



SWATANTRATA
CENTER FOR HUMAN FLOURISHING FOUNDATION

CAMPAIGN AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT REPORT 2019–2026



HYDERABAD NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY & 24/7 BUSINESS OPERATIONS

A campaign for a safe, sustainable, and functional 24/7 economy

Hyderabad’s economy already operates beyond conventional hours.

As a high-growth global hub for technology, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, aviation, logistics and hospitality, Hyderabad functions around the clock in practice.

“The challenge is to build a clear, dependable policy framework that enables businesses and livelihoods while protecting workers, residents and public safety.”

Economic activity, livelihoods and public life after conventional hours



Charminar Night Markets · Street Commerce



Moazzam Jahi Courtyard · 24/7 Dining

Livelihood Safeguards

Protecting street vendors, micro-traders, and late-night food stalls from arbitrary closures, extortion, and harassment.

24/7 Global Alignment

Connecting round-the-clock IT, pharma, aviation, and healthcare hubs with legitimate supporting food and retail services.

Safety & Predictability

Strengthening illuminated streets, public transit, CCTV coverage, labour welfare safeguards, and transparent rules.

This report documents the seven-year trajectory (2019–2026) of Swatantrata Center’s dedicated policy research, street-vendor advocacy, executive representations and cross-party consensus-building to establish an open, safe, inclusive and workable 24/7 urban ecosystem.

01 CAMPAIGN ORIGINS AND STREET-VENDOR IMPLEMENTATION

From Economic Freedom to Everyday Livelihoods

When Swatantrata Center was relaunched and rebranded in 2019, it brought its existing efforts together under a single public-policy institution. As part of this renewed direction, the Center launched the **Campaign for Economic Freedom** to explore how economic freedom could improve people's everyday lives.

The campaign began with a practical question: how can people gain greater freedom and opportunity to work, earn, trade and build better futures?

Rather than treating economic freedom only as an abstract policy idea, the Center sought to connect it with the daily experiences of workers, street vendors, small businesses, entrepreneurs and communities. It began identifying policy areas where research, public awareness, stakeholder engagement and constructive advocacy could help remove unnecessary barriers and improve access to economic opportunities.



Public Learning & Policy Dialogue on Economic Freedom (2019)

A bottom-up approach

The Center adopted a bottom-up approach, focusing on the barriers people encounter while trying to earn a livelihood. This approach drew inspiration from livelihood-focused initiatives such as the **Centre for Civil Society (CCS)'s Jeevika: Law, Liberty and Livelihood Campaign**, including its work on street-vendor rights and implementation of the Street Vendors Act.

Swatantrata Center's work on the implementation of the Street Vendors Act became an important starting point for understanding vendors' experiences. It demonstrated how regulation, access to public space, enforcement practices and economic opportunity intersect in people's everyday lives.

Through its work in Hyderabad and Telangana, the Center examined the gap between the formal protections available to street vendors and their experiences on the ground. Vendors continued to face uncertainty about where and when they could operate, inconsistent enforcement, arbitrary closures, harassment and the risk of confiscation.

This showed that the central issue was not merely whether legal protections existed. The larger question was whether people could understand, access and rely on those protections in their daily lives.

02 LIVELIHOODS AND THE DEVELOPING CAMPAIGN

From night-time street vending to Hyderabad's wider 24/7 economy

■ The night-time reality of street vending

The Center's engagement with street vendors revealed that many vendors were already working during evening and night-time hours.

They served night-shift workers, commuters, patients' families, students, drivers, delivery workers and others who depended on affordable food, transport and essential services after conventional business hours.



Late-Night Dosa Bandi & Food Vendors along Metro Corridors

Despite the employment, services and economic value they generated, night-time vendors faced greater vulnerability to arbitrary closure, harassment and regulatory uncertainty. Restrictions on their operating hours directly affected their livelihoods and reduced access to services for the people who depended on them.

■ Hyderabad already operates beyond nine-to-five

Night-time economic activity in Hyderabad extends far beyond restaurants and entertainment. The city's information technology, healthcare, pharmaceutical, manufacturing, logistics, hospitality, transport and delivery sectors already operate beyond conventional hours.

Formal 24/7 Sectors

IT, pharma, trauma healthcare, logistics & export campuses operate round-the-clock with state support.

Supporting Micro-Vendors

Food carts, tea stalls, transport drivers & repair shops face midnight curfews, raids & uncertainty.

This creates a contradiction: Hyderabad's major industries are expected to function around the clock, while many workers and small businesses supporting them face restrictions, arbitrary closures and legal uncertainty.

03 FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

A dedicated campaign for 24/7 business operations

For a city aspiring to become a globally competitive centre for investment, innovation and employment, this disconnect is difficult to ignore. Hyderabad already has a night-time economy in practice; it needs a policy and administrative system capable of recognising and supporting it. These observations led Swatantrata Center to develop **24/7 business and the night-time economy** as a dedicated flagship initiative within its Campaign for Economic Freedom. The campaign does not argue that every establishment must remain open throughout the night. It supports giving businesses the freedom to determine their operating hours while respecting workers’ rights, public safety and the rights of others.

01

Street-Vendor Experience

Grassroots engagement with night food stalls, tea vendors, and commuters revealing round-the-clock economic necessity.

02

Existing Night Activity

Hyderabad's global IT corridors, trauma healthcare, pharma clusters, and aviation already operating 24/7 in practice.

03

Policy & Regulatory Gap

Disconnect where informal vendors supporting formal 24/7 industries face midnight curfews, raids, and arbitrary closures.

04

Dedicated 24/7 Campaign

Swatantrata Center's flagship initiative establishing statutory clarity, labor protections, single-window ease, and public safety.

