

Bhadrachalam gears up for Sri Rama Navami with five lakh sacred packets

- Bhadrachalam prepares five lakh talambalru packets for Sri Rama Navami celebrations
- Temple authorities begin large-scale packing to meet rising devotee demand
- Special buses and online booking facility arranged for pilgrims

PV SATYANARAYANA
BHADRACHALAM

AUTHORITIES at the revered Sri Sita Ramachandra Swamy Temple began extensive preparations ahead of the upcoming Sri Rama Navami celebrations, with large-scale packing of Mutyala Talambalru packets underway for distribution to devotees across the country.

Officials said that around five lakh packets of Mutyala Talambalru, the sacred pearl rice used during the celestial wedding ceremony of Lord Sri Rama and Goddess Sita, were being prepared this year to meet the growing demand among devotees.

The main celebrations of Sri Rama Navami were scheduled to take place on 27 March, followed by the Pattabishekam (coronation ceremony) of Lord Rama on 28 March at the temple premises.

Temple authorities said the preparation of the sacred packets had already commenced



The temple staff preparing Kalyana Talambalru packages in the Temple

inside the temple complex. To speed up the process, special packing machines were deployed, allowing large quantities of the talambalru to be packed efficiently.

At present, two machines were producing nearly 20,000 packets each day. Officials stated that their immediate goal was to prepare at least three lakh packets before the Sri Rama Navami celebrations, while the total target had been fixed at five lakh packets.

Mutyala Talambalru hold deep spiritual significance for devotees. During the divine wedding ceremony of Lord Rama and Goddess Sita, the sacred rice is ceremonially showered as a symbol of pros-

perity and blessings. Devotees believe that keeping the talambalru at home brings peace and good fortune, and many families also use it during religious rituals and auspicious occasions.

Because of this belief, thousands of devotees from different parts of India place orders every year to receive the sacred offering from the temple.

Temple records showed fluctuating demand over the past three years. In 2023, a total of 3,28,134 packets were distributed. Of these, 36,512 packets were sent through postal services, 2,36,000 through cargo delivery and 55,622 through temple publicity counters.

In 2024, the overall distri-

bution declined to 1,60,898 packets, including 5,062 sent through post, 92,800 through cargo and 63,036 through temple counters.

Demand increased again in 2025, when 2,66,609 packets were distributed to devotees. These included 26,569 through postal services, 1,64,368 through cargo services and 75,752 through temple counters and the temple's official website. To ensure that devotees across the country could easily receive the sacred talambalru, the temple administration introduced multiple booking options.

In coordination with the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation, an online

booking facility was launched through the corporation's logistics website. Devotees could book the packets by paying Rs 151, after which the sacred offering would be delivered directly to their homes.

The temple authorities also enabled booking through the temple's official website. By paying Rs 60, devotees could receive the sacred talambalru along with a pearl used during the celestial wedding ceremony.

In addition, the postal department was working in coordination with temple authorities to deliver the packets to devotees in different parts of the country.

Meanwhile, elaborate transport arrangements were being made to facilitate the large number of pilgrims expected to visit Bhadrachalam during the festival.

Officials said that a total of 406 buses would operate during the festival period. Of these, 234 buses would run from various locations in Telangana, while 172 buses would operate from different parts of Andhra Pradesh.

Special services were also planned on the Bhadrachalam-Khammam-Hyderabad route to manage the expected rush of devotees attending the Sri Rama Navami celebrations at the historic temple town.

Police arrest four for ganja sale in Nalgonda, seize 2 kg contraband

- Four persons arrested for selling ganja in Nalgonda town
- Police also seize two motorcycles and four smartphones
- Surveillance intensified to curb narcotics sale in district

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NALGONDA

POLICE arrested four persons allegedly involved in the illegal sale of ganja in Nalgonda town and seized about 2 kilograms of the contraband along with two motorcycles and four smartphones. The arrests were made under the limits of the Nalgonda One Town Police Station, officials said on Monday. According to police, the operation was carried out as part of intensified efforts to curb narcotics activity in the district under the directions of District Superintendent of Police Sharath Chandra Pawar and under the supervision of Deputy Superintendent of Police K. Shivarama Reddy. On March 15 at around 2 pm, police received credible information that a group of individuals were consuming and selling ganja near the cremation ground in Ganesh Nagar Colony on Munugode Road on the outskirts of Nalgonda town.



