

## Android app to solve Bengal farmers' issues

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KOLKATA, February 21, 2014 - West Bengal is set to introduce an android application that will link farmers with agricultural experts to provide solutions to their crop cultivation issues, a state agricultural department official said on Monday.

The app 'Mati Katha' has been created with an investment of Rs.2.39 crore (in the first phase) with the help of a team of agricultural experts and the state information technology agency WEBEL.

According to Himangshu Mondal, nodal officer, Directorate of Agriculture, 127 workers, who were recruited by the state government as part of the Krishi Proyukti Sahayak (KPS) or agri-tech assistants, will act as the interface between the farmers and the specialists in six districts. "The KPS are posted in gram panchayat levels and will be provided android tablets with GPRS connections to facilitate audio and video messaging, real-time, that will relay the problems to the agri-experts," Mondal said.

"Besides problem solving, the app can be utilised to make budgets for particular crops, research market price and weather forecasts," he added. IANS

## Rice farmer cultivates 80 paddy varieties

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*Farmer B.K. Deva Rao of Mittabagilu village in his field on the foothills of the Western Ghats.*

UJIRE (DAKSHINA KANNADA), February 21, 2014 - A farmer in Dakshina Kannada is proud to own 80 varieties of paddy, most of them being traditional ones. B.K. Deva Rao of Mittabagilu village, 16 km from Ujire, now sows them on rotation basis on 42 plots spread over six acres on the foothills of the Western

Ghats.

He cultivated 40 varieties from April to October and the other 40 from October to March. Hence, all were saved. According to him, he used only "hatti gobbara" (organic manure) to grow them.

The paddy in his possession includes not just the ones cultivated in the coastal belt but also elsewhere. It includes some hybrid varieties as well.

Pointing out at a Manipuri variety, Mr. Rao told *The Hindu* that the grain was light blue in colour. A doctor had given him a Thailand variety called "Jasmine", he said.

Mr. Rao said that till 1979, he had grown 40 varieties of paddy. It was from then that he started using chemical fertilizers till 1988 as the government introduced hybrid varieties such as IR-8, Jaya and Shakthi during this period.

As the focus shifted to hybrid varieties, sowing traditional ones lagged behind. Hence, the stock of varieties came down to nine. During this time, he observed that the soil had turned hard due to the use of chemical fertilizers.

Subsequently, Mr. Rao said, he switched to natural farming and after 2000, he started collecting varieties that he had lost and the ones which were not in his possession.

Mr. Rao said that some of the traditional varieties such as “Samunga” or “Kumkuma” were still not available. “Kolanjipille” and “Jeerigesale” varieties are also lost, he said.

Some of the varieties in his possession are “Meese Bhatta”, “Kalame”, “Atikaya”, “Raja Kayame”, “Suggi Kayame”, “Tonnur”, “Navara”, “Gandhasale”, “Aden Kelte”, “Gidda Bhatta” and “Shasthitka (a two-and-a-half month crop).

His son, B.K. Parameshwar Rao, a mechanical engineer-turned-agriculturist, said that usually paddy seed lost full germination capacity if stored beyond eight months after harvest.

Hence, they would have to be sown annually to preserve quality.

Mr. Deva Rao has received awards and felicitations from government departments and non-government organisations for his attempt to preserve paddy varieties.

## Farmers’ hub opened at Manachanallur

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TIRUCHI, February 21, 2014 - A farmers’ hub that would function as a one-stop shop for farmers to get information and technological support has become functional at Manachanallur. The hub was one among the 10 such hubs inaugurated across the State by Chief Minister Jayalalithaa through videoconferencing in Chennai on Wednesday.

The hub has been established at a cost of Rs. 1.46 crore under the National Agricultural Development Programme. Farmers could get all necessary technological inputs from the hub as officials of the agriculture, horticulture, agri business, agricultural engineering, and seed certification would be available here. The hub houses a meeting hall and storage godown for agricultural inputs. An exhibition by agriculture and allied departments would run permanently at the hub. A touch screen has also been installed for farmers to know about pests and diseases affecting crops and the remedial measures to be taken.

## Collector keeps farmers waiting and fuming

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*They stage walkout from grievance day meeting*

*After a long wait: Farmers staging a walkout from the grievance day meeting in Tuticorin on Thursday.— Photo: N. Rajesh*

TUTICORIN, February 21, 2014 - Irked over delay in commencement of a grievance redressal day meeting

scheduled for 11 a.m. at the Collectorate here on Thursday, farmers staged a walkout. After waiting for nearly half an hour at the hall, the farmers, led by S. Rajendran, former Kovilpatti MLA, raised slogans against the officials and walked down to the ground floor where they squatted under the portico.

K.P. Perumal, district secretary, Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam, said Collector M. Ravikumar was lethargic in listening to grievances of farmers who had come from many places across the district for the meeting.

Kandasamy of Srivaikuntam said that at this rate it would be impossible for the Collector to dispose of 124 pending petitions. Mr. Rajendran deplored that even the agriculture officials did not turn up for the meeting.

Kovilpatti Sub Collector K. Vijaya Karthikeyan tried to pacify the farmers who stood firm with a demand that the Collector must come and explain the reason for the delay.

Later, the Collector arrived and attributed the delay to his preoccupation with a telephone call.

Mr. Ravikumar said he was discussing with Principal Secretary (Agriculture) Sandeep Saxena over extension of last date for paying crop insurance premium.

Later when the meeting started, the Collector said that since the government had given approval for the scheme to link the Tamiraparani with Karumeniyar and Nambiyar rivers, the farmers would benefit greatly when the project was commissioned.

Tamilmanian of Kurumbur said the Tamiraparani water must be released on a priority basis so as to save standing crops and said that farmers in his area were facing hardship in irrigating their paddy fields.

He sought a rise in procurement price of paddy.

The Collector said paddy procurement centres had been set up at six places — Kurumbur, Iruvappapuram, Kulayankarisal, Srivaikuntam, Nazareth and Vasavappapuram.

## ‘Rs. 8.65 lakh relief for farmers released’

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BIDAR, February 21, 2014 - The State government has released Rs. 8.65 lakh as compensation to farmers who had lost 45 cattle owing to foot and mouth disease in Bidar district.

The Rs. 8.65 lakh relief would be distributed to farmers in a day or two, Santoshamma Pundalikappa, president of Bidar Zilla Panchayat, said here on Wednesday.

Speaking at a development programme review meeting at the zilla panchayat, she instructed the officials concerned to expedite the process and ensure that the compensation reached the eligible beneficiaries.

She directed the officials to provide all the benefits to students residing in Backward Class, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes hostels. “I have visited some hostels and found that students were not getting the facilities promised by the government. Each hostel should have continuous supply of water, clean toilets and drains, and enough plates and bedspreads,” she said.

Ujjwal Kumar Ghosh, Chief Executive Officer of the zilla panchayat, and others were present.