The campaign seeks

✓ Clear and accessible rules

✓ Predictable and equal enforcement

✓ Simple, transparent & clear compliance systems

✓ Protection from arbitrary closure & harassment

✓ Worker choice and labour safeguards

✓ Reliable transport & public-safety infrastructure

✓ Accessible grievance redressal platform

✓ Input opportunities for businesses, workers & residents

Economic Freedom with Accountable Institutions: The campaign connects economic freedom with accountable institutions. Greater freedom to work and trade must be accompanied by fair rules, institutional responsibility and protection for everyone affected by the policy.

04 PUBLIC AND POLICY CASE

2019–2022: Building policy awareness and public support

From 2019, Swatantrata Center began promoting the case for extended business hours and a more open night-time economy.

Through policy meetups, conclaves, leadership programmes, public discussions, campaigns and outreach activities, the Center connected the idea of 24/7 business with practical questions of livelihoods, employment, urban services and economic development.

**Economic Freedom Campaign** · Public Outreach (2019)**Policy Conclave & Dialogue** · Civic Roundtables (2019–22)**Political Dialogue** · Team with current Chief Minister of Telangana (then Opposition Leader)**Administrative Dialogue** · Smt. Amrapali Kata IAS

The Center engaged civil-society organisations, policy professionals, journalists, public officials, political leaders and representatives of the then-ruling party. Through these conversations and representations, it advocated fewer unnecessary restrictions, better implementation of street-vendor protections and a legal framework for economic activity beyond conventional hours.

This early work helped introduce the idea into public and policy discussions and build greater understanding among policymakers, civil society and the media.

05 POLICY MILESTONE

2023: The first statewide policy framework

In April 2023, the Telangana Government issued **G.O. Ms. No. 04**, establishing a framework under which shops and establishments could operate 24/7, subject to specified conditions.

Swatantrata Center welcomed this policy direction. Media organisations familiar with the Center's earlier advocacy approached it for perspectives on the order's potential benefits and its implications for administration, implementation, worker protection and public safety.



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Eenadu Greater Hyderabad · "24/7 ఇక నగరం నిద్రపోదు" (April 27, 2023)

hyderabad 03

24/7 biz timings in city evokes mixed response

PHS ■ HYDERABAD

The decision of the Telangana government to allow shops and businesses to remain open 24X7 has evoked mixed responses from the public. While some see it as a step towards boosting the economy and the experience of Hyderabad, others fear that it could lead to violations of labour rights if not implemented properly.

Several groups, including techies and night shift workers, have expressed their happiness at the decision. They believe that it will allow them to enjoy the city's nightlife peacefully without fear of police harassment.

Many believe that the move will create opportunities for small and medium businesses as well as for youth. Anti-corruption activist Venkatesh Geri said the decision to allow shops to remain open 24/7 in Telangana will benefit street vendors and moderate night crimes.

Geri, the founder of the NGO, Swatantrata Centre, has been advocating increasing

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business hours since 2019. He also believes that the move will create jobs and financial opportunities for the middle class, but it needs to be standardized with proper documentation and moderation of working hours and wages. Geri hopes to make representations to the government regarding the Rs 10,000 fee charged from street vendors, which affects their earnings.

Rakesh Raghuram, a techie working in hi-tech city said, "Hyderabad can now enjoy the popular DLF food spot peacefully. The place has been a secret gem and I'm glad everyone can witness it now." Adarsh Naini, a city-based

musician said, "Not only will this make food more accessible at night, it also redresses the dignity of labour. Youngsters will take up odd jobs as night pay is better than day pay. People could run fast food chains and earn more. It provided scope for growth for youth."

Despite the concerns, many are optimistic about the future of Hyderabad's economy and nightlife. The government's decision to amend the Telangana Shops and Establishments Act, 1988, and to issue guidelines and conditions for commercial establishments to operate 24X7 has created opportunities for an unfulfilled market.

The efforts of Swatantrata flourished with the TS Govt decision on key changes in shops and establishment Act 1988



The Special Chief Secretary of the Labour Department, Govt of Telangana released a GO revealing that commercial businesses, shops, and outlets can be kept open 24 hours a day, seven days a week by paying an additional payment of Rs 10 thousand per year with the withholding charges till the year 2023. The decision made by the Swatantrata Centre for years was successful. They call on the government to take proactive steps to address these challenges, including providing adequate resources and capacity-building support to local governments, strengthening accountability measures, and reducing the cost of formalising vendors for a long time. Swatantrata Center founder & president Venkatesh Geri said, "State's decision to open businesses 24/7 is historical and marks a new direction towards greater prosperity, better standards, and enhances the quality of products and services at affordable prices. We further said that they believe that this decision by the

same time, they recognize that there are still many challenges that need to be addressed to ensure that the market-friendly business environment is implemented effectively by working together with the government, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders, we can create an enabling environment for street vendors and small businesses to thrive, and contribute to the overall economic growth and development of Telangana," Mr. Raghavendra Aulani said.

Deepest-ever fish caught and filmed off Japan by scientists

Fish have been caught more than 5 miles (8 kilometres) under the surface of the ocean for the first time ever, and filmed even deeper - by a joint Japanese-Australian scientific expedition. The expedition's chief scientist, Professor Alan Jamieson, said on Monday that two snailfish were caught in traps and 8,022 metres underwater in the Japan Trench, south of Japan, during a six-month voyage by a fleet from the University of Western Australia (UWA) and the Tokyo University of Marine Science.

The snailfish, of the Pseudoliparis belyaevi species, are the first to be caught below 8,000 metres, the expedition said. It wasn't immediately clear how big the fish were, but the species has been recorded as reaching a length of close to 11 centimetres (4.3 inches). Rarely, one said cameras lowered from the DSV Pressure Drop to the point expedition, part of a 10-year study into the deepest fish population on the planet, also recorded an enormous snailfish species, measuring 8,208 metres deep in the Izu-Ogasawara Trench off southern Japan. "The Japanese trenches were incredible places to explore, they go so rich in life, even at the very bottom," said Jamieson, founder of the Monterey-USA Deep-Sea Research Centre. "We let people from the very early

The snailfish, of the Pseudoliparis belyaevi species, are the first to be caught below 8,000 metres

ages, as young as two or three, that the deep sea is a horrible scary place that you shouldn't go and that grows with you with time," said Jamieson. "We don't appreciate the fact that if the deep sea is fundamentally most of our Earth and resources should be put into understanding and how to work out how we are affecting it and how it works."

