

Officials told to fill 22 tanks

- East Godavari District Irrigation Advisory Committee reviews the water situation for the Kharif 2026 season
- The district had recorded a 60% rainfall deficit, affecting nearly 9,000 hectares in 10 upland mandals

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

THE East Godavari District Irrigation Advisory Committee on Thursday reviewed the water situation for the Kharif 2026 season and discussed measures to tackle the impact of the prevailing ‘Super El Nino’ conditions. The meeting was chaired by District Collector Kirti Chekuri at the Collectorate. Mandapeta MLA Vegulla Jogeswara Rao and Anaparathi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy attended the meeting. The committee examined



Collector Kirti Chekuri, Mandapeta MLA Vegulla Jogeswara Rao and Anaparathi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy attending the East Godavari District Irrigation Advisory Committee meeting in Rajamahendravaram on Thursday

the availability of Godavari waters and the plans required to meet irrigation and drinking water needs through efficient utilisation of available resources in view of the deficient rainfall. Irrigation Superintending Engineer G Srinivasa Rao informed the meeting that there would be no shortage of irrigation water for crops under the Godavari canal system. However, crops dependent on lift irrigation schemes, particularly

those in tail-end areas, were facing water stress.

District Agriculture Officer B Venkata Rao said the district had recorded a 60% rainfall deficit, affecting nearly 9,000 hectares in 10 upland mandals. Groundwater department officials said crops irrigated through borewells were unlikely to face problems during Kharif, but warned that continued lack of rainfall could result in groundwater depletion dur-

ing the ensuing Rabi season. The collector advised farmers in water-scarce areas to take up less water-intensive crops. She directed Agriculture Department officials to create awareness among farmers on cultivation methods that require less water. Regarding rainfall in the upper catchment areas, the Collector said there were indications of increased inflows into the Godavari River. She instructed irrigation officials to fill all 22 tanks under lift irrigation schemes over the next 10 days and ensure adequate water supply to tail-end agricultural lands. “Special attention should be given to Rangampeta tank, where the water shortage is severe,” she said. The Collector also reviewed irrigation under the Chagalnagu, Pushkara, Surampalem, Venkatanagaram and Tallapudi lift schemes. Transco officials were instructed to ensure uninterrupted power supply for lift irrigation systems. To safeguard farmers against weather-related losses,

the collector directed Lead District Manager DV Prasad and Agriculture Department officials to conduct a special fortnight drive to ensure that all farmers, including those who had not availed crop loans, enrol under the crop insurance scheme by paying the prescribed premium. MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy stressed the need to educate farmers on the impact of El Nino. He said Rangampeta mandal was facing an acute water shortage, affecting even drinking water for cattle, and sought immediate filling of the Rangampeta tank. Mandapeta MLA Vegulla Jogeswara Rao urged officials to stand by farmers during the difficult season and take timely steps to reduce their hardships. Polavaram Left Canal Superintending Engineer B Yesubabu, Head Works Executive Engineer Srinivas, Project Director of Micro Irrigation A Durgesh, Cooperative Officer MV Venkataramana and others were present.

Centre’s support sought for Polavaram tourism

MLC Somu Veerraju requests Central assistance for the development of Godavari riverfronts and tourism projects in the Papikonda region

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM



BJP national executive member and MLC Somu Veerraju submitting a memorandum to Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in New Delhi on Thursday

BJP national executive member and MLC Somu Veerraju has urged the Union government to extend support for tourism development around the Polavaram project and establish a National Palmyra Development Board in Andhra Pradesh. During a meeting with Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in New Delhi, Veerraju submitted a memorandum seeking the development of a Rajamahendravaram-Polavaram-Bhadrachalam

spiritual, heritage, eco and river cruise tourism corridor centred around the Polavaram project. He requested Central assistance for the development of Godavari riverfronts and tourism projects in the Papikonda region, including

eco-tourism, cruise tourism and adventure tourism. He also appealed for special financial assistance under the Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD schemes to complete the proposed projects before the Godavari Pushkaralu in 2027. Veerraju said the proposed tourism corridor would generate employment, strengthen the local economy and provide significant benefits to tribal communities. Later, he met Union Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Minister Shivrj Singh Chouhan and sought the establishment of a National Palmyra Development Board at Pandirimamidi village in Rampachodavaram mandal of Polavaram district. Veerraju also proposed large-scale plantation of palmyra trees under the Vriksha Bharati Green (VBG) programme along village tanks, canal bunds, riverbanks, government wastelands and coastal areas.

