

PRE-RAMZAN ARRANGEMENTS

Govt ratchets up efforts to spruce up Mecca Masjid, other mosques

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

WITH just two weeks remaining before the commencement of the holy month of Ramzan, the historic Mecca Masjid, Shahi Masjid, and other prominent mosques are being spruced up for the faithful. The authorities have arranged 2,250 kg of high-quality dates for iftar as over 5,000 worshippers are expected to break their fast daily at Mecca Masjid alone. Following reported delays in renovation works that triggered public concern on 31 January, the Telangana State Minority Welfare Department has accelerated all necessary arrangements to ensure a peaceful observance of the month.

According to the department, prayer mats and essential supplies have been secured. Specifically, 1,500 kg of dates have been allocated to Mecca Masjid, with 500 kg for Shahi Masjid and 250



kg for the Secretariat Masjid. District Minorities Welfare Officer Mohammed Ilyas Ahmed confirmed that the supply contract was awarded to Gulzar Cuisine at a rate of Rs 418 per kg. He noted that high-quality Shukri dates are being provided this year to enhance the experience for the public. Furthermore, existing carpets are being refurbished or replaced with new ones to accommodate the large crowds.

In coordination with the

GHMC, water works, and electricity departments, several auxiliary tasks are underway.

Tents have already been installed at Mecca Masjid and Shahi Masjid to provide shade. While major renovation and conservation works on the four-century-old structure are now fully completed, the reconstruction of the ablution tank and washrooms has also been finalised under the supervision of the Department of Heritage.

SHE Teams secure convictions for 5 involved in sexual offences

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Hyderabad SHE Team, through sustained investigation and effective prosecution, has secured convictions in five cases involving grave sexual offences against minor girls. These cases, registered at Begumpet, Banjara Hills, Bhavani Nagar, and SR Nagar stations, involved charges including aggravated penetrative sexual assault, child enticement, and criminal intimidation. The verdicts were delivered by Sessions Courts and Fast Track Special Courts under the IPC and POCSO Act, reflecting the stringent approach of the city police towards child safety.

The court awarded rigorous imprisonment for life until death in a case where a father assaulted his twelve-year-old daughter. Other sentences included twenty-five years for a neighbour who assaulted a nine-year-old girl, and twenty years for the luring and assault of an eight-year-old. Furthermore, two separate cases involving victims aged four and eight resulted in five-year prison terms. Alongside imprisonment, the courts imposed fines and directed victim compensation ranging from Rs 2,00,000 to Rs 5,00,000.

Lavanya, DCP of the Women Safety Wing,

stated that the victims, aged between four and twelve, were assaulted by known individuals. In every instance, the minors disclosed the offences to guardians, leading to prompt complaints and referral to the Bharosa Centre for child-friendly statement recording. The centre provided psychological counselling, medical care assistance, and trial support to ensure the families remained confident throughout the legal proceedings.

The DCP noted that despite pressure from the accused to compromise, Bharosa personnel ensured the cases reached their logical conclusion.

Currently, all survivors are continuing their education and performing well academically. This coordinated effort between the police, the prosecution, and support centres highlights the commitment to delivering justice and rehabilitating victims of such heinous crimes. The authorities reiterated that the safety of children remains their highest priority, and they will continue to pursue maximum penalties for offenders to deter such violence in society and ensure a secure environment for every minor. The successful convictions serve as a vital warning against those targeting the most vulnerable members of the community.

Over 2.5 cr devotees attended Sammakka Jatara: Seethakka

Panchayat Raj Minister elated over hassle-free arrangements at the sprawling Jatara venue

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

PANCHAYAT Raj Minister Dhanasri Anasuya Seethakka on Tuesday stated that over 2.5 crore devotees attended the Sammakka Sarakka Medaram Maha Jatara this year. During an informal interaction with the media, the Minister announced plans to widen roads before the next Jatara to effectively overcome persistent traffic problems. She described the festival as a grand success, noting that arrangements and temple works proceeded smoothly despite false propaganda spread by certain individuals.

The Minister clarified that the event concluded without any untoward incidents, dismissing misinformation regarding a single theft. Seethakka highlighted that

even opposition leaders praised the management. People from all walks of life arrived in large numbers for the darshan of the goddesses. The Tirugu Jatara is scheduled to take place within a day or two.

Furthermore, the Minister confirmed she would soon review ongoing works in the Mulugu district with officials to prepare for the ensuing Godavari Pushkarams. This proactive approach aims to ensure better infrastructure and crowd management for all future religious congregations in the region. The government remains committed to enhancing devotee facilities while maintaining the spiritual sanctity and safety of these massive tribal gatherings across the state of Telangana.



