

PM Modi hoists Tricolour at Red Fort, calls for big dreams to build Viksit Bharat

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday hoisted the National Flag and addressed the nation from the ramparts of the iconic Red Fort in the national Capital as India celebrated its 80th Independence Day. The unfurling of the Tricolour was followed by a 21-gun salute, while a ceremonial showering of flowers from a helicopter also took place as part of the Independence Day celebrations. Beginning his address, PM Modi invoked the national song ‘Vande Mataram’ and the Tricolour while paying tribute to the freedom fighters

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Naidu calls for making Andhra Pradesh and India number one by 2047 on Independence Day

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday called on people of the state to work towards making the country and the state number one by 2047, as he marked the 80th Independence Day here. Delivering his Independence Day address at the Parade Ground in Nelapadu village of the greenfield capital city of Amaravati, the Chief Minister said the country attained freedom 80 years ago and urged people to work towards winning the world in the next 20 years. “Let’s work towards making the country and the state number one by 2047” 80 years



ago we procured our independence and now let’s work towards winning the world in the next 20 years,” said the CM. According to the CM, there is no difference between Viksit Bharat • 2047 goal and Swarna Andhra (golden Andhra) goals. A strong state is needed

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Working Towards Comprehensive Development Of The District

80th Independence Day Celebrations Held Grandly

Vizianagaram, August 15: “The 80th Independence Day celebrations were held in a grand, patriotic and inspiring manner on Saturday at the Police Parade Ground in the city. Minister for MSME, Poverty Eradication & NRI Empowerment Relations, Sri Kondapalli Srinivas attended as the chief guest and hoisted the National Flag. He received the guard of honor from the armed forces. District Collector S. Ram Sundar Reddy and SP A.R. Damodar accompanied him during the parade inspection in a special vehicle. Key points from Minister Kondapalli Srinivas’s address: Called upon everyone to make our district a model district. Said the district is being driven towards development in



all sectors. Stated that the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram will change the face of North Andhra. Said efforts are underway to set up

Working to restore glory of govt schools, says Lokesh



Vijayawada: Minister for Human Resource Development and IT Nara Lokesh has called upon people to rise above caste, religious, and regional differences and work collectively to realise the vision of Swarnandhra. He was addressing the 80th Independence Day celebrations after hoisting the national flag and

reviewing the parade from a specially decorated vehicle, accompanied by NTR District Collector Dr G Lakshmisha and Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhara Babu, at the Makineni Basavapurnaiah Municipal Corporation Stadium at Ajith Singh Nagar in Vijayawada

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Ponguru Narayana defends Deputy CM’s absence

VIJAYAWADA: Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana on Friday dismissed criticisms from the Opposition YSR Congress Party regarding the inauguration of the Seed Access Road in Amaravati, clarifying that Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan was unable to attend due to a pre-scheduled official meet. Speaking at the Kakinada District Review Committee (DRC) meeting at the Collectorate, Narayana explained that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had asked him to invite the Deputy Chief Minister. However, Pawan Kalyan was required to attend a World Elephant Day event in

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103-member BJP executive panel formed for Andhra Pradesh



VIJAYAWADA: The Andhra Pradesh unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced a 103-member State Executive Committee with an objective of strengthening the party organisation and expanding its presence at the grassroots level. BJP AP State president PVN Madhav ap-

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Uttarakhand venue ‘purification’: AP Congress burns RSS effigies over Kharge ‘humiliation’



Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Congress leaders burnt effigies across the state on Friday, targeting the RSS, to protest against the alleged ‘purification’ of a rally venue in Uttarakhand’s Haldwani following a public meeting addressed by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge recently. Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) vice

president Kolanukonda Sivaji demanded that the BJP explain why it remained “silent” over the incident in which Kharge was allegedly subjected to “humiliation and caste discrimination,” said a press release from the party. “A large number of Congress leaders and workers participated in the protest, rais-

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Meritorious students feted with cash awards



Vijayawada: The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour at Government Junior College in Akunuru of Vuyyuru mandal on Saturday. College Development Committee chairman and chief guest Kakani Srinivasa Rao hoisted the National Flag and paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the State government’s welfare initiatives, including Talliki Vandanam and the Dokka Seethamma Mid-Day Meal scheme, which support students. Distinguished alum-

nus and retired Indian Overseas Bank manager Kodali Balagangadhara Tilak urged students to attend classes regularly, maintain punctuality and make effective use of college facilities. Meritorious students were honoured with cash awards. Donors contributed Rs.37,000, including Rs 17,000 from the families of late Veerapaneni Dasaradha Ramaiah and late Sujatha for Mathematics excellence awards. Seven students received special Mathematics awards, while 20 top-performing students were given Rs.1,000 each.

KING
DAILY NEWSPAPER

Freedom from free-
dom: Understanding
the deeper meaning of
Independence

Everyone is emotionally stirred by Independence Day. It reminds of the day the countrymen were liberated from oppressive British rule, enabling us to govern ourselves and live according to our collective will. This freedom is undoubtedly worth celebrating, not merely because it gave self-rule, but because it gave an identity that unites beyond our immense diversity. What does freedom mean to an individual? We hear children and parents, students and teachers, spouses and partners, the young and the old. But what exactly are we asking for when we ask for freedom? Is freedom simply the absence of restraint? Is it the absence of supervision, advice, caution or accountability? Or is there a deeper meaning to being truly free? Let us look at what the nation's independence brought to us beyond freedom itself. We certainly became masters of our own destiny. But did we automatically become more disciplined? Did we become more socially responsible? Did corruption and exploitation disappear? Did we begin supporting one another despite our differences?

Does this mean that the sacrifices of our national heroes were misplaced? Certainly not. Perhaps it means that we have sometimes failed to understand and use the freedom they entrusted to us. They fought to remove external domination; the responsibility of governing ourselves was left to us. A child's perception of parental supervision, a spouse's caution, a teacher's advice or a mentor's guidance can easily be interpreted as a restriction on freedom. The same action that is intended as concern may appear to be controlled when viewed through the lens of "my freedom." How to change that perception? Chariji Maharaj often spoke of "freedom from freedom." At first, this sounds paradoxical. But perhaps it points towards a profound truth: sometimes, the idea of freedom prevents us from seeing things as they really are. When the idea of "freedom" dominates the mind, parental supervision can appear to be controlled. When people are free from that idea, the same supervision may reveal itself as a concern. A spouse's caution may feel like a command when we are preoccupied with our freedom, but may appear as care when we are free from the demand to be unrestricted. A student's resistance to a teacher's advice may arise because the advice is perceived as an obstacle to freedom. But when the mind is free from that perception, the same advice can become guidance. Thus, freedom is not merely the absence of external restraint. It can also mean freedom from the internal ideas that distort our perception. Consider what happens when we are completely alone and no one is watching us. We can behave in whichever way we choose. That is one form of freedom. But there is another possibility: we may conduct ourselves exactly as we would if someone were watching us - not because we are afraid of being observed, but because we have developed an inner awareness of what is right. That, to me, is a higher form of freedom: freedom from the need to exercise freedom. The question then becomes: how do we reach such a state? In the journey of self-realisation, Heartfulness practices can help us become increasingly aware of our inner self.

