



# Naidu Says Modi's Viksit Bharat, AP's Swarna Andhra Complementary

VIJAYAWADA: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday called upon the 5.5 crore people of Andhra Pradesh to collectively resolve and transform the state from development to prosperity, making AP a leading state of India by 2047.

Addressing the 80th Independence Day celebrations at Amaravati after unfurling the National Flag and receiving the ceremonial salute, the CM said freedom enjoyed by Indians is a result of decades of struggle and sacrifices by countless freedom fighters. He urged people to think about what they could contribute to the nation, though individual achievements are also part of nation-building.

“Let us work with nationalistic spirit and patriotism and make the country and Andhra Pradesh number one by 2047,” Chandrababu Naidu said, calling for sustained efforts over the next 20 years. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Viksit Bharat and the state's Swarna Andhra goals are complementary.

The Chief Minister declared that the previous government had pushed the state 30 years back through arrogance, inefficiency, corruption, and anarchy, weakening institutions and damaging the economy. The coalition government had taken up the task of rebuilding the state and had brought visible change in 26 months, he maintained.

Naidu asserted that the NDA alliance government is steering AP from destruction to development, crisis to stability, and uncertainty to confidence. The state's growth rate had risen to 11.3 per cent, while debt restructuring of 370 loans has helped save `8,269 crore in interest burden. In 26 months, `1.50 lakh crore have been spent on welfare and `1.34 lakh crore on development.

The AP CM said the state government has filled 15,941



teacher posts despite hurdles to the Mega DSC. He promised to conduct DSC recruitment every year, pointing out that a job calendar with 10,000 posts has already been released this year.

Naidu mentioned that 28 new industrial policies have been introduced and agreements have been signed for investments worth `24 lakh crore. Approvals have been given for industries worth `14 lakh crore, which are expected to generate 11 lakh jobs. Foreign direct investment has increased six-and-a-half times in two years.

Naidu said nearly `25,000 crore have been spent on irrigation projects in 26 months. An irrigation calendar has been issued to complete 36 major projects at a cost of `35,000 crore over the next three years. 89 per cent of Polavaram works have been completed and the project would be dedicated to the nation before the Pushkarams next year. Vamsadhara-Nagavali River-Linking Project is 73 per cent complete, while the Veligonda

Phase-I works would soon fulfil a 30-year-old dream.

The CM spoke about Greenfield ports at Ramayapatnam, Machilipatnam, and Mulapeta progressing rapidly, while modern fishing harbours are being built at Juvvaladinne, Nizampatnam, Machilipatnam, and Uppada. The state has `64,000-crore worth railway works and `38,000-crore worth highway projects under execution. Amaravati, being developed as a blue-green, deep-tech, carbon-neutral, and pollution-free global city, would symbolise the self-respect of the people of AP.

Naidu said the state government is working towards women's economic empowerment by marketing their products under the Swayam brand. Tourism had been accorded industry status, attracting `19,390 crore in investments in two years.

The Chief Minister underlined that every farmer would receive `20,000 under Annadata Sukhibhava, while modern technology is being introduced in agriculture. State government is planning to develop Rayalaseema into a horticulture hub with an investment of `1 lakh crore and establish an Indian School of Agriculture.

Naidu underlined that the government has adopted “people first” governance, strengthened public safety, and given police the freedom to act against crime. The Eagle Task Force is cracking down on ganja and drugs, he stated.

Earlier, contingents of APSP, CRPF, Karnataka Police, NCC, and Scouts participated in the parade and presented a ceremonial salute. Government departments showcased colourful tableaux highlighting development initiatives.

The CM later presented police medals to officers and personnel for distinguished service.

## India Poised to Lead World: Pawan Kalyan

KAKINADA: Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said India was steadily emerging as a stronger, more capable and self-reliant nation and was poised to lead the world, with the responsibility of carrying the journey forward resting particularly on the younger generation.

Addressing the 80th Independence Day celebrations in Kakinada on Saturday after unfurling the National Flag and receiving the guard of honour, Pawan Kalyan said the occasion was significant as India marked eight decades of Independence. One generation had fought for freedom, another had safeguarded it and the present generation had the responsibility of strengthening nation-building, he said.

He said the National Song 'Vande Mataram' was completing 150 years this year and called upon people to give true meaning to the freedom secured through the sacrifices of freedom fighters.

Pawan Kalyan said Kakinada had a special place in the freedom movement as the All India Congress Session held there in 1923 contributed to the growth of national consciousness.

Referring to the challenges faced by the coastal region, including cyclones, sea erosion and heavy rains, he said fishermen, farmers, weavers, workers and youth



continued to contribute to society through their daily efforts. Their contribution was an integral part of nation-building, he said.

He said Andhra Pradesh was playing a key role in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 through coordination between the Central and State governments. He said the State had received `4,597 crore as its share of advance tax funds released recently by the Centre.

Pawan Kalyan said the government was improving connectivity in tribal areas under the Adavitalli Bata programme, with 2,310 km of roads being taken up at a cost of `2,078 crore. Of this, 905 km had already been completed, he said.

He said unfinished drinking water projects in Pulivendula, Dhone and Uddanam were being completed under programmes including Jal

Jeevan Mission and AMRUT. Mega Water Grid works were also being accelerated in Chittoor, Prakasam,

Palnadu and the erstwhile Godavari districts to provide drinking water to 1.3 crore people at a cost of `8,000 crore.

### 25 Serving, Retired Telangana Police Personnel Honoured on Independence Day

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday honoured 25 serving and retired police personnel with awards for their outstanding and meritorious services on Independence Day.

The awardees included ACB director Avinash Mohanty; EAGLE Force additional SP P. Krishna Murthy; 3rd TGSP commandant Syed Jameel Basha; IT&C inspector N. Gnana Sundari; Intelligence IGP Kartikey; DGP office SP K. Ram Kumar; Cyberabad DCP, crimes, A. Muthyama Reddy; ISW, intelligence, DSP K.V. Ramana; CAR Headquarters, Cyberabad, ACP A. Venugopal; Karimnagar Rural inspector Anumala Niranjan Reddy.



Other awardees were Ikram AB Khan, Gunti Venkateshwarlu, A. Laxmaiah, Abdul Rafeeq, Srinivasa Mishra, Komarababini Ramu, Kunchala Balakashaiah, Mohd. Fazlur Rahman, Ranveer Singh Thakur, Peter Joseph Bahadur, Mohd. Moinullah Khan, V. Pathya Naik and Md Ayoob Khan. M. Venkateswar Goud was honoured with the Medal for Gallantry, while D. Pratap, DSP, received the Mukhyamantri Sarvonnatha Police Pathakam on the occasion of Formation Day-2026. The honours recognised the dedication, courage and exemplary service of police personnel in maintaining law and order, protecting citizens and contributing to the effective functioning of the police department.

## Andhra Pradesh's Largest School Hoists Flag Upside Down

Visakhapatnam: Chandrapalem High School, said to be the largest high school in the state with an enrolment of 3,200 students, came under scrutiny after the National Flag was reportedly hoisted upside down during the Independence Day celebrations on the school premises on Saturday.

Bheemili MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao expressed serious displeasure over the incident and ordered a comprehensive inquiry into the lapse.

The MLA also objected to the manner in



which the Independence Day programme was conducted, alleging that members of the School Management Committee and other prominent local representatives were not invited to the celebrations.

He criticised the conduct of headmaster Venkata Rao and directed regional joint director Vijay Bhaskar and district educational officer Prem Kumar to conduct a detailed inquiry and submit a report at the earliest.

