

## Farmers say no to LPG project

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ERODE, March 29, 2014 - The approval given to Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited to lay an LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) pipeline from Kochi to Salem has enraged the farming community here.

Approval for the project envisaging transport of 1.53 million tonne of LPG was sanctioned by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) earlier this month.

The Board's nod for the project has caused consternation among several thousands of farmers of seven districts in Western Tamil Nadu who are awaiting the verdict of Supreme Court in the case relating to the laying of natural gas pipeline by GAIL India Limited, said K.V. Ponnaiyan, president, Swadeshi Farmers' Association.

Last November, the State Government, in support of farmers in Coimbatore, Tirupur, Salem, Erode, Namakkal, Dharmapuri, and Krishnagiri, moved the Supreme Court against a Madras High Court judgment giving its nod for GAIL India's pipeline project.

The State Government favours laying of the pipeline along National Highways as has been done in Kerala and Andhra Pradesh to safeguard livelihood of poor farmers.

### Right to use

The 'Right of Use' that the oil companies intend to invoke to lay the pipeline would be to an extent of 66 feet accounting for a substantial portion of the farm land.

Farmers apprehend that the pipeline would render the agricultural land worthless. Under the present system, the oil companies could claim the land by making a one-time lease of just one-tenth of the guideline value of the specified portion of land.

"Farmers will never permit huge profitmaking oil companies to turn them into paupers," said Mr. Ponnaiyan, calling for withdrawal of the Petroleum and Mineral Pipeline Act of 1962 (PMP Act). Farmers were hopeful of support to its stand by all political parties and social organisations, he said.

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📌 **Farmers have already moved Supreme Court against GAIL pipeline project**

📌 **Petroleum and Mineral Pipeline Act of 1962 should be withdrawn, say farmers**

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## Rain refreshes the Capital, saddens farmers

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*Mustard, wheat and gram damaged being in harvesting stage*



*Living the moment: A woman enjoying the rain at the India Gate lawns in New Delhi on Friday. Photo: Sushil Kumar Verma*

NEW DELHI, March 29, 2014 - After braving the harsh sun on Friday afternoon, Delhiites had a pleasant start to the weekend with a spell of rain in the evening. The showers, however, have

given farmers a reason to worry as they are yet to recover from the crop damage due to the hailstorm and heavy rain last month.

Rajinder Singh, a farmer, said: "Since the harvesting season is on, the rain would adversely impact the crops. Be it mustard, wheat, grams, pulses like *masoor* or sugarcane, they are all in the ripe stage and are being harvested."

Mustard, he said, has suffered the most because the pods crack due to rain. "About 20-25 per cent mustard crop has been damaged. In wheat and gram ( *chana* ), the loss is between 5-10 per cent. Wheat suffers when the stalk falls to the ground and gram and pulses are not tolerant to water. Sugarcane does not suffer because the sticks are strong and covered with leaves."

But for the rains, Mr. Singh said the crop this year would have been better than last due to the longer winter. "The grains would have been thicker as the harvest period has increased by about a week. Despite the loss, the crop is likely to be as much as last year."

Another farmer Kishan Bir said: "Last month's heavy rain and hailstorm had caused heavy damage to wheat, soya-bean and potato crops. Mango crops were also heavily damaged. Today's rain is not likely to cause as much damage but we are praying it does not rain more otherwise more crops will be damaged."

According to the Meteorological Department, the Capital received 1 mm rainfall for around 45 minutes. "The rain is a result of the western disturbances."

The weatherman has predicted light showers in some parts of the Capital on Saturday as well. The maximum temperature is expected to be 33 degrees Celsius while the minimum is expected to be 18 degrees Celsius.

However, heavy rain is not expected till April 2, when the western disturbance is expected to show its effect again.

The maximum temperature on Sunday remained at 33.1 degrees Celsius, which is 1 notch above normal, while the minimum was recorded at 18.6 degrees Celsius, again a degree above normal.