## Scheme to reclaim wasteland for agriculture launched

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KOLKATA, February 21, 2014 - At a time when land has become one of the most critical inputs for economic development, the West Bengal government has embarked on a programme to reclaim wastelands in order to make them arable. This programme has been dovetailed into the Central project — Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI) — which was launched in 2010-11.

The main tenets of this strategy is the development of cultivable wastelands into arable lands, development of sand-laden area into arable lands, land-shaping and rising and development of uncultivable wastelands through plantation.

The programme is being panned out through the State covering the drylands in Purulia and Bankura in the west, the sand-laden area in the Teesta in the north and saline coastal areas in the south.

The sloppy uplands of Purulia, Bankura, Paschim Medinipur, part of Birbhum and Burdwan are being developed and converted into cultivable land through field bunding, graded bunding and terracing. Most of the districts selected for this venture are semi-arid regions. By adopting graded bunding and other conservation measures, in-situ moisture conservation increases significantly eventually increasing crop production and productivity. By creating a water resource, the cropping intensity of these newly developed lands is being increased manifold.

In the Teesta-Terai agro-climatic zone covering the districts of Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri, and the Siliguri sub division of Darjeeling, the soil moisture varies due to flash floods in the monsoon.

Conservation work has helped enhance productivity.

By excavation and re-excavation of water-harvesting structures and by water harvesting, a significant area has been brought under command area which has helped during dry season in kharif crop and in the post-monsoon rabi crop.

In the coastal saline zone, which suffers from inundation in the South 24 Parganas area due to its saucer shape, land shaping and raising has been done to increase cropping intensity. In uncultivable wastelands, where soil erosion has impacted farming, horticultural crops like cashew, mango, guava and citrus fruits are being planted along with fast growing forest species like eucalyptus. This has converted many of these lands into a productive one.

The State's latest Economic Review said schemes on land and water resources development through soil and water conservation measures in degraded lands of the State has been included in the Rajiv Gandhi Krishi Vikas Yojana since the programme's inception in 2007-08. Over 3,631 hectares of land has been treated and made arable in this manner.

## William Dar honoured for efforts to uplift farmers

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*William Dar receiving the award.*

HYDERABAD, February 21, 2014 - Director General of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (Icrisat) William Dar has bagged the prestigious "Federation of Asian Biotech Associations (FABA) Special Award-2014" in recognition of his efforts to improve the livelihoods of poor small-holder farmers in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr. Dar was chosen for the award by a team of global experts in lieu of his contribution to science and sustainable agriculture and his transformational leadership at Icrisat that turned the institute into a forward-looking global centre of excellence.



# CM supports cooperative farming

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*Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Minister for Forests B. Ramanath Rai, Minister of State for Agriculture Krishna Byre Gowda, Minister for Transport R. Ramalinga Reddy, and Ashok Kheni, MLA, with award-winning farmers in Bangalore on Wednesday. — Photo: Bhagya Prakash K.*

**BANGALORE, February 21, 2014 - Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has underlined**

the need for comprehensive development of the agriculture sector to enable farmers lead a dignified life.

At a function to present awards to innovative farmers here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said farming was becoming unviable because of the dip in yield.

Mr. Siddaramaiah expressed concern over the dwindling number of families involved in agriculture owing to the migration of the youth to urban areas in search of jobs.

“Farming is no longer an attractive option for the educated youth, whose migration is causing more pressure on urban areas... Making farming a profitable and attractive activity and promotion of integrated farming systems are the solutions,” Mr. Siddaramaiah said. He said the government was doing its best to increase agriculture production by launching pro-farming schemes and bringing more areas under irrigation. Agriculture production was 33 lakh tonnes in 1956, it rose to 131 lakh tonnes in 2013, and it is expected to be 135 lakh tonnes in the coming year.

Attributing the increase in agriculture production to the Green Revolution, he said technological advances had also had an adverse affect on the farm sector. “The need of the hour is to promote organic and natural farming to stem the ill effects of excess utilisation of fertilizer and pesticides. Instead of depending on seeds being supplied by agriculture companies, farmers have to produce seeds.”

Calling upon farm varsities to develop high-yielding varieties of seeds, Mr. Siddaramaiah said cooperative farming would provide answers to the problems being faced by farmers, including shrinking of cultivation area because of fragmentation of land.

Defending the government’s Anna Bhagya scheme, Mr. Siddaramaiah said it would help farmers to a great extent. “But I don’t advise them to grow paddy for the sake of the scheme. They have to focus on integrated farming which will be more beneficial,” he said. Responding to complaints from farmers on the plummeting prices of tomato and the supply of spurious cotton seeds, the Chief Minister said the government was aware of the problem and would take steps to address them.

## DK milk union to pay Rs. 31/litre — highest in State

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*Union says it is sharing its surplus with farmers*

From Friday, the Dakshina Kannada Cooperative Milk Producers Union will pay Rs. 31 for one litre of milk to its 1.2 lakh dairy farmers in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi. To the basic procurement price of Rs. 25, the union will add a support price of Rs. 2 and State government’s incentive of Rs. 4 per litre.

Chairman of the union Raviraj Hegde said the procurement price given to the farmers in the district was the highest in the State. Bellary farmers are paid Rs. 30 per litre, Hassan farmers, Rs. 29, and Bangalore farmers are paid Rs. 28.

Mr. Hegde said the union was giving to farmers' surplus that it earned during the financial year. "This revised price will be available till March," he said and added that decision to extend it for the remaining part of the year would be taken later.

The Dakshina Kannada Cooperative Milk Producers Union took the decision to hike the procurement price at the general body meeting held on Wednesday. The basic procurement price was increased from Rs. 24.50 to Rs. 25 and the support price from Rs. 1 to Rs. 2. "With this increase the procurement price has come much closer to price milk is sold," he said. As many as 1.12 lakh members of the union would benefit, he said.

### **No FMD**

Mr. Hegde said there was no major outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the twin districts. During the period between August and November 2013, there were about 10 deaths of cows for which the union paid compensation of Rs. 77,400. "These are stray cases. The foot-and-mouth disease is not a major concern here," he said.

The union has joined with the Department of Animal Husbandry in conducting vaccination for a period of one month from February 15. While the Central government was giving the vaccine, the staff and doctors the union and the Animal Husbandry department will be visiting each of houses to vaccinate the live stock.

Asked about the statement of Karnataka Milk Federation Managing Director A.S. Premnath that the federation would not buy milk of cows that were not vaccinated, Mr. Hegde said the statement was made to encourage farmers to vaccinate their cows. "No such decision was taken by the Federation." Former Chairman of the union K. Sitaram Rai said farmers were hesitating to vaccinate cows because there was a drop in milk output of around one litre for a few days after the shot.

