

## **Training in goat rearing**

PUDUKOTTAI:

The Indian Overseas Bank's Rural Self Employment Training Institute here will impart free training for six days on 'goat rearing' to benefit the educated unemployed rural youths.

### **May 2**

An official press release issued here on Friday said that men and women in the age-group 18-35 years are eligible for the training.

Interested persons should appear at the institute functioning at Thilagar Thidal on or before May 2 with three pass-port photographs and Photostat copy of certificates and mark sheets. Details can be had at 04322-225339 or 99947-37185.

## **ECI nod for new paddy procurement centres**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has revisited its curbs over procurement of paddy and maize by the government agencies. ECI Principal Secretary Tapas Kumar has issued a fresh direction to the Chief Election Officer, Hyderabad, dated 24-4-2014, according permission for opening of new purchase centres for procurement by the government agencies.

It may be recalled that *The Hindu* has carried a news item on the reported uncertainty over paddy procurement in the Krishna and Godavari deltas in the

wake of the ECI's curbs. A delegation of peasant representatives led by the Consortium of Indian Farmers' Associations (CIFA) Chairman Peddireddy Chengal Reddy brought to the notice of Chief Election Commissioner V.S. Sampath the hardships being faced by farmers in receiving MSP for their produce for want of government intervention.

Mr. Tapas Kumar in his letter stated, "The Commission has directed that the AP Markfed and the other such organisations may open new centres for procuring agricultural commodities at locations as per the requirement."

## **Focus back on tourist season**

UDHAGAMANDALAM :

With the people of The Nilgiris having exercised their franchise to elect a person to represent them in the 16th Lok Sabha and the process of counting their votes still three weeks away the focus has shifted back to the annual summer tourist season which is in progress here.

### **Inflow up**

The inflow of tourists particularly during the weekends, which has been good ever since the curtain went up on this year's season about a month ago, has gone up.

Popular tourist spots are teeming with tourists. The inflow is expected to steadily increase over the next few weeks, the main reason being the soaring temperatures down in the plains.

With prolonged dry weather and 'abuse' by lakhs of tourists having made the main lawn of the Government Botanical Garden here present an unhealthy look, the authorities in-charge of the tourist attraction have cordoned it off.

Official sources told *The Hindu* on Friday that since the annual flower show was just a month away measures to enhance the beauty of the lawn had been stepped up.

Stating that the lawn would remain cordoned off till the end of the month, the sources added that it would be thrown open on May 1 as the hill station would normally be flooded with tourists on that day.

It would again be made out of bounds for about two weeks to facilitate its recovery.

## **Recruitment**

Since the flowers had started blooming and the garden was crowded, recruitment of temporary hands had commenced. Pointing out that about a dozen boys had already joined, the sources said that they were students waiting for their Class X or Plus-Two board examination results.

Totally, about 50 boys would be provided with summer jobs.

## **Water level**

### **Mettur:**

The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 35.49 feet on Friday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 1,023 cusecs and the discharge 3,000 cusecs.

### **TIRUNELVELI:**

The water level in the Papanasam dam on Friday stood at 36.05 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 1.62 cusecs and 204.75 cusecs of water is discharged from the dam.

The level in the Manimuthar dam stood at 65.33 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 8 cusecs and 200 cusecs of water is discharged.

## Kanyakumari

The water level stood at 14.80 feet in the Pechipparai dam, 37.05 feet in Perunchani, 2.95 feet in Chittar 1, 3.05 feet in Chittar 11, 1.90 feet in Poigai and 43.20 feet in Mamabazathuraiyaru.



Chennai - INDIA






### Today's Weather

**Saturday, Apr 26**  
Clear  
Max 34° | Min 27°  
Rain: 0  
Humidity: 79  
Wind: normal  
Sunrise: 05:51  
Sunset: 06:22  
Barometer: 1008

### Tomorrow's Forecast

 **Sunday, Apr 27**  
Sunny  
Max 34° | Min 27°

### Extended Forecast for a week

Monday Apr 28	Tuesday Apr 29	Wednesday Apr 30	Thursday May 1	Friday May 2
				
35°   27° Partly Cloudy	35°   27° Partly Cloudy	31°   27° Overcast	31°   27° Overcast	31°   27° Cloudy

## **Hybrid turmeric finds takers as N. India orders trickle in**

**Erode :**

HYBRID TURMERIC FINDS TAKERS

Demand for hybrid turmeric increased in Erode markets on Friday as North Indian orders began to trickle in. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety turmeric was sold at Rs. 4,899-7,455 and the root variety Rs. 4,639-7,060 a quintal. The finger variety of Salem Hybrid fetched Rs. 6,261-7,805; the root variety Rs. 5,887-7,263. Of the 501 bags that arrived, 228 were sold. Our Correspondent

## **Outlook turns bullish for masur, urad**

**Indore :**

BULLISH OUTLOOK FOR MASUR, URAD

Pulse seeds and pulses ruled stable in Indore mandis on subdued demand. Masur and its dal ruled firm on steady demand with masur (bold) at Rs. 5,100-50, while masur (Madhya Pradesh) ruled at Rs. 4,600-4,800 a quintal. Given steep decline in domestic crop output this year, prospects look bullish for masur. Masur dal (average) was being quoted at Rs. 5,900-25, masur dal (medium) at Rs. 6,000-25, while masur (bold) ruled at Rs. 6,100-25 a quintal. Urad (bold) was Rs. 4,900-5,000, while urad (medium) ruled at Rs. 4,500-4,800. Our Correspondent

## **Spot rubber climbs back to Rs. 140/kg**

**Kottayam :**

Spot rubber finished firm on Friday.

The market opened steady but improved later on covering purchases at lower levels following the better trend in domestic futures.

There were no quantity sellers in the local trading houses as most traders expected a short term recovery in prices.

Sheet rubber improved to Rs. 140 ( Rs. 139) a kg, as quoted by traders.

The grade closed steady at Rs. 138.50 and Rs. 135.50 respectively, according to dealers and the Rubber Board.

May futures improved to Rs. 139.25 ( Rs. 138.39), June to Rs. 142 ( Rs. 140.60), July to Rs. 143.03 ( Rs. 141.79) and August to Rs. 142.50 ( Rs. 140) while the mini May contracts ended at Rs. 139.50 ( Rs. 138.75), June at Rs. 141.45 ( Rs. 141.40) and July at Rs. 140 ( Rs. 141.79) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) closed at Rs. 126.62 ( Rs. 125.78) at Bangkok.

May futures closed at ¥200 ( Rs. 118.76) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates ( Rs. /kg) were: RSS-4: 140 (139); RSS-5: 135.50 (135); Ungraded: 131 (129); ISNR 20: 126.50 (126) and Latex 60%: 110 (110).

## Govt rice procurement may not hit the target

Lower arrivals in AP, Odisha result in purchase by agencies dropping



### **New Delhi, April 25:**

Government agencies led by Food Corporation of India (FCI) may end up procuring lower quantity of rice in the current 2013-14 marketing year over last year on account of sluggish market arrivals of paddy.

FCI and other State agencies have so far procured 27.29 million tonnes (mt) of rice, about 10 per cent lower than 30.44 mt procured during the same period a year ago. In the 2012-13 marketing year, the Government had procured about 34 million tonnes of rice and was targeting to procure some 34.5 mt in the current season ending June.

Going by the sluggish procurement, the total purchases by State agencies could end up lower than last year's 34 mt. "Kharif procurement is already over and we are in the middle of the rabi procurement season. We may end up procuring between 30 and 32 mt," FCI officials said.

They attributed the sluggish procurement to lower market arrivals in key rice producing States of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha among others, where cyclones and excess rainfall had hit paddy production.

According to the second advance estimates, rice production in the current year is projected at a record 106.19 mt against last year's 105.24 mt. However, market arrivals of paddy so far are 5 per cent lower at 50.17 mt against 52.77 mt during the same period a year ago.

Rice stocks in the Central pool currently stand at 20.27 mt, almost 70 per cent higher than the buffer norm and strategic reserves of 14.2 mt as on April 1. In fact, the April rice stocks this year are the lowest in six years since 2009.

## **El Nino seen choking moisture feed into Bay, Arabian Sea to deny rains**

### **Thiruvananthapuram :**

Updated forecasts issued by Asia Pacific Climate Centre in Busan, South Korea, shows just how a building El Nino will proceed to pull the plug on the Indian monsoon.

India may be known as the monsoon country but the appendage builds mainly on the size of the landmass. Fact is that it is only one of the many beneficiaries of the larger Asian monsoon system.

### **Moisture feed**

Seasonal winds fan the monsoon into India and the rest of South Asia which also includes Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and the rest of South-East Asia.

These winds mop up moisture from the seas which gets rained down across the geography. There is no way the system can ensure an equitable distribution of moisture/rain to each country.



This is because winds don't care about geographical boundaries and merely blow from an area of high pressure to one of lower pressure.

Warming of the surface (land or sea) causes surrounding air to heat up and expand, creating lower pressure.

Thus, the warming/cooling of the massive Pacific with a size that can hold continents together is crucial in that its impact can drastically alter global weather or climate patterns.

### **Warming of sea**

During an El Nino, equatorial and east Pacific warms up, causing bulk of available moisture to concentrate there.

When coinciding with the Indian monsoon, it will deny the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea their due share of 'this fuel that fires the monsoon engine.'

The Korean agency forecast projects both seas being 'drained to a slow death' during the monsoon even as it will rain down heavily in the east Pacific and Americas where incremental moisture will have headed.

It is not just India that suffers in the bargain. Entire Maritime Continent (the Indonesian archipelago, etc) and most of Australia are also projected to pile up moderate to heavy rain deficits until September.

### **Rain deficits**

Latest forecasts from the agency say that the first phase of the monsoon (May-June-July) will leave central India and adjoining west India and the west coast in deficit.

Likely exceptions to the deficit are Tamil Nadu, parts of Rajasthan, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Excess rain is likely over north-west Rajasthan and adjoining south-west Punjab.

The second phase (August-September-October) will see peninsular India, Gujarat and south-west Rajasthan drying up. Excess rain will be confined to parts of Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada and Seemandhra.

## Cotton blooms on buying by mills

### **Rajkot:**

Cotton price increased marginally on strong domestic mills demand and lower arrivals. *Kapas* was also traded higher due to quality issues. Best quality Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton gained Rs. 100-200 to Rs. 42,500-43,000 a candy of 356 kg. Average grade cotton stood at Rs. 40,000-41,000 and lower grade cotton at Rs. 36,000-37,000. About 30,000-32,000 bales (of 170 kg each) of cotton arrived in Gujarat and 95,000 bales across the country. On the other side, arrivals decreased pulling up cotton price. *Kapas* was traded higher by Rs. 10 to Rs. 900-1,075 for a *maund* of 20 kg. Gin delivery *kapas* was traded at Rs. 1,040-60.

# Business Standard

## Agri commodities rise on fears of low rainfall

**Most of the agri commodities on Ncdex were up more than 1% during the day session**



Prices of agricultural commodities rose sharply on Friday, following the meteorological department's prediction of below-normal [rainfall](#) this kharif season. The department had estimated rainfall at 95 per cent of the long-period average. A range of 96 per cent to 104 per cent shows normal rainfall.

On the National Commodities & Derivatives Exchange ([NCDEX](#)), most agricultural commodities rose about one per cent during the day session. Castor seed, guar gum, guar seed and soybean were trading three per cent higher. [Barley](#), [chana](#), cotton, oilseed cake, [jeera](#), [mustard seed](#) and [turmeric](#) also saw a rise.

Other factors also impacted the increase in prices. For instance, in the case of soybean, low arrivals had an impact. Fear of lower rainfall had gripped the market earlier, too, when private weather forecaster Skymet had predicted, the El Niño weather phenomenon would lead to low rainfall in India. Analysts expect the northern and western regions of the country to be severely impacted due to a weak monsoon; these regions account for a substantial portion of the country's agricultural activity.

“The movement in today's commodity market was a logical knee jerk reaction to Meteorological Department's weather forecast. Going ahead, there might be a drought in certain parts of the country. All kharif commodities such as soybean, cotton, turmeric and guar seed are expected to be impacted in a big way in the coming monsoon season,” said Naveen Mathur, associate director (commodities

and currencies), Angel Broking.

Experts believe this kharif season would be similar to the one in 2009, when many agricultural commodities such as oilseeds, sugar and cotton had hit new highs due to the El Niño. “Since India is a southeast country, the El Niño impact might lead to a draught-like situation in many crop-growing areas, the way it was in 2009. We will see commodities pricing shooting up in the coming months,” said Vinita Advani, research analyst, Geojit Comtrade.

## Odisha unveils draft fisheries policy

**It aims at tapping the untapped potential of aquaculture to food and nutritional security**

The [Odisha](#) government has unveiled its draft [fisheries policy](#), aimed at bridging the gap between the demand and supply of fish for domestic consumption, encouraging public private partnership (PPP) investment in fisheries sector and tapping the untapped potential of aquaculture to ensure food and nutritional security.

Other objectives of the policy include upgradation of infrastructure facilities in the fisheries sector, upgradation of overall quality of fish, enhancing productivity and production of fish and expanding export markets for high value products.

The policy has envisioned a balanced approach to fisheries management based on sound ecological, economic and precautionary principles to ensure that the fish population remain viable, productive and accessible to future generations.

It has also stressed on an efficient value chain and an organised and secure marketing for fish and fishery products so as to protect the producers’ and

consumers' interest and augment marine products export and foreign exchange earnings of Odisha.

The key areas of this comprehensive fisheries policy are based on the national and international commitments and requirements, covering the entire gamut of fisheries, harvest and post-harvest infrastructure and market support, socio-economic aspects of fisheries and related issues. The policy has identified key opportunities in the fisheries sector- revitalization and modernisation of fish ponds, ever increasing demand for fresh water fish, upgradation of fish harbours, utilisation of technologies for minimizing adverse environmental impact and creation of alternative livelihood for the fishermen community.

However, import of less expensive fish and fish products, clandestine import and introduction of diseased/infected seeds in culture systems, increased sedimentation of the coastal structures, natural calamities and spread of fish and shrimp diseases pose threat to the sector.

Aiming to offer fiscal incentives, the policy seeks to declare aquaculture as an agriculture activity for enabling easy flow of credit/ institutional finance.

Necessary incentives and tax holidays will be provided to large scale fish farmers who produce at least 10 tonne of fish per hectare (ha). To make fish processing in Odisha more lucrative and competitive in the export and domestic markets, the duties, taxes and other levies such as cess on export of fish and fisheries products, on packaging material and machinery will be rationalised in consultation with the concerned authorities.

The policy says adequate and timely credit will be provided to investors, particularly towards working capital to fish processing sector. The government will also promote insurance in fresh water aquaculture by providing 50 per cent

of the insurance premium.

Total fish production in the state in 2012-13 stood at 410,144 tonne. While the fish production from the inland fisheries and brackish water resources has increased from 218,716 tonne from 2007-08 to 291,833 tonne in 2012-13, there has been a decline in marine fish production from 130,767 tonne to 118,311 tonne in the same period. Marine products exports from Odisha stood at Rs 886.15 crore in 2012-13 and the figure is expected to cross Rs 1,000 crore by the end of 2013-14.

## THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Food Corporation India invites bids for short term loan of Rs 20K crore

NEW DELHI: Facing liquidity crunch, the Food Corporation of India has floated a tender inviting bids for short term loan of Rs 20,000 crore to meet the working capital requirements.

FCI had food subsidy dues of around Rs 50,000 crore at the end of financial year 2013-14. It has written to the government informing about its financial position in the first week of April, sources said.

in 2013-14, the government provided Rs 75,500.02 crore as subsidy to FCI, while subsidy incurred during the year was at Rs 1,03,791.85 crore. The total subsidy arrears, including arrears carried over from the previous years amounted to about Rs 50,000 crore.

The tender, floated on April 24, will close on April 30. "To meet its short term

fund requirement for procurement and distribution of foodgrains, the corporation is considering raising short term loans from the scheduled banks only ..

FCI has fixed the minimum quote for an amount of Rs 250 crore and tranche size has been kept at Rs 20,000 crore.

Rate of interest quoted is to be linked with the base rate of the bank quoting the plus/minus to the base rate to arrive at the effective rate at which the offer for short term loan can be extended to FCI," says the tender.

Banks can bid for different tenures but corporation reserves the right of selecting the right tenure.

Besides short term loan, government has also sanctioned cash credit limit of Rs 54,495 crore to FCI on secured basis, which it can avail from the consortium of 62 banks in lieu of its stock of grains.

Meanwhile, in the last fiscal the government had also allowed FCI to raise Rs 8,000 crore from the market via long term bonds, which the corporation has already raised in the last fiscal.

The government pays bulk of food subsidy to FCI as it is the nodal agency with the primary task of purchasing and ensuring effective prices to farmers.

It also ensures required supply of food grains at cheaper rates throughout the country.

FCI's arrears have risen sharply in the last few years due to increase in the minimum support prices (MSP) for foodgrains as well as high procurement, storage and distribution costs.

The economic cost which is total of MSP, procurement storage and distribution costs for wheat and rice was at Rs 1,494.35 per quintal and Rs 1,983.11 per quintal respectively in 2010-11.

It rose to Rs 1,932.39 per quintal and Rs 2,638.54 per quintal respectively in 2013-14.