Over 16,000 schools in AP have only one teacher: Sharmila

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

APCC chief Y S Sharmila on Thursday alleged that more than 16,000 schools are functioning only with a single teacher in the state, observing that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu “all talk and no action.”

Calling the single-teacher schools the true “report card” of the TDP-led NDA government in the southern state, Sharmila accused the NDA governments at the Centre and the state of talking “endlessly building castles in the air.”

“16,357 schools in Andhra Pradesh are running with a single teacher! This is the true report card of the NDA governments at the Centre and in the State. While these



governments talk endlessly building castles in the air; thousands of children are denied even the most basic requirement of a teacher in every classroom!” Sharmila said in a post on ‘X’.

Naidu claims to have a special relationship with the prime minister, she said, adding, if that is so, why has Andhra Pradesh not secured even the minimum support

needed to ensure adequate teachers in our government schools? A government that cannot provide a teacher for every school has no moral right to speak about building the future, she said. Children need teachers, not headlines, said Sharmila, observing that Andhra Pradesh deserves justice, not excuses. Meanwhile, there was no immediate reaction from the TDP.

AP forms panel for 2026 teachers’ awards

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE state government has constituted a state-level committee to select teachers for the prestigious State Teachers’ Awards-2026. School education department secretary Kona Sasidhar issued GO Rt No 129 on Thursday, constituting the committee for the annual awards that recognise educators for their outstanding contribution to school education and academic excellence.

According to the government order, the committee has been constituted following a proposal submitted by the director of school education and after careful examination by the government. The panel will oversee the selection process and

finalise the list of awardees within the prescribed quota for the 2026 State Teachers’ Awards. The committee will be chaired by minister for HRD Nara Lokesh. The secretary to the government, school education, will serve as the vice-chairman, while the director of school education will function as the convener.

Other members include the director of AP State Council of Educational Research and Training and noted educationist and former MLC Ramu Surya Rao (RSR Master).

The government has directed the director of school education to take the necessary follow-up action for conducting the selection process in accordance with the prescribed guidelines.

YSRCP raises DSC row in Rajya Sabha

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE YSRCP raised alleged irregularities in the Andhra Pradesh DSC-2025 teacher recruitment in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, with YSR Congress Parliamentary Party leader and Rajya Sabha MP Y V Subba Reddy demanded resignation of IT and HRD minister Nara Lokesh and called for the anti-paper leak legislation to be expanded to cover all State-level recruitment examinations.

Participating in the debate on the Anti-Paper Leak Bill, Subba Reddy extended the YSRCP’s support to the proposed legislation but argued that it should not be confined to examinations conducted by the UPSC, SSC and National Testing Agency (NTA). Alleging large-scale irregularities in the DSC-2025 recruitment process, he claimed that teacher posts were sold, the selection pro-



cess was manipulated and the examination paper was leaked. “Just as the Union Education Minister resigned by accepting moral responsibility, Andhra Pradesh education minister Nara Lokesh should also step down over the DSC scam,” he demanded. The YSRCP leader urged the Centre to bring examinations conducted by State agencies, including APPSC, DSC and APEAPCET, under the proposed law to strengthen the integrity of recruitment and restore public confidence in the examination system. He also alleged that coaching-centre mafias were playing

a major role in examination paper leaks and called for stringent action against them. Raising broader concerns over education policy, Subba Reddy said students studying under the CBSE syllabus enjoy a competitive advantage in NEET compared to those following State syllabi. He claimed that the previous YS Jagan Mohan Reddy government had introduced CBSE in government schools, modernised public education and improved infrastructure, but alleged that 5.5 lakh students have left government schools under the present administration. He further alleged that while the previous YSRCP government established government medical colleges to make medical education affordable for poor students, the present NDA coalition government is moving towards privatisation, making medical education increasingly inaccessible to economically weaker sections.

