

Atchannaidu for demand-based, sustainable farming

- Agriculture minister urges farmers to adopt demand-driven crops and organic farming for better incomes and soil health
- Warns against excessive chemical use; govt offering training, subsidies, and dedicated markets for organic produce
- Highlights success of Maruteru paddy varieties; calls for village-level awareness and alignment with changing food habits



Agriculture minister K Atchannaidu inaugurated Kisan Mela at the Maruteru Agricultural Research Station in West Godavari district on Wednesday.

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RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

AGRICULTURE minister K Atchannaidu called upon farmers to shift towards demand-based crop cultivation and adopt sustainable farming practices to improve incomes and protect soil health.

Speaking at a Kisan Mela at the agricultural research station in Maruteru of Penumantra mandal in Achanta constituency of

West Godavari district on Wednesday, the minister said organic farming offers higher returns with lower input costs while ensuring healthier food for consumers. The event focused on the theme 'Changing Climate Conditions-Sustainable Paddy Cultivation.'

The minister inspected laboratories at the research station and interacted with scientists to understand

the latest developments in paddy varieties.

He also visited stalls set up by Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University and private companies, showcasing modern farm machinery and technologies.

Addressing the gathering, he expressed concern over the excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, which he said is

degrading soil quality and increasing cultivation costs.

He stated that the government is providing training, subsidies and marketing support to encourage farmers to shift towards organic farming. Steps are also being taken to establish dedicated markets to ensure better prices for organic produce.

He noted that paddy varieties developed at the

Maruteru research centre are achieving high yields in several states across the country and appreciated the efforts of agricultural scientists. With changing food habits among people, he advised farmers to align crop choices with market demand.

He directed officials and scientists to create awareness at the village level about suitable crops for different regions. Raja Sabha MP Paka Venkata Satyanarayana stressed the importance of soil testing awareness among farmers and said interlinking of rivers in the state would help address irrigation challenges.

District collector Chadavada Nagarani said a target of 7.25 lakh metric tonnes has been set for rabi procurement in the district.

Achanta MLA Pitani Satyanarayana, Tanuku MLA Arimilli Radhakrishna, Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University vice-chancellor Dr R Sharada Jayalakshmi Devi, Horticulture University vice-chancellor Dhanujaya Rao were among those present.

Botcha flags Rs 20,500 cr debt gap, seeks Gov's intervention

- Opposition leader in Council in a letter to the Governor alleges that finance dept understated borrowings for 2024-25 and 2025-26 by omitting key components
- Claims actual liabilities are Rs 81,082 cr versus the reported Rs 60,485 cr, citing CAG-audited accounts
- Accuses govt of hiding off-budget loans and inconsistent reporting, urging transparency to restore public trust

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VISAKHAPATNAM

EXPRESSING concern over debts mobilised by the NDA government, particularly in the past two years, YSRCP MLC Botcha Satyanarayana dashed off a letter to Governor S Abdul Nazeer alleging that the state finance department presented inaccurate details regarding government borrowings for 2024-25 and 2025-26 in the Legislative Council.

Satyanarayana said the response given by the principal finance secretary to a 'starred' question in the February 2026 session understated the actual borrowings, omitting 'key' components.

The leader of Opposition in Legislative Council requested the Governor's intervention in



YSRCP MLC Botcha Satyanarayana

convincing the state government to provide the real picture of the data to the legislature. "The finance department stated that total borrowings for 2024-25 were Rs 60,485 crore. However, the CAG-audited finance accounts clearly indicate that the actual net liabilities are about Rs. 81,082 crore. This leaves a gap of more than Rs. 20,500 crore which needs attention," he demanded.

Pointing out that three major components would have possibly been omitted, the MLC said, "Borrowings under Ways and Means Advances from RBI were not included, even though they have been classified as internal debt in official records. Net liabilities under public account such as deposits and reserve funds were excluded. Also, adjustments related to GST compensation loans were reduced without valid justification."

He underlined that when the fiscal deficit itself is over Rs 81,000 crore, presenting a much lower borrowing fig-

ure paints a 'different' picture of the state's finances. "Such omissions create a false impression that the government's debt burden is lower than it actually is," he criticised.

Raising another issue, Satyanarayana said the government's claim that there were no off-budget borrowings in 2025-26 is incorrect. "Government backed corporations like MARKFC and Civil Supplies Corporation have been allowed to raise loans with state guarantees. These entities depend on government support and such borrowings clearly fall under off budget liabilities as per Government of India guidelines," he said.

Pointing to alleged inconsistency in the finance department's approach, Satyanarayana said that when details were sought for borrowings from 2014-2024, both public debt and public account were included. However, public account was excluded in the past two years. He expressed that this raises serious concerns.

Stating that officials are expected to present facts in a transparent manner, he stressed that any deviation from this principle affects the credibility of the finance department and weakens public trust. The MLC requested the Governor to intervene and ensure corrective action is taken with immediate effect.

ELEPHANT RAIDS

Solar fencing brings hope to farmers in Chittoor region

- Tirupati East forest division installed a hanging solar-powered fence covering about five kilometres in Pulicherla mandal

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI
TIRUPATI



FARMERS across several mandals of the erstwhile Chittoor district are beginning to see hope after years of crop destruction caused by recurring elephant incursions, with forest authorities rolling out a solar-powered fencing system aimed at keeping herds away from agricultural lands.

For nearly a decade, villages located along forest fringes in Pulicherla, Somala, Sadam, Palamaner, Punganur and Kallur mandals have witnessed frequent elephant movement. The animals often strayed into cultivated fields, damaging crops across vast stretches and destroying farm equipment, leaving cultivators struggling with mounting losses. The persistent threat forced many farmers to either reduce cultivation or shift to less vulnerable farming practices.

In an effort to address the issue, officials of the Tirupati East forest division have installed a hanging solar-powered fence covering nearly five kilometres, stretching from

Gantavaripalle village in Pulicherla mandal up to the Kallurghat road. The project, implemented at a cost of Rs 49 lakh, has been completed and is set to undergo trial operations shortly. Forest authorities noted that a similar fencing system introduced earlier in the Palamaner range had yielded positive outcomes.

Elephant activity has been particularly intense in villages such as Pathapeta, Palem, Devalampeta, Kammappalle, Rayavaripalle, Challavaripalle and Ellankivaripalle. Farmers in these regions reported heavy losses to crops including paddy, tomato, brinjal and banana. Mango orchards and fodder crops were also affected, prompting several cultivators to cut down on agricultural operations due to uncertainty and financial strain.

Forest department officials said the solar fence installed earlier along the forest boundary at Palyam in Pulicherla mandal has begun yielding

favourable outcomes. In the month following its installation, elephant herds attempting to enter nearby farmlands have reportedly turned back upon reaching the barrier, providing relief to local farming communities.

Officials explained that the fencing system operates using solar-powered batteries to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply. During summer months, when elephants frequently venture out searching for food and water, power is maintained round the clock. The fence delivers a mild, non-lethal electric shock that deters the animals without causing harm. In the monsoon season, however, the power supply will function between 6 pm and 6 am, aligning with peak elephant movement hours.

Forest authorities expressed optimism that the new measure would significantly reduce human-elephant conflict in the region and help farmers regain confidence in cultivation.

Focus on uninterrupted power supply, farmer welfare: Energy minister

Inaugurates APCPDCL corporate office in Vijayawada

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

ENERGY minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the government's primary goal is to provide quality and uninterrupted power supply while enhancing services to the public.

The minister inaugurated the new corporate office of Andhra Pradesh Central Power Distribution Corporation Limited (APCPDCL) at Gunadala, Vijayawada, in the presence of MP Kesineni Sivanath, MLA Gadde Ramamohan Rao, energy special chief secretary K Vijayanand and CMD P Pulla Reddy.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister expressed happiness over the inauguration of the modern office, built at an estimated cost of Rs 35-40 crore with a total area of 65,000 square feet. He credited the collective efforts of the department staff for earning a good reputation for the power sector.

He said that construction of new substations is progressing rapidly across the state. Following the directions of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, the government is focused on providing uninterrupted quality power supply without increasing electricity tariffs. He emphasised that there should be no power disruptions or low-voltage issues, and officials are working dili-



Energy minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar inaugurates the new corporate office of APCPDCL at Gunadala in Vijayawada on Wednesday

gently to achieve this.

The minister further stated that the department aims to improve public perception from the current 80 per cent to over 95 per cent. Under the PM Kusum scheme, tenders have been completed to provide free daytime electricity to farmers, and works will commence soon.

Highlighting achievements, he noted that the state has recorded unprecedented levels of power generation using modern techniques. By purchasing power during low-demand daytime and generating electricity during peak evening hours, the state is ensuring no shortages.

Renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and pumped storage projects (PSPs) are being expanded, and tenders have already been invited at 10 locations for battery storage systems.

He also praised electricity staff for their tireless service during disasters. Recalling past floods and cyclones, es-

pecially in Visakhapatnam, he said around 1,500-2,000 personnel restored nearly 20,000 electric poles within 24 hours, ensuring quick restoration of power supply.

Vijayanand said that advanced, human-independent software is being used to ensure transparency in power purchase and sales. He added that the state successfully managed a record peak load of 14,009 mw this year and supplied 275 million units of power without interruption during the summer. The efficiency of APGenco plants has been increased to 85-90 per cent.

