

AP ranks fifth nationally in crop insurance enrolment

- Anantapur, Kurnool and Sri Sathya Sai lead State in insured area
- Paddy insurance deadline extended to Aug 31
- Agriculture dept targets 100% coverage of cultivated area

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VIJAYAWADA

ANANTAPUR, Kurnool and Sri Sathya Sai districts have emerged as the top three districts in the state in terms of area covered under crop insurance during Kharif 2026, even as the State government extended the deadline for paddy crop insurance enrolment to August 31.

Director of agriculture Dr Manazir Jeelani Samoon appealed to all paddy farmers to utilise the extended deadline and ensure 100% insurance coverage. The extension was proactively sought by the State government and received a positive response from the Centre in the interest of farmers.

He said Andhra Pradesh has secured fifth position nationally in terms of crop insurance enrolment, reflecting the improved response from farmers this year. He noted that both the number of applications and the area covered under



crop insurance schemes had increased substantially compared with the previous year. According to the latest data as of 2 pm on Thursday, a total of 16.15 lakh hectares has been covered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the Restructured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) across the State.

Anantapur tops the list with 3,66,802 hectares, comprising 2,03,062 hectares under PMFBY and 1,63,740 hectares under RWBCIS. Kurnool stands second with 3,31,059 hectares, including 1,70,263 hectares under PMFBY and 1,60,796 hectares under RWBCIS. Sri Sathya Sai is third with 2,31,082 hectares, of which 58,845 hectares is under PMFBY and 1,72,237 hectares under RWBCIS. Among other districts, Nandyal recorded 99,702 hectares, followed

by Prakasam with 84,544 hectares and YSR district with 83,548 hectares. Srikakulam covered 74,123 hectares, while Palnadu and Vizianagaram recorded 56,018 and 32,805 hectares respectively.

In the coastal belt, West Godavari recorded 32,533 hectares, Krishna 29,078 hectares and NTR district 28,324 hectares. Anakapalli covered 35,411 hectares, while Annamayya recorded 21,309 hectares.

Agriculture director Dr Samoon said relatively lower coverage was recorded in districts such as Kakinada (17,261 hectares), Guntur (9,736), Eluru (9,355), Bapatla (9,320), East Godavari (9,032), Vizianagaram (32,805), Manyam (7,686), Chittoor (4,726), ASR (4,602), Tirupati (3,990) and SPSR Nellore (908). Visakhapatnam recorded the lowest coverage at 700

Atchanna urges farmers to enrol in crop insurance before month-end

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AMARAVATI

AGRICULTURE minister K Atchannaidu has urged farmers to enrol in the crop insurance scheme before the month-end deadline, cautioning that El Nino could lead to rainfall deficits and erratic weather, increasing the risk of crop losses.

Speaking in the Assembly, the minister said unpredictable weather conditions made crop insurance an essential financial safeguard against natural calamities and inadequate rainfall. He appealed to farmers not to wait until the last day to complete registration.

Atchannaidu said farmers bear only a small portion of the insurance premium, with the amount varying according to the crop and region. The Centre and State governments bear the remaining premium burden, he said, urging farmers to make use of the scheme by paying the



nominal premium.

The minister called on MLAs to take personal responsibility for increasing insurance coverage in their constituencies rather than leaving the task entirely to the agriculture department.

He asked legislators to convene meetings with farmers and coordinate with agriculture department officials and staff at Rythu Seva Kendralu to ensure that all eligible farmers are enrolled.

With the registration window closing at the end of August, Atchannaidu stressed that farmers should act immediately and secure insurance protection against possible crop losses caused by adverse weather.

hectares, he added.

Dr Samoon directed agriculture department field staff to intensify awareness campaigns and work towards achieving 100 per cent coverage. He advised

farmers to contact their local Agriculture Officers or concerned insurance companies regarding district-specific enrolment deadlines for crops other than paddy.



NTR District Ganesh Utsav Samithi representatives submitting a memorandum to Police Commissioner SV Rajasekar Babu seeking single-window permissions and necessary arrangements for the upcoming Ganesh chaturthi and Navaratri celebrations in Vijayawada on Thursday

Ganesh utsav organisers seek single-window clearance

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VIJAYAWADA

THE NTR District Ganesh Utsav Samithi has appealed to the police and municipal authorities to facilitate permissions for Ganesh pandal organisers through a single-window system during the forthcoming Ganesh Chaturthi and Navaratri celebrations, commencing on September 14.

A delegation of the Samithi met NTR District Police Commissioner SV Rajasekar Babu and Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner HM Dhyanaachandra separately on Thursday and submitted memoranda seeking hassle-free permissions and necessary support for the celebrations.