CS directs officials to secure maximum central funds in Union Budget 2026-27

Ramakrishna Rao demands systematic action plan to claim Telangana's ₹25,000 crore share from centrally sponsored schemes while prioritising pharma and semiconductor sectors for state development

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

STATE Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao has instructed top officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan to secure pending central funds for Telangana in the Union Government's budget for the 2026-27 financial year. At a meeting with secretaries from all departments, he emphasised that officials must work systematically to obtain the maximum possible allocation from centrally sponsored schemes. He clarified that the central government has proposed a budget of Rs 5 lakh



crore under these schemes. Based on population figures, the Chief Secretary noted that Telangana should receive at least Rs 25,000 crore as its rightful share.

Ramakrishna Rao pointed out that the central budget prioritises the development of the pharma sector, semi-

conductor manufacturing, and various agricultural aspects, suggesting that the state take appropriate measures in these directions. He identified a significant opportunity

to develop a temple corridor connecting Khammam, Warangal, and Karimnagar districts. With the Mamunoor

airport project progressing in Warangal, he highlighted the substantial potential for tourism, industrial, and commercial growth in these specific regions.

Furthermore, the Chief Secretary stated that the state is yet to receive another Rs 10,000 crore during the

current financial year. He briefed officials on the 16th Finance Commission, noting that fund allocations are based on 2011 population data alongside criteria such as demographic area, implementation capacity, and fund utilisation. Priority is given to development-oriented indicators. He suggested that special measures be taken to ensure that surplus unutilised funds remaining with the central government are made available to the state. Secretaries have been directed to make special efforts to ensure no funds are lost due to administrative delays.

‘FATHER OF ALL DEALS’

NEW DELHI

FORMER Ambassador of India to Poland Dr Deepak Vohra on Tuesday described the India-US trade deal as a significant diplomatic achievement, highlighting India's patience, strategic restraint and firm protection of key domestic sectors during negotiations and termed it the "father of all deals".

Speaking on the agreement, Dr Vohra said there were a few key takeaways from the development. He claimed that the American establishment had been strongly critical of India in recent years, but New Delhi maintained restraint.

"The first takeaway is that despite repeated criticism from the American establishment since 2023 and 2024, India has not reacted. We have been very patient and very resilient," he said.

Explaining India's diplomatic approach, Dr Vohra

referred to what he described as "duck diplomacy". He said the concept reflects calmness on the surface while intense efforts continue behind the scenes.

"If you look at a duck on the surface, everything appears calm and quiet, but beneath the surface its feet are paddling furiously. That is how India has handled the negotiations," he said.

Drawing a historical comparison, Dr Vohra likened US President Donald Trump's leadership style to that of Roman Emperor Caligula, quoting the Latin phrase "Oderint dum metuant" (Let them hate, so long as they fear)." According to him, President Trump prioritises respect and popularity over being loved. He said India responded to this leadership style with restraint and strategic engagement.

Dr Vohra added that India has largely achieved its core objectives in the trade agreement without compromising sensitive sectors.

New baggage rules come into effect

Continued from P1

Also, the government has raised the limit for passengers bringing duty-free imported goods into India from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000. Under the new rules, a resident or a tourist of Indian origin arriving in India other than by land, shall be allowed clearance free of duty articles, up to Rs 75,000, if such articles are carried on the person or in the bona fide accompanied baggage of the passenger.

A tourist of foreign origin, not being an infant, arriving in India, shall be allowed duty-free clearance of articles up to the value of Rs 25,000.

No more hosting of GOs on TG's official website

Continued from P1

These orders were extensively circulated in the social media.

It may be mentioned that the Telangana High Court has instructed the state government to immediately upload all Government Orders, circulars, rules and notifications on official websites and to strictly follow existing guidelines in December last

year. Information obtained under the Right to Information Act, 2005 showed that (between December 7, 2023, and January 26, 2025), 19,064 GOs were issued by various departments, but only 3,290 were available online. The court observed that the failure to upload GOs deprived citizens of access to information and affected transparency and accountability.

When contacted, GAD officials maintained that the High Court orders are being implemented and the GOs are being uploaded regularly. Departments are supposed to forward the GOs for uploading but of late they were not doing so. Officials suspect that "strict orders to the secretaries to stop uploading GOs may have been issued by the CMO".

‘India got best deal’

Continued from P1

"Rahul Gandhi ko kya mirchi lagti hai? (What is Rahul Gandhi's problem)". The Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha "will have to answer to the people about what he wants to achieve with his negative mentality," Goyal said.

"I saw some Opposition leaders asking, 'Why did Donald Trump announce the deal?' The US imposed reciprocal tariffs on India, so it should have announced the removal," he added.

