

AP agriculture caught between drought and destructive rain

- Cultivation lags far behind national and Telangana levels
- 32.92 per cent rainfall deficit leaves rain-fed crops battered after failed July-August monsoon
- Late depression brings relief to rainfall figures but damages paddy, groundnut, banana and vegetables in North Andhra
- Farmers face mounting losses from crop failures, rising input costs and water stress



K VARAPRASADA RAO
AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh's kharif season has slipped into a deep agrarian crisis, with a prolonged rainfall deficit leaving thousands of farmers staring at crop losses after spending heavily on sowing, fertilisers, pesticides and labour.

The state received 32.92 per cent less rainfall than normal between June 1 and September 27, with the deficit widening to 45.10 per cent in Rayalaseema and 21.64 per cent in Coastal Andhra. The situation was even more severe until early September, when the cumulative deficit stood at 55.45 per cent. But the late rains brought by a depression over Coastal Andhra have improved the seasonal rainfall position on paper, but they have come too late for many dryland farmers. In North Andhra, the heavy rains have instead damaged standing paddy, groundnut, banana and vegetable crops.

The scale of the agricultural setback becomes clearer when Andhra Pradesh is compared with the rest of the country. By September 23, cultivation nationally had reached 100.57 per cent of the normal area, while Telangana had covered 95 per cent. Andhra Pradesh had managed only 83 per cent, with 63.24 lakh acres under cultivation against the projected 76.2 lakh acres.

Farmers followed the diversification advice, but the rain-fed gamble failed. Due to the El Nino effect, the government has repeatedly urged farmers to reduce paddy cultivation and move towards less water-intensive, rain-fed crops. Yet paddy still accounts for 32.86 lakh acres, or 52 per cent of the State's total cultivated area, because large tracts of the delta and other irrigated regions remain structurally dependent on paddy during kharif. The crops that were expected to provide an alternative-groundnut, pulses, cotton, maize and millets- are now among the worst affected. Groundnut was cultivated on only 4.13 lakh acres, 43 per cent of its normal area. Cotton covered 10.80 lakh acres, maize 3.1 lakh acres and pulses 9.41 lakh acres. The sowing window for groundnut and cotton has already closed, leaving little scope for farmers to recover the season through fresh planting.

Four districts — Kurnool, Anantapur, Nandyal and Sri Sathya Sai — alone accounted for 23.75 lakh acres, nearly 38 per cent of the state's cultivated area. These are predominantly rain-fed farming regions. June showed farmers encouraged farmers to sow, but the rains largely disappointed them most.

The consequences are visible in the cultivation figures. Prakasam managed only 27 per cent of its projected area, Annamayya 33 per cent, Anakapalli 36 per cent, Chittoor 36 per cent, Markapuram 37 per cent, Polavaram 38 per cent and Palnadu 66 per cent. In several of these districts, farmers had already incurred expenditure on land preparation, seed, fertiliser, pesticides, labour and lease rents before the crops began to fail.

However, El Nino warning adds to the uncertainty over the next season. The crisis has also exposed the vulnerability of Andhra Pradesh's farm economy to a changing rainfall pattern. The State government had already warned farmers about the possibility of El Nino-related weather risks, urging caution in crop planning and water use. That warning has acquired greater significance as the current season has unfolded with long dry spells punctuated by intense rainfall. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had told the Assembly on August 17 that Andhra Pradesh was receiving rainfall at a level far below the national average.

The latest rainfall figures underline the warning. An-

appeared in July and August, when the standing crops needed them most.

A recent study by scientists from the India Meteorological Department and the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, covering weather extremes over India from 1971 to 2022, has also identified South Peninsular India as the region showing the strongest drought trend. Andhra Pradesh is among the eastern coastal States identified as a pronounced drought hotspot. For Andhra Pradesh, the immediate problem is therefore not simply a shortage of rain. It is the collision of failed dryland crops, inadequate irrigation support, depleted groundwater, rising cultivation costs and increasingly erratic rainfall.

The state's farm economy has entered a season in which farmers spent money to sow when the rain came and lost the crop when the rain stopped. Now, when the rain has finally returned, it is damaging crops that survived.

namayya recorded a deficit of 63.12 per cent, Sri Sathya Sai 56.10 per cent and Prakasam 56.75 per cent. Five other districts recorded deficits between 40 per cent and 49 per cent. Under the IMD classification, rainfall between -20 per cent and -59 per cent is considered deficient, while -60 per cent or below is classified as scanty.

