

TIRUVARUR, January 22, 2014

Grievances meet for farmers

The monthly farmers grievances day meeting will be held at the collectorate hall here at 10.30 a.m. on January 30. The District Collector S. Natarajan will preside over the meeting.

An official press release urged the farmers to take part in the meeting and get their grievances solved.

PERAMBALUR, January 22, 2014

Farmers' grievances day meeting

The monthly farmers grievances day meeting will be held at the collectorate hall here at 10 a.m. on January 23. Darez Ahamed, Collector, will preside over the meeting. An official press release issued here on Tuesday urged the farmers to take part in the meeting and get their grievances solved.

BIDAR, January 22, 2014

Farmers urged to focus on food processing

Better markets for farm produce will solve half the problems farmers face today, the former vice-chancellor of University of Agriculture Sciences, Dharwad, S.A. Patil said at Basava Kalyan on Tuesday. He was speaking at a session organised at the Basava Utsav.

Mr. Patil said middlemen were depriving farmers of a better price for their farm produce. "Middlemen control the lives of farmers as they double up as moneylenders and input suppliers. To escape from their clutches, farmers should focus on food processing and finding better markets for their produce," he said.

He cited examples of farmers who turned to be frugal innovators. They used available resources to find solutions to their problems. In this sense, farmers have proven to be better farm scientists than many of resource persons in research institutions, he said.

Example

Recalling his visit to Israel, Dr. Patil said community farming there had many lessons to offer to India. "If they can grow bumper crops with 200mm to 400 mm of rain, why can't we?" he questioned. He urged professors and researchers to focus on dryland farming and on ways to attain remunerative prices for farm produce.

Labour leader G.N. Nagaraj said the socio-economic conditions in Basava Kalyan led to the cultural revolution in the 12th century.

Influence

The unpublished works of Sharanas like Vokkaliga Muddanna were brought out as books. Writers like Jedara Dasimayya were influenced by the agricultural practices of that period, he said.

P.V. Sateesh, sustainable farming promoter, urged farmers to grow millets to tackle malnutrition. He also urged farmers to reduce the cost of cultivation by adopting natural methods of farming.

'Middlemen are depriving farmers of a fair price for their produce'

PATNA, January 22, 2014

Nitish makes paddy MSP highest in the country

The Bihar Government on Tuesday announced an increase of Rs.250 per quintal bonus on procurement of paddy pushing the MSP to Rs.1,560 a quintal, highest in the country.

The decision to increase bonus on paddy for farmers was taken at a meeting of the State Cabinet presided over by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The price for purchase of paddy this year was initially fixed at Rs.1,310 per quintal.

Chief Secretary Ashok Kumar Sinha told reporters the hike was aimed at encouraging farmers who cultivated paddy in the State despite an adverse weather.

He said farmers who sold their paddy produce prior to this hike, would also be benefited as additional sums would be paid to them.

Asked about the paddy production volume in the State this year, he said a final figure was not yet arrived at, but it might fall short of last year's production figures.

In another significant decision, the Cabinet approved a proposal to recruit the father of a girl, who was gang-raped twice and later allegedly burnt alive in West Bengal, as a driver in the police force after conducting a driving test. Mr. Kumar had last week offered the job to the victim's father, who hails from Samastipur, when he had come here to meet him with his wife.

Meanwhile the BJP on Tuesday slammed the State government for delay in procurement of paddy which would have negative impact on the implementation of food security law in the State scheduled from February one as it has to pay an additional Rs.200-Rs.300 per quintal of rice to the Food Corporation of India.

“Shortage will force the Bihar Government to purchase rice from the FCI for which it will have to pay an additional Rs.200-Rs.300 per quintal,” former Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi told reporters.

Delaying announcement of increase in bonus for farmers by two-and-a-half months instead of benefitting farmers would only benefit middlemen and traders as majority of farmers have already sold their produce in distress, he said. – PTI

RANCHI, January 22, 2014

Jharkhand farmers protest ‘double displacement’

‘HEC has resold land to govt. and builders for fat sum’



More than a hundred farmers staged a protest as Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren laid the foundation for a new Assembly building on the outskirts of Ranchi on Tuesday as part of the government’s “Core Capital” plan.

Displaced villagers stage a protest on the outskirts of Ranchi on Tuesday seeking fair compensation.— Photo: Manob Chowdhury

The farmers had sold their land to the public sector Heavy Engineering Corporation during 1955-60, but hold *de facto* possession of portions of more than 360 acres that HEC had bought but never built structures on it.

For several years, farmers of 19 villages demanded that HEC return them the surplus land. A few now ask that the government compensate them as per the Right to Fair Compensation, and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, as they will be displaced for a second time.

