

DROUGHT DEFIED

Nellore farmer beats dry spell with natural farming

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

EVEN after four months without significant rainfall and with no irrigation facility, a farmer in Nellore district has demonstrated how natural farming practices can help sustain crops and generate income under challenging climatic conditions.

Forty four-year-old farmer E Srinivasulu from Mahimaluru village in Atmakur mandal has relied on Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowing (PMDS), crop diversification, soil-cover management and bund plantations to build resilience against prolonged dry spells associated with El Niño conditions.

Srinivasulu's journey into natural farming began in 2017 after years of struggling with rising input costs and uncertain returns from chemical farming. Introduced to the approach by community resource person Venkatarami Reddy, he initially experimented on

- **Sows 25 crop varieties using Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowing, surviving a 4-month drought with only 12 mm of rain**

- **Earns over Rs 20,000 in net returns from just 0.30 acres of field crops and fruit-bearing bund plantations**

- **Keeps soil temperatures at a cool 31.88°C, over 20°C lower than neighboring conventional and barren fields**

50 cents of land, harvesting 540 kg of paddy. Encouraged by the results, he expanded the practices and later became an internal community resource person to guide



E Srinivasulu from Mahimaluru village in Atmakur mandal succeeds to overcome to the impact of El Nino by adapting natural farming method

other farmers. For the past eight years, he has adopted PMDS to make effective use of available soil moisture. On April 18 and 19, 2026, he sowed 25 crop varieties on 0.30 acres using pelletised seeds and applied 150 kg of Ghanajeevamrutham. The major crops included indigo, vempali, dhaincha, sunhemp and red gram.

The field received just 12 mm of rainfall on May 31,

with no subsequent rainfall or irrigation during the reported dry spell. Despite the conditions, the diversified farm continued to provide produce and fodder, while additional returns from standing crops were expected. His six-foot-wide bunds, planted with mango, banana, amla, jamun, sapota, guava and drumstick, provide additional produce and income. The plantations also

contribute to biodiversity and act as barriers against hot winds.

Srinivasulu reported crop returns of approximately Rs 15,210 from the 0.30-acre plot. After deducting Rs 2,000 towards seeds and Ghanajeevamrutham, the estimated net income from field crops stood at Rs 13,210. Bund plantations generated an additional reported income of Rs 7,750, taking the combined reported and expected returns to around Rs 20,960.

Soil temperature readings were recorded at 31.88°C on his Natural Farming plot, compared with 55.80°C on barren land and 51.78°C on conventional farmland.

His experience highlights how crop diversity, soil cover, bio-inputs and bund plantations can help rainfed farmers manage climatic uncertainty, support livestock and household needs, and create multiple income streams despite limited water availability.

YSRCP seeks removal of DGP, Kurnool IG

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

YSRCP urged the State Election Commission (SEC) to remove the director general of police (DGP) and Kurnool Range DIG Koya Praveen from election-related duties, alleging partisan policing and failure to ensure free and fair local body elections.

In a representation submitted by party general secretary and MLC Lella Appi Reddy, the party sought an independent inquiry, disciplinary action if the allegations are proved, and deployment of neutral police officials. A copy was sent to the Election Commission of India.

The complaint follows the Supreme Court's October 21 order on alleged irregularities and violence during nominations. The court directed the SEC to consider extending nomination deadlines where candidates were prevented from filing papers and asked the DGP to ensure police protection and CCTV coverage at nomination centres.

The YSRCP alleged that these safeguards were not effectively implemented in several places, including Kadapa, Kurnool, Tirupati and Piduguralla. It claimed candidates were assaulted or obstructed and alleged that over 63.5 per cent of its candidates were prevented from filing nominations in 19 of the state's 100 Urban Local Bodies.

The party also alleged violations of police transfer norms and selective registration of cases against opposition workers. It urged the SEC to deploy neutral officers, appoint independent observers and strengthen security for the remaining local body elections.

