

Published: August 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 8, 2011 04:09 IST ARIYALUR, August 8, 2011

### **Rs.3.48 crore sanctioned for watershed programme**

Four watershed units have been identified in the Tirumanur taluk for development under the Centre-sponsored Integrated Watershed Management Programme to be implemented for a period of four years at an outlay of Rs. 3.48 crore.

Each watershed area with a cluster of villages will cover an area of about 600 hectares and the development programme, among other things, would include construction of check-dams, setting up of farm ponds, percolation ponds, strengthening of embankment of tanks and other irrigational sources, veterinary ponds and promoting bio-mass in the villages.

The watershed to be developed is Ayan Suththamalli (East); Ayan Suththamalli (West); Satthamanglam and Vetriyur. Each shed comprises major villages.

The Ayan Suththamalli east comprises Erakudi and Vettakudi villages; Ayan Suththamalli (West) comprises Ayan Suththamalli village; Satthamangalam watershed has jurisdiction over Satthamangalam, Puthur and Melavannam villages while the Vetriyur watershed would cover Vethiyur, Viragalur and Tirupeyar villages. Watershed committees have been formed in each unit which would execute village-specific programme, said S. Sivakumar, joint director of agriculture, also project officer of the programme.

With a view to explaining the advantages of the scheme to the agriculturists, special awareness camps are being organised all over the taluk. "We are also organising special sessions in which we interact with villagers for selection of village-specific programme to be taken up by the watershed development committee.

At one of the awareness programmes, M. Manimaran, programme manager, said that the community needs of a village would be ascertained and executed as a preliminary measure. Works such as construction of an overhead tank or strengthening of the embankments of a local tank would be taken up.

“The water table in the region will improve to a great extent, once the programme is implemented,” said Mr. Sivakumar. Apart from ensuring assured supply for irrigation, it would also help in increasing the yield. Further, farmers would be able to go in for additional crops depending upon the availability of irrigation water, he said.

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Published: August 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 8, 2011 04:11 IST BANGALORE,  
August 8, 2011

### **Pro-GM crop farmers seek early adoption of BRAI, Seeds Bill**

Are genetically modified crops the tool for a second Green Revolution? Yes, said some farmers from the State who participated in a press conference organised by the Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises – Agriculture Group (ABLE-AG) here on Saturday.

The farmers, along with scientists and members of the agricultural-biotechnology industry, also took the opportunity to demand the speedier adoption of the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Bill (BRAI) and The Seeds Bill of 2004, which are listed for clearing in the current session of Parliament. They also asked for approvals of biotech crop trials and commercialisation under the existing system till BRAI is approved.

Bt cotton growers from Karnataka spoke about how they got better yields at lower costs after taking to Bt cotton. “After I started growing Bt cotton, not only has the yield increased, but the cost of production has also come down. We are spending much less on insecticides too,” said Chanraya, a farmer.

Farmers, who have been growing Bt cotton since 2002, brushed aside opposition to the Bill and to genetically engineered crops.

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Published: August 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 8, 2011 04:11 IST KRISHNAGIRI, August 8, 2011

### **Villagers to get cattle under special scheme**

Villagers in Krishnagiri district will get milch cows and goats under the free cattle scheme to improve the livelihood of the landless farm workers.

In connection with this, a consultative meeting was convened by C. Prakasam, Collector (in charge) on Saturday at the Collectorate.

Presiding over the meeting, Mr. Prakasam said that the beneficiaries would be selected as per the rules framed by the government.

A total of 30 beneficiaries each in Bellarahalli village in Veppanahalli Panchayat Union and Balanahalli village in Krishnagiri Panchayat Union will get three female and one male goat and 100 beneficiaries in Simbal and Kottamaduvu villages in Hosur revenue division will get one milch cow each.

People who live below the poverty line will be selected. For selecting beneficiaries, a seven-member committee consisting of Assistant Block Development Officer, Panchayat President,

Vice-President, President of PLF, elected representatives and the Assistant Veterinary Doctor has been formed.

A special grama sabha meeting was convened at the four villages. Only women are eligible to apply to get cattle. Beneficiaries are asked to apply to the official concerned between August 8 and 12. The applications received would be screened by the committee to select the beneficiaries. The age of the beneficiaries should be between 18 and 60. The beneficiary should not have more than one acre land and they should not be government employee.

Eligible beneficiaries can submit their applications at the grama sabha meeting or to any of the selection committee members, Mr. Prakasam adds. The meeting was attended by Dr. V. Gnanobakaram, Joint Director, Animal Husbandry, Dr. P.J. Balasubramaniam, Deputy Director, Dr. Veerabadran, Assistant Director (Panchayats), and other officials.