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APSEC moves cybercrime police over fake local body poll schedule

Fabricated messages circulated using SEC letterhead, logo and signature

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI



THE State Election Commission (SEC) has lodged a complaint with the cybercrime police station seeking a probe into two incidents involving the circulation of fabricated messages and documents in the name of the Commission ahead of the forthcoming rural and urban local body elections. The SEC said it was making preparations for the second ordinary elections to rural and urban local bodies in the State when a fake election schedule was circulated through WhatsApp and social media on August 21. The fabricated communication used tampered letterheads, official logos and a signature, falsely projecting it as an official SEC communication.

The commission issued a press note on August 24, clarifying that the schedule was fake and urging the public and media to rely only on its official press notes and press conferences for authenticated information.

A second fabricated message surfaced in WhatsApp groups on September 28. It claimed that the State Election Commissioner had said another two months would be required to announce the local body election schedule and that the election process would begin only after court clearance on electoral rolls and reservations. It also claimed that internal preparations had already begun despite any delay.

The SEC categorically rejected the claims in a press note issued on September 29, stating that the information had neither been issued nor authorised by it.

The commission said repeated circulation of such material was creating confusion among the public, media, political parties and government officials. It said the resulting calls seeking clarification were also affecting its normal functioning and diverting officers and staff from election preparations.

Taking the matter seriously, the SEC lodged a complaint with the cybercrime police station seeking a thorough investigation into both incidents. It asked the police to identify those involved in creating, modifying, transmitting and circulating the fabricated communications and initiate action under applicable law, including the Information Technology Act, 2000, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and other applicable cyber laws and statutory provisions.

plies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy recently met Chief of the Army Staff General Dhiraj Seth at his official residence in New Delhi and requested the deputation of experienced Army engineers to Telangana. He explained the technical complexity and strategic importance of the SLBC tunnel and the repair and rehabilitation of the three Kaleshwaram barrages. Col Mehra has been closely associated with both the SLBC tunnel, the repair and rehabilitation planning for Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages. His technical knowledge, field-level involvement and ability to coordinate complex operations have been of immense value to the Irrigation Department.

“Our experience with Col Parikshit Mehra has been ex-

traordinary. His contribution has reinforced our belief that experienced military engineers can add tremendous value to technically complicated infrastructure projects. In light of that experience, we requested the Army Chief to depute more officers. I am grateful that General Dhiraj Seth and Army Headquarters responded so positively and promptly,” Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

Under the deployment being considered, one of the three officers would supervise operations at the SLBC tunnel's two excavation fronts, including work inside the tunnel near the excavation faces. The remaining two officers would be assigned to the repair and rehabilitation works covering the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages.

Scuffle breaks out over double bedroom allotment

Beneficiaries argue with police during protest alleging irregularities

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MADDIRALA (SURYAPET)

TENSION prevailed in Maddirala village of Tungathurthi constituency in Suryapet district during the draw conducted for the allotment of double-bedroom houses, after several villagers staged a protest alleging irregularities in the selection of beneficiaries.

Officials had initiated the process to allot a total of 58 double-bedroom houses to beneficiaries through a draw. However, a few villagers objected to the process, alleging that houses were being allotted to ineligible persons instead of deserving poor families.

The protesters claimed that beneficiaries who already owned houses had also been included in the allotment, while several poor families who had been living without houses for years were being denied the benefit.

As villagers staged a protest and dharna questioning the allotment process, the situation became tense.

An argument reportedly broke out between the protesters and police personnel. Police dispersed the protesters to bring the situation under control, and some of them were reportedly taken to the police station.

The villagers demanded a comprehensive inquiry into the allotment process and a fresh verification of the eligibility of beneficiaries. They urged the authorities to identify genuinely deserving families and allot the houses transparently in accordance with government norms.