The Daily Pioneer · 24/7 Biz Timings Evoke Mixed Response

Indian Chronicle · TS Govt Decision on Shops Act 1988

However, the order was announced only a few months before the state elections. The political and administrative focus soon shifted towards the election, leaving limited time to develop a comprehensive implementation roadmap.

Although the policy framework existed, businesses, vendors, workers and enforcement authorities lacked sufficient operational clarity. The gap between the formal policy and its practical implementation therefore continued.

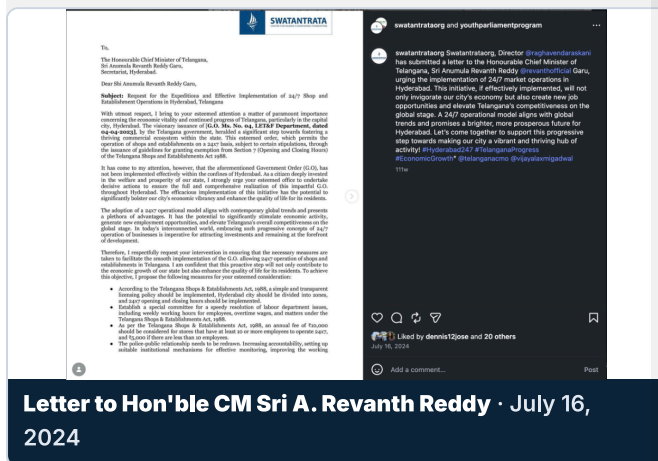
06 RENEWED ENGAGEMENT

2024: Returning implementation to the agenda

Following the formation of the new Telangana Government, uncertainty continued over business hours and enforcement. Reports of closures and restrictions associated with law-and-order and safety concerns contributed to confusion among businesses and the public.

Swatantrata Center renewed its engagement with leaders from the new government and ruling party, opposition representatives, civil-society organisations, journalists and other stakeholders.

In July 2024, the Center submitted a formal representation to the Chief Minister of Telangana and relevant public authorities calling for effective implementation of the 24/7 framework.



Recommendations included (July 2024 Representation)

✓ Clear and transparent guidelines

✓ Unified single-window system

✓ Accessible compliance information

✓ Time-bound dispute resolution

✓ Safe transport & night safeguards for women

✓ Police accountability & confidence

✓ Police, municipal & transport coordination

✓ Self-certification wherever possible

✓ Complaints & grievance tracking platform

✓ Worker consent and labour safeguards

✓ Better lighting & emergency services

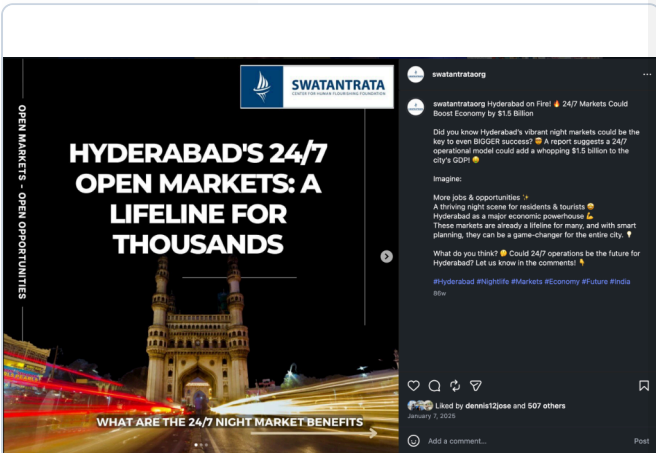
✓ Clear institutional responsibility

US Investment Delegation Dialogue: During the Chief Minister's 2024 investment visit to the United States, Swatantrata representatives and supporters also used available stakeholder interactions to raise the case for a 24/7 economy. The central message was that Hyderabad's ambition to become a global centre for business and investment should be supported by an urban system capable of functioning beyond conventional hours.

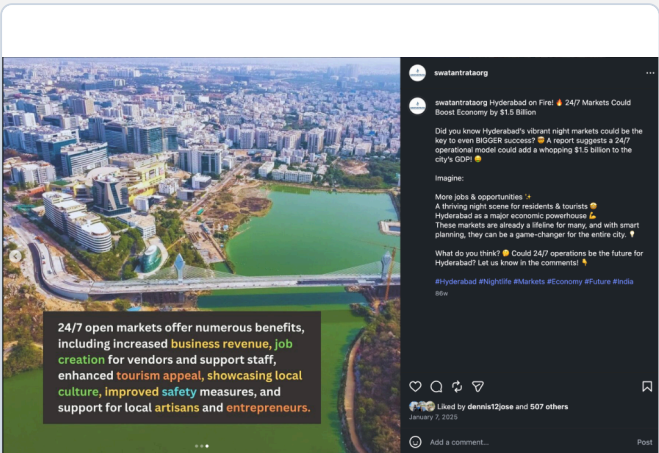
06A DIGITAL CAMPAIGN & PUBLIC OUTREACH

2024 – Early 2025: Public Outreach, Digital Campaign and Statewide Coverage

Following the formal representations, Swatantrata Center sustained an intensive digital advocacy and public communication campaign throughout 2024 and early 2025. The initiative received widespread multi-lingual engagement across social platforms and mainstream media, highlighting economic growth, street-vendor livelihoods, and legal rights for round-the-clock operations.