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Published: August 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 8, 2011 04:16 IST Kolhapur, August 8, 2011

### **Funds withheld for three irrigation schemes**

Three irrigation schemes in Sangli district are in limbo as funds sanctioned had been withheld on the pretext of backlog criteria.

It is said that Rs. 2,766 crore had been sanctioned for the three schemes of Takari, Mhaisal and Tembhu. Funds for the centrally-sponsored schemes were to be disbursed by the State government. However, the funds have not been disbursed on the pretext that the Governor was strict about the backlog criteria in view of the need for funds for backward areas in the State.

Because of the lack of irrigation facilities, many parts of Sangli district were facing drought every year. Union Minister for Coal Pratik Patil, who hails from Sangli, has urged the Governor to relax the criteria and direct the State government to disburse the funds for the three schemes which had been pending for several years now.

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Published: August 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 8, 2011 04:17 IST PALAKKAD, August 8, 2011

### **'Ban hormone spray on mango trees'**

## Chemicals sprayed for early flowering of trees in Muthalamada

The Haritha Development Association, an environmental organisation, has urged the government to ban the use of hormone spray on the mango trees of Muthalamada, known as the Mango City of the State for its commercial production and export of the fruits.

Association president Arumughan Pathichira, in a statement, has said that chemicals are sprayed on the mango trees for artificial flowering, which is harmful to the trees and the fruits. Spraying of the hormone on the mango orchards will also affect the flowering cycle of other plants and trees in the area, he said.

The hormone is sprayed from July to August in Muthalamada. The chemical will affect the health of the mango tree and reduce its life span by ten years. But the manufacturers claim that its use will lead to earlier flowering and an increase in the number panicles.

The climate of Muthalamda is highly favourable for mango cultivation. Since the trees flower early here, there is no need for artificial methods like hormone treatment. The unnecessary use of chemicals is an attempt to destroy the natural advantages of the area. The pesticide and hormone manufacturing companies are luring the farmers promising more yield and income, Mr. Arumughan alleges.

Once the chemical is used, the trees cannot flower without it. So every year the hormone treatment has to be done for getting yield. In Muthalamada the mango orchards are taken on contract by merchants and exporters from outside. The hormone treatment is done by the contractors to get maximum yield at a short time. The farmers are not fully aware of its harmful effects, he says.

Mango is cultivated in nearly 4,000 hectares by 2,500 farmers in Muthalamada and the annual production comes to 35,000 tonnes of high quality varieties including Alphonso, Malgova, Sindhooram, Kalapadi, and Banganapilly.

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Published: August 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 8, 2011 04:13 IST PATHANAMTHITTA, August 8, 2011

## Farm development panels to be reconstituted

More transparency in the functioning of Krishi Bhavans



Farm development committees will be reconstituted to ensure more transparency in the functioning of various Krishi Bhavans across the State, Minister for Agriculture K.P. Mohanan has said.

He was inaugurating the newly constructed Krishi Bhavan at Vechoochira, near Ranni, as part of the 100-day action programme of the United Democratic Front government on Sunday.

Mr. Mohanan said the farm development committees would help to ensure that various benefits announced by the government from time to time reached the farm sector. Mr. Mohanan said the government was trying to resolve the various problems faced by the farm sector in a time-bound manner. He said the farmers should cooperate with the government and make use of the new facilities provided to them as part of various schemes.

He called upon the farmers to make use of the scheme to supply vegetable seeds through various Krishi Bhavans across the State so as to increase vegetable production and achieve self-sufficiency.

### **Central aid**

The increase in the Central aid for wetland conservation from Rs.800 crore to Rs.1,000 crore would be of great help to the State, Mr Mohanan said.

He said farmers should see the Krishi Bhavans as the lifeline of agriculture development. He stressed the need to cultivate healthy farmer-official relationships for steady agriculture development across the State.

Anto Antony, MP, inaugurated a wetland conservation project on the occasion. Raju Abraham, MLA, presided over the function.

Babu George, district panchayat president, inaugurated the distribution of vegetable seeds. Benny Puthenparampil, block panchayat president; Mariyamma Cherian, district panchayat standing committee chairperson; Komalam Anirudhan, district panchayat member; and K.J. Joseph, grama panchayat president, spoke.

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Published: August 8, 2011 00:00 IST | Updated: August 8, 2011 04:20 IST

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, August 8, 2011

### **Vegetable farming in schools**

The preliminary training programme of the school-level vegetable farming project, jointly organised by State Horticulture Mission and Agrifriends Krishi Samskarika Vedi, was held at Adhyapaka Bhavan here on Saturday. Students from around 30 schools in and around the district participated in the programme.

