

CHENNAI, January 27, 2014

## CM's special award for Erode farmer



• N. Parameswaran- Photo: V. Ganesan

*He reaped 6,119 kg of paddy per acre by adopting system of rice intensification cultivation method*

An Erode-based farmer, who received the Chief Minister's special award for accomplishing the highest yield in the State, made a strong case against converting traditional irrigation canals into concrete structures.

“Lining of the canals will prevent groundwater from getting replenished. Concrete bunds also block seepage of water into fields.

Had seepage of water been allowed, one could achieve higher yield,” said N. Parameswaran, who received the award from Chief Minister Jayalalithaa in the presence of Governor K. Rosaiah on the Marina here as part of the Republic Day celebration.

The award included Rs. 5 lakh in cash and a medal worth Rs. 3,500.

Mr. Parameswaran, from Nasiyanur in Erode district, produced 6,119 kg of paddy per acre by adopting the system of rice intensification cultivation method (SRI). He used BPT-5204 paddy seeds, known as ‘samba masuri,’ from the Erode block agricultural extension centre.

“There was no adequate rain in 2012-2013 and both Cauvery and its tributary Bhavani dried up. I used the seepage of the drinking water released from the Lower Bhavani three times and water from wells,” he said, while acknowledging the help rendered by his mother N. Rukmani and wife P. Umadevi.

He planted 14 day-old paddy and maintained a gap of 23 cm between each plant. Weeding was done four times and the harvest was made after 130 days. He sold the yield to the Agriculture department for storage of seeds.

Mr. Parameswaran said the price fixed for paddy was not adequate as the cost of input and labour had increased.

The Chief Minister also presented Anna medal for Gallantry to six persons, Gandhi Adigal Police medal to policemen who had done outstanding work to curtail illicit liquor and Kottai Ameer Communal Harmony award to A.R. Basheer Ahamed from Coimbatore.

Ms. Jayalalithaa distributed awards to eight persons who have made great contributions to the respective fields.

She presented the Periyar Award to Sulochana Sampath; Anna award – Panruti S. Ramachandran; Thiru-Vi-Ka award - writer Ashokamitran; Ambedkar award - Bishop M. Prakash; Kamaraj award - Ayyaru Vandaiyar; Bharathiyar award - K. Gnanasambandan; Bharathidasan award - Radha Chellappan and K.A.P. Viswanatham Award - V. Jayadevan.

Each award carried Rs 1 lakh cash, a gold medal and a citation.

Mr. Ashokamitran said he was happy to receive the award named after Thiru-Vi-Ka who, he said, was one of the pioneers of the modern Tamil prose.

Earlier, the Governor hoisted the National Flag and took the salute of the three armed forces and other security agencies.

The celebrations were marked by the presentation of traditional cultural programmes of school and college students. Floats displaying achievements of various government departments were part of the customary procession taken out on the occasion.

**TUTICORIN, January 27, 2014**

## **Organic baby corn yield fruitful for this farmer**

*“Since less water is required, farmers need not rely wholly on rains”*



Cultivation of organic baby corn (agriculture produce), a cereal grain from maize, has yielded the desired results to a farmer at Puthiyamputhur.

Having raised the crop on two acres, M. Velraj, the baby corn farmer, said the cultivation had ensured him livelihood support.

SWEET NEWS:Baby corn crop raised at Puthiyamputhur in Tuticorin district on Sunday.— Photo: N. Rajesh

Since less amount of water was required to raise the short duration crop, farmers need not rely wholly on rains. It was harvested in just a span of 50 to 60 days after sowing. Baby corn harvesting could be done early while the ears were small and immature.

He said, “the baby corn ears are hand-picked as soon as corn silks emerge from the ear tips.

Normally, corn matures very quickly; hence harvest has to be timed carefully. Baby corn has nutritional value and it is sweet. It is consumed both raw and cooked.”

On the cultivation method, he said 32, 000 hybrid variety seeds (syngenta 5414) costing Rs.350 per kilo were sown on each of the acres, which saw a yield of 65, 000 cobs.

He thanked officials of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, through which seeds were provided at a subsidised cost.

Three to four pickings could be done in a raised crop. At his own initiative, the farmer was involved in marketing a piece of corn cob at Rs.2 in retail outlets, including super market, departmental stores and also in restaurants.

With baby corn as an ingredient, value added food products such as soup, cutlet, pickle, manchurian, burfi and halwa could also be prepared and marketed.

