

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
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, Konaseema 31,685 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 (9,302), East Godavari (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 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.

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
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.

Govt initiatives help boost Junior College admissions

- In Tirupati district, overall junior college admissions rose from 4,942 to 5,442, an increase of 500 students
- Schemes such as midday meals, Vidyarthi Mitra and SANKALP study material are helping increase students' preference for govt junior colleges

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI
TIRUPATI

THE growing number of students choosing government junior colleges has pushed admissions in the sector up by 10 per cent in Tirupati district this academic year. The number of students admitted to government junior colleges increased from 2,642 in 2025-26 to 2,910 in 2026-27, a rise of 268 students.

Overall admissions in junior colleges across the district have also increased from 4,942 last academic year to 5,442 this year. The number of students has gone up by 500 and admissions are still continuing. The number of colleges has increased from 74 to 76 during the same period.

Of the total 5,442 admissions, 119 students joined APRJC colleges, 2,910 government junior colleges, 598 High School Plus



Picture for representational purpose only

institutions, 281 KGBVs, 72 MJ PAP institutions, 555 Model Schools, 574 Social Welfare institutions and 333 Tribal Welfare institutions.

Officials attributed the increase in admissions in government junior colleges to several initiatives taken by the State government and the Department of Intermediate Education to provide better support and improve the learning environment for students.

Regional inspection officer (RIO) Dr D Gopal Reddy said free meals have been provided to students in government sector junior colleges under the Dokka Seethamma Midday Meals Scheme since January 2025. The initiative is aimed at supporting students and encouraging them to continue their education.

Under the Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vidyarthi Mitra Scheme, students in government junior colleges have been receiving free textbooks, notebooks and records since the 2024-25 academic year.

The department is also providing SANKALP study material to average-performing students to give them additional academic

support. The programme focuses on improving examination performance through remedial schedules, special study hours and student categorisation.

Dr Gopal Reddy said the initiatives were aimed at improving both enrolment and academic performance. The rise in admissions in government junior colleges showed the response to the measures taken by the department, he said. AP Government Junior Lecturers Association president V Ravi said improvement in infrastructure was also playing a role in attracting more students to government junior colleges. The installation of Interactive Flat Panel boards in classrooms had improved the teaching-learning process.

The provision of midday meals has helped students avoid going home for lunch, improving attendance and allowing them to spend more time in classes, which in turn is supporting their studies.

The improvement in pass percentages in government junior colleges was another factor encouraging students to opt for government institutions, he felt.

CPM opposes direct elections to local body top posts

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

CPM state committee opposed the proposed direct election of mayors and chairpersons in the forthcoming local body elections, arguing that the system would weaken grassroots democracy and

undermine the role of elected representatives.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, party state secretary V Srinivasa Rao said direct elections would diminish the importance of corporators, councillors, MPTCs and ZPTCs, who are directly connected with the people.

He said concentrating power in the hands of mayors and chairpersons would go against the spirit of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments and weaken democratic decentralisation.

He demanded that the existing system be continued. Meanwhile, Srinivasa Rao welcomed the state government's decision to provide 34 per cent reservation for Backward Classes (BCs), but said the move could be effectively implemented only by removing the 50 per cent ceiling on reservations. He said the Mishra Commission had also highlighted the issue and demanded

that Parliament amend the Constitution to facilitate implementation of the BC quota without legal hurdles.

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.

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

HANS NEWS SERVICE
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 continu-

ous 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 widened the search operations. He directed officials to intensify search operations to trace the missing fishermen.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

OFFICE OF THE REVENUE DIVISIONAL OFFICER, NELLORE & COMPETENT AUTHORITY FOR LAND ACQUISITION

Rc.B.(L.A)/1636/2025

Dt: 12.08.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
UNDER SECTION 3G (3) & (4) OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY ACT 1956

Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Department of Road Transport and Highways numbers S.O.920(E) of New Delhi, dated, 19.02.2026 published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3, Sub-section (II) issued under Sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/Two lane with paved shoulder), maintenance management and operation of Newly Proposed for Construction of 6 lane Vehicle Under Pass (VUP) on NH-16 at Chintareddyapalem Junction at KM. 1374+945 along with service road in the stretch of land from KM. 1374+155 to KM 1376+275 of NH-16 (Old NH-5) Nellore Bypass of Nellore Bit-II of Nellore Rural Mandal in the District of SPS Nellore in the State of Adhra Pradesh has been acquired in excise of powers conferred by Sub-section (1) of Section 3D of the National Highway Act 1956 (48 of 1956) and published in the Government of India Gazette vide S.O.No.4443(E), dt.07.08.2026. Extraordinary Part-II section 3-Sub-Section-II.

In pursuance of sub-section 2 of section 3D of the Act, the Central Government declares that the lands specified in the said schedule Annexed here to shall vest absolutely in the Central Government free from all encumbrances from the date of publication of 3D (1) Notification in official Gazette of India.