MBBS Admissions

Injustice to BC, SC, ST students: YSRCP

K VARAPRASADA RAO
AMARAVATI

Dr Ambati Naga Radhakrishna Yadav, president of the YSRCP Doctors' Wing, has alleged that the software-based counselling process introduced from the second round of MBBS admissions in Andhra Pradesh is denying eligible BC, SC and ST students a fair opportunity to secure seats under the open competition category.

Radhakrishna called for an urgent audit of round-wise seat allotment data, candidates' preferences and the rules embedded in the software to establish whether the admission guidelines and GO Ms Nos 550 and 102 had been violated.

He said the government should immediately preserve all relevant counselling records to ensure that the process could be examined thoroughly. The inquiry findings should be made public, and any irregularities established during the investigation should be rectified, with appropriate relief provided to eligible students affected by them.

He further demanded strict legal action against those responsible if violations or deliberate manipulation of the counselling process were established. "Every day of delay risks further injustice to deserving students. The government must act immediately, fix accountability and ensure that no eligible BC, SC or ST student loses a rightful opportunity because of flaws in the counselling system," he said.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan

Old woman embarks on pan-India cycle rally



SRKR Engineering College Secretary and Correspondent Sagi Ramakrishna Nishanth Varma flagging off Indukuri Vijayalakshmi's Bhimavaram-to-Delhi cycle rally with the National Flag

MV SYAM SUNDAR
BHIMAVARAM

IN her senior years, eight-time international award winner Indukuri Vijayalakshmi has embarked on a 3,000-kilometer pan-India bicycle rally against drugs, aiming to transform educational institutions across the country into drug-free zones. The expedition, commencing from Bhimavaram and concluding in New Delhi on December 10, seeks to reach over 100,000 students to raise awareness about substance abuse under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan.

Before kicking off her journey, Vijayalakshmi paid tributes at Alluri Sitarama Raju Smriti Vanam and addressed students at SRKR Engineering College. The event was presided over by College Secretary & Correspondent Sagi Ramakrishna

Nishanth Varma.

Vijayalakshmi revealed that the tragedy of losing her husband to drug addiction fuelled her resolve. Turning her grief into purpose, she gathered support from leaders nationwide, acknowledging Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for gifting her a bicycle through the Sports Academy.

Nishanth Varma praised the 62-year-old's courage, calling her an inspiration and pledging the institution's full support. College Director Dr M Jagapathi Raju, Principal Dr KV Murali Krishnam Raju, social activist Cherukuvada Rangasai, and freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju's grandson, Alluri Rama Raju, were among the dignitaries present.

Following a felicitation by SRKR Engineering College, Nishanth Varma officially flagged off the historic rally.

Contrasting security at ZPTC, MPTC nomination centres

DASARI SRNIVASA RAO
VIJAYAWADA

THE contrasting security arrangements made by the police at the Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) and Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) nomination centres in Vijayawada have triggered a debate, with candidates and political leaders questioning the restrictions imposed on public movement near the Vijayawada Rural Mandal Parishad office.

The NTR district administration has set up the Returning Officer's office for the 16 ZPTC constituencies at the newly established Zilla Parishad meeting hall on the Panchayat Raj premises, adjacent to the Joint Collector's office on Mahatma Gandhi Road, popularly known as Bandar Road. As the newly constituted NTR district comprises 16 rural mandals, this is the first election to the NTR Zilla Parishad.



A peaceful atmosphere prevails at the Returning Officer's office for NTR Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency elections at the Zilla Parishad office on Bandar Road in Vijayawada on Thursday

At the ZPTC nomination centre, Suryaraopet police made security arrangements while allowing regular traffic to continue on Bandar Road, one of the city's busiest thoroughfares. Candidates arriving from different mandals with their supporters were provided space along the roadside for parking, while

supporters were allowed to wait on the footpath.

