

New South Wales government fails to deliver promise of river improvement

Recently, an independent review in Australia found that the New South Wales and Queensland governments have severely underdelivered on more than \$160 million Australian dollars of promised river improvement projects in the northern Murray-Darling Basin. Both projects were meant to offset reduced environmental water flows, however many stalled or never progressed, with only a small fraction of targets achieved, such as fish passage construction.

These failures to secure land access and manage the water flows have caused severe environmental damage (dried wetlands, where wildlife species like turtles have sadly died). The report itself critiques the program's implementation, labelling it 'abysmal' and highlighting poor accountability and planning. Experts have expressed worries that these shortcomings would undermine trust in governments and have serious consequences for biodiversity.



Výsledky jednání gen. ředitele ČT s premiérem
Hynek Chudárek generální ředitel České televize
16:47 ČODBOJE ČSD VYKÁŽE ŠTÁVOVOU POKROKOVOSTI KVŮLI VLÁDNÍMU NÁVRHU ZÁKONA O MÉDIÍCH VEŘEJNÉ SLUŽBY.

Argentina's President Milei proposes election overhaul in latest attempts to shrink state

The President of Argentina Javier Milei, has proposed an electoral reform bill that would eliminate mandatory primary elections. Milei's main argument is that primary elections are constantly and ineffective.

The Government holds that eliminating the primaries (known as PASO in Argentina) would save significant amounts of public funds and make candidate selection an internal party matter. The draft legislation, furthermore, includes a stricter set of words on party formation, bans on convicted candidates, and tighter controls on political financing, such as limiting anonymous or foreign donations.

The reform is part of Milei's initiative to reduce state spending and reshape the Argentine political system. The bill must pass through Congress in order for it to take effect.



Czech journalists threaten to strike as a result of the Government's plan to scrap license fees

The opposition of Czech public media workers to government plans to replace licence fee funding with direct state budget support is escalating. The main fear of the workers is that such action can severely undermine editorial independence.

Thus, journalists at Czech Television and Czech Radio have issued strike warnings and formal alerts, arguing that the proposal would inevitably give politicians greater control over funding while cutting budgets to levels that have not been seen for decades. The initial plan, associated with the current Prime Minister Andrej Babiš, has sparked protests, criticism from media experts, and concern among unions.

Broadcasters fear the changes could weaken the stability and autonomy of public media. Amidst rising tensions, negotiations between the government and media representatives has so far failed to resolve the dispute.

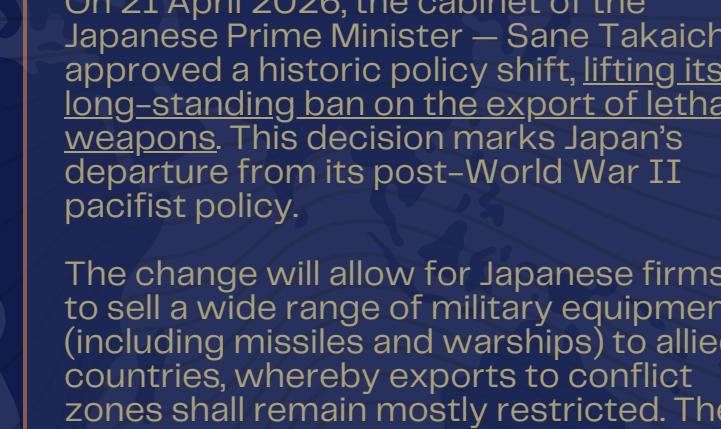


Indian actor turned politician runs for state chief minister

An actor-turned-politician C. Joseph Vijay is set to enter the upcoming Tamil Nadu 2026 elections. Tamil Nadu is a state famous for film stars influencing politics. Vijay's new party has introduced welfare-focused proposals, but the contest is still heavily dominated by the already established political forces. According to analysts,

Vijay is unlikely to secure outright victory, however he could play a key role by splitting votes. His rise in political relevance highlights the connection between cinema and political influence in the region.

Nevertheless, it remains unclear whether celebrity appeal alone can convert into major electoral success. The response of the voters would be the determinative element of his campaign and whether he could actually become a lasting political influence or simply a short-term disruptor.



Japan lifts ban on exports of lethal weapons

On 21 April 2026, the cabinet of the Japanese Prime Minister — Sane Takaichi, approved a historic policy shift, lifting its long-standing ban on the export of lethal weapons. This decision marks Japan's departure from its post-World War II pacifist policy.

The change will allow for Japanese firms to sell a wide range of military equipment (including missiles and warships) to allied countries, whereby exports to conflict zones shall remain restricted. The action is the result of growing regional security concerns, and more specifically tensions involving China, North Korea, and Russia, as well as a strive to strengthen the Japanese defence industry and deepen cooperation with partners.

Supporters argue that the removal of the trading ban will enhance deterrence and integrate Japan more into global security networks. On the other hand, critics warn that this decision risks undermining pacifist principles and increasing regional instability. The decision itself has sparked different international reactions, with allies welcoming the change and China labelling it as a reckless step toward remilitarisation.



Sources:

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