Working Towards Comprehensive
Development Of The District

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an MSME park in every constituency to generate large-scale employment.Mentioned that a comprehensive action plan is being implemented to tackle El-Nino conditions.Explained the efforts being made for the development of education and medical sectors, and the schemes being implemented for the welfare of the poor and common people.Recalling the sacrifices of freedom fighters, the Minister called upon everyone to be partners in the state's development.Highlights of the event:The programme began at 9:04 AM with the full rendition of Vande Mataram.Dog Show was witnessed and trainers were specially appreciated by the Minister.Cultural Performances: Student performances including 'Gopala Gopala', 'Veera Nari Jhansi Lakshmi Bai Dance', 'Operation Sindoor', 'Sare Jahan Se Acha Hindustan', 'Namo Namo Bharat Maate' were a special attraction.At 10:20 AM, a tableau display reflecting the progress of various government departments was held. The Fire Department's demonstration on fire safety precautions also created awareness among the public.Certificates of appreciation were presented to officers and employees who provided excellent service in various government departments. District police officers who received various service medals were also felicitated.The Minister, officials and public representatives visited stalls set up by various departments and distributed aids to beneficiaries.The event concluded with the National Anthem.Those who participated:"District Collector S. Ram Sundar Reddy, SP A.R. Damodar, MP Kaliseeti Appalanaidu, MLCs Kavali Greeshma, Gade Srinivasula Naidu, Dr. Suresh Babu, Markfed Chairman Karrothu Bangarraju, JC Sethu Madhavan, ASP Soumyalatha, DRO CH. Satibabu, district officials, other public representatives, students and a large number of city residents.

Naidu calls for making Andhra Pradesh and India
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for Viksit Bharat and a strong country for SwarnaAndhra.Noting that decentralised development is the government's policy, Naidu said we are working towards developing all regions and empowering all sections.The TDP supremo underscored that the Centre was extending support to the southern state on all fronts, including Polavaram Project, Vizag Steel Plant, and Visakhapatnam Railway Zone.Naidu pointed out that the state's growth rate has risen to 11.3 percent after his government put all systems back on track and accused the previous YSRCP government of leaving nearly Rs 10 lakh crore in debt, which turned into burden for state.

The CM underlined that the coalition government has spent Rs 1.56 lakh crore on welfare and Rs 1.34 lakh crore on development in 26 months.Highlighting that a job calendar with more than 10,000 jobs was released this year, he said the deals inked for Rs 24 lakh crore investments will generate 11 lakh jobs, adding that Rs 14 lakh crore investments have already been grounded.Further, Naidu said the government has set a target to build houses for all by 2029 and that housing documents are being issued to eligible people residing on government lands for a long period.Earlier, Naidu marked the 80th Independence Day by hoisting the national flag in Amaravati.Following the flag hoisting, the Chief Minister reviewed the parade as part of Independence Day celebrations."Heartfelt greetings to the people of Andhra Pradesh and Telugu people worldwide on the 80th Independence Day celebrations. Our freedom is the result of the sacrifices and struggles of countless great souls," said the CM in a post on X.The true tribute to their sacrifices is to build a greater future for the nation, he said, adding, "For that, with the resolve of That I am...", everyone should reflect not on what the country has done for me, but on what I can do for the country."

Ponguru Narayana defends Deputy CM's absence

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Vizag alongside a Union Minister, which fell under his departmental portfolio. The Minister added that Pawan Kalyan had officially conveyed his best wishes through social media and media updates, cautioning against political misrepresentation. Narayana assured that Amaravati's construction will be completed strictly according to the Chief Minister's roadmap, noting that legal challenges surrounding capital lands have been cleared.

PM Modi hoists Tricolour
at Red Fort, calls for big dreams
to build Viksit Bharat

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who sacrificed their lives for India's independence. "Today, every heartbeat is echoing with Vande Mataram; today, there is 'Har Ghar Tiranga'. My best wishes to all of you on Independence Day. The nation today remembers those great sons who sacrificed for independence, carrying only one aim, freedom, and dedicating their lives to it. I pay my heartfelt tribute to Pujya Babu and every other freedom fighter."Highlighting the significance of this year's celebrations, PM Modi said 'Vande Mataram' was echoing from the Red Fort for the first time since Independence, coinciding with the commemoration of 150 years of the national song.

"It is a historic day today. After Independence, on August 15, for the first time, Vande Mataram is echoing from the Red Fort. As we celebrate 150 years of Vande Mataram today, no other day could be more appropriate for this."The Prime Minister also expressed solidarity with people affected by floods in parts of the country in recent days and offered condolences to the families of those who lost their lives."In the last few days, there has been devastation because of floods in some parts of our nation. Our condolences are with the victims' families, and I want to give you the assurance and confidence that the whole nation stands with all those who are affected."Emphasising the importance of ambition, capability and determination in a nation's development, PM Modi said India must not limit itself to small dreams and should instead set bigger goals to accelerate its progress.

"Any nation becomes great when it progresses on the strength of its capabilities and goals. We do not need to have small dreams; we should dream big. Big dreams increase the pace of progress. When the resolve is firm, possibilities find their own way. Our resolve should also be high, because when we take a pledge, the height of our dreams also rises."PM Modi said India has set an ambitious national goal of becoming a developed country by 2047, when the nation completes 100 years of Independence."India has dreamed a big dream, to touch new heights. The dream is that when we complete 100 years of Independence, we will make Viksit Bharat in 2047, with the contribution, efforts and participation of 140 crore people of our nation."The Prime Minister also stressed that the scale of a nation's ambitions influences how it is perceived globally.It changes the way the world sees us when we dream big."PM Modi's address from the Red Fort marked his 13th consecutive Independence Day address from the historic monument, setting a new record among non-Congress prime ministers for consecutive Independence Day addresses from the Red Fort.This year's celebrations are centred on the 150th anniversary of 'Vande Mataram' and the role of Yuva Shakti in helping India realise the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Working to restore glory
of govt schools, says Lokesh

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on Saturday. Recalling the contributions of Mahatma Gandhi, Rani Jhansi Lakshmibai, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu and Alluri Sitarama Raju, Lokesh said Independence was achieved through the sacrifices of millions of freedom fighters. August 15 was an occasion to remember the nation's history and resolve to build its future, he said. Lokesh said the state government was working to restore the glory of government schools. Around 1.10 lakh students had shifted from private to government schools this year, he said. The curriculum had been revised, student kits were being distributed in the name of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and the mid-day meal programme was being implemented under the name of Dokka Seethamma. Also Read CM Naidu for collective resolve to build 'Swarnandhra' by 2047 Advertisement Discover more Regional News Updates Educational Resources Platform Online Newspaper Subscription The Minister said the state government was bridging the skill gap by strengthening links between industries and educational institutions. Industries would adopt ITIs and provide job-oriented training, while higher education was being reformed through curriculum changes and faculty recruitment. Lokesh said decentralised development was the government's policy and welfare and development were being pursued together. Pensions, Talliki Vandanam, Deepam, Stree Shakti, Annadata Sukhibhava, free power for handloom weavers, and Matsyakara Bharosa were among the major welfare initiatives. Lokesh said 16,000 teacher posts had been filled through Mega DSC and there was recruitment to fill 6,000 constable posts. A job calendar with 10,000 posts had also been released. He said his goal was to create 20 lakh jobs in the state. Recalling his interaction with a woman named Mohana during his padayatra, he said her request to bring industries and provide jobs for her children inspired the 20-lakh jobs target.