Published: August 8, 2011 02:32 IST | Updated: August 8, 2011 02:32 IST Chennai, August 8, 2011

### **Evaluation lists major threats to three Tiger Reserves**

Up and coming development projects, increasing pressure from tourism and pilgrimage, increasing number of hotels and conflicts with local communities are the major threats faced by the three tiger reserves in the State.

The weaknesses include inadequate trained and competent staff in the tiger reserves, disturbance due to human settlements inside the reserves and fringes, exotic plantations, invasive species, increasing human – wildlife conflict in certain pockets and some corridors still falling outside the tiger reserves.

The 'Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves in India: Process and Outcomes 2010 – 2011,' brought out by the Wildlife Institute of India and National Tiger Conservation Authority, has listed the strengths of the tiger reserves as well.

Connectivity to adjoining areas, strong support of stakeholders, good scientific research information and strong eco-development programme have been identified as strengths of Kalakad – Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve.

Sound protection strategies, adequate baseline information, adequate support of local people, co-ordination and contiguity with Kerala are the strong points for Anamalai.

At Mudumalai, the landscape adjoining Bandipur and Wayanad has provided space for migration of large mammals and integration into the ecosystem. Protection system, with anti-poaching strategies in place, has been termed good.

In all three reserves, the study has viewed the establishment of tiger foundations, growing interest of research among individuals and institutions and increasing government support as opportunities.

Prepared under the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) framework, the outcome of the MEE process has categorised the three tiger reserves in the State as very good. The Western Ghats landscape has been rated 75 on the MEE score, 10 points above the average of 65 per cent for all five clusters.

However, the team chaired by State's former head of Forest Department C.K. Sreedharan with Yogesh Dubey and E.A. Jayson as members which evaluated Cluster IV covering nine tiger



reserves (TR) in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu has found several shortcomings in management.

### **Management plan**

While all TRs have an approved management plan, none of them has approved tiger conservation plan, the report noted. The present system of beat, section and range as unit of management, has to be evaluated to see if it was serving the twin major purposes of protection and implementation of developmental programmes.

While enforcing Acts, it was noticed that booking of wildlife offences, filing of charge sheets and taking them to logical conclusions in a time bound manner was also absent in most TRs.

Apart from inadequately trained staff, the motivational level was not very high due to lack of adequate incentives. Besides, there was lack of arms and ammunitions and efficient communication systems and other equipment.

Most of the TRs lacked true research and development support to make them sustainable, said the report. It has also found shortcomings in capacity building of staff in wildlife management, unorganised tourism management, lack of internal monitoring and evaluation systems, delayed release of funds. Another major drawback reported was the inadequate attention paid to local communities inside the TRs and in the immediate surroundings and failure to accept them as full partners in management practices.

Implementation of Forest Rights Act 2006 has been found to be quite tardy and poor in most of the TRs.

The report also emphasised the need for a comprehensive resettlement programme to reduce serious biotic interference, active management of animals straying into agricultural fields, steering of tiger foundations in proper direction and participation of stakeholders in management which was only moderate now.

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## Eco Ministry clearing projects within a year, says Jayanthi Natarajan



Business Line Ms Jayanthi Natarajan, Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests, and Dr M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman, MSSRF, handing over mobiles to members of the fishing community, at the Foundation Day of MSSRF, in Chennai on Sunday. - Bijoy Ghosh  
Chennai, Aug 7:

The Ministry of Environment and Forests is being wrongly projected as the stumbling block for any delay in major projects. On the contrary, the Ministry has been clearing all the projects within the mandated time frame of less than one year, according to Ms Jayanthi Natarajan, Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests.

“There is absolutely no time taken on clearing the projects. On review of the Ministry, it was found that 71 per cent of the projects in less than five hectares are cleared by the State Governments; 17 per cent by regional offices of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and that only nine per cent of the projects that are over 100 hectares come to the Ministry for clearance.

“We clear within the mandatory time, which is less than a year,” she told newsmen.

“All projects will be considered strictly on the yardstick of environmental sustainability,” she told reporters after inaugurating the International Conference on Mangroves for Coastal Area Management, organised by the M.S. Swaminathan Foundation.

To a question on her priorities after taking over the Ministry last month, Ms Natarajan said, “my first priority is to dispel the notion that environment is the enemy of growth. Without environment, there can be no growth,” she said.