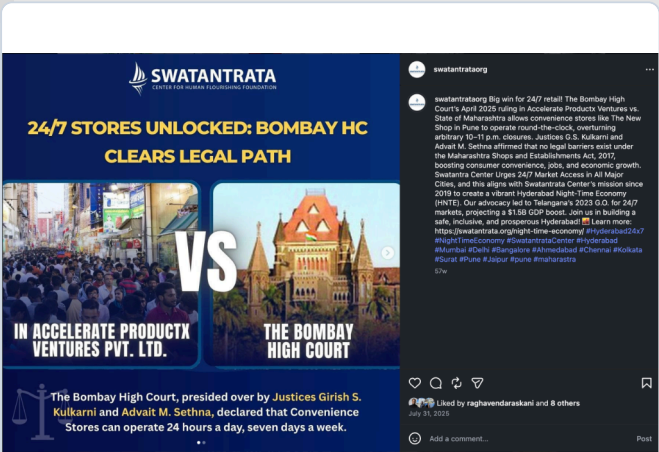
Open Markets Campaign · Charminar Night Market Livelihoods



Economic & Tourism Benefits · Durgam Cheruvu & Hitec City Ecosystem



Deccan Chronicle Feature · \$1.50B Economic Projection & Reforms



Legal Precedent · Bombay High Court 24/7 Retail Operations Ruling

Strategic Impact: The coordinated 2024 - early 2025 digital outreach built unprecedented multi-lingual visibility across business owners, night-shift employees, and administrative bodies. This sustained media momentum established 24/7 operations as a vital public issue, directly laying the groundwork for the December 2025 comprehensive policy submission and subsequent government adoption.

07 PRACTICAL PROPOSAL

2025: From policy commitment to workable systems

In December 2025, Swatantrata Center submitted a further proposal to the Chief Minister of Telangana.

The proposal called for the strategic implementation of a 24/7 economy in Hyderabad and longer operating hours in major Tier-2 cities. It presented the night-time economy as an opportunity to generate employment, support entrepreneurship, improve access to services and strengthen Telangana's economic competitiveness.

The Center also advocated a simpler and more responsive administrative framework. A unified, accessible single-window system would allow businesses and vendors to understand applicable rules, complete any legally required registration through self-certification wherever possible, submit necessary documentation and seek grievance redressal—without approaching multiple departments.

The proposed system could bring together

✓ Information about applicable rules

✓ Self-certification wherever possible

✓ Legally required filings & renewals

✓ Grievance tracking & time-bound resolution

✓ Statutory registration & self-certification

✓ Labour and safety compliance info

✓ Complaints about enforcement

✓ Coordination with relevant departments

Swatantrata Center appeals for 24/7 market policy

HYDRABAD Swatantrata Center, a public policy think tank working toward sustainable economic advancement, appealed to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday to operationalise the 24/7 open market policy across Hyderabad and extend business operating hours until 2 AM in major tier-2 cities of Telangana.

This petition reinforces the earlier representation made on July 12, 2024, and refers to G.O. Ms. No. 16 (LET&P Department, April 4, 2023), calling for immediate implementation aligned with the "Telangana Rising" vision—targeting a \$1 trillion economy by 2035 and \$3 trillion by 2047.

Speaking to the press, Bhargavendra Ashani, Co-Sounder & Director, Swatantrata Center mentioned that 24/7 business ecosystem is not merely an economic reform but a structural transformation that will help Telangana create lakhs of jobs and opportunities. While recalling that government already has a clear framework through G.O. 16, he added that it is needed now is timely execution to unlock massive growth for Hyderabad and our tier-2 cities.

He outlined some of the key gains for Hyderabad by the proposed 24/7 operations. These include targeting a \$20 billion GDP by 2035, generating 350,000-400,000 new jobs across retail, hospitality, transport, security, and IT sectors; attracting "China Plus One" investments, strengthening key activities such as tourism around Charminar, IT support in the western corridor and pharma logistics in southern Hyderabad. The suggested roadmap included shifting to a compliance-based system with standardised processes, ensuring women's safety through CCTV, grievance redressal apps, and enhanced police monitoring and protecting workers' rights with weekly offs, overtime pay and safe transport for women (with consent).

Metro India · Think Tank Push for 24/7 Market Policy (Dec 2025)



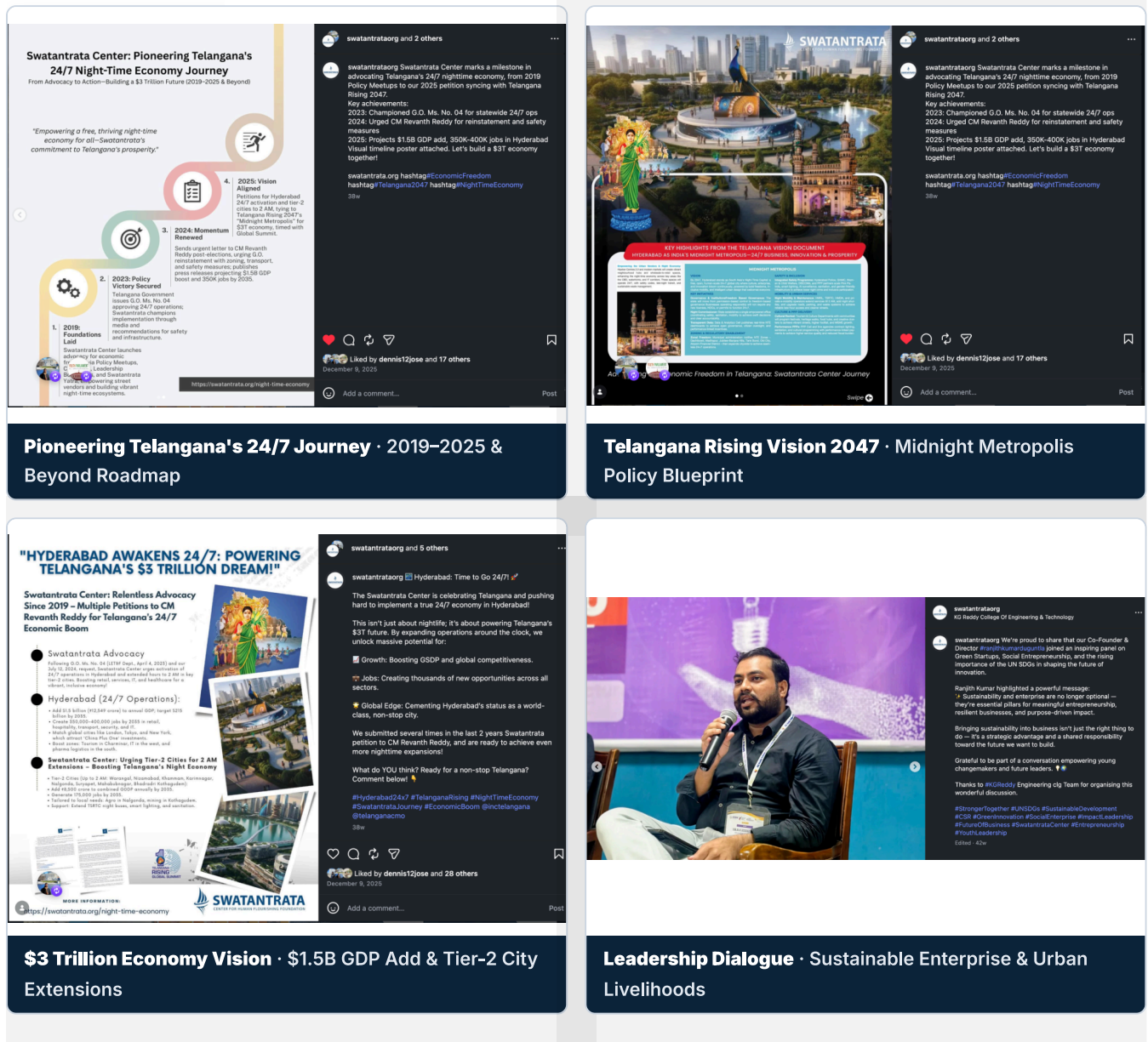
Multi-Newspaper Coverage · Deccan Chronicle, Wake Up TS, Nava Telangana

