

### MIT S RADIO 90.8 MHz COMMUNITY RADIO STATION

#### Report on

### Faith and Community Service: A Documentary Outreach at Boyakonda Gangamma Temple

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MITS Community Radio 90.8 has been consistently engaging in community-oriented outreach programs with the objective of documenting cultural heritage, spiritual traditions, and social practices that strengthen community bonding. As part of this initiative, Sri. M. Narasimhacharlu, Program Manager, MITS Community Radio 90.8, visited **Boyakonda Gangamma Alayam on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025** to conduct a documentary outreach program. The program aimed to capture the historical significance of the temple, the scale of devotees' participation, facilities provided, rituals performed, and the socio-cultural importance of the temple in the region.

This outreach program also included structured interviews with temple archakulu (priests) and devotees, providing authentic insights into the temple's legacy, management, rituals, and public service activities. The documentary content generated through this visit will be broadcast on MITS Community Radio 90.8 for public awareness and cultural preservation.

### 1. About Boyakonda Gangamma Alayam

Boyakonda Gangamma Alayam is a historically significant and spiritually revered temple that has been serving devotees for centuries. According to Archakulu Sri. Rajanna, the temple was established approximately **600 years ago**, and since then it has been a major center of devotion, particularly attracting large numbers of devotees during auspicious months and special occasions.



The temple is especially known for its vibrant religious practices, strong belief systems, and inclusive approach to serving devotees irrespective of their region or background. Devotees from neighboring states, especially **Tamil Nadu**, regularly visit the temple, highlighting its regional spiritual influence.

### 2. Details of the Documentary Outreach Program

The documentary outreach program was conducted through personal interaction, on-site observation, and recorded interviews. Sri. M. Narasimhacharlu interacted with the temple priests, administrative representatives, and devotees to gather factual and experiential information.

### Interview with Devadayasaka Archakudu Sri. Subramanyam

Sri. Subramanyam provided valuable information regarding the scale of devotees and temple administration:

- ✓ **Number of Devotees:** During the auspicious **Ashada Masam**, approximately **10,000 devotees** visit the temple.
- ✓ **Temple Income:** The temple functions entirely under the **Endowment Department**, and all earnings are managed through official endowment provisions.
- ✓ **Basic Facilities:** The temple provides essential facilities such as **drinking water** and **toilets** to ensure devotees' comfort.

### Facilities and Services Offered to Devotees

The temple management has made significant arrangements to cater to the large influx of devotees:

- **Transport Facilities:** Organized transport services are available, enabling devotees from distant places to visit the temple conveniently.
- **High Sunday Footfall:** On Sundays, nearly **7,000 devotees** visit the temple.
- **Annadanam:** Free food (Annadanam) is offered every **Friday**, reflecting the temple's commitment to service and charity.
- **Free Prasadam:** Devotees receive prasadam without any cost.
- **Lodging Facilities:** Accommodation facilities are available for devotees coming from far-off regions.

### Devotee Perspective

#### Interview with Devotee Smt. Gangulamma

The outreach program also captured the voice of devotees. Smt. Gangulamma, a long-time devotee, shared her personal devotion and faith:

- She has been visiting Boyakonda Gangamma Alayam for the past **50 years**.
- Her visits are regular, typically **once every month**.
- She makes it a point to visit the temple especially during the month of **February**, reflecting deep-rooted faith and tradition.

Her testimony highlights the emotional and spiritual bond devotees share with the temple across generations.

### Religious Practices and Rituals

#### Interview with Archakulu Sri. Vasisthacharlu

Sri. Vasisthacharlu elaborated on the religious rituals and daily operations of the temple:

- ✓ **Special Poojas:** Sarannavaratrulu are celebrated grandly during **Aswayuja Masam**, with special poojas performed particularly for couples.
- ✓ **Temple Timings:** The temple remains open from **5:30 AM to 6:30 PM** without any break.
- ✓ **Security Arrangements:** Adequate security is provided to ensure the safety of devotees during temple hours.

#### Interview with Archakulu Sri. Rajanna

Sri. Rajanna further enriched the documentary by narrating the temple's history and special rituals:

**Weekly Rituals:** Every **Friday**, Rahu Kala Abhishekam is performed.

**Special Archana:** Laksha Kumkuma Archana is conducted with great devotion.

**Monthly Rituals:** Chandi Homam is performed on every **Pournami**.

These rituals emphasize the temple's spiritual vibrancy and ritual continuity.





### Outcomes of the Documentary Outreach Program

1. **Cultural Documentation:** The program successfully documented the historical, religious, and social significance of Boyakonda Gangamma Alayam for future generations.
2. **Community Awareness:** Broadcast of the documentary will enhance public awareness regarding temple rituals, facilities, and devotional practices.
3. **Strengthened Community Engagement:** The outreach reinforced the role of MITS Community Radio 90.8 as a bridge between media and community institutions.

### Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The documentary outreach program aligns with the following **UN Sustainable Development Goals:**

- **SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities:** Preserving cultural and spiritual heritage contributes to inclusive and sustainable community development.
- **SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions:** Documentation of transparent temple administration under the Endowment Department promotes trust and institutional strength.
- **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals:** Collaboration between MITS Community Radio, temple authorities, and devotees reflects effective community partnerships.

### Conclusion

The documentary outreach program at Boyakonda Gangamma Alayam stands as a meaningful initiative by MITS Community Radio 90.8 to capture living traditions, faith-based service, and community participation. By giving voice to priests and devotees, the program not only preserves heritage but also promotes social harmony and cultural awareness. Such initiatives reaffirm the importance of community radio as a powerful medium for inclusive communication and sustainable cultural development.