N.K. Dhakshinamoorthy, Joint Director of Agriculture, told *The Hindu* , that baby corn cultivation could be promoted in Tuticorin and a team of officials would be involved in assessing market links. Apart from human consumption, Mr. Velraj said the commercial value crop also tended to serve dual purpose as green plant stalks had been used to feed livestock. After harvesting was over, the remains on cultivated acres had fetched good revenue.

An acre of plant stalks fetched a sum of Rs.15, 000 after cattle farmers procured it as fodder to increase milk yield, he said.

K. Rajasekar, Deputy Director, Cattle Breeding and Fodder Development, Department of Animal Husbandry, Tuticorin, when contacted, said a purchasing committee had been formed to fix price of such produce.

Next to procuring paddy straw, the remains of baby corn would be purchased as green fodder and maintained in six fodder procurement-cum-selling centres in the district, he said.

**MANGALORE, January 27, 2014**

## **Agricultural training**

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mangalore, will offer a six-day-long training programme on agricultural mechanisation from February 3. Each day will focus on a new technology or technique and will include demonstrations, said a release. The first day will focus on soil technology, the second day on products that can be made out of cashew; February 6, seed protection in horticulture and vegetable gardening; fourth day, diversified farming, jasmine and rose cultivation; February 7, mechanization in paddy cultivation; while, the last day will feature installation of an aquarium, said a release. The training sessions will be held between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Farmers, self-help groups, youths and others can send in their application before February 2. A total of 40 persons will be selected for each training session on first come, first served basis. For details, call: 0824-2431872/ 9449451443/ 8431343187.

### **ENTRIES INVITED**

Entries are invited for various competitions to be held at the third edition of the All India Art Festival, which will be held in Kasaragod on February 15 and 16. The categories range from literary events to art to musical competitions will be held in Hindi and English .

### **TRAINING FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS**

Mahatma Gandhi Vidya Peeta, Panja, will organise free training in KAS, PDO, Police Inspector, I Grade, IAS, banking and other competitive examinations on Shedigundi Janshiksha premises, Panja in Sullia Taluk every Sunday. A release

said, any candidate who has passed SSLC or more can attend the classes that will be held between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Food will be provided free of cost, added the release. For more details, contact 9449451328.

#### CITY POWERLIFTER WINS

City-resident K. Harish Kumar won two silver medals in the Masters category of the National Powerlifting Championship held at Himachal Pradesh recently. The 63-year-old won both the medals in the 83 kg weight class, said a release. He trained at New Bala Maruti Physical School, Morgans Gate for the competition.

#### OFFICE FOR SUB-TREASURY DEPARTMENT

The government is in need of a multi-purpose building that can be taken on rent for the Sub-Treasury office near the Vittal Gram Panchayat. Those who are interested in leasing their property, can call: 082555-265180, 9886690934 or 0824-2220575.

#### WANTED ANNOUNCERS FOR AKASHVANI

Mangalore Akashvani Centre calls for applications for the posts of announcer and recorder in Kannada, Tulu and English language broadcast. Graduates from any discipline, below 50 years of age, and are fluent in both English and Kannada can apply, said a release. The candidate will be selected after a written test, voice test and an interview. The form is available for Rs. 300, and can be sent by money order to Deputy Director (Programming), Akashvani, Mangalore. The last date of application is February 14.

**DAVANGERE, January 27, 2014**

### **Incentive for horticulture**

Shyamanur Shivashankarappa, Horticulture Minister, said that an amount of Rs.103.4 lakh had been distributed as incentive to encourage different horticulture crops under the National Horticulture Mission and floriculture in

Davangere district. An amount of Rs.53.91 lakh had been distributed to horticulture farmers to construct green houses and 'horticulture net' in the past few months.

Unfurling the national flag here today on the occasion of Republic day celebrations, Mr.Shivashankarappa said that the government was committed to encourage farmers to grow more horticulture crops.

He said that an amount of Rs.12.50 crore had been distributed to farmers belonged to SC and ST and of it an amount of Rs.706 lakh had already been distributed.

Women in urban areas in Davangere district were motivated to have terrace garden and over 300 women in Davangere city were given training in terrace gardening.