A. Raveendra Addl. Commissioner VMC(1)



ADCP. G. Ramakrishna



CP. SV. Rajasekhara Babu



D. Chandrasekhar Addl. Commissioner VMC



DIC General Manager M. Madhu



Dr. Ratna Priya Darshini



DRDA PD Nanchara Rao



Municipal Commissioner H.M. Dyanachandra



DSO P. Vani



K. Shakuntala Addl. Commissioner VMC



LDM P. Venkata Subbaiah



GGH Superintendent DR.G. Raghunandan



K. Ravi DI.PRO I&PR



Nandigama RDO G. Anil Kumar



Dist Red Cross Chairman Dr. G. Samaram



GM Civil Supply T.V. Satish



V.V. Prasad AV Supervisor(Rtd) I&PR



NTR Vaidya Seva DCO J. Suman

Award For Excellence In Public Information Service

Three Honoured By Minister Nara Lokesh

Vijayawada, August 16:“On the occasion of the 80th Independence Day celebrations, officials and a retired officer of the District Information & Public Relations Department were honored with Certificates of Appreciation for their dedication, efficiency and excellent performance in discharge of duties.At the Independence Day celebrations held on Saturday at Makeneni Basavapunnaiah Stadium, Minister for IT & Human Resources Development Sri Nara Lokesh presented the certificates.Recipients of Certificates of Appreciation:K. Ravi - Divisional PROFor excellent performance in drafting press releases related to VVIP visits

and various programmes, and for effectively communicating information on government and development activities to the media.K. Dhanunjaya Raju - Assistant EngineerFor playing a key role in the management of the Public Addressing System.V.V. Prasad - AVS (Retd.)For providing excellent services in media coordination.Speaking on the occasion, the awardees said that being recognized and felicitated with certificates of appreciation inspires them to work with greater responsibility. They affirmed that they will continue to work with dedication to ensure that government information reaches the public more effectively.

GBR Trust Services For Children With Special Needs'

NEST' Affectionate Meeting Held At Ratnagiri



Kamalapuram, August 15:“Under the aegis of Guduru Santhibhushan Charitable Trust, an 'NEST' affectionate meeting was organized on Friday at the trust construction site in Ratnagiri with children with special needs, their parents and trust members.Trust Managing Trustee Guduru Prasad presided over the programme. Speaking on the occasion, he said the 'NEST' project has been designed for the safety and overall development of children with special needs. Through this project, children will be provided residential facilities along with morning therapy, education, and vocational training to help them live independently.Guduru Charitable Trust



Chairman and Kakatiya Community Foundation Chairman Guduru Satyanarayana said the trust will always extend its full support to this great project undertaken with parental love and social responsibility.Dr. Chandrasekhar, Red Cross Society representative and Former Lions representative, and C. Rajasekhar, Special Olympics Bharat State Sports Expert, appreciated the service activities of the trust.Those who participated:“Trust Treasurer Nalluri Babji, Secretary B. Jhansi Lakshmi, Members Ravi Kumar Marla, Ratnakar, Ramesh Chandrababu, P.M.S. Rao and parents of special children.

Women entrepreneurs, farmers, innovators among 5,000 special guests at Red Fort



New Delhi: Nearly 5,000 special guests from different walks of life, including women entrepreneurs, young innovators, farmers and beneficiaries of various government schemes, attended the 80th Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort on Saturday.The invitees included International Yoga Day volunteers, women entrepreneurs under the PM Mudra Yojana, beneficiaries of schemes including NAMASTE, PM AJAY and SEED, and best-performing My Bharat volunteers. Best-performing beneficiaries of PMAY(U), street vendors under PM SVANidhi, urban sanitation workers under the Swachh Bharat Mission, best-performing Delhi Metro workers, workers associated with Kartavya Path and Central Vista, and staff of government hospitals in Delhi were also part of the gathering.The special guests also included young innovators under national innovation programmes, scientists in different fields, cab drivers of Bharat Taxi in Delhi, interns under the Prime Minister Internship Scheme, and best-performing

start-ups supported under various government schemes.Youth trained under the PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana, best-performing start-ups supported under Start-up India Seed Fund, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana beneficiaries and artisans under PM Vishwakarma scheme, as well as beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) Yojana, were also invited.Best-performing farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY) and students from Delhi government schools who performed well in various quizzes and competitions were among the other invitees.Adding cultural vibrancy, over 1,500 people from various states and Union territories dressed in traditional attire attended to witness the grand ceremony.Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the 80th Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort here on August 15. The celebrations marked 150 years of the national song ‘Vande Mataram’. For the first time, ‘Vande Mataram’ was rendered at the Red Fort celebrations.

PM Modi greets nation on 80th Independence Day, hails India’s progress

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday greeted the nation on its 80th Independence Day, saying that “powered by 140 crore Indians”, the country is “scaling new heights of progress across different sectors”, while paying tribute to the countless freedom fighters whose courage and sacrifice brought an end to colonial rule.In a post on X, PM Modi remembered the freedom fighters and said their dreams continue to inspire the country’s efforts to build a Viksit Bharat.“Warm greetings on the occasion of Independence Day,” the Prime Minister said.“We remember with gratitude the countless freedom fighters whose courage, sacrifice and unwavering commitment ensured the end of colonial rule. Their dreams continue to inspire us as we work together to build a Viksit Bharat,” PM Modi said.The Prime Minister also highlighted India’s ongoing development journey, crediting the country’s 140 crore citizens for its progress across various sectors. “Powered by 140 crore Indians, our nation is scaling new heights of progress across different sectors,” PM Modi said.He expressed hope that the country’s development journey would gather further momentum in the years ahead. “May this journey keep progressing at an even greater pace in the times to come,” the Prime Minister said.PM Modi’s Independence Day message came as India marked its 80th Independence Day, with celebrations being held across the country. The Prime Minister is leading the national celebrations at the historic Red Fort in Delhi, where he is scheduled to unfurl the Tricolor and address the nation. This year’s Independence Day celebrations are focused on the 150th anniversary of the national song ‘Vande Mataram’ and the role of ‘Yuva Shakti’ in building a devel-



oped India by 2047. For the first time, ‘Vande Mataram’ will be rendered as part of the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort, with NCC cadets and My Bharat Volunteers taking part in the mass singing.The Prime Minister’s address from the Red Fort also marks a significant milestone. PM Modi is delivering his 13th consecutive Independence Day address from the Red Fort, setting a new record among non-Congress prime ministers for consecutive Independence Day addresses from the historic monument. The celebrations include the unfurling of the national flag, a 21-gun salute and a ceremonial showering of flowers from a helicopter, followed by the Prime Minister’s address to the nation.

Six arrested for Rs 3.05 crore fraud over Nashik Kumbh Mela contracts

Nashik: The city police have arrested six persons so far for allegedly cheating some persons of Rs 3.05 crore by promising to arrange contracts for the 2027-2028 Nashik Kumbh Mela works for them. The arrested persons were identified as Tanay Anant Mahajan (32), Narendra Totaram Mahajan (51), Shoaib Ahmed Abdul Sattar Sheikh (36), Abdul Rais Abdul Munaf Sheikh (43), Shakeel Ahmed Saleemuddin Sheikh (42) and Mohammed Waseem Abdul Gaffar (42).The accused allegedly fabricated fake work orders to cheat the complainants, police said. Nashik Road police are conducting further probe.

