CYCLONES RAVAGE CROPS IN 4.61 LAKH HECTARES

- 5.23 lakh farmers hit by Cyclone Arnab; 1.86 lakh by Murasu.
- Crop losses estimated at Rs 3,209 crore.
- Agriculture minister Atchannaidu orders faster damage assessment to ensure farmer coverage

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AGRICULTURAL crops over 4,61,194 hectares were damaged due to recent cyclones 'Arnab' and 'Murasu' in Andhra Pradesh.

The cyclone also damaged horticultural crops across 29,960 hectares.

Agriculture minister K Atchannaidu reviewed the damage caused to agricultural and horticultural crops by the recent cyclones during a teleconference with senior officials on Tuesday morning.

Officials reported that, under the impact of Cyclone 'Arnab', crops over 3,27,843 hectares suffered damage in 15 districts, affecting 5,23,136 farmers. The damaged crop area was 30.05 per cent of the 10,90,933 hectares under cultivation in the affected districts. The officials estimated a production loss of 9,78,091 tonnes, resulting in a financial loss of Rs 2,392.84 crore.

In Dr B R Ambedkar Konaseema district alone, 99.19 per cent of the cultivated area was damaged, affecting 94,808 farmers and resulting in a financial loss of Rs 348.88 crore. The estimated requirements under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) are Rs 815.57 crore and Rs 714.96 crore, respectively.

Officials also reported that due to the impact of Cyclone 'Murasu', crops across 1,33,351 hectares were damaged across nine districts, affecting 186,269 farmers. The damaged crop area was 23.71 per cent of the total cultivated area of 5,62,445 hectares. The financial loss is estimated at Rs 816.53 crore, with a production loss of 3,38,302 tonnes. The estimated requirements under the SDRF and NDRF are Rs 321.64 crore and Rs 266.67 crore, respectively.

The officials also stated that due to Cyclone 'Arnab', 23,211.48 hectares of horticultural crops were damaged across 215 mandals and 1,310 villages in 15 districts, affecting 58,990 farmers.

Enumeration has been completed for 23,035.08 hectares (99.24 per cent) involving 58,630 farmers. The enumeration for the remaining 176.40 hectares, involving 360 farmers, is still pending. Out of the 15 districts, 14 have completed 100 per cent of the enumeration, while Krishna district has reached 86.67 per cent.

Officials reported that due to the impact of Cyclone Murasu, 6,748.52 hectares of horticultural crops across 106 mandals and 530 villages in eight districts were damaged, affecting 12,586 farmers. So far, enumeration has been completed for only 2,211.73 hectares (32.77 per cent) involving 3,392 farmers, while the registration of 9,194 farmers covering 4,536.79 hectares remains pending.

Minister Atchannaidu directed officials to conduct a comprehensive field-level assessment of the damages caused by the two cyclones and to identify, on a district-wise basis, the remaining crop area and the number of farmers yet to be registered. He emphasised that the enumeration process must be expedited to ensure that no eligible farmer is left out.

Parties rein in cadre as Pawan announces separation from wife

- Pawan and Anna Lezhneva say they will part ways by mutual consent and remain committed to their children
- YSRCP tells leaders and social media activists to stay away from personal remarks; TDP warns of disciplinary action against IT wing members

K VARAPRASADA RAO
AMARAVATI



THE announcement by Jana Sena Party chief and Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan that he and his wife Anna Lezhneva have decided to part ways has prompted the YSRCP and the TDP to move swiftly to prevent the personal matter from becoming a subject of political mudslinging on social media.

The YSRCP leadership has instructed its leaders, spokespersons, party cadre and social media activists not to comment on Pawan Kalyan's personal life or circulate content relating to his separation. The directive, issued from the party's central office following instructions from party president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, calls for restraint in public discussions and on social media platforms.

The party has specifically cautioned its members against responding to posts, joining online discussions or sharing photographs, videos and other material concerning the personal lives of Pawan Kalyan and his family.

