following the resignation of BJP national president Nitin Nabin. The bypoll will be held on July 30, while counting of votes is scheduled for August 3. The last date for filing of nominations is July 13.

## May get killed: Hasina to return to B'desh in Dec

DHAKA

BANGLADESH'S former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has announced that she, alongside other exiled leaders of the Awami League, intends to return to Bangladesh voluntarily around December, despite facing the stark prospect of arrest or death upon her arrival. In an interview with Reuters, the 78-year-old leader, who moved to India following a student-led uprising that unseated her administration in August 2024, stated that she plans to surrender before the judicial courts



upon her return. She further clarified that there has been no communication with the current authorities in Dhaka concerning the scheduled

homecoming. "They may arrest me on my return, they may even kill me," Sheikh Hasina told the news agency. "Still, I have to go." Expressing deep concern over the ongoing situation of her political supporters back home, the former Prime Minister emphasised her resolve to face the consequences on her home soil. "My party leaders and workers are being subjected to tremendous repression. If death comes, I want it to come on my own soil, where my parents are buried and where their blood was shed," she added.

## Is there an Iranian plot to assassinate Donald Trump? Unclaimed airstrikes target Iran after US attacks, raising questions of who launched them



DUBAI

Israel has shared fresh intelligence with the United States alleging that Iran recently developed a new plan to assassinate US President Donald Trump, according to multiple media reports. The Wall Street Journal reported that Israel passed the intelligence to US officials this week. Concurrently, CNN, citing two sources familiar with the matter, reported that the warning was delivered this week and referred to a specific alleged

plot. While the exact details of the purported plan remain unclear, CNN reported that US agencies had not independently verified the intelligence or been tracking the alleged plot before Israel's warning. According to CNN, some US officials believe the Israeli intelligence may also be part of a broader effort by Israel to influence Trump's decision on whether to intensify American military action against Iran. One source told the broad-

caster that US intelligence has been monitoring a steady flow of threats against Trump in recent weeks, but described the Israeli warning as new because it referred to a specific alleged plan. The White House declined to comment directly on the reported intelligence, referring both The Wall Street Journal and CNN to remarks Trump made while speaking to reporters in Ankara, Turkey. A series of unclaimed airstrikes that hit Iran after the US said it finished its attacks

have again raised questions of who else may be targeting the Islamic Republic. The strikes Thursday, just as Iran prepared to bury the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, hit areas across southern Iran. The country's theocracy hasn't directly blamed anyone for the strikes, though one lawmaker issued a warning to the United Arab Emirates over allegedly providing support to the United States in its campaign against Iran.