He further noted that the APCPDCL building has been developed with a 'Net Zero' concept, incorporating solar energy and green technologies to reduce power consumption and achieve carbon neutrality.

CMD Pulla Reddy urged discom officials to continue delivering better services to consumers.

ASSAM POLICE FILES CASE

Pawan Khera moves HC seeking anticipatory bail

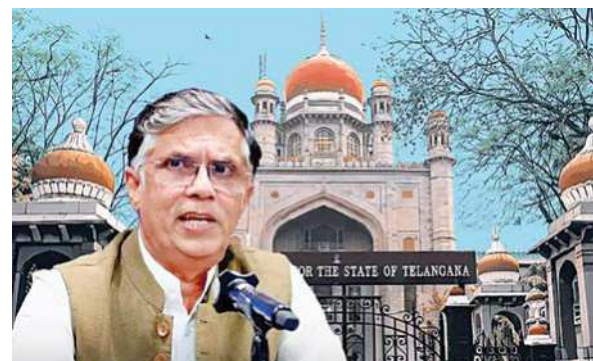
- The Congress leader on April 5 alleged that Sarma's wife, Riniki Bhuyan Sarma, has multiple passports and foreign property, which were not declared in the chief minister's election affidavit
- An Assam Police team had earlier visited the Delhi residence of Khera for questioning in connection with the case

HYDERABAD

Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife.

CONGRESS leader Pawan Khera on Wednesday moved the Telangana High Court seeking anticipatory bail in a case filed against him by the Assam government against his allegations against Chief Minister

Khera, who showed his residential address in Hyderabad, requested the court to release him on bail in the event of his arrest. The petition was filed on April 7. It will be taken up by the court on April 9. Khera named the DCP



of Guwahati Crime Branch Police Station and Telangana government as respondents to his petition. The case was registered in the Guwahati Crime Branch Police Station against Khera under several sections of the BNS, including 175 (false statement in connection with an elec-

tion), 35 (Right of private defence of the body and of property) and 318 (cheating). The Congress leader on April 5 alleged that Sarma's wife, Riniki Bhuyan Sarma, has multiple passports and foreign property, which were not declared in the chief minister's election affidavit.

An Assam Police team had earlier visited the Delhi residence of Khera for questioning in connection with the case. Khera's advocate Ponnamm Ashok Goud told PTI that anticipatory bail was sought as the FIR copy has not been uploaded on police website as per Supreme Court's orders, and that the former's Delhi house was searched with an intention to arrest.

Sarma on Tuesday slammed the Congress for "not verifying" the documents based on which it brought allegations against him and his family. The CM asserted that Khera had "run away" to Hyderabad, but the Assam Police will "hunt him down even from 'patala' (netherworld)".

Jupally stands with commuters on crowded Metro

HYDERABAD

MINISTER for Tourism, Culture, and Excise Jupally Krishna Rao on Wednesday surprised everyone by travelling on the Metro rail in Hyderabad just like an ordinary commuter.

Breaking away from standard protocols, Krishna Rao boarded the Metro in a remarkably simple and unassuming manner.

He traveled from Erramanzil station to Miyapur by Metro to attend a private event in the city. Upon reaching the station, the Minister personally purchased a ticket and proceeded to the platform. As the train was heavily crowded, the Minister did not attempt to find a seat but instead traveled standing alongside his fellow passengers.

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S. Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01/07250346	OVH KIT	248 SET	20.04.26
02/09262412	PRESSURE REDUCING VALVE	610 NOS	29.04.26
03/77269028	6.2MM THICK CGRSP - T-6618	5000000 NOS	29.04.26
04/77265034	ANTI CREEP DEVICE (T-8782 & T-8783)	1300 SET	04.05.26
05/02261013	V DEEP GROOVE AXLE PULLEYS COMPLETE SET	808 NOS	04.05.26
06/19250563A	OIL COOLING RADIATOR FOR CONVERTER/ TRANSFORMER	21 NOS	04.05.26
07/77269025	RUNNING CONTRACT FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF METAL LINERS	4212550 NOS 100000 PAIR	05.05.26
08/02260000	CARBON BRUSH FOR TM 4601	10950 NOS	11.05.26
09/77269036	06MM THICK NCR GRSPS T-8779	834 SET	11.05.26
10/77269004	10125MM O/R (CURVED) SWITCHES T-4219.	160 SET	14.05.26
11/08260022	LOW MAINTENANCE LEAD ACID SECONDARY CELL	10357 NOS	14.05.26
12/77269003	11200 AM AM THICK WEB SWITCH. T-10071.	20 SET	18.05.26
13/08260023	LOW MAINTENANCE LEAD ACID SECONDARY CELL, 80AH	4574 NOS	21.05.26

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2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
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