

## Farmers demand better price for cotton, block road

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SALEM, January 29, 2014 - Tension prevailed at the Agricultural Producers Cooperative Marketing Society in Pudupet near Attur on Monday and Tuesday over fixing price for cotton that was auctioned on Monday. More than 200 farmers resorted to a road blockade during the late hours of Monday seeking better price for their produce.

Farmers from Perambalur, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Namakkal and Salem, who brought cotton for auction, were agitated as the price was less this week. The protest affected movement of vehicles on the road for about two-and-a-half hours.

**Talks:** The farmers cleared the road around 9 p.m. after officials in the society and revenue department assured them that a tripartite meeting will be conducted on Tuesday to fix the price of cotton. The agitated farmers also pelted stones on the marketing society. After four hours of talks on Tuesday the price of a quintal of cotton was uniformly increased by Rs. 50 compared to the price at which it was auctioned on Monday. Officials in the society said that 34,000 bags of cotton (20 kg per bag) were brought for auctioning under the secret tender system on Monday.

## 'Farmers should use organic substances to improve soil quality, fodder yield'

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*Farmers have been urged to use organic manure such as vermi compost (in picture) for improving productivity of fodder. Verimi compost produced in a farm in Salem. — PHOTO: E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN*

SALEM, January 29, 2014 - "Farmers should treat their soil with manure and other organic substances at regular intervals to improve fodder yield," V.M. Sankaran, Head of the Agronomy

Department, Madras Veterinary College, said.

He also gave tips to farmers on improving productivity of fodder based on results obtained from a random soil testing that was done at the field level.

The exercise was carried out as part of the pilot project 'Soil and Mineral Mapping in Farmer's Fields and Sensitising them to Improve Biomass and Augment Livestock Productivity' kick started in Katupakkam, Pudukkottai, Madurai, The Nilgiris, Vellore, Salem and Tirunelveli, he told *The Hindu* .

"Soil has life. There are millions of micro organisms in it that play an irreplaceable role in taking essential micro nutrients to the roots and improve the productivity of crops," Mr. Sankaran said and added that recently farmers had reduced treating soil organically and were using synthetic fertilizers extensively.

According to him, this is the reason behind the alkalinity of soil to increase.

Treating a hectare of soil with 12.5 tonnes of farm yard manure, vermi compost, green manure, azola or a mixture of these will rejuvenate the soil. "Farmers have been asked to grow perennial fodder varieties that also have better yield," he added.

Director, Centre for Animal Production Studies, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), and Principal Investigator of the project M. Babu said that this project was funded by the Tamil Nadu State Land Use Research Board of the State Planning Commission. "It is the first time effort is being taken in the State to augment soil to increase productivity of fodder," he added.

Head of the Mecheri Sheep Research Station and Co-principal Investigator N. Murali of the project said that random sampling was done by collecting soil samples from 50 land and cattle owning farmers in Thalaivasal, Kolathur, Gangavalli, Tharamangalam, Bethanayakanpalayam, Attur, Omalur, Mettur and Pottaneri in Salem district.

### Testing

"Soil samples were collected from four places in each farmer's land. They were sent to the Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Namakkal for testing. Based on the results, tips were given to farmers. Soil cards with nutrient value of the soil were given to each farmer," he said.

## 11 per cent dip in workforce engaged in agriculture sector: Assocham

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The workforce in agriculture and allied activities has come down by 11 per cent during the last decade, signalling rise in secondary and tertiary sectors, self-employment and regular jobs, according to a study.

"The number of people depending upon agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood has come down from over 60 per cent to 49 per cent between 1999-2000 and 2011-12," the Assocham study said.

"The number of people employed in secondary and tertiary sectors have grown significantly from about 16 per cent and 23.5 per cent in 1999-00 to about 24 per cent and 27 per cent respectively as of 2011-12," the study titled 'Structural Shift in Rural Employment' said.

The rural employment pattern has undergone a massive change and these changes are likely to continue in future as they are driven by a high level of public and private investments in rural areas and also trickle down impact of investments in agriculture itself, said D S Rawat, secretary general of the industry chamber, said.

The shift from dependence on farm-related jobs towards acquiring other skills and engaging in self-employment, trade and services should be encouraged as it would help intensify financial inclusion in rural areas and contribute to national growth, he added.

The number of individuals employed in the agriculture sector have declined from about 261 million in 2009-10 to 231 million as of 2011-12, the Assocham study said.

While the number of those employed in the manufacturing sector have increased from about 55 million in 2009-10 to about 66 million in 2011-12, the number of people engaged in mining has increased by one million.

Those employed in construction sector have almost doubled and those in services sector have also increased by about 17 million, it added.

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***The number of individuals employed in the agriculture sector have declined from about 261 million in 2009-10 to 231 million as of 2011-12***

# Paddy harvest on 50,000 acres in Cuddalore district affected

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*Paddy crops withering in a field at Kattumannarkoil.*

CUDDALORE, January 29, 2014 - Samba paddy crop in over 50,000 acres in Cuddalore district has not been harvested yet owing to acute shortage of labourers and non-availability of harvest machines.

Crops that are otherwise ready for harvest well before Pongal festival are now withering in fields and if action is not taken on a war-footing, it would inflict heavy losses, say farmers. Paddy ought to be harvested within 15 days of maturity and if left exposed to the elements in the farms hulling would become difficult as the grains would fall off the stalks, resulting in much lower yield.

Vice-president of the Cauvery Delta Farmers' Association K.V. Kannan told *The Hindu* that it was impossible to find labourers to harvest ripe paddy crop. Harvesting ought to be done within the next 10 days and it would require either 10,000 labourers or 700 harvest machines.

But, it was a tall order to mobilise such a massive workforce and harvest machines in such a short a period. Mr Kannan pointed out that paddy crops on three lakh acres in the tail end delta region, including Chidambaram, Kattumannarkoil and Bhuvanagiri, attained maturity at the same time because of direct sowing and transplantation practices.

In such a situation there was hardly any scope for spacing out the harvest. Mr Kannan noted that in earlier days, village artisans, including carpenters and ironsmiths, would join farm hands in harvesting paddy. Then they were paid in kind at the rate of seven 'marakkal' (a measure) for every man and five 'marakkal' for every woman for a day's work.

Those days, paddy was precious for labourers who used to store grain at their house with utmost care. But, in the past 10 years, when distribution of either subsidised or free rice through Public Distribution System had come into vogue, paddy seemed to have lost its value.

President of Kollidam-Keelanai Paasanana Vivasayigal Sangam P.Vinayagamoorthy, who vouched for such a disturbing trend, said that labourers were being attracted to Tirupur, Chennai and other urban areas for taking up jobs other than agriculture or allied activities. Therefore, labour shortage had begun to put tremendous pressure on farmers and forced them to find recourse to harvest machines. But, on this score too, there was an unbridgeable demand-supply gap.

Mr Vinayagamoorthy said that there were two types of harvest machines - track-chain type that could function with ease even in wet fields, and wheel type that could be comfortable only in dry farms. Agricultural Engineering Department in Cuddalore could boast of having only two such machines (one in each category) but even these too were either sent elsewhere or under disrepair.

Mr Kannan noted that as against the requirement of 700 harvest machines, only about 300 (both government and private-owned machines put together) were available in the district. Therefore, Mr. Kannan and Mr. Vinayagamoorthy said that since paddy harvest did not brook any delay, authorities should mobilise as many harvest machines as possible to help the farmers.

# Harvest machines in short supply

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CUDDALORE, January 29, 2014 - The Agricultural Engineering Department in Cuddalore district is finding it difficult to cope with the demand for harvest machines. Of the two machines at its disposal - one is under repair and the other is meant for only limited use. Considering the huge investment involved in this regard, the department could not purchase more machines.

According to sources in the department, as of now it owned one track-chain type and one wheel-type harvest machine which it was giving out on hire at the rate of Rs 1,530 an hour and Rs 925 an hour respectively.

The sources said that the track-chain machine had become non-functional as it required replacement of certain spare parts. Since these machines were manufactured in Punjab and Kerala, the spare parts ought to be procured from either of those places to revive the de-capacitated machine.

In all, there were only 25 harvest machines, owned by the department, across the State. These are a mix of both the types. T

he sources said that though there was a felt need for purchasing the harvest machines in good numbers, considering the size of investment and the rate of returns it was not feasible in the near future.

The sources underlined the point that “these machines have only limited utility, say for a period of 15—20 days in a year.

Soon after harvesting season is completed these machines would have to remain idle till the next season. Each machine would cost about Rs 23 lakh—Rs 24 lakh and therefore going for any heavy investment on this score would be unviable.”

However, under the National Agricultural Development Programme a subsidy to the maximum of Rs 4 lakh was being given to the private parties for buying the machine. The private parties could take out the machines to the places of their choice, even to other States, for deriving maximum benefits out of them.

But the government department could not do so as it would be constrained to hire out the machines only within the State.

The sources admitted that because of the seasonal demand for the machines, the department could not afford to post regular drivers. Hence, it had selected two drivers from the employment office register on the NMR (non-muster roll) basis.

When contacted, Assistant Executive Engineer K.Radhakrishnan told this correspondent that his department was taking all possible measures to meet the demands of the farmers for the harvest machines. In fact, it had even requisitioned machines from Thiruvannamalai and Thiruvallur districts to fulfill their needs.

***A machine costing around Rs 25 lakh is used only for about 20 days a year***

# Hill garlic gets a better price

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***FARMERS ARE HAPPY:*** Garlic grown in Kodaikanal is fetching lucrative returns to farmers owing to increase in demand.

KODAIKANAL, January 29, 2014 - High quality, big size and good flavour have brought better price for garlic produced on Kodaikanal hill this year. Now, hill garlic is being sold at farm gate for Rs.100 to Rs.120 per kilogram. Prices of hill garlic was hovering between Rs.50

and Rs.60 a kg last year.

Garlic procurement at the farm gate has enhanced the profit margin indirectly.

“Normally, we transport the produce in private trucks to Vadugapatti in Periyakulam block, the nearest wholesale garlic market, 80 km away from Kodaikanal hill. A sizable amount will be drained in freight charges. With growing demand, buyers procure garlic from farmers directly in the farms,” says M. Sundara Vadivel, a garlic grower in Mannavanur. “Buyers will take care of freight expenditure.”

“Adoption of advanced technologies, selection of high-yielding varieties, use of sprinkler irrigation and proper post harvesting management practices help us improve production,” says R. Baskaran of Klavarai.

Even as failure of monsoon and shortage of rain haunt garlic growers this year, farmers have managed to protect the crop to get better yield by resorting to sprinkler irrigation, recalls M. Santhanam of Poomparai.

Market sources said prices of hill garlic had gone up this season owing to sharp increase in demand. Moreover, a majority of people did not like to use garlic imported from China owing to its mild flavour.

Direct marketing and elimination of middlemen have turned garlic cultivation into a commercially viable horticulture venture and fetched a better price for growers, said S. Raja Mohamed, Deputy Director of Horticulture, Kodaikanal.

“This will slowly turn farmers into businessmen. We motivate garlic growers to use advanced machinery and equipment to manage labour shortage and cut production cost. Training has been given to a section of progressive farmers on value addition to boost their income and they were given sprinklers with cent per cent subsidy.”

Garlic was being cultivated on about 370 hectares in Poomparai, Poondi, Kavunji, Kookkal, Gundupatti and Mannavanur on upper Kodaikanal.

The average annual production on the hill was 2,250 metric tonnes, he said.

Garlic is being cultivated on 2.09 lakh hectares in the country.

Madhya Pradesh tops in garlic production with 26 per cent, followed by Gujarat with 19.11 per cent, Uttar Pradesh 16.77 per cent, Rajasthan 11 per cent, Odissa 5.25 per cent and Bihar 2.03 per cent.

## Areca prices rise despite ban talk

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SHIMOGA, January 29, 2014 - The issue of banning areca nut though has triggered a series of protests, from ryot organisations and has resulted in mud-slinging among the politicians, the prices of the produce have remained insulated from these developments.

It is a known fact that the prices of areca nut are sensitive to the policy decisions of the government.

The ryot leaders and representatives of cooperative societies of areca nut growers had expressed apprehension that the debate on banning areca nut would result in slump in its price.

Much to the relief of the farmers, the prices have remained stable. The areca nut merchants in Shimoga Agriculture Produces Marketing Committee (APMC) predict that the prices will increase in coming days.

### **Local varieties**

On Tuesday, aapi and rashi idi varieties of areca nut grown locally were purchased at the price of Rs. 210 per kilo. It may be mentioned here that, the price of aapi and rashi idi varieties was around Rs. 130 per kilo last year during this period. The announcement by the Union government on May 13, 2013 to enhance the minimum import price of areca nut from Rs. 75 to Rs. 110 per kilo triggered an upward movement in the price.

Owing to this decision, the import of low quality areca nut at cheap price was reduced resulting in increase in the demand for locally grown areca nut. By the last week of the month of May, the price of rashi idi and aapi varieties had reached Rs. 180 per kilo.

Shimoga, Uttara Kannada, Chikmagalur, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi districts where areca nut is grown in large scale received heavy rain this monsoon.

### **Kole roga**

According to the information provided by Department of Horticulture, areca nut is grown in 45,171 hectare land in Shimoga district of which 19,000 hectare was infected with kole roga, a fruit rot disease. The total annual production of areca nut in the district stands at 67,910 tonne. It is estimated that the yield has declined by 40 percent this year owing to kole roga. A similar situation prevails in the neighbouring districts also. The decline in yield has resulted in mismatch between demand and supply owing to which the price of areca nut has escalated further. D.M. Shankarappa, director of Shimoga Arecanut Merchants Association told *The Hindu* that, "only politicians were interested in the debate on banning areca nut. The areca nut growers, merchants and manufacturers of various products from areca nut were not perturbed over these discussions."

He said that as the flow of areca nut to the market in summer will come down, the prices will increase during this period.

***On Tuesday areca nut was purchased at Rs. 210 per kilo***

## Purchase sugarcane at advisory price: KRRS

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SHIMOGA, January 29, 2014 - The activists of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) staged a protest in the city on Tuesday demanding the State government to direct the sugar factory owners to purchase sugarcane from the farmers at the advisory price that it had fixed. Addressing the protest meet, KRRS leader Y.G. Mallikarjun said that, the State government had fixed Rs. 2,500 as the advisory price for the sugar factories to purchase a tonne of sugarcane from the farmers.

The government had announced to pay an amount of Rs. 150 as incentive to the farmers for a tonne of sugarcane.

He expressed his displeasure that a major chunk of the sugar factories were purchasing sugarcane by paying Rs 2,000 for a tonne.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had issued direction to the sugar factories to purchase sugarcane at the price fixed by the government.

It is unfortunate that the management of the sugar factories have failed to honour Chief Minister's direction. Most of the sugar factories are owned by the politicians and the government lacks the courage to initiate action against them, he said.

The State government has failed to manage the issue in a proper manner.

Dejected over the negligence of the State government in addressing the problems faced by the sugarcane growers, Vithal Arabhavi, a sugarcane grower committed suicide before Suvarna Soudha in Belgaum in November 2013.

### **Leaders arrested**

Prominent ryot leaders including Kodihalli Chandrashekhar, H.R. Basavarajappa and Kadidal Shamanna who were protesting in Bangalore on Monday, against the reluctance by the sugar factories to pay the price fixed by the government, were arrested by the police. The government was trying to intimidate the farmers by using the police force, he said.

The protesters blocked the road near Sangolii Rayanna Circle owing to which the movement of vehicles was paralysed for some time.

## Horticulture dept. sets oil palm cultivation target

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*Crop to be planted in 408 hectares of land*

BELGAUM, January 29, 2014 - With a focus on promoting oil palm plantation in the district, the Department of Horticulture has set a target of palm plantation in about 408 hectares in Belgaum district.

Addressing presspersons here on Tuesday, Deputy Director of Horticulture Ravindra Hakati said the Department was keen on promoting oil palm crop. Mr. Hakati said that while the current demand for edible oil in the country stood at 130 lakh tonne, the country produced around 50 to 60 lakh tonnes annually. Consequently 70 lakh tonnes of edible oil worth over Rs. 35,000 crore was being imported, he said.

Both State and Union governments were promoting the crop with the objective of becoming self-reliant in palm oil production. He said that the crop was being cultivated in 1.17 lakh hectares in the State, out of which 3,480 hectares was yielding fruit. An average of eight to nine tonne of edible oil could be expected per hectare, while a few progressive farmers were able to get more than double the average yield, he added. He said that currently a minimum support price of Rs. 7,000 a tonne had been fixed and the government was providing an additional Rs. 1,500 as incentive. Farmers Purushottam Nadgoud from Gokak and Suresh Hubballi from Hunasikatti village Bailhongal, who have cultivated oil palm, told presspersons that they were getting good returns.

Mr. Hakati said presently 1,900 farmers in the district had taken up the cultivation of oil palm in 3,314 hectares.

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📌 ***Around 70 lakh tonnes of edible oil worth***

***Rs. 35,000 crore being imported: Deputy Director***

📌 ***1,900 farmers in the district have taken up palm cultivation in 3,314 hectares***

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## Entries invited for 'Agronova' at TNAU

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COIMBATORE, January 29, 2014 - : B.Sc. Agriculture students of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University will host 'Agronova '14' here for students and public in the month of February. The fest will aim to provide them a platform to display their talents and also to learn about agriculture.

### **Competitions**

According to a release, it will be held on February 14 for school students and on February 15 for college students.

Various events will be organised for them.

There will be competitions on Tamil essay writing and Tamil debate for the public.

Those interested in participating, should register before January 31.

Entry forms can be downloaded from [www.agronovatnau.webnode.com](http://www.agronovatnau.webnode.com) and e-mailed to [toagronova2013@gmail.com](mailto:toagronova2013@gmail.com).

They can also be sent by post.

For details, contact 97906-91387 / 99432-39723.

## Poigai cattle shandy buzzing with activity again

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*Sale was halted in Nov. to stop spread of disease*

VELLORE, January 29, 2014 - Cattle trade under way at the shandy in Poigai village near Vellore on Tuesday.



The famous weekly cattle shandy in Poigai village about 10 km from Vellore was buzzing with activity on Tuesday after a gap of about three months. Sale of cattle in the shandy was temporarily suspended by the Department of Animal Husbandry (DAH) in the third week of November last year to prevent the spread of foot-and-mouth disease which had killed about 80 cows in Vellore district.

The department suspended the cattle shandies in the district functioning in Poigai, K.V. Kuppam, Odugathur and Thenpalli in order to prevent the cattle affected by FMD in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka as well as from neighbouring villages and districts from being sold in the shandies in Vellore district.

While the department allowed goats to be sold in the shandies last week in the wake of the control of FMD, it did not make any announcement on allowing cows to be sold. But, following the control of the FMD owing to preventive measures taken in Vellore district, farmers started taking their cattle to the Poigai shandy last Tuesday since they felt the conditions now were safe for selling and buying cattle.

Farmers who suffered crop loss due to water scarcity said that they had no other option but sell their cattle to make up for the loss which they had to face owing to failure of crop. C.K. Dhanapal, a farmer of Vellakuttai and Vellore district secretary of Tamil Nadu Farmers' Association, questioned medical prescriptions which the DAH gave to cattle farmers for controlling FMD. He wanted the DAH to advocate traditional systems of veterinary medicine among farmers to control FMD and other diseases, just as the Department of Health prescribed 'Nilavembu', a Siddha medicine for dengue. Mr. Dhanapal claimed that he was able to treat FMD among his own cattle, including cows and goats by applying neem oil, a traditional and efficacious medicine, and thus saved them. He wondered why the Centre could not prevent the outbreak of FMD resulting in the death of lakhs of cattle throughout the country despite crores of rupees spent on veterinary research in institutes in different parts of the country.

## Castration drives local cattle to extinction

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KATTAPPANA, January 29, 2014 - Castration of bulls, made mandatory under the Kerala Livestock Improvement Act of 1961 for promoting hybrid cattle varieties, is still done in the State though many endemic pure breeds have either disappeared or are on the verge of extinction in the State.

As per the data available with the Animal Husbandry Department, 2,694 bulls were castrated during 2012-13. Shaji Thundathil, district coordinator, Zero Budget Farming, who received the data under the Right to Information Act, told *The Hindu* on Tuesday that as pure endemic cattle varieties were on the verge of extinction in the State, concerted efforts were needed to protect Kasaragod dwarf, Vechur, Cheruvally, and other endemic breeds. He said that a survey should be conducted to identify the number of pure-bred cattle varieties.

### **Acts in conflict**

"While the Biodiversity Act, 2002, lays stress on protecting natural breeds, the Kerala Livestock Improvement Act is in conflict with the former," he said. Artificial insemination being propagated in the State had affected the healthy growth of the endemic breed.



### **Under threat**

While 20 per cent of the cattle in the country were local varieties, their number was even fewer in the State.

The Vechur cow, known as the world's shortest cattle breed, and other endemic cattle species had to be protected through government intervention. Local breeds should be protected for the high fat content in milk, low feed requirement, and high resistance to diseases, he said.

### **Long-term plan**

Sosamma Ipe of the Vechur Conservation Trust, Thrissur, which prepared a long-term plan for conservation of endemic cattle, said that lack of government policy and concrete planning had affected the survival of the endemic cattle species.

Only through government action, such breeds could be protected now.

### **No medicinal property**

Crossbreeding had affected the purity of the cattle species and there were instances of hybrid cattle being sold to farmers in the guise of Vechur cow, she said, adding that there were no medicinal properties to its milk as claimed by certain quarters.

Mr. Shaji said that a campaign for protecting pure breeds would be launched.

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📄 ***Biodiversity Act 2002 lays stress on protecting natural breeds***

📄 ***2,694 bulls castrated during 2012-13***

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***1961 Act made castration of bulls mandatory to promote hybrid varieties.***

## Cattle expo on February 1

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KOZHIKODE, January 29, 2014 - M.K. Raghavan, MP, will inaugurate 'Grama Darshanam,' an exhibition of India's indigenous variety of cows and cattle varieties at Atholi in the district on February 1.

The four-day exhibition would feature a wide range of cows including Vechur, Cheruvalli, Kasaragode, Ponkanur, Gir, and Panwar, a press release said.

Besides this, workshops, discussions, and documentary screening on organic farming and medicinal plants farming would be held.

## International cotton experts meet textile mill owners

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COIMBATORE, January 29, 2014 - The International Cotton Association plans to organise a training session here on its contract rules and bylaws.

President of the association Mohit Shah told the mill owners here on Tuesday, at a meeting organised by the Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA), decision makers at textile mills on raw material purchase should participate in the training. They will learn more about writing a contract, rules of the association, etc. "They should participate to know about the rules and their rights," he said. This will reduce the problems that come up between cotton buyers and suppliers on cotton contracts.

"Imports (of cotton) are here to stay and rise," he said. Disputes can be settled in a mutually satisfactory way when there is more awareness on the contract rules.

According to Kai Hughes, Managing Director of the International Cotton Association, the number of cases that came up for arbitration in 2013 reduced to 76 from 247 in 2012 and 242 in 2011. However, the average time taken to complete the awards was 237 days in 2013 as against 177 days the previous year. The association has launched an online safe trading

zone for its members. Mr. Hughes also spoke about the rules of the ICA and the new initiatives taken by the association.

Chairman of SIMA T. Rajkumar said India has shortage of short-staple and extra long staple cotton. However, it is the second largest producer and consumer of cotton globally.

## Water level

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**Mettur** - The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 51.41 feet on Tuesday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 289 cusecs and the discharge 2,000 cusecs.

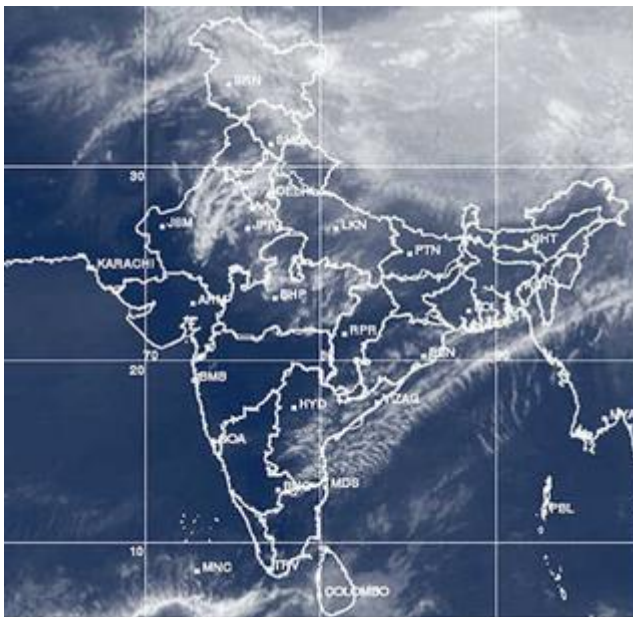
Water level in the Papanasam dam on Tuesday stood at 87.60 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 261.27 cusecs and 1,121 cusecs of water was discharged from the dam.

The water level in Manimuthar dam stood at 83.58 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 57 cusecs and 195 cusecs of water was discharged.

**Kanyakumari** - The water level in Pechipparai dam stood at 15.60 feet, 52.20 feet in Perunchani, 9.81 feet in Chittar 1, 9.90 feet in Chittar 11, 4.20 feet in Poigai and 54.12 feet in Mamabazathuraiyaru.

## Weather

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### ANDHRA PRADESH

Anantapur	30	18	0	0
Arogyavaram	29	15	0	0
Bapatla	30	20	0	0
Calingapatnam	28	18	0	0
Gannavaram	31	21	0	0
Hanamkonda	31	17	0	0
Hyderabad AP	27	15	0	0
Kakinada	30	22	0	1
Khammam	33	21	0	0
Kavali	30	20	0	4
Kurnool	31	20	0	0
Mahabubnagar	29	17	0	0

Machilipatnam	29	21	0	0
Nandyal	30	20	0	0
Narasapur	29	21	0	0
Nellore	31	22	0	1
Nizamabad	31	14	0	0
Ongole	30	21	0	2
Ramagundam	29	12	0	0
Tirupathi AP	31	18	0	1
Tuni	30	21	0	0
Vizag AP	30	21	0	3
Vizag	29	21	0	19

### **KARNATAKA**

Agumbe	29	12	0	0
Bangalore AP	27	14	0	0
Bangalore	28	15	0	0
Bagalkote	29	16	0	0
Belgaum AP	28	14	0	0
Bellary	31	17	0	0
Bijapur	28	14	0	0
Chitradurga	28	17	0	0
Chickmagalur	27	15	0	0
Chintamani	27	11	0	0
Gadag	28	15	0	0
Gulbarga	29	15	0	0
Hassan	28	12	0	0
Honavar	34	23	0	0
Karwar	35	23	0	0
Madikeri	25	13	0	5
Mangalore AP	35	21	0	0
Mysore	28	17	0	0
Mandya	29	15	0	0
Panambur	36	21	0	0
Raichur	30	17	0	0
Shirali	35	23	0	0

### **KERALA**

Alappuzha	34	23	0	1
Kannur	34	23	0	1
Kochi AP	33	21	0	0
Kottayam	35	21	0	0
Kozhikode	35	23	0	tr
Punalur	35	19	0	1
Thiruvanantha				
-puram AP	32	24	0	140
Thiruvanantha				
-puram City	34	22	0	45
Vellanikkara	32	23	0	0

### **TAMIL NADU**

Adiramapattinam	31	20	0	12
Chennai	30	24	0	tr
Chennai AP	30	21	0	1
Coimbatore AP	29	17	0	0
Coonoor	18	7	0	12
Cuddalore	30	20	0	tr
Dharmapuri	29	17	0	0
Kanyakumari	31	23	0	85
Karaikal	29	21	0	7
Kodaikanal	17	6	0	17

Madurai AP	32	21	0	10
Nagapattinam	29	21	0	7
Palayamkottai	33	21	0	31
Pamban	29	24	0	61
Parangipettai	31	23	0	6
Puducherry	31	19	0	1
Salem	31	17	0	0
Thanjavur	30	22	0	1
Tiruchi AP	32	20	tr	tr
Tirupattur	31	18	0	0
Tiruttani	31	18	0	2
Tondi	29	21	0	43
Tuticorin	31	22	0	21
Ooty	20	3	0	0
Valparai	27	11	0	12
Vellore	30	19	0	1
<b>LAKSHADWEEP</b>				
Amini Divi	31	24	0	68
Minicoy	31	23	0	11
Kavarathi	—	—	—	—
<b>OTHER STATIONS</b>				
Kolkata (Alipore)	23	13	0	0
Mumbai	34	23	0	1
New Delhi	24	9	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

IN A.P.

**CHENNAI:** Mainly dry weather prevailed over Tamil Nadu. Dry weather prevailed over Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Lakshadweep.

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

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

Adilabad recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 9 degree Celsius in the plains of the region.

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

**Frost Warning:** Ground Frost may occur at a few places over Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu during next two nights

# Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

**Wednesday, Jan 29**

Max 29° | Min 23°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 65

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:35

Sunset: 06:07

Barometer: 1013

Tomorrow's Forecast



Sunny

**Thursday, Jan 30**

Max 29° | Min 22°

Extended Forecast for a week

Friday

**Jan 31**



30° | 24°

Partly Cloudy

Saturday

**Feb 1**



30° | 23°

Partly Cloudy

Sunday

**Feb 2**



25° | 22°

Overcast

Monday

**Feb 3**



25° | 23°

Overcast

Tuesday

**Feb 4**



25° | 22°

Partly Cloudy

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

## Farmers to rally against dam water diversion

KOLHAPUR: [Senior activist](#) from Satara Bharat Patankar will organize a [farmers' rally](#) in Mumbai on February 4 against the state government's decision of diversion of dam water for industrial purposes.

Patankar has raised the issue at several platforms and has spread awareness among farmers and the rural population. Dams are the main source of water for agricultural activities. The activist said, "The farmers will gather at Azad Maidan in Mumbai on February 4 and hold an indefinite agitation till their demands are met."

As per the state's policy, dam water can be reserved for agricultural, industrial and drinking purposes. Some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have also submitted reports of diversion of water reserved for agriculture for industrial purposes. The NGOs have claimed that the state government is not taking farmers into confidence before deciding to divert the quantum of water meant for them.

Patankar said, "There are 51 dams in the state where water was reserved for agriculture and was then diverted to industries. The decisions were taken haphazardly, without consultation and by bypassing the basic procedures. The quantum of such water diverted to industries,

sugar factories and to cities for drinking purposes is 118 TMC. Surprisingly, such decisions were not communicated to the farmers, whose water connections were cut."

"Chief minister [Prithviraj Chavan](#) had assured us of forming a high-power committee to look into the matter. However, no meeting of such a committee has been held," he added.

## *The Indian* **EXPRESS**

# 'Farmers pay 56 paise per unit of electricity'

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At the time when common man in Gujarat is paying between Rs 4-5 per unit of power, farmers in the state are paying 56 paise.

### **SUMMARY**

*In the 2012-13 fiscal, only 95,844 connections were given, which was the highest number of connections provided in a single fiscal since 2008-09.*

At a time when electricity consumers in Gujarat are paying about Rs 5 for every unit of electricity, farmers in the state are getting the same at a subsidised rate of just 56 paise. This is perhaps the one reason why the Gujarat Government is going slow on providing electricity connections to farmers.

"At the time when common man in Gujarat is paying between Rs 4-5 per unit of power, farmers in the state are paying 56 paise," said D J Pandian, principal secretary, energy and petrochemicals, Government of Gujarat while addressing a gathering at a seminar on Solar Power at Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA).

Hinting at the huge subsidies the state government has to provide in supplying power to farmers in the state, Pandian also talked about how there were about 4 lakh pending applications for power connections of farmers in Gujarat.

"Agriculturalists are unhappy about these pending power connections. However, to give power connection to one farmer, we need to spend on an average Rs 1.25 lakh. This includes the cost for wires, poles, etc. So the government is going a little slow in providing new connections," Pandian said addressing the gathering.

In the 2012-13 fiscal, only 95,844 connections were given, which was the highest number of connections provided in a single fiscal since 2008-09. The state government figures also show that the power allocated to agricultural consumers have been steadily declining in Gujarat. In a span of 10 years – from year 2002 to 2012 – the electricity consumption of farmers in the state has dropped by 11 per cent.

Gujarat buys 300 million units of power every day. About 200 million of units are supplied by state-run Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (GUVNL), while an additional 50-60 million units of power come from Torrent Power, while the remaining 50 million of units are purchased by various high tension industrial consumers through power exchanges, Pandian said, adding that 15,000 MW of state's power generation capacity is driven by coal-based units.

## Aqua Show-2014 Comes to a Close

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By Express News Service - KOCHI

Published: 29th January 2014 07:50 AM

Last Updated: 29th January 2014 07:50 AM

The week-long aquatic exhibition, India International Aqua Show-2014, displaying rare ornamental fishes, organised at Marine Drive here, came to a close on Tuesday. The exhibition is organised by the state government once every two years.

Union Minister K V Thomas inaugurated the concluding session of the exhibition. Delegates from across India and from overseas nations, including Japan, Taiwan and Vietnam, participated in the 122 stalls set up for the exhibition. Angelfish, Bannerfish, Wrasse fish, Tigerfish and sharks were the stars in the exhibition. Other than fishes, rare aquatic plants were on display also.

Along with fresh water fishes, some of the traditional fishes found in the Western Ghats were also featured in the exhibition like Miss Kerala, Sun catfish, Malabar pufferfish, Leaf fish, Indian eel and Zigzag eel.

Special attraction of the exhibition were a video presentation about the breeding of Miss Kerala, an indigenous fish developed by the regional shrimp hatchery, Azhikode, Matsyafed stall and the ornamental fish stall from Lakshadweep.

A series of innovative programmes were also conducted as part of the exhibition. A two-day international seminar was conducted where international experts from Norway, the Netherlands, Indonesia, Australia and Malaysia spoke on various aspects of the ornamental fishing industry.

## Land Reforms Act to be Amended: CS

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By Express News Service - BANGALORE

Published: 29th January 2014 07:44 AM

Last Updated: 29th January 2014 08:33 AM

The state government will amend certain "devilish" sections of the Karnataka Land Reforms Act, 1961 in order to make it easier for industries to acquire agricultural land, Chief Secretary Kaushik Mukherjee said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the Confederation of Indian Industry Partnership Summit, an event supported by the state government, Mukherjee said the state faces a dilemma of guarding farm lands from industrial acquisitions and protecting farmers' productivity while also ensuring inflow of investment into the state.

He said Sections 79A (prohibition of acquisition of land by certain persons), 79B (prohibition of holding agricultural land by certain persons) and 109 (certain lands to be exempt from certain provisions) would be amended.

In a clear attempt to woo investors, Mukherjee assured them that the state would amend the Act.

"I put forward this assurance that the state government will amend the rules in such a manner that it becomes easy for an industry to get land in a limited period of time," Mukherjee said.

At the same time, he lamented the loss of agricultural land, saying that the state had witnessed a 15 per cent decrease in agricultural land in the last three decades.

“All states very zealously guard lands because farming area goes down gradually over a period of years. Agricultural lands impinge upon other resources that are required,” he said. He held existing legislation to guard farm lands and the new Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 as opportunities to “somewhat relax the window of land acquisition in the state.” The existing single-window clearance of projects would be simplified further, Mukherjee added.

## THE HINDU Business Line

### Guatemala spices up Indian cardamom

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Poor quality of produce from the competitor leads to good enquiries for exports, but shortage of 7 mm grade hurts



*Gaining aroma Cardamom output is estimated to be 70 per cent higher than that of last year.*

**Kochi, January 28:** Cardamom prices gained some flavour on good export enquiries and lower supplies at auctions

held last week.

Cardamom growers and the trade had some thing to cheer at the beginning of the New Year. Kerala Finance Minister KM Mani, in the State Budget for 2014-15, responding to the demand from all stakeholders in the sector especially the Spices Board, reduced the tax on cardamom at the point of sale of auction through authorised auction centres of the Spices Board to 2 per cent.

It has been well received by the growers and traders. Overall, arrivals declined last week. The trade attributed it to suspension of auctions last week for two days on account of Republic Day.

#### **Export buying**

On the other hand, the crop entering the last round of picking (the 6th round) is also a reason for auctions going slow. The picking will last till February-end.

Exporters have good demand on hand because of attractive price levels and poor quality of material from Guatemala, world's biggest producer, market sources told *Business Line*.

But non-availability of the required grade of cardamom of 7 mm and above has turned out to be a problem, they said. Upcountry buyers are buying but it is limited, trade sources in Bodinayakanur said.

According to them, as prices are ruling low many stockists have bought cardamom. Whether these stocks have been sold or not is unknown.

However, the cold weather prevailing in north Indian States has brought retail sales to a standstill.

At the same time, if stockists have depleted their inventories, then demand is expected to pick up in the coming weeks.

Exporters have bought an estimated 50 tonnes of cardamom. “They would have bought more but for the non-availability of the required variety”, sources said.

#### **Weather factor**

As the weather in the growing areas has become dry and hot, harvesting in small and non-irrigated estates has almost come to an end. Harvesting might last for some more weeks only in those estates which have irrigation facility.



The growing areas have not received any rains in January. Normally, the growing areas get good showers once in a month and if that happens this and next month, there could be an early crop next season, they said.

Individual auction average improved last week to touch ₹590 a kg. During the current season of the crop, which officially began on August 1, arrivals have totalled 12,977 tonnes against 7,286 tonnes during the same period a year ago. Sales were at 12,661 tonnes against 6,934 tonnes respectively.

### Auctions

Going by the arrivals and sales this season, cardamom production this season could be at least 70 per cent more than what it was last season, traders said. The individual auction average this season has dropped significantly, as a result. The weighted average price as on January 25 was ₹592.73 a kg against ₹772.92 during the same period a year ago.

Arrivals at all auctions last week declined and that reflected on the price trend, PC Punnoose, General Manager, KCPMC, told *Business Line*. Prices of all graded varieties moved up on good export demand last week and their prices (in ₹/kg) were: AGEB 725-730; AGB 605-615; AGS 570-580; and AGS-1: 540 - 555.

Dry weather conditions prevailed in the growing areas with fall in temperature during nights in Kerala's Idukki district last week.

## Spices export mints more value on global demand

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Value-added products rise 129% in mint; spices export up 28%

**Kochi, January 28:** Spices export increased 28 per cent during April-November of the current fiscal.

In terms of value, shipments increased 46 per cent in rupee terms and 32 per cent in dollar compared with the same period a year ago.

Higher demand for Indian spices in the international market is a testimony to their nonpareil quality and escalating faith in their sustainability, said A Jayathilak, Chairman, Spices Board. With the current trend in exports, Jayathilak said that prospects for spices trade look promising especially spices such as pepper, small cardamom, chilli, turmeric, coriander, cumin, fennel, fenugreek, celery, garlic, nutmeg and mace, other seed spices which have registered an upsurge in volume and value.

Export earnings were ₹8,377.20 crore from 5,08,555 tonnes shipped during the period. During the same period a year ago, 3,98,000 tonnes were exported fetching ₹5,732.25 crore.

Mint value-added products such as oil, menthol and its crystals increased 129 per cent in volume and 62 per cent in value. Some 15,850 tonnes valued at ₹1,975.17 crore were shipped out. During the year-ago period, they were 6,916 tonnes fetching ₹1,222.99 crore. A total of 1,81,500 tonnes of chilli was exported at a value of ₹1,614.17 crore (174,798 tonnes at ₹1,408.68 crore).

Pepper and turmeric rose by 42 and 41 per cent respectively in value with 13,700 tonnes and 50,500 tonnes, respectively, being shipped.

Exports of pepper and turmeric were valued at ₹572.26 crore and ₹408.28 crore, respectively.

Value-added spice products such as spice oils and oleoresins and curry powders and pastes fetched ₹1,110.84 crore and ₹230.19 crore respectively.

About 86,500 tonnes of cumin were exported at ₹1,150.56 crore, while coriander earned ₹235.57 crore.

A total of 3,350 tonnes of nutmeg and mace, valued at ₹198.12 crore were shipped out. Small cardamom exports were 1,805 tonnes valued at ₹144.35 crore.

# Uptrend continues in pepper on tight supplies

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**Kochi, January 28:** Pepper prices continued to increase on good demand amidst tight supply.

Arrivals of the new crop remained very thin. Only two tonnes of the material arrived from the southern districts, where selective plucking is taking place.

Investors' validity expired pepper was traded on Tuesday. About 20 tonnes of were traded at ₹517 a kg. Later, sellers raised the price to ₹520 .

Two tonnes of pepper from the southern districts were traded at ₹501 a kg, market sources told *Business Line*.

There was good demand from the upcountry markets and requirements were met by direct purchases from the farmers/primary markets on cash-and-carry basis. Availability of the material was very tight, they said.

Plucking is expected in Idukki district this week and Wayanad next week, they said.

On the NMCE, February and March contracts moved up by ₹25 and ₹233 respectively to ₹51,900 and ₹52,500 a quintal.

Total turnover improved to six tonnes. Total open interest was up by two tonnes to 22 tonnes.

On the IPSTA, February contract remained unchanged at ₹52,380, while March moved up by ₹1,000 to ₹50,560.

Spot prices increased by ₹300 to ₹50,100 (ungarbled) and ₹52,100 (garbled) a quintal on strong demand amid tight availability. Export prices were at \$8,575 (c&f) for the Europe and \$8,825 a tonne c&f for the US.

## Slack demand drags groundnut oil

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**Rajkot, January 28:** Following a drop in demand, groundnut oil and cotton oil decreased on Tuesday. Higher inventories in mills also put pressure on these oils.

Groundnut oil loose declined ₹5 to ₹735-740 for 10 kg, *telia* tin was down by ₹8 at ₹1,150-1,151 for 15 kg. With demand being normal in retail market, groundnut oil new tin remained unchanged at ₹1,370-1,375. Some 5-7 tankers of groundnut oil were traded against previous day's 8-10 tankers.

Similarly, cotton oil wash lost ₹8 to ₹587-590 for 10 kg in Rajkot. About 15-20 tankers of cotton oil were traded in Saurashtra mills.

## With new arrivals days away, chana will trade in ranges

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**Indore, January 28:** CHANA WILL TRADE IN RANGE

With weather getting brighter and vegetables turning cheaper, demand in chana and other pulses have declined. Chana (kanta) ruled flat at ₹2,900-25 on Tuesday, while chana (desi) ruled at ₹2,600-2,700 and chana (masumi) ruled at ₹3,000-3,100 a quintal. A large carryover stock of domestic chana and abundant availability of imported chana could limit any gains in prices if the crop is affected by the recent cold wave and winter rains. h. Chana dal (average) on Tuesday was being quoted at ₹3,300-25 (down ₹100), while chana dal (medium) ruled at ₹3,400-25 and chana dal (bold) at ₹3,600-25. Dollar chana was also firm at ₹4,000-4,500 on

subdued demand. In container, dollar chana (42/44 count) was quoted at ₹5,275-5,300, while 44/46 count ruled at ₹5,075-5,100, dollar chana 58/60 count ruled at ₹4,500-25, while 60/62 count was ₹4,400-25 a quintal respectively. Our Correspondent

## Erode turmeric traders get export orders

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### **Erode, January 28:** EXPORT ORDERS FOR ERODE TURMERIC

Turmeric markets in Erode witnessed higher arrivals on Tuesday as some exporters received orders. "The demand for the root variety was down a tad, but Erode exporters have received some export orders from Malaysia, Sri Lanka, the UAE and some places in Europe. So,

they have started buying fine variety turmeric," said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association. Further, the quality new finger variety Mysore turmeric fetched higher price. It was sold at ₹6,211 a quintal. The finger variety was sold at ₹7,096 and the root variety ₹6,551 a quintal. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association Sales yard (new crop), the finger variety fetched ₹5,199-6,211; the root variety ₹4,599-5,969. (Old Crop) The finger variety was sold at ₹4,196-6,489 and the root variety ₹4,006-6,319. The finger variety of the Salem hybrid fetched ₹5,691-7,096 and the root variety ₹5,499-6,551. Of the 851 bags that arrived, 231 were sold. Our Correspondent

## Tea prices steam to record at Coonoor sale

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**Coonoor, January 28:** New price records were created at Sale number 4 of the Coonoor Tea Trade Association (CTTA) auction.

The Broken Orange Pekoe Dust orthodox tea of Highfield Estate, auctioned by Contemporary Tea Auctioneers P Ltd, set a new price record when Kushal Tea Co, bought it for ₹350 a kg.

### **High prices**

Auctioned by Contemporary and bought by Kushal, its BOPD Supreme grade also fetched a record ₹330 a kg.

These are the highest prices fetched ever since auctions started at CTTA 50 years ago.

The previous record of ₹291 a kg was also held by Highfield Estate for its BOPD sold in February 2012.

Kodanad (₹300 a kg) was the only other tea to enter ₹300-bracket this week. Kairbetta got ₹254, Havukal ₹227, Highfield Estate ₹221, Prammas ₹218, Coonoor Tea ₹211 and Chamraj ₹206.

In all, 66 marks got ₹125 and more for a kg.

### **CTC market**

Crosshill Estate tea 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 Orange Pekoe Fannings topped at ₹204 a kg," Dinesh Raju, Crosshill Production Head, told *Business Line*.

Homedale Estate and Deepika Supreme got ₹202 each, Vigneshwar Estate and Shanthi Supreme ₹193 each and Hittakkal Estate ₹190. In all, 59 marks got ₹125 and more .

# Spot rubber drops to ₹ 145/kg

**Kottayam, January 28:** Spot rubber finished weak on Tuesday. The market continued to suffer, tracking overall declines in global trendsetters. Losses, however, were limited following a better closing in domestic futures on the National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE). The trend was partially mixed.

Sheet rubber (RSS 4) weakened to ₹145 from ₹146 and ₹148 a kg respectively, according to traders and the Rubber Board. The grade slid to ₹142 (₹145) as quoted by dealers.

February futures improved to ₹144.20 (₹142.47), March to ₹146.20 (₹144.60) and April to ₹149.36 (₹148.02) while May futures slipped to ₹152.10 (₹152.55) on the NMCE. RSS 3 (spot) dropped to ₹138.14 (₹141.89) at Bangkok. February futures closed at ¥223 (₹135.48) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates (₹/kg) were: RSS S-4: 145 (146); RSS -5: 141 (142); Ungraded: 137 (137); ISNR 20: 142 (143) and Latex 60%: 118 (121).

**Bears take control: p 20**

## Pick of the week



### MCX COTTON (₹20,590) BUY

The price action in cotton contracts traded on the Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) offers a good trading opportunity for short-term traders.

The strong fall since the 2013 high of ₹23,740 a bale (170 kg) found support at the long-term trend line.

The contract bottomed at ₹18,210 in November and has been in a strong uptrend since then.

#### Short-term view

Bullish signals are emerging on the daily chart. The 200-day moving average, currently at ₹20,120 is providing good support over the last couple of weeks. Also there is a bullish cross over of the 21-day moving average with the 200-day moving average. Short-term traders can go long with a stop-loss at ₹19,870.

Immediate target is at ₹20,969, the 50 per cent Fibonacci retracement level. A breach of this level can take the contract higher to ₹21,620.

Declines to ₹20,100 can be used for

accumulating long positions.

#### Medium-term view

The medium-term trend is also up. Strong support is at ₹18,600.

The outlook will remain positive as long as the contract trades above this level.

But, there is a key resistance at ₹21,620, the 61.8 per cent Fibonacci retracement level. This resistance has to be breached for the current up move to extend further.

Inability to breach this resistance can trigger a pull back to test the support at ₹18,600 in the medium-term.

On the other hand, a break above ₹21,620 will open doors for the next target of ₹23,500.

**Gurumurthy K**

**BL Research Bureau**

## Edible oils slip on slack offtake

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**Mumbai, January 28:** EDIBLE OILS SLIP ON SLACK DEMAND

Baring palmolein, which rose by ₹1, all other edible oils declined on Tuesday. Soyabean and rapeseed oil lost ₹2 each, cotton and sunflower oil declined by ₹5 for 10 kg each. Groundnut oil ruled steady. In absence of demand due to month-end, the volume remained thin and isolated. Towards the day's close, Liberty was quoting palmolein at ₹582, super palmolein ₹602, super deluxe palmolein ₹622 and soyabean refined oil ₹655. Ruchi quoted palmolein ₹580, soyabean refined oil ₹648 and sunflower refined oil ₹665. Our Correspondent

## Business Standard

### Potato down 1.5% on adequate stocks, low demand

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[Potato](#) prices fell by 1.58% to Rs 1,082.10 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators offloaded their positions due to low demand in spot markets.

The trading sentiment weakened further as a result of easy availability of potato in the spot markets following fresh arrivals from producing regions.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), potato prices for April contract fell by Rs 17.40, or 1.58%, to Rs 1,082.10 per quintal, with a business volume of 108 lots.

The potato for delivery in March declined by Rs 15.70, or 1.46%, to Rs 1,056.10 per quintal, with a trading volume of 132 lots.

Market experts said traders offloaded their holdings at existing higher levels, tracking a weak spot market trend on fresh supplies mainly pulled down potato prices.

### Palm oil down 0.7% on weak overseas cues

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[Crude palm oil](#) prices fell by 0.74% to Rs 530.10 per kg in futures trade today after speculators offloaded their holding driven by weak trend in domestic as well as overseas markets.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), crude palm oil for delivery in January fell by Rs 4, or 0.74%, to Rs 530.10 per 10 kg, with trading volume of 3 lots.

The prices for delivery in February declined by Rs 3.90, or 0.72%, to Rs 535.90 per 10 kg, with a trading volume of 55 lots.

Traders said offloading of positions by participants due to a weak trend at spot markets following comfortable stocks position mainly led to a fall in crude palm oil futures prices.

They said palm oil dropped to the lowest level in almost two weeks on concern that exports from Malaysia, the world's second-largest producer, may fall on slowing demand amid increasing supplies of alternate oils further influenced the market sentiment.

The palm oil fell as much as 1.30% to \$756 a metric tonne on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange.

## Chana down 0.9% on profit-booking

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[Chana](#) prices fell by 0.90% to Rs 2,985 per quintal in futures trade today on profit-booking by speculators on reports of higher sowing this season.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, chana for February delivery declined by Rs 27, or 0.90%, to Rs 2,985 per quintal, with an open interest for 79,660 lots.

Similarly, chana for April delivery fell by Rs 23, or 0.72%, to Rs 3,170 per quintal with open interest of 72,660 lots.

Traders said besides profit-booking by speculators driven by reports of higher sowing this season mainly led to fall in chana prices at futures trade.

## Cardamom up 0.4% on spot demand

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[Cardamom](#) prices rose by 0.40% to Rs 724.90 per kg in futures trade today after speculators enlarged positions supported by good buying in the spot markets.

Sentiment improved further as a result of firm demand in the spot market against restricted arrivals from producing belts.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for February contracts rose by Rs 2.90, or 0.40%, to Rs 724.90 per kg, with a trading volume of 136 lots.

The spice for delivery in March was trading up by Rs 2.80, or 0.37%, to Rs 755 per kg, with a business volume of 44 lots.

Traders said rising export and spot demand against restricted arrivals from producing regions mainly influenced cardamom prices at futures market.

# Rice procurement may dip in cyclone-hit states

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## CLOUDS LOOM

State-wise break-up of initial estimates of procurement of paddy

State	2012-13 (in mn tonnes)	2013-14 (in mn tonnes)
Andhra Pradesh	6.40	6.00
Chattisgarh	4.20	5.00
Punjab	8.32	8.30
Haryana	2.57	2.65
Uttar Pradesh	2.20	2.70
West Bengal	1.76	1.70
Uttarakhand	0.50	0.40
Tamil Nadu	0.47	1.50
Madhya Pradesh	1.30	1.0-1.6*
Odisha	3.66	2.65
Bihar	1.30	1.00
Kerala	0.23	0.26
Maharashtra	0.19	0.22
Jharkhand	0.21	0.26

Source: Food Corporation of India

\*Procurement revised upwards from one million tonnes to 1.6 million tonnes

The unprecedented rain and three cyclones that hit the coastal eastern belt in November and December might take a toll on [paddy procurement](#) in those parts in 2013-14.

The procurement was projected to touch 35 million tonnes due to a good monsoon compared to 34.04 mt in 2012-13.

However, some states expect rises. An official in the agriculture department in Bhopal said Madhya Pradesh (MP) was set to post a significant rise due to more planting and the Rs 150 a quintal bonus by the state government above the Centre's minimum support price. MP might procure 1.6 mt compared to 1.3 mt a year ago. Bihar expects to get more. And, 2012-13 was a drought year for Tamil Nadu when 400,000 tonnes were procured; this year's expectation is 1.5 mt.

As the fourth advanced estimates of the [ministry of agriculture](#) are yet to come, procurement agencies are relying on the initial estimates from the food secretary in the preparatory meeting on winter crops. Sources in the Food Corporation of India said actual procurement might surpass the estimates.

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