“HEC bought the land from us at Rs.3, 200 an acre and did not use it for 50 years. Since 2007, it has sold the land to government bodies and even builders at Rs. 55 lakhs an acre. There is a new law now, and we demand fair compensation,” said Aijaz Ahmed, who worked as an automobile engineer and is jobless now. “My mother and aunts work on the land. Paddy from our land lasts six months. We will not give up our land,” said Poonam Oraon, a B.A. III-year student of Ranchi University.

The families, including women and children, started protesting on the site a week before the ceremony. On Monday, a government team invited them for talks, offering Rs.9,000 in annuity for five years per acre, and new houses in compensation. Even as the farmers, busy with harvest, asked for three weeks’ time to respond, leaders of the BJP, Babulal Marandi’s Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik) and the Sudesh Mahto-led All Jharkhand Students’ Union (AJSU) joined the protesters at the site.

On Tuesday, as the Chief Minister, Ministers and senior officials went past the protesters in their cavalcades to the foundation site a few metres away, the Congress MP from Ranchi and former Union Minister, Subodh Kant Sahay, joined the farmers. He was joined by the local MLA, Naveen Jaiswal of the AJSU.

“The Core Capital must be moved to another site. Farmers shall not be displaced twice,” said the MP even as Congress Ministers in the coalition government attended the function. State BJP vice-president Deepak Prakash, who reached the site on Monday, played down the Arjun Munda-led BJP government’s role in pursuing fresh construction on the same land two years ago as part of its Greater Ranchi Development Plan. “HEC is acting like a land-broker,” he alleged.

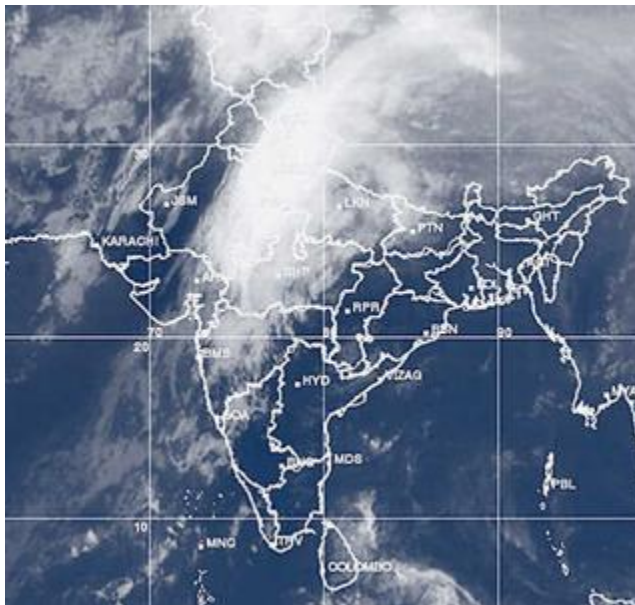
“Our government has begun offering a new package to those affected. What Mr. Sahay does is his choice,” said Speaker S.S. Bhokta of the Jharkhand Mukthi Morcha.

TIRUCHI, January 22, 2014

Water level at Mettur

The water level in Mettur dam stood at 52.24 feet on Tuesday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 317 cusecs and the discharge 2,024 cusecs.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs. Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on January 21.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Anantapur	31	17	0	0
Arogyavaram	29	16	0	0
Bapatla	30	19	0	0
Calingapatnam	28	21	0	0
Gannavaram	30	20	0	0
Hanamkonda	31	19	0	0
Hyderabad AP	28	19	0	0
Kakinada	30	21	0	1
Khammam	32	20	0	0
Kavali	30	19	0	4
Kurnool	32	19	0	0
Mahabubnagar	30	17	0	0
Machilipatnam	29	21	0	0
Nandyal	31	19	0	0
Narasapur	32	21	0	0
Nellore	31	22	0	1
Nizamabad	33	19	0	0
Ongole	30	20	0	2
Ramagundam	31	16	0	0
Tirupathi AP	31	19	0	1
Tuni	31	20	0	0
Vizag AP	30	21	0	3
Vizag	29	22	0	19

KARNATAKA

Agumbe	30	13	0	0
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Bangalore AP	27	14	0	0
Bangalore	27	15	tr	0
Bagalkote	33	14	0	0
Belgaum AP	30	17	0	0
Bellary	32	16	0	0
Bijapur	31	17	0	0
Chitradurga	30	17	0	0
Chickmagalur	29	15	0	0
Chintamani	28	12	0	0
Gadag	30	16	0	0
Gulbarga	32	17	0	0
Hassan	28	11	0	0
Honavar	34	22	0	0
Karwar	36	21	0	0
Madikeri	25	14	0	5
Mangalore AP	34	22	0	0
Mysore	28	19	0	0
Mandya	28	16	0	0
Panambur	36	23	0	0
Raichur	31	17	0	0
Shirali	33	22	0	0
KERALA				
Alappuzha	35	23	0	1
Kannur	33	23	0	1
Kochi AP	33	21	0	0
Kottayam	36	22	0	0
Kozhikode	34	25	tr	tr
Punalur	35	19	0	1