Ganta said he would bring the matter to the notice of Minister Nara Lokesh and seek the appointment of one of the three shortlisted candidates as the new headmaster to ensure the smooth functioning of the institution.

## AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan Highlights India's Journey Since Independence

Kakinada: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan participated in the Independence Day celebrations in Kakinada and hoisted the national flag.

Speaking on the occasion, Pawan Kalyan said the country is celebrating 150 years of the national song, Vande Mataram. Reflecting on India's eight-decade journey, Pawan Kalyan said one generation fought for the country's independence, another safeguarded it, while the next laid the foundations for nation-building. He said India is now moving towards becoming a strong, capable and self-reliant nation. He emphasised that it is the collective responsibility of the people to accelerate this journey and help the country achieve its goals.



## TTD's Primary Mission Is Serving Devotees: B.R. Naidu

Tirupati: Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) chairman B.R. Naidu said serving devotees visiting Tirumala from across the world was the organisation's primary mission and protecting Sanatana Dharma remained its foremost commitment.

On the occasion of the 80th Independence Day, Naidu hoisted the National Flag and received the guard of honour at the TTD Parade Grounds in Tirupati on Saturday.

Addressing the gathering, Naidu said TTD was working to spread the glory of Lord Venkateswara

globally while giving priority to education, healthcare and religious services. He said efforts would continue to improve pilgrim services and uphold the principle that service to humanity was service to God.

He said a modern Annaprasadam kitchen was being planned at a cost of `120 crore with donor support. The SV Museum at Tirumala, developed at a cost of `145 crore, would soon showcase the services, festivals and jewellery of Lord Venkateswara through 3D and 7D presentations. Srivari temples were also being developed in several cities, while the

Amaravati temple was being developed at a cost of `140 crore. He warned that TTD would take legal action against false propaganda that hurt devotees' sentiments.

On the occasion, 38 officers and 281 employees, besides six employees each from SVIMS and SVBC, were honoured for outstanding service. They received five-gram Srivari silver dollars and appreciation certificates, while cash awards were given to 62 meritorious children of employees.



# Officers should work responsibly

Baldia Special Officer/Hanumakonda Collector Chahat Bajpai Special Officer hoisted the flag at the Baldia headquarters Officers presented certificates of appreciation to the staff who provided the best services



Warangal : Baldia Special Officer/Hanumakonda Collector Chahat Bajpai opined that the officers and staff working in the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation should work responsibly. He attended the program organized on Saturday to commemorate the 80th Independence Day at the Baldia headquarters premises as the chief guest in the status of a special officer and hoisted the national flag, offered salute, and sang the national anthem and the state anthem. Speaking at a meeting organized on this occasion, the Special Officer/District Collector said, "Remembering the sacrifices of the freedom fighters, we called upon them to practice the patriotism and spirit of service they showed in our lives. We are working hard to take GWMC forward on the path of further development with the participation of the people." "Remembering the rights and responsibilities that independence has given us, the Collec-

tor wished that everyone should be a partner in building a clean, safe and developed society. Later, the Special Officer and Commissioner jointly presented certificates of appreciation to several officers and staff who provided excellent services. On behalf of Hanamkonda district, Additional Commissioner Jona, Deputy Commissioner Birru Srinivas, Deputy Engineer Roja Rani and Sanitary Inspector CH Raju received certificates of appreciation from Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy regarding the GWMC area. On behalf of Warangal district, Sanitary Supervisor Golkonda Srinivas of GWMC was selected as the best employee and received a certificate of appreciation from Minister Surekha. Additional Commissioner Jona, Superintendent Raj Kumar, Chief Health Officer Dr. Raja Reddy, In-charge City Planner Ravinder Radekar, Accounts Officer Shiva Lingam, DFO Shankar Lingam, In-charge CHO Laxma Reddy, Deputy Commissioners Prasanna Rani, Sammaiya Birru Srinivas, Secretary Anil Babu and others participated.

## 80th Independence Day Celebrations Held Grandly in Nagarkurnool



Nagarkurnool : The 80th Independence Day celebrations were held with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour across Nagarkurnool district. District Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil hoisted the National Flag at the Collectorate. Later, District Superintendent of Police Dr. Sangram Singh G. Patil hoisted the National Flag at the SP Office. The main celebrations were held at the Police Parade Ground, where State Planning Commission Vice-Chairman Dr. G. Chinna Reddy unfurled the National Flag. Nagarkurnool MP Dr. Mallu Ravi, MLA Kuchukulla Rajesh Reddy and MLA Vamshi Krishna attended the programme. The celebrations featured an impressive police parade followed by a colourful display of tableaux presented by various government departments. Cultural performances by students added further enthusiasm to the celebrations. The programme also included the presentation of awards to officials, employees, students and others who had excelled in various fields. Independence Day celebrations were also organised grandly at several government schools and government colleges across the district, with students and teachers participating enthusiastically in patriotic programmes

# Glorious Independence Day celebrations in Hanmakonda

MINISTER AND MINISTER IN-CHARGE OF THE JOINT WARANGAL DISTRICT PONGULETI SRINIVAS REDDY UNFURLED THE NATIONAL FLAG



Hanamakonda : India's 80th Independence Day celebrations were held on Saturday at the Police Parade Grounds in the Hanmakonda district center. The chief guest of the celebrations was the Minister for Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations, Minister in-charge of the joint Warangal district Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, who unfurled the national flag and received a police salute. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the state government is working to commemorate the sacrifices of the freedom fighters and in line with their aspirations, giving top priority to public welfare and development. He explained the various development and welfare programs undertaken by the government in Hanmakonda district and the progress achieved. He said that

the government is constantly working to provide better infrastructure and quality civil services to the people. Later, he extended his greetings to the people on the occasion of Independence Day. He called on everyone to fulfill their responsibility for the comprehensive development of the country. On this occasion, Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, MP, MLAs, MLCs and other public representatives paid tribute to the freedom fighters and their family members. He praised the sacrifices and services they made for the country's independence as memorable. The stalls and exhibitions of development programs organized under the auspices of various government departments were a special attraction. The departments of Agriculture, Panchayat Raj, Medical and Health, Fisheries, Housing, Education,



Baswaraju Saraiah, Warangal West MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy, Vardhannapet MLA KR Nagaraju, Warangal Police Commissioner Shwetha, Hanamkonda District Collector Chahat Bajpayee, GWMC Commissioner T. Venkanna, Kakatiya Urban Development Authority Chairman Inagala Venkatrami Reddy, DCP Dhara Kavitha, Adanav Collector Ravi, DRO Srinivas, public representatives, district officials of various departments, city dignitaries, students and people participated in this program in large numbers. Similarly, the patriotic and cultural programs organized by the students of government schools added more charm to the celebrations and impressed the audience. Later, Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy presented certificates of appreciation to the officers and employees who showed excellent performance in the performance of their duties. Warangal MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya, MLC

## Eligible Families Must Get Welfare Benefits, Ineligible Beneficiaries Must Be Checked

Smart Ration Cards Launched | 3,14,308 Cards Issued | Minister Tummala Calls for Welfare Benefits to Reach the Eligible | Focus on Education and District Development

KOTHAGUDEM | AUGUST 15, 2026: State Agriculture, Co-operation, Marketing and Handlooms Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao directed officials to ensure that government welfare benefits reach every eligible poor family. He made it clear that eligible beneficiaries should not be left out and ineligible persons should not continue receiving free welfare benefits.

Speaking at the Smart Ration Card distribution programme held at Kothagudem Club on Saturday, the Minister said, "Do not leave out the eligible and do not provide free welfare benefits to the ineligible." He appealed to those who are no longer eligible for food security benefits to voluntarily return their ration cards to the government. The Minister said the government was giving top priority to food security and providing six kilograms of free rice per month to every member of eligible families. He said quality fine rice was being supplied to ensure that genuine poor families receive proper food security.

