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Hyderabad celebrates 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day



WORLD | PAGE 09

Russian town in Kursk falls to Ukraine troops

Sudzha largest town that Ukraine has seized so far; military commander's office being set up



SPORT | PAGE 11

Mbappe scores on debut, Los Blancos beat Atalanta 2-0

**In a nutshell**

**ISRO satellite launch today**

**SRIHARIKOTA:** ISRO is all set to launch an earth observation satellite EOS-08 onboard the third and final developmental flight of its Small Satellite Launch Vehicle on Friday morning. The Satish Dhawan Space Centre spaceport is buzzing with activity once again as ISRO gears up for a rocket launch nearly after a gap of about six months. The latest launch is scheduled to take place from this spaceport at 9.19 am on August 16.

NATION PAGE 8

**Delay hush money sentence: Trump**

**NEW YORK:** Donald Trump has asked the judge in his New York hush money criminal case to delay his sentencing until after the November presidential election. In a letter made public on Thursday, a lawyer for the former President and current Republican nominee suggested that sentencing Trump as scheduled on September 18 — about seven weeks before Election Day — would amount to election interference. AP

**UGC for protecting students' interests**

**HYDERABAD:** In a move to enhance transparency in enrolment in Open and Distance Learning and online programmes, the University Grants Commission (UGC) rolled out a new procedure for admission. Starting this academic year, students seeking admission to ODL and online programmes must register on the UGC-Distance Education Bureau web portal [deb.ugc.ac.in/](http://deb.ugc.ac.in/) and [deb.ugc.ac.in/Student-Debltd](http://deb.ugc.ac.in/Student-Debltd).

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**Revanth leaves for New Delhi**

**HYDERABAD:** Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy left for New Delhi on Thursday evening for a two-day visit. He left the 'At Home', hosted by Governor Jishnu Dev Varma at Raj Bhavan on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day celebrations, early to board a flight to New Delhi from the Shamshabad airport.

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 87
Retail live.....	Rs. 109
With skin.....	Rs. 158
Skinless.....	Rs. 180
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 56



**When two worlds collide**

The Royals cast includes Bhumi Pednekar, Ishaan Khatter, others

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## PM pushes for secular civil code, ONOE

Says it is India's golden era, vows 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047

PTI  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday made an unequivocal pitch for a "secular" civil code instead of the current framework which is "communal" and promoted "discrimination", and also for simultaneous polls, as he fronted the ruling BJP's manifesto to make his for a uniform civil code and 'one nation one election'.

In his first Independence Day address of his third term from the ramparts of the Red Fort and his 11th consecutive one, Modi invoked the Constitution's directive principles, which recommend a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) across the country, and the Supreme Court's verdicts to make his most forceful backing of the provision, contested by many parties.

"A big section (of society) believes and there is truth in this that the current civil code is in a way a communal civil code. We have lived 75 years with a communal civil code. It is a civil code which promotes discrimination. It



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspects the guard of honour at Red Fort in New Delhi on Thursday. — Photo: AFP

divides the country along religious lines and promotes inequality. Now, we have to move towards a secular civil code. A secular civil code in the country is the need of the hour," said Modi. "This is also the spirit of the Constitution. The Supreme Court has underlined its need many a time, and the dream of the makers of the Constitution should be fulfilled," he added.

Modi, who sported a multi-coloured Rajasthani leheriya-print turban with a white kurta and churidar, delivered a 98-minute ad-

dress to the nation, his longest Independence Day speech. He asserted that it is India's golden era and that a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 awaits the country. The Prime Minister also reiterated his push for ridding Indian politics of casteism and nepotism, calling for entry into public life of one lakh youngsters with no family ties to politics so that the fresh blood brings in a new mindset that enriches democracy. They can join any political party they want, he added.