Acting on the tip-off, a police team led by DSP Shivarama Reddy rushed to the spot and conducted a surprise raid.

During the operation, four persons were caught allegedly selling ganja in small packets to local youth and students after reportedly bringing the contraband illegally from the Dhoolpet area of Hyderabad.

The accused were identified as Mohammed Furkhan (19), Karingula Pradeep (22), Valki Vinod Kumar (26) and Bairugonda Naveen (24). Police seized approximately 2 kilograms of ganja worth nearly Rs 50,000, along with two motorcycles and four smartphones from their possession.

A case was registered at the Nalgonda One Town Police Station as Crime No. 72/2026 under Sections 8(C) read with 20(b)(ii)(B) and 27(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, and the accused were arrested.

Speaking on the occasion, DSP Shivarama Reddy said

strict action would be taken against anyone involved in the cultivation, transportation or sale of ganja in the district. He said police had intensified surveillance in colleges, schools, hostels and isolated areas to prevent drug abuse among youth. If required, cases would also be booked under the PD Act against those involved in the sale or consumption of ganja. He urged parents to closely monitor the activities of their children and appealed to the public to inform Dial 100 or the nearest police station if they notice any illegal ganja sale in their localities.

District SP Sharath Chandra Pawar appreciated the efforts of One Town Inspector Emireddy Rajasekhara Reddy, SIs K. Satish and B. Lachhi Reddy, along with staff members Lingareddy, Srinivas Prasad, Anjaiah and Saidulu, who successfully handled the case and apprehended the accused under the supervision of DSP Shivarama Reddy.

NEW DELHI: India on Monday said it has not held bilateral talks with the United States on deploying naval vessels to secure merchant shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. The clarification came after US President Donald Trump urged countries to

India rules out talks with US on Hormuz

send warships to keep the strategic waterway open amid tensions with Iran.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Trump said that his administration has contacted

7 countries for support. India has not held bilateral discussions with the United States on deploying naval vessels to ensure the safe passage of merchant shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, the External Affairs Ministry said on Monday.

Villags extend support for Perur ZPHS Diamond Jubilee celebrations

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MAHABUBNAGAR

PREPARATIONS were under way to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Zilla Parishad High School Perur in a grand man-

ner, with alumni and villagers extending support for the upcoming event. The fifth meeting of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations Organising Committee was held on Sunday, where members discussed programme

management, arrangements and the invitation of chief guests. The organisers announced that the celebrations would be held on April 19 from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm in Perur village under the leadership of the school's

alumni. A separate meeting of village elders was also conducted at the school premises in the evening, where elders from Perur and neighbouring Venkappalli village expressed their support for the event.

CM pulls up party legislators

Continued from P1

Stating that the public had given the Congress the mandate because the previous BRS government had failed to meet expectations, he said the ruling party must now concentrate on delivering effective governance. He cautioned legislators to remain vigilant, as opposition leaders, having faced defeats in several elections, including municipal and local body polls, were keen on targeting the government. Revanth Reddy ordered

the constitution of Assembly committees and directed the legislators concerned to undertake study tours as part of their responsibilities. The Chief Minister called for better coordination between government whips and legislators during discussions in the House. He instructed the whips to guide members in selecting appropriate topics and issues so that proceedings are conducted efficiently without wasting valuable House time.

