

Cotton procurement: Tummala asks officials to ensure MSP for farmers

Says remunerative prices for cotton farmers, avoiding delays in procurement and taking timely measures are among the government's priorities of government

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

AGRICULTURE Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has directed officials to open cotton procurement centres for the 2026-27 kharif marketing season on the lines of the previous year and ensure that farmers receive the minimum support price (MSP) for their produce.

During a review meeting with Marketing department officials at the Secretariat on Thursday, the Minister reviewed cotton cultivation and production estimates, prevailing market prices, procurement arrangements



by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and facilities being provided to farmers.

Nageswara Rao said ensuring remunerative prices for cotton farmers, avoiding delays in procurement and taking timely measures in line with prevailing market conditions were among the government's priorities.

Officials informed the Minister that cotton had been cultivated on 48.20 lakh acres across Telangana during the current kharif season, with production estimated at 29.43 lakh metric tonnes. In the previous season, cotton was cultivated on 50.73 lakh acres, yielding 28.33 lakh

metric tonnes. Expressing concern over the possibility of a decline in cotton production due to adverse weather conditions, including the impact of El Niño across the country, the Minister stressed the need for efficient management of the procurement process in the State.

The Union government has fixed the MSP for cotton at Rs. 8,667 per quintal for the 2026-27 kharif marketing season. Officials informed the Minister that the prevailing model market price of cotton in Telangana was around Rs. 9,000 per quintal, which was Rs. 333 higher than the MSP.

FMG DOCTORS PROTESTING FOR STIPEND ARRESTED

These doctors, who completed their MBBS degrees abroad, are seeking a monthly stipend of Rs 29,792 like other MBBS doctors in the state

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

SEVERAL Foreign Medical Graduates (FMG) doctors were arrested by the police while they were protesting against the disparity in the payment of stipend. After 15 days of silent protest, they protested at the DME office on Thursday.

The Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs) were protesting at the office of the Directorate of Medical Education (DME) at Koti. These doctors, who completed their MBBS degrees abroad, are demanding a monthly stipend of Rs 29,792 like other MBBS doctors in the state. They allege that some of them were currently receiving only Rs. 5,000 per month. The doctors, who have been protesting since October 8, were also urging the government to release their pending dues. The doctors said that despite Supreme

Court orders to provide Rs 29,792 per month, the government was providing only Rs 5,000. The doctors raised slogans stating 'equal work equal pay', 'We want justice' etc. The doctors alleged that when questioned about the stipend they were threatened to cancel the internships.

The doctors alleged that while they were taking up peaceful protest, the police took them into custody and took them to various parts of the city not informing them where they were taking them.

Meanwhile, several doctors associations have condemned the arrests of the doctors. The Healthcare Reforms Doctors Association (HRDA), Telangana, the Resident Doctors Association, the Telangana Junior Doctors Associations have strongly condemned the detention of FMGs who are 'peacefully protesting' within the premises to raise their genuine demands. "We



demand that the police immediately release all detained FMG interns without registering any cases against them. India is a democratic

country, where every citizen has the right to raise genuine concerns and seek justice through peaceful protest. Detention, intimidation, and

threats must not be used to silence the legitimate voices of doctors who are fighting for their rightful demands," the HRDA has said.

Burglars strike in Huzurnagar, steal 20 tola gold, 1kg silver

HUZURNAGAR: A major burglary incident has sparked tension in the town of Suryapet district. According to reports, thieves broke into a house located in the street behind Srinivasa Theater. Noticing that the homeowners had gone out of town, the thieves reportedly smashed the house locks, gained entry, and committed the theft. The homeowners claim that approximately 20 tolas of gold and one kilogram of silver were stolen. Upon receiving the information, the police reached the spot and initiated an investigation. They are gathering details about the manner in which the theft took place and are probing the matter further. The burglary has created a stir among the locals in Huzurnagar town.



Singireddy accepts Jupally's challenge on Narlapur reservoir

HANS NEWS SERVICE
WANAPARTHY

FORMER Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy, accompanied by former MLA Beeram Harshavardhan Reddy, inspected the obstructing embankment near Kudikilla while visiting the Narlapur reservoir on Thursday. Responding to the challenge posed on Wednesday by Minister Jupally Krishna Rao—who asked BRS leaders to explain how water could be moved downstream from the Narlapur reservoir—Singireddy examined the embankment. He advised the government that by applying technical expertise and removing the obstruction, specifically the portion blocking the capacity equivalent to two pumps, water could be channelled via gravity to the Edula, Vattem and Karvena reservoirs.

"If you are incapable of doing it yourself, issue a GO and award the contract through nomination. We will oversee the removal of the embankment, ensure water is transported, and fill the

reservoirs," he stated. Reddy criticised the government for stalling the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme for the past three years, citing flimsy excuses and causing immense hardship to farmers.