Despite the presence of several key government offices in the vicinity, including the Collectorate, Joint Collector's office, and the Engineer-in-Chief's office of the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development department, traffic movement on Bandar

Plastic-free drinking water planned for Pushkarams

DEEKSHITULA
SUBRAHMANYAM
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

STATE Pollution Control Board Chairman R Krishnaiah has directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan to provide safe drinking water to devotees attending the forthcoming Godavari Pushkarams while minimising the use of plastic. During a video conference held on Thursday with district officials and representatives of packaged drinking water industries, he reviewed arrangements for drinking water supply and measures to control plastic usage during the religious event.

East Godavari District Collector Kirti Chekuri and Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation Commissioner Rahul Meena participated in the meeting. The collector explained the proposed arrangements to meet the drinking water requirements of devotees. Kirti Chekuri said around 80 lakh devotees were expected to visit the district on peak days of the Pushkarams. Commissioner Rahul Meena said arrangements were being planned to provide at least three litres of drinking wa-



Collector Kirti Chekuri and Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation Commissioner Rahul Meena during the video conference of State Pollution Control Board Chairman R Krishnaiah

ter per devotee. Water points and water ATMs would be established in Pushkar cities, railway stations, bus stations and parking areas. Protected drinking water facilities would also be provided at every 500 metres along major pedestrian routes. The proposed arrangements include around 32,000 tap outlets and 3,000 water ATMs to meet the needs of devotees.

The collector stressed the need to prevent environmental pollution caused by water pouches, plastic cups and plates. She called for encouraging water refilling facilities and replacing plastic cups with steel or other

eco-friendly alternatives. The use of plastic plates and cups should also be avoided during Annadanam programmes, prasadam distribution and buttermilk distribution.

Pollution Control Board Chairman Krishnaiah suggested giving priority to refill stations where devotees could replenish their personal water bottles. Citing the measures adopted to control single use plastic at Tirumala, he called for similar efforts during the Godavari Pushkarams.

He asked the agencies concerned to come forward with environment friendly solutions for drinking water supply within two weeks.

Massive rush of Bhavani devotees



Bhavani devotees arriving at Sri Kanaka Durga temple atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Thursday

DASARI SRNIVASA RAO
VIJAYAWADA

THE number of devotees who have had darshan of Sri Kanaka Durga Devi at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada has reached 20 lakh, with the rush continuing even after the conclusion of the Dasara Sarannavaratri festivities on October 20.

Thousands of Bhavani devotees, dressed in red, have been thronging the temple over the past two days, filling the hill shrine and surrounding areas with chants of "Jai Bhavani". The rush is expected to continue until October 25 as devotees arrive to complete their Bhavani Deeksha rituals.

Temple Executive Officer VK Seena Naik said that around 14.84 lakh devotees had darshan of the presiding deity between October 11 and midnight on Octo-

ber 10. With the continued influx of Bhavani devotees on October 21 and 22, the cumulative number reached 20 lakh by night on Thursday. He said the number was expected to increase further.

The EO added that devotees who could not complete their Deeksha relinquishment rituals on Friday were expected to visit the temple on Saturday and Sunday.

The temple has sold 39.84 lakh laddus so far, with another 3.30 lakh laddus kept ready to meet the growing demand. Annadanam has been provided to 8.37 lakh devotees, while buttermilk has been distributed to 4.34 lakh people and 6.45 lakh biscuit packets supplied to pilgrims waiting in queues.

According to the EO, around 1.06 lakh devotees received outpatient medical services and emergency medicines at the medical facilities established on the hill.

SARAS MELA

Every Lakhpatri Didi has a success story: Collector

VIJAYAWADA: Every Lakhpatri Didi participating in the National SARAS Ajeevika Mela in Vijayawada has a success story to share, NTR District Collector Dr G Lakshminsha said on Thursday, describing the fair as a successful platform for rural women entrepreneurs.

The national-level exhibition, being held at Punnami Ghat, has been receiving an encouraging response from visitors over the past 10 days. Addressing a media conference at the venue, the Collector said the fair had recorded business transactions worth more than Rs 6 crore during this period.

