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Ayodhya decked up for grand consecration

'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony to begin at 12.20 pm; authorities make final preps

PTI
 AYODHYA

The much-awaited consecration event at Ram temple will be held here on Monday in a grand ceremony with Prime Minister Narendra Modi attending the rituals. The shrine will be opened to the public a day later. The 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony will begin at 12.20 pm and is expected to end by 1 pm. The Prime Minister will then address a gathering of more than 7,000 people, including seers and prominent personalities, at the venue.

No invite for BRS
HYDERABAD: BRS MLC K Kavitha said that the BRS did not receive any official invitation to participate in the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony. As a result, there would be no representation of BRS at the event, she said. Amid the BJP's claims to have invited all major political parties for the event, Kavitha said that no official invitation was received so far. However, she reminded that Lord Sri Ram did not belong to one person or organisation, but to all.

'Yagyashala'. The rituals are being performed with flowers from many places, including Chennai and Pune," a trust member said.

A few invitees arrived in Ayodhya on Sunday while others are expected to arrive Monday morning.

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)



Ram Mandir decorated with flowers on the eve of its consecration ceremony, in Ayodhya, on Sunday. — Photo: PTI

Garland with 1 lakh pearls from Hyd

YUVRAJ AKULA
 Hyderabad



M Venkata Das with the garland weighing over 4 kg.

Rama Lalla in Ayodhya is to be presented with a garland of over one lakh pearls from Hyderabad, the City of Pearls. A devout from the city, M Venkata Das along with his family, has made the pearl garland weighing over 4 kg for the consecration ceremony of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. The 8-ft long pearl garland was handed over to Chinna Jeevar Swami to be presented at the temple on Monday.

Das says as ardent devotees of Lord Rama, his family had resolved to prepare the 'muthyala gaja mala.' There were initial situational constraints but overcoming them in time, nine members of the family toiled day and night to put the garland together. "The consecration of Lord Rama at Ayodhya is a momentous occasion for us. We sat chanting the Lord's name and sang his keertanas as we strung together the garland," says Das. (SEE PAGE 2)

BRS may go for experience, new faces in LS polls

Leadership urged not to repeat several candidates

PS DILEEP
 Hyderabad

After rigorous brainstorming to identify factors that led to its defeat in the recent Assembly elections, the BRS is likely to opt for new candidates in at least six Parliamentary constituencies in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. While the final decision will be taken by party chief and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, a majority of leaders have already suggested the party leadership not to repeat several candidates. Since January 3, the BRS has been conducting the Lok Sabha constituency-wise preparatory meetings as a move to galvanise the party cadre and formulate a robust action plan for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

All the top leadership, led by BRS working president KT Rama Rao, T Harish Rao and others along with senior leaders from all constituencies, have openly discussed and dissected each and every factor that led to the party's performance.

In a departure from tradition, they even acknowledged the lack of party committees, effective communication and coordination as well as inaccessibility of top leadership to the party cadre and vowed not to repeat the mistakes. Amid these circumstances, a majority of leaders have opined that there should be a change in certain candidates.

Several leaders are learnt to have requested the party leadership not to hesitate to deny tickets to candidates who are not in a position to win the polls. Sources said the top leadership was also of a similar opinion which was summarised and submitted to the party president. The party leaders have reportedly suggested a mix of experienced leaders and fresh faces, coupled with a cautious approach to seat selection.

"Unlike earlier, there are multiple contenders for the Lok Sabha tickets and the demand has only grown stronger following the poor performance of some sitting candidates in the Assembly elections. Chances are plenty for the party leadership to change the candidates to win a majority of the MP seats," a senior BRS functionary told 'Telangana Today.' Of the total 17 Lok Sabha seats, the BRS traditionally "leaves" the Hyderabad seat to AIMIM. (SEE PAGE 2)

“There are multiple contenders for tickets and the demand has only grown stronger following poor performance of some sitting candidates in Assembly elections” — BRS LEADER

City's air quality worsens

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Primary: Trump, Haley to face off

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Taylor Fritz sinks Tsitsipas

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India to send back 276 Myanmar soldiers

AIZAWL

India will send back 276 Myanmar soldiers who fled to Mizoram last week following gunfights with an ethnic insurgent group, an official said on Sunday.

With this repatriation, which will continue for two days — Monday and Tuesday, more than 600 Myanmar soldiers who fled to Mizoram will be sent back to their country, he said.

The 276 personnel will be airlifted by Myanmar Air Force planes from the Lengpui airport near Aizawl to Sittwe in the neighbouring

country's Rakhine state, the Assam Rifles official said. They entered Bandukbanga village, located at the India-Myanmar-Bangladesh trijunction, in southernmost Mizoram's Lawngtlai district with arms and ammunition on 17 January and approached the Assam Rifles, she said.