## **Bellary – illegal mining**

On the Bellary mining issue in Karnataka, Ms Natarajan said, “What is going on in Bellary is illegal mining.” Based on the Supreme Court's order to provide details on export and import from the region, the Ministry on Friday filed an affidavit on the same.

An order was also passed by the Court allowing mining only in Government-owned mines, she said.

“I do not think there is any problem on the mining issue. I believe that it is being sensationalised, probably on lack of information.

The imperatives are very simple. We have specific rules and guidelines on protection of forests and it will be followed before any grant is given. It is important to ensure that there is clarity and consistency in the grant of all permissions by the Ministry,” she said.

## **Tamil Nadu**

Referring to Tamil Nadu, the Minister said it is a matter of great satisfaction that there is an awareness on environment even as the Chief Minister on Thursday surveyed the Chennai city with regard to environment and making the city free of plastic bags, and bringing in necessary regulations.

“I welcome this approach of the State Government and we will do everything in our power to cooperate with them,” she said.

Earlier, in her inaugural address, Ms Natarajan said the MoEF has initiated an integrated coastal zone management project with the assistance of the World Bank.

Under this project, the hazard mapping is being carried out for the entire country with Survey of India and to build capacity and undertake research in coastal management.

A national centre for sustainable coastal management at Anna University is being established in collaboration with identified eleven State-level research institutions, including the M.S. Swaminathan Research foundation, she said.

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Published: August 7, 2011 02:14 IST | Updated: August 7, 2011 02:14 IST NEW DELHI, August 7, 2011

### **Sowing of kharif rice, oilseeds improve**

The cultivation of kharif rice, sugarcane and oilseeds has improved over the last week, but that of pulses and coarse cereals is lagging due to deficient rain in parts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

As per the data released by the Ministry of Agriculture here on Friday, the area under rice cultivation is 260.36 lakh hectares against 244.79 lakh hectares sown this time last year. Sown area has increased in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, West Bengal and Assam. However, it is lower in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab due to insufficient rain.

In the case of pulses, the sown area is lower by 9.31 lakh hectares at 81 lakh hectares due to erratic monsoon in parts of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh.

The area under coarse cereals is reported to be lower by 18.06 lakh hectares at 163.38 lakh hectares compared to 181.44 lakh hectares cultivated last year. The shortfall has occurred due to lesser area under coarse cereals in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. The sowing is higher in Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand this season.

Compared to last year, the area under oilseeds is 4.85 lakh hectares, higher than last year in the corresponding period, mainly on account of higher coverage under soyabean, sesamum and castor. The area under groundnut and sunflower, however, remains lower than last year. The total area under oilseeds has improved in the last week to 157.9 lakh hectares compared to 153.06 lakh hectares in the corresponding period last year. Sugarcane acreage so far is 51.13 lakh hectares as against 48.20 lakh hectares sown last year. Higher area is report from Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. On account of better sowing in Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat, the area under cotton is higher this year by 5.56 lakh hectares at 109.92 lakh hectares.

The total live storage in 81 important reservoirs is reported to be 20.606 billion cubic metres, higher than last year's storage.

© The Hindu

**Weather**

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

**Monday, Aug 8**

Max Min  
37.3° | 24.7°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs

Humidity: 66%

Wind: Normal

Sunrise: 5:55

Sunset: 18:34

Barometer: 1003

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy

**Tuesday, Aug 9**

Max Min  
34° | 25°

Extended Forecast for a week

Wednesday

**Aug 10**



33° | 26°

Rainy

Thursday

**Aug 11**



32° | 26°

Rainy

Friday

**Aug 12**



33° | 27°

Rainy

Saturday

**Aug 13**



33° | 27°

Rainy

Sunday

**Aug 14**



32° | 27°

Rainy

## Tips to create a 'holistic' household budget



HIGH inflation has taken a toll on our monthly savings. One needs to make a conscious effort to manage our finances better! Do you allocate a certain amount to be spent on the house, or is it a case of buying things as you need? Did you know that there are huge savings to be done from maintaining a budget, and not just in terms of cost? **What is household budget management?** Managing a budget for your household is more than just keeping track of all the expenses for the month. It is a chart of how much income there is, how much will be spent, and what can be saved. The idea of the budget is to broadly plan for living within your means. A budget ensures that bills are paid on time, household debts are cleared and savings goals are set and achieved. A really simple way to do this is to label different envelopes with the heads of all the recurring expenses of the month (such as rent, electricity, help, car EMI). You then know exactly what is going where, and if there is any left over, it can either be carried over to the next month, or set aside as a saving. You could also project your monthly income and create accounts from which to debit or credit money as bills are paid and income is received. **Where do you start? \*Begin by making a plan:** Create an inventory of needs and wants, from the biggest to the smallest. Learn

