hronicle

Nation 7

MUSTREAD Party workers welcome

BJP Telangana chief at Choutuppal

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri: BJP Telangana State President N Ramchandra Rao received a rousing welcome from party workers and locals during his visit to Choutuppal in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district on Monday. The visit marked his first public tour after assuming office as the state party chief. Addressing the enthusiastic gathering, Ramchan-dra Rao said he had specifically requested that his first visit be to Nalgonda district, his birthplace. "This land holds a special place in my heart. The party respected my wish and advised me to work towards strengthening the BJP across the state," he said. He highlighted the growing pub-lic support for the BJP in Telangana, calling it a clear indication of people's desire for change.

Wanted sharp shooter of Jeeva gang killed in **UP encounter**

Muzaffarnagar: The Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF) gunned down a dreaded sharp shooter of Sanjeev Jeeva gang in an encounter in Muzaffarnagar today, police sources said. Shahrukh Pathan, a sharpshooter linked to the gang of slain gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari and gangster Sanjeev Jeeva, sustained an injury in an encounter and was rushed to a hospital, officials said. ADG (law and order) and chief of STF Amitabh Yash said the STF Field Unit Meerut had arrested Shahrukh Pathan in an injured condition during an en-counter under Muzaffarnagar police station. The criminal was rushed to a hospital where he was declared dead by doctors.

Benakatti celebrates 250-year-old Kichadi festival

Bagalkote: The centuries-old Kichadi Jatre held in Benakatti village of Bagalkote district of-fered a vibrant glimpse into the region's enduring agrarian cul-ture and unity, as villagers celebrated the festival with traditional fervour during the auspicious Ashada season. Women dressed in traditional North Karnataka attire (pataka kambali) were seen preparing kichadi in their courtyards, carrying the offering in pots on their heads, and presenting it as naivedya to the local deity. The blessed food was then distributed to devotees as prasada in front of the temple, reinforcing the community's deep spiritual connection. Locals said the entire village participates in the celebrations, which mark the completion of a year in the agricultural cycle.

Tushar Gandhi evicted from Champaran venue

At behest of RSS, NDA govt, says Congress

New Delhi (UNI)

The Congress today strongly condemned the alleged eviction of Ma-hatma Gandhi's great-grandson, Tushar Gandhi from a community hall in Champaran, calling it a direct insult carried out at the "behest of the RSS and the ruling NDA government".

In a post on X, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera, criti-cised the BJP-JDU alliance, alleging, "At the behest of the RSS, the NDA government has now stooped to insulting Mahatma Gandhi's greatgrandson, Tushar Gandhi.

The land of Champaran, which gained global recognition due to Gandhi's struggle against the exploitation and oppression by indigo planters, has now witnessed the

Privank Kharge aide held in banned

syrup case

Kalaburagi: Mumbai police have arrested three suspects, including a close aide of Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge, in connection with the illegal sale of banned cough syrup. The arrests were made during a raid on June 22, in which several bottles of Foradon Phosphate Syrup were seized.

According to ACP Kalyanji Ghete, a special team was formed to carry out the operation. The arrested individuals were identified as Shiv, Vindraj, and Irfan alias Mohammad. The seized syrup, a controlled substance, has been banned under narcotics regulations. A case has been filed under the Narcotic Drugs and Psy-chotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and the accused have been produced before the court.

eviction of Tushar Gandhi from a community hall".

He accused the BJP-JDU leadership of hypocrisy, saying, "These leaders bow their heads before Mahatma Gandhi's statue but cannot

tolerate those who follow his ideology."

Khera said that Tushar Gandhi is currently leading a "Parivartan Yatra' aimed at challenging alleged "elec-toral manipulation" and what he de-scribed as the "theft of the public mandate".

He claimed the government, rattled by growing dissent, is resorting to undemocratic actions to stifle opposition voices.