Though the communication does not name him, its timing and contents make clear that it was issued in response to the announcement.

The TDP, an alliance partner of the Jana Sena Party, has also declared that it would not tolerate personal attacks or derogatory comments concerning the private lives of leaders belonging to either the alliance or the YSRCP.

Its IT wing, ITDP, warned that disciplinary action would be taken if such remarks were found to have been made through social media accounts affiliated with it. It also clarified that it would not be responsible for personal opinions expressed by individuals.

Pawan Kalyan and Anna Lezhneva announced their decision on Monday night through a joint statement, saying they had chosen to separate by mutual understanding and respect after sharing a significant part of their lives. They said that although their marriage had come to an end, they would remain good friends and devoted parents, with their children's happiness and well-being remaining their priority.

The couple did not disclose the reasons for their decision and appealed to the public and well-wishers to respect their privacy during this personal transition. The statement was circulated in their names, though the announcement was not carried on Pawan Kalyan's official social media handle or the Jana Sena Party's official account.

The separation marks the end of Pawan Kalyan's third marriage. He was earlier married to Nandini and later to actress Renu Desai, with whom he has children. Speculation about differences between Pawan Kalyan and Lezhneva had surfaced earlier, partly because of her absence from some family gatherings, although she had accompanied him at public events.

Farmers can now schedule paddy sales through APAIMS farmer app

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THE state government introduced a new paddy procurement scheduling facility in the APAIMS farmer mobile app, enabling farmers to schedule the sale of their produce directly through their mobile phones during the Kharif 2026 season.

The facility is available to all farmers registered for the current Kharif season. The Government has made the Farmer ID (Rythu Vishesha Sankhya) mandatory for paddy procurement this season, according to Agriculture Director Dr. Manazir Jeelani Samoon.

Under the earlier system, farmers had to approach Rythu Seva Kendras, submit details of cultivation, expected yield and sales, and obtain procurement slots in advance. With the new facility, farmers can schedule their paddy sales from anywhere without visiting offices or waiting in queues. They can select procurement centres under the jurisdiction of the Rythu Seva Kendra concerned with their cultivated land.

He said that farmers can schedule the sale of their entire produce or sell it in installments according to their convenience. After scheduling, the Agriculture Department will verify the details through APAIMS and forward them to the civil supplies department.

The Minimum Support Price has been fixed at Rs 2,461 per quintal for Grade-A paddy and Rs 2,441 for common varieties.

The guidelines were issued through GO No 15 dated October 9, 2026. Field-level officers have been instructed to create awareness through posters, video tutorials and publicity campaigns.

Pawan salutes forest martyrs, calls for their welfare

- They Dy CM and forest minister pays tribute to fallen forest personnel on Forest Martyrs Day
- Hails their sacrifice in protecting forests, wildlife and natural heritage

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DEPUTY Chief Minister and minister for forests and environment Pawan Kalyan on Tuesday paid tributes to forest personnel who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty while protecting forests, wildlife and natural heritage.

"The forests we protect today are the legacy we leave for generations tomorrow. Those who gave their lives defending them have secured a legacy that time can never erase," he said in a post on social media posted by the Deputy CMO on the occasion of State Forest Martyrs Day.

"On State Forest Martyrs Day, I pay my deepest tributes to the brave forest personnel of Andhra Pradesh who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty while safeguarding our forests, wildlife and natural heritage. Their courage in the face of danger, dedication to duty and selfless commitment to protecting nature remind us that conservation is not just a responsibility, but a service to humanity and future generations," he said.

"I also salute every forest officer and frontline personnel who continue to serve in challenging and vulnerable conditions. Their safety, welfare and dignity must remain our collective priority. Their lives were dedicated to protecting nature. Their sacrifice will forever inspire our commitment to preserve it," Pawan Kalyan added.