The Karnataka Milk Federation will be selling its sweets and flavoured milk at a discount of 10 per cent in the first week of March. Dakshina Kannada Milk Producers Union's Managing Director B.V. Satyanarayana said this was part of the federation's 'Sihi Saptaha' (Week of Sweets) campaign being held between March 1 and March 7. Mr. Satyanarayana said their products namely Nandini Pheda, Dharward Pheda, Belgaum Kunda, Cashew Burfi, Mysore Park and flavoured milk in packets.

Mr. Satyanarayana said there has been a good response to 'scratch and win' promotion cashew burfi, a product launched by the Union few weeks ago. The promotion for the new product was being done till May 5. Demand for it has increased from 20 kg to 50 kg per day.

## New offices for agriculture, horticulture departments opened



*Project was completed in December 2012*

*The new office of the agriculture department behind the District Collectorate Complex in Krishnagiri on Thursday.-Photo: N.Bashkaran.*

Offices of the Joint Directors' of Agriculture, Horticulture, Soil Test

Laboratory, Farmers' Training Centre and Mobile Soil Test Laboratory were shifted to a new a building behind the Collectorate on Thursday.

Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, on Wednesday, inaugurated the new office through video conference along with many other development projects across the State.

Even though the construction of the building was completed in December 2012, it was taken over by the Agriculture Department on Thursday after the formal inauguration.

S. Radhakrishnan, Joint Director, Department of Agriculture said that that the 2374.78 square metre building with a ground and first floor was constructed in a plot area of 0.61 hectares.

With this, the agriculture and horticulture departments would save Rs. 31,000 per month, hitherto paid as rent for the buildings hired in Krishnagiri town ever since the district was bifurcated from Dharmapuri on February 9, 2004. With the shifting of the offices of Joint Directors of Agriculture and Horticulture, over 70 employees would find it very difficult to reach the new office from Collectorate, as no town buses takes the route directly linking the office.

Bus route

Employees and farmers who are visiting the office for training would have to travel one km from the bus stop.

Hence, they appealed to the District Collector to take measures so that town buses can ply on the Travellers' Bungalow road. If the buses ply on this route, employees working in many offices including Agriculture Engineering, Agriculture Marketing and RTO offices, would benefit.

## Thrust on agriculture in Kottayam panchayat budget

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*Budget allocates Rs.1 crore for modernisation of farms, Rs.90 lakh for animal husbandry sector*



*District panchayat vice-president Philson Mathews presents the budget for 2014-15 in Kottayam on Thursday.— PHOTO: BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT*

KOTTAYAM, February 21, 2014 - The budget estimate of the Kottayam district panchayat for the fiscal year 2014-15 has given priority to the agricultural sector. Presented by panchayat vice-president Philson Mathews on Thursday, the budget envisages a revenue of Rs. 424.91 crore against an expenditure of Rs. 419.28 crore, thereby denoting a surplus of Rs. 5.62 crore.

Among the major proposals is the allocation of Rs. 1 crore for the modernisation of three agricultural farms in the district. The proposal is intended to facilitate modern agricultural practices and thereby improve productivity at such facilities. An allocation of Rs. 50 lakh has been made to bring 50 panchayats under the ambit of 'Haritha Gramam' project for self-sufficiency in vegetable cultivation. Twenty-three panchayats had been included in the scheme the previous year. The scheme is being implemented through Kudumbasree units. The panchayat will also launch a programme to promote paddy farming by utilising barren lands in the district. An amount of Rs. 50 lakh has been earmarked for subsidies to those willing to participate in the initiative.

An amount of Rs. 90 lakh has been allocated for the animal husbandry sector to promote cattle rearing. In addition, satellite centres will come up under the regional poultry farm in Manarcad. These centres will be managed by Kudumbasree units.

The budget also provides Rs. 24 lakh for dairy development in the region. Besides initiating various measures to ensure self-sufficiency in milk production in the district within three years, the panchayat will also establish modern vending machines. The panchayat will implement a Rs. 10-lakh scheme in association with the Fisheries Department for promoting inland fishing. Training programme will also be organised for ornamental fish farming. The

budget has allocated a total of Rs. 7 crore for the health sector. A training programme for home nurses will also be conducted.

The district panchayat will launch 'Gurukulam' scheme in association with the district police and excise department to curb the increasing use of liquor and drugs among students. The panchayat will also create an online database to register students' attendance in schools. An amount of Rs. 3 crore has been allocated for improving infrastructural facilities of all schools functioning under the district panchayat. Training programmes will be arranged for children with special needs at the block resource centres. The panchayat will also continue its successful Vidyajyothi project through which extra classes will be arranged for students of Class 10.

Other allocations include Rs. 13 crore for the construction of various roads and bridges; Rs. 2.30 crore for 'Nirbhaya' awareness programme for women; Rs. 1 crore for the welfare of disabled persons; Rs. 1 crore for establishing a waste processing plant; Rs. 1.40 crore for the conservation of soil and water and Rs. 5 crore for the supply of drinking water.

## Fruit of the day

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*An orange a day may ward off stroke risk*



Eating foods that contain vitamin C may reduce your risk of the most common type of hemorrhagic stroke, says a study. Vitamin C is found in fruits and vegetables such as oranges, papaya, peppers, broccoli and strawberries.

Hemorrhagic stroke is less common than ischemic stroke, but is more often deadly.

The study involved 65 people who had experienced an intra-cerebral hemorrhagic stroke, or a blood vessel rupture inside the brain. They were compared to 65 healthy people.

Participants were tested for the levels of vitamin C in their blood.

Forty-one per cent of cases had normal levels of vitamin C, 45 per cent showed depleted levels of vitamin C and 14 per cent were considered deficient of the vitamin.

On average, the people who had a stroke had depleted levels of vitamin C, while those who had not had a stroke had normal levels of the vitamin.

"Our results show that vitamin C deficiency should be considered a risk factor for this severe type of stroke, as were high blood pressure, drinking alcohol and being overweight in our study," said study author Stephane Vannier with Pontchaillou University Hospital in Rennes, France.

Vannier added that vitamin C appeared to have other benefits like creating collagen, a protein found in bones, skin and tissues.

Vitamin C deficiency has also been linked to heart disease.

IANS



# Water levels

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The water level in the **Mettur dam** stood at 50.54 feet on Thursday against its full reservoir level of 120 feet. The inflow was 169 cusecs and the discharge 1,800 cusecs.

Water level in the **Papanasam dam** on Thursday stood at 57.60 feet (permissible level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 218.52 cusecs and 604.75 cusecs of water was discharged from the dam.

The level of **Manimuthar dam** stood at 75.30 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 61 cusecs and 530 cusecs of water was discharged.

**Kanyakumari** - The level at dams in Kanyakumari district: Pechipparai-13.20 feet, Perunchani- 42.95, Chittar I-4.72 feet, Chittar II-4.82 feet, Poigai-3.80 and Mamabazathuraiyaru-54.12.

