

# 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



The temple staff preparing Kalyana Talambalru packages in the Temple

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 sac-

cred packets had already commenced 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 ceremoni-

ally showered as a symbol of prosperity 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 public counters.

In 2024, the overall distribution 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 illegal 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 Rajasekhar Reddy, SIs K. Satish and B. Lachhi Reddy, along with staff members Lingareddy, Srinivas Prasad, Anjaiah and Saifulu, who successfully handled the case and apprehended the accused under the supervision of DSP Shivarama Reddy.

# Villags extend support for Perur ZPHS Diamond Jubilee celebrations



- Alumni plan grand event in Perur village on April 19
- Meetings held with village elders and neighbouring villagers for support

HANS NEWS SERVICE MAHABUBNAGAR

PREPARATIONS were under way to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Zilla Parishad High School Perur in a grand manner, 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 Venkampalli village expressed their support for the event.

Organisers said similar meetings would soon be held in Venkatagiri, Rekalampalli, Varne, Muthyalampalli and Kammanur villages to ensure wider participation.

# Digital Learning Centre inaugurated at Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalayam in Khammam

- Vivekananda Institute launches third service centre at Guttala Bazar
- Speakers stress importance of computer education and student safety

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 Guttala Bazar under the presidentship 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, Gu-

lutho Shyam Kumar and corporator Donvan Saraswathi Ravi Nayak.

Addressing the gathering, the speakers emphasised the growing importance of computer literacy in today's digital era and encouraged students to make the best use of the newly established facility.

They also highlighted the need to ensure student safety while using digital platforms and urged parents and teachers to guide children in responsible use of technology. The initiative was appreciated by parents and members of the local community, who said the centre would help students gain practical exposure to computers and enhance their educational opportunities.

# Clash erupts between Congress and BJP workers in Chandur, several injured

HANS NEWS SERVICE NALGONDA

TENSION prevailed in Chandur town of Nalgonda district after a violent clash erupted between workers of the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday, leaving several BJP activists injured and causing panic in the area.

According to reports, supporters of both parties reportedly attacked each other with sticks and iron rods during the altercation. The confrontation was said to have stemmed from a dispute related to the recent municipal elections in the town. What began as a heated argument between the rival groups soon es-



calated into a physical clash, with members of both sides engaging in violent attacks.

Several BJP workers were injured during the incident. One of the victims reportedly suffered a broken tooth and head injuries after being assaulted. The injured were immediately shifted to the Government General Hospital (GGH) in Nalgonda for medical treatment.

BJP leader Doti Kiran Yadav alleged that Congress workers attacked them out of resentment over his decision to contest the recent municipal elections from Ward No. 1. He claimed that the attack was deliberate and politically motivated. Kiran Yadav also lodged a complaint with the police, stating that he and other BJP workers were facing threats to their

lives from Congress activists. He urged the authorities to take strict action against those responsible for the assault and requested police protection.

Meanwhile, the violent incident was reportedly captured on nearby CCTV cameras. The footage is expected to assist the police in identifying the individuals involved in the clash.

Police officials stated that an investigation into the incident had been launched. Authorities were examining the CCTV footage and gathering details to determine the sequence of events and identify those responsible. The clash has created an atmosphere of tension in Chandur, and police were closely monitoring the situation to prevent any further disturbances.

# Plantation warrior Mokkala Venkataiah receives national 'Social Hero' honour

HANS NEWS SERVICE KHAMMAM

ENVIRONMENTAL activist Mokkala Venkataiah was honoured with the 'Top 100 Social Hero' Award in recognition of his four decades of dedicated service to environmental protection through plantation drives. The award was presented during a ceremony held at Om Convention Hall in Narsingi, Hyderabad on Sunday evening.

The recognition was conferred by the voluntary organisation Nirvi Arts, which selected 100 individuals from different fields across the country for their outstanding contributions to society. Venkataiah was chosen as one of the social heroes representing Bhadradi Kothagudem district for his tireless efforts in promoting greenery and environmental awareness.

A native of Bhadradi Kothagudem district, Ven-

kataiah has been actively involved in planting and distributing saplings free of cost for more than four decades. Through his consistent initiatives, he has encouraged communities to participate in plantation drives and adopt environmentally responsible practices. His work has been widely appreciated by social organisations and environmental groups.

The award and memento were presented to Venkatai-

ah in the presence of several prominent personalities. Among those who honoured him were H. Shivaprasad Reddy, Ramakrishna Reddy, Pramod Kumar, industrialist Padma, social activist Kranti, Swetha and K. Laxman.

Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries praised Venkataiah's lifelong commitment to environmental conservation and social service. They highlighted that his sustained grassroots efforts have helped raise awareness

- Green crusader Mokkala Venkataiah receives 'Top 100 Social Hero' Award in Hyderabad
- Award recognises four decades of environmental service through plantation drives
- Honour conferred by Nirvi Arts in the presence of eminent personalities

about the importance of protecting nature and preserving ecological balance.

As part of the felicitation, Venkataiah was presented with a memento, a cash reward and was honoured with a traditional shawl.

The speakers noted that individuals like him serve as an inspiration to society and demonstrate how long-term dedication towards environmental causes can bring meaningful change at the community level.

