

# ELECTION COMMISSION RANKS TELANGANA 2ND IN LEVERAGING SOCIAL MEDIA

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Telangana ranked second in terms of social media engagement during elections, coming after Jharkhand which stands first in terms of social media presence, said the chief electoral officer, Telangana, on Thursday, January 2. Social Media is actively utilised for Systematic Voter Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP), which is the activity the Election Commission of India uses for measuring the same.

"With a subscriber base of over 3 lakhs on the CEO-Telangana social media handles, it helps to provide timely and clear communication, ensure elector engagement, seeking feedback, social media



is an effective tool in the present-day world," said the office of the Telangana CEO in a press release. It added that the state achieved a three percent increase in voter turnout in the 2024 Parli-

ment elections compared to the same in 2019 (62.77 percent to 66.3 percent). The Election Commission of India's (ECI) media division provides technical support to ensure that

social media is effectively used by all states and union territories for information dissemination, transparency and myth-busting among voters, said the Telangana CEO. ECI's SVEEP is also

used to address various other issues like voter registration, corrections/modifications for the existing electors, marking as persons with disabilities etc., apart from ensuring inclusivity of the marginalised segments like third gender, tribals especially particularly vulnerable tribal groups [PVTG], senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PwD), the release added. In the 2024 Parliament elections in Telangana, the ruling Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won eight seats each, while the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen retained the Hyderabad Lok Sabha constituency, which it has been winning since 1984. The main opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) drew a blank.

# Cherlapally Railway Station inauguration on Jan 6; PM Modi to attend virtually

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the station virtually while BJP leaders and Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Kishan Reddy will participate in the program directly.

The Cherlapally Railway Station, a state-of-the-art facility designed to alleviate congestion at Hyderabad's existing railway stations, is set to officially open on January 6, 2025.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the station virtually while BJP leaders and Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Kishan Reddy will participate in the program directly. Earlier scheduled to be inaugurated on December 28, 2024, it was postponed over the death of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The central government had held a seven-day mourning for the veteran politician. The inauguration of the station has reportedly been postponed a total of four times in

the last two months.

This new terminal aims to reduce pressure on the city's major stations—Secunderabad, Nampally, and Kacheguda—by providing enhanced services and modern amenities for passengers.

With the opening of this terminal, the city anticipates a significant improvement in rail travel efficiency and passenger comfort.

Nine platforms. Built at a cost of approximately Rs 430 crore, the Cherlapally Railway Station Terminal will feature nine platforms, including four newly constructed high-level platforms.

It is expected to accommodate 20 long-distance trains and handle increased passenger traffic effectively.

The terminal is equipped with various facilities comparable to those found in airports, ensuring a seamless travel experience for all users.

Key amenities include separate waiting areas for men and women, an executive lounge, cafeterias, and restaurants to cater to passengers' needs.

To further enhance accessibility, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is reportedly working on widening approach roads and constructing new routes leading to the terminal. In addition, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) is coordinating bus services from various city depots to ensure smooth connectivity for passengers arriving from different parts of Hyderabad.

# KTR calls for stronger fight against Congress 'corruption' in Telangana

Hyderabad: (TDN) The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) has called on the party's cadre to ramp up their efforts against the Congress-led government in Telangana, accusing it of mis-governance and corruption. Speaking in a New Year address, KTR praised the year-long efforts of BRS workers in exposing Congress' failures and pledged to continue the struggle for justice. Addressing party members as "Gulabi soldiers," KTR commended their dedication, stating, "Your relentless spirit has strengthened the party and inspired leadership. You are the backbone of our movement to protect Telangana's interests." Reiterating the BRS slogan, "Telangana First," KTR urged the cadre to expose and resist Congress at every opportunity, vowing to protect Telangana's self-respect and secure its future.