**Focus on Education** Minister Tummala said the government was taking steps to establish Young India In-



tegrated Schools across all constituencies in the district. He stressed the importance of quality education for children from poor families and said Ekalavya, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and Gurukul schools were providing quality education to poor and tribal students. **Development of Bhadradi Kothagudem** The Minister said Bhadradi Kothagudem district had immense potential in natural resources, forests, tribal culture, industries and agriculture. He called upon public representatives to work together for the comprehensive development of all five constituencies. He said 7420 crore had been sanctioned for the Kothagudem bypass road. He also said efforts were being made to establish an airport after examining the identified site and preparing a feasibility report. A new national highway connecting Kothagudem with Hyderabad had also been sanctioned, while the Pandurangapuram-Malkangiri railway line would further strengthen railway connectivity in the district, he said. **Sitarama Project to Benefit Three Lakh Acres** Minister Tummala said the government was taking steps to provide irrigation facilities to all five constituencies through the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project. He said funds had been made available for land acquisition and tenders were ready in areas where land acquisition had been completed. The project, once completed, would increase the cultivated area and improve the economic condition of farmers. He said nearly three lakh acres could receive irrigation by filling tanks through the Sitarama Project and urged public representatives to speed up land acquisition for the distribution canals. **"Political Positions Are Temporary, Devel-**



**opment Works Are Permanent"** The Minister said special attention was being given to the development of Kothagudem town. Infrastructure was being strengthened in view of the proposed corporation, and approval had been given for a new bus stand. "Political positions are not permanent. Development works done for the people remain permanent," Minister Tummala said, urging public representatives to use their positions for public service. **3,14,308 Smart Ration Cards Issued** District Collector Ankit said a total of 3,14,308 laminated Smart PDS Ration Cards had been issued across the district's five constituencies. Constituency-wise, 86,001 cards were issued in Kothagudem, 76,321 in Pinapaka, 41,291 in Bhadrachalam, 65,484 in Aswaraopeta and 45,211 in Illendu. The Collector said Smart Ration Cards would ensure transparent recording of beneficiary details and help eligible families receive government welfare schemes effectively. He also advised farmers to choose crops requiring less water in view of the lower water storage levels in district tanks due to deficient rainfall. Later, Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao distributed Smart Ration Cards to beneficiaries from the five constituencies. Kothagudem MLA Koonamneni Sambasiva Rao, Bhadrachalam MLA Tellam Venkata Rao, Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateshwarlu, Illendu MLA Koram Kanakaiah, Kothagudem Corporation Mayor Ganesh, District Library Organisation Chairman Pasupuleti Veerababu, Additional Collector Venugopal, Kothagudem Sub-Collector Mrunal Shresta, Additional Collector Vidya Chandana, Zilla Parishad CEO Nagalakshmi, Civil Supplies officials, public representatives, ration dealers, beneficiaries and members of the public participated in the programme.



Sunday 16, August, 2026

# INDIA’S INNOVATION CHALLENGE REMAINS

Though India has emerged as one of the world’s largest producers of scientific publications and patent filings, it continues to lag behind in research spending relative to the size of its economy. One of the reasons for this poor performance, compared with other major economies, is that R&D spending has traditionally been the exclusive domain of the public sector since independence, and the private industry was largely insulated from innovation. However, a positive shift is happening now. The latest report by the Department of Science and Technology on India’s research profile reveals a major milestone. For the first time in the country’s history, private industry’s share of the Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) stood at 51.8% in 2023-24, overtaking the combined spending of the central and State governments. This significant jump from 45.5% in 2021-22 is a welcome development. According to the Economic Survey 2025-26, India’s GERD stands at roughly 0.64% of GDP — a figure that has been virtually stagnant for more than a decade and is dwarfed by those of Israel (5%), South Korea (4.8–4.9%), the United States (3.5%), Japan (3.3%), and China (2.4%). The R&D spending hovered in the range of 0.6% to 0.85% for nearly 20 years despite India’s economy growing several-fold. The optics of private industry crossing the 50% threshold are encouraging, and they do bring India structurally closer to advanced economies where business enterprise typically funds 70–80% of national R&D. South Asians & Diaspora

While the private sector’s rising R&D share is a positive and necessary correction to India’s historically state-dominated research funding model, it is by itself not sufficient to close the technology gap with the countries it wants to compete with. India crossing the 50% mark in private contribution while spending less than 1% of GDP on R&D is a very different achievement from the US or China doing so while spending 2.5-3.5% of GDP. Understandably, private R&D follows sectors that promise near-term commercial returns: generic and specialty pharmaceuticals, IT services and software products, automotive components and EVs, and consumer-facing digital technologies. These sectors are undoubtedly important for boosting exports and generating employment, but they are not fully aligned with the areas most consequential for India’s strategic autonomy and long-term economic security: semiconductor fabrication, advanced materials, critical minerals processing, defence and aerospace systems, foundational AI models, and clean energy storage. A large share of private R&D is concentrated in a narrow set of sectors. Decades of a protected, import-substituting economy, followed by a services- and IT-outsourcing-led growth model, meant Indian firms could compete and profit without deep in-house research — unlike Korean or Chinese firms, which were pushed by export-oriented industrial policy. Also, public research institutions and private industry have historically operated in separate silos, with limited co-funded research or faculty-industry mobility, unlike the tightly integrated innovation ecosystems of the US or Germany.

## Smart Ration Cards Bring Transparency to PDS :

Nizamabad, August 15, 2026 : The Telangana government’s digital smart ration card distribution programme was organised on a grand scale in a festive atmosphere at Bhooma Reddy Convention Hall in Nizamabad on Saturday.

Government Adviser P. Sudarshan Reddy was the chief guest and handed over smart ration cards to beneficiaries. Nizamabad Rural MLA Dr. R. Bhupathi Reddy, Urban MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta , Armoor MLA Paidi Rakesh Reddy, Mayor Uma Rani, State Minorities Commission Chairman Tariq Ansari, State Urdu Academy Chairman Taher- Bin-Hamdan, Collector Bhavesh Mishra and other elected representatives and officials attended the programme.

The event commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by the singing of Jaya Jayahe Telangana.

Addressing the gathering, Government Adviser P. Sudarshan Reddy said the State government was committed to ensuring food security and dignity for poor families. Under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the government was supplying fine rice through the public distribution system to ensure that economically weaker families received quality food.

He said the digital smart ration cards would strengthen the public distribution system by improving transparency, accountability and monitoring. Officials were instructed to prevent diversion of subsidised rice and ensure that the benefits reached genuine beneficiaries.

Sudarshan Reddy said the smart cards would also provide greater convenience to beneficiaries, enabling them to access ration supplies more easily. He added that the government was continuing welfare and development initiatives despite financial challenges, with focus on agriculture, education, employment, infrastructure and public services.

Collector Bhavesh Mishra said approximately 4.77 lakh families in Nizamabad district had been covered under the smart ration card programme. He assured that the cards would be distributed in a planned and transparent manner without leaving out any eligible family.

He explained that the smart cards incorporated nine security features using modern technology.



The system would help eliminate fake and duplicate beneficiaries, prevent irregularities and ensure that ration benefits reached eligible families directly.

Nizamabad Rural MLA Dr. Bhupathi Reddy said the Congress government had implemented several welfare initiatives, including Rythu Bharosa, Kalyana Lakshmi, free RTC bus travel for women, 200 units of free power and fine rice for poor families. He said the introduction of digital ration cards marked an important step towards technology-based public administration.