Thiruvanantha				
-puram AP	32	23	0	129

Thiruvanantha				
-puram City	34	23	0	24

Vellanikkara	33	24	0	0
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TAMIL NADU

Adiramapattinam	31	19	0	12
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Chennai	30	24	0	tr
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Chennai AP	30	21	tr	1
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Coimbatore AP	30	19	0	0
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Coonoor	16	10	0	12
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Cuddalore	31	20	0	tr
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Dharmapuri	29	18	0	0
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Kanyakumari	31	23	0	85
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Karaikal	29	23	0	7
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Kodaikanal	16	8	0	17
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Madurai AP	33	19	0	10
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Nagapattinam	29	24	0	7
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Palayamkottai	32	21	0	31
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Pamban	30	25	0	59
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Parangipettai	31	22	6	6
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Puducherry	31	20	0	1
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Salem	31	19	0	0
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Thanjavur	30	22	0	1
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Tiruchi AP	31	21	0	tr
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Tirupattur	31	18	0	0
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Tiruttani	31	19	0	2
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Tondi	29	20	0	43
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Tuticorin	31	21	0	21
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Ooty	19	5	0	0
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Valparai	29	9	0	12
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Vellore	31	19	0	1
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LAKSHADWEEP

Amini Divi	32	24	41	63
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Minicoy	31	24	0	2
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Kavarathi	—	—	—	—
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OTHER STATIONS

Kolkata (Alipore)	24	13	0	0
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Mumbai	27	23	tr	0
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New Delhi	22	11	0	4
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The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (trace) and total rainfall in mm since January 01, 2014.

ISOLATED RAIN IN KERALA

CHENNAI: Rainfall occurred at many places over Lakshadweep and isolated rainfall occurred over Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Mainly dry weather prevailed over south interior Karnataka and dry weather prevailed over Andhra Pradesh, coastal and north interior Karnataka.

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

Kerala, below normal at one or two places over rest north coastal T.N., rest north interior Karnataka and were normal over the rest of the region.

Chamrajnagar recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 12 degree Celsius in the plains of the region.

FORECAST (valid until Thursday morning): Rain or thundershower would occur at a few places over Lakshadweep. Isolated rain or thundershower may also occur over south T.N., Kerala and coastal Karnataka. Mainly dry weather will prevail over north T.N., Puducherry, interior Karnataka and A.P.



weather

INDIAN CITIES

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

Delhi

Delhi - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Rain: 0
Humidity: 100
Wind: normal

Wednesday, Jan 22

Max Min
16° | 12°

Sunrise: 07:13
Sunset: 05:51
Barometer: 1020

Tomorrow's Forecast



Cloudy

Thursday, Jan 23

Max Min
15° | 11°

Extended Forecast for a week

Friday
Jan 24



18° | 11°

Partly Cloudy

Saturday
Jan 25



22° | 11°

Sunny

Sunday
Jan 26



22° | 10°

Overcast

Monday
Jan 27



23° | 10°

Overcast

Tuesday
Jan 28



24° | 12°

Sunny

Airport Weather

Delhi

Rain: 0 Sunrise: 07:13
Humidity: 100 Sunset: 05:51
Wind: normal Barometer: 1020



THE HINDU Business Line

Tea prices gain at Coonoor sale

Coonoor, Jan :

About 84 per cent of 13.73 lakh kg offered for Sale No: 3 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auction was sold with average price rising Rs 3 a kg over the previous week.

Crosshill Estate tea, auctioned by J Thomas and Co, continued to top the CTC market.

“In all the auctions held so far in 2014, our teas have topped the market. This week, our Broken Pekoe topped at Rs 204 a kg,” Dinesh Raju, Crosshill Production Head, told *Business Line*.

Homedale Estate tea, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers, was the only other CTC tea which entered Rs 200 bracket fetching Rs 202.

Its Pekoe dust topped the CTC dust market when Shah Traders bought it for Rs 198.

Deepika Supreme got Rs 191, Hittakkal Estate Rs 184 and Vigneshwar Estate Rs 175.

In all, 73 marks got Rs 125 and more.

Kairbetta topped orthodox market at Rs 231 a kg, followed by Highfield Estate Rs 226, Havukal Rs 218, Chamraj and Prammas Rs 215 each.

In all, 39 marks got Rs 125 and more.

Pakistan actively bought for Rs 63-109 a kg. Prolonged snowfall limited purchases from the CIS and the US.

backlog

“Weather has improved compared to last week but there is heavy backlog in goods movement. We have not been able to get tea from Coonoor for over a fortnight now when snowfall obstructed normal business,” Pragya Jain, patron of Indian tea in Maryland, US, said. Upcountry buyers have been picking up brighter liquoring high-grown winter Nilgiri teas.