Neglect of CRDA region alleged

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Communist Party of India (Marxist) has urged the Andhra Pradesh government to ensure balanced development of Vijayawada, Guntur, and the entire Capital Region along with Amaravati, warning that public protests would be launched if the alleged neglect of the CRDA region continues.

Addressing a press conference in Vijayawada, CPM State Secretariat member Ch Babu Rao, accompanied by State Committee member D Kasinath, welcomed Chief Minister N Chan-



CPM leaders addressing the media in Vijayawada on Thursday

drababu Naidu’s statement that Amaravati, Vijayawada, Guntur, and the 29 capital villages should be developed together as the state capital.

Babu Rao said the CRDA region, spread across 8,600 sq km with 56 mandals, over 1,100 villages, 10 towns, two municipal

corporations, and a population exceeding 70 lakh, has witnessed little development despite master plans being prepared in 2015. He questioned why the government was proposing to spend nearly Rs 1 lakh crore on Amaravati while failing to allocate adequate funds for Vijayawada, Guntur, and other CRDA areas.

He demanded that at least 50 per cent of the capital development funds be earmarked for the overall development of the CRDA region.

City leaders Boyi Satyababu, B Ramana Rao, and P Krishna were also present.

51 students selected in campus drive

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KANDUKUR

PRAKASAM Engineering College, Kandukur, has once again demonstrated its strong placement record with 51 students securing jobs in a campus recruitment drive conducted by Q-Spiders, a leading IT training and recruitment organisation. The selected students, who are set to graduate in 2027, received annual salary packages ranging from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 9 lakh, reinforcing the institution’s reputation as a preferred destination for recruiters.

Around 300 students from Computer Science and allied



Final year Students who secured placements at Prakasam Engineering College in Kandukur on Thursday

branches participated in the recruitment process, which included a written test, group discussion, techni-

cal interview, and personal interview. Correspondent Dr K Vijaya Srinivas said the institution’s primary focus is

to provide quality education along with industry-relevant skills that prepare students for rewarding careers. He attributed the consistent placement success to comprehensive training in coding, technical skills, communication, aptitude, and soft skills, as well as strong partnerships with leading organizations.

Principal Dr Ch Ravi Kumar said placement training begins from the first year, enabling students to excel in competitive recruitment processes.

He credited the achievement to the dedication of students, faculty members, and the Placement Cell.

Blood donation camp organised

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

ANDHRA Loyola College organised a Blood Donation Camp on Thursday through its NSS Units in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society, NTR District Chapter, at the college’s Multi-Purpose Hall to mark the eve of the Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola. The camp received an enthusiastic response from students, faculty members, non-teaching staff, and volunteers, collecting 76 units of blood.

The programme was attended by Correspondent Fr Francis Xavier, Vice-Principals Fr G Rayappa and Fr Arul Jyothi, who appreciated the generous contribution of the donors and commended the efforts of the NSS volunteers and the Indian Red Cross Society. Fr Francis Xavier thanked the Red



Students donating blood

Cross medical team, faculty coordinators, student volunteers, and blood donors for making the initiative a success. Fr Arul Jyothi said every unit of donated blood offers hope to patients in need and reflects the college’s commitment to nurturing socially responsible citizens. NSS Programme Officers Dr K Prakash, Dr K Shekar, Dr R John, Dr D Bhaskar, and Dr Dayakar coordinated the event.