Govt. official, car driver died in accident in Mulugu

Mulugu: A government official and her car driver died in a road accident at Kondparthi crossroads in the district on Saturday.The incident occurred when the special grade secretary of Kesamudram Agricultural Market in Mahabubabad district, Kalakota Surekha (46), was going towards Tadwai in a car. A speeding truck collided with the car on the national highway between Pasra and Tadwai.As a result, Surekha, along with her car driver Chinta Vijay Babu (48) from Kothagudem, died on the spot. The local police registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident.

Uttarakhand venue ‘purification’: AP Congress burns RSS effigies over Kharge ‘humiliation’

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ing slogans against caste discrimination and religious hatred,” said a press release from the party, adding that effigies were burnt targeting the RSS.Sivaji recalled that when former Congress minister Mani Shankar Aiyar had allegedly made remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Congress party immediately took action against him without issuing any notice.It was made clear then that the Congress Party would not “tolerate” politics that divide people in the name of caste or religion under any circumstances, he said.Sivaji appealed to democrats, civil society and the youth to stand with the Congress party in protecting the

values of equality, social justice and fraternity guaranteed by the Constitution, said the press release. In a symbolic protest, Sivaji also burnt shorts in Vijayawada, in an apparent reference to the RSS’ older uniform.Further, the Congress leaders demanded that cases be registered under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act against those involved in the “purification” of the venue.Meanwhile, there was no immediate reaction from local BJP leaders. Kharge had earlier alleged that people associated with the BJP carried out the ‘purification’ of the stage where he had spoken, and demanded action against those responsible under laws dealing with untouchability.

103-member BJP executive panel formed for Andhra Pradesh

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proved the organisational appointments, which have come into immediate effect.The committee consists of 68 State Executives, three Permanent Invitees and 32 Special Invitees.Former Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Kiran Kumar Reddy, BJP State president Daggubati Purandeswari and MLC Somu Veerraju have been appointed as Permanent Invitees.The Special Invitees include Union Minister of State Bhupatiraju Srinivasa Varma, Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, MPs CM Ramesh, Paka Venkata Satya Narayana, R Krishnaiah, MLAs P Vishnu Kumar Raju, C

Adinarayana Reddy and YS Chowdary. Former minister Kamineni Srinivas, Nallimilli Rama Krishna Reddy, PV Parthasarathi, Pothula Sunitha, GVL Narasimha Rao, TG Venkatesh, Kottapalli Geetha and Velagapalli Varaprasad Rao are among the other Special Invitees. The State Executive list includes representatives from all districts. Bi Uma Maheshwara Rao, Battula Pavan Sai Kumar, Paka Raninaga Mallika, Medapati Ravindra Reddy, Mutta Naveen Krishna, Guttikonda Sri Rajababu, Muvvala Venkata Rama Subbarao and Yadlapati Swarooparani have been appointed to the State Executive.

Trisha Krishnan seen with Vijay’s family at Independence Day celebrations in Chennai

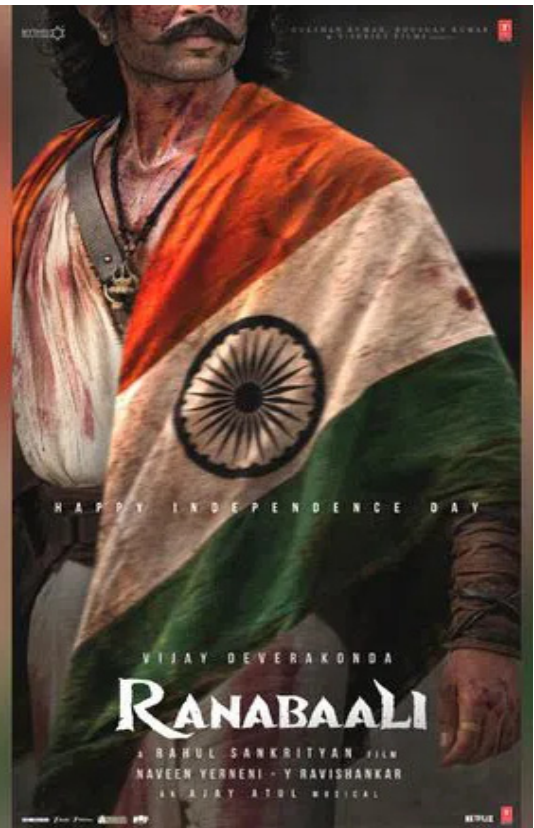


Mumbai: Actress Trisha Krishnan, who predominantly works in Tamil cinema, attended the Independence Day celebrations in Chennai on Saturday. The actress attended the flag hoisting ceremony by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay at Fort St George. The couple is rumoured to be dating, and the actress turned the heads as she was seen sitting alongside Vijay’s parents, SA Chandrasekhar and Shobha Chandrasekhar. For the occasion, the actress donned a yellow saree paired with a green blouse, completing her look by tying her hair in a bun. She appeared to be in a cheerful mood. A few videos circulating on the internet show the actor saluting the Jana Nayagan star as he passed by while performing his official duties at the ceremony. The reports about the couple dating emerged in March this year. Prior to that, Vijay’s wife of nearly three decades, Sangeetha Sornalingam, had filed for divorce, citing alleged infidelity and referring to an unnamed actress. Later, Vijay and Trisha wore matching outfits as they attended a wedding reception in Chennai. The actress also attended

the oath-taking ceremony of Vijay in May this year. Back then, the actress opted for a teal and gold saree paired with a cream blouse as she headed to Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai for Vijay’s swearing-in ceremony as the Chief Minister. Her mother, Uma Krishnan, also accompanied her. This came after Vijay’s party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) failed to form the government multiple times earlier after the May 4 polling results. Finally, Vijay formed the government in Tamil Nadu with the support of several smaller parties after Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam emerged as the single largest party in the Assembly elections. The supporting allies include the Indian National Congress, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Indian Union Muslim League, and Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazagam. Together, these parties helped TVK cross the majority mark in the 234-member Assembly. Vijay’s party emerged as the single largest party after it secured 108 seats in the recently conducted Tamil Nadu assembly elections.

Vijay Deverakonda urges fans to ‘never forget the cost’ of freedom on Independence Day

Hyderabad: Wishing all Indians around the world a happy Independence Day, Telugu star Vijay Deverakonda on Saturday urged people to remember how hard our forefathers had to fight for our freedom and to “never forget the cost. Taking to his social media timelines to greet people on the happy occasion of the country’s Independence Day, Vijay Deverakonda, who plays an inspiring character in his upcoming period film ‘Ranabaali’, wrote, “A day of immense celebration. A day to remember how hard our forefathers fought for it, and how far we have come. #NeverForget the cost. And bring glory to your families and the country. Happy Independence Day my brothers, my people.” The actor also shared a new poster from director Rahul Sankrityan’s upcoming film, ‘Ranabaali’, in which he plays a brave patriot. For the unaware, ‘Ranabaaali’ will feature Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna in the lead. It has Hollywood actor Arnold Vosloo, who is best known for having played character Imhotep in the blockbuster film ‘The Mummy’, playing the antagonist. The unit of the film, which has triggered huge interest among fans and film buffs, had wrapped up a crucial schedule of the film at Rayalaseema in April this year. Vijay Deverakonda essays the role of Ranabaali, while Rashmika Mandanna plays his wife Jayamma in the film. Arnold Vosloo, best known for his work in ‘The Mummy’, plays the antagonist Sir Theodore Hector. ‘Ranabaali’ is being produced on a grand scale by Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar, with T-Series presenting the film. The movie is set against a British-era backdrop and is being made as a period action drama. Set in the 19th century, the film is based on real historical events that took place between 1854 and 1878, and is being mounted as a massive pan-India project. Sources claim ‘Ranabaali’ is inspired by real incidents from the 1850s that never found space in mainstream history books. They say it will be based on real incidents in the time period of 1850-1900 and that the film will look to showcase incidents that the British misrepresented in history. Sources claim that Ranabaali will not be a biopic, and not a textbook retelling but will be a cinematic reconstruction of an era built from multiple real accounts, oral histories, and suppressed records. After ‘Geetha Govindam’ and ‘Dear Comrade’, ‘Ranabaali’ will be the third film in which Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda will be seen appearing together as a pair.