Swatantrata Center subsequently welcomed the inclusion of the night-time economy, **24/7 business operations**, and the focus on building a vibrant **night-time economy** in the **Telangana Rising Vision 2047**. This represented an important shift towards greater political and policy acceptance of the idea.

07A POLICY ADOPTION & VISION 2047

2025: Strategic adoption in Telangana Rising Vision 2047

Following Swatantrata Center's December 2025 submissions and sustained multi-sector advocacy, the Government of Telangana formally adopted the 24/7 night-time economy within the **Telangana Rising Vision 2047** blueprint. Designating Hyderabad as India's **"Midnight Metropolis"**, the vision document projects a **\$1.5 Billion annual GSDP addition** and **350,000–400,000 new jobs**, alongside tier-2 city business extensions to 2 AM.



Welcoming the Decision: Swatantrata Center warmly welcomes the Government of Telangana's strategic decision to adopt the 24/7 night-time economy in Vision 2047. The Center will continue its sustained efforts with all stakeholders to support practical implementation and make this vision a safe, inclusive, and thriving reality on the ground.

08 2026 MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE

Round-the-Clock Business in Hyderabad and India

“Unlocking Economic Opportunity, Livelihoods and Safety in Indian Cities”

As the latest stage of its continuing campaign, Swatantrata Center convened a multi-stakeholder roundtable at the Press Club Hyderabad.

The event brought together representatives of major political parties, former public officials, Telangana movement leaders, civil-society organisations, public intellectuals, journalists, entrepreneurs, policy professionals, students and affected communities.

Participants acknowledged Swatantrata Center’s earlier work, examined continuing implementation gaps and shared recommendations for developing a safe, inclusive and functional 24/7 economy.



Multi-stakeholder roundtable · Press Club Hyderabad · 2026

The convening demonstrated cross-party consensus between the ruling Congress, BRS opposition, and BJP on the necessity of a workable 24/7 business ecosystem.

Deliberative Consensus: Leaders affirmed that transitioning Hyderabad into a 24/7 metropolis requires moving away from arbitrary midnight police curfews towards statutory clarity, dedicated nighttime transit, illuminated vending corridors, and single-window grievance mechanisms.

09 CROSS-PARTY RECOGNITION & CIVIC SUPPORT

Cross-party recognition and extended public support

Deliberations at the 2026 roundtable brought together leadership from the ruling Congress (TPCC), principal opposition BRS, BJP, and distinguished civic institutions—achieving historic cross-party consensus acknowledging Swatantrata Center's foundational advocacy and pledging actionable cooperation.



TELANGANA CONGRESS (TPCC)

Sama Rammohan Reddy

Official Spokesperson · Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee

“A functional night-time economy is essential to Hyderabad’s ambition of becoming a global city. The policy should promote freedom and choice through clear rules rather than an excessive permission-based system.”

Recognition of Swatantrata: Acknowledged Swatantrata Center’s persistent policy representations presented to the Telangana Government on multiple occasions, both in Hyderabad and during ministerial interactions during the Chief Minister’s US investment visit.

Extended Support: Welcomed recommendations from the Swatantrata forum, affirming the government’s active willingness to adopt practical proposals that expand economic opportunity and streamline compliance without regulatory burdens.



BRS (BHARAT RASHTRA SAMITHI)

Dr. Vijay Arya Kshatriya

State Official Spokesperson · Bharat Rashtra Samithi

“Swatantrata Center’s earlier representations to the BRS government contributed to the issuance of G.O. Ms. No. 04 in 2023... We urge the current government to take the order forward and assure our continued support.”

Recognition of Swatantrata: Explicitly credited Swatantrata Center’s foundational advocacy and representations to the BRS administration as the catalyst that prompted the landmark 2023 24/7 Government Order (G.O. Ms. No. 04).

Extended Support: Pledged continuing constructive opposition support to institutionalize 24/7 business rights, calling for wider public discussion to build upon the established statutory framework.