'Telangana on cusp of mega transformation'

Continued from P1

Telangana would compete with the developed global cities and countries. Taking inspiration from the successful models across the globe Telangana would like to achieve a 3 trillion-dollar economy by 2047, he said. The Governor talked about 'Telangana Rising 2047' stating that Telangana was standing as a global beacon of inclusive growth and innovation. Giving the government's roadmap, the Governor said the document 'Telangana Rising' was prepared in line with the Vikasit Bharat

Vision 2047 and in consultation with NITI Aayog with an aim to evolve Telangana into a \$3-trillion economy by 2047, with an interim target of \$1-trillion by 2034. He said that the state's GSDP for 2025-26 is Rs 17.82 lakh crore reflecting an impressive growth rate of 10.7 per cent, with Telangana contributing 4.99 per cent to India's GDP.

The state's per capita income reached Rs.4,18,931. At the same time, the government has maintained price stability, with inflation contained at 0.2 per cent, he added.

MEA slams US report recommending sanctions on RSS

Continued from P1

This comes after USCIRF designated India as a "country of particular concern" and asked United States to link arms sales and trade policies to religious freedom.

USCIRF said its report, Systematic Religious Persecution in India, provides an overview of India's social, political, and criminal justice systems as they relate to issues regarding freedom of religion or belief (FoRB). "It also examines the relationship between Hindu nationalist groups like the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the implications of this dynamic

for FoRB. Despite offering some constitutional protections for FoRB, India's political system facilitates a climate of discrimination toward religious minority communities," the report alleged. USCIRF also argued that conditions for religious freedom in India have "continued to deteriorate" and accused the Indian government of "targeting" religious minorities and houses of worship. "Several states undertook efforts to introduce or strengthen anti-conversion laws to include harsher prison sentences. Indian authorities also facilitated widespread detention and illegal expulsion of

citizens and religious refugees and tolerated vigilante attacks against religious minority communities," the report said.

Created in 1998 by an act of the United States Congress, the USCIRF "monitors the universal right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) abroad" and makes recommendations to the President of the United States, the United States Department of State, and Congress. The agency says it acts independently, but the US President and senior political leaders in the House of Representatives and the Senate appoint its nine commissioners.

Digital Learning Centre inaugurated at Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalayam in Khammam

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

A Digital Learning Centre (Computer Lab) was inaugurated at Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalayam on Monday in association with the Vivekananda Institute of Human Excellence, marking a significant step towards strengthening digital education among students in the region.

The initiative was aimed at equipping students with essential computer skills and providing access to modern technology for learning. The facility was supported by Growel, while the computers were sponsored by Regal Rexnord in collaboration with Abhaya Foundation. On the occasion, the Vivekananda Institute of Human Excellence also launched its third service centre at Gutta Bazar under the presidency of Devaki Vasudeva Rao. The centre is expected to extend educational and community support activities in the locality. Several dignitaries attended the programme as chief guests, including Shivanadhula Srinivas, Guguloth Shyam Kumar and corporator Donvan Saraswathi Ravi Nayak.

US Prez Trump accuses Iran of spreading lies

Continued from P1

"Now, AI has become another Disinformation weapon that Iran uses, quite well, considering they are being annihilated by the day," he said on his social media platform on Monday.

Trump said Iran showed "phony Kamikaze Boats" shooting at various ships at sea, which looks "wonderful, powerful, and vicious." "But these boats don't exist — It's all false information to show how tough their already defeated Military is!"

The five US refuelling planes that were supposedly struck down and badly damaged, according to the "Wall Street Journal's false reporting," and others, are all in service, except for one, which will soon be flying the skies, Trump claimed. "Buildings

and Ships that are shown to be on fire are not — It's FAKE NEWS, generated by AI."

He accused Iran of working in close coordination with the fake news media, showing USS Abraham Lincoln Aircraft Carrier, one of the largest and most prestigious Ships in the World, burning uncontrollably in the Ocean. Not only was it not burning, but it was also not even shot at — Iran knows better than to do that! The story was knowingly FAKE and those media outlets that generated it should be brought up on charges for treason for dissemination of false information. The fact is, Iran is being decimated, and the only battles they "win" are those that they create through AI and are distributed by corrupt media outlets.