"Just as Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent movement brought an end to 135 years of exploitative farming, the end of this 20-year-old oppressive regime is near," Khera asserted. Despite the alleged humiliation,

Congress reaffirmed its commitment to nonviolent resistance and electoral integrity. "We will not allow voter suppression to take root in our

BJP's new state president pledges united struggle in North Bengal

Kolkata (UNI)

BJP's newly appointed state presi-dent Samik Bhattacharya today said his party would launch a united struggle against the politics of com-munal division and identity-based segregation in North Bengal.

On his first visit to North Bengal after assuming charge as state BJP chief, Bhattacharya told the media in Siliguri, "the BJP is committed to launching a 'collective struggle' in partnership with the people of North Bengal. The region has been subjected to decades of neglect, and the time has come for a decisive political response.'

Marking the beginning of his official visit to North Bengal since taking over the state leadership, Bhattacharya arrived at Bagdogra Airport and headed straight to Madhab Bhawan — the North Bengal headquarters of the RSS — where he held discussions with the leadership before proceeding to Alipurduar to attend a series of political events.

According to party sources, Bhat-

Congress vows to implement 42 pc BC reservations in Telangana

Hyderabad (UNI)

Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Monday, he accused the BJP of creating legal hurdles and spreading misinformation

"As soon as the Congress came to using legal avenues and court direc-

tional OBC Morcha President Dr K Laxman, accusing him of expressing intolerance toward BC reservations. You claim to support OBCs, but vour actions show otherwise. You've withheld funds and obstructed local body elections for the past 18 months that were meant to ensure

representation for BCs."

The Minister criticised the BJF and BRS for what he called a political drama in Delhi, comparing their tactics to "wrestlers in Dosti Galli." He demanded that BJP leaders, especially those from BC backgrounds including Bandi Sanjay, Etela Rajender, and Dharmapuri Aravind have ceased to work against the interests of their own communities. He also took a jab at the BJP's

leadership decisions. "You promised a BC Chief Minister and a BC national president. But instead, you removed Bandi Sanjay and appointed Kishan Reddy. Even the five MLC seats recently given to weaker sec-tions were possible only because of caste enumeration.'

Prabhakar emphasised that the ordinance for 42 per cent reservations is with the Governor and should be approved without delay.

MP demands BJP's clarification on attack against Sambhaji **Brigade founder**

sues of the region.

tacharya will also visit Cooch Beha

and Jalpaiguri before concluding his

North Bengal tour with a key meeting

with party leaders in Siliguri on July 16

Criticising the ruling Trinamul Congress, Bhattacharya said, "The

anger, neglect, and suffering of North Bengal over the past 35 year

remain unchanged. Éven though

Mamata Banerjee came to power

and set up the Uttarkanya secretari-at, it has failed to address the core is-

Pune: Nationalist Congress Party (NCP-SP) Member of Parliament Dr Amol Kolhe today strongly condemned the attack on Sambhaj Brigade founder-president Pravin Gaikwad in Akkalkot and demanded that the BJP issue a clarification, as names of BJP Yuva Morcha officebearers have reportedly surfaced in connection with the incident.

Gaikwad was in Akkalkot vester day where he had gone to attend a felicitation ceremony for Janmejayaraje Bhosale. He was allegedly as-saulted by members of the Shivdharma Foundation. He was pulled out of his vehicle and smeared with black ink and grease on his face. There was also an attempt to tear his clothes and physically assault him.

Shrine vandalised ahead of Braj Mandal Yatra in Haryana's Nuh; security tightened

Chandigarh (UNI)

In Haryana's Nuh district, a shrine in Tawadu town was reportedly vandalised late Sunday night, hours before the start of the Braj Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra. The incident took place around 1:30 am and was discovered by caretakers at 5 am on Monday.

Police were informed immediateand senior officials, including the SDM and DSP, visited the site for investigation. District Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena stated that pants gather from this area. The vanthe situation remained completely peaceful and under control. He said dalism is being viewed as an attempt strict action will be taken against to create fear among the devotees. those responsible. Though the yatra route does not pass through Tawadu, many partici-



Mahadev temple in Firozpur Jhirka and concluding at Shringeshwar Ma hadev temple in Shingar village.