Priyanka Chopra marks Independence Day with message of pride and hope for India

Mumbai: Global star Priyanka Chopra Jonas marked India’s 79th Independence Day with an emotional yet crisp message on her social media. Sharing a picture of the Indian tricolour against a mountainous landscape, the actress highlighted that she is “proud of where we’ve come from” and “hopeful about where we’re headed.” Priyanka shared the picture on her social media account, featuring the Indian flag fluttering against a backdrop of mountains and a clear blue sky. Alongside the picture, she wrote, “Proud of where we’ve come from. Hopeful about where we’re headed.” She also added the Indian flag emoji and the hashtag “#HappyIndependenceDay.” For the uninitiated, Priyanka seems to have a deeper connection with India beyond being a citizen of the country, having grown up in a military family. Priyanka was born to Dr Ashok Chopra and Dr Madhu Chopra, both physicians who served in the Indian Army. Her father’s service in the Army Medical Corps meant that the family moved frequently across the country. Priyanka grew up in places including Delhi, Chandigarh, Ambala, Ladakh, Lucknow, Bareilly and Pune. Her father, Lt Col Ashok Chopra, was commissioned into the Army Medical Corps and served as a surgeon, while her mother also served as an Army physician before later pursuing her medical practice and business ventures.

Talking about Priyanka, her own journey has taken her far beyond the boundaries of India. She too represented



India in the prestigious international beauty pageant and was crowned Miss World in 2000. Post a successful stint in Bollywood, she eventually made a significant transition to the international entertainment industry. Despite moving base, Priyanka has consistently spoken about remaining connected to her Indian identity, culture and traditions. Recently, Priyanka had given a glimpse of raising her little daughter Malti Marie by introducing her to Indian traditions, festivals, spirituality, language and culture. Priyanka has also spoken about wanting Malti to understand and embrace her Indian heritage while growing up in the US. The actress was also recently seen visiting Mumbai’s Siddhivinayak Temple with Malti during a brief visit to India. A few days ago she was seen reciting and teaching little Malti various shlokas. Professionally, Priyanka will be seen next in filmmaker S.S. Rajamouli’s upcoming epic Varanasi, co-starring Mahesh Babu.

Avengers: Domsday trailer: Robert Downey Jr.’s Doctor Doom threatens Marvel superheroes



Mumbai: The makers of “Avengers: Domsday” on Saturday unveiled a new trailer of the upcoming film, which shares a peek into how Hollywood star Robert Downey Jr.’s character Doctor Doom is set to unleash chaos as he goes head-to-head with Marvel’s biggest superheroes. Actor Chris Hemsworth took to Instagram, where he shared the trailer with the caption “Newest look at Avengers Domsday. 12.18.2026.” The over two-minute-long trailer begins with the character of Vanessa Kirby’s Sue Storm saying: “Victor was always the smartest guy in every room. He used to be different. He used to be kind, caring and then everything he loved was taken from him. I knew he was lost, but I did not realise that he was broken.” She is seen giving a warning about the danger of the Latverian villain in between cuts focused on Doom’s costume. It then pans to Pedro Pascal’s character Mister Fantastic asking Doom about the destruction. Later, Chris Hemsworth’s Thor is seen fight-

ing Doom and is heard saying “you will be begging for hell long before I grant it.” To which, Doom says: “Hell answers to me, for I am Doom.” In the film, the Avengers, Wakandans, New Avengers, Fantastic Four, and the X-Men converge from different universes to face Doom. Directed by Anthony and Joe Russo, **Avengers: Domsday** follows beloved heroes from three distinct universes as they are set on a deadly collision course and face an existential threat unlike anything they’ve ever encountered. The film also stars Paul Rudd, Anthony Mackie, Florence Pugh, Ebon Moss-Bachrach, Wyatt Russell, Channing Tatum, Simu Liu, Ian McKellen, Tom Hiddleston, James Marsden, Patrick Stewart, Joseph Quinn, Sebastian Stan, David Harbour, Letitia Wright, Lewis Pullman, Kelsey Grammer, Kathryn Newton, Danny Ramirez, Winston Duke, Alan Cumming, Hannah John-Kamen, Rebecca Romijn, Mabel Cadena, with Tenoch Huerta Mejia.

Harmanpreet Singh credits Manpreet, senior players for India hockey team’s stability

New Delhi: India hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh has credited the enduring bond with senior midfielder Manpreet Singh and the presence of experienced players across the squad as key factors in giving the team stability ahead of the FIH Hockey World Cup. Harmanpreet and Manpreet have shared a long journey together, dating back to their junior days, and the India captain believes that years of playing alongside each other have built an understanding that becomes particularly valuable during high-pressure moments. “Manpreet paaji has been our senior. We’ve been together since the juniors. From then until now, that bond, trust and understanding have been very strong. We’ve been playing together for so many years, and I just want to say thanks to him for showing the trust and faith in me,” Harmanpreet told JioStar. That familiarity extends beyond match situations, with Harmanpreet revealing that the group of experienced players often spends time together away from the pitch as well. The India captain said those close relationships have naturally strengthened their communication and understanding during matches. “Even when we go home, during training sessions, we are mostly together, me, Manpreet, Mandeep, Dilpreet. When in camp, we naturally stay together,” he added. For a team preparing to compete at the highest level, Harmanpreet believes such familiarity can make a significant difference when matches become intense. The understanding between the midfield and defence, he said, has developed through years of playing together and allows players to anticipate situations without relying solely on verbal communication. “On the field, the understand-



ing between defenders and midfielders is excellent. We know how to pass in certain situations, how that eye contact works. We stay close in defence too, so there is no communication gap,” he stated. The experience within the squad is particularly notable at a World Cup, where the pressure of knockout-stage hockey can test even the most accomplished teams. Harmanpreet pointed out that several senior members of the current Indian side have already experienced the demands of the tournament on multiple occasions and believes that experience can prove invaluable when the team finds itself in difficult situations. Having senior players willing to take responsibility during crucial moments can help settle the rest of the group and maintain composure. “For Manpreet and Mandeep, this is their fourth World Cup; for me, it’s the third. When a senior player puts their hand up in a crunch situation, it instils confidence in the team,” the India captain said. Harmanpreet also underlined the importance of having experienced campaigners spread across different departments rather than relying on leadership from a single part of the team. He feels that balance gives India multiple players capable of taking charge when required. “I’m glad that in every position we have senior players who can balance the team, Mandeep in the forward line, Manpreet in midfield, and us in defence.”

