



THE Hans India



Aishwarya Sakhuja takes to social media to create awareness about diabetes
The television star asks people around a diabetic to be conscious of hypoglycemia and not confuse it with drunkenness.

India needs a political culture where facts should matter not propaganda
With Assembly elections due in UP and Punjab in 2027, this trend has become even more evident. Rather than pursuing facts to their logical conclusion, almost every party appears focused on scoring political points.

CM reviews Rath Yatra readiness
Majhi emphasised timely conduct of rituals, security of the chariots and devotees, crowd management and fire safety. He said efficient and experienced officers would play a key role in ensuring the orderly management of the Rath Yatra.

Atchanna assures ample fertiliser supply for kharif
Agriculture minister K Atchanna on Friday said the government has ensured abundant fertiliser supplies for the ongoing kharif season, with buffer stocks in place to prevent any shortages for farmers.

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WINDOWS



Litigant forcibly removed from SC after abusing judges

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 Lucknow," the litigant, who was wearing a black coat without a lawyer's band, said while addressing the bench.

HC bars EC from notifying bypolls in five seats in TN

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court on Friday restrained the EC till July 31 from notifying bye-polls to the five constituencies in Tamil Nadu where the winning candidates resigned soon after getting elected in the assembly polls held on April 23 this year. The five segments includes Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's Tiruchirappalli (East) assembly constituency. The First Bench comprising Chief Justice S A Dharmadhikari and Justice G Arulmurugan passed the interim order and posted to July 31, further hearing of a Public Interest Litigation filed by advocate K Venkatachala-pathy. The bench directed Vijay and others to file their comprehensive counter-affidavits with all factual and legal assertions within three weeks.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Our numbers match. Let's sign the treaty

Cabinet clears gold mine, mega industrial projects



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu holding a Cabinet meeting in Amaravati on Friday

HANS NEWS SERVICE AMARAVATI
THE Andhra Pradesh Cabinet on Friday approved a series of investments in key sectors, infrastructure and governance proposals, apart from clearing major industrial projects, Amaravati reforms, and public sector funding measures aimed at accelerating economic growth and infrastructure development across the state.

- ▶▶ 998.10 acres allotted to gold mine project
- ▶▶ Investments across key sectors
- ▶▶ Nod for Amaravati reforms
- ▶▶ Rs 1,800 cr MARKFED funding okayed

GeoMysore India Pvt. Ltd. for the Jonnagiri Gold Mine Project in Kurnool district, besides leasing 40.12 acres of endowments land, paving the way for one of Andhra Pradesh's most significant mining projects. The Cabinet also cleared land allotments for several major industrial investments approved by the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB).

Among the major decisions, the Cabinet approved allotment of 998.10 acres to

AP Cabinet orders tough crackdown on social media abuse

Cabinet Sub-Committee to examine legal options

- ▶▶ Dedicated social media response cell
- ▶▶ Study for enacting a special law

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI: The State Cabinet, in one of its strong policy responses to alleged misuse of social media, has decided to intensify legal action against objectionable online content while initiating formation of a special taskforce as well as a study on enacting a special law to deal with organised social media abuse, online defamation, and misinformation.

One Nation, One Election rollout likely by '29: Panel

A parliamentary committee is actively working to establish a mechanism for implementing the 'ONOE' reform

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.



The reform seeks to prevent an estimated Rs 7 lakh crore economic loss caused by frequent, separate elections across the country

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the panel's two-day meeting in Goa, JPC chairperson PP Chaudhary claimed that nearly 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. 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



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives in New Zealand on Friday

Modi lands in New Zealand on final leg of three-nation tour

First visit by an Indian PM in 40 years

Modi was received by Luxon at the airport, where the two leaders exchanged a warm hug



AUCKLAND

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday arrived in New Zealand on the final leg of his three-nation visit, during which he will hold talks with his counterpart Christopher Luxon and address the Indian diaspora. This is the first visit to New Zealand by an Indian prime minister in 40 years. Modi was received by Luxon at the airport, where the two leaders exchanged a warm hug. "Reached Auckland a short while ago. Thankful to Prime Minister Luxon for the welcome at the airport," Modi said in a post on X. "This visit is historic, being the first Prime Ministerial visit to New Zealand in four decades. I look forward to holding talks with Prime Minister Luxon and discussing the complete range of the India-NZ friendship."