## Mysore Milk Union to be bifurcated

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*Chamarajanagar to have new milk producers societies' union*

*Mysore Milk Union has proposed to set up a mega dairy at Alanahalli. — File PHOTO: M.A. SRIRAM*

Mysore Chamarajanagar District Cooperative Milk Producers Societies' Union Ltd., popularly known as Mysore Milk Union (MyMul) or Mysore Dairy, will be bifurcated and a new milk union will

be set up in Chamarajanagar.

The Cabinet has approved the proposal and Rs. 83 crore has been sanctioned for the new dairy. MyMul managing director Suresh Babu told *The Hindu* that a 23-acre land had been identified at Kuderu. The new union can produce about 3 lakh litres of milk a day.

**Revised cost**-With this, the project cost of the proposed mega dairy in Mysore had been revised to around Rs. 176 crore instead, he said.

MyMul is awaiting the Finance Department's nod for the project announced in the 2011 budget.

"At a recent meeting with officials in Bangalore, we said MyMul will contribute 25 percent of the cost and requested the government to bear the rest," Mr. Babu said.

Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) is planning to request Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who also holds the Finance portfolio, to sanction the project proposed on a 36-acre land at Alanahalli.

The KMF intends to set up the project jointly with the State government.

It was proposed here to give a boost to the dairy sector in the region. The National Dairy Development Board developed the project plan.

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📌 ***The new union can produce about 3 lakh litres of milk a day***

📌 ***Rs. 83 crore sanctioned for the new dairy***

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# “Regulate fishing activities of motorised country boat fishermen”

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*200 mechanised boat fishermen in Pamban stage a demonstration*

*ON AN equal footing: Mechanised boat fishermen staging a demonstration at Pamban on Thursday. — Photo: L. BALACHANDAR*

PAMBAN, February 21, 2014 - Mechanised boat fishermen, owing allegiance to three associations, staged a demonstration here on Thursday, urging

the fisheries department to bring under its purview motorised country boat fishermen using more than 14 HP engines.

A week after the country boat fishermen staged an agitation, demanding action against mechanised boat fishermen, using the banned pair trawling and purse seine nets, about 200 mechanised boat fishermen in Pamban staged a demonstration against their country boat counterparts.

A. Arokiyam, treasurer of Theevu Fishermen Association, said the agitation was to urge the authorities to ensure that the 45-day ban, observed from April 15 to May end, be applied to the motorised country boat fishermen, who used engines of more than 14 HP and they be brought under the fishing permit system.

**Free way-** He said when mechanised boat fishermen in the island observed the 45-day ban during the fish breeding season, motorised country boats using more than 14 HP engines ventured freely into the sea and destroyed marine resources.

While the mechanised boat fishermen ventured into the sea only thrice in a week, these fishermen went for fishing on six days with fisheries department officials having no control over them.

When the sea was rough, the department would not issue fishing permits to the mechanised boat fishermen, after issuing warnings but the motorised country boat fishermen would venture into the sea ignoring such warnings, he said.

The demonstration was to urge the department to regulate the fishing activities of motorised country boat fishermen by issuing them fishing permits and restrict their fishing days to three days a week.

The department should also take action against those who used ‘narambu valai,’ since it posed a threat to the marine resources, he said.

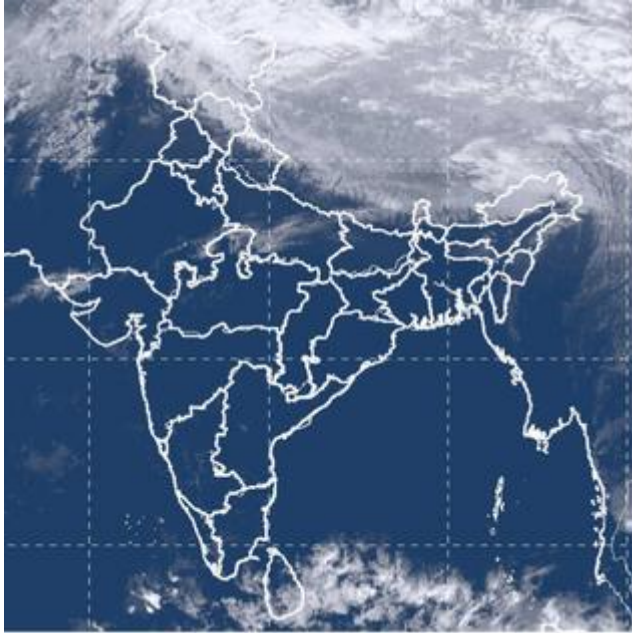
There were about 100 motorised country boats, using engines of more than 14 HP in Pamban, he said.

**Black flags** - Fishermen, who were members of Theevu Fishermen Association, Pamban Fishermen Association and Munnorgal Fishermen Association, staged the demonstration after hoisting black flags on their boats.

There were 124 mechanised boats in Pamban region, he added.

# Weather

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## ANDHRA PRADESH

Anantapur	33	21	0	0
Arogyavaram	32	20	0	0
Bapatla	30	19	0	3
Calingapatnam	28	16	0	0
Gannavaram	31	19	0	22
Hanamkonda	36	19	0	0
Hyderabad AP	30	20	0	1
Kakinada	31	20	0	1
Khammam	32	21	0	0
Kavali	29	20	0	9
Kurnool	33	21	0	0
Mahabubnagar	32	19	0	0
Machilipatnam	29	20	0	0
Nandyal	33	21	0	0
Narasapur	31	19	0	0
Nellore	30	23	0	10
Nizamabad	33	18	0	0
Ongole	32	21	0	2
Ramagundam	32	15	0	0
Tirupathi AP	33	21	0	3
Tuni	31	19	0	0
Vizag AP	31	18	0	3
Vizag	29	20	0	19

## KARNATAKA

Agumbe	31	11	0	0
Bangalore AP	29	18	0	0
Bangalore	30	19	0	0
Bagalkote	32	18	0	0
Belgaum AP	33	19	0	0
Bellary	34	19	0	0
Bijapur	32	20	0	0
Chitradurga	31	17	0	0
Chickmagalur	30	18	0	0
Gadag	32	19	0	0