He pointed out that if all 10 pumps at Narlapur are operated simultaneously, 26,000 cusecs would flow through the canal. Since only two pumps are operational, removing just a quarter of earth from the 'thundu katta' would allow water to reach the reservoirs via gravity. He demanded the removal of this barrier.

Reddy told Jupally 'we accept your challenge; offer this advice; please implement it; we will ensure water is transported from Narlapur to fill the reservoirs.

Jupally had advised the BRS leaders to stop sarcastic remarks and instead focus on how to provide water to farmers. Accompanying him were party activists Gattu Yadav, Lakshma Reddy, Jagadeeshwar Reddy, Nandimalla Ashok, Narendra Reddy, and others.

Halt mining operations in village immediately, CPI tells govt

HANS NEWS SERVICE
DEVARAKONDA
(NALGONDA)

CPI has demanded immediate halt to the mining operations in Kacharam village under Devarkonda malldal as it is adversely affecting the environment and causing health issues to villagers.

CPI district secretary and MLC Nellikanti Satyam said residents of Kacharam village are facing severe hardships due to mining operations. The villagers were reportedly suffering from health problems, losing crops and even dying from respiratory diseases. He demanded that mining activities be stopped immediately. Satyam alleged that mining companies had obtained illegal permissions through a fraudulent public hearing and were endangering people's lives while causing extensive environmental destruction.

A CPI delegation led by



Villagers are reportedly suffering from health problems, losing crops and even dying from respiratory diseases

Nellikanti Satyam, along with CPI state executive committee member Palla Narasimha Reddy, district assistant secretary Palla Devender Reddy and district executive committee member Thoom Buchchi Reddy, expressed solidarity with the villagers who were observing their 11th day of protest at Kacharam. During their interaction

with the protesters, the leaders enquired about the difficulties caused by the mining operations. They alleged that the company had lured villagers with promises of comprehensive development for Kacharam and employment opportunities for local unemployed youth.

The CPI leaders further alleged that villagers had opposed the mining project

during the public hearing conducted in connection with the proceedings before the National Green Tribunal, but the company had allegedly arranged for a group of people to present a false public opinion in favour of the project and continued its mining activities. They warned that the alleged illegal mining operations must be stopped immediately and demanded that the authorities take urgent action to protect the lives and livelihoods of Kacharam residents.

MLC polls: KTR appoints constituency in-charges for six districts

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE BRS party appointed special in-charges for two upcoming Graduate MLC elections across six Telangana districts on Thursday. Working President KT Rama Rao announced the appointments following a strategic review meeting held at Telangana Bhavan. Tasked with coordinating local leaders and party cadres, the designated in-charges will spearhead election strategies in their respective segments.

For the Rangareddy-Hyderabad-Mahabubnagar constituency, Rangareddy district in-charges include R Lakshma Reddy, N Sridhar, K Naveen Rao, G Nagesh, G Mahender Reddy, Swamy Goud, Nagesh Mudhiraj, Vani Devi, R Sridhar Reddy, Shambhipur Raju, Rambabu Yadav, MN Srinivas, Gattu Ramchandar Rao, and Viplay Kumar.

In Hyderabad district, appointed in-charges comprise Venkat Reddy, Koleti Da-

modar Gupta, Dasaju Sravan, Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, G Srinivas Yadav, MD Saleem, Manne Krishank, Shaik Abdullah Sohail, Inayat Ali Baqri, Goundla Nagen-Gour, Ali Bin Ibrahim Masqati, Shaheen Afrose, Arshad Ali Khan, and Md Azam Ali across various Assembly segments.

For Mahabubnagar district, the assigned constituency in-charges are Naveen Kumar Reddy, Rajiv Saga, Valya Naik, Palvai Sravanthi, Palle Ravi Kumar, Md Imtiyaz Ishaq, Anjaneya Goud, Challa Venkatarami Reddy, Jahangir, Shubhpradth Patel Nooli, Rajini Sai Chand, Bykani Srinivas Yadav, and Allipuram Venkateshwar Reddy.

The appointees have been instructed to mobilize graduate voters, streamline ground operations, and ensure coordinated campaign execution across all designated segments in preparation for the upcoming Graduates constituency polling.

Two injured as drunken driver hits car

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HYDERABAD: Two persons suffered serious injuries after a speeding Fortuner rammed their car and subsequently crashed into an electrical pole at Peerzadiguda under Medipally police limits on Thursday. Traffic movement stalled briefly near pillar 57 of the Uppal-Narapally flyover following the collision. Police stated that Sai Shiva, 30, and his wife Meghana, 28, were travelling in an i10 car from LB Nagar to Narsampet in Warangal district when the SUV struck them from behind. The injured couple were rushed to a private hospital in Chaitanyapuri.

The Fortuner driver, identified as Akun Sabharwal, was intoxicated while operating the vehicle, which fitted a tampered number plate. Medipally police registered a case against driver Akun Sabharwal and car owner Mangilal for allowing an unlicensed, drunk individual to drive.

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