Cardamom loses flavour as demand slips



Kochi, Jan :

Cardamom market slipped marginally last week on slack demand and comparatively good arrivals at auctions last week. Arrivals continued to be good even though the sixth round of harvesting is on.

Upcountry buyers bought but not aggressively, market sources told *Business Line*.

At the same time, orders from overseas were met with non-availability of exportable variety of 7mm and above capsules. An estimated 30-40 tonnes of cardamom were bought by exporters. "We were looking for good volume but we could not get even 10 tonnes of exportable grade capsules," an exporter told *Business Line*.

Upcountry dealers are reported to have stocks with them. Severe cold wave conditions prevailing in most States have slowed down sales significantly, market sources said. Therefore, improvement in demand is likely to emanate after the weather clears, they said. The harvesting is at the fag end of the season.

As the weather in the growing areas has turned dry and hot, harvesting in small and non-irrigated estates has almost come to an end. Harvesting might last a few more weeks only in those estates which have irrigation facility, they said. Individual auction average continue to rule below Rs 600/kg.

During the current season ending in July, total arrivals up to January 19 stood at 12,572 tonnes against 6,969 tonnes during the same period a year ago. Sales were 12,253 tonnes against 6,622 tonnes. The weighted average price was Rs 593.34 (Rs 771.38 a kg).

Total arrivals at the Sunday auction of the KCPMC decreased to 89 tonnes from 105 tonnes the previous week and the entire quantity was sold out, P.C. Punnoose, General Manager, CPMC told *Business Line*.

He said that the maximum price was Rs 799 and the minimum Rs 460 a kg. The auction average declined marginally to Rs 560 against Rs 562 the previous week.

Prices of all graded varieties (Rs/kg)were : AGEB: 700-710; AGB: 585-595; AGS: 550-560 and AGS -1: 525-535. Bulk was being traded at Rs 440-785.

Govt notifies hike in edible oil import duty

New Delhi, Jan :

The Finance Ministry on Tuesday notified the hike in import duty on refined edible oils to 10 per cent from 7.5 per cent earlier.

The increase will widen the duty differential between crude oil and refined oils to 7.5 per cent from 5 per cent now.

Currently, the import duty on crude oil is 2.5 per cent.

industry view

The refining industry had been demanding a hike in import duty on refined oils as a lower duty differential of 5 per cent had led to surge in imports of refined oils in the recent past.

This had lead to under-utilisation of domestic refining capacity.

In 2013, imports of refined oils shot up by 52 per cent compared with 2012 on account of lower duty differential.

refined oil imports

Refined oils accounted for 29 per cent of the 8.34 million tonnes (mt) of edible oil imported into the country last year.

In 2012, refined oils accounted for 20 per cent of total imports.

Domestic refiners believe that the latest duty hike on refined oils is unlikely to benefit them.

“It is too little and is not going to ease the sufferings of the industry,” said B.V. Mehta, Executive Director of the Solvent Extractors Association of India.

A minimum duty differential of 10-12 per cent would have helped, Mehta said.

edible oil imports

In the oil year ending October 2013, India’s edible oil imports stood at 10.38 mt.

During November, the imports of refined oils were up 173 per cent at 2.08 lakh tonnes (lt) against 76,519 tonnes in the corresponding period a year ago.

Total edible oil imports during November were up 37 per cent at 9.27 lt (6.76 lt).

Japan relaxes residue norm for shrimp feed preservative



Export boost: The relaxed norms should help revive India’s shrimp exports to Japan which accounts for eight per cent of shipments.

New Delhi, Jan :

In a move that could benefit Indian shrimp exporters,

Japan has relaxed the maximum residue limit standards for ethoxyquin, an anti-oxidant used as preservative in shrimp feed.

Japan recently notified the residue limit for ethoxyquin at 0.2 ppm (parts per million) for shrimps imported from India against the earlier 0.01 ppm.

“The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan, has officially notified the MRL for ethoxyquin at 0.2 ppm in crustaceans including farmed shrimp,” said Leena Nair, Chairman, Marine Products Export Development Authority.

This has ended the 18-month-long MPEDA’s battle with the Japanese authorities.

In August 2012, the import inspection authorities of Japan had enforced the default level of 0.01 ppm for ethoxyquin in shrimps from India.

This had affected shrimp exports from India to Japan, forcing MPEDA to take up the issue with Japanese authorities citing the lack of scientific reasoning behind their action.

exports

The relaxed residue limit should help revive Indian shrimp exports to Japan, one of the large markets for Indian seafood accounting for about eight per cent of total shipments.

“We should see a rebound in exports to Japan,” Nair said.

In April-November, 2013, India’s seafood exports to Japan were down 15 per cent in quantity, but were up 17.58 in dollar terms at \$313.97 million against the corresponding last year’s \$268.74 million.