Gulbarga	33	20	0	0
Hassan	31	13	0	0
Honavar	32	22	0	0
Karwar	33	23	0	0
Madikeri	25	12	0	5
Mangalore AP	34	21	0	0
Mysore	31	19	0	0
Mandya	32	20	0	0
Panambur	34	23	0	0
Raichur	32	20	0	0
Shirali	32	23	0	0
<b>KERALA</b>				
Alappuzha	34	26	0	1
Kannur	35	24	0	5
Kochi AP	34	23	0	2
Kottayam	35	24	0	0
Kozhikode	35	25	0	tr
Punalur	36	24	0	1
Thiruvanantha				
-puram AP	32	25	0	150
Thiruvanantha				
-puram City	33	25	tr	45
Vellanikkara	35	24	0	0
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>				
Adiramapattinam	33	23	tr	12
Chennai	30	23	tr	10
Chennai AP	30	21	0	6
Coimbatore AP	32	23	0	0
Coonoor	17	12	3	86
Cuddalore	31	23	0	1
Dharmapuri	33	21	0	0
Kanyakumari	34	25	0	85
Karaikal	31	25	0	7
Kodaikanal	19	10	0	17
Madurai AP	35	24	0	10
Nagapattinam	31	26	0	7
Palayamkottai	35	21	0	31
Pamban	31	26	0	63
Parangipettai	33	27	0	6
Puducherry	32	22	0	5
Salem	34	22	0	0
Thanjavur	33	25	0	1
Tiruchi AP	35	22	0	tr
Tiruchi	—	—	—	—
Tirupattur	33	22	0	9
Tiruttani	31	19	0	4
Tondi	31	25	tr	44
Tuticorin	32	25	0	23
Ooty	18	6	0	1
Valparai	27	11	0	13
Vellore	32	23	0	1
<b>LAKSHADWEEP</b>				
Amini Divi	31	24	0	74
Minicoy	31	26	0	12
Kavarathi	—	—	—	—
<b>OTHER STATIONS</b>				
Kolkata (Alipore)	25	14	0	41



Mumbai 32 21 0 9  
 New Delhi 23 8 0 50

The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (trace) and total rainfall in mm since January 01, 2014.

DRY WEATHER OVER A.P.

**CHENNAI:** Isolated rainfall occurred over Tamil Nadu and north interior Karnataka. Mainly dry weather prevailed over Kerala and dry weather prevailed over Andhra Pradesh, Lakshadweep, coastal and south interior Karnataka.

The minimum temperature rose appreciably at a few places over north interior Karnataka, Telangana, rose at a few places over coastal Karnataka, rest north interior Karnataka, rest Telangana, fell appreciably at one or two places over south interior Karnataka, south T.N., fell at a few places over north T.N., at one or two places over south coastal A.P. and changed little elsewhere over the region.

They were appreciably below normal at most places over north coastal A.P., at one or two places over Telangana, north interior Karnataka, south T.N., below normal at a few places over rest A.P., at one or two places over south interior Karnataka, appreciably above normal at a few places over north T.N., at one or two places over rest T. N., south Kerala and remained nearly normal over the rest of the region. Adilabad recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 11.3 degree Celsius.

**Forecast (valid until Saturday morning): Isolated rain or thundershowers may occur over T.N., Puducherry, Kerala, Lakshadweep and south interior Karnataka. Mainly dry weather will prevail over coastal and north interior Karnataka and dry weather will prevail over A.P.**



# Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Sunny

**Friday, Feb 21**

Max 28° | Min 22°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 83

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:29

Sunset: 06:16

Barometer: 1015

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

**Saturday, Feb 22**

Max 31° | Min 24°

Extended Forecast for a week

Sunday

**Feb 23**



31° | 23°

Partly Cloudy

Monday

**Feb 24**



25° | 23°

Overcast

Tuesday

**Feb 25**



25° | 23°

Cloudy

Wednesday

**Feb 26**



26° | 24°

Cloudy

Thursday

**Feb 27**



25° | 23°

Cloudy

## Dakshina Kannada cooperative milk producers' body to pay highest procurement price to farmers from tomorrow

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MANGALORE: Come February 21, and the youngest among 13 [milk unions](#) in the state - Dakshina Kannada Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Ltd (DKMUL) will be foremost in terms of [procurement price](#) paid to farmers. Thanks to decision taken at the board meeting held on Wednesday, the farmers effective February 21 will receive Rs 27 per litre of milk that the union procures. The union has also upped the base procurement price to Rs 25/litre.

Raviraj Hegde, president of DKMUL said if one took into consideration the Rs 4/litre of incentive that the state government paid to milk producers, the farmers in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi will now receive Rs 31 for every litre of milk they sell, the highest amount paid by any of the 13 milk unions in the state. The union incidentally has hiked the incentive amount two times since November last, Hegde said, adding this step is having a positive effect.

The union that has 1.12-lakh members including 51,000 active members spread across 652 milk producers' cooperative societies produces 2.60 lakh litres per day against the requirement of 3.50-lakh litres. Admitting that the union is still facing a deficit in terms of procurement, Hegde said financial incentives given to farmers has ensured 13-15% growth in procurement and is helping the union gradually bridge the gap between demand and supply.

The 50 paise hike in base price means that procurement price will now not dip below Rs 25 per litre, he said, adding that Rs 2 per litre incentive cleared by the board entails an additional outgo of Rs 1.50 crore on the union till end of March. The union will take a call on retaining this incentive of Rs 2 per litre beyond March based on its financial position, he said, adding the union during 2013-14 has disbursed Rs 5.93 crore from its profits to farmers.

## Lok Sabha clears way for central agricultural university in Jhansi

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NEW DELHI: The parliamentary approval was accorded to the bill to set up a [central agricultural university in Jhansi](#), Uttar Pradesh, when the Lok Sabha passed it on Thursday. The Rajya Sabha approved the bill on Wednesday.

The [Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University Bill, 2012](#), seeks to establish an agricultural varsity whose jurisdiction will extend to the Bundelkhand region that covers seven districts in Uttar Pradesh and six in Madhya Pradesh.

Initially, it would establish two colleges in Jhansi and later two in Madhya Pradesh.

The key objectives of the university will be to impart education in different branches of

agriculture and allied sciences, undertake research in agriculture and programmes of extension education in Bundelkhand region, and to promote linkages with national and international educational institutes.

Participating in the discussion before the bill was passed in the Lok Saha, Saugata Roy of the Trinamool Congress said the land is very infertile in the Bundelkhand region.

"It is very important to do research to do dry farming in the region," Roy said.

Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Arjun Meghwal also supported the bill and commended the government for naming the university after freedom fighter Rani Lakshmi Bai.

Samajwadi Party member Shailendra Kumar also supported the bill.

The bill was then passed amid din created by members who were demanding special status to Bihar.

MPs from Janta Dal-United and the BJP trooped near the speaker's podium while raising the issue and kept shouting slogans.

The issue was first raised during zero hour by BJP's Shahnawaz Hussain who said Bihar has been "cheated" by the UPA government.

"There is no IIT in Bihar, no IIM, no National Law University and even the Nalanda University has not been developed fully," he said.

He said a committee headed by Raghuram Rajan had recommended granting special status to Bihar but the central government has not yet implemented the recommendation.

This evoked sharp reaction from RJD member Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Congress member Sanjay Nirupam and others.

"People of Bihar will not tolerate such injustice," Hussain said.

Strongly supporting the demand for special status to Bihar, Sharad Yadav of the JD-U said it is a "just demand" of the 10 crore people of Bihar and there should not be any delay in taking such a decision.