to differentiate between needs and wants; those things that are essential to living, and those that make your life better. Categorise between non-negotiables (such as food, rent, clothing, education, transportation, and insurance) and everything else. Or further divide into what is necessary, what is adaptable, and what is expendable. **\*Select an appropriate budget format:** You can download these for free online. You need to ensure your spreadsheet works on a monthly cost basis, so all income and expenses should be multiplied or divided to fit this calculation. A weekly expense should be multiplied by 52 (weeks in the year) then divided by 12 (months of the year) to get a monthly equivalent figure. A quarterly bill should be divided by 3 to get a monthly amount. **\*Track your expenditure for a month to establish your spending pattern.** This also allows you to prune out those things that can be classified clearly as 'frills'. **\*Become a conscious spender:** Now that you have an idea of where your money goes, you have to actually keep that in your mind while you spend. And set aside time to review your finances and expenditure on a weekly basis. **Go local:** The supermarket may contain everything under one roof, but if you spend a little time comparing prices, you will find that local shops carry items of the same, or better quality, and at better prices. You're also assured of freshness if you go to the market. **Prepare for the unexpected:** Car repairs, medical costs, weddings and birthdays, appliance maintenance, emergency travel, all qualify as additional expenditure, which you can actually plan for with the help of your spreadsheet, now that your finances are clearly laid out before you. Reassess the budget after a month, making adjustments that are necessary.

<>Maintaining a good household budget **\*Share responsibility and work towards goals with your entire family.** **\*Set targets and save towards specific purchases.** n Think out of the box, when you have emergencies and figure creative ways to save on costs. Keep aside an emergency fund as well! **\*Review what you want.** Differentiate between what is meaningful, and simply 'keeping up with the Kapoors'. **\*Be flexible:** A budget is not meant to tie you down; rather, it gives you defined economic freedom, not financial restriction. A good budget allows you control, and helps you enjoy and makes spending more purposeful. *The writer is the CEO of bankbazaar.com*

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**Source URL:** <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/channels/business/personal-finance/tips-create-%E2%80%98holistic%E2%80%99-household-budget-230>

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## Experts warn against cattle scheme in forest fringes

August 08, 2011 12:55:26 AM

**PTI | Chennai**

As the Jayalalithaa Government gears up to launch the free cattle scheme aspiring for a 'second green revolution', wildlife experts warn against implementing the initiative in six forest fringe regions in western Tamil Nadu on the plea it would aggravate man-animal conflict.

Citing the increasing incidents of wild animals straying into human habitats and shortage of green fodder, they say increase in number of cattle, a much sought after prey of big cats like leopard, would lead to more such trouble.

Though providing milch cows to poor would immensely benefit them in other districts, it would also add on to the big cat menace already disturbing the locals in these areas, a member of the Nilgiri Wildlife and Environment Association says.

"It is very common that you see the big cats stray into human habitats looking for food and water in these places (western districts). On top of that, if you increase cattle in these areas drastically, we are inviting trouble," Coimbatore-based CR Jayaprakash, a Committee Member of the Association, says.

The scheme, to be launched on September 15 fulfilling an electoral promise of Jayalalithaa, aims at distributing 60,000 milch animals in the next five years free of cost to poor rural families.

Jayaprakash says it's not always the big cats stray into human habitats, but shepherds take



their cattle into the woods for grazing. "In remote rural areas in Coimbatore, the cost of neem cakes and fodder is more than that of sugar. And the district lacks green cover close to villages. So, its natural for the villagers to venture into the wild with their cattle in search of fodder," he explains.

The Government itself in its budget acknowledges that though cultivation of green fodder was being promoted under many schemes, the pace of such expansion is "grossly inadequate" to meet the requirement.

"Milch cows and goats are food dependent. The more they walk into the woods, they lose energy. And there are high chances of cattle in human habitats and gaurs in the wild exchanging diseases," says N Mohanraj, coordinator with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

"Anthrax and other foot and mouth diseases will be easily spread, since cattle had to feed on leaves earlier fed by gaurs. And the more cattle goes into the woods, gaurs may stray out of the forests," explains Mohanraj.

The Government intends to distribute 12,000 cross-breed jersey milch cows to poor families in backward villages located in non-traditional areas with a budget of `56 crores. The scheme will cover one lakh families at a cost of `12,000 per family during 2011-12, State Finance Minister O Panneerselvam said in his Budget Speech last week.

Mohanraj suggests the Government can give fodder at subsidised rates so that the cattle are not taken into forests for grazing.