Mr.Shivashankarappasaid that over 65,904 applications were received for new BPL cards while 8,276 people were given APL cards

**BANGALORE, January 27, 2014**

## **Names shortlisted for V-Cs of agriculture varsities**

The process of appointing Vice-Chancellors to the University of Agricultural Sciences-Dharwad (UAS-Dharwad) and the University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences-Shimoga (UAHS-Shimoga) has reached a crucial stage with the search committee shortlisting three candidates for each university. The list has been submitted to the government.

The government had set up a committee headed by the former Additional Chief Secretary K. Jairaj to shortlist names. It comprised Director-General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research S. Ayyappan and a nominee of the chairman of the University Grants Commission among others.

The committee, which met in Bangalore on January 24, is learnt to have examined the profiles of nearly 50 agricultural scientists before shortlisting names. According to sources, most of the aspirants had applied for both the universities.

The post of the vice-chancellor of UAS-Dharwad has been vacant for nearly a year.

**SALEM, January 27, 2014**

### **“Chief Minister will inaugurate Mettur– Salem water supply scheme in February”**

Mayor S. Soundappan has said that the Rs. 320-crore Mettur – Salem Dedicated Water Supply Scheme is nearing completion and Chief Minister Jayalithaa would inaugurate the Scheme before February 15. Unfurling the national flag at Hanging Garden here on Sunday, the Mayor said that former Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran initiated the Mettur – Salem – Attur Combined Water Supply Scheme that benefits villages, municipalities and town panchayats.

**KARAIKAL, January 27, 2014**

### **Seeds distributed to SHG members**

The 65th Republic Day was celebrated by MARG Karaikal Port here on Sunday. Captain K. N. Ramesh, Chief Operating Officer, Karaikal Port, hoisted the national flag. Marking the day, Captain Ramesh, distributed kitchen garden seeds to self-help group members. The function was attended by Vetrivel Ramadoss, Assistant Vice President, G.Rajeswar Reddy, Deputy General Manager, A.Robert Roche, PRO, and other senior officials.



UDHAGAMANDALAM, January 27, 2014

## Tourist spots in Ooty get a spruce-up

*Government Botanical Garden gets ready for 23 lakh visitors expected this year*



With just a few weeks to go for the curtain to go up on the tourist season for summer of 2014, in this vacation destination work on sprucing up some of the popular scenic spots has gained momentum. As part of the efforts to beautify the Government Botanical Garden

on right foot: The footpaths extending over 1000 square metres at the Government Botanical Garden in Udhagamandalam are being set right—Photo: M. Sathyamoorthy

, the best-known tourist spot in this hill station which attracts, on an average, about twenty-three lakh visitors a year, the Department of Horticulture is now focusing on footpaths which have been in a state of neglect for several years.

Pointing out that they had developed holes and cracks, the Joint Director of Horticulture N. Mani told *The Hindu* here on Sunday that the footpaths extending over 1000 square metres are being set right at a cost of rupees 15.5 lakh, under the Hill Area Development Programme. Simultaneously, irrigation sources are being strengthened at a cost of rupees 15 lakh and planters boxes are being provided near the threshold to facilitate an attractive backdrop for photographs and videos.

“The idea is to enhance the natural beauty of the 55-acre garden with appropriately designed structures,” he said.

Stating that work on improving the footpath at the Government Rose Garden here has also commenced, he said that a sum of rupees 15.5 lakh has been set aside for the purpose. Pruning of 30,000 rose plants representing 3800 varieties would commence on Monday. The operation has been planned in such a manner that all the roses would be in full bloom by the first week of April. Within a few months, another 500 varieties would be added.

Beautification works have also commenced at the Katteri Park along the Coonoor-Mettupalayam national highway. The Tea Park which is coming up at a cost of rupees 79.9 lakh on the Ooty-Kotagiri Road is expected to be ready for commissioning by April or May.

Sources in the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation said that the wooden jetties in the Boat House are now in the process of being replaced with concrete jetties, at a cost of rupees 40 lakh.

The mini garden near the Ooty lake, which has, for some time now, been wearing an unkempt look, is now being improved. Meanwhile, concern is growing over the town wearing a shabby look.

Observers, particularly those in the hospitality and travel sectors, hoped that before the tourist season begins, the town would be made presentable to the tourists and comfortable for the locals.

**MADURAI, January 27, 2014**

## **Water level- Madurai**



### **WATER LEVEL**

The water level in Periyar dam on Sunday stood at 111.80 feet with an inflow of 20 cusecs and a discharge of 200 cusecs.

In Vaigai dam, the water level was 35.89 feet with an inflow and a discharge of 122 cusecs and 40 cusecs respectively. The combined Periyar credit was 1,141 mcft. There was no rainfall in the region during the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Sunday, according to the Public Works Department here.

**TIRUNELVELI, January 27, 2014**

## **Water level**



Water level in the Papanasam dam on Sunday stood at 90 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 254.63 cusecs and 1, 200 cusecs of water was discharged. The water level in Manimuthar dam stood at 83.94 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 31 cusecs and 195 cusecs of water was discharged.

**Kanyakumari**

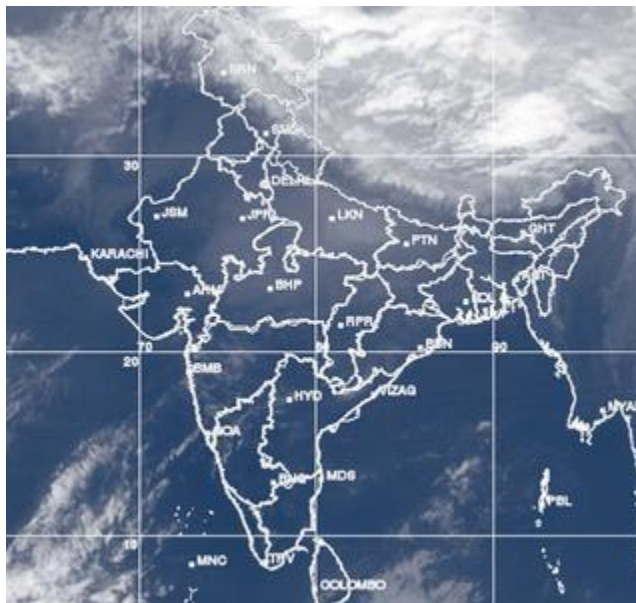
The level in the Pechipparai dam stood at 19.20 feet, while it was 52.85 feet in Perunchani, 10.23 feet in Chittar 1, 10.33 feet in Chittar 11, 4.30 feet in Poigai and 54.12 feet in Mamabazathuraiyaru.

TIRUCHI, January 27, 2014

**Mettur:**

The water level in Mettur dam stood at 51.48 feet on Sunday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 320 cusecs and the discharge 2,000 cusecs.

**Weather**



**ANDHRA PRADESH**

Anantapur	31	19	0	0
Arogyavaram	29	15	0	0
Bapatla	30	18	0	0

Calingapatnam	29	19	0	0
Gannavaram	31	20	0	0
Hanamkonda	31	19	0	0
Hyderabad AP	29	18	0	0
Kakinada	31	21	0	1
Khammam	31	21	0	0
Kavali	30	19	0	4
Kurnool	32	19	0	0
Mahabubnagar	29	18	0	0
Machilipatnam	29	21	0	0
Nandyal	—	—	—	—
Narasapur	30	21	0	0
Nellore	30	21	0	1
Nizamabad	32	18	0	0
Ongole	31	20	0	2
Ramagundam	30	14	0	0
Tirupathi AP	31	19	0	1
Tuni	31	20	0	0
Vizag AP	30	20	0	3
Vizag	29	21	0	19
<b>KARNATAKA</b>				
Agumbe	31	12	0	0
Bangalore AP	28	14	0	0
Bangalore	29	15	0	0
Bagalkote	33	15	0	0
Belgaum AP	30	16	0	0
Bellary	33	16	0	0
Bijapur	31	17	0	0
Chitradurga	30	18	0	0
Chickmagalur	29	15	0	0
Chintamani	—	—	—	—
Gadag	30	18	0	0
Gulbarga	32	19	0	0
Hassan	28	12	0	0
Honavar	35	23	0	0
Karwar	37	22	0	0
Madikeri	25	14	0	5
Mangalore AP	35	21	0	0
Mysore	30	19	0	0
Mandya	31	16	0	0
Panambur	36	22	0	0
Raichur	30	18	—	—
Shirali	34	22	0	0
<b>KERALA</b>				
Alappuzha	32	23	0	1
Kannur	35	24	0	1