They were taken to the nearby Assam Rifles camp at Parva, and later the majority of them were shifted to Lunglei, she added. They have been under the supervision of the Assam Rifles since then, the official said. PTI

BRS not scared of Modi, Revanth: KTR

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Sunday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy were conspiring to wipe out the BRS. However, the BRS feared neither Modi nor Revanth Reddy and would continue to fight as the voice of the people of Telangana, he said while addressing BRS leaders from the Malkajgiri Parliamentary constituency.

Rama Rao cited the recent remarks of BJP national secretary Bandi Sanjay and a senior journalist's editorial in a vernacular daily in this



BRS working president KT Rama Rao addressing the party leaders from Malkajgiri Parliamentary constituency on Sunday.

regard. "According to their comments, recently when Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka met Modi in New Delhi, he told them that

he would fully cooperate to finish the BRS. It is clear that BJP and Congress are one in Telangana," he said.

He lashed out at the Congress-BJP nexus, pointing

out that while the Congress in New Delhi criticised that Adani and Modi were the same, Revanth Reddy signed an investment agreement with the same Adani in Davos. "As long as the BRS ruled the State, we did not allow Adani to set foot in Telangana," he said.

In a strong counter to Bhatti Vikramarka, Rama Rao demanded him to explain how speaking the truth and asking people not to pay electricity bills could be termed as a destructive mindset when the BRS was only repeating what the Congress leaders had promised during the Assembly elections. (SEE PAGE 2)

Manipur cops deny collusion charges with militants

IMPHAL

Manipur Police rejected the allegations by Kuki organisation that security forces collaborated with insurgent groups in Moreh town where incidents of violence were reported recently. Moreh is a town bordering Myanmar and it has been alleged by the State government that miscreants from the neighbouring country are fomenting trouble in the northeastern State.

"The allegation of the Committee on Tribal Unity (COTU) and the Kuki Inpi Manipur regarding collaborations with valley-based insurgent groups and Meitei militants disguised as security force personnel in Moreh is not true. The allegations are baseless and misleading," the police said in a statement. Two police commandos were killed on January 17 in militant attacks in Moreh, while several others were injured.

Kuki organisations alleged that surrendered valley-based insurgents were allowed to "mix freely" with the State Police. The violence erupted on May 3 after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population. PTI

Crashed aircraft not Indian, says Centre

NEW DELHI

More than 40-year-old small aircraft carrying six people that crashed in a rural Afghanistan province was not an Indian aircraft and only did refuelling at the Gaya airport on Saturday en route from a Thailand airport to Moscow, officials said on Sunday.

The Dassault Falcon (DF-10) plane, operating as an air ambulance, was flying from Utapao Airport in Thailand to Moscow. Amid reports that it was an Indian plane that was involved in the crash, the Civil Avia-

A Russian private jet carrying six people crashed in a remote area but the pilot and some of the others on board survived, says Taliban

tion Ministry on Sunday said the aircraft did not belong to any Indian carrier. "The unfortunate plane crash that has just occurred in Afghanistan is neither an Indian Scheduled Aircraft nor a Non-Scheduled/Charter aircraft. It is a Moroccan-registered small aircraft. More details are awaited," the Ministry said in a post

on X at 1.07 pm. An official said that the plane departed the Gaya airport after refuelling at 4.02 pm on Saturday. There were six passengers onboard, including a female patient, the official added.

A source in the know said the plane had started from Utapao airport in Thailand. "As per available information, the crashed aircraft is a DF-10

(Dassault Falcon) small aircraft registered in Morocco. It is not an aircraft of Indian carriers. The aircraft was an air ambulance and was flying from Thailand to Moscow and did refuelling at Gaya airport," the Ministry said in a statement. The crash happened on Saturday in a mountainous area near Zebak district in Badakhshan province, regional spokesman Zabihullah Amiri said.

Zebak is some 250 km northeast of Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, a rural, mountainous area, home to only several thousand people, it added. PTI

Russian shelling in Ukraine kills 25

KYIV

At least 25 people were killed on Sunday by shelling at a market on the outskirts of the city of Donetsk in Russian-occupied Ukraine, local officials reported on Sunday. A further 20 people were injured in the strike on the suburb of Tekstilshchik, including two children, said Denis Pushilin, head of the Russian-installed authorities in Donetsk.

He said that the shells had been fired by the Ukrainian military. Kyiv has not commented on the event. Emergency services continue to

work on the scene, Pushilin said. Also Sunday, a fire broke out at a chemical transport terminal at Russia's Ust-Luga port following two explosions, regional officials said. Local media reported that the port had been attacked by Ukrainian drones, causing a gas tank to explode. The blaze was at a site run by Russia's second-largest natural gas producer, Novatek, 165 km southwest of St. Petersburg. In a press statement to Russian media outlet RBC, the company said that the fire was the result of an "external influence." AP