Places around Mudumalai, Sathyamangalam, Erode, Dharmapuri, Hosur, Rajapalayam and Theni are prone to be affected by this free distribution of cattle, they say.

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### **Elephant calf dies in Panna Tiger Reserve**

August 08, 2011 12:18:09 AM

## **Staff Reporter | Bhopal**

The Panna Tiger Reserve suffered a jolt in the wee hours of Sunday, as a two-year-old elephant calf died due to unknown reasons. The cub had abandoned regular diets since last few days due to illness and was stable till late evening on Saturday.

Panna Field Director RS Murthy told mediapersons that the calf was born in 2009 and was a major tourist attraction in the park. He added that the calf was given treatment on Saturday evening but suddenly died in the wee hours on Sunday. Veterinary expert Dr SK Gupta told scribes that anything could be said about the death only after the autopsy. The calf was short of 10 days from his second birthday.

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## **Haryana tops in rapeseed, mustard productivity in country**

August 08, 2011 12:41:55 AM

## **PNS | Chandigarh**

Haryana has achieved the highest productivity of 1869 kgs per hectare for rapeseed and mustard in the country as against the national average of 1179 kgs per hectare during 2010-11.

Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said that Haryana has produced 9,42,000 tonnes of rapeseed and mustard with 5,04,000 hectares of area under cultivation.

The achievement of Haryana has been followed by Gujarat which attained productivity of 1521 kgs per hectare and produced 3,30,000 tonnes by cultivating rapeseed and mustard over an area of 2,17,000 hectares.

Punjab ranked third in productivity with 1250 kgs per hectare and it had 32,000 hectares of area under their cultivation and produced 40,000 tonnes of rapeseed and mustard.

Rajasthan is at fourth position with a productivity level of 1188 kgs per hectare, but it had an area of 32, 45,000 hectares under cultivation of rapeseed and mustard and production was 38,55,000 tonnes.

Haryana has recorded the second highest production of rapeseed and mustard in the country after Rajasthan. It was not possible to overtake Rajasthan in production, as area sown in Rajasthan four times than that of Haryana. The area under rapeseed and mustard in Haryana is the fourth largest in the country. Rajasthan, is at the top followed by Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Hooda said that the main districts of cultivation of rapeseed and mustard in the State included Bhiwani, Mahendergarh, Hisar, Rewari, Sirsa, Jhajjar, Mewat, Gurgaon and Fatehabad. Bhiwani had a maximum area of 1, 37,000 hectares under rapeseed and mustard. He said that the second highest productivity for rapeseed and mustard was touched by Haryana during Rabi 2008-09 when it attained the level of 1738 kgs per hectare.

"Haryana Agriculture Department had taken certain initiatives which helped a lot in making this record achievement," added the Chief Minister.

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# Business Standard

Monday, Aug 08, 2011

ICAR blueprint to up cashew output

BS Reporter / Chennai/ Bangalore August 08, 2011, 0:15 IST

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the apex body for agricultural research in India, has prepared a blueprint to increase the cashewnut production in India in a phased manner and achieve self-sufficiency by 2013-14. Presently, Indian processors import over 600,000 tonnes of raw nuts to meet the demand which is equal to the domestic production.

The estimated demand for cashewnuts this fiscal is 1.4 million tonnes, while the domestic production is likely to be 1.2 million tonnes.

“We have prepared a detailed action plan in consultation with all stakeholders including scientists and private sector to increase the production of cashewnut in a phased manner. We have estimated that by 2013-14 we will be able to increase cashewnut production 2.5 times which will be sufficient to plug the demand and supply gap,” N P Singh, director, ICAR Research Complex in Goa said.

The blueprint was prepared at a recent brainstorming session called by the Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development, Kochi, attended by scientists and experts from the Directorate of Cashew Research, Puttur in Karnataka, and other ICAR research centres, agricultural universities, government departments and private sector representatives.

The area under cashewnut in India was around 923,000 hectares in 2009-10, producing 613,000 tonnes. The average productivity was 695 kg per hectare as against the global productivity of 816 kgs per hectare.

The cashew processing capacity in India is about 1.2 million tonnes annually and the processors depend on the imports of raw nuts from African countries for the remaining 50 per cent of the requirement. Already, Vietnam is competing to export raw nuts.

This country has surpassed the production and productivity levels and overtook India as the top exporter of cashew kernels in the world. “Therefore, it is a big challenge to boost the domestic production of raw cashewnuts,” Singh said.