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

**Modi's I-Day speech highlights**

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI DELIVERED A 98-MINUTE ADDRESS TO THE NATION, HIS LONGEST INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH. **HERE'S WHAT HE SAID**

- It's India's dream to host 2036 Olympics, preparations are on
- Constitution instrumental in safeguarding rights of Dalits, oppressed
- States should act on crimes against women with utmost urgency, instill fear among perpetrators
- 140 Cr Indians concerned over safety of Hindus, minorities in Bangladesh
- Urge public representatives to work on improving ease of living in mission mode
- Developed India of 2047 should also be healthy
- Justice for people, not punishment, essence of new criminal justice laws
- India gradually emerging as global hub in defence manufacturing
- Resolve of 140 crore can achieve goal of Viksit Bharat
- Global firms want to invest big in India, golden opportunities for States
- Transformation of agriculture need of the hour
- Vibrant space sector making India strong
- Aiming to achieve net zero emission in railways by 2030
- India's progress does not come with crisis for anyone

## Gear up for bypolls, KTR to BRS cadre

Says party will be restructured from village, mandal levels

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Stressing that byelections were inevitable in a few constituencies, BRS working president KT Rama Rao asked the party cadre to gear up for bypolls and expose the Congress government's failures.

The BRS had already filed cases in the High Court against three turncoats, including Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender, Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari and Bhadrachalam MLA Tellam Venkat Rao.

The party is also keen to approach the Supreme Court regarding the other BRS MLAs who defected to the Congress. "Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar is being partial and not initiating any action against the turncoats. We are hopeful that High Court verdict will be in our favour," Rama Rao said while addressing Station Ghanpur leaders at Telan-



BRS working president KT Rama Rao hoisting the tricolour on Independence Day at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday.

gana Bhavan here on Thursday. Former ZPTC members, MPP presidents and a few other leaders from the Congress in Station Ghanpur constituency joined the BRS. The BRS working president welcomed them by offering the party scarf.

Later addressing them, he said the leaders rejoining the BRS was the first step towards the party's victory in

the ensuing byelections in Station Ghanpur. The party would be restructured from village and mandal committee levels. Training programmes would be held for workers in the party's district offices from next month. BRS supremo K Chandrashekhara Rao will meet the cadre from each constituency.

(SEE PAGE 2)

## Aid for landless farm labourers raises doubts

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

While the Congress government is yet to clear doubts over Rythu Bharosa, especially extending the assistance to tenant farmers, now doubts are being raised over Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's announcement that Rs 12,000 would be paid to landless farm labourers from this year.

Interestingly, the ruling party had not yet implemented its electoral promise of extending Rs 15,000 per acre every year to the farmers under the Indiramma Rythu Bharosa scheme. Incidentally, this scheme was to be made applicable to both land-owning and tenant farmers. Similarly, it had also promised to pay Rs 12,000 per annum

**Rs 12,000 assistance for farm labourers: CM**

**HYDERABAD:** Stating that the government was preparing modalities and guidelines to implement Rythu Bharosa in a transparent manner, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy announced that Rs 12,000 assistance would also be extended to landless "farm labourers" from this year. The announcement caught everyone by surprise as the Chief Minister's prepared text of speech for the Independence Day celebrations did not have any mention of the facility being extended to "farm labourers". He unfurled the tricolour and reviewed the Independence Day parade at Golconda fort. (REPORT PAGE 4)

to landless labourers. However, the promise of Indiramma Rythu Bharosa remained only on paper this Vaanakalam. Last season, the government extended Rs 10,000 per acre (Rythu Bandhu offered by BRS) to farmers, sans any assistance to tenant farmers. There are about 20 lakh tenant farm-

ers in the State. The government also constituted a Cabinet sub-committee to seek opinions and suggestions from farmers, agriculture labourers, farm associations and intellectuals, on the pretext of there being some irregularities in the implementation of Rythu Bandhu. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Telugus in B'desh proud of culture

IRFAN MOHAMMED  
Jeddah

Even as Bangladesh limps back to normalcy after the recent political upheaval that led to the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina government, concerns are being raised over the safety of the Telugu people living in the neighbouring country.

There are over 40,000 people of Telugu origin living in Bangladesh. These Telugu Bangladeshis are those who preferred to stay back on the Bangladesh side following the partition of India and Pakistan. Those living along the newly demarcated boundary after Bangladesh was formed identified themselves as belonging to the land, regardless of religious affiliations.

This sentiment led to thousands of Telugu descendants remaining in present-day Bangladesh,

then known as East Pakistan. They are now fully integrated Bangladesh nationals, maintaining their cultural and linguistic identity. On the other side, Bengalis, who relocated to different parts of India, including Telangana, became patriotic Indians, while retaining pride in their Bengali heritage.

During the Partition, Bengal's residents had the option to cross the boundary based on religious lines, but many chose to stay where their ancestors lived. Among them were Hindus of Telugu origin, mostly from the north Andhra region, who now reside in Bangladesh.

There are an estimated 40,000 Telugu-speaking people in Bangladesh, mostly living in and around Dhaka. Those in Dhaka primarily work as marginal labourers. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Nalin Prabhat appointed J&K Special DGP

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

One of the top notch counter-terrorism experts in the country, Nalin Prabhat has been appointed as the Special Director General of Police of Jammu and Kashmir with immediate effect.

The IPS officer of the 1992 batch will take over as DGP after the retirement of DGP RR Swain on September 30. Prabhat's posting as the Special DG 'with immediate effect' comes when militancy in J&K is believed to be resurfacing with intensified attacks on Army personnel. Known for his tough stand on subversive elements, Prabhat served in the Maoist-affected areas of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. (SEE PAGE 2)



An auto-rickshaw decorated with the Tricolour makes its way through traffic at Tank Bund on Independence Day. — Photo: Surya Sridhar

## Mpox health emergency: All about risks, symptoms

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

With the World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday declaring mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, a public health emergency of international concern, people must be aware of its risk factors and measures to reduce exposure.

Given the fact that Hyderabad is a well-known destination for students from Africa, who visit to pursue higher education, risk awareness among the general public about the viral infection is vital.

The WHO had to issue an alert due to an alarming upsurge of infections in multiple African countries. In 2024, a total of 17,500 mpox infections and 460 deaths were reported in Africa. Mpox is a viral zoonotic disease with symptoms similar

**Bear in mind**

**MPOX CAUSED BY MONKEYPOX VIRUS (MPXV)**

- Transmitted through direct contact with infected persons
- Contact with body fluids, lesion material through sexual contact
- Persons with history of recent travel to Africa within last 21 days
- Such individuals, if have unexplained acute rash, must consult a doctor
- SYMPTOMS:** Swollen lymph nodes, fever, headache, body aches, profound weakness



to smallpox. It is caused by the monkeypox virus, which was first discovered in 1958 when an outbreak of a pox-like illness occurred in monkeys. The first human case was reported in 1970 in Congo and in 2003, the first monkeypox outbreak outside Africa was reported in

the US. Currently, there are two clades of mpox that are endemic in Africa and considered to be behind the upsurge of fresh infections. The first variety (Clade I) is severe with a mortality of 10 per cent, while Clade II is less severe with a fatality rate of 0.1%. (SEE PAGES 2, 9)

## 3 killed in car crash on ORR

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Three persons, including a two-month-old baby boy, died and six others were injured when two cars crashed into each other on the ORR at Pedda Golconda in Shamshabad on Thursday evening.

The incident occurred when the driver of the car, which was proceeding from Karimnagar towards RGIA, lost control of the vehicle while trying to overtake and collided with a car ahead. Not stopping there, with the same speed, the car crashed into another car.

The last car rolled over several times before halting, killing Taj (40), Vara Lakshmi (45) and the infant on the spot. The victims, along with 10 family members, were returning to their hometown in Wanaparthy from the Yadadri temple. (SEE PAGE 2)