Ensure prompt action in

rain-hit areas: UP CM

Lucknow (UNI) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today

ment's top priority. He directed officials to take swift and effective ac-

Highlighting the situation, the Chief Minister noted that many ar-eas in the state have witnessed intense rainfall, leading to severe wa-terlogging, road damage, and a significant rise in river water levels.

He stressed the need for constant monitoring and instructed all departments, municipal bodies, development authorities, and district administrations to immediately streamline drainage systems and ensure swift removal of stagnant water from affected areas. Complaints should be promptly redressed and emergency responses must be guar-anteed, he added.

democracy," Khera added.

Telangana BC Welfare Minister Pon-nam Prabhakar strongly defended the Congress government's decision to implement 42 per cent reserva-tions for Backward Classes (BCs) across political, educational, and employment sectors.

about the state government's move.

power, we initiated a caste census tives," Prabhakar said. "Based on the findings, a resolution was passed in the Legislative Assembly, and a law was made to increase BC reserva-tions to 42 per cent. This law was sent to the Governor and then to the President for approval." Prabhakar took aim at BJP Na-

DoNER officials visit proposed Agar processing unit

Agartala: Officials of Ministry of Development for North East Re-gion (DoNER) visited Phulbari and Burgul villages of Kadamtala in North Tripura along Assam border- proposed sites for setting up an Agar (main ingredient of perfume) processing unit yesterday. Magistrate North Tripura Chandni Chandran said the visit was to assess the feasibility of the project, including community participation, security issues, and forward business facilities in the villages, and also to interact with the people regarding the proposed project. DoNER ministry is planning an agar processing unit in Kadamtala," she stated. Land has already been identified for the 60 crore project. The agar growers are cur-rently selling raw agar.

Raging Beas claims life of 5-year-old Girl in Kullu

Kullu: A tragedy unfolded in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district on Sunday afternoon when a five-year-old girl was swept away by the swollen Beas river when her mother and two daughters were crossing a makeshift suspension bridge. Around 2pm, Rajni was returning home to Shamshi workshop from Jia village along with her daughters, Pari (5) and Vanshika (14), when a sudden jolt on the bridge caused all three to lose balance. Pari, who was in her mother's arms, slipped and fell into the roaring river. Her body was later recovered nearly a kilometre downstream. Vanshika too lost her balance but managed to cling to one of the bridge's ropes, hanging mid-air for about ten minutes.

assessed the impact of recent neavy rains in Uttar Pradesh, stressing that public convenience is the govern-

The vatra is scheduled to begin from the Nalhadeshwar Temple in Nalhar, passing through Jhirkeshwar

In 2023, the Braj Mandal Yatra in Nuh was marred by communal vio-lence, resulting in seven deaths.

A 'Viksit Gaon' is an achievable reality: Chandrasekhar

New Delhi (UNI)

Calling for a renewed focus on grassroots development, Union Minister of State for Rural Development Dr Pemmasani Chandrasekhar has noted that a 'Viksit Gaon' where every family has a pucca house with basic amenities, every youth is employed, and every woman is economically empowered is not a distant dream it is an achievable reality.

Speaking at the first Performance Review Committee meeting of the Ministry of Rural Development here, Dr Chandrasekhar underscored the critical role of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in building a 'Viksit Gaon' as the foundation for a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, according to a statement here today.

He said rural development schemes are no longer just welfare

measures but essential engines driving the nation's inclusive growth story under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Cabinet Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Among flagship initiatives, MGN-REGS stood out prominently in the Minister's address. Describing it as "the strongest weapon against rural unemployment and distress migra-tion", Dr Chandrasekhar highlighted the scheme's continuing relevance, particularly during agricultural lean seasons.

With an annual investment between Rs 90,000 and Rs 1,00,000 crore, MGNREGS has generated over 250 crore person-days of work each vear. More than 36 crore job cards have been issued so far, and over 15 crore workers remain active beneficiaries, said the statement.