He said it was a matter of pride that a national-level SARAS Mela was being organised outside Delhi and the National Capital Region for the first time, with the support of the Union and State governments. Since its inauguration by President Droupadi Murmu, the fair has attracted visitors in large numbers, he added.

The exhibition features products showcased by self-help group women entrepreneurs from various States and Union Territories. Around 600 stalls have been set up, offering a wide range of handloom products, handicrafts and other items.

The India Food Court has emerged as a major attraction, serving traditional cuisines from different parts of the country. SARAS Mela coordinator Kataria said the exhibition was being organised jointly by the Union Ministry of Rural Development and Andhra Pradesh SERP from October 13 to 31, with more than 1,500 rural women entrepreneurs participating.

REGIONAL OFFICE PUBLIC NOTICE				
ANANTAPUR. PH : 93216 23002				
The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts despite giving multiple notices. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before 25-11-2026 failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower as per Bank's procedure, without further notice, at the absolute discretion of the Bank.				
Sl No.	Date of Loan	Loan Number	Name and address of the borrower	Liability (Rs.)
ANANTAPUR SAI NAGAR BRANCH. Ph : 90320 05544				
1.	05-06-2025	164075583771	Chittamreddy Yugandhar Reddy, 12/5/385, Shivaji Nagar, Near A P H B Colony, Anantapur-515001	Rs. 1,96,535.6
GOOTY BRANCH. Ph : 96187 56746				
2.	23-06-2025	164079966644	C. Venkatesulu, 7/50, S S Palli, Gooty, Anantapur-515402	Rs. 1,48,660
LAKSHMANPALLI BRANCH. Ph : 79896 82906				
3.	20-06-2025	164079401292	Golla Latha, 2-77, Gollala Doddi, Setturu, Thippanapalli, Mulakaledu, Anantapur-515767	Rs. 48,570
4.	29-05-2026	164150091359	K. Nagamani, W/o Kuri Nurupada, Ward 5, Cherlopalli, Setturu, Kundurpi, Anantapur-515766	Rs. 70,077.3
MADAKASIRA BRANCH. Ph : 86604 37842				
5.	09-04-2026	164137724732	Chinna Poojari Dhanunjaya, D No. 3-76, Main Road, Haresamudram, Madakasira, Srisathya Sai-515301	Rs. 15,22,457.05
6.	13-05-2026	164146432067	D. Adivanna, D No 1-61/A, 1st ward, Zilladakunta, Yerrabommanahalli, Madakasira, Srisathya Sai-515301.	Rs. 13,58,871.35
7.	28-07-2025	180422047820	Dhanunjaya, 1-171, 1st Ward, Haresamudram, Madakasira, Srisathya Sai-515301	Rs. 15,22,697
8.	08-12-2025	180449632695	Golla Prakash, D No 17-13/A, Gollahatti, Madakasira, Srisathya Sai-515301.	Rs. 20,08,680
9.	29-01-2026	180460006420	D. Adivanna, D No 1-61/A, 1st ward, Zilladakunta, Yerrabommanahalli, Madakasira, Srisathya Sai-515301.	Rs. 13,58,871.35
10.	14-08-2025	180425860132	Dhanunjaya, 1-171, 1st Ward, Haresamudram, Madakasira, Srisathya Sai-515301	Rs. 15,22,697
11.	03-01-2026	180455121369	Lakshmananna Gari Pavankumar, S/o Lakshmananna, No.1-1, Hottebetta, Gudibanda, Srisathya Sai-515291.	Rs. 5,50,058.43
ROLLA BRANCH. Ph : 87622 62646				
12.	19-02-2026	164126740639	Lakshmananna Gari Pavankumar, S/o Lakshmananna, No.1-1, Hottebetta, Gudibanda, Srisathya Sai-515291.	Rs. 5,50,058.43
Date : 23.10.2026, Place : Anantapur Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank				