

CROP INSURANCE

Companies reap profits while farmers get pittance

- Private insurance companies collected Rs 5,850 cr in premiums over three years but paid only Rs 930 cr to farmers, retaining 85% as profits
- Under weather-based schemes, Rs 1,567 cr in premiums yielded zero compensation to farmers despite cyclones, floods and droughts
- Enrolment is high (e.g., 25.28 lakh in 2022 kharif), but payouts reach few (e.g., only 3.43 lakh compensated), with tenant farmers demanding direct government intervention

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Paddy crop, which was damaged during the recent Cyclone Montha in Pedana in Krishna district
(File Photo)

THE crop insurance schemes introduced by the Central government, projected as a safety net for farmers facing natural calamities, have instead become a source of windfall profits for private insurance companies. Data from the past three years reveals a shocking imbalance, while insurance firms collected nearly Rs 5,850 crore in premiums, the compensation paid to farmers amounts to a mere Rs 930 crore. This means that 85 per cent of the funds went into corporate coffers rather than reaching the distressed cultivators.

Under both the Pradhan Mantri

Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Weather-Based Insurance Schemes, farmers from the state, along with the state and Central governments, contributed large sums since the 2022 kharif season to the 2024 rabi. Yet, despite natural disasters such as cyclones, floods and droughts during this period, the compensation flow to farmers has been negligible. Out of Rs 1,567 crore collected under weather insurance alone, not a single rupee was paid to any farmer.

When the YSRCP government came to power in 2019, it initially replaced the Central scheme with a free crop insurance model, which

directly benefited farmers without intermediaries.

However, after pressure from the Centre, the State rejoined the Central insurance programmes from the 2022 Kharif. Since then, private companies have regained control—marking the return of old problems like delayed settlements, rejected claims, and massive profit accumulation.

Participation figures further expose the disparity. In 2022 kharif, 25.28 lakh farmers enrolled, but only 3.43 lakh received compensation, while in rabi 64,000 farmers received insurance out of 15.22 lakh

enrolled. In Kharif 2023, 98,000 farmers got claims out of 22.68 lakh insured, and in rabi that year, 1.43 lakh people out of 12.92 lakh people got compensation. Even after the TDP-led NDA coalition government promised free crop insurance in kharif 2024, only 82,000 farmers received a meagre Rs 8.53 crore in compensation.

In contrast, under the Weather-Based Insurance Scheme, crores in premiums were collected in multiple seasons — 2023 kharif, 2023 Rabi, 2024 Kharif and 2024 rabi — but not a single claim has been settled so far. These figures paint a grim picture: crop insurance, instead of being a shield for the farmer, has become a lucrative avenue for private companies, leaving the food producers of the nation empty-handed.

P Jamalaiah, state general secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Koulu Rythula (Tenant Farmers) Association, told 'The Hans India' that the government must ensure prompt insurance payments to farmers affected by natural calamities. He criticised successive governments for neglecting farmers' interests and allowing insurance companies to impose harsh conditions.

Jamalaiah urged that during cyclones and disasters, the government should personally intervene to guarantee compensation for farmers' crop losses without bureaucratic delays.

Narayana invites Dubai investors to CII summit

- The Minister highlights Andhra Pradesh's investment-friendly policies.
- Holds meetings with Shobha Group, KEF Holdings and Indian consulate officials, seeking investments in urban infrastructure and healthcare sectors
- Stresses the state's single-desk clearance system and rapid development reforms under Chandrababu Naidu to attract global investors

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Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P Narayana with officials of KEF Holdings at its headquarters in Dubai on Monday

development and its investor-friendly ecosystem.

He held discussions with Vikram Dutta, senior vice-president of Shobha Group. Narayana invited the company to invest in urban infrastructure projects in Andhra Pradesh, noting that the state aims to become a premier investment destination through the upcoming partnership summit. Sobha Group has reportedly shown interest in exploring investment possibilities in the state.

Narayana also met Indian Consul General Satish Sivan, explaining that the state is adopting a speed of doing business approach through a single-desk clearance system to fast-track industrial approvals. He urged the consulate to encourage Dubai-

based investors to explore opportunities in Andhra Pradesh.

The minister in the evening met Faizal Kottikollon, chairman of KEF Holdings, at the company's Dubai headquarters. The group, which has a global presence in infrastructure, healthcare and technology, was urged to invest in the healthcare sector in Andhra Pradesh.

Narayana briefed the chairman on reforms being introduced under Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to transform the medical sector and invited KEF Holdings to visit Andhra Pradesh during the summit. He was accompanied by AP CRDA commissioner Kannababu and MAUD director Sampath Kumar during the visit.