Yadav said 1.5 crore people have sent representation to the president, demanding special status to Bihar and several rallies were held in Delhi to press for it.

## Butterfly Park Adds Colour to Nandankanan

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Butterfly Crimson Rose collecting nectar from the flower at the State's first butterfly park at botanical garden of Nandankanan near Bhubaneswar on Thursday | Shamim Qureshy

The Nandankanan Zoological Park has now got its own Butterfly Park. Spread over 3,200 sq metre in the Botanical Garden, the park was inaugurated here on Thursday by Forest and Environment Minister Bijayshree Routray.

Among the largest in the country, the park is an open air garden where at least 54 species of butterflies have been recorded.

One could see species such as Danid Eggfly, a Schedule I butterfly, Striped Albatross which is a Schedule II insect apart from Banded Peacock, Crimson Rose, Blue Mormon, Commander, Wanderer and Grass Demon.

In 2009 when the Zoo had carried out an inventory on butterflies flocking the animal park, it had recorded 85 species which based the plan for the butterfly garden's establishment. A booklet too was published on the butterflies then.

The zoo management has established the park close to the Rose Garden so as to draw more and more butterflies during the peak hours. To give cooling effect to the day-flying insects, a 170-ft water stream has been created. There is a mud-pool and two water-bodies including a Lily Pond in the Butterfly Garden.

"We have planted at least 6,100 plants of 56 species. Out of them, 22 are host species. Since the butterflies collect nectar mostly from 8 am to 1 pm and fly away, supplementary feeding in terms of honey and sugar syrup as well as rotten apple and banana slices is being given to keep them attracted throughout the day," Zoo Director Sudarshan Panda said adding, at least 30 species are expected in the garden round the year. The zoo had made a provision for `30 lakh from the society funds out of which `14 lakh has been spent so far. Secretary, Forest and Environment RK Sharma, Deputy Director of the Zoo Manoj Nayyar and Assistant Director KL Purohit were also present during the inauguration.



## Futures trading in urad, tur, rice set to resume

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FMC Chairman says permission will be granted in a month's time

Ramesh Abhishek, Chairman, FMC.

**Panjim, February 20:** Commodity market regulator Forward Markets Commission is considering allowing re-launch of futures trading in urad, tur and rice.

Future trading in these were banned in

2007 after prices soared, leading to surge in inflation.

Speaking to media on the sidelines of "The Pulses Conclave 2014" at Panjim in Goa, Ramesh Abhishek, Chairman of FMC, said that the commission is favourably considering NCDEX application to launch trading in urad, tur and rice. "We have asked for some clarification on bajra contract specification, while other commodities would be granted permission (to start futures trading) in a month's time," he said. The exchange will also move the regulator to launch futures trading in new chilli variety and bajra.

### **Less volatility**

The Commission has decided to allow pulses trading as it feels that the regulatory framework has improved since pulses trading was banned, leading to a better price discovery. Price volatility has also come down substantially, he said. The Commission has taken various measures to boost market participation after turnover on commodity exchange fell sharply in the last few months.

The levy of commodity transaction tax and the recent National Spot Exchange scam has affected investors' sentiment, leading to lower turnover on exchanges.

The FMC has also moved a proposal with the Government to reconsider removal of commodity transaction tax on rubber, sugar and soya oil. It has also allowed exchanges to levy commodity-specific trading fee to boost volumes.

Reasoning the fall in turnover to volatility in commodity prices being lower, Abhishek said whenever there is less price volatility, the need to hedge risk becomes minimal for traders. At the conclave, NCDEX signed a memorandum of understanding with India Pulses and Grain Association to work in collaboration for increasing effectiveness of trade tools including lifting of trade restrictions through continuous dialogue with regulator and policymakers. Samir Shah, Managing Director, NCDEX, said besides educating stakeholders on research and crop survey, efforts would be taken to educate stakeholders about the benefits of the transparent online spot platform Nspot.

### **Price outlook**

Most participants in the conference projected a bearish price trend on pulses with the country expected to reap a record harvest of 19.8 million tonnes (18.4 mt) this year.

Praveen Dongre, Chairman, India Pulses and Grains Association, said that the Government programme to boost pulses cultivation has paid rich dividends and now there is an urgent need to include pulses in the public distribution system to ensure nutrition supplement for the poor.

# Demand may heat up mustard oil

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**Indore, February 20:** Mustard oil ruled higher on strong buying support and rise in soya oil prices with prices in Indore mandis on Thursday being quoted Rs. 4 higher at Rs. 646. According to traders, notwithstanding the rise in arrivals of new crop in mandis across Madhya Pradesh, a sluggish trend in mustard oil appears unlikely in the coming days on strong physical demand. Plant deliveries of mustard rose marginally to Rs. 3,400-80 (Rs. 3,400-40 on improved demand from crushers. Total arrival of mustard seeds in country on Thursday rose to 1.70 lakh bags (1.25 lakh bags last week). Our Correspondent

# Pepper rules steady

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**Kochi, February 20:** Pepper prices ruled steady in spite of a spurt in demand on Thursday. However, on the futures market, March contracts moved up. If the current trend is any indication the entire pepper business is slowly shifting to Tamil Nadu as no VAT is levied there, market sources told *Business Line*. On the spot, 39 tonnes of farm grade pepper were traded between Rs. 500 and Rs. 515 a kg. On the NMCE, March contract moved up by Rs. 155 to Rs. 52,300 while April declined by Rs. 100 to Rs. 52,470 a quintal. Total open interest dropped to 20 tonnes. Spot prices ruled at previous levels at Rs. 50,000 (ungarbled) and Rs. 52,000 (garbled) a quintal. Export prices stayed at \$8,500 c&f for Europe and \$8,750 a tonne c&f for US. GK Nair

# Rice may trade in ranges

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**Karnal, February 20:** After witnessing a downtrend earlier this week, prices of aromatic and non-basmati varieties quoted with nominal fluctuation on Thursday. Traders expect the market to continue witnessing a range-bound to steady trend for the next few days and then, it may witness an uptrend. In the physical market, Pusa-1121 (steam) sold at Rs. 9,000-50, while Pusa-1121 (sela) quoted at Rs. 7,900-8,000. Pure Basmati (Raw) quoted at Rs. 12,200. Duplicate basmati (steam) sold at Rs. 7,000 a quintal. In the non-basmati section, Permal (raw) sold at Rs. 2,320 and Permal (sela) at Rs. 2,340. About 2,000 bags of Pusa-1121 sold at Rs. 4,200 a quintal. Our Correspondent

# New turmeric tops Rs. 7,000/quintal

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**Erode, February 20:** Spot turmeric prices increased on Thursday as some traders received few orders and the prices of the spot turmeric were increased. “,” said RKV Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association. Of the 5,200 bags that arrived, 75 per cent was sold. A trader said that many traders are expecting fresh demand from North India and the price could touch Rs. 8,000. Due to arrival of fine variety finger turmeric in Gobichettipalayam Cooperative Marketing Society, the maximum price touched Rs. 7,010. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association yard, the finger variety (new crop) was sold at Rs. 5,568-7,055; the root variety Rs. 5,100-6,629. The finger variety (old crop) was sold at Rs. 4,699-6,769; the root variety Rs. 4,526-6,530. Our Correspondent

# Rubber skids below Rs. 150/kg

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**Kottayam, February 20:** Spot rubber retreated further on Thursday.