Total seafood export from India during the April-November 2013 was up 32.4 per cent in dollar terms at \$3.208 billion against \$2.423 billion in the corresponding last year.

However in quantity, the shipments were down 2.28 per cent at 6 lakh tonnes against 6.13 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period a year ago.

Exports of frozen shrimp, which account for close to two-third of the country's total seafood shipments in value terms, stood at \$2.11 billion against \$1.24 billion in the April-November period.

Dense fog, hailstorm likely over North-West

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan :

A fresh weather-maker western disturbance is cooling its heels over West Asia, en-route to Pakistan and further east.

Even from this distance, the system will have its say on weather panning out over the North-West during the next two days, the Met Department has said.

FOG, HAIL

Dense fog, hailstorm and thundershowers are variously being forecast for entire North and East, according to this forecast.

The US Navy suggested that the western disturbance will pull in moisture from north-east Arabian Sea as it homes in towards north Gujarat and southwest Rajasthan.

This will also induce the formation of a cyclonic circulation that will embed into the system to bring sharp showers and hailstorm along with thunder activity.

Hail forms as a result of strong 'updraft' (rising motion) of air in a cyclonic circulation. Warm air from the sea rises while cool air sinks.

The moisture in the air that rises in a strong updraft cools with height.

This air will reach a point in the atmosphere that is below freezing point.

STRONG UPDRAFT

The moisture packed in the air accumulates as ice in the heights and stays there as the updraft is strong enough. It will later fall back down as hail in still stormy conditions.

Hailstorm is the about the only meteorological event that could harm the prospects of standing Rabi crop. Prevailing cool climes aid the cause of a good harvest this year.

Meanwhile, the US Navy forecast suggested that almost entire Gujarat and a north-northeast corridor running into east Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi and west Uttar Pradesh may get affected by thundershowers and hail.

India Met Department said dense fog and hailstorm may hit parts of west Madhya Pradesh, west Uttar Pradesh, east Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab on Tuesday.

HEAVY SNOW

Heavy to very heavy rain or snow was forecast over Uttarakhand, while it will be isolated over Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

On Wednesday, dense fog may limit visibility to below 200 m to the east, mainly over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Bihar, Assam and Tripura. Hail storm may

lash isolated places over west Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Haryana.

Heavy to very heavy rain/snow may break out at few places over Uttarakhand and isolated places over Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. On Thursday, dense may extend from Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and east Madhya Pradesh to Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Bihar, Assam and Tripura in the East.

Speculation over crop damage may lift chana



Indore, Jan :

Chana ruled stable as demand was sluggish and the futures market turned weak on Tuesday.

Chana (kanta) quoted at Rs 2,900-2,925 a quintal in the local mandis, while chana (desi) ruled at Rs 2,750-2,800 a quintal. Chana (vishal) was quoted at Rs 2,750-2,800 and chana (mausmi) at Rs 3,000-3,100 a quintal.

Trading in the local mandis was affected for the second consecutive day, as farmers protested against traders not purchasing inferior quality produce. With large carryover stocks of domestic chana and abundant availability of imported chana, the commodity was bearish till a few days ago.

However, snowfall and winter rains in the major chana growing States may affect the crop prospects. Reports of damage, if any, is awaited, Prakash Purohit, a local wholesale chana trader, told *Business Line*. He said speculation over damage to chana crop may push up its prices in the coming days.

With robust crop output last year, chana prices throughout the year ruled low compared with the previous year, amid good demand for cheap imported dollar chana in the local mandis. Slack demand kept chana dal stable with chana dal (average) on Tuesday quoted at Rs 3,300-3,325 a quintal; chana dal (bold) was quoted at Rs 3,400-3,425; and chana dal (bold) ruled at Rs 3,600-3,625. Dollar chana also ruled stable at Rs 3,500-4,500 on subdued demand.

Dollar chana gained marginally on improved demand with dollar chana (42/44 count) on Tuesday quoted at Rs 5,075-5,100 ; 44/46 count ruled at Rs 4,875-4,900; dollar chana 58/60 count ruled at Rs 4,300; and 60/62 count was quoted at Rs 4,200.

Lacklustre retail demand to cool groundnut oil



Rajkot, Jan :

Groundnut oil (loose) increased on the back of higher demand from stockists, while the retail offtake fell due to dull buying. Similarly, washed cottonseed oil gained on fresh demand from re-packers. Some 8-10 tankers of groundnut oil were traded by Saurashtra's mills.