An official response from the authorities and public representatives concerned to the allegations of irregularities in the allotment was awaited.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
Tender Notice	
The Chief Administrative Officer/Const., Northern Railway, Kashmere Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open e-tender under Two Packet System of the under noted work :-	
Full Name of work:	Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Agreement for construction of 3rd and 4th Railway line (Ghaziabad-New Moradabad) adjacent to the existing Broad Gauge (BG) electrified double line including detour portions with Civil Engineering works, Track works, Signalling & Telecommunication works, Over Head Electrification, Electrical General Services & all other allied works between Ghaziabad (GZB)/(CH: 145.710km) (Excluding) to New Moradabad (NMB)/(Excluding) (CH:0.850km) as per approved alignment in Delhi & Moradabad divisions of Northern Railway.
Approx. Cost of work:	Rs. 3726.33,95,235.27/-
Completion period of the work:	48 (Forty Eight) months
Earnest Money to be deposited:	Rs. 74,52,67,900/-
Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website:	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 28.09.2026 to 23.02.2027 upto 11.00 hrs
(i) Pre-Bid Conference:	12.11.2026 at 11.00 hours at CAO/C Office, N. Rly., Kashmere Gate, Delhi and through online VC link.
(ii) 2nd Pre-Bid Conference:	07.12.2026 at 11.00 hours at CAO/C Office, N. Rly., Kashmere Gate, Delhi and through online VC link.
Last date of receipt of (i) Pre-Bid & 2nd Pre-Bid queries:	12.11.2026 upto 18:00 hrs & 07.12.2026 upto 18:00 hrs
Authority response to queries:	19.11.2026 (1st Pre bid) & 22.12.2026 (2nd Pre bid) upto 18:00 hrs
Last date/Time of upload of tenders:	23.02.2027 upto 11.00 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f. 09.02.2027 to 23.02.2027.
Date and time of opening of technical bid:	23.02.2027 upto 11:00 hours. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.
Tender Notice No. 74-W-4.1-490-WA-MB Dated: 28.09.2026	3386/2026
Serving Customers With A Smile	

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
Name of work : Provision and Modification REBC in LHB Coaches of DLI Division Depots.	
Tender No. : 30-Elect-6TR1-Chg-2025-26	
Approx. cost of the work in (Rs.) : Rs. 2,29,16,591.20/-	
Cost of tender form : Rs. 0.00	
Address of the Office : Sr. Divl. Elect, Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi.	
Earnest Money : Rs. 4,58,300/-	
Period of completion of work : 06 Months	
Last date & time of submission of tender : 21.10.2026 up to 15.00 hrs.	
And opening of tender : 21.10.2026 at 15.01 hrs.	
Website & notice board : www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. DEE/Chg/DLI	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3378/2026	

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
AMM/EMU/GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 46265213A. The details are as under.	
1 Name of Work	Buran 10 compressor kit failveley make part no. FT0052281-K20 as per annexure-A. One set consisting of 07 item (qty.-222)
2 Approx. cost of work	Rs. 14863433.40/-
3 Quantity	18 Set
4 Last Date & Time of Submission of tender bid of tender	28.10.2026 (11:00 Hrs.)
5 Date & Time of Opening of tender document.	28.10.2026 (11:00 Hrs.)
6 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in
Note: (i) The tenderers must be registered on the Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in . (ii) Please refer to the tender document for all terms and conditions. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable. NIT No. —46265213A Date: 28-09-2026 3382/2026	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS! IMPORTANT INFORMATION

RUN OF MORE POOJA FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2026

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during this Festival Season, Railways have decided to run the following additional Pooja Festival Special Trains as per details given below:-

Train No. 05005/05006 Barhni - Jalandhar City - Barhni					16
Unreserved Special Train					Trips
Train No. 05005		↓ STATIONS ↑	Train No. 05006		
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
--	15:10	Barhni	04:45	--	
08:30	--	Jalandhar City	--	10:50	

Days of Run: 05005 Ex Barhni on every Wednesday from 07.10.2026 to 25.11.2026 and 05006 Ex Jalandhar City on every Thursday from 08.10.2026 to 26.11.2026. Accommodation: Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Tulsipur, Balrampur, Gonda Jn., Burhwal, Sitapur Jn., Bareilly, Moradabad, Saharanpur Jn., Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Ambala Cantt. & Dhandari Kalan Stations.

Train No. 05101/05102 Gorakhpur Jn. - Shakur Basti - Gorakhpur Jn. Special Train				16 Trips	
Train No. 05101		STATIONS		Train No. 05102	
Arr.	Dep.			Arr.	Dep.
--	16:00	Gorakhpur Jn.		08:30	--
11:05	--	Shakur Basti		--	13:15

Days of Run: 05101 Ex Gorakhpur Jn. on every Sunday from 11.10.2026 to 29.11.2026 and 05102 Ex Shakur Basti on every Monday from 12.10.2026 to 30.11.2026. Accommodation: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Anand Nagar Jn., Siddharth Nagar, Barhni, Tulsipur, Balrampur, Gonda Jn., Sitapur Jn., Shahjahanpur, Bareilly Jn., Moradabad Jn., Ghaziabad Jn. & Delhi Jn. Stations.