Kochi AP	33	22	0	0
Kottayam	34	23	0	0
Kozhikode	34	25	0	Tr
Punalur	34	21	0	1
Thiruvanantha				
-puram AP	31	22	0	140
Thiruvanantha				
-puram City	32	21	0	45
Vellanikkara	33	24	0	0
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>				
Adirapattinam	31	20	0	12
Chennai	30	22	0	tr
Chennai AP	30	21	tr	1
Coimbatore AP	31	19	0	0
Coonoor	17	9	0	12
Cuddalore	30	21	0	tr
Dharmapuri	30	18	0	0
Kanyakumari	31	22	0	85
Karaikal	29	22	0	7
Kodaikanal	18	6	0	17
Madurai AP	32	21	0	10
Nagapattinam	29	22	0	7
Palayamkottai	33	21	0	31
Pamban	30	24	tr	61
Parangipettai	31	21	0	6
Puducherry	31	21	0	1
Salem	33	18	0	0
Thanjavur	31	22	0	1
Tiruchi AP	30	19	0	tr
Tiruchi	—	—	—	—
Tirupattur	—	—	—	—
Tiruttani	31	18	0	2
Tondi	29	21	0	43
Tuticorin	30	21	0	21
Ooty	19	9	0	0
Valparai	29	11	0	12
Vedaranyam	—	—	—	—
Vellore	30	19	0	1
<b>LAKSHADWEEP</b>				
Amini Divi	32	26	0	68
Minicoy	32	26	0	11
Kavarathi	—	—	—	—
<b>OTHER STATIONS</b>				
Kolkata (Alipore)	27	15	0	0
Mumbai	32	22	0	1
New Delhi	14	10	0	11

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 FORECAST IN A.P.

**CHENNAI:** Mainly dry weather prevailed over Tamil Nadu.

Dry weather prevailed over Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Lakshadweep.

The minimum temperature rose appreciably at one or two places over coastal Karnataka, rose at one or two places over rest coastal Karnataka, fell at a few places over Tamil Nadu, Kerala, fell appreciably at one or two places over rest Tamil Nadu and changed little elsewhere over the region.

They were markedly to appreciably above normal at one or two places over coastal Karnataka, above normal at a few places over Telangana at one or two places over north interior Karnataka, Rayalaseema, north Tamil Nadu, north Kerala, below normal at one or two places over rest Telangana, south interior Karnataka, appreciably below normal at one or two places over rest interior Karnataka and remained normal over the rest of the region.

Adilabad in Andhra Pradesh recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 13 degree Celsius in the plains of the region.

**Forecast (valid till Tuesday morning):** Mainly dry weather will prevail over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Lakshadweep.

Chennai - INDIA

## Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Rain: 0

Humidity: 62

Wind: normal

## Monday, Jan 27

Max 29° | Min 24°

Sunrise: 06:35

Sunset: 06:07

Barometer: 1016

## Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

## Tuesday, Jan 28

Max 30° | Min 20°

## Extended Forecast for a week

Wednesday  
Jan 29



30° | 22°  
Partly Cloudy

Thursday  
Jan 30



24° | 22°  
Overcast

Friday  
Jan 31



24° | 22°  
Overcast

Saturday  
Feb 1



24° | 22°  
Overcast

Sunday  
Feb 2



24° | 22°  
Partly Cloudy

# THE HINDU BusinessLine

## Cold weather threatens masur crop





**Indore :**

With the weather showing no signs of improvement in Canada and other masur growing countries, arrival of imported masur will be affected in January.

This will lead to rise in masur prices. On the other hand, rains and cold weather in major growing areas of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are threatening the domestic masur crop.

Spot masur prices last week ruled at Rs 4,500 a quintal.

Its dal prices were lower by ₹50 last week, while masur (bold) ruled at ₹5,450-5,550.

According to traders, the bullish sentiment in moong will continue till the arrival of the rabi crop in local mandis.

Moong dal, on the other hand, ruled firm with moong dal (medium) at ₹8,400-8,700 (up ₹100 from the previous week), moong dal (bold) at ₹8,800-9,000, while moong mongar was quoted at ₹8,900-9,200 respectively.

Urad and its dal also ruled stable with urad (bold) quoted at ₹4,450-4,500, while urad (medium) ruled at ₹3,800-4,200.

Urad dal also ruled flat on subdued demand with urad dal (medium) in the local mandis quoted at ₹5,250-5,350, while urad dal (bold) ruled at ₹5,400-5,500, and urad dal mongar ruled at ₹5,900-6,100.