The state forest department observes the Forest Martyrs Day on November 10 every year in remembrance of P Srinivas, a Karnataka cadre IFS officer hailing from Rajahmundry, who was killed by sandalwood smuggler Veerappan in Namadalli forest range in Chamrajnagar district of Karnataka in 1991.

National Forest Martyrs Day is observed annually on September 11 to honour forest guards, rangers and officers who lost their lives protecting forests, wildlife and natural resources.

The day coincides with the historic Khejarli Massacre of 1730, where 363 members of the Bishnoi community sacrificed their lives to protect the Kejarli trees in Marwar Kingdom.

RTC trains 125 depot managers to prevent revenue losses

- Four-batch programme focuses on financial discipline and transparency
- JMD stresses accountability, plugging revenue leakages and effective depot management

DASARI SRINIVASA RAO
VIJAYAWADA



APSRTC JMD M Siva Prasad, executive directors K S Brahmananda Reddy and G V Ravi Varma, during a special training programme for depot managers at the APSRTC head office in Vijayawada on Tuesday

THE Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) has launched a special training programme for 125 depot managers across the State to prevent technical irregularities, financial discrepancies and revenue losses and strengthen administrative efficiency.

The special training programme is being conducted in four batches from November 10 to 20.

The first batch, comprising 30 depot managers from various regions, commenced its two-day training at the APSRTC Head Office in Vijayawada on Tuesday. The subsequent batches will have 27, 34 and 34 participants, taking the total number of trainees to 125.

The programme is being jointly organised by the APSRTC Transport Academy and the corporation's head office under the supervision of Transport Academy principal Pani Chakra Teja.

APSRTC joint managing director M Siva Prasad, executive director (administration) K S Brahmananda Reddy and executive director (engineering) G V Ravi Varma, along with other senior officials, attended the inaugural session and guided the participants. Addressing the depot managers, Siva Prasad stressed that safeguarding the Corporation's revenue, ensuring transparency and maintaining accountability should be the top priorities of every depot manager. He called for special attention to identifying technology-related irregularities, plugging revenue leakages, regularly reviewing records and financial transactions, and improving coordination among departments.

The training covers key aspects of personnel management, accounts, mechanical operations, commercial and logistics activities, operations and information technology. Senior officials and subject experts are explaining inspection procedures, record maintenance, financial transactions, identification of deficiencies and preventive measures, with a focus on practical depot-level management. Brahmananda Reddy said the initiative was aimed at strengthening financial discipline, curbing technical irregularities and equipping depot managers with the knowledge and skills required for effective management.

BJP gears up for panchayat polls

DASARI SRINIVASA RAO
VIJAYAWADA



BJP state president P V N Madhav and other party leaders felicitating newly-elected representatives in the municipal corporations, mandal parishad and zilla parishad elections in Vijayawada on Tuesday

UNION minister Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma called upon BJP leaders and cadres to work towards securing party representation in every mandal and village in the forthcoming gram panchayat elections, stressing the need to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots level.

Addressing a state-level panchayat election preparatory meeting at IV Palace in Vijayawada on Tuesday, he said the party's objective was to create opportunities for ordinary workers to emerge as sarpanches, MPTC and ZPTC members, councillors and corporators. He urged party leaders to ensure that at least one or two BJP-supported candidates were elected as ward members in every village. He also called for a review of the experiences in the recent local body elections and better coordination among NDA partners.

Minister for health, medical and family welfare Y Satya Kumar Yadav asked BJP leaders and workers to begin preparations for the panchayat elections immediately. As the State has thousands of gram panchayats, he said NDA partners should coordinate at the local level and work out mutually acceptable strategies. He called upon district presidents, district in-charges and elected ZPTC and MPTC members to play an active role in strengthening the party and implementing the election strategy.

BJP state president P V N Madhav said the NDA's performance in the recent local body elections reflected the impact of coordination among alliance partners. He said the BJP had contested 33 ZPTC seats and won around 23, while nearly 355 party representatives had been elected across the state. Describing the results as a significant step in the party's expansion, he urged cadres to ensure BJP representation in every village, although panchayat elections are not fought on party symbols.