Train No. 05048/05047 Banaras - Kolkata - Banaras Special Train					16 Trips
Train No. 05048		STATIONS	Train No. 05047		
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.	
--	10:45	Banaras	04:15	--	
10:55	11:00	Varanasi Jn.	03:55	04:00	
06:15	--	Kolkata	--	08:25	

Days of Run: 05048 Ex Banaras on every Tuesday from 06.10.2026 to 24.11.2026 and 05047 Ex Kolkata on every Wednesday from 07.10.2026 to 25.11.2026. Accommodation: AC 3 Tier. Stoppages: Varanasi Jn., Aunrihar Jn., Ghazipur City, Ballia, Reoti, Suraimanpur, Chhapra Jn., Dighwara, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Shahpur Patoree, Barauni Jn., Kiul Jn., Jhajha, Jaisidhi Jn., Madhupur Jn., Chhitaranjan, Asansol Jn., Durgapur, Bardhaman Jn., Bandel Jn. & Naihati Jn. Stations.

Train No. 01123/01124 Lokmanya Tilak (T) - Mau Jn. - Lokmanya Tilak (T) Special Train (Bi-Weekly)					24 Trips
Train No. 01123		STATIONS		Train No. 01124	
Arr.	Dep.			Arr.	Dep.
--	12:15	Lokmanya Tilak (T)		16:45	--
15:50	16:00	Varanasi Jn.		09:50	10:00
21:30	--	Mau Jn.		--	04:15

Days of Run: 01123 Ex Lokmanya Tilak (T) on every Friday & Sunday from 11.10.2026 to 20.11.2026 and 01124 Ex Mau Jn. on every Sunday & Tuesday from 13.10.2026 to 22.11.2026. Accommodation: AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Thane, Kalyan Jn., Igatpuri, Nashik Road, Jalgaon Jn., Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi Jn., Pipariya, Narsinghpur, Madan Mahal, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur Jn., Prayagraj Chheoki, Varanasi Jn., Jaunpur Jn., Shahganj Jn., Khoraon Road, Azamgarh & Muhammadabad Stations.

Train No. 01431/01432 Hadapsar - Ghazipur City - Hadapsar Special Train (Bi-Weekly)					24 Trips
Train No. 01431		STATIONS		Train No. 01432	
Arr.	Dep.			Arr.	Dep.
--	06:55		Hadapsar	16:20	--
15:10	15:20		Varanasi Jn.	08:20	08:30
20:15	--		Ghazipur City	--	04:00

Days of Run: 01431 Ex Hadapsar on every Friday & Tuesday from 13.10.2026 to 20.11.2026 and 01432 Ex Ghazipur City on every Sunday & Thursday from 15.10.2026 to 22.11.2026. Accommodation: AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Daund Chord Line, Ahmednagar, Belapur, Kopergaon, Ankal, Manmad Jn., Jalgaon Jn., Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi Jn., Pipariya, Narsinghpur, Madan Mahal, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur Jn., Prayagraj Chheoki, Varanasi Jn., Jaunpur Jn. & Aunrihar Jn. Stations.

Train No. 01079/01080 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T) - Gorakhpur Jn. - Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T) Special Train (Daily)					64 Trips
Train No. 01079		STATIONS		Train No. 01080	
Arr.	Dep.			Arr.	Dep.
--	22:30	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T)		00:40	--
04:05	04:15	Lucknow		19:45	19:55
10:00	--	Gorakhpur Jn.		--	14:30

Days of Run: 01079 Ex Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (T) from 16.10.2026 to 16.11.2026 (Daily) and 01080 Ex Gorakhpur Jn. from 18.10.2026 to 18.11.2026. (Daily) Accommodation: AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Dadar, Thane, Kalyan Jn., Igatpuri, Nashik Road, Manmad Jn., Jalgaon Jn., Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi Jn., Bhopal Jn., Bina Jn., Virangana Lakshimbai Jhansi, Orai, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Mankapur Jn., Basti & Kharilabad Stations.

Train No. 01415/01416 Hadapsar - Gorakhpur Jn. - Hadapsar Special Train (Daily)					64 Trips	
Train No. 01415			STATIONS	Train No. 01416		
Arr.	Dep.	Arr.		Dep.		
--	07:05	Hadapsar		03:30	--	
09:55	10:05	Lucknow		22:25	22:35	
16:00	--	Gorakhpur Jn.		--	17:30	

Days of Run: 01415 Ex Hadapsar from 16.10.2026 to 16.11.2026 (Daily) 01416 Ex Gorakhpur Jn. from 17.10.2026 to 17.11.2026 (Daily).