Farm technology demonstrations could be the need of the hour to demonstrate the efficacy of the technologies and effectively motivate cashew growers to adopt the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for strengthening the Indian cashew industry to eventually face global challenges, he said.

“We need to create more awareness and motivate farmers to adopt scientific cultivation of cashew in the country,” Singh added.

## Business Line

### Reservoir storage level rises despite deficient monsoon

Storage status							
Region	91-99	81-90	71-80	61-70	51-60	41-50	below 40
North				2		1	3
East			1	2	2	-	10
West		2		2	2	5	8
Central		3		1	1	1	5
South	5	1	7	3	6	5	3
All	5	6	8	10	11	12	29

Note: No reservoir has been filled to capacity  
Source: Central Water Commission

Chennai, Aug. 7:

The South-West monsoon may have been 22 per cent deficient last week and six per cent deficient overall this year. But that should be no cause for worry with regard to the water storage level in the 81 major reservoirs in the country.

According to the Central Water Commission, the storage level in the 81 major reservoirs is 74.168 billion cubic metres (BCM) or 49 per cent of the total capacity of 151.768 BCM.

Compared with last year's level of 53.562 BCM, this is 38 per cent higher. If the last 10 year's average of 57.133 BCM is taken then it is 30 per cent higher. However, the level in 29 of these major reservoirs is below 40 per cent. In the east, the level is below 40 per cent in 10 reservoirs and in the west, the storage is below 40 per cent in eight reservoirs.

Importantly, not a single reservoir is filled to capacity whereas during the same time last year, the Khadakvasla reservoir in Maharashtra was full. The storage in Dantewada (Gujarat) is almost zero. The level in Orissa's Indravati (5 per cent) is also precarious. In fact, the level in four of the eastern State's reservoirs is lower than 10 per cent. In Maharashtra, the storage in Girna is five per cent. The central parts of the country seem to have had the best of benefits from the monsoon. The reservoir level in Uttarakhand is more than double compared with the same period a year ago, while it is nearly double in Madhya Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh, the other State in the region, has a water level that is 43 per cent higher than last year. South India is another region where the storage level in all States is higher than last year. Andhra Pradesh seems to have gained a lot with the water level in the State being 88 per cent higher.

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### **Agri-biotech industry seeks speedy clearance of regulator, Seed Bills**

Hyderabad, Aug. 7:

Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (ABLE-AG), which represents agri-biotechnology industry in India, has called for speedy clearance of Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) and Seed Bill 2010.

“These two would go a long way in addressing food security of the nation and improve productivity,” Dr P.S. Dravid, Member-Managing Committee of ABLE-AG, said.

Addressing a press conference, here, on Saturday, he discounted apprehensions on safety. “It is absolutely safe to eat genetically modified food,” he said.

For farmers, it was important to reduce cost of production, while improving productivity. “Cotton farmers have benefited a lot from biotechnology. It needs to be replicated in other crops. Last year, it was an unusual year that saw record output. In drought years, output could be far less,” he said.

Biotechnology could offer resistance to both floods and drought. Any delay in decisions could delay release of good technologies, beneficial to farmers.

Refuting criticism from non-governmental organisations, he said such arguments were not based on scientific facts. “India has the toughest regulatory norms. There is absolutely no reason to fear,” he said.

### **Labelling**

Dr B Dinesh Kumar, Deputy Director of National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), said people would have a choice. "Food Labelling Bill would make it mandatory for companies to indicate whether something is GM food or not," he said.

Dr Dravid said labelling would be done, if need be.

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### **Pepper to stay hot on likely supply crunch**

Kochi, Aug. 7:

Pepper futures has been highly fluctuating last week at a time when the overseas origins were showing a firmer trend. Such an instability in prices without having correlation to the market fundamentals is being viewed by the market sources as "not a good sign for the trade".

As many of the brokers are common for both the share and the commodities markets, the weak trend in the share market is often reflected on the commodities trade.

Weak long position holders for want to margin money following the decline in the share market often liquidated their positions and that in turn pulled the market down, market sources told *Business Line*.

In fact, in the international market, there appears to be a likely squeeze in availability because of decline output and that is reflected so far on the price trend. At the same time, demand is likely to persist as many have been postponing their buying on the anticipation of price drop once the Indonesian and Brazilian new crop hit the market. Add to this, many have been buying only hand to mouth given the prevailing high prices. Given this scenario there is every possibility of buyers entering the market. The market world over is expected to stay hot on likely supply squeeze, they claimed.