According to sources, the market fell as traders lost confidence since the Kerala Government has not yet begun the rubber procurement to support prices.

The absence of follow up buying and the sharp declines in the domestic and international futures kept the sentiments under pressure during the day. Sheet rubber dropped to Rs. 149 (Rs. 152) a kg, according to traders.

The grade weakened to Rs. 150 (Rs. 152.50) and Rs. 147 (Rs. 159.50) respectively, as quoted by the Rubber Board and dealers.

## **Futures dip**

March futures declined to Rs. 147.67 (Rs. 152.91), April to Rs. 152.40 (Rs. 157.10), May to Rs. 155.15 (Rs. 159.86), June to Rs. 157.10 (Rs. 161.67) and July to Rs. 158.77 (Rs. 162) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) dropped to Rs. 137.36 (Rs. 139.53) at Bangkok.

The February futures closed at ¥217 (Rs. 132.49) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

During the day session, it had dropped to ¥220.2 a kg.

Spot rubber rates (Rs. /kg) were : RSS-4: 149(152); RSS-5: 148 (150); Ungraded: 146 (148); ISNR 20: 149 (150.50) and Latex 60%: 121 (122).

# For most growers, the coffee rally isn't steaming

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**New Delhi, February 20:** Most coffee growers in the country are seen missing the latest rally in prices sparked by fears of drought affecting the crop in Brazil, world's largest producer.

The harvest of Arabica – a milder and premium coffee variety – is already over and that most growers have sold their produce. Robusta harvest is still on in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

“We have been taken by surprise by this sudden rally. The earlier projection was that Brazil will harvest a good crop. However, now reports coming in say that drought will hit Brazilian crop prospects, sparking off a rally,” said HT Mohankumar, Vice-President of the Karnataka Growers' Federation.

Indian growers will not benefit from this rally as 70-80 per cent of them have already sold their produce, while the crop size has been lower than expected, he said.

Coffee prices have surged by over 30 per cent this year so far, while the rally has been steep over the past couple of days. Prices of Arabica Parchment have moved up by over Rs. 2,000 for a 50-kg bag to around Rs. 9,000.

Similarly, prices of robusta parchment have moved up by Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 7,000 a bag. “We had to sell to cover rising production costs,” said N Bose Mandanna, a large coffee grower from Kodagu. Mandanna said the cost of production due to rise in input prices and labour wages has shot up to around Rs. 40,000 a hectare from about Rs. 25,000 two years ago.

Further, growers rue the fact that the crop size this year has been lower than the Coffee Board's projections of 3.11 lakh tonnes as heavy rain in Karnataka has hit the output.

The sudden rally has also landed exporters in a tricky situation, said Ramesh Rajah, President of Coffee Exporters Association. “While the grower is reluctant to sell anticipating that prices will move up further, buyers who don't want to pay more have turned cautious and are resorting to need-based buying,” he added.

Rajah estimates that growers have sold about half of arabicas and about 30 per cent of the robustas harvested.

“Growers who are able to hold on to their produce will stand to benefit and there’s still lot of coffee to be sold. However, we don’t know how long this rally will last,” he said. Coffee exports this year are up 23 per cent at 46,287 tonnes as on February 17, against 37,616 tonnes during the same period a year ago.

## Jeera crackles on limited offtake

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**Rajkot, February 20:** Spot prices of jeera decreased on the back of limited demand and increasing arrival of the new crop. However, prices in the futures market increased on speculative buying. A Rajkot-based jeera trader said spot jeera rate declined because domestic and export demand was limited. Buyers are waiting for arrival of quality produce from the new crop. About 4,000-4,500 bags of jeera arrived at the Unjha mandi in Gujarat and prices decreased by Rs. 20-25 to Rs. 1,700-2,500 for a maund of 20 kg for new jeera. Old jeera was quoted lower by Rs. 5-10 to Rs. 1,800-2,400. About 1,700-1,800 bags of new jeera arrived in Rajkot and prices decreased by Rs. 10-15 to Rs. 1,700-2,300. Jeera futures traded higher by 1.06 per cent on speculative buying by market participants as fresh export demand is expected in the coming days. Our Correspondent

## Why we need report on Commitments of Traders

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It will help study prices movements of key commodities and bring in transparency in policy formulations

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) of the US releases a Commitments of Traders (CoT) report every week on Friday showing a breakdown of previous Tuesday’s open interest in derivatives (futures and options) contracts of various commodities across different exchanges in US.

The report gives details of open interest of traders categorised as: commercial traders, non-commercial traders and non-reportable traders. The report includes derivatives (futures and options) of US origin of various commodities such as various agriculture, petroleum, energy and metals across exchanges viz. CME group exchanges, ICE, NYMEX, NYSE Liffe etc. It also covers currency futures and equity indices.

Commercial traders include processors, physical traders, hedgers or end-users who use the derivative contracts for risk management. Non-commercial traders (also called “speculators”) include large speculators, commodity funds, managed funds, pension funds, index funds, etc. Trading entities which do not fall in either “commercial” or “non-commercial” traders are categorised as non-reportable. Non-reportable positions are derived from subtracting commercial and non-commercial positions from total net open positions. Non-reportable traders are usually small speculators.

A trader may be classified as a commercial trader in some commodities and as a non-commercial trader in other commodities. A single trading entity cannot be classified as both a commercial and non-commercial trader in the same commodity.

The CoT report is keenly awaited by traders to gauge the trend in the market by analysing the changes in the positions of large speculators and/or commercial traders (hedgers).

Many traders use the CoT report to bet in the direction of non-commercial traders, as it found in the last many years that this category of traders is usually on the right side of market. Some track non-reportable (small speculators) positions, as they believe that this category of traders is on the wrong side of the price direction.

Data from the last 15 years show that increase or decrease in net non-commercial positions usually has a good direct correlation with the price movements of the commodity.



This can be partly attributed to financialisation of commodities in the last 15 years. Large speculators and funds are also considered to be 'smart money' having the best and the earliest knowledge of changes in fundamentals of the commodity. On the other hand, commercial traders are usually found on the opposite side of the price direction, as they – being actual users of the commodity– prefer to sell in a rising market and buy in a falling market.

