

BJP chief slams Cong over brutal assault on woman lawyer in Rudrur

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BJP Telangana State President Ramchander Rao has strongly condemned the attack on a woman lawyer in Rudrur, describing it as a grave assault on democratic values. Addressing the media on Tuesday, he said the incident reflects the complete breakdown of law and order in the state and accused the Congress

government of failing to protect Hindus from rising attacks.

According to Rao, the victim, lawyer Kalyani, was assaulted by miscreants allegedly linked to the MIM group after she intervened to stop an attack on a young boy. He termed the use of abusive language and the group assault against her as inhumane and unacceptable.

Rao demanded that the police take the complaint

seriously, arrest the culprits immediately, and ensure strict legal action.

He alleged that the incidents in Banswada and Rudrur were not accidental but part of a planned series of attacks targeting Hindus.

He criticised the Congress government for remaining silent to appease certain groups, calling this attitude deeply concerning. Highlighting the importance of lawyers as pillars of the justice system,

Rao warned that if they are not protected, democracy itself is endangered.

He urged the state government to provide full security to the victim and implement clear measures to safeguard lawyers from future attacks.

Rao emphasised that the BJP would stand firmly with the victim and the legal community, insisting that there can be no compromise on lawyer safety.

He demanded that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's government act immediately to restore confidence in law and order and ensure justice for the assaulted lawyer.

He concluded by stating that the party will launch a massive protest if the authorities fail to act within forty-eight hours, as the safety of legal professionals remains a non-negotiable priority for the state and the society at large.

Prof Karunasagar selected for Sir CV Raman Excellence Award 2026

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PROF D Karunasagar, Senior Professor of Physics at Osmania University, has been selected for the prestigious Sir CV Raman Excellence Award 2026. The award, conferred annually on one individual from the state, recognises outstanding contributions to the field of Physics.

The announcement was made by Dr Raj Narayan Mudiraj, State President of the Telangana Citizens Council. The award will be presented on February 28 at 10 am at the University College of Science, Saifabad, coinciding with



National Science Day, which commemorates CV Raman's discovery of the Raman Effect in 1928. Prof Karunasagar has served Osmania University for over 35 years, holding multiple leadership roles, including Head of the Department of Physics, Direc-

tor of CFRD, Principal of the University College of Science, Dean of Faculty, and Chairman of the Board of Studies in Physics and Electronics.

Under his mentorship, 18 PhD scholars have completed their doctoral degrees, while many others have excelled internationally in Physics and Electronics. He has published more than 50 research papers in reputed journals and received several awards for his academic service.

The recognition highlights his lifelong dedication to advancing Physics education and research, bringing honour to Telangana and inspiring future generations of scholars.

Ramchander Rao slams Congress over TG temple attacks

HYDERABAD: BJP Telangana State President Ramchander Rao has strongly condemned the attack on the Sri Dwimukhi Hanuman Temple in Barkas, Chandrayangutta, where unidentified miscreants vandalised the idol of Lord Hanuman. Addressing the media on Tuesday, he described the act as inhumane and heinous, stating the incident provides clear evidence of ongoing anti-Hindu rule in Telangana under the Congress regime.

Rao alleged that repeated attacks on Hindu temples and idols across the state are not isolated incidents but part of a deliberate conspiracy against Sanatana Dharma. He expressed significant anger

at the silence of the government, noting that dozens of temples have been targeted without any meaningful response. He accused the Congress government of indirectly supporting anti-Hindu forces by dismissing perpetrators as mentally unstable or misguided instead of ensuring strict punishment.

The BJP chief compared the conduct of the police to the Razakar rule, criticising their failure to act despite the Home Ministry being under the direct control of the Chief Minister. He warned that the continued desecration of temples, disruption of Hindu festivals, and attacks on religious sentiments pose a serious threat to law and order in the

state. Rao slammed the government for prioritising vote-bank politics over protecting Hindu religious institutions. He demanded the immediate identification and punishment of those responsible for the Chandrayangutta temple attack and called for full security to be provided to all Hindu temples in Telangana. He cautioned that if the government fails to act, the BJP will intensify its struggle to safeguard the Hindu community and Sanatana Dharma, ensuring that such attacks do not go unanswered. The leader emphasised that religious freedom and the protection of heritage must be upheld to maintain peace and communal harmony across the entire region.