1st Test: Rahul, Devdutt steady India at 101/1 at lunch against Sri Lanka



Galle: KL Rahul and Devdutt Padikkal were solid as India overcame an unfortunate dismissal of Yashasvi Jaiswal to cruise to 101 for one at lunch on the opening day of the first Test against Sri Lanka here on Saturday. Rahul (32) and Devdutt (35) were at the crease when lunch was taken. The second-wicket pair has so far added 54 runs in 16 overs. However, the break could have been even sweeter for the tourists if there had been no mix-up between Jaiswal, who lost balance after a collision with the bowler, and Rahul. The horrible yes-no situation between them saw both batters ending up at the non-striker’s end, with Jaiswal, who looked good during his 37-ball 32, eventually having to walk off. But that temporary setback did not affect India’s scoring rate as they motored at around four an over. Rahul was a bit edgy to begin with, particularly against pacer Lahiru

Kumara. There was a play and miss and an edge that died in front of the gully fielder, but a pull off the same bowler for a boundary indicated his growing confidence. The introduction of seasoned left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya was meant to add a modicum of control to the proceedings. But the Indian batters did not allow Sri Lanka’s primary weapon to settle into an early rhythm. Devdutt, who looked in fine fettle, smacked him for a six, a little shimmy and a clean hit sending the ball soaring over long-on. Rahul soon followed as the left-arm spinner was creamed straight over his head for another maximum, and the Bengaluru batter also followed it up with a boundary in the same direction. Jayasuriya, debutant off-spinner Keshara Nuwantha and spinner Dhananjaya de Silva did find some bounce and turn on occasions, but were too slow to trouble the Indian batters.

India vs Sri Lanka 1st Test: Play to resume at 2pm after rain delay in Galle

Galle: Day one’s play in the opening Test between India and Sri Lanka will resume at 2pm local time on Saturday following a rain delay during the lunch break at the Galle International Stadium on Saturday. On-field umpires Rod Tucker and Sharfuddoula Saikat carried out an inspection at 1:35pm after the ground staff removed the



covers and worked to clear the outfield following the rain stoppage, which has cost 80 minutes of play. Match officials confirmed a revised schedule targeting 86 overs to be completed in a day. The second session will run from 2pm to 3:50 pm, followed by a 20-minute tea break. The final session is scheduled to be played from 4:10pm to 6pm, weather and light permitting. India reached 101/1 in 27 overs at lunch after captain Shubman Gill won the toss and elected to bat in their landmark 600th Test match. Vice-captain KL Rahul was unbeaten on 32 alongside Devdutt Padikkal, who’s unconquered on 35, with the duo building an unbroken 54-run partnership for the second wicket to put the visitors in a commanding

position. India had started strongly before losing opener Yashasvi Jaiswal for 32 off 37 balls in a chaotic run-out, thus ending the 47-run opening partnership. Despite that setback, India maintained a healthy scoring rate, thanks to Padikkal and Rahul seizing control against Sri Lanka’s spin attack, especially with the duo hitting left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya for sixes shortly before the lunch break arrived. Sri Lanka’s spinners found occasional turn and bounce on the Galle surface but struggled for consistency, thus allowing Rahul and Padikkal to settle before rain halted India’s progress. The pair will now look to build on their morning gains when play restarts in what is also Galle’s 50th Test match as a venue.

Venus Williams’ singles losing streak reaches 13 matches after Cincinnati Open defeat

Ohio: Venus Williams’ singles losing streak has stretched to 13 matches after the seven-time Grand Slam champion suffered a 6-2, 6-2 defeat to Colombian qualifier Emiliana Arango in the first round of the Cincinnati Open on Friday. The 46-year-old American was



given a wildcard entry for the WTA 1000 event but was still unable to end her streak of not winning a singles match, which had continued since July 2025. The 25-year-old qualifier Arango managed to beat Williams in one hour and five minutes on the grandstand court at the Lindner Tennis Center. Williams’ afternoon began in a difficult manner since her serve was broken in the first game, and she had trouble getting back into the match against a player who constantly applied pressure. Arango converted four out of her five break-point chances and secured 71 per cent of the points after her first serve, while Williams was unable to convert her one break opportunity and only won 41 per cent of her first-serve points. According to Arango, securing a lead early on had the effect of calming her nerves and enabled her to keep control of the contest. “That kind of eased my nerves a little bit of having maybe a little bit of breathing room. And then I think I just did a good job of staying on it, trying to make her play as much as possible,” Arango said. The Colombian will have to play the defending champion and top seed Iga Swiatek in the second round. For Williams, this loss was the result of a tough sequence of performances in singles, her most recent win having been at last year’s Washington tournament when she beat Peyton Stearns. Even though the outcome was what it was, Williams did consider there to be

some positive aspects in her performance, especially since she was able to dictate the points before finding it difficult to finish them. Williams stated that although he had actually been in full control of the situation at all times he had unfortunately not completed it the way he had desired, and she is making her eleventh appearance at the tournament. “I think that at all times I was really controlling the point, but unfortunately didn’t finish it the way I wanted to,” said Williams, who is making her 11th appearance at the tournament. “The encouraging part is that I’m controlling the shots, but I have to just get a little more consistent on that last part.” Williams will still stay in Cincinnati, as she will have another chance to compete with her sister Serena Williams after the two of them were given a wildcard for the doubles event. The sisters had their last match together in doubles at the 2022 US Open and were meant to reunite at Wimbledon this year until Serena had to withdraw because of an injury. Their campaign in Cincinnati will start with matches against Marta Kostyuk and Peyton Stearns, the doubles event beginning on Sunday. “I’m excited and hope that we can both go into it fresh, on our toes and ready. I’ll be preparing for that,” Williams said. Williams also has another mixed-doubles assignment on the horizon, with the American scheduled to partner Alexander Bublik at the US Open later this month.

Nifty, Sensex post weekly losses amid crude price rise and global uncertainty



Mumbai: The Indian equity benchmarks posted notable losses after two consecutive weeks of gains, amid elevated crude prices and persistent global uncertainty. Nifty declined 0.83 per cent during the week and shed 0.12 per cent on the last trading day to reach 24,366. At close, Sensex was down 70 points, or 0.09 per cent, at 78,009. It lost 0.62 per cent during the week. Softer-than-expected US labour market data initially supported hopes of a patient Federal Reserve, but a rebound in crude oil prices shifted focus back to inflation risks and evolving geopolitical developments, according to analysts. Markets remained range-bound through the week as these headwinds were largely offset by corporate earnings. Domestically, better-than-expected corporate earnings, stability in the rupee, moderation in the domestic 10-year bond yield and a gradual improvement in FII participation provided support to the domestic macro environment. Earnings breadth remained healthy, with 33 constituents of Nifty 50 outperforming estimates. Market participants felt the results underscored the strength of corpo-

rate earnings despite a challenging external backdrop and continued to create opportunities for a bottom-up stock selection approach. During the week, large-cap sentiments largely remained capped by Middle East tensions. However, the mid-cap index demonstrated strength and outperformed the benchmark, aided by better earnings visibility. Sectorally, consumer durables and realty were among the notable gainers, supported by improving demand trends and domestic growth optimism.