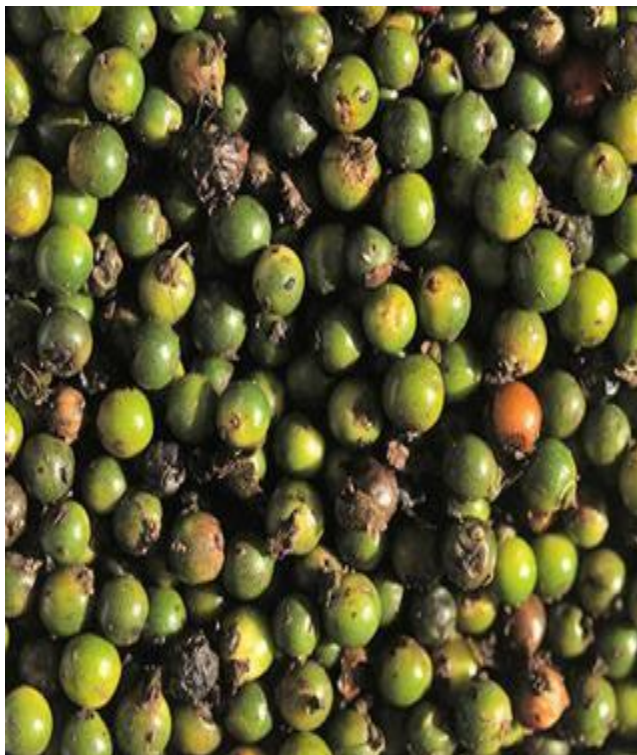
Loose groundnut oil traded higher by Rs 5 at Rs 765-770/10 kg; *teliya* tin increased by Rs 8 at Rs 1,195-1,196/15 kg; and groundnut oil new tin decreased by Rs 10 at Rs 1,390-1,395/15 kg.

Washed cottonseed oil increased marginally by Rs 5 to Rs 592-595/ 0 kg. Cotton oil new tin traded flat at Rs 1,070-1,080/15 kg. About 60-70 tankers of washed cottonseed oil were traded against 45-50 tankers.

Edible oil traders said groundnut oil recovered modestly in the wholesale market due to renewed demand from stockists, but retail demand was below normal; prices may decrease in the near future.

On the other hand, washed cottonseed oil ruled higher as the price of cottonseed increased.

Pepper market rules steady



Kochi, Jan :

Pepper market ruled steady on limited activities, and the running contract on the national and regional exchanges ended unchanged on Tuesday.

Spot market also ruled steady. Upcountry buyers are active and were covering. At the same time there were some transactions were taking place for Malabar for February/March prompt shipments.

In the overseas market, Vietnam was reportedly offering adta grade at \$7,850 a tonne for USA February/March shipment.

Indian export prices were at around \$8400 a tonne for Europe and \$8650 a tonne for the US. On the NMCE, February and March contracts remained steady at Rs 50,910 and Rs 59,125 a quintal. Spot priced stayed steady at Rs 49,000 (ungarbled) and Rs 51,000 (garbled) a quintal on matching demand and supply.

On the terminal market, 10 tonnes of fresh pepper were traded at Rs 475-500 a kg depending on the quality, moisture content, bulk density and area of production.

Turmeric seen hitting Rs 9,000 in March



Erode, Jan :

Turmeric prices increased on Tuesday as the quality of arrivals was good, resulting in traders and buyers offering higher prices.

“For the second day in succession, the Mysore variety arrived for sale and due to the arrival of quality crop,

it fetched Rs 5,900- 6,000 a quintal for the finger variety and Rs 5,900 for the root variety. All 150 bags that arrived for sale were sold.

The arrival of new crop will increase within a couple of days. Meanwhile, traders purchased old crop in large quantity expecting good order from the first week of February. But they quoted a higher price for the old crop as the quality of the arrival was good,” said R. K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said traders have received firm orders from turmeric powder units. Traders and exporters are waiting for fresh upcountry orders. Farmers said that they are confident they will get good price for their produce this year. They are also hopeful that the price will increase to Rs 9,000 a quintal in March. If the demand from North India increases, prices may increase to Rs 8,000.

Due to the arrival of quality hybrid turmeric, prices increased by Rs 150 and the finger variety was sold at Rs 7,017. Similarly, the price of other varieties also increased by Rs 100. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard (new crop) the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,060-6,066 and root variety at Rs 3,670-5,986. The finger variety (old crop) was sold at Rs 4,464-6,311; the root variety Rs 4,279-5,815.

Salem Hybrid crop: The finger variety fetched Rs 6,139-7,017 and the root variety Rs 5,464-6,134. Out of the 785 bags that arrived for sale, 410 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,694-6,409 and the root variety Rs 5,065-5,891. All 570 bags that arrived put up for sale were traded.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety sold at Rs 5,385-6,369 and the root variety Rs 5,199-5,945. All 628 bags on offer were picked up.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,139-6,217. The root variety fetched Rs 4,050-6,099. All 124 bags of turmeric kept for sales were sold.

