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## Telangana State Regional News

<p><b>Telangana Solar Program Hindered by DCR Policy</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ambitious mission of installing rooftop solar plants in 10 million households across India is facing significant obstacles. The Domestic Content Requirement (DCR) policy and the attitudes of Distribution Company (Discom) officials are identified as major hindrances.</li> </ul> <p><b>Domestic Content Requirement (DCR) Policy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The DCR solar PV modules mandate that both solar cells and modules be manufactured domestically, adhering to the policy set by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).</li> <li>This policy aims to promote local manufacturing and support the "Make in India" initiative. However, it has inadvertently increased the cost of renewable energy equipment, making solar installations less attractive due to higher costs.</li> </ul> <p><b>PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The "PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana" aims to subsidize rooftop solar installations for nearly one crore households, with an estimated subsidy of Rs. 75,000 crore.</li> <li>The scheme provides a 60% subsidy for systems up to 2 kW and a 40% subsidy for systems between 2 to 3 kW.</li> <li>However, only certified domestic manufacturers can supply equipment for this scheme. Despite this subsidy, the high installation costs—approximately Rs. 2 lakh for a 3-kW system and over Rs. 5 lakh for a 6-kW system—remain a significant barrier.</li> </ul> <p><b>Government Actions and Recommendations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although the Union Ministry of Power issued a gazette notification to remove Discoms' power to grant technical clearance for systems up to 10 kW, the State government has yet to implement this in Telangana.</li> <li>Gujarat has already exempted rooftop systems up to 10 kW from technical feasibility studies. It is recommended that the Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission (TGERC) adopt similar measures to expedite solar rooftop installations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kakatiya Thoranam Excluded from Telangana Official Emblem: CM Revanth Reddy</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In a recent interaction with the media in Delhi, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced that the Kakatiya</li> </ul>



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	<p><b>Thoranam would no longer feature in the new official emblem of Telangana, labeling it a symbol of anarchy.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This decision has sparked a new controversy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chief Minister emphasized that the new emblem and anthem would reflect the spirit of Telangana and its people.</li> <li><b>The emblem will symbolize the Sammakka-Sarakka and Nagoba Jataras, representing the struggles and sacrifices of the people of Telangana, rather than the Kakatiya Thoranam.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Increased Humidity Worsens Heat Stress in Hyderabad and Other Metro Cities: CSE Report</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A report by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) reveals that increased summertime relative humidity has exacerbated heat stress in Hyderabad and other major metropolitan areas.</li> <li>This rise in humidity, observed over the past decade, nullifies the slight decrease in night temperatures, particularly in Hyderabad and Delhi.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The report analyzed data from six megacities: Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Chennai, covering the period from January 2001 to April 2024.</li> <li><b>Humidity Increase: Relative humidity during summer has increased by 5-10% in Hyderabad, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai from 2014-2023 compared to the 2001-2010 average. Bengaluru did not exhibit this trend.</b></li> <li><b>Night Cooling Reduction:</b> The study highlights a decrease in the rate at which these cities cool down at night. From 2001-2010, land surface temperatures dropped by 6.20-13.20 degrees Celsius from day to night. In the past decade, this reduction has lessened to 6.20-11.50 degrees Celsius.</li> </ul> <p><b>Implications for Urban Heat Management:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Health and Livelihoods:</b> The increase in humidity and subsequent heat stress has severe implications for health and livelihoods, especially during heatwaves.</li> <li><b>Heat Management:</b> Anumita Roychowdhury, Executive Director of Research and Advocacy at CSE, emphasizes the need to assess trends in heat, relative humidity, and land surface temperature to develop comprehensive heat management plans for urban centers.</li> <li><b>Sweating Mechanism:</b> Avikal Somvanshi, Senior Programme Manager at CSE's Urban Lab, notes that high humidity compromises the body's ability to cool itself</li> </ul>



	<p>through sweating, leading to increased risk of heat stress and illness, even at lower ambient temperatures.</p>
<p><b>Telangana forced to borrow Rs 12,358 crore from RBI</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telangana's financial woes persist as the state government grapples with a pressing need for funds.</li> <li>• <b>To meet its expenditure, the government has resorted to borrowing from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) through various means such as Overdrafts (OD), Ways and Means Advances (WMA), and Special Drawing Facility (SDF).</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's noteworthy that the Congress government, which criticized the previous regime for relying heavily on WMA and OD, found itself in a similar position after coming to power.</li> <li>• The previous government, during the financial year 2023-24, utilized OD and WMA for 214 out of 244 days, while the Congress government used these facilities for 105 out of 122 days since taking office.</li> <li>• <b>The SDF is a facility available to state governments against collateral such as Consolidated Sinking Fund, Guarantee Redemption Fund, and Auction Treasury Bills.</b></li> <li>• Despite criticism in the past, the Congress government has had to depend on these financial mechanisms to manage the state's finances, highlighting the ongoing financial challenges faced by Telangana.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Southern States Unite for Tourism Growth: Dakshin Bharat Utsav - 2024</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), along with the Telangana Department of Tourism, recently hosted a promotional event in Hyderabad.</li> <li>• This event was in preparation for the Dakshin Bharat Utsav - 2024 scheduled to be held in Bengaluru on June 15 and 16.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The event's primary objective is to highlight the tourism potential of Southern Indian states, focusing on investment prospects and job creation.</li> <li>• It is designed with great care to involve and empower various stakeholders in the vibrant tourism sector.</li> <li>• <b>The event will feature a range of activities, such as the Tourism Investors Meet, an exhibition showcasing the diverse culture, cuisine, and tourist attractions of the Southern States, as well as conferences and</b></li> </ul>



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