TG PECET-2026 announces schedule

- Notification for TG PECET-2026 to be issued on Feb 25
- Online applications open from March 2, last date May 5

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HYDERABAD

THE Telangana Physical Education Common Entrance Test (TG PECET-2026) will be conducted by Satavahana

University, Karimnagar, under the aegis of the Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE), for admissions into BPEd and DPEd courses offered by state universities and affiliated colleges for the academic year 2026-27.

Convener Prof Rajesh Kumar announced that the official notification will be released on February 25. Online registration and submission of applications

will begin on March 2, with the last date for submission without a late fee set for May 5.

The physical efficiency and skill tests will be held from May 31 to June 3 at Satavahana University, Karimnagar. Prof Kumar emphasised that all arrangements are being made to ensure smooth conduct of the examination and requested media support to give wide publicity to the schedule.

Detailed information, including eligibility criteria and application guidelines, will be available on the official website <https://pecet.tgche.ac.in> (pecet.tgche.ac.in in Bing).

The TG PECET serves as the gateway for aspiring students seeking admission into physical education programs across Telangana, and the announcement marks the beginning of the admission process for the 2026-27 academic year.

CPI meeting demands halt to ‘Operation Kagar’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

LEADERS of Left parties, political organisations, and civil rights groups have urged the Central government to immediately halt Operation Kagar-2 and create a conducive atmosphere for Maoists to enter the democratic mainstream with dignity. This demand was made at a round table meeting organised by the Communist Party of India Rashtira Samithi at Maqdhoom Bhavan in Hyderabad. The meeting was chaired by CPI State secretary Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao and attended by several prominent leaders from public organisations.

Participants appealed to the Centre to stop repressive measures and initiate dialogue. They also called for the withdrawal of illegal cases filed against activists and intellectuals under the label of Urban Naxals, including poet Varavara Rao. Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao stated that the Centre should ensure dignified rehabilitation for

those willing to join public life without resorting to coercive tactics. He observed that while Marxism remains the ideological goal, strategies must evolve. In the current technological and political context, he argued that armed struggle was no longer feasible, citing Nepal as a successful example where democratic movements brought significant change. TJS Professor M Kodandaram maintained that even if one disagrees with Maoist ideology, it is inappropriate to treat them as enemies of the people. He asserted that any action must remain strictly within the legal framework, noting that courts have previously ordered probes into encounter killings. Given indications that Maoists are open to dialogue, he urged the Centre to explore peaceful negotiations. The meeting concluded with a collective call for the government to prioritise human rights and constitutional methods over military operations to resolve long-standing internal conflicts, ensuring a stable and democratic future for all citizens across the affected regions.

BID TO BOOST COORDINATION WITH STATE POLL BODIES

ECI holds first nat'l roundtable in 27 years

NEW DELHI

THE Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday convened a National Roundtable Conference with State Election Commissioners at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, marking the first such meeting in 27 years.

The previous conference of this kind was held in 1999.

The day-long conference is being chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in the presence of Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

State Election Commissioners (SECs) from all States

and union Territories are participating in the deliberations along with their legal and technical experts.

Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) from all 36 States and union Territories are also in attendance. According to the ECI, the primary objective of the conference is to foster greater synergy between the Commission and State Election Commissions in managing electoral processes and logistics within their respective legal frameworks. "This conference provides a vital institutional platform for dialogue and coordination between national and state-level election management

bodies," a senior Commission official said. "At a time when technological integration and legal harmonisation are key priorities, strengthening cooperative federalism in electoral governance is essential." The discussions are focused on sharing best practices in technology, the use and management of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), and improving the accuracy and robustness of Electoral Rolls. Senior Commission officials are making presentations on key technological and operational initiatives, including the recently launched ECINET digital platform.

AMID US STRIKE FEARS...

Iran set to buy Chinese anti-ship cruise missiles

TEHRAN: Iran is close to a deal with China to purchase antiship cruise missiles, according to six people with knowledge of the negotiations, just as the United States deploys a vast naval force near the Iranian coast ahead of possible strikes on the Islamic Republic.

The deal for the Chinese-made CM302 missiles is near completion, though no delivery date has been agreed, the people said. The supersonic missiles have a range of about 290 kilometres and are designed to evade shipborne defences by flying low and fast. Their deployment would significantly enhance Iran's strike capabilities and pose a threat to US naval forces in the region, two weapons experts said.

Negotiations with China to buy the missile weapons systems, which began at least two years ago, accelerated sharply after the 12day war between Israel and Iran in June, according to the six people with knowledge of the talks, including three officials who were briefed by the Iranian government as well as three security officials. As talks entered their final stages last summer, senior Iranian military and government officials travelled to China, including Massoud Orai, Iran's deputy defence minister, according to two of the security officials. Orai's visit has not been previously reported.