PSU banks remained relatively buoyant on the back of healthy asset quality, attractive valuations and a favourable credit growth outlook. Metals, automobiles and FMCG witnessed profit booking amid concerns over higher input costs. Broad market indices showed divergence from the benchmark indices, as Nifty Midcap100 and Nifty Smallcap100 added 0.50 per cent during the week. Investors will closely track the crude price trajectory, geopolitical developments, US retail sales, FOMC minutes and Chinese economic data for further cues on global growth and the Fed's policy outlook.

Reliance, Rolls-Royce plan sovereign combat engine for India's AMCA

New Delhi: Reliance Industries and Rolls-Royce on Friday said they intend to jointly develop a sovereign combat engine for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme, marking a bid by India's largest private-sector company and Britain's storied aero-engine maker to build indigenous fighter-jet propulsion capability in the country. The two companies, in a joint statement, said they would explore forming a dedicated Aerospace Gas Turbine Complex in India, envisioned as a centre of excellence for power and propulsion technology, covering design, development, manufacturing, testing, production and through-life support of combat engines. The proposed partnership would combine Britain's storied aero-engine maker's technology and expertise with Reliance's technology, manufacturing and execution capabilities to develop the AMCA engine in India. The announcement frames the tie-up as advancing Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push for the country's defence sector to produce an indigenous engine to power its fighter jet programme, part of the broader "Atmanirbhar Bharat", or self-reliant India, initiative. "India's strategic autonomy requires sovereign capability in critical technologies," Anant Ambani, executive director of Reliance Industries, said in the statement. History He said the partnership would combine Rolls-Royce's propulsion expertise with Reliance's "technology, manufacturing, scale and execution capabilities" to build an aero-engine ecosystem in India that



could become "self-reliant and, over time, globally competitive".

Rolls-Royce Chief Executive Officer Tufan Erginbilgic said the alliance brings together "our century-long heritage in advanced engineering and proven engine expertise" with Reliance's standing in Indian industry, calling it "a major milestone towards building a robust, self-reliant aerospace ecosystem in the country". The companies said the venture could also open the door to broader collaboration in defence, civil aerospace and new power and propulsion systems, beyond the AMCA engine itself. The AMCA is India's indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter programme; developing a domestically produced engine for it has been a longstanding goal of the country's defence establishment, which currently relies on foreign suppliers for fighter engines. The strategic intent announcement does not itself constitute a signed joint venture or contract; the companies described it as a step toward exploring the formation of the proposed gas turbine complex. Reliance, led by chairman Mukesh Ambani, is India's largest private-sector company by revenue, with businesses spanning oil-to-chemicals, retail, digital services and media.

Govt offers window for small taxpayers to declare undisclosed foreign assets

New Delhi: The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified the 'Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers-Disclosure Scheme Rules, 2026' for a one-time disclosure window, allowing small taxpayers to declare undisclosed foreign assets and income. The rule offers immunity from prosecution and different relief depending on the value and nature of the disclosure. The 'Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers-Disclosure Scheme Rules, 2026' will come into force on August 16 and set out four categories of foreign holdings that can be declared, according to an official statement. They include undisclosed assets located outside India; undisclosed foreign income; assets acquired abroad during a period of non-residence but not declared on becoming resident; and assets bought from already-taxed income but omitted from the relevant return schedule in the income tax return. Declarations must be filed electronically in Form 1 by December 31, 2026, and after the Principal Director General or Director General of Income-tax (Systems), passes an order determining the payable amount in Form 2, the declarant can pay the amount within two months without interest. Also Read CBDT allows taxpayers to see their foreign asset info online via AIS Advertisement Discover more City & Local Guides Regional News Updates Business News Analysis An additional two-month window is available with interest at 1 per cent per month on the outstanding amount, after which the scheme's benefit lapses and the declaration is treated as void. Eligibility for availing the scheme is capped



at two thresholds. Declarations combining undisclosed foreign income and undisclosed assets cannot exceed Rs 1 crore in aggregate fair market value. A separate category covering assets acquired during non-residence or from disclosed income but not reported is capped at Rs 5 crore. For disclosure within the Rs 1 crore bracket, the rules require payment of 30 per cent tax on the value of undisclosed assets and income along with a 100 per cent penalty on that tax.

This would effectively take the payout to about 60 per cent of the declared value. On the Rs 5 crore category the scheme imposes a flat fee — either nil for smaller disclosures or Rs 1 lakh, with no tax or penalty component. Fair market value is to be computed as on the valuation date of March 31, 2026, based on rules covering bullion, jewellery, artwork, quoted and unquoted shares, immovable property and bank accounts. Values of bank accounts are computed based on the sum of all deposits since the account was opened, or since a prior Black Money Act declaration if one was made. Foreign currency values are to be converted to Indian rupees using the RBI's reference rate on the valuation date.

Gold rates today in Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata surges, check the prices on 15 August, 2026

The gold rates today in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata surged on 15 August, 2026. Going by the gold rates today in Delhi, the price of 10 grams of 22-carat gold is Rs. 1,42,250 with a hike of Rs. 650 while the rate of 10 grams of 24-carat gold is at Rs. 1,55,280 with a hike of Rs. 710. In Mumbai, the gold rate of ten grams of 22-carat gold is Rs. 1,42,200 with a hike of Rs. 650 while the rate of 24-carat gold is Rs. 1,55,130 with a fall of Rs. 710. In Kolkata, the gold rate of ten grams of 22-carat gold Rs. 1,42,200 with a hike of Rs. 650 while the rate of 24-carat gold is Rs. 1,55,130 with a fall of Rs. 710. While the Silver rate today at Delhi Mumbai and Kolkata is at Rs. 2,50,000 per kilogram. The gold rates in the international market have been fluctuating. Over the past few weeks gold rates have experienced a fall



during the wedding season, fluctuating around Rs. 1,40,000 for 10 grams of 24-carat gold and approximately Rs. 1,50,000 for 10 grams of 22-carat gold. The gold prices mentioned here are due at 8am, the prices could alter at every moment and hence the gold buyers need to track the live prices at a given time. The mentioned prices here are closing prices of yesterday while today's price would begin either with a decrease or increase.

HCLTech, NetApp deepen collaboration

Hyderabad: HCLTech, a technology company, has expanded its collaboration with NetApp, a data infrastructure company, to offer hybrid cloud storage-as-a-service (STaaS) to enable enterprises scale AI and data-driven workloads. Alvaro Celis, Chief Partner and Ecosystem Officer at NetApp, said: "We believe strong partnerships are built by co-creating technology offerings, business models, solutions and services that deliver meaningful customer value. This collaboration gives customers access to NetApp's intelligent data infrastructure through a flexible, accessible business model."



YSRCP misleading youth, says Seedap G Deepak Reddy

VIJAYAWADA: Seedap Chairman G Deepak Reddy said the Coalition government was implementing a comprehensive strategy to create jobs and provide quality skill training to youth. He accused the YSRCP of misleading unemployed youth through street plays and false propaganda. Addressing a press conference at the TDP Central Office in Mangalagiri on Friday, Deepak Reddy questioned the credibility of YSRCP street plays, saying political workers and older unemployed leaders, rather than ‘Gen-Z’ youth, largely participated in them. Referring to the final chargesheet submitted by the SIT to the court over alleged APPSC irregularities during the previous government, he said the issue concerned thousands of young people and demanded that former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy apologise to them. Rejecting the YSRCP’s job-creation al-



legations, Deepak Reddy said Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu was implementing Swarnandhra Vision 2047. AP had attracted 25 per cent of investments coming into India, while FDI had increased six-fold, he said. Projects worth Rs 11.37 lakh crore had been grounded, expected to create 10 lakh confirmed jobs. The State had received investment commitments worth nearly Rs 23 lakh crore in two years, with 24 lakh jobs expected, he said. Of the 20 lakh jobs promised during Nara Lokesh’s Yuva Galam Padayatra, 7,28,347 had been provided, he said.