The delegation comprised Samithi president P Trimurthi Raju, secretary Sana Srinivas, Vijayawada Mahanagar president Yanduri Kishore, district

office secretary GVS Ramana Murthy and city secretary Vasa Pallapuraju.

They sought arrangements for sanitation, health services, security and clearance of immersion procession routes. They also requested permissions for sound systems and electricity connections for the pandals. They sought adequate security at immersion points along the Krishna River, Polavaram Right Main Canal and various tanks in NTR district. The Samithi also appealed to the authorities to provide cranes and other necessary facilities for the smooth immersion of idols.

The delegation urged the police and municipal authorities to convene a coordination meeting with representatives of the Samithi and other concerned departments to finalise arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Ganesh immersion Shobhayatra in Vijayawada.

Massive search underway for 7 missing fishermen

- Minister for fisheries Atchannaidu says two Dornier aircraft, a helicopter and seven Navy-Coast Guard boats are searching the Bay of Bengal
- The fishermen's boat reportedly met with an accident 12 nautical miles off the coast
- Officials are coordinating round-the-clock efforts and have assured families the search will continue until they are found

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AMARAVATI

A massive search operation was underway in the Bay of Bengal for seven fishermen from Andhra Pradesh who had set out to sea earlier this month, officials said on Thursday.

Agriculture minister K Atchannaidu said the search operation involves two Dornier aircraft, a helicopter, and seven boats of the Navy and the Coast Guard.

He said Navy boats were deployed for extensive search from Visakhapatnam towards Paradip. A Navy vessel is also searching towards the port area.

Dornier aircraft from Visakhapatnam, Kolkata, and Chennai were engaged in the search operation.

A Navy helicopter from Kolkata has also been pressed into service.

The minister said continuous search sorties were on in potential areas. "We are using all available resources to search for the missing fishermen with constant coordination between the Navy, Coast Guard, and the Fisheries Department," he said. He reiterated that the search will continue until the fishermen are brought back safely.

The minister said that the government understands the anxiety of the fishermen's families and hopes for their safe return.

Earlier, minister for home and disaster management V Anitha directed officials to intensify search operations for the missing

fishermen belonging to Dr B R Ambedkar Konaseema district.

Officials informed the minister that the boat met with an accident about 12 nautical miles off the coast.

Appanna, one of the eight fishermen, went missing following the accident. The minister enquired about the condition of the other fishermen.

According to an official release, the home minister said that all available resources must be utilised to locate the missing Appanna safely and reunite him with his family.

Anitha said that greater vigilance is required for the safety of fishermen venturing out to sea.

Stating that search operations are being constantly monitored, she assured that the government stands by the families of the missing fishermen.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday reviewed the search operations. He directed officials to intensify search operations to trace the missing fishermen.

fishermen managed to reach the Visakhapatnam coast safely and alerted the authorities about the incident.

Acting swiftly on the information, a search and rescue (SAR) operation was launched on the directions of District Collector M Abhishikth Kishore. A boat from the Coast Guard and a private boat were deployed to search for and trace the missing fisherman.

Visakhapatnam Revenue Divisional Officer Dileep Chakravathy is closely monitoring the search and rescue efforts and reviewing the operations periodically. Officials and rescue teams are continuing their efforts to trace Appanna and bring him back safely.

Date extended for journalism course

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GUNTUR

CR Media Academy and Acharya Nagarjuna University have extended the last date for applications to their jointly offered 'Diploma Course in Journalism' till September 5, according to academy chairman Alapati Suresh Kumar. In a statement, he said the decision was taken in view of the demand and enquiries from various sections and following requests from journalists' unions and journalists. He said the applicants would have to pay the course fee by Demand Draft drawn in favour of Secretary, CR Media Academy from any nationalised bank. The fee is Rs 2,000 for journalists and Rs 2,500 for other candidates. Intermediate pass has been fixed as the eligibility for journalists and degree pass for other candidates who have aptitude for journalism.

Search and rescue operation continue for missing fisherman

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VISAKHAPATNAM

THE district administration has intensified its search and rescue operations for a 45-year-old fisherman who went missing after accidentally falling into the sea off the Visakhapatnam coast on Wednesday.

According to officials, the fishing boat carrying a crew of eight had set out from Visakhapatnam on August 16 and was returning to the coast on August 20 when the incident occurred around 12.15 pm.