All the persons interested/Land owners in the land specified in the following schedules shall appear in person or by agent, or by legal practitioner before the Competent Authority and Revenue Divisional Officer, Nellore for the public purpose for Acquisition of lands for Newly Proposed for Construction of 6 lane Vehicle Under Pass (VUP) on NH-16 at Chintareddyapalem Junction at KM. 1374+945 along with service road in the stretch of land from KM. 1374+155 to KM 1376+275 of NH-16 (Old NH-5) Nellore Bypass of Nellore Bit-II of Nellore Rural Mandal in the District of SPS Nellore in the State of Andhra Pradesh of the dates, place and time specified below and submit claims and state nature of the representation interest on such lands with relevant records as detailed below.

(1) E.C. of the last 13 years, (2) Sales practitioner deed of title in original, (3) Pattadar pass books / title deeds, (4) For buildings approved plans and tax assessment and tax paid receipts, (5) Mutation extracts, (6) Conversions proceedings, (7) Receipts for having paid developmental charges, (8) Approved layout plan, (9) 1B extract from the Tahsildar, (10) Original DKT Patta, (11) Aadhar Card, (12) Extract of Bank Account Passbook and (13) Pan Card.

If anybody fails to submit claims and produces the documents at below mention officer within the stipulated time the compensation will be determined with reference to the available records in this office.

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Name of the Mandal	Name of the Village	Date	Time	Venue for receiving applications and documents
1	Sri Potti Srimamulu Nellore	Nellore Rural	Nellore Bit-II	01.09.2026	at 11:00A.M	O/o Tahsildar, Nellore Rural Mandal



District : SPS Nellore
Gazette ID : CG-DL-E-11082026-275373
Publication Date : 21.08.2026
Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h7Dkq_9qpxA40x7GYTmMeUfcE4VKDeBU/view?usp=sharing
Competent Authority for,
Land Acquisition & Revenue Divisional Officer, Nellore

Spl survey to contain coffee berry borer

DEEKSHITULA SUBRAHMANYAM
ARAKU VALLEY (ASR DISTRICT)

THE Alluri Sitarama Raju district administration has drawn up a field-level action plan to check the spread of coffee berry borer, a pest that can cause serious damage to coffee plantations. As part of this action plan a special survey planned across 35 tribal villages covering nearly 2,500 acres. This aims to protect the interests of coffee growers in the agency area and minimise the impact of coffee berry borer on production and bean quality.

District collector T Nishanthi has directed officials to identify the pest in its early stages and take scientific control measures to protect growers from crop losses. She reviewed the situation with Horticulture and Agriculture departments, DRDA, Coffee Project, APCNF, and Coffee Board, and discussed the field survey, and measures to contain the pest.

The survey will cover selected coffee plantations in Araku Valley and Dumbbriguda mandals. Fifty teams have been formed for the exercise, with each team comprising a coffee liaison worker, an ICRP and a VOA. Each team has been assigned a target of surveying 20 acres a day, and the exercise scheduled to continue for four days. The teams have been instructed to inspect plantations and record the presence and intensity of coffee berry borer, the affected area and other relevant details. The



Farmers and field staff participating in a training programme on identification of coffee berry borer signs and its control measures in coffee plantations

Collector directed officials to identify pest hotspots and give them priority while taking up control measures. Based on the survey findings, Broca traps, lures and Beauveria bassiana will be made available in areas where they are required. Officials said Broca traps would help attract the pest and detect its presence as well as assess its intensity. Training was given to farmers and field staff on installing the traps, using lures and preparing traps manually.

The district administration is also promoting biological control methods. Coffee AD Ayanti explained the use of Beauveria bassiana to farmers and field staff and imparted training on its application in coffee plantations.

DRDA Project Director Jayakrishna said coordinated efforts by all departments were necessary to tackle the pest problem effectively. Officials from the Horticulture and Agriculture departments, DRDA,

Coffee Project, APCNF and Coffee Board have been asked to deploy their field staff and work together during the survey and subsequent control operations. The survey teams were trained before being sent to the field. The training covered identification of coffee berry borer symptoms, detection of affected berries, assessment of pest intensity and systematic recording of field observations. Following the awareness programme, officials and the survey teams visited coffee plantations at Doravalasa village under Chinhalabudu panchayat for a field demonstration.

The Collector stressed the need to keep coffee growers involved in the control programme. Farmers will be sensitised on early symptoms, preventive measures, use of traps and biological control methods. They will also be advised to immediately inform field staff of infestation in their plantations.

Special drive against rule-violating private buses



As part of the special drive, Motor Vehicle inspectors examining the buses in Visakhapatnam

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

THE transport department intensified enforcement against private Contract Carriage (CC) buses for violating motor vehicle regulations. Conducting a special inspection drive across the city, the transport department officials registered cases against 48 private bus operators for various violations. A total penalty of Rs.5,24,600 was imposed on the violators. During the three-day inspection drive, the cases were booked for operating without valid permits, violating permit conditions, non-payment of applicable taxes, non-functional emergency doors and other violations of motor vehicle laws and road-safety regulations. Transport department officials informed that the inspections would continue as part of the department's efforts to ensure passenger safety and strict compliance with road transport regulations.