"It's a complete gamechanger if Iran has supersonic capability to attack ships in the area," said Danny Citrinowicz, a former Israeli intelligence officer and now senior Iran researcher at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies think tank. "These missiles are very difficult to intercept."

Reuters could not determine how many missiles were involved in the potential deal, how much Iran had agreed to pay, or whether China would go through with the agreement now given heightened tensions in the region. "Iran has military and security agreements with its allies and now is an appropriate time to make use of these agreements," an Iranian foreign ministry official told Reuters.

The Chinese delegation to the United Nations directed Reuters to seek comment from the Foreign Ministry in Beijing.

The foreign and defense ministries did not respond to requests for comment.

The White House did not directly address the negotiations between Iran and China over the missile system when asked by Reuters.

US President Donald Trump has been clear that "either we will make a deal or we will have to do something very tough like last time," a White House official said, referring to the current standoff with Iran.

Indian exporters set to gain as US customs rolls out 10% global tariff

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The transit time for the US ports ranges from 45-60 days. So, at any given point of time one-eighth of annual exports to the US of \$10-12 billion are on seas so the benefit could be considerable if importers share the benefit of lower duties, he added.

Tariffs on India remained at 50% from last week of August 2025 to February 6 this year. Both sides issued a joint statement that removed 25% tariffs related to Russian oil purchases and agreed to bring down reciprocal tariffs to 18% from 25%. Before the order of Indian reciprocal tariffs came, the US Supreme Court struck down all country-specific tariffs.

The US Customs and Border Protection notified 10% additional duties on imported articles from all countries for a period of 150 days under the Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 just hours before the new rates came into force at 12:01

am eastern standard time on Tuesday (February 24).

Following the Supreme Court judgement the US President Donald Trump announced 10% global tariffs and hours later announced that they will be raised to 15%. The notification, however, operationalised only 10% tariffs.

Meanwhile a White House spokesperson quoted by NBC News said that the administration is preparing a separate order to raise additional tariffs to 15%.

There is no word from the US administration on the refund of tariffs paid before the Supreme Court struck down country-specific duties. The refunds, if any, will also be collected by importers. Sharing them with Indian suppliers will depend on the understanding reached while negotiating contracts. Exporters are not expecting cash to flow to them if refunds materialise but adjustments in future contracts.

A Nobel laureate makes Modi's vision a reality

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Most machines use the dew point, which is the exact temperature where air gets so cold that it can no longer hold moisture, forcing it to turn into liquid droplets, much like the fog we see on a cold window or a chilled soda can. This takes a massive amount of electricity. Adsorption, however, is a much more natural and elegant process. Instead of forcing the air to get cold, the water molecules are simply glued to the surface of a material because they are chemically attracted to it. This shift in approach is the secret to the efficiency of Yaghi's technology.

By removing the need to refrigerate massive amounts of air, the system avoids the huge energy bills and heavy, noisy machinery that make old-school water harvesters impractical. Instead, these molecular sponges do the work for free, using their natural hunger to pull in water even when the air feels bone dry. It turns a forced, high-energy mechanical struggle into a quiet, natural chemical process. The true struggle of previous atmospheric water generators has been their dependence on high humidity. Most fail when relative humidity drops below 45 per cent, leaving desert

communities stranded. However, Atoco has designed its technology to be resilient, functioning efficiently even in environments with less than 20 per cent humidity. This means it can produce water in places where it almost never rains and where the air feels like a furnace.

Closer to home, the same vision is being driven by AKVO, an Indian cleantech company that pioneered indigenous Atmospheric Water Generators. Unlike Yaghi's deep-tech molecular sponges, AKVO utilises advanced condensation technology to provide sustainable water security across India.

LYC chief arrested

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Chib, who was not present at the venue during the protest last Friday, was produced before a court here, which sent him to four days police custody after rejecting his counsel's argument that he had cooperated with the probe and was not on the run.

Police argued that the conspiracy went beyond printing the T-shirts with slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Devuji, 3 other top Maoists surrender to TG police

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These leaders had reportedly been active in underground activities for three to four decades.

On Tuesday, Shivadhar Reddy said that Devuji had been underground for 44 years, Raji Reddy for 46 years, Damodar for 28 years and Narsimha Reddy for 36 years. The surrender of the Politburo and Central Committee members has effectively led to the collapse of the organisation's last surviving apex structure. The DGP said the Central Committee of the CPI (Maoist) has now been reduced to just one active member.