Urban MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta and Armoor MLA Paidi Rakesh Reddy called for strict supervision of the public distribution system to ensure that every eligible family received its rightful benefits. They also urged the authorities to prevent any irregularities in the distribution of fine rice.

Several public representatives, including NUDA Chairman Kesha Venu, Market Committee Chairman Muppa Gangareddy, District Library Organisation Chairman Anthireddy Rajireddy, along with senior officials, municipal representatives, ration dealers and beneficiaries participated in the programme.

The large turnout of beneficiaries and the festive atmosphere marked the launch of the smart ration card distribution as a significant step towards a more transparent and technology-driven public distribution system.

## 80th Independence Day Celebrations Held in Manuguru with Patriotic Spirit

### MLA Payam Venkateshwarlu Hoists National Flag at Several Locations



The 80th Independence Day celebrations were held grandly across Manuguru Mandal on Saturday with patriotic fervour, national spirit and enthusiasm. Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateshwarlu participated in the celebrations held at several locations in Manuguru town and hoisted the National Flag.

The MLA participated in programmes organised at the 14-Tyre Union Office, Coal Workers’ Office, 12-Tyre Union Office, Gumasta Association Office and Gandhi Bomma Centre, among other places. After hoisting the National Flag, he paid his respects to the Tricolour. The programmes continued with the singing of the National Anthem.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Payam Venkateshwarlu said that many great leaders had sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the country. He said that the freedom enjoyed by people today is the result of their sacrifices and struggles. He called upon everyone to remember the sacrifices of freedom fighters and pass their ideals and spirit of patriotism on to future generations.

He said the courage, sacrifice and patriotism of the freedom fighters should inspire the younger generation. He urged people to protect the unity, integrity and brotherhood of the nation and move forward as responsible citizens.

Independence should not be limited to celebrations alone; working responsibly for the develop-



## Comprehensive Development of Bhadradri Kothagudem is the Government’s Goal

Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao Highlights Irrigation, Roads, Tourism, Agriculture, Education and Healthcare



Bhadradi Kothagudem : State Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation, Handlooms and Textiles, Tummala Nageswara Rao, extended his heartfelt Independence Day greetings to the people of Bhadradi Kothagudem district on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day.

Paying rich tributes to the great freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the nation, the Minister said that their ideals should inspire everyone to contribute to the development of the country and protect democratic and constitutional values.

**Priority to Irrigation and Farmers**

The Minister said that the government is giving top priority to irrigation projects aimed at supporting farmers. He highlighted the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project, stating that the main canal and three pump houses have been completed.

Through the Enkor Link Canal, irrigation water has been supplied to 1,11,818 acres of Nagarjuna Sagar ayacut. He said that despite inadequate rainfall during the kharif season, Godavari waters were diverted through the Sitarama project to provide irrigation to farmers and protect their crops.

The project is expected to provide new irrigation facilities to 1,57,574 acres and stabilize irrigation for another 42,935 acres in the two districts.

**Road and Transport Connectivity**

The government is focusing on improving road connectivity across Bhadradi Kothagudem district, the Minister said.

He stated that the Jagdalpur–Amaravati National Highway has been completed, while works on the Kothagudem–Hyderabad road via Valigonda are progressing.

New proposals have also been prepared for the Kothagudem–Jaggayyapeta and Bhadrachalam–Eturnagaram–Koutala roads, besides a double road connecting Kothagudem–Mulakapalli–Dhammapeta towards Eluru.

Improved connectivity would boost agriculture, industries, trade and tourism while creating new employment opportunities for local youth, he said.

Bhadrachalam to be Developed as a Major Spiritual Tourism Centre

The Minister said that Bhadrachalam is one of the country’s prominent spiritual destinations and attracts lakhs of devotees every year.

With the upcoming Godavari Pushkarams in mind, the government is taking up development works to provide better facilities to devotees visiting Bhadrachalam from across the country and abroad.

He said that Rs.350 crore has been sanctioned for the development of the Sri Sitaramachandra Swamy Temple, and works are being taken up at a faster pace.

**Railway and Airport Connectivity**

The Minister said that the railway line from Pandurangapuram to Malkangiri has been sanctioned and efforts are being made to complete the works up to Sarapaka on a priority basis for the convenience of devotees and the public.

He also said that steps are being taken for land acquisition and other requirements for establishing a Greenfield Airport at Kothagudem, based on the feasibility report and recommendations of the concerned agencies.

**Major Push for Farmer Welfare**

The Minister said that farmer welfare remains the first priority of the people’s government.

Under the farm loan waiver scheme, 63,614 farmers in the district have benefited from loan waivers worth Rs.455.33 crore.

He said that Bhadradi Kothagudem is emerging as an important hub for oil palm and cocoa cultivation. Oil palm cultivation is already being undertaken across 91,438 acres in the district.

The government is working to develop Bhadradi Kothagudem as a major oil palm hub in Telangana and is also encouraging industries based on cocoa, chilli and cotton to increase farmers’ income and generate employment.

**Welfare Schemes Benefiting Lakhs of People**

More than 9.67 lakh people in the district are benefiting from the food security scheme, the Minister said.

Under the Gruha Jyothi scheme, free electricity up to 200 units is being provided to 1,88,964 consumers in the district.

Women have also benefited from free bus travel, with 5.44 crore free journeys recorded in the district so far.

Under the Indiramma Housing Scheme, 19,008 houses have been provided to beneficiaries in the district.

**Focus on Education and Healthcare**

The Minister said that construction works for the Government Medical College and Nursing College are being carried out at a cost of Rs.230 crore.

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Ansari, State Urdu Academy Chairman Taher-Bin-Hamdan, Collector Bhavesh Mishra and other elected representatives and officials attended the programme.

The event commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by the singing of Jaya Jayahe Telangana.

Addressing the gathering, Government Adviser P. Sudarshan Reddy said the State government was committed to ensuring food security and dignity for poor families. Under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the government was supplying fine rice through the public distribution system to ensure that economically weaker families received quality food.

He said the digital smart ration cards would strengthen the public distribution system by improving transparency, accountability and monitoring. Officials were instructed to prevent diversion of subsidised rice and ensure that the benefits reached genuine beneficiaries.

Sudarshan Reddy said the smart cards would also provide greater convenience to beneficiaries, enabling them to access ration supplies more easily. He added that the government was continuing welfare and development initiatives despite financial challenges, with focus on agriculture, education, employment, infrastructure and public services.

Collector Bhavesh Mishra said approximately 4.77 lakh families in Nizamabad district had been covered under the smart ration card programme. He assured that the cards would be distributed in a planned and transparent manner without leaving out any eligible family.

He explained that the smart cards incorporated nine security features using modern technology. The system would help eliminate fake and duplicate beneficiaries, prevent irregularities and ensure that ration benefits reached eligible families directly.

Nizamabad Rural MLA Dr. Bhupathi Reddy said the Congress government had implemented several welfare initiatives, including Rythu Bharosa, Kalyana Lakshmi, free RTC bus travel for women,



200 units of free power and fine rice for poor families. He said the introduction of digital ration cards marked an important step towards technology-based public administration.

Urban MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta and Armoor MLA Paidi Rakesh Reddy called for strict supervision of the public distribution system to ensure that every eligible family received its rightful benefits. They also urged the authorities to prevent any irregularities in the distribution of fine rice.

Several public representatives, including NUDA Chairman Kesha Venu, Market Committee Chairman Muppa Gangareddy, District Library Organisation Chairman Anthireddy Rajireddy, along with senior officials, municipal representatives, ration dealers and beneficiaries participated in the programme.