BJP (BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY)

Abhishek Jagani & Suryapalli Srinivas

Official Spokesperson & Senior Leader · BJP

“Transitioning to a round-the-clock economy unlocks immense entrepreneurial potential. Clear, uniform guidelines must replace arbitrary policing to protect small traders and night-shift workers.”

Recognition of Swatantrata: Commended Swatantrata Center for sustaining non-partisan research and creating an inclusive forum uniting political parties, traders, and street vendors on economic freedom.

Extended Support: Endorsed the 24/7 reform direction and committed to supporting legislative and municipal solutions that dismantle police harassment, resolve licensing bottlenecks, and ensure public safety.



CIVIC & INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP

P. Vijaya Babu & Telangana Vittal

Ex. State RTI Commissioner & Telangana Movement Top Leader

“Create ‘24-hour opportunities’ without turning them into compulsory 24-hour labour. Enforce worker protections, fair treatment of small vendors and a single-window system.”

Recognition of Swatantrata: Praised Swatantrata Center’s evidence-based research and balanced advocacy representing informal vendors, women entrepreneurs, and small traders.

Extended Support: Sri Telangana Vittal offered to actively facilitate formal multi-party dialogue between Swatantrata Center, government departments, and political leadership.

Unified Cross-Party Consensus: Participation by senior leaders from Congress (TPCC), BRS, BJP, and civic institutions confirmed that Hyderabad’s 24/7 economy is a shared, non-partisan priority—uniting all stakeholders behind economic freedom, worker dignity, and metropolitan vitality.

09A PUBLIC, CIVIC & EXPERT SUPPORT

Academic, administrative, media and civil-society perspectives

Beyond political leadership, the 2026 roundtable gathered leading jurists, retired administrators, senior journalists, policy scholars, youth innovators, and civic advocates who examined the multifaceted requirements of a round-the-clock metropolis.

IAS

URBAN ADMINISTRATION

T. Chiranjeevulu, IAS (Retd.)

Former Senior Administrator & Urban Policy Specialist

“Effective implementation requires careful selection of designated locations and activity zones to make 24/7 operations practical, sustainable and locally appropriate.”

Administrative Focus: Urged active enforcement of the existing G.O. 04 framework through inter-departmental coordination, municipal capacity-building, and localized zoning.

LAW

LEGAL & LABOUR RIGHTS

Prof. Dr. Gali Vinod Kumar & Prof. C. Kasim

Professor of Law, Osmania University & Senior Academic / Activist

“A 24/7 economy must uphold workers’ dignity and historical 8-hour shift safeguards—ensuring real benefits reach informal workers alongside commercial growth.”

Constitutional Focus: Stressed that night-time economic expansion must center on workers’ rights, informed consent, fair wages, and protection against labor exploitation.

PRESS

JOURNALISM & MEDIA

Telakapalli Ravi & Srinivas Komira

Senior Political Analysts & Independent Journalists

“Implementation must eliminate unequal treatment between small street vendors and large malls, replacing arbitrary policing with transparent, predictable rules.”

Public Accountability: Commended Swatantrata Center for sustaining open public discourse; called for non-discriminatory enforcement and ongoing civic oversight.

POLICY

POLICY & RESEARCH

Sanjay Pulipaka

Chairperson, Politeia Research Foundation

“Swatantrata Center’s recommendations offer a constructive, practical pathway to expand economic freedom and enterprise through transparent self-certification.”

Institutional Focus: Supported the policy direction as a proven catalyst for urban productivity, simplifying bureaucratic procedures to elevate Hyderabad’s global stature.

YOUTH

YOUTH & ENTERPRISE

Sri Charan Lakkaraju

Entrepreneur, Youth Mentor & Student Community Leader

“Reframe the initiative as a ‘24/7 Livelihood Economy’ focused on opportunity—unleashing startup innovation, night markets, and safe employment for young people.”

Opportunity Focus: Urged establishing well-lit incubation corridors, student-friendly creative hubs, and reliable night transit to support aspiring entrepreneurs.

CIVIC

CIVIC & URBAN READINESS

Vijay Mallangi

South India In-charge & National Media Lead, CJP

“Urban readiness in pedestrian walkways, public sanitation, transit, women’s safety and policing must be established alongside balanced residential zoning.”

Civic Readiness Focus: Emphasised protection for residential areas and establishing a structured mechanism to resolve concerns between businesses, residents, and public authorities.

Pluralistic Stakeholder Alignment: Deliberations across administration (T. Chiranjeevulu), academia (Prof. Gali Vinod Kumar, Prof. C. Kasim), media (Telakapalli Ravi, Srinivas Komira), policy research (Sanjay Pulipaka), youth enterprise (Sri Charan Lakkaraju), and civic readiness (Vijay Mallangi, Dr. T. Siva Prasad, Ruchit Kamal) confirm that Hyderabad’s 24/7 transition must balance commercial freedom with worker safeguards, urban zoning, and civic infrastructure.

2026: Media coverage and public discourse on 24/7 operations

The Press Club roundtable generated widespread multi-lingual media coverage across English, Telugu, and regional publications, highlighting key deliberations on vendor protections, administrative coordination, women's transit safety, and economic projections.



'అధికారుల సమన్వయలోపంతో ఇబ్బందులు'

లక్ష్మీకాశుల్ : నగరంలో చిన్న వ్యాపారులు, గిగ్ వర్కర్లు, వీధి వ్యాపారులు శాఖవారమైన సమన్వయం లేకపోవడంతో ఇబ్బందులను ఎదుర్కొంటున్నారని... దీన్ని తక్షణమే సరిదిద్దాలని స్వతంత్ర సెంటర్ కో-పొండ్, డైరెక్టర్ రంజిత్ కుమార్ దుగుగ్త ప్రభుత్వాన్ని కోరారు. ఆదివారం సోమాజీగూడ ప్రెస్ క్లబ్లో "హైదరాబాద్ 24/7 వ్యాపార కార్యకలాపాలు: విధానాల అమలు, వ్యాపారుల రక్షణ, ఆర్థిక స్వేచ్ఛ" అంశంపై రౌండ్ టేబుల్ సమావేశం జరిగింది. విశ్రాంతి విధి అధికారి టి. చిరంజీవులు, సీనియర్ పాత్రకీయులు తెలకపల్లి రవి, గారి వినోద్, సీనియర్ జర్నలిస్ట్ శ్రీనివాస్ కొమిర తదితరులు పాల్గొన్న సమావేశం తెలంగాణలో జేపీ ఎంపీ నెం.04 అమలు, వీధి వ్యాపారులు, గిగ్ వర్కర్లు, చిన్న వ్యాపారుల సమన్వయం, అస