# ASADUDDIN OWAI SI SENDS CHADAR MADE BY HYDERABAD CRAFTSMEN TO AJMER DARGAH



All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) on Thursday, January 2, dispatched a 'chadar' for offering at the Ajmer Sharif Dargah on the occasion of the annual Urs of Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti. Party chief Asaduddin Owaisi presented the delicately crafted yellow and green chadar made by bangle merchants of Laad Bazaar in Charminar under the leadership of Mujeeb Bangles. Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti, also known as Khwaja Gareeb Nawaz, was a Sufi saint of the Chisti order. He is known to be the direct descendant of Prophet Muhammad. Born in Sistan (present-day Eastern Iran and Southern Afghanistan), he travelled all the way from Lahore to Delhi and finally settled in Ajmer. His tomb in Ajmer, the Ajmer Sharif Dargah, is one of the holiest Islamic shrines in the world.

# TELANGANA GOVERNOR FLAGS OFF WINTER RELIEF MATERIALS FOR TRIBAL VILLAGES

The initiative is a part of the year-long celebrations for the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

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Hyderabad: Jan, 02

Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma flagged off four trucks containing winter relief materials for tribal villages on Thursday, January 2. The initiative is a part of the year-long celebrations for the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. Birsa Munda was an Indian tribal independence activist from



the Munda tribe and the Janajatiya Gaurav Diwas is celebrated annually on his birth anniversary. The Indian Red Cross Society,

along with Abhay Foundation, and Smile Foundation have jointly contributed to the programme for the tribal communities. The initiative is a part of the year-long celebrations for the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. The donations were received at the Raj Bhavan premises and were handed over to the Indian Red Cross Society for distribution by the governor.

# Formula E race scam: Officials seek time to appear before ED in Hyderabad

The central agency has asked KT Rama Rao to appear before it on January 7.

The Democratic News  
Hyderabad: Jan, 02

Former Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) commissioner Arvind Kumar and his chief engineer BLN Reddy on Thursday, January 2, sought time to appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the alleged Formula E race scam. Kumar and Reddy were summoned by the ED on January 2 and January 3 respectively, while Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president

KT Rama Rao (KTR) was summoned on January 7. Reports suggest that KTR is in consultation with his legal experts on how to approach the case.

KTR who was the municipal administration minister during the previous BRS regime, was summoned by the federal agency over the alleged irregularities with regard to conducting the race in Hyderabad.

In an informal interaction with media persons, KTR on January 1 described the allegations against him as

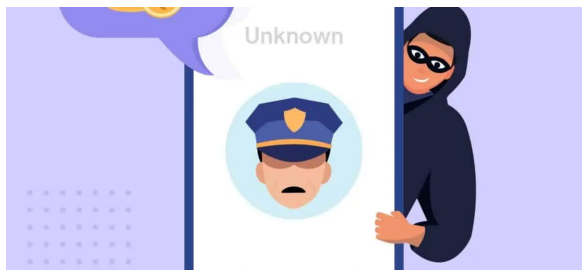


baseless and alleged that the Revanth Reddy government is trying to send him to jail in false cases and that he would not be intimidated by such attempts. On December 31,

the Telangana High Court reserved its order on a petition filed by KTR seeking to quash the FIR registered against him by the ACB in the Formula-E race issue.

# Hyderabad woman loses Rs 1.58 cr to cybercrime, police recover Rs 70L

During the digital arrest, the accused told the victim that her sim card was used for illegal activities.



Hyderabad: Rachakonda cyber crime police successfully recovered Rs 70,01,788 of the Rs 1.58 crore defrauded from a 65-year-old woman by cybercriminals in a digital arrest scheme. The victim, Geeta Upadhyay, a resident of Uppal, was targeted by fraudsters posing as cybercrime officers. On December 8, 2024,

Geeta received a call on WhatsApp from an unknown number. The caller, Sunil Dutt Dubey, introduced himself as Mohit Sharma, a cybercrime officer from Mumbai. He falsely claimed that a SIM card issued in her name had been used for criminal activities, including harassment and sending vulgar content. He

also fabricated an FIR (MH 1045/2024), alleging that her SIM card was involved in anti-social activities. Dubey coerced Geeta into revealing her personal and bank account details under the threat of legal action. Over several phases, he extorted nearly Rs 1.58 crore, including fixed deposits, provident funds, and savings, from her accounts. He threatened to expose her involvement in the fake crime if she reported the matter. Realising she had been duped, Geeta lodged a complaint with the Rachakonda cybercrime police. ACP S Shiva Shankar led the investigation, and

inspector Maqbool Jani and his team tracked the funds to ICICI Bank in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh. The stolen money was frozen, and Rs 70.01 lakh was recovered. Rachakonda DCP Cybercrime Nagalakshmi and other senior officers lauded Inspector Maqbool and his team for their swift action. The Rachakonda cybercrime police have issued a public warning, advising citizens not to respond to unsolicited calls, messages, or links from unknown sources. They urged people to contact the 1930 toll-free helpline if they suspect any fraudulent activity.