The large turnout of beneficiaries and the festive atmosphere marked the launch of the smart ration card distribution as a significant step towards a more transparent and technology-driven public distribution system.

# Grand Independence Day Celebrations in Nizamabad : State Government Adviser P. Sudarshan Reddy Hoists National Flag



Nizamabad August 15, 2026 : The 80th Independence Day celebrations were held in a grand and festive atmosphere at the Police Parade Ground in Nizamabad on Saturday.

State Government Adviser P. Sudarshan Reddy, the chief guest, hoisted the National Flag and received the ceremonial salute from the police.

Addressing the gathering, Sudarshan Reddy extended Independence Day greetings to the people and highlighted the development and welfare programmes being implemented across the district. He also reviewed the progress achieved by various government departments.

The chief guest visited photo exhibition stalls showcasing the achievements of the Agriculture, Horticulture, DRDA, Dairy, Animal Husbandry, Forest, Education, Medical and Health, Women and Child Welfare, Mission Bhagiratha, Irrigation and Samagra Shiksha departments, among others. He also witnessed the tableaux presented by departments including DRDA, RTC,

Electricity, Civil Supplies and Housing.

Employees who rendered outstanding services were presented with appreciation certificates, while medals were awarded to police personnel for their distinguished service. Freedom fighters and their family members were also felicitated on the occasion.

The cultural performances presented by schoolchildren were a major attraction of the celebrations. Students of Kanjara Residential Girls School, Vishwa Vikas High School, Navipet Girls ZP High School and TIME School presented patriotic songs and cultural programmes, winning appreciation from the gathering.

The chief guest, public representatives and senior officials specially congratulated the students for their impressive performances and patriotic spirit.

MLAs Dhanpal Suryanarayana



Gupta, R. Bhoopathi Reddy and Paidi Rakesh Reddy, Mayor Uma Rani, State Minorities Commission Chairman Tariq Ansari, Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya, Additional Collector Bhujanga Rao, DFO Prashanth Bajirao Patil, State Agriculture Commission Member Gadugu Gangadhar, Trainee Collector Suresh, Additional DCP Shubham Nagrale, DRO Geetha, Municipal Commissioner Dileep Kumar, Nizamabad RDO Rajendra Kumar, Trainee RDO Sandeep, senior officials of various departments, employees, freedom fighters, students and members of the public attended the celebrations

# Grand Independence Day Celebrations in Kamareddy :



Kamareddy August 15, 2026 : The 80th Independence Day celebrations were held in a grand and festive atmosphere at the Indira

Gandhi Stadium in Kamareddy on Saturday.

Telangana State Backward Classes Welfare and Development Advisor V. Hanumanth Rao, the chief guest, unfurled the National Flag and received the ceremonial salute from the police. He extended Independence Day greetings to the people and addressed the gathering, highlighting the district's development and various welfare and development programmes being implemented by the government.

Hanumanth Rao visited the exhibition stalls set up by different departments, showcasing their achievements and ongoing programmes. Stalls of Agriculture,

Horticulture, District Rural Development Agency, Animal Husbandry, Forest, Education, Medical and Health, Women and Child Welfare, Mission Bhagiratha, Irrigation and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan were among those displayed.

On the occasion, certificates of appreciation were presented to employees who rendered outstanding services, while medals were awarded to police personnel for their achievements. Freedom fighters and their family members were also felicitated with honour.

The cultural programmes presented by schoolchildren were a major attraction of the celebrations. The students performed patriotic songs and cultural programmes with enthusiasm, filling the venue with a spirit of patriotism and national pride. The chief guest, elected representatives and senior officials appreciated the children for their impressive performances.

District Collector Ashish Sangwan, Yellareddy MLA Madanmohan Rao, District Library Department Chairman Madhav Chandrakanth Reddy, Municipal Chairperson Ippapalli Uma Rani, District SP Rajesh Chandra, Additional Collector Victor, Additional Local Bodies Collector N.Y. Giri, DRO Pandu, public representatives, district officials, employees, freedom fighters, students and members of the public participated in the celebrations.

# 80th Independence Day Celebrations Held Grandly at Vijetha Olym Piad School



Nirmal District : The 80th Independence Day celebrations were held grandly at Vijetha Olym Piad School, located at Priyadarshini Nagar, Road No. 7, in Nirmal district headquarters. The school's students enthusiastically participated in the celebrations and showcased their talents.

On the occasion, the National Flag was hoisted on the school premises, followed by the singing of the National Anthem. Students, teachers, the principal, and the school management paid their respects to the Tricolour and expressed their patriotic spirit.

The students' dance performances and cultural programmes were the main attractions of the event. With the enthusiastic participation of the students, the school premises turned festive and vibrant. The programmes were conducted to remember the sacrifices of the freedom fighters and to promote patriotism and national unity. The celebrations concluded on a colourful and memorable note.

Grand Celebrations of Independence Day

Nirmal District : Independence Day celebrations were held in a grand and colorful manner at the NTR Mini Stadium in the town on Saturday, marking the 80th Independence Day.

Government Whip Vemula Veeresham attended the celebrations as the chief guest. District Collector Bhavesh Mishra and Nirmal MLA Aleti Maheshwar Reddy also participated in the event.

Officials accorded a warm welcome to the Government Whip by presenting saplings. He received the ceremonial salute from the police and hoisted the national flag. The programme commenced with the national anthem, patriotic songs and the Telangana State song.

Speaking on the occasion, Government Whip Vemula Veeresham explained in detail the development and welfare programmes being implemented by the Telangana government. He said that the district would continue to progress in all sectors with the dedicated efforts of the officials. He urged district officials and staff to work with greater enthusiasm and contribute further to the development of the district.

As part of the celebrations, cultural programmes presented by school stu-



dents, reflecting patriotism and national spirit, attracted the attention of the gathering.

The Government Whip, Collector and MLA jointly presented certificates of appreciation to employees and staff from various departments who had demonstrated outstanding performance in their duties. They said the awards were a recognition of their excellent work and encouraged the awardees to continue working with greater dedication.

Certificates of appreciation were also presented to the students who participated in the cultural programmes, and they were congratulated for their performances.

The dignitaries inspected the tableaux presented by various departments and visited the stalls set up on the occasion. The police parade held as part of the celebrations was another major attraction.

Cheques worth ₹50 crore sanctioned to various women's groups in the district were also distributed on the occasion.

Additional Collectors B. Venkateshwarlu and Kishore Kumar, DFO Sushanth Sukhdev Bobade, ASP Sai Kiran, Bhainsa Sub-Collector Ajmeera Sanket Kumar, along with other officials, public representatives, teachers, students and others participated in the Independence Day celebrations.

Welfare Benefits for Every Family is the Government's Goal

Nirmal District : New Digital Ration Cards to Benefit People in Multiple Ways: Government Whip Vemula Veeresham

The distribution of new digital ration cards was held in a grand manner on Saturday evening at Sagar Convention near Kadthal in Nirmal Rural Mandal. Government Whip Vemula Veeresham participated in the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the government has been working with the welfare of poor people as its primary objective since assuming office. He stated that the new digital ration cards were introduced with the aim of ensuring that every eligible poor family receives the benefits of government welfare schemes.

He said that a total of 2,49,313 new digital ration cards would be distributed across the district. Emphasizing transparent governance, he stated that the ration card would not merely serve as a means of obtaining rice but would also function as a reliable identification document for availing various government schemes.

He further said that the government's objective is to eradicate poverty in the state and bring prosperity to every



household. Giving the highest priority to the welfare sector, the government is taking steps in accordance with the aspirations of the people. He noted that the process of sanctioning ration cards has been simplified like never before.