Wheat prices to rule range-bound next few days



Karnal, Jan :

A range-bound movement is likely to be witnessed in the wheat futures and physical market in the coming days, said market experts.

After ruling flat for almost one week, dara wheat improved marginally on increased off-take, while flour continued to rule firm on Tuesday.

A sudden increase in demand mainly pushed dara wheat up, said Radhey Shyam, a wheat trader. It is unlikely to see any major alteration currently and dara wheat may rule range-bound but within a positive territory, he added.

In the physical market, dara wheat improved by Rs 20 and was sold at Rs 1,610-1,620 a quintal. Around 1,000 bags of wheat arrived and stocks were directly offloaded at the mills.

Mill delivery was at Rs 1,610 a quintal, while delivery at the chakki was at Rs 1,620 a quintal.

NCDEX

A positive trend was witnessed on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange on buying interest on Tuesday. February contracts moved up by Rs 4 and traded at Rs 1,649, with an open interest of 1,370 lots. The grain had touched a high at Rs 1,654 earlier in the day.

February contracts have some support at Rs 1,640, while resistance is at Rs 1,658. March contracts moved up by Rs 7 and traded at Rs 1,605; on the other hand, wheat eased by Rs 8.75 in the spot market and traded at Rs 1,557.5.

Flour Prices

Despite an uptrend in wheat, flour continued to rule flat and was sold at Rs 1,850. Similarly, choker was unchanged at Rs 1,475.

Business Standard

Food law rolled out partially in 7 states so far

Three more states are expected to roll it out soon



The ambitious [food security law](#), enacted a few months ago, is being implemented partially in Karnataka and six other states as of now, while three more states are expected to roll it out. Passed by [Parliament](#) in September,

the landmark law seeks to provide highly subsidised foodgrains to the country's two-thirds of the population as a right.

“As of now, seven states—Karnataka, [Delhi](#), Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, [Punjab](#) and Chattisgarh—have rolled out the food law. Except for one or two, others are implementing partially,” a senior [food ministry](#) official said.

Some states have started implementing the law partially as they are in the process of identifying the beneficiaries, he said, adding that foodgrains are being allocated to these states accordingly.

The official mentioned that [Uttarakhand](#) and [Chandigarh](#) have evinced interest in implementing the law at the earliest, while [Bihar](#) is expected to roll it out as the state is the biggest beneficiary in terms of foodgrains allocation.

No progress has been made in Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, [Andhra Pradesh](#) and north eastern region, he added.

Various agri-officials are of the view that a maximum of 15 states, mostly Congress-ruled, are expected to implement the food security law before general elections, due in May.

It aims at providing rice at Rs 3 per kg, wheat at Rs 2 per kg and coarse cereal at Re 1 per kg. It is expected to cost the national exchequer Rs 1.25 lakh crore, and require 62 million tonnes of [foodgrain](#).

Drought-hit farmers protest against delay in cash relief

Trichy: As many as 121 farmers were arrested on Monday when they tried to stage a demonstration on the busy collectorate office road, completely disrupting traffic. The protesters, who had gathered for a meeting with [district collector Jayashree Muralidharan](#), suddenly took to the road.

Though the government assured of cash compensation, we are yet to receive it, said the farmers belonging to the Tamil Nadu Vivasayigal Sangam here. Hundreds of drought-hit farmers in the district are finding it difficult to clear debts as crops were hit last season.

[Aiyillai Sivasuriyan](#), the leader of the group as well as the district secretary of the [Tamil Nadu Farmers Association](#), said an indebted farmer named Sanga Pillai committed suicide a few weeks ago. "So far no action has been initiated by the authorities to compensate his family members," fumed Sivasuriyan.

Sivasuriyan blamed government's apathy for the farmers' plight. "When the entire region of Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Thanjavur could be considered for compensation, farmers in the delta regions are not considered for government relief," he charged. The protesting farmers also raised the problems faced by banana farmers after their crops perished after drought. Pulliyur Nagarajan, the state vice-president of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee's agricultural wing, said the district administration is holding on to insurance amount. "The district administration had received insurance amount for the farmers who have to be

compensated for drought losses.

However, none of the farmers have received any financial assistance till now," he said. The protesting farmers doubted if the government wants to encourage farming in the country since most of the farmers only incur losses due to several factors.



HC orders more compensation for Greater Noida landholders

The Allahabad High Court on Monday directed the Greater Noida Authority to provide additional compensation and developed area to landholders of a village in Greater Noida, whose lands were being developed by private builders after acquisition.

The petitioners had sought quashing of the acquisition on account of wrong usage of urgency clause of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, as well as changing the land use from industrial to residential and commercial by giving it to private developers.

In another matter related to land acquisition pertaining to Basti district, the same division bench rejected the petition on the ground that there existed a situation for urgency in constructing a service road along an irrigation canal.