Traders analyse the CoT data in different ways. Some traders look for a large change in net non-commercial positions coinciding with significant change in prices. This may indicate a sustainable trend in prices of the commodity prices. Traders also look for extreme positions in net non-commercial positions for a possible top or bottom in prices of the commodity. The CoT report data is generally used by traders to gauge the longer-term trend of the markets as there is a gap of three days between the date of the CoT data (Tuesday) and the release date (Friday). In India, such a system of categorisation of traders does not exist. There have been demands from some quarters in the Indian derivatives industry to adopt this system in the Indian context for greater transparency into the fund flows in commodity derivatives markets. Some experts believe that Indian commodity derivatives markets are still not mature enough to have a CoT-like system.

However, such a mechanism is desirable on a bigger horizon to study prices movements of key commodities, to bring in greater transparency in policy formulations and also to set limits for different trading categories.

The writer is Executive Director, ADMISI Commodities Pvt. Ltd. Views expressed are personal.

## Rubber price turnaround 'imminent'

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Sheela Thomas, Rubber Board Chairperson

**Kochi, February 20:** RUBBER PRICE REBOUND 'IMMINENT'

Rubber Board Chairperson Sheela Thomas has said the recovery of the natural rubber price, which is currently at a low, is imminent. "History teaches us that the growth of rubber industry has always been cyclical and a recovery is imminent," she told a two-day India Rubber Meet which opened here on Thursday. She said that the natural rubber production sector, dominated by marginal and small holdings, was going through a bearish phase and the rubber-products manufacturing sector was beset with recessionary trends. "There are concerns in all segments of the rubber

sector over the low prices of natural rubber and the declining demand for manufactured products," she said. The rubber meet was opened by Vikram Sreekant Kirloskar, President of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers. Our Bureau

# Business Standard

## NCDEX signs MoU with IPGA

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[NCDEX](#), the leading futures exchange in agri commodities and ferrous metals in India, on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with India [Pulses](#) and [Grains](#) Association ([IPGA](#)). They will collaborate for on trade tools, including the lifting of trading restrictions through continuous dialogue with regulators and policy makers.

The MoU was signed during the Pulses Conference 2014 in Goa, attended by the trade fraternity, including members of IPGA.

As part of the MoU, key initiatives to be undertaken would include facilitating measures to increase trade efficiency and price discovery in pulses and grains, joint training workshops on hedging to be conducted for members, research studies including trend analysis, crop surveys and field studies aimed at recommending solutions to overcome challenges faced by the industry and efforts to educate stakeholders about the benefits of the online spot platform of the exchange.

“Over the last ten years, NCDEX has contributed to the development of primary and derivatives markets in India. With regards to this, once again, we take an initiative to promote the pulses production and trade in India by joining hands with IPGA, an apex body, to closely work and find out improved and industry- friendly solutions. India being the largest producer as well as importer and consumer of pulses, is yet to achieve self-sufficiency in it. Hence, this co-ordinated effort will help us achieve success in developing a market for pulses and grains,” said [Samir Shah](#), MD & CEO, NCDEX.

Praveen Dongre, Chairman, IPGA said, “The MoU that IPGA and NCDEX have signed is the beginning of a series of promotional initiatives aimed at improving market efficiency and infusing global competitiveness in Indian pulses and grains. [NSPOT](#) has demonstrated the tremendous success of this public private partnership initiative in Karnataka as E-mandis and e-auctioning has transformed the trade in pulses.”

## Cardamom 0.4% on pick-up in demand

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[Cardamom](#) prices rebounded by 0.47% to Rs 807 per kg in futures trading today as speculators indulged in creating fresh positions after pick-up in demand in the spot market amid restricted arrivals from producing regions.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for delivery in April rose by Rs 3.80, or 0.47%, to Rs 807 per kg in business turnover of 39 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in March traded higher by Rs 3.40, or 0.44%, to Rs 777.30 per kg in 134 lots.

Analysts said fresh positions built-up by speculators due to pick-up in demand in the spot market amid restricted arrivals from producing regions mainly led to rise in cardamom prices at futures trade.

# Refined soya up 0.4% on rising demand

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[Refined soya oil](#) prices gained 0.36% to Rs 698.80 per 10 kg in futures trading today as speculators enlarged positions amid ongoing wedding season demand in the spot market.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), refined soya for delivery in April gained Rs 2.50, or 0.36%, to Rs 698.80 per 10 kg with an open interest of 80,140 lots.

Similarly, the oil for delivery in March edged up by Rs 2.30, or 0.33%, to Rs 703 per 10 kg in 92,800 lots.

Analysts said speculators enlarging their positions, supported by rising spot market demand in view of ongoing wedding season, mainly led to rise in refined soya oil prices at futures trade.

# Potato up 0.4% on strong demand

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[Potato](#) futures extended gains for the third-straight session with prices rising 0.49% to Rs 1,194.10 per quintal in futures market today as speculators enlarged their positions, driven by strong spot demand.

Besides, tight stocks position in the physical market following less arrivals from producing regions further supported the uptrend.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), potato for delivery in April added Rs 5.80, or 0.49%, to Rs 1,194.10 per quintal in business turnover of 39 lots.

In a similar manner, the potato for delivery in March gained Rs 4.30, or 0.37%, to Rs 1,179 per quintal in 102 lots.

Analysts said increased positions created by speculators on the back of strong demand in the spot market amid lower arrivals from producing regions mainly kept potato prices higher for the third day at futures trade.

# Chana down 0.3% on sluggish demand

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[Chana](#) prices declined by 0.33% to Rs 3,000 per quintal in futures market today as speculators offloaded positions on sluggish demand in the spot market against adequate supplies.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, chana for delivery in April lost Rs 10, or 0.33%, to Rs 3,000 per quintal with an open interest of 86,980 lots.

Similarly, the commodity for delivery in February traded lower by Rs 3, or 0.10%, to Rs 2,937 per quintal in 6,640 lots.

Analysts said weak demand in the spot markets against adequate supply from producing belts mainly put pressure on chana prices at futures trade here.

# Sugar up 2% in trade

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[Sugar](#) prices climbed Rs 56, or 2%, to Rs 2,850 per quintal in futures trading today as participants engaged in creating speculative positions as output fell over 13% so far this year.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), sugar for delivery in February traded higher by Rs 56, or 2%, at Rs 2,850 per quintal with an open interest of 3,520 lots.

Likewise, the sweetener for delivery in March traded higher by Rs 17, or 0.61%, at Rs 2,822 per quintal in 20,050 lots.

Market analysts attributed a significant rise in sugar prices at futures trade to speculative positions created by participants after country's sugar output fell over 13% to 14.37 million tonnes so far this year on delayed crushing.

Meanwhile, the government had earlier this month approved a subsidy of Rs 3,333 per tonne for exports of raw sugar to boost overseas sales and help the cash-starved industry to pay arrears to sugarcane farmers.

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