Ex-MLA’s car seized

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GUNTUR

NUZVID police on Thursday reached the residence of former YSRCP MLA Md Mustafa who is facing kidnapping charges in connection with a tobacco business dispute and seized a car. Following this development, former minister and YSRCP district president Ambati Rambabu visited Mustafa’s residence here.

Speaking to the media, Rambabu and Mustafa’s daughter Noori Fatima alleged that a business dispute was being given a political colour to harass their family.

They questioned why the victim’s car had been seized instead of ensuring justice for the complainants.

Rambabu questioned would a person who served as an MLA for 10 years be involved in kidnapping.

Dedicated queue, new ramp for devotees

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

KANAKA Durga temple EO and special grade deputy collector V K Seena Naik announced measures to ensure hassle-free participation for devotees in various pujas and rituals at the temple.

During an inspection on Thursday, the EO, accompanied by senior officials, reviewed the movement of devotees and observed that pilgrims faced difficulties in reaching the puja mandapams during peak rush hours.

To address the issue, he directed officials to create a dedicated queue line for devotees participating in special pujas.

Under the new arrangement, devotees attending pujas and archanas will no longer have to pass through the main sanctum queue. Instead, they will be guided through a separate route starting from the Lakshmi Ganapathi Temple and proceeding via the Subrahmanya



Temple Executive Officer VK Seena Naik inspecting the newly proposed route for devotees at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Thursday

Swamy Temple directly to the puja venues. To further improve crowd management, the EO instructed officials to construct a new access ramp and widen the existing exit passage, enabling smoother movement of devotees and reducing congestion within the temple premises.

Temple Assistant Executive Officer Ramesh, Executive Engineer L Rama, Deputy Executive Engineer Ashok Kumar, Sthanacharya V Shivaprasad Sharma, and other temple officials accompanied the EO during the inspection.

Rice at Rs 52 a kg from tomorrow

GUNTUR State government will set up direct rice sale centres across Bapatla district from August 1, according to Bapatla district joint collector Bhavana Vasishtha. Addressing a meeting held with rice mill owners at the Collectorate on Thursday, she said the government has decided to intervene directly to make quality rice available to consumers at affordable prices. She said rice sale centres will be opened in Bapatla, Chirala, Parchur, Cherukupalli and Vemuru mandal headquarters. She noted that super fine quality rice is currently being sold at around Rs 65 per kg in the market. To bring down prices, rice millers have been instructed to sell super fine quality rice at Rs 52 per kg, steam rice at Rs 52 per kg and raw rice at Rs 50 per kg through these centres. She instructed them that each rice card holder should be allowed to purchase only 26 kg of rice. Consumers must produce both their rice card and Aadhaar card while purchasing rice.

Plea to protect farmers from drought threat

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Kisan Congress has urged the State government to take immediate measures to protect farmers from the looming drought threat, warning that deficient rainfall caused by El Niño conditions could severely impact agriculture across the State. The demand was made at the Andhra Pradesh Kisan Congress State Executive Committee meeting held at Andhra Ratna Bhavan in Vijayawada on Thursday under the chairmanship of State Kisan Congress Chairman Kamana Prabhakara Rao.

The committee also demanded free fodder supply in drought-prone districts, adequate availability of urea and DAP through Rythu Seva Kendras without app-based restrictions, a minimum procurement price of Rs 300 per kg for tobacco along with a Rs 1,000 crore Price Stabilisation Fund. It further sought procurement of tomatoes at Rs 30 per kg, establishment of



AP Kisan Congress State Chairman Kamana Prabhakara Rao addressing the State Executive Committee meeting at Andhra Ratna Bhavan on Thursday

tomato processing units and cold storage facilities, subsidised power and remunerative prices for aqua farmers, and a procurement price of Rs 10 per kg for papaya backed by a Rs 5,000 crore Price Stabilisation Fund. APCC Vice-President (Administration) Kolanukonda Shivaji, who attended as the chief guest, called upon the Kisan Congress to intensify its fight for farmers’ rights and assured the farming community of the Congress party’s continued support.