Ambati gets High Court relief, cops told to follow law

VIJAYAWADA: Former minister and senior YSRCP leader Ambati Rambabu received relief from the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday in a case registered against him by Arundalpet police in Guntur. Justice Yadavalli Lakshmana Rao directed the police to act against Rambabu strictly in accordance with law and issue him a notice under Section 35(3) of the BNSS, seeking his explanation. Notices were also issued to the police and complainant Pilli Manikyalarao, Guntur district TDP president. The court adjourned further hearing to next month. Manikyalarao had complained that



Rambabu posted a morphed video allegedly intended to defame Union Minister of State Dr Pemmasani Chandrasekhar.

Andhra Pradesh gets 25.1L MT fertiliser allocation for Rabi season

VIJAYAWADA: AP is set to receive 25.10 lakh metric tonnes of fertilisers for the Rabi 2026-27 season, an increase of 2.02 lakh MT over last year, with the Centre enhancing allocations of key fertilisers including DAP, MOP, SSP and complex fertilisers to meet the requirements of farmers across the State. The allocations were finalised at the national-level zonal conference on Rabi 2026-27 crops held on Friday, which reviewed fertiliser requirements, availability and allocations for all States. Director of Agriculture, AP, Dr Manazir Jeelani Samoon, represented the State at the conference. According to the Agriculture Department, the total area under agriculture and horticultural crops in Andhra Pradesh for Rabi 2026-27 has



been estimated at 51.76 lakh hectares. The State has been allocated 9.50 lakh MT of urea, compared with 9.38 lakh MT during Rabi 2025-26. The DAP allocation has been increased from 2.20 lakh MT to 3 lakh MT, while MOP (potash) has gone up from 1 lakh MT to 1.30 lakh MT.

YSRCP MP condemns suspension of three teachers over TET issue

Amaravati: YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) MP M. Gurumoorthy on Friday strongly condemned the suspension of three government teachers for visiting Delhi to raise the concerns of the teaching community over the compulsory Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) rule for in-service teachers. The MP questioned what offence they had committed by raising teachers’ concerns. A delegation of YSRCP leaders met Union Education Minister Prahlad Joshi in New Delhi on Thursday and urged the Centre to exempt senior in-service teachers from the TET. The YSRCP alleged that the government suspended State Teachers’

Union (STU) district president Sangameswara Reddy and YSR Teachers’ Association representatives Venkatnath Reddy and Amarnath Reddy. “What wrong did they commit? Is fighting for teachers and taking the TET exemption issue to the notice of the Union Government an offence?” Gurumoorthy asked. He said the three teachers had gone to Delhi solely to raise the problems faced by in-service teachers over TET and had tried to meet Union Ministers to represent their concerns.



Polavaram works will be completed by end of March 2027, says Nimmala

VIJAYAWADA: Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu on Friday announced an accelerated completion deadline for the flagship Polavaram Project, stating that the government aims to complete all works by March 2027, well ahead of its original December 2027 schedule, to align with the upcoming Godavari Pushkarams. Addressing a press conference at the Secretariat following a comprehensive review meeting chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, the Minister revealed that overall project progress currently stands at 77 per cent. Breakdown figures indicate that civil works have reached 90 per cent completion, land acquisition stands at 94 per cent, and Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) execution is at 52 per cent. Despite recent heavy flood inflows of 14 lakh cusecs in the Godavari River, execution remained uninterrupted, with ECRF Gap-1 and Gap-2 works reaching 48 per cent and 36 per cent progress, respectively. Ramanaidu highlighted that the government spent an amount of Rs 1,500 crore to Rs 1,800 crore to expedite critical works along the Polavaram Left Main Canal (LMC), including overcoming complex engineering challenges at 11 National Highway crossings and major river cuts. Water is scheduled to be released through the Left Canal by the end of this month to supply drinking, agricultural, and industrial water up to Anakapalli in North Coastal Andhra. To ensure seamless execution, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu directed that all land acquisition, R&R colony construction, and displaced family resettlements be completed by December 2026—establishing a six-month buffer before project commissioning. The Minister added that the state is conducting a radial survey across 10,000 acres to transform the Polavaram project area



into a major river-based tourism hub extending up to Bhadrachalam, featuring spillway beautification and an iconic connectivity bridge, while strictly preserving the nearby Gandhi Posamma temple. Turning to the long-pending Veligonda project, Ramanaidu announced that following an initial release of Rs 318 crore, the State government will disburse the remaining Rs 600 crore in R&R compensation between August 17 and August 24 under a strict schedule. Key head-works, feeder canal lining, and regulators are slated for completion by August 25. Engineering teams working in night shifts have already dismantled 1,500 tonnes of the 1,900-tonne Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) stuck in Tunnel-2, utilising specialised diamond and granite cutters to clear the remaining 400 tonnes. Rebutting criticism regarding industrial water supply to technology infrastructure in Visakhapatnam, the Minister clarified that data centres, including Google’s upcoming facilities, require a total of 3 TMC of water annually, which will be reportedly drawn from Godavari waters via the Polavaram Left Canal. Addressing irrigation infrastructure, Ramanaidu revealed that out of 1,040 Lift Irrigation Corporation (IDC) schemes across the State, only 150 are currently operational, severely crippling agriculture across an 8-lakh-acre ayacut. To rectify this, the State government will directly take over, repair, and manage the Operation and Maintenance of all lift schemes for the next 10 years.

Bhogapuram airport to begin commercial operations from August 17



VIZIANAGARAM: Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 1, will begin commercial operations under the IATA code VTZ from August 17, with domestic and international passenger services shifting from Visakhapatnam to the new airport. GMR AERO released the schedule for the transition on Friday and said all passengers travelling to and from Vizag would use the new integrated airport under the IATA code VTZ from August 17. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has taken charge of aviation security at the airport. CISF Director General Praveer Ranjan will participate in the first Independence Day celebrations at the airport on Saturday and formally take charge of airport security and operational protocols. The CISF and GMR AERO have made arrangements for the 80th Independence Day celebrations. The transition is expected to improve access to domestic

and international destinations and create opportunities for tourism, cargo, business, trade, investment and employment across North Andhra. GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Limited (GVIAL) developed the airport under Public Private Partnership model, focusing on operational efficiency, passenger convenience and scalability. The 77,342 sq m integrated passenger terminal houses check-in, security screening, immigration, baggage handling and boarding facilities. DigiYatra integration, e-gates and self-service facilities will facilitate faster passenger processing, while advanced baggage handling systems will improve baggage movement. The airport has an initial capacity to handle 6 million passengers annually, which can be scaled up to over 40 million. Its airside infrastructure includes a 3,800-metre Code 4E runway, a parallel taxiway, rapid-exit taxiways and 18 aircraft stands to support scheduled airline services and future expansion.