వసరమైన పోలీస్ జోన్లు, 24/7 ఆర్థిక వ్యవస్థకు అవసరమైన నృప్తిమైన కార్యాచరణ విధానంపై చర్చించింది. నైట్ టైమ్ ఎకానమీ క్యానిన్ ఎకానమీ మార్కుండా జాగ్రత్త వహించాలని హెచ్చరించింది. హైదర్ బాద్-హైదర్ బాద్ అండ్ నల్ కార్మికుల రక్షణ కీలకంగా ఉద్యమించాలి. అవసరం ఉందని వక్రలు అభిప్రాయపడ్డారు. సమావేశంలో ఆర్ట్ కాలేజ్ ప్రెసిడెంట్ ప్రొ. కాసీం, షేక్ మిజాయ్ మెల్లంగి పాల్గొన్నారు.

Sakshi Greater Hyderabad · "అధికారుల సమన్వయంతో ఇబ్బందులు" (2026)



The Swatantrata Center, in association with Political and Democratic Reforms, organised a policy roundtable conference titled "Round-the-Clock Business in Indian Cities: Policy Implementation, Vendor Protection & Economic Freedom" at the Press Club, Sonajiguda, Hyderabad, calling for effective implementation of a 24/7 business framework across Hyderabad, Telangana and major cities and Tier-2 centres across India. Ranjith Kumar Duguntla, Co-founder and Director of Operations, Swatantrata Center, Participants including T. Chiranjeevu, Ravi, Gali Vinod, among others

Roundtable Panel Proceedings · Swatantrata Policy Conference Report

24/7 | OPEN NYC has continuous transit; mediation between establishments; neighbourhoods

Many gaps for still for night time economy

MRITIKA BANERJEE | DC HYDERABAD, SEPT. 8

What if the city remained open through the night? Would the biggest change be a 2 am meal, or the ability of a surgeon leaving an emergency operation, a woman finishing work, a delivery rider and a traveller waiting for a midnight bus to use the same city on their own schedule?

Telangana already created a legal route in April 2023 for shops and establishments to operate 24/7, subject to weekly rest, limits on employee hours, overtime pay, women's consent for night work and transport for women employees.

SHOPS TO OPEN AT MIDNIGHT

●Telangana already created a legal route in April 2023 for shops and establishments to operate 24/7, subject to weekly rest, limits on employee hours, overtime pay, women's consent for night work and transport for women employees.

●The law goes further than Hyderabad's usual street hours suggest as GO Ms. No. 4 exempts eligible shops and establishments from statutory opening and closing hours.

●Hyderabad Metro Rail says its first service starts at 6 am; the last trains leave terminal stations at 11 pm on the Red and Blue lines and 11.35 pm on the Green Line.

September 6 roundtable in Hyderabad on 24/7 business operations, organised by Swatantrata Centre and Political and Democratic Reforms. Mallangi argued that the idea should first be tested in selected areas, given the city's shortages in policing, sanitation staff, public transport and basic facilities such as public toilets. Ranjith Kumar Duguntla, co-founder and director of operations at Swatantrata Centre, took a broader view of what such an economy should include, arguing that retail, logistics

and everyday services should remain part of the conversation alongside food and nightlife. The law goes further than Hyderabad's usual street hours suggest as GO Ms. No. 4 exempts eligible shops and establishments from statutory opening and closing hours. A store that opts for 24/7 operation pays an annual fee of ₹10,600 and must comply with police rules. "Most employees are occupied during the daytime. Their work begins only after their day ends, around 9 or 10

at night," said Duguntla. Dr Natesh Koltus, an orthopaedic surgeon whose emergency cases can push work into the early morning, makes that mismatch concrete. "If a school wants us to come and meet the teachers or pay fees, it is during working hours. Why can't some of these things be available after working hours," he asked. A late economy can therefore mean a bank counter or school office staying accessible later on selected days as much as dinner at midnight. Further, an emergency

surgery might end at 1 am or 2 am, at which point dinner becomes an ordinary need. "I may require it only occasionally, but when I require it, it should be there," he said. Hyderabad Metro Rail says its first service starts at 6 am; the last trains leave terminal stations at 11 pm on the Red and Blue lines and 11.35 pm on the Green Line. Jhanvi Natta, a working professional who relies on private rides when work or social plans run late, describes the result from the passenger side. "If we have a weekend meet-up with friends or some social activity that goes beyond 11 pm, we have to start hurrying home because the roads become silent," she said. New York City has a continuous transit system where its subway and bus system operates 24 hours a day while the city's Office of Nightlife acts as a contact point between businesses, residents and public agencies. "If everything is operating at night, and people are out, then it is not as intimidating to

travel alone," says Jhanvi. Speaking of New York City, Mallangi referenced MEND NYC while arguing that Hyderabad could not treat residential neighbourhoods and late commercial activity as separate concerns. The New York programme offers free mediation between hospitality establishments and neighbours over quality-of-life complaints. Concerns around public toilets also become less abstract when those working late hours come into the picture. Shaik Salaudtin, founder-president of the Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union, said, "Even accessing a washroom can be difficult for people working at night." He also pointed to food, fuel access and emergency support. "A person working at night is not doing it for leisure. He is doing it because he needs to earn. That reality has to be understood," Swatantrata Center projects that full 24/7 operation could add \$1.5 billion, or ₹12,222 crore, to Hyderabad's annual GDP.