Accommodation: AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Daund Chord Line, Ahmednagar, Belapur, Kopergaon, Manmad Jn., Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi Jn., Bhopal Jn., Bina Jn., Virangana Lakshimbai Jhansi, Orai, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Mankapur Jn. & Basti Stations.

Train No. 01051/01052 Lokmanya Tilak (T) - Banaras - Lokmanya Tilak (T) Special Train (Bi-Weekly)					24 Trips
Train No. 01051		STATIONS		Train No. 01052	
Arr.	Dep.			Arr.	Dep.
--	12:15	Lokmanya Tilak (T)		04:40	--
15:45	15:50	Varanasi Jn.		20:45	20:50
16:05	--	Banaras		--	20:30

Days of Run: 01051 Ex Lokmanya Tilak (T) on every Wednesday & Thursday from 14.10.2026 to 19.11.2026 and 01052 Ex Banaras on every Thursday & Friday from 15.10.2026 to 20.11.2026. Accommodation: AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Thane, Kalyan Jn., Igatpuri, Nashik Road, Jalgaon Jn., Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi Jn., Pipariya, Narsinghpur, Madan Mahal, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur Jn., Prayagraj Chheoki & Varanasi Jn. Stations.

Accommodation: AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.					
Stoppages: Thane, Kalyan Jn., Igatpuri, Nashik Road, Jalgaon Jn., Bhusaval Jn., Khandwa, Itarsi Jn., Pipriaya, Narsinghpur, Madan Mahal, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur Jn., Prayagrah Chheoki & Varanasi Jn. Stations.					
Train No. 04829/04830 Jodhpur Jn. - Gorakhpur Jn. - Jodhpur Jn. Pooja Special Train					18 Trips
Train No. 04829			STATIONS	Train No. 04830	
Arr.	Dep.			Arr.	Dep.
--	16:15	Jodhpur Jn.		05:30	--
04:30	04:45	Delhi Jn.		14:00	14:10
20:30	--	Gorakhpur Jn.		--	23:25

Days of Run: 04829 Ex Jodhpur Jn. on every Thursday from 01.10.2026 to 26.11.2026 and 04830 Ex Gorakhpur Jn. on every Friday from 02.10.2026 to 27.11.2026. Accommodation: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Merta Road Jn., Degana Jn., Chhoti Katu, Didwana, Ladnun, Sujargarh, Ratangrahn Jn., Churu Jn., Sadulpur Jn., Loharu Jn., Mahendragarh, Rewari Jn., Gurgaon, Delhi Cantt., Delhi Jn., Ghaziabad Jn., Moradabad Jn., Bareilly Jn., Shahjahanpur, Sitapur City Jn., Gonda Jn. & Basti Stations.

Accommodation: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.
Stoppages: Merta Road Jn., Degana Jn., Chhoti Katu, Didwana, Ladrnu, Sujangarh, Ratangrah Jn., Churu Jn., Sadulpur Jn., Loharu Jn., Mahendragarh, Rewari Jn., Gurgaon, Delhi Cantt., Delhi Jn., Ghaziabad Jn., Moradabad Jn., Bareilly Jn., Shahjehanpur, Sitapur City Jn., Gonda Jn. & Basti Stations.

Days of Run: 05167 Ex Banaras on every Saturday from 17.10.2026 to 28.11.2026 and 05168 Ex Lokmanya Tilak (T) on every Sunday from 18.10.2026 to 29.11.2026. Accommodation: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, AC 3 Tier Economy Sleeper & General. Stoppages: Varanasi Jn., Prayagraj Chheoki, Manikpur Jn., Satna, Maihar, Katni, Jabalpur, Itarsi Jn., Khandwa Jn., Burhanpur, Bhusaval Jn., Nasik Road, Igatpuri, Kalyan Jn. & Thane Stations.

Days of Run: 05167 Ex Banaras on every Saturday from 17.10.2026 to 28.11.2026 and 05168 Ex Lokmanya Tilak (T) on every Sunday from 18.10.2026 to 29.11.2026.	
Accommodation: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, AC 3 Tier Economy Sleeper & General.	
Stoppages: Varanasi Jn., Prayagraj Chheoki, Manikpur Jn., Satna, Malhar, Katni, Jabalpur, Itarsi Jn., Khawda Jn., Burhanpur, Bhusaval Jn., Nasik Road, Igatpuri, Kalyan Jn. & Thane Stations.	
Train No. 04731/04732 Sri Ganganagar Jn. - Samastipur Jn. - Sri Ganganagar Jn. Special Train	14 Trips