Textiles MoUs to be signed at Partnership Summit

- Minister Savitha announces that multiple agreements in textiles will be signed at Visakhapatnam summit on Nov 14-15, with two exclusive stalls
- Review meeting with officials focuses on inviting interested investors and details of proposed units and investment scales
- AP Pavilion to feature ODOP award-winning products in one stall and handloom fabrics for sale in the other

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Textiles and handlooms minister S Savitha holds a review with senior officials of department at her chamber in Secretariat on Monday

summit. Savitha instructed officials to ensure that investors who have already shown interest in investing in the textiles sector in Andhra Pradesh are brought to the Visakhapatnam summit. She also enquired about the regions where investors are planning to set up units and the scale of investment proposed.

As part of the summit, an AP Pavilion will be set up, the minister said. Of the two stalls planned in the pavilion, one will showcase award-winning products and artworks under the 'One District One Product (ODOP)' initiative, while the other will be dedicated to the sale of a wide range of handloom fabrics.

Senior officials from the handlooms and textiles department participated in the meeting.

MINISTER for handlooms and textiles S Savitha has announced that several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in the textiles sector will be signed during the Partnership Summit scheduled to be held in Visakhapatnam on the November 14 and 15. She said that two exclusive stalls will also be set up at the summit.

The minister held a review on Monday at her chamber in the Secretariat, attended by handlooms and textiles department principal secretary R P Sisodia, commissioner Rekharani, and industries secretary N Yuvaraj. She stated that a special slot has been allotted for MoU exchanges related to the textiles sector during the

Minister vows strict measures to curb mishaps

- Ramprasad Reddy informs that private travel bus drivers will be provided with tips and training as part of the measures
- Inaugurates Rs 1.92 cr APSRTC dispensary at Alipiri, pledges better healthcare for employees
- Says law will take its own course in fake liquor case

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TRANSPORT minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy said that stringent measures are being taken to prevent private bus accidents in the state. For this, tips and training are required for the drivers which will be provided soon. The minister inaugurated the newly built APSRTC dispensary at Alipiri on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, he rejected criticism that former minister and YSRCP leader Jogi Ramesh was arrested as part of vindictive politics. Law will take its own course in the fake liquor probe and any arrests are

part of the probe only.

He said that the new dispensary will provide better healthcare facilities to employees and their families. The government is committed to ensuring the welfare of APSRTC employees. The initiative was taken under the guidance of APSRTC Vice Chairman and managing director M Dwaraka Tirumala Rao and chief medical officer Dr B Venkata Ramana.

Built at a cost of Rs 1.92 crore, the dispensary is spread across 0.12 acre land and is equipped with advanced medical infrastructure. It includes four consultation rooms, two inpatient wards, a general ward, nursing and pharmacy units,



Transport Minister M Ramprasad Reddy inaugurating RTC dispensary in Tirupati on Monday. APSRTC chairman K Narayana Rao, MLA Arani Srinivasulu, TUDA chairman C Divakar Reddy and others are also seen.

laboratory, X-ray, and diagnostic sections, providing comprehensive healthcare facilities for RTC staff.

With this new facility, the RTC aims to serve nearly 6,000 employees and their families in the Tirupati district. The dispensary will operate with a team of 100 medical professionals, including 30 doctors, nurses, and paramedical staff.

Ramprasad Reddy said

that the government is determined to safeguard the health and welfare of RTC employees. He added that the new dispensary will not only serve the employees but also ensure access to quality healthcare for their dependents. The APSRTC management expressed gratitude to the government for extending continuous support to its welfare initiatives.

The inauguration cer-

emony was attended by RTC chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao, vice-chairman P S Munirathnam, MLA Arani Srinivasulu, TUDA chairman C Divakar Reddy, deputy mayor R C Munikrishna, transport secretary Siva Sankar, regional manager E M Reddy and deputy chief traffic manager P Viswanath, several senior officials and employees of the corporation.

FIVE DIE IN TWO SEPARATE ROAD ACCIDENTS

- Four persons killed when the car they were travelling collide with a truck at Satyavatipet in which in Bapatla district
- One dies as a mini-lorry overturns on Nadendla-Timmapuram road in Palnadu district

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GUNTUR

FIVE persons were killed and two others injured in

two separate road accidents in the state in the early hours of Monday.

Four people died when a car in which they were trav-

elling collided with a truck in Bapatla district.