Deccan Chronicle Special Feature · "Many gaps still for night time economy" (Sept 8, 2026)

Public Momentum: Major print coverage spotlighted Swatantrata Center's economic projection of a \$1.5 Billion annual GDP addition while amplifying urgent calls for 24-hour continuous transit, night sanitation, and fair vendor protections.

10 SHARED CONSENSUS & POLICY PRIORITIES

Shared priorities: From policy vision to workable implementation

Roundtable deliberations across political parties, administrators, jurists, media, and entrepreneurs converged on six foundational priorities required to translate Telangana's 24/7 policy vision into an open, safe, inclusive, and workable reality.

01 24-Hour Opportunities & Greater Choice for All Stakeholders

Longer business hours should expand choice for businesses, workers, consumers and other stakeholders—not make night work compulsory. Night shifts should be voluntary and based on informed consent, with fair wages, overtime compensation, reasonable working-hour limits, adequate rest and safe working conditions.

Safeguards: Clear protections for voluntary shifts, fair compensation, reasonable working hours, rest intervals and safe night-time transport.

02 Inclusive Vendor & Small-Trader Opportunity

Implementation must enable street vendors, night tiffin kiosks, gig workers, women entrepreneurs, and small traders—the lifeline of Hyderabad's night economy—to operate lawfully without exclusion.

Inclusion: Eliminate disproportionate fees, complex procedures, and arbitrary vendor eviction.

03 Unified Single-Window Administration

A unified digital portal must provide consolidated rules, compliance support, transparent documentation, and time-bound grievance redressal without requiring visits to multiple municipal departments.

Self-Certification: Maximum reliance on self-certification to dismantle delays and discretionary barriers.

04 Fair, Predictable & Proportionate Enforcement

Clear, published rules must apply equally across large commercial establishments and informal kiosks. Arbitrary midnight police curfews and blanket commercial closures must be completely eliminated.

Proportionate Action: Address verified noise or obstruction through specific remedies rather than closures.

05 Safety, Night Transit & Civic Infrastructure

Public authorities must fulfill civic duties: well-lit pedestrian corridors, continuous TSRTC night bus and metro feeder frequency, clean public sanitation, and coordinated safety patrols for night commuters.

Mobility: 24/7 public transit connectivity, illuminated walking paths, and dedicated women's safety.

06 Civic Dialogue & Time-Bound Pilots

Establish structured consultation between municipal bodies, police, traders, workers, and Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) to address neighborhood concerns and test systems via time-bound pilots.

Phased Rollout: Deploy pilot zones to test municipal systems without indefinitely restricting lawful activity.

Deliberative Consensus: The 24/7 economy is not merely commercial deregulation—it is a comprehensive urban governance compact balancing economic freedom with worker dignity, public safety, and civic harmony.

11 2026 ROUNDTABLE IN SESSION · PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD & KEY DELIBERATIONS

2026 Roundtable: Multi-stakeholder dialogue and cross-party convergence

Distinguished leaders across the ruling Congress (TPCC), principal opposition BRS, administrative bodies, media, and civil society convened at the Press Club Hyderabad to deliberate on practical frameworks for a safe, vibrant 24/7 economy.



Democratic Deliberation: Cross-party participants affirmed that unlocking Hyderabad's round-the-clock economic potential requires collaborative governance—uniting statutory rights, public transit, worker safeguards, and non-arbitrary policing.

12 STRATEGIC ROADMAP & THE NEXT PHASE

Continuing the campaign: A multi-track action blueprint

The 2026 roundtable marked a decisive milestone in Swatantrata Center's multi-year campaign. Translating policy commitments into reality requires a structured multi-track roadmap spanning policy codification, civic coalitions, single-window systems, and ground monitoring.

01 Policy Synthesis & Government Representations

- Consolidate multi-stakeholder roundtable inputs and written submissions into a comprehensive statutory policy brief.
- Submit formalized memorandums to the Chief Minister's Office, MA&UD, Labour Department, and Police Commissionerates.
- Propose draft notifications standardizing night-time business conditions and clear non-arbitrary police guidelines.

Codification: Formalizing 24/7 permissions into transparent government orders.

02 Building Broad-Based Civil Society & Civic Coalitions

- Build enduring civic coalitions uniting Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), vendor unions, women's safety groups, and trade bodies.
- Facilitate structured local community forums to address neighborhood noise, sanitation, and parking concerns through dialogue.
- Partner with academic institutions and think tanks to produce ongoing empirical research and civic policy briefs.

Civic Coalition: Aligning residents, workers, and traders behind shared urban governance.

03 Unified Single-Window Portal & Phased Pilot Zones

- Advocate for an automated digital single-window portal with self-certification, transparent rules, and zero discretionary fees.
- Collaborate with municipal bodies (GHMC/HMDA) to deploy time-bound, monitored pilot zones across major commercial corridors.
- Test urban infrastructure systems—24/7 transit feeders, street lighting, and public sanitation—under real operating conditions.

Piloting Sandbox: Testing systems in bounded corridors before city-wide rollout.

04 Ground Enforcement Monitoring & Worker Safeguards

- Deploy ground observation teams to monitor field-level police compliance and prevent arbitrary midnight shutdowns.
- Audit compliance with worker safeguards: voluntary night shifts, overtime premiums, rest breaks, and safe transit.
- Publish periodic public reports and maintain a transparent hotline for informal vendor grievance documentation.

Accountability: Continuous empirical field audits to safeguard worker dignity and lawful trade.

OUR COMMITMENT

Swatantrata Center for Public Policy is dedicated to advancing economic freedom, individual choice, and institutional clarity. Our role has been to bring Hyderabad's night-time economy and 24/7 business operations reform to the forefront of public governance, author actionable policy frameworks, and unite diverse political and civic stakeholders behind a shared vision.

As Telangana moves into implementation, Swatantrata Center remains committed to providing evidence-based policy inputs, supporting pilot sandboxes, and safeguarding worker dignity and lawful livelihoods.

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