### **Festive demand**

Meanwhile, in India the festival season is set to commence after the Nagapanchami and the demand for pepper is expected to pick up in the coming days. On other hand, growers in Idukki are said to be apprehensive of decline in the next crop consequent to the continuous rains

lashing the growing areas in the district. Rich farmers are also of the view that if the produce is processed and preserved scientifically it could be stocked for eight to nine years and thus they could release it when the prices reached their expected levels.

It is evident from the prevailing trend in the spot market where there have been no sellers of late, they said.

During last week the bear operators were in the driving seat and hence the market fell. August, September and October contracts dropped by Rs 553, Rs 516 and Rs 403 respectively to close at Rs 28,776, Rs 29,314 and Rs 29,819 a quintal.

Total turn over increased by 7,889 tonnes to 57,074 tonnes. Total open interest fell by 2,436 tonnes to 11,988 tonnes.

Spot prices declined by Rs 100 during the week to close at the weekend at Rs 27,700 (ungarbled) and Rs 28,700 (MG 1) a quintal.

Indian parity in the international market was at \$6,600-6,650 a tonne (c&f) and remained nearly competitive.

### **IPC Report**

The black pepper market, according to the International Pepper Community (IPC), remained firm at most origins, with the exception of Sri Lanka.

In India, trading was slower but prices were still relatively high. Spot price of Malabar ungarbled increased by Rs 100 per 100 kg from Rs 27,800 at beginning of the week to IND 27,900 on Wednesday. In dollar terms however, average prices of pepper in India decreased marginally, due to weakening of rupee against dollar.

In Lampung, a marginal price increase was recorded. In Vietnam and Sarawak, the prices were stable both local and f.o.b. In Sri Lanka, farm gate price decreased by 3 per cent.

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## **Arrivals drop at Kochi tea auction**

Kochi, Aug. 7:

Overall prices at the Kochi Tea Auction eased while a few grades appreciated in value. There was a small dip in arrivals with 11, 71,000 kg of dust and 3, 07,000 kg of leaf tea on offer. Good liquoring teas and other popular grades remained barely steady while medium and lower grades appreciated in value at the CTC dust auction. Tata Global, AVT and Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation remained active on good liquoring grades. Loose tea traders lent fair amount of support. Hindustan Unilever remained selective at the CTC dust auction. Good export enquiry was noticed on medium and plain grades. Primary grades remained steady at the orthodox dust auction even as many other grades quoted lower resulting in many withdrawals. There was a fair amount of export interest at the orthodox dust auction.

### **Leaf Auction**

Good, high, grown, bolder broken, whole leaf grades and fannings were fully firm to sometimes dearer at the orthodox leaf auction. Others were irregular and quoted lower and there was fair amount of withdrawals. Bolder broken grades were barely steady while smaller broken grades quoted substantially lower. Prices of medium fannings also quoted lower. Exporters to CIS countries and other destinations lent fair amount of support. Exporters to Tunisia were more active as prices eased. Hindustan Unilever did not operate at the orthodox leaf auction. Whole leaf grades witnessed fair amount of enquiry from upcountry buyers.

Although there was good demand at the CTC leaf auction, prices of several grades continued to gravitate lower. There was some support from exporters. Tata Global was selective in a market where HUL did not operate.

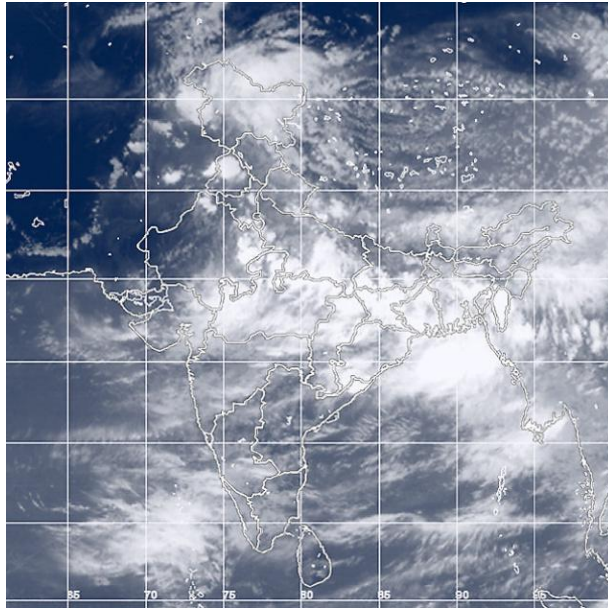
### **Top Prices**

Pasuparai FD fetched the top price at the dust auction at Rs 138 followed by Injipara SFD and Pasuparai SFD at Rs 130 while Injipara SRD quoted Rs 129.

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## Weather



India Meteorological dept picture at 15-30 hrs

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