Karnataka Speaker raps govt

Continued from P1

Stating that there had been no improvement from the government side, the Speaker questioned how the House could function smoothly if such lapses continued. "If this is the attitude of the government, how are we supposed to run the House in a manner agreeable to all?" he asked.

Khader further declared that the proceedings would not continue until the ministers and officials concerned explained the reason for the delay in answering questions. "Until the ministers and officials concerned come to me and explain what the issue is, I will not conduct the House. I am adjourning the House," he said. Earlier, after Question Hour, Home Minister G. Parameashwara informed the House on behalf of the government that out of the 230 questions that were to be answered in written format, the government had responded to 84.

Global energy crisis deepens as Iran keeps hold on Hormuz

Continued from P1

As morning broke Monday, a drone hit a fuel tank near Dubai International Airport, the world's busiest for international passenger traffic, causing a large fire. Firefighters contained the blaze and there were no inju-

ries reported, but the airport suspended all flights before resuming them a few hours later. Later, a person was killed in the capital of the United Arab Emirates when an Iranian missile hit a vehicle, the Abu Dhabi media office said.

Guv's address a 'roadmap' for the govt: CM

Continued from P1

For context, the Governor's address to the Legislature, usually ahead of the Budget session (as mandated by Article 176 of the Indian Constitution), is prepared by the State Cabinet led by the Chief Minister. The speech is not a personal statement by the Governor; rather, it is drafted by the state government to highlight its accomplishments, policy priorities, and legislative agenda for the coming year. However, under the principle of "Aid and Advice" (Article 163), the Governor is constitutionally required to read the text prepared by the elected government.

It may be mentioned here that, though the Governor is expected to read the address verbatim, going by recent events in states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka, Governors have chosen to skip portions of the cabinet-approved address, triggering debates over the extent of the Governor's power under Article 176.

Revanth Reddy said that every member must speak and respond strictly in accordance with the party line and the government's priorities in the Legislative Houses. Further,

the Chief Minister said, that debate on the failures of the previous government is not required. "It is the right time to focus on our plans and how to fulfil people's aspirations," he observed. The Chief Minister said that the "people's government" is presenting its third budget in the session.

The Chief Minister recounted that the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi government did not allow the opposition to speak on important issues. Even the then CLP leaders Bhatti Vikramarka and Jana Reddy were denied the opportunity to speak. "I was also suspended for the entire session as well as for the duration of my tenure as an MLA, and barred from entering the House," the CM recalled.

The Chief Minister stated that all the Assembly committees would be constituted soon. He suggested to the MLAs and MLCs to tour other states and study best practices with regard to policies. The MLAs were asked to focus on ways to prevent drinking water crisis in summer. The '99-Day 'Praja Palana - Pragati Pranali' should be taken directly to the people at the grassroots level, the Chief Minister told party legislators said.

Trump may send troops to capture 'Crown Jewel of Iran'

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump is reportedly weighing the possibility of seizing Kharg Island-- a scrubby stretch of land in the Gulf that handles almost all of Iran's crude exports-- amid a growing energy crisis due to war in the Middle East.

PNG and CNG supply uninterrupted: Govt

Continued from P1

During an inter-ministerial briefing, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary (Marketing and Oil Refinery) at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said fuel stations supplying CNG and households using PNG continue to receive normal supply. Authorities have also initiated enforcement action against hoarding, with raids conducted across several states to monitor storage and distribution. The government said crude oil availability remains adequate, with refineries operating at full capacity and petrol pumps functioning normally without reported shortages.

City gas distributors are also promoting PNG adoption. Indraprastha Gas Lim-

ited has announced an incentive of free gas worth Rs 500 for consumers registering for PNG connections before March 31.

LPG bookings have declined as concerns over domestic gas availability eased. Meanwhile, 22 states and Union Territories have set up control rooms to monitor supply and curb hoarding or black marketing.

The ministry urged consumers to avoid panic bookings and use digital platforms for LPG orders. The government said it continues to prioritise uninterrupted supply to households and key sectors such as hospitals and educational institutions, while closely monitoring the situation amid prevailing geopolitical developments.