Deeply moved by warm welcome from Indian community: PM Narendra Modi

The iconic Sky Tower in Auckland was illuminated in the Indian tricolour
AUCKLAND: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said he was deeply moved by the warm welcome accorded to him by the Indian community in New Zealand. He said that the enthusiasm on display reflected the Indian diaspora's enduring connection with India. Sharing glimpses of the welcome accorded to him, PM Modi posted on X:

Rajpal Yadav to go to jail as court upholds conviction



NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Friday upheld the conviction of Bollywood actor Rajpal Yadav in multiple cheque bounce cases, affirming the trial court's judgment and refusing to extend the benefit of probation in view of his conduct during the proceedings. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma dismissed Yadav's revision petitions and upheld the sentence awarded by the trial court under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

The High Court directed that the amount of Rs 2.25 crore already deposited before the Court and released to the complainant shall be adjusted while computing the liability payable by Yadav. Continued on Page 7

Mystery strikes hit Iran after US ends attacks

Questions raised over who launched them

DUBAI

A series of mysterious, 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. Gulf Arab states, which



Iran's theocracy hasn't directly blamed anyone for the strikes repeatedly have been targeted by Iran since the war began February 28, did not immediately respond to requests for comment Friday over the strikes. Continued on Page 7



Iran hatched fresh plot to kill Trump, Israel alerts US

TEL AVIV: Israel has shared fresh intelligence with the United States alleging that Iran recently developed a new plan to assassinate President Donald Trump, according to multiple media reports. The Wall Street Journal reported that Israel passed the intelligence to US officials this week. Continued on Page 7



SC to hear pleas for probe into Ram temple donation row on Monday

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court would 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 -- Anukul Mishra, Lavkush Mishra and Karunesh Pandey -- arrested in connection with the alleged theft of donations at the Ram temple. On June 29, a local court had sent all the eight accused to 14-day judicial custody. According to the Supreme Court website, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joy-malya Bagchi and V Mohana will hear as many as three petitions filed on the issue when the apex court reopens on Monday.

May be put behind bars or bumped off, says Hasina

Former Bangla PM Sheikh Hasina plans to end Indian exile and return to Dhaka in Dec

NEW DELHI: 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 a



news agency, 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. Continued on Page 7

E20 petrol may cut mileage by 5%: Govt

But it offers cleaner combustion, energy security benefits: OilMin

NEW DELHI

PETROL blended with 20 per cent ethanol (E20) can reduce fuel economy by 3-5 per cent in some vehicles, the Oil Ministry said on Friday, but argued the impact is outweighed by benefits, including a higher octane rating, superior anti-knock characteristics, faster combustion, better pickup, smoother engine operation, and lower lifecycle carbon emissions.



In a detailed question-and-answer document issued to counter criticism of the Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said E20 was a "cleaner, higher-quality and more efficient fuel" than E10 or pure petrol and had been rolled out only after years of scientific testing, consultations with automobile manufacturers and the expansion of

domestic ethanol production. The ministry rejected concerns that the programme had been implemented too quickly, saying India's ethanol blending initiative dates back to pilot projects launched in 2001, with 5 per cent blending introduced in parts of the country by 2006. While ethanol blending remained around 1.5 per cent until 2014, the government accelerated production after introducing the National Policy on Biofuels in 2018 and expanding feedstocks beyond sugarcane. Continued on Page 7

Lokesh pitches for Korean investments in shipbuilding

HANS NEWS SERVICE AMARAVATI

AFTER successfully attracting Kia Motors and LG Electronics, Andhra Pradesh has launched an aggressive campaign to secure the next wave of Korean investments, targeting high-value sectors including shipbuilding, semiconductors, electric vehicles, artificial intelligence, batteries and advanced electronics.

- ▶▶ After Kia, LG, AP seeks to build integrated Korean industrial ecosystems
- ▶▶ HD Hyundai, EV makers, Samsung invited to anchor major projects
- ▶▶ Dedicated Korea Desk, industrial parks to deepen long-term partnership



IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh held a series of meetings with Korean government officials in Seoul on Friday

of meetings with Korean government officials, global corporations and industry leaders, positioning Andhra

Pradesh as Korea's preferred manufacturing and logistics gateway into India. Addressing the CII Partnership Summit roadshow in Seoul on Friday, Lokesh said the state's focus had shifted from attracting individual factories to building complete industrial ecosystems. He said the success of Kia's Anantapur plant,

which led to the emergence of one of India's largest Korean automobile clusters, demonstrated Andhra Pradesh's ability to deliver large manufacturing projects quickly. More than 35 Korean companies are now operating in the state. The investment pitch centred on sector-specific proposals to some of South Korea's biggest companies. Samsung Electronics was invited to establish AI-ready data centres, AI server manufacturing, semiconductor packaging, display fabrication,

battery manufacturing and research facilities at Amaravati's proposed Quantum Valley. The government also proposed developing a dedicated "Samsung City" in Andhra Pradesh. Kia Motors was asked to expand beyond passenger vehicles by establishing integrated manufacturing for electric and hybrid vehicles, EV components, battery systems and charging electronics, besides creating a CKD assembly and export hub near Visakhapatnam Port. Continued on Page 7