Appanna, a fisherman from Peda Jalaripeta, reportedly slipped into the sea about 11 nautical miles off the Visakhapatnam coast and was swept away. The rest of the seven

GenAI workshop concludes



PB Siddhartha College Principal Dr Meka Ramesh, Director V Babu Rao, Department Head Dr Udaya Sri Kompalli and industry trainers Praneeth and Bhuvan with students in Vijayawada on Thursday

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A three-day intensive workshop and hackathon on Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI), organised by the Department of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence of Parvathaneni Brahmayya Siddhartha College of Arts & Science, concluded here on Thursday. The programme was conducted from August 18 to 20 in collaboration with Brainovision Solutions India Pvt Ltd for students pursuing B Sc Honours in Artificial Intelligence, Data Science and Data Analytics, and M Sc Data Science. Around 120 students participated in the programme.

The workshop received an encouraging response, with students actively participating in the technical sessions and hackathon activities. Department Head Dr Kompalli Udaya Sri coordinated the programme. Industry trainers Praneeth and Bhuvan conducted the sessions, providing students with hands-on exposure to Generative AI, its applications and emerging industry technologies.

College Principal Dr Meka Ramesh appreciated the Department of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence for organising programmes aimed at familiarising students with rapidly evolving technologies.

Director V Babu Rao said exposure to emerging technologies such as Generative AI would help students transform theoretical knowledge into practical solutions.

Dean Prof Rajesh C Jampala stressed the importance of experiential learning and hackathons in developing creativity, problem-solving abilities and innovation among students.

Dr Kompalli Udaya Sri said the programme aimed to provide students with practical exposure to advanced technologies in Generative AI and encourage them to develop innovative solutions using the technology.



NTR district collector Dr G Lakshmisha inspecting the New Government General Hospital in Vijayawada on Thursday

Collector inspects new GGH

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VIJAYAWADA

NTR district collector Dr G Lakshmisha conducted a surprise inspection of the New Government General Hospital (New GGH) here on Thursday night and reviewed the medical services being provided to patients.

The collector inspected the emergency treatment department and enquired about the availability of doctors, nursing staff and other personnel, besides the facilities being provided to patients and their attendants.

He stressed that providing timely treatment

to every patient visiting the hospital should be the primary responsibility of the hospital authorities.

Dr Lakshmisha directed doctors, nursing staff and other employees to work in coordination to ensure immediate medical attention for patients arriving at the hospital in emergency conditions. He also reviewed the seating arrangements and other facilities available in waiting areas for patients and their attendants.

Hospital Superintendent Dr Raghunandan and Dr J Suman, District Coordinator of Dr NTR Vaidya Seva, accompanied the Collector.

Speed up land pooling, Collector tells officials

GUNTUR : District collector CM Saikant Varma directed officials to speed up the second phase of CRDA land pooling process. He directed the officials to create awareness among farmers about the process. He reviewed the land pooling process at the CRDA office on Thursday. He said that it was essential to complete the pooling of notified lands and directed officials to educate farmers about the need for land pooling and its benefits.

AP CRDA additional commissioner A Bhargav Teja, Guntur district joint collector Ashutosh Srivastava, Guntur RDO K Srinivasa Rao, Tenali RDO K Sriramani, CRDA officials were among those who participated.

61st All India Railway Ball Badminton Championship commences

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VISAKHAPATNAM

WITH eight teams competing, the 61st All India Railway Ball Badminton Championship commenced at the Railway Ball Badminton Courts in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. The inaugural ceremony was organised by the South Coast Railway Sports Association (SCORSA), Visakhapatnam Division, while the championship will continue till August 22nd. Eight teams representing different zonal railways of Indian Railways are participating in the tournament.



President of South Coast Railway Sports Association (SCORSA) and DRM Lalit Bohra inaugurating Ball Badminton Championship in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

The inaugural ceremony was attended by P Hariprasad, president of South Coast Railway Sports Association

(SCORSA), South Coast Railway, as chief guest. The ceremony was presided over by Lalit Bohra, DRM, South Coast Railway, Visakhapatnam division. The three-day championship provides a vibrant platform for railway sportspersons from across the country to showcase their talent, competitive spirit and sporting excellence.

The event reflects the commitment of Indian Railways and South Coast Railway toward promoting sports, fitness, teamwork and a healthy competitive spirit among railway employees.

The championship will conclude on August 22nd.

He urged the TDP, Jana Sena and BJP, which are part of the NDA government at the Centre, to exert pressure on the Union government to bring about the required constitutional amendment.

He said political parties should stop trading allegations and instead work together to secure the amendment. Srinivasa Rao warned that announcing reservations without ensuring their legal implementation would amount to misleading BCs. He also urged the State government to take precautionary measures based on the Mishra Commission's recommendations to avoid legal complications. He cautioned that using reservations merely for publicity would invite public resentment.