# The Telangana High Court has given the state government one month to address issues faced by the Shia community.



The Shia Civil Council for Social Justice (SCCSJ) achieved a significant milestone today as the Telangana High Court not only accepted their petition but also directed the Telangana government to ensure resolution of all issues faced by the Shia

community within a month. The court also instructed the government to consider appointing a member from the Shia community as an MLC under the Governor's quota. Speaking at a press conference held at the council's office in Lakdi-ka-Pull, SCCSJ

Advocate Mr. Venkata Raghav Mallapally stated that the Shia Muslim community has been suffering from severe economic and social backwardness. He highlighted that even their religious places, including Mosques, Ashurkhanas, schools, and colleges, are in a neglected state.

Advocate Mallapally pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had acknowledged the economic deprivation of Shia Muslims. Despite this, the Shia community has not received the rightful facilities and benefits from central and state governments, which other religious groups enjoy. The SCCSJ approached the

# 26 persons booked in UP for illegally demolishing journalist's house

They have been charged with 16 offences, including that of criminal conspiracy, disobeying the law and forging documents.

The Democratic News  
U.P.: Jan, 02

Uttar Pradesh's Maharajanj police have registered a criminal complaint against 26 persons including a former district magistrate and several police and administrative officials for illegally demolishing the house of a senior journalist Manoj Tibrewal Akash.

Manoj Tibrewal Akash is the founder and editor-in-chief of Dynamite News. The 26 persons have been charged with 16 offences, including that of criminal conspiracy, disobeying the law and forging documents. The Wire

reported. On September 13, 2019, Tibrewal's two-story building and shop situated in Mohalla Hamid Nagar were bulldozed for highway widening sans prior legal notice or compensation.

The demolition reportedly followed after Tibrewal's father lodged a complaint citing alleged irregularities and corruption in the construction of the 21-km stretch of the National Highway-730 at a cost of Rs 185 crore. They have been charged with 16 offences, including that of criminal conspiracy, disobeying the law and forging documents. The matter was published



in local newspapers. Following the expose, Tibrewal alleged that the district magistrate, along with associate officials, government engineers, and contractors, began harbouring a grudge against his family. On the day of the demolition, the

senior journalist, in his complaint stated that his family was forcibly evicted without allowing them to retrieve personal belongings. This act took place in the presence of the police force. The case took a pivotal twist on November 6,

High Court and submitted memorandums to the Telangana government, Principal Secretary, and Minority Welfare Department, among other authorities, to address these concerns. The SHIA CIVIL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (SCCSJ) also proposed the name of Mr. Mohammed Ali Hyder, a well-known figure in the Shia community who has dedicated himself to selfless service. They suggested his nomination as an MLC to ensure that he

can act as a bridge between the government and the Shia community to resolve their issues effectively. Prominent figures present at the press conference included National Chairman Shabbir Ali Mirza, National PRO Akbar Ali Mirza, Telangana State President Mushtaq Hussain (Chotu Bhai), State Vice President Syed Asghar Ali Khan, General Secretary Mohammed Ali Hyder and others such as Shakeel Hyder, Syed Hyder Raza, and Hyder Naqvi.

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# 22 booked for possessing banned Chinese manja in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad police have registered 18 cases against 22 individuals for possessing banned Chinese manja made from non-biodegradable and synthetic materials. A total of 1,094 bobbins made from these harmful products were confiscated from the shopkeepers. Police officials have also warned shopkeepers not to sell the banned Chinese manja with severe action promised for non-compliance. On Saturday, December 21, three individuals were arrested after the Mangalath police raided two shops and seized Chinese manja worth Rs. 4.26 lakhs.