BJP national vice-president and Rajamahendravaram MP Daggubati Purandeswari said the party's growth from two MPs to the world's largest political party was the result of the dedication and sacrifices of thousands of workers. She urged elected representatives not to forget the cadres who worked for their victory and to remain accessible to them.

The meeting reviewed the BJP's performance in the recent local body elections and discussed strategies for the forthcoming panchayat polls, coordination among NDA partners, expansion of the party at the village level and publicising Central government schemes.

Party general secretary (organisation) for the Telugu states Madhukar offered guidance on strengthening the party organisation. MLC Somu Veerraju, MLAs Ch Adinarayana Reddy and Ramakrishna Reddy, MLC Potula Sunitha, State general secretaries Nagothu Ramesh Naidu, S Dayakar Reddy, Saligrama Lakshmi Prasanna and Matta Prasad, besides State and district leaders and newly elected representatives, participated in the meeting.

SANJAY SUSPENSION EXTENDED TILL END OF TRIAL OR RETIREMENT

AMARAVATI: The state government on Tuesday extended the suspension of IPS officer N Sanjay until the conclusion of criminal proceedings against him or his retirement next year, whichever comes first.

Sanjay, a 1996-batch IPS officer, was placed under suspension in December 2024 over charges of misappropriation and misuse of public funds in the development, maintenance and work of the AGNI (Automated Governance & NoC Integration) NoC web portal while working as the Director General of Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Response and Fire Services. Likewise, he is also accused of "misappropriation of funds" allotted for training police personnel to create awareness among SCs and STs about the rights of victims and provisions of the Prevention of Atrocities (POA) Act, 1989, while working as additional director general of police in the CID.

Cancer drug price cut: AP cracks down on overcharging

- Cancer medicine prices cut by up to 96% across India.
- Health minister orders strict checks on stocks, pricing and billing
- Hospitals, pharmacies warned against hoarding and overpricing

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HEALTH minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav directed officials to ensure that patients in Andhra Pradesh fully benefit from the Centre's decision to reduce the prices of cancer medicines. He ordered continuous monitoring of drug availability and prices, along with intensified inspections of hospitals and medical stores.

The Centre has reduced the prices of 1,364 cancer medicines across the country with effect from Monday. Prices of 671 brands have come down by more than 50 per cent, with the maximum reduction in MRP reaching 96.45 per cent.

Reviewing the implementation measures with health secretary G Veer Pandian, Drugs Control Administration director general Arun Babu and other officials on Tuesday, the minister said even medicines bearing old printed prices must be sold at the revised lower rates. He warned against overpricing, artificial shortages and excessive stocking.

The minister directed cancer hospitals to maintain adequate stocks of prescribed medicines, ensuring that at least one company's product for every drug is available at the reduced price. He also advised patients to purchase medicines according to their immediate requirements rather than hoarding them, which could affect availability for others.

Officials clarified that medicines bearing old MRPs need not be returned to manufacturers or relabelled. However, they must be sold at whichever is lower — the revised price or the price printed on the pack. Hospitals must display manufacturers' revised price lists (Form V) at their pharmacies and on websites and issue bills mentioning the brand, batch number, MRP and amount collected.

Drug inspectors have been instructed to inspect all cancer hospitals and treatment centres in their jurisdictions within seven days. They must verify stock availability, display of revised price lists and bills issued since November 9. Supply agents and super stockists will also be inspected. Complaints about medicine shortages must be addressed within 24 hours by tracing available stocks through district supplier networks. Officials have been asked to initiate legal action against those charging excess prices, withholding medicines or violating regulations. Patients and hospitals can lodge complaints through the Drugs Control Administration's WhatsApp number 8632330909 or email dca-grams@ap.gov.in. The NPPA toll-free number is 1800-111-255.