However, the Minister stressed



the need to transition beyond mere wage payments. He called for a shift towards meaningful and durable asset creation, diversified work cate-

gories to ensure productivity, greater convergence with other developmental schemes, and enhanced

community participation in selecting and planning work. 'The true potential of MGNREGS

lies in its ability to create productive infrastructure that sustains rural livelihoods over time," he said. In his review, Dr. Chandrasekhar

also provided updates on several other key schemes stating that under PMAY-Gramin, over 3.22 crore pucca houses have been constructed so far. An additional 2 crore houses are tar-geted by 2029. The Minister called for the use of eco-friendly, regionspecific technologies and cost-effective housing designs, he said.

Similarly, PMGSY has ensured that more than 7.56 lakh km of rural roads are built. The Minister pro-posed setting up state-level road maintenance funds and encouraging community-based monitoring for improved sustainability.

Punjab Cabinet approves stringent law to curb sacrilege with harsh penalties

Chandigarh: In a decision aimed at **Chandigarh:** In a decision aimed at ensuring stringent punishment for those committing sacrilege, the Punjab Cabinet, led by Chief Min-ister Bhagwant Singh Mann, today approved the Punjab Prevention of Offences Against Holy Scripture(s) Bill 2025, proposing life imprison-Bill, 2025, proposing life imprisonment for desecration of sacred texts

The legislation aims to address rising incidents in the past of sacrilege involving scriptures like the Sri Guru Granth Sahib, Bhagavad Gita, Holy Bible, Quran Sharif, and other revered granths. A spokesperson for the Chief Minister's Office said existing provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (Sections 298-300) lack the severity required to serve as effective deterrents.

ED arrests two top Sahara group officials in money laundering case

Kolkata (UNI)

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested two top Sahara Group officials — Anil Vailaparampil Abra-ham, executive director of Core Management (CCM) Office, and Ji-tendra Prasad Verma, a long-time as-sociate and property broker of the Sahara Group — in an alleged mon-ev laundering case ey laundering case.

The arrest was made in the case of Sahara India and its group entities under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PM-LA), 2002.

The ED in a statement said Anil V Abraham played a key role in coordi-nating and facilitating the sale of Sahara Group properties, many of which involved substantial unac-counted cash components that were



siphoned.

It also said JP Verma was actively involved in executing several of these property transactions and knowingly assisted in routing large cash proceeds generated from these sale transactions, thereby contributing to the concealment and dissipation of Proceeds of Crime (POC).

The Central agency also seized many incriminating evidences that were recovered during the search actions conducted under provisions of PMLA.

Such evidence suggested that the properties of the Sahara group were being disposed of one by one in a clandestine manner.

The promoters were found involved in such malpractices while remaining outside India. The antilaundering agency began investigation based on three FIRs registered under Sections 420 and 120B of the IPC, 1860 against Humara India Credit Cooperative Society Ltd. (HICCSL) and others by police in Odisha, Bihar, and Rajasthan.

What happened to an elected CM in J&K is unacceptable: Mamata

Kolkata (UNI)

TMC chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today batted for her Jammu and Kashmir counterpart Omar Abdullah and asked what is wrong if visits a grave-yard of martyrs in Srinagar to pay ĥomage.

Omar shared a video on the social media platform X and stated that he was "physically grappled" by the po-lice personnel when he was at the marture' graveward in Sripagar martyrs' graveyard in Srinagar.

"What is wrong in visiting the graveyard of martyrs?" Mamata questioned. "This is unfortunate; it also

snatches the democratic right of a citizen," Banerjee opined on X.

"What happened this morning to an elected Chief Minister @OmarAbdullah is unacceptable. Shocking. Shameful," said Banerjee, who last



week had hosted Omer Abdullah to her official chamber at Nabanna.

Abdullah came here and appealed to the people here to visit his state, which is witnessing huge fall in tourism following a bloody massacre of of 25 tourists at Pahalgam on April 22 last