The DGP said: "The cadre have chosen to prioritize their health, personal dignity, and future by embracing rehabilitation and reintegration, committing themselves to a peaceful, law-abiding life and contributing to the bet-

terment of society within the legal framework."

Under the Telangana government's rehabilitation policy, Thippiri Thirupati and Malla Raji Reddy carried cash rewards of Rs 25 lakh each, while Bade Chokka Rao and Nune Narsimha Reddy carried rewards of Rs 20 lakh each. The total eligible reward amount of Rs 90 lakh has been disbursed to them through demand drafts/cheques as part of the state and Central governments' relief and rehabilitation policies.

The DGP also recalled the appeal made by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in October 2025, urging Maoist cadre to shun violence and join the development process in the state. He said that since 2024, a total of 591 Maoists of different ranks have surrendered before the Telangana police. They include four Central

Committee members, 15 State Committee members, 25 Divisional Committee Secretaries, 63 Area Committee members and 437 party members.

Further, the DGP urged remaining members to join mainstream life, as around 11 Maoist members from Telangana are still absconding and the DGP appealed to them to surrender and benefit from rehabilitation schemes.

According to police, Thippiri Thirupati (62), a native of Korutla in Jagtial district, has been a Central Committee member, Politburo member and in-charge of the Central Military Commission. He joined the CPI (ML) People's War in January 1982 and was sent to Dandakaranya in April 1984.

Malla Raji Reddy (76), who hails from Shastrulapalle village in Peddapalli district, served in various capacities,

including as Central Committee member and later as a member of the Politburo. He was earlier arrested in December 2007 and released in October 2009, after which he resumed underground activities.

Bade Chokka Rao (47) from Kalvapalli village in Mulugu district joined the movement in December 1998 and rose to become State Committee member in 2015. In January 2025, he was elevated as Secretary of the Telangana State Committee.

Nune Narsimha Reddy (62), a native of Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh, joined the movement in 1987 and served in multiple committees, including the Andhra-Odisha Border Special Zonal Committee and the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee. In May 2025, he was shifted to Telangana.

No full land resurvey in Telangana even as Andhra braces for 2nd one

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Revanth Reddy also promised to revive Jamabandi, restore manual pahanies, and undertake a comprehensive land survey before elections. Although the Congress government completed two years in power, the state is still conducting pilot surveys, and full-scale implementation is yet to begin.

Under the pilot phase, around 70 villages per district have been proposed for survey. District Collectors identified villages with less than 200 acres and minimal disputes. The resurvey will use Differential GPS (DGPS) technology, with data uploaded through QGIS into the Bhu Bharathi portal. Each land parcel will receive a unique 'Bhudhaar' number, similar to Aadhaar. After evaluating the pilot, the government plans a phased statewide rollout, possibly beginning next year. However, officials indicate that the pilot has not commenced uniformly across all mandals.

In contrast, Andhra Pradesh complet-

ed a statewide resurvey during the tenure of former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. The process included installation of new boundary stones with YS Jagan's portrait on stones, even though the move faced criticism from the then Opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP). After returning to power, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced plans for another resurvey, alleging irregularities in the previous exercise. Farmers and other landowners in Telangana have expressed concern over inordinate delays in taking up the resurvey, stating that prolonged uncertainty benefits encroachers and fraudsters. They lament that successive governments in the state have made grand announcements but have been slow in execution. Observers say farmers' situation has worsened after the formation of Telangana. Will the Revanth Reddy government address concerns of farmers and other landowners by taking up comprehensive land resurvey without much delay?

Kerala is now Keralam

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However, any such Bill can be introduced in parliament only after it is referred by the President to the concerned State legislature for its views. Once the Assembly's views are received, the Union government may proceed to obtain the President's recommendation and introduce the Bill in parliament. The Cabinet approval marks the first formal step toward the proposed constitutional amendment. In its 2024 resolution, the Kerala Assembly noted that the State was formed on linguistic lines on November 1, 1956, and that the name "Keralam" has long been used in Malayalam and during the independence movement to refer to a unified Malayalam-speaking region. The Assembly unanimously urged the Central government to take steps to modify the First Schedule to the Constitution to reflect the name "Keralam". Following the resolution, the Kerala government formally requested the Union government to initiate the constitutional process. The Ministry of Home Affairs examined the proposal after which the draft cabinet note was circulated to the Department of Legal Affairs and the Legislative Department of the Ministry of Law and Justice. Both departments concurred with the proposal.