Nirmal MLA Aleti Maheshwar Reddy urged people to make proper use of the ration rice provided by the government and not to sell it. He said ration cards would provide several benefits to poor families and directed officials to ensure that ration rice reaches all eligible beneficiaries.

Mudhol MLA Pawar Rama Rao Patel recalled the support being provided by the Central Government for the supply of ration rice. He said ration cards serve as important documents for availing several government welfare schemes and added that the distribution of new ration cards would greatly benefit the people.

Later, new ration cards were distributed to several beneficiaries from the district.

Additional Collectors B. Venkateshwarlu and Kishore Kumar, Bhainsa Sub-Collector Ajmeera Sanketh Kumar, DRO Rathod Ramesh, RDO Devidas, DRDO Vijayalakshmi, Civil Supplies Officer Rajender, Nirmal Municipal Vice-Chairman Appala Ganesh Chakravarthy, Bhainsa Agricultural Market Committee Chairman Shinde Anand Rao Patel, Sarpanch Gurram Ramu, various departmental officials, public representatives, staff members and beneficiaries participated in the programme.

The welfare of every poor family is the goal of the public government

80th Independence Day celebrations in grand style at Qila Warangal Fort Minister Konda Surekha, District Collector unfurls the national flag

Warangal, Bureau : The 80th Independence Day celebrations were held in grand style at Khush Mahal in Qila Warangal Fort. State Forest and Environment Endowment Minister Konda Surekha and District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada participated as the chief guests in these celebrations and unfurled the national flag and sang the national anthem. Later, they garlanded the portraits of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and paid homage. First, Minister Konda Surekha received a salute from the police.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Konda Surekha extended his heartfelt greetings to the people of the city, public representatives, freedom fighters, officials, journalist friends, employees and students who have come here on the auspicious occasion of India's Independence Day.

I am very happy to participate in these sacred celebrations today as the Minister of Forest, Environment and Endowments of the Telangana State. On this occasion, I bow my head and pay my respects to all the great men who have endured many hardships and sacrificed their lives for the independence of the country and have become symbols of patriotism. As a result of the aspirations of four crore Telangana people, the sacrifices of the youth and the tireless struggles of students, we have achieved the state of Telangana. The people's government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is working to take Telangana forward on the path of development with the aspirations, self-respect and the spirit of the sacrifices of the martyrs.

We are moving forward towards making Telangana a model state in the country by formulating the "Public Administration Progress Plan - 99-day Action Plan" and giving new impetus to welfare, development and transparent governance through action. It can be said that with the visionary leadership of the Chief Minister, Telangana State will move forward on the path of progress in all sectors. In particular, The Telangana State Government is giving top priority to farmer welfare and is implementing

Abhayastam and 6 Guarantee schemes at the field level.

The State Government is implementing the Indiramma House Scheme with prestige with the aim of realizing the dream of owning a house for poor and middle class families. The Government is working to provide a house of its own to every eligible family.

Under the Indiramma House Scheme, houses have been sanctioned to 9522 poor families in the district who do not have their own house, and 6,977 beneficiaries have started construction work. Currently, 3457 houses are under construction at various stages, while 2973 houses have been completed and house entry has also taken place. He said that the state government has released funds of Rs. 202.42 crore so far.

With the efforts of District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada



Warangal district has received a cash award of Rs. 1 crore under the National Award for successfully completing 72,262 water conservation works under Jal Shakti Abhiyan Jalsanchaya Jan Bhagidari 1.0. 8,342 works have been completed under Jal Shakti Abhiyan Jalsanchaya Jan Bhagidari Bhagidari 2.0.

With the aim of making one crore women millionaires, Indira Mahila Shakti Canteens are being started and women are being provided with Stree Nidhi Bunas through various banks to provide livelihood to women. Rs. 3 crore 68 lakh 95 thousand have been given to 3,211 women's groups as interest-free Bunas.

919 Anganwadi centers in the district have been upgraded to pre-primary education centers (preschools) for young children.

New food Distribution of Security Cards

The government has taken steps to provide the benefits of welfare schemes to eligible poor families through the public distribution system. As part of this, 29,772 new ration cards have been issued in Warangal district, benefiting 93,825 people. We are very happy to say that we are also distributing smart ration cards across the state on Saturday afternoon.

Special thanks were extended to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who is taking the state forward in all fields, and he wished for further development in all fields in the district. As part of the program, cultural programs organized by students to enhance national pride entertained all the people. On this occasion, Minister Konda Surekha, along with the District Collector, felicitated the freedom fighters who worked hard for the freedom struggle with shawls. Public representatives, DCP, DFO, police senior officers, officials, revenue officers, staff, district administration, etc. participated in the program

Netaji Walkers Club Celebrates 80th Independence Day with Grandeur

MANUGURU: The 80th Independence Day celebrations were held in a grand manner under the auspices of the Netaji Walkers Club at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Stadium in Manuguru on Saturday.

Netaji Walkers Club Honorary President Nasireddy Vijay Bhaskar Reddy unfurled the National Flag. The gathering then joined in the National Anthem, expressing their patriotism and respect for the nation.

Speaking on the occasion, Honorary President Nasireddy Vijay Bhaskar Reddy and General Secretary Ravulapalli Ramamurthy recalled the sacrifices of the freedom fighters who laid down their lives for India's independence. They said that the freedom and rights enjoyed by citizens today are the result of the sacrifices and struggles of countless freedom fighters.

They called upon everyone to draw inspiration from the ideals of the freedom fighters and contribute their share towards the development of the nation. They also urged the younger generation to uphold national unity, integrity and patriotic values.

Netaji Walkers Club Treasurer Vaddanam Ramesh, Vice President Jonnalagadda Venkateshwarlu, Deshaboyina Tirupathi Rao, Prasad, Korimella Srinivas, Gold Shankar, Hemadri, Bhadru, Hathi Ram, RMP Srinivasa



Reddy, Elia, Ramireddy, Yakaiah, Ravinder, Vagaboyina Nageswara Rao, Kancharla Murali, Chandu, Vineel, Chintamalla Ramesh, Baburao, Santosh, Rambabu, Maskin, Sura Madhu, C.H. Ramu, Gurram Srujan, Boshetti Ravi, Lalu, Sagar, Srinu, Vinod, Ranjith, Arun and other club members, students, locals and walkers participated in the celebrations.

Patriotic Spirit Fills Netaji Stadium

The Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Stadium echoed with patriotic slogans as members of the Walkers Club, students and local residents enthusiastically participated in the Independence Day celebrations. The gathering paid rich tributes to the freedom fighters and celebrated the spirit of India's independence with pride and enthusiasm.



# SPORTS

## Manpreet Singh says 2026 Hockey World Cup could be his last

Indian hockey midfielder Manpreet Singh says the 2026 FIH World Cup could be his last, as India target their first World Cup medal after back-to-back Olympic successes. He backs the squad's balance, preparation and confidence ahead of the tournament.

Hyderabad: Indian men's hockey midfielder Manpreet Singh says that the FIH World Cup starting from August 15 in Belgium and Holland could well be his last appearance. "This World Cup means a lot to me because it's my fourth edition. We have won back-to-back Olympic medals, but a World Cup medal is still missing. Every player dreams of having both. For me, this could be my last World Cup, so I am approaching it with that mindset," Manpreet said in a chat with JioStar.

"I am determined to achieve what we haven't yet. The team has the experience and the talent to go all the way. We have prepared well, and the belief is high. Indian sports are rising across the board, and hockey is no different. We have won Olympic medals, and now it's time to go all the way in the World Cup," he said. On the team's preparation and the importance of respecting every opponent in the World Cup, Manpreet said: "I have full faith in this team. Everyone is excited and ready for the World Cup. We have learned from past editions that you cannot take any team lightly in a tournament like this. Our squad has a good balance of youth and experience. Senior players like our captain Harmanpreet Singh, Mandeep Singh, and myself have shared our learnings with the younger players about what worked, what didn't, and how to approach each match with full focus," Manpreet said.