## Canara Bank plans to fund coffee start-ups

**Bangalore :**

The public sector Canara Bank is drawing up a plan to fund start-ups involved in the entire coffee supply chain including grinding, roasting, mixing and even setting up cafes.

“Canara bank is ready to offer up to ₹1 crore as loans and the task to identify entrepreneurs lie with the Coffee Board,” Ravindra Bhandari, General manager, Canara Bank, told *Business Line* on the sidelines of India International Coffee Festival.

“In addition to indentifying entrepreneurs, the Board is planning to offer 25 per cent subsidy, with a cap of ₹25 lakh,” he added.

The bank is planning to treat loans to coffee entrepreneurs under CGMSE without guarantees. “At present we have not set any target or number of loans to be disbursed under the scheme. This will be offered in all our branches in a month or two. Then aggressively push it as a separate business in the next fiscal,” said Bhandari.

‘Flavour’ scheme fits into Coffee Board’s initiative to boost domestic coffee consumption and also to help sustain coffee cafe culture .

Welcoming the Bank’s move, Jawaid Akhtar, Chairman, Coffee Board, said, “As coffee cafes and parlours are mushrooming in the country, it provides opportunities for employment generation. This is one of the scheme recommended by Coffee Board to be included the 12th Plan.”

## No tea auction for 3 weeks in Kolkata on low arrivals



### **Kolkata, January 26:**

Tea auction in Kolkata will not take place for three weeks between end-February and March, anticipating inadequate offerings from growers in the North Indian region.

The Calcutta Tea Traders Association (CTTA), which conducts auction in Kolkata, has decided to drop auction process at Sale No 9, 11 and 12, since offerings in these three weeks are expected to be lower, an official said.

According to sources, the other two auction centres – Guwahati and Siliguri – are expected to take a call this week on cancelling auction on the same grounds.

### **Weaker demand**

This week (Sale No 4), there was a mixed trend in tea prices in the North India market compared with last week's sale.

While prices were stable at the largest CTC market at Guwahati, Siliguri witnessed a marginal decline (CTC leaf). On the contrary, there was a 9.5 per cent drop in orthodox prices at Kolkata owing to end-season quality concerns and lower offtake by merchant exporters.

According to an industry insider, prices would have dropped further unless a section of buyers from Bihar and West Bengal picked up buying of cheaper teas.

“Prices are likely to remain under pressure till the first flush crop arrives in early March,” a Kolkata-based tea company official told *Business Line*.

## Prices

While the average price of CTC leaf at the Kolkata centre was ₹129.25 a kg (₹132.58), average price for orthodox ruled at ₹122.92 (₹135.72). Only CTC dust average price at Guwahati centre was up. The average price of CTC leaf and dust ruled at ₹108.26 (₹108.77) and ₹106.95 (₹105.98). Average price of CTC leaf and dust stood at ₹110.58 (₹113.16) and ₹111.76 a kg (₹117), respectively.



## 12 Fishermen From TN in Monday Talks

In the fishermen-level talks to be held between India and Sri Lanka on Monday, 12 fishermen from the districts of Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai and Ramanathapuram and one fisherman from Puducherry would take part, while 10 fishermen from Sri Lanka would attend the discussions.

On behalf of the Sri Lankan government, senior officials including Nimal Hettiarachchi, director general, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Dr S Subasinghe, advisor, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

Development, and WSL De Silva, Asst Director, Dept of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, would take part in the talks.

Tamil Nadu Fisheries Minister K A Jeyapaul, Fisheries Secretary S Vijayakumar, Fisheries Director S Munianathan, Fisheries Additional Director K Rengaraju, top officials of the Coast Guard would take part as Tamil Nadu government observers.

Meanwhile, in Karaikal, at least 71 released fishermen and their 15 fishing trawlers arrived at the Karaikal port here on Saturday after spending over a month in Sri Lankan prisons.

A little later, as many as 111 Nagapattinam fishermen freed from the Trincomalee prison along with another set of 15 fishing trawlers also reached Karaikal port on Saturday night in a Coast Guard vessel ICGS 'Vigraha'. All fishermen hailing from the coastal hamlets of Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram and Karaikal districts were handed over to the respective fisheries department officials.

Unlike the previous occasions, Saturday witnessed the return of the fishermen and their trawlers as well. The fishermen and trawler owners thanked the Tamil Nadu government for retrieving their fishing trawlers.