"Friends, we all know, and the entire country knows, how the Prime Minister consistently cares for the welfare of our farmers, our brothers and sisters involved in animal husbandry, and the dairy sector. He protects their interests at every step," he told the media. Describing the broader impact of the agreement, Goyal said the agreement unlocks unprecedented opportunities for farmers, MSMEs, entrepreneurs, and skilled workers to Make in India for the world, Design in India for the world, and Innovate in

India for the world," he said, adding that it would also help India access advanced technology from the US.

"It is not just a trade deal – it is a historic turning point that will reshape India-US relations and accelerate our journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047," he added.

The minister also took a swipe at the Congress, recalling India's decision to stay out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). "We also remember the large-scale trade deal, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which Congress had pushed India into in 2011.

The Congress committed a grave mistake in negotiating an FTA with China, but PM Modi protected the country by refusing to join the RCEP. That decision brought relief across the nation," he said.

Goyal said the government had intended to make a statement in Parliament on the deal but was unable to do so due to disruptions. "Normally, we would have wanted to speak about this in Parli-

ament, but we all witnessed that disgraceful scene," he said, strongly criticising the Opposition's conduct and adding that it forced the government to brief the media instead.

The India-US agreement comes a week after New Delhi signed a landmark trade pact with the European Union. PM Modi on Monday confirmed the breakthrough after speaking with Trump. "Wonderful to speak with my dear friend President Trump. Delighted that Made in India products will now have a reduced tariff of 18%," Modi said in a post on X, thanking Trump "on behalf of the 1.4 billion people of India."

Trump, in a social media post, said India would "likewise move forward to reduce their Tariffs and Non-Tariff Barriers against the United States, to zero," and claimed that PM Modi had agreed to significantly increase purchases of American goods, including energy, technology, agricultural products and coal.

PM buckled under pressure to sell out farmers' blood: Rahul

Continued from P1

Addressing reporters in the Parliament House complex after he was not allowed to speak in the Lok Sabha, Gandhi also said that it is for the first time in history that

the Leader of Opposition has not been allowed to speak on the President's address. In a post on X, Gandhi said, "PM Modi is Compromised. PM is too afraid to let me speak in Parliament about Naravane,

Epstein Files and how he has surrendered on Tariffs." Gandhi said the issue is not Naravane's statement, "that is a side show", but the main thing is that "our Prime Minister has been compromised".

India pledged zero-tariff barriers in US deal: Trump

Continued from P1

A lot remains unclear about the terms of the deal, but Trump said New Delhi has agreed to several measures, including stopping Russian oil trade, reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers to "zero", and buying over \$500 billion of US goods, including energy, technology, agricultural products, and coal.

Tariff barriers are taxes levied on imported goods, making them more expensive to protect local

industries. Non-tariff barriers, meanwhile, are indirect restrictions like quotas, subsidies, licensing, standards, and labelling rules that limit trade without direct taxes, often through complex regulations, costs, or delays, affecting quantity, price, or market access.

Both aim to protect domestic economies, but tariffs are explicit taxes, whereas non-tariff barriers use policy and procedures, making them more subtle and complex.

Trump's claim that India has agreed to "reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers against the United States, to ZERO", has not been confirmed by New Delhi. Moreover, both parties have not explained on which lines the barriers would be reduced, if at all, to zero. Largely, Trump's language signifies an in-principle commitment to lower or phase out duties on selected US products rather than an immediate elimination of all import duties.

...in final stages: Goyal

Continued from P1

"We will be shortly issuing a joint statement by both countries along with the details, which we will be shortly inking between the United States of America and India. And as soon as the final understanding of the deal is inked, and the joint statement is finalised,

technical processes are completed, full details will be shared" he added. "But I can assure every Indian that the details of this deal will make every Indian proud," he further said. He did not share a timeline, but a government source said the joint statement is expected within this week.

Oppn stages walkout demanding debate on deal

Continued from P1

As Opposition members started protesting in the House, Leader of the House J P Nadda said the US President was informed about the reduction in tariffs on Indian goods through a post on social media and also spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Nadda alleged that the Opposition's frustration was coming out, and it had started seeing bad even in good things. "I want to assure the house that the government is ready to discuss the Indo-US trade deal and provide all minute details of the deal. The government will come out with a

suo motu statement on the trade deal.

As the Opposition members continued raising slogans alleging that the interests of the country were being bartered, Chairman C P Radhakrishnan said, when the government is making a statement, and they should listen. He said the government is ready to discuss, but the opposition members are creating an uproar. Opposition members were on their feet, raising slogans against the government, as they moved towards the front row. Nadda said the government will come out with a suo motu statement today itself.