"Every match in this tournament is important. We need to go in with the right mindset, respect every opponent, and play to win. Our



coach has emphasised fitness because we know that being fit helps us compete against the best. We have also worked hard on our defence. A solid defence gives us the confidence to attack and take control of the game," he said. On how the team prepares for any opponent in the World Cup, the star midfielder said: "Regardless of who we play, whether it's Pakistan or any other team, we stick to our game plan. We don't get caught up in the opposition's name or reputation. Hockey is a team sport." "And, and if one player tries to do everything alone, it can hurt the team. We must trust each other and play as a unit. By working together and executing our plans, we can beat any side. It all comes down to how we perform on the day. We need to stay emotionally balanced, stick to our roles, and play with discipline. That is what will give us the best chance to win," he said. On captain Harmanpreet Singh, the seasoned campaigner said: "Harmanpreet is an exceptional captain. He leads from the front and guides everyone on the field. He motivates the players during tough moments and keeps the team calm under pressure. His ability to read the game is top class," he said.

"His passing range, whether long overheads or ground passes, is fantastic. He communicates well from the back and organizes the defense effectively. He is easily one of the best drag-flickers in the world. He has great power and variation in his hits, and he always steps up when the team needs him most. Having a captain like him gives the whole team confidence," Manpreet explained. On being confident about making it to the final, the key member of the Indian team said: "I am confident that we will reach the final of the World Cup. The team is playing with great belief and giving 100 per cent in every single training session. The energy in the camp is high, and every member of the squad is determined to achieve something special. I fully believe we will make it to the final."

## Ben Shelton Wins Back-to-back Canadian Opens With Victory Over Nakashima



Ben Shelton won the Canadian Open for a second straight year with a 6-3 7-6(4) victory over fellow American Brandon Nakashima on Thursday, claiming his second Masters 1000 crown and picking up a seventh career title. The all-American final was the first at Masters 1000 level since Andy Roddick beat Mardy Fish in Cincinnati in 2003 and offered an encouraging sign for U.S. men's tennis ahead of the U.S. Open, where the country has not had a men's singles champion since Roddick's triumph that same year. Shelton arrived in Canada after a frustrating stretch of results, having suffered a first-round exit at Wimbledon, a second-round defeat at Roland Garros and managed just one win across his first four Masters 1000 events of the season. However, he has rediscovered his best form on the Canadian hard courts. "To play the way that I've played this week, to go through this draw without dropping a set, I think it speaks a lot to the work that I've been putting in, but it speaks a lot to my mental toughness," Shelton said.

"It hasn't been the best for me, easiest or most straightforward year for me, to put together a performance like this and playing at the top of my game, I have no words." The fifth seed took control of the opening

set as he repeatedly attacked Nakashima's second serve after the pair traded holds through 3-3. Shelton broke for 4-3 with a forehand return winner off a second serve and struck again in the final game as Nakashima's forehand began to falter.

Nakashima, playing in his first Masters 1000 final, weathered the pressure in the second set and forced a tiebreak, but Shelton again seized the initiative with a mini-break before closing out the match with a superb forehand winner. Shelton became the first Canadian Open champion since Novak Djokovic in 2016 to win the tournament without dropping a set, while also becoming the first player since Rafa Nadal in 2019 to successfully defend the title.

## Jharkhand's Shilpa Kumari aims to follow Neeraj Chopra's path to Olympic glory

Jharkhand teenager Shilpa Kumari, India's U-17 women's javelin record holder, draws inspiration from Neeraj Chopra and dreams of Olympic glory. After emerging from a remote village, she now targets a podium finish at the 2026 Youth Olympics.



Hyderabad: When Neeraj Chopra hurled the javelin beyond the 87-metre line at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, he not just won the gold medal, he also sparked off a revolution in Indian athletics with a plethora of javelin talent breaking out onto the global stage.

While the likes of Commonwealth Games 2026 bronze medallist Yashvir Singh and Rohit Yadav have come up among the men, the women's section has lacked a big star – until now, that is.

Hailing from a remote village in the tribal district of Gumla in Jharkhand, Shilpa Kumari – the current national record holder in the women's U-17 category – has emerged as the next big hope of women's javelin in India.

For Shilpa, watching Neeraj Chopra's Olympic exploits live on television along with her neighbours at her village 'chaupal' was a life changing experience.

"I watched Neeraj Chopra win gold at the Olympics. That inspired me to take up javelin. I want to emulate Neeraj sir and win an Olympic medal," Shilpa said during an interaction with SAI Media.

"As I watched the people in my village celebrate Neeraj Chopra's triumph, I decided that winning an Olympic medal in javelin will be the target of my life from then on."

It was an athletics trial at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre in Ranchi which eventually fuelled that Olympic dream.

Shilpa's coach Binod Singh vividly remembers the day he discovered what he termed as the "brightest emerging women's javelin star in India.

"When I first spotted her three years ago during a trial at our SAI centre, I was impressed by her sheer natural talent. At that time, she was a total novice. But I selected her due to the fact that she displayed an extremely strong throwing ability. I could see the potential and realised that she was a very good prospect for the future," the veteran coach recalled.

"Once I inducted her into training at the SAI centre in Ranchi, Shilpa showed excellent progress. She quickly improved and is now the brightest upcoming prospect for India in women's javelin," he added.

"Her parents are farmers and do not have the means to

provide the required support for Shilpa's sports career. It is the facilities, training, equipment, diet etc provided by SAI which has helped me to transform an uncut gem into a shining diamond."

The training at SAI bore fruit when Shilpa burst onto the limelight at the national level in 2025 when she set a new women's U-17 record with an effort of 55.62m at the 69th National School Games.

Shilpa's throw of 55.62m effort is even better than India's U18 national record of 55.19m, which was achieved by Deepika of Haryana in 2023.

However, this mark was not officially recognised by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), as the competition is not officially sanctioned by World Athletics, the sport's global governing body.

The teenager's official personal best was registered at the 2025 Junior Nationals, where she finished fifth with a best throw of 45.90m — an improvement of nearly 10 metres.

"As an athlete, my only focus is to do my best. If the federation as not officially registered my throw, I will try to produce an even better attempt at my next official competition," Shilpa said.

Meanwhile, Binod Singh is confident that his ward will continue to create waves when she reaches the senior level.

"Shilpa is not concerned whether her best throw is officially recognised or not. We know what she can do. She will achieve that mark again," he said.

For now, Shilpa is focussed on the Summer Youth Olympics which is scheduled to take place in Dakar, Senegal from October 31 to November 13, 2026.

"My first goal right now is to finish on the podium at the Youth Olympics. But my ultimate goal is an Olympic medal," the bubbly teenager said.

"I will dedicate my Olympic medal to Neeraj sir."

## Iga Swiatek beats Elena Rybakina to win National Bank Open

Iga Swiatek defeated Elena Rybakina 6-2, 6-3 to win the National Bank Open in Toronto, claiming her first WTA Tour title of the year and 26th overall. Swiatek controlled the match with consistent attacking tennis and few errors

Toronto: Seventh-seeded Iga Swiatek beat second-seeded Elena Rybakina 6-2, 6-3 on Thursday in the National Bank Open for her first WTA Tour title of the year and 26th overall.

Swiatek, from Poland, broke Rybakina's serve early in the match and went on to take the opening set in 29 minutes. Swiatek had another break at 2-2 in the second set before closing out the win in a tidy 75 minutes.