The petitions related to Greater Noida village Birondi Chakrasenpur had been filed by Khem Chand, Ram Singh, Jiley Singh, Bhopal Singh and others. More than 46 hectares (ha) land was acquired by the Greater Noida Authority in Chakrasenpur, the proceedings for which had begun on December 18, 2001.

Sectors Omicron 3, Pi, a recreational green and an amusement park are supposed to come up on the acquired land.

The petitioners, owning around 2.48 ha in the said village, had approached the High Court after they found out that the land use of the acquired land had been changed from industrial to residential. They also challenged it on the ground of wrong use of urgency clause.

The issue of land acquisition in Chakrasenpur village had been taken up in the Gajendra Singh and others, in which a full bench of the High Court had, on October 21, 2011, dealt with nearly 500 petitions on the same issues and given certain additional benefits to landholders. However, since the petitions were filed with a delay, the court had directed that it would be heard by a division bench at a later stage.

Disposing of the petitions, a division bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan and M C Tripathi said the petitioners were entitled to the benefits as provided for in the October 21 order. This included returning to the petitioners 10 per cent of their total land acquired as developed land, besides giving more than 64 per cent as additional compensation.

The bench, however, said: "We are of the view that invocation of urgency clause under Section 17 (1) and 17 (4) of the Act was not justified." The said section pertains to doing away with public hearing before acquisition under Section 5-A, if there is a pressing urgency.

In another matter related to land acquisition in Sahrai village at Tappa Ramgarh, district Basti, the court rejected the petition filed by Govind Prasad Shukla and others.

The petitioners had challenged the land acquisition, which started on November 26, 2008, for construction of 27-km-long Khamaria irrigation canal. Shukla and others held 0.253 hectares of land, which had been acquired for construction of service road along the west bank of the canal. The petitioners had challenged the

acquisition primarily on the ground of wrong use of urgency clause (Sections 17 (1) and (4) of the Act).

Rejecting the petition, the court said: "We find there was sufficient material for invocation of urgency clause for acquiring the land and dispensing with the inquiry. We also find that, apart from the petitioners, there were no challenge with regard to the acquisition and whole canal of approximately 27 km have already become functional."

The court added that acquiring the little portion of land being held by the petitioner would not put the latter into any hardship.

While arriving at the conclusion, the court said public purpose could not be defined in a specific manner. However, in this case, it was clear that the irrigation canal was being

used for public purpose, as it was providing water to farmers in Sahrai village, among others.

Paddy season off colour

Private purchase at low rates jumps, says Mandi Board.

Discoloured paddy due to untimely rainfall have brought losses to Punjab farmers this season because it coincided with higher purchases by private agencies, which usually pay less. Such purchases picked up from 23.39 lakh tonnes last paddy season to 28.95 lakh tonnes this season, a jump of about 24 per cent.

Paddy procurement by government agencies has dropped five per cent, as compared to the last paddy season.

Looking at the figures, Mandi (market) Board chairman Ajmer Singh Lakhwal has asked officials to conduct an inquiry to find where paddy procured by private purchasers has been stocked so that they can establish the price at which they procured it from farmers and how it differs from the price at which they are putting it on sale.

Mandi Board records say though the government had set a minimum support price of Rs 1,345 per quintal, the actual price has fallen as low as Rs 1,285 per quintal. A few varieties got up to Rs 2,500 per quintal.

Purchases at low cost were made by private agencies alone, board sources say. They alleged that some agencies sought to cover up high sales, and cited the example of a sale of 135 bags being shown as 130 bags to remove all traces of purchases below the MSP.

Lakhowal says, "In the absence of any complaints from farmers, we are not able to act against any agency in particular. But we are investigating this racket at our own level because figures indicate that purchase by private agencies jumped 24 per cent, and our survey reveals that over 15 per cent paddy was sold below the MSP."

As per the data till December 10, purchase by government agencies this year was 121.20 lakh tonnes against 127.39 lakh tonnes last year, a decrease of 5%. Farmers have already protested at various mandis over poor paddy procurement this season and over poor prices.

So far, 150.15 lakh tonnes paddy has arrived in mandis, against 150.89 lakh metric tonne the previous year, which marks little change. Of the arrivals, 150.78 lakh tonnes have been purchased, show records of the Mandi Board. Last year, the total paddy stock that arrived in mandis was 155 lakh tonnes.

There has been relief from the central government as far as discoloured paddy is concerned, but it apparently came too late. Last month, the Centre relaxed moisture content norms from 17 per cent to 21 per cent, and for discoloured paddy it relaxed the standard of 4 per cent damage to 12 per cent, with a cut of Rs 107 per quintal. The state rejected these norms as they were announced too late and over 85 per cent stock had already been sold in mandis.

Meanwhile, basmati showed encouraging signs with arrivals in mandis and prices both doubling since last year around this time.