The accident occurred around 1 am in Satyavatipet in Karlapalem mandal.

The deceased were identified as B Balarama Raju (65), B Lakshmi (60), G Pushpavati (60) and M Srinivasa Raju (54). Two boys aged 11 and 13 were injured, and both were admitted to a hos-

pital. Their condition is stated to be out of danger.

The victims were from Karlapalem and were returning home after attending the sangate ceremony of Bapatla MLA Narendra Verma's son.

Overspeeding is suspected to be the cause of the accident. Police registered a case and took up an in-

vestigation. In another accident in Palnadu district, a man died when a mini lorry overturned. The accident occurred on the Nadendla-Timmapuram road when the mini lorry suffered a tyre burst.

The driver lost control of the vehicle, resulting in the accident. The deceased was identified as Babu Malik, a

worker from Odisha.

The accident revealed that the mini lorry was being used to divert rice meant for distribution under the Public Distribution System.

Police registered a case and began an investigation. The civil supplies department also launched an investigation into PDS rice diversion.

Officials told to focus on infra in MSME Parks

- Minister Kondapalli directs officials to prioritize basic infrastructure like water, roads, and electricity in 175 new MSME parks across Andhra Pradesh.
- Urges expediting approvals, encouraging new entrepreneurs to utilise govt incentives and creating a clear action plan for the state's new industrial policies
- Reviews ongoing infrastructure development, stressed timely completion and called for aligning policies with global and national best practices to build a business-friendly ecosystem

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MINISTER for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), rural poverty eradication and NRI empowerment Kondapalli Srinivas directed officials to prioritise the development of basic infrastructure in the 175 MSME parks being set up across the state.

Chairing a review with officials of the MSME department and APIIC at the Secretariat on Friday, the minister

stressed the need for expediting the provision of essential facilities such as water supply, roads and electricity in all the proposed industrial parks. He said the government's new industrial policies were aimed at accelerating MSME growth and called for a clear action plan to implement them effectively.

Srinivas instructed officials to encourage new industrial entrepreneurs and ensure that they are able to make effective use of the incentives being offered by the government. He cautioned against delays in issuing mandatory approvals and permits required for setting up new units.

He also reviewed the status of buildings and infrastructure being developed in the new industrial estates and issued directions for timely completion. The minister emphasised that Andhra Pradesh must align its industrial policy with the best models being followed globally and in other Indian states and create a business-friendly ecosystem through necessary reforms.

Industries department secretary N Yuvaraj, MSME Development Corporation CEO Viswa Manoharan and senior APIIC officials attended the meeting.

Saap seeks major boost for AP sports under Khelo India

- Chairman Ravi Naidu submits proposals for 56 project worth Rs 676 cr in New Delhi to Khelo India joint secretary
- Key proposals include modernising Vijayawada's IGMC Stadium, setting up district sports centres and establishing national centres of excellence in Kakinada and Guntur
- A special request of Rs 170 cr was made for rebuilding BR Stadium in Guntur, with the Centre reportedly responding positively to the proposals

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IN a push to upgrade sports infrastructure across the state, Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (Saap)

chairman Animini Ravi Naidu sought Central approval for 56 project proposals worth Rs 676 crore under the Khelo India scheme. The proposals were personally submitted in New Delhi on

Monday to Vineel Krishna, joint secretary of Khelo India.

Ravi Naidu briefed the official on the state's sports development roadmap and requested swift sanction of the pending projects, which cover infrastructure creation, stadium upgrades, talent development facilities and district-level sports centres.

Among the key proposals, Saap sought approval for the modernisation of the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation (IGMC) stadium in Vijayawada, aiming to transform it into an international-standard arena. The chairman also urged the Centre to establish Khelo India district sports centres in all districts, ensuring wider access to

training facilities for young athletes.

The state has further proposed the setting up of national centres of excellence (NCOE) in Kakinada and Guntur, along with residential centres for athletics and taekwondo in the Rayalseema region and Tirupati to nurture talent from rural and semi-urban areas.

A special request for Rs 170 crore funding for the reconstruction of BR Stadium in Guntur was also placed before the ministry.

Ravi Naidu said the Chandrababu Naidu-led government is prioritising sports as a tool for youth empowerment and aims to position Andhra Pradesh prominently in the national sports landscape with the support



Saap chairman Animini Ravi Naidu submitting key sports development proposals to Khelo India joint secretary Vineel Krishna in New Delhi on Monday

of Khelo India. Joint secretary Vineel Krishna is learnt to have responded positively,

assuring due examination and necessary action on the proposals.