"I was really in the zone," Swiatek said. "I wanted to make the match physical." The hard-serving Rybakina, who leads the tour in aces, struggled to find her rhythm. Swiatek kept her on her heels with a consistent attack, few errors and excellent range on court.

"I wasn't playing aggressive enough and wasn't playing with (enough) energy," Rybakina said. "We all know she's a fighter and she can run left and right much longer than me." A six-



time Grand Slam champion, Swiatek is projected to move up two spots to sixth in the new world ranking.

"I'm speechless a little bit because the journey has been bumpy this season," Swiatek said. "To be here and to hold the trophy and to win against the best players means a lot." Rybakina will remain No. 2.

Earlier, Katerina Siniakova and Shuai Zhang beat Sara Errani and Nicole Melichar-Martinez 6-3, 6-4 in the doubles final.

## Tata Steel To Sell Jamshedpur Football And Sporting To Churchill Club For ₹100

New Delhi: Tata Steel on Friday said the company will sell its entire stake in Jamshedpur Football and Sporting Private Limited to Churchill Brothers Sports Club for a nominal amount of Rs 100. Jamshedpur Football and Sporting Private Limited (JFSPL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the steel major. In a filing, Tata Steel said its Committee of Directors -- set up by the company's board -- has approved the transfer of the entire 100 per cent equity stake comprising 4.08 crore equity shares of face value Rs 10 - each held by Tata Steel Limited in JFSPL to Churchill Brothers Sports Club Private Limited (Churchill) at a nominal consideration of Rs 100. Following the approval of the Committee of Directors, Tata Steel Limited and Churchill have entered into a share purchase agreement setting out the terms and conditions governing the proposed transfer of Tata Steel's entire shareholding (100) in JFSPL to Churchill. Turnover of Jamshedpur Football and Sporting Private Limited in FY26 was Rs 32.23 crore.





# CINEMA

## Big Opp & Challenge In Front Of Mass Raja

On August 21st, Mass Raja Raviteja is coming up with the film “Irumudi”, whose trailer was released recently.

On August 21st, Mass Raja Raviteja is coming up with the film “Irumudi”, whose trailer was released recently. Until now, there are different opinions on this film; however, after the release of the trailer, the film is carrying different expectations. But then, there is a big opportunity and a big challenge before the senior star hero through this movie. Here goes it.

Apparently, there are no big mass films at the box office right now, as the likes of Viswanath & Sons are not catering to the mass audience, while Korean Kanakaraju has also explored the max from the box office already. That presents a big opportunity before the movie, as a slight positive talk will also take the film’s reach to the next level. That’s a good sign, but then there is a threat too.

The biggest challenge is that Mass Raja has to prove anything in just 1 week with regard to the movie. Because on the 26th, the massive “Toxic” wave is going to hit the box office. Irre-



spective of the Day 1 talk, the film is likely to strike the box office very hard, leaving no scope for other movies to survive. That will make things challenging for Irumudi for sure. Irumudi features Raviteja in the lead and is directed by Siva Nirvana, whose recent films haven’t done very well at the box office.

## Comrade Kalyan confirms eagerly awaited release date

Sree Vishnu’s upcoming film Comrade Kalyan has locked its worldwide release date.



Sree Vishnu’s upcoming film Comrade Kalyan has locked its worldwide release date. The makers announced that the film will arrive in theatres on October 9th, promising audiences a theatrical experience packed with action, entertainment, emotion and a slight revolutionary edge.

The release announcement was made through an intense new poster featuring Sree Vishnu in a rugged avatar, walking through a forest alongside a group of armed comrades. Sporting a dark-green outfit and a red scarf, the actor’s commanding look sets the tone for a film that appears to explore a world of rebellion, camaraderie and conflict.

Directed by Janakiram Marella, Comrade Kalyan is produced by Venkata Krishna Karthi and Seetha Karnati. Kona Venkat is presenting the film. The film songs composed by Vijai Bulganin have been super successful raising anticipation.

The October first week release places Comrade Kalyan in the festive theatrical window, giving Sree Vishnu’s entertainer perfect chance to score a blockbuster success. With its striking visual world and mass-oriented presentation, the film is expected to generate further curiosity as the release date approaches.

## KOKA crosses gigantic 1 Million tickets milestone

The movie is registering strong audience traction at the ticket counters and it has already crossed a gigantic milestone of 1 million+ tickets sold across BMS and District apps.



Varun Tej has delivered a big hit with his new movie Korean Kanakaraju. The movie is registering strong audience traction at the ticket counters and it has already crossed a gigantic milestone of 1 million+ tickets sold across BMS and District apps.

It is using the National Holiday Independence Day advantage perfectly. Many shows registering housefulls across the two states, today, showcasing the demand. It is trending with 2.34K tickets booked per hour in its second weekend. In a day and age when film run has become limited, KOKA trending in its second weekend with other big releases shows the box office stamina of Varun Tej.

Directed by Merlapaka Gandhi, the film’s entertainment value is being praised by audiences with many watching it on repeat in theatres. S. Thaman has composed the music, while UV Creations and First Frame Entertainment have produced the film, on massive scale.

Satya’s comedy timing is being praised by all. Varun Tej has become the talk of the town with his striking performance in two different shades. Trade analysts are predicting the movie to earn huge profits making use of big holiday weekend, further.

## Sairabhanu FL: Graceful and Lovely

Begin typing your search above and press return to search. The newly released first look poster perfectly sets an engaging tone for this much-awaited romantic entertainer, leaving audiences eager for more.



Aadi Sai Kumar is back to charm the audience with his exciting new film, Sairabhanu. The newly released first look poster perfectly sets an engaging tone for this much-awaited romantic entertainer, leaving audiences eager for more.

The vibrant design prominently highlights the movie’s catchy tagline, “A Fun Filled Journey of Love, Faith & Destiny,” hinting at a captivating and emotional comedy. Aadi Sai Kumar looks fresh and handsome in a traditional white outfit, while leading lady Bandhavi Sridhar looks beautiful and graceful in a classic black burqa. Together, their warm chemistry while riding the motorcycle makes for a striking image.

Director Phani Krishna Siriki has crafted an engaging storyline aiming to bridge cultural differences through humor, faith, and deep emotion. Backed by passionate producer Razesh Danda, this visually appealing poster offers just a small glimpse of the beautiful journey the makers have in store for audiences.

## Manasa Varanasi’s Divine Darshan at Tirumala

Manasa Varanasi, the graceful Femina Miss India 2020 winner who reached the Top 13 at Miss World, is steadily carving a niche in South Indian cinema.

Manasa Varanasi, the graceful Femina Miss India 2020 winner who reached the Top 13 at Miss World, is steadily carving a niche in South Indian cinema. A former computer science engineer and financial analyst from Hyderabad, she transitioned from pageantry to acting with elegance and determination. She made her movie debut in the 2024 Telugu film Devaki Nandana Vasudeva, playing the pivotal role of Satyabhama (alongside Satya, Radha and Rukmini).

Her poised screen presence earned her early recognition. In 2026, she starred as the lively Mithra in the bilingual romantic drama Couple Friendly opposite Santosh Sobhan, which resonated well with audiences. She is currently filming her Tamil debut alongside Sasikumar and exploring more Telugu projects. Recently, the actress was spotted at the sacred Tirumala temple seeking the divine darshan of Lord Venkateswara Swamy, dressed in a traditional green and cream saree with a warm namaste. Fans and devotees celebrated her humble spiritual visit. Govinda Govinda! May Lord Balaji’s blessings continue to light her path in cinema and life.