## Hailstorm-hit farmers will get aid by April 15

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MUMBAI, March 29, 2014 - The Maharashtra government informed the Bombay High Court on Friday that it would make final payments to all hailstorm-hit farmers by April 15 and complete the survey of affected farms by April 5.

"Otherwise, we will hold you in contempt [of court]," Chief Justice Mohit Shah, heading a Division Bench, told the government.

The court expressed concern at the plight of agricultural labourers who had not been covered by any government scheme. It asked the government to maintain transparency in relief operations.

The Bench was hearing a batch of public interest litigation petitions, which alleged government apathy and sought immediate relief to the farmers. The petitioners pegged the loss to farmers at Rs. 42,000 crore.

Refusing to concede the plea that a survey of crop damage be conducted by using satellite imagery, the government said it had completed more than 90 per cent of the survey using the panchnama method.

Farmers have alleged malpractice and inconsistencies in the method. "Several villages have been skipped during the panchnama. This entire method of disbursal is a scam," said counsel for Prashant Hiray, one of the petitioners.

# Plea to set up agri varsity in Kurnool

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KURNOOL, March 29, 2014 - A proposal was mooted for establishment of Agriculture University for residual Andhra Pradesh in Kurnool district considering the infrastructure available and all other strong points in its favour.

K.C. Kalkura, socialite, made a formal representation to the Governor to strongly build a case in favour of agriculture university at Kurnool. The present agriculture university located in Hyderabad with nine teaching campuses, 13 colleges, 7 polytechnics, 67 research centres, 12 Krishi Vignana Kendras and 22 technology transfer centres was going to be divided vertically along with the State.

The places under consideration for location of headquarters of the Agriculture University are Bapatla, Tirupathi and Kurnool. The argument is that of the three, Kurnool is more suitable with a vast stretch of land under its control and a variety of crops.

At Bapatla, tobacco research was the only activity and only a few crops could be grown. Also, the place is isolated and prone to frequent cyclones.

In the case of Tirupati, work would be hampered by pilgrim rush and overcrowded atmosphere.

Dr. Ravindranath, who invented the popular Narasimha cotton variety, told *The Hindu* that more than 20 crops were grown in Kurnool district with equal emphasis on irrigated crops and dry land farming.

According to him, 117 acres land was available at Regional Agriculture Research Station at Nandyal, 400 acres at Mahanandi Agriculture College and 1500 acres Tangedancha farm.

The entire land could be used for establishing the university and the research stations.

Dry land farming is expected to play a major role in the coming years for which Anantapur and Kurnool are the most suitable.

## Water level

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### Kanyakumari

The water level stood at 9.40 feet in Pechipparai dam, 37.05 feet in Perunchani, 2.98 feet in Chittar 1, 3.08 feet in Chittar 11, 2.60 feet in Poigai and 41.99 feet in Mamabazathuraiyaru.

The water level in the Papanasam dam on Friday stood at 48 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 68.20 cusecs and 54.75 cusecs of water is discharged from the dam. The level in Manimuthar dam stood at 71 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 32 cusecs and 300 cusecs of water is discharged.

## MSP fixed for rabi paddy

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Joint Collector M.Hari Jawaharlal has declared Minimum Support Price (MSP) for rabi paddy here on Friday, fixing Rs 1,345 for a quintal of 'A' grade rice and Rs 1,310 for ordinary quality. Releasing the posters of paddy MSP, the Joint Collector asked officials to put them up in villages to spread awareness among farmers to help them sell their produce at procurement centres of government organisations.

# Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Sunny

Rain: 0

Humidity: 74

Wind: normal

**Saturday, Mar 29**

Max Min

33° | 24°

Sunrise: 06:07

Sunset: 06:20

Barometer: 1012

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

**Sunday, Mar 30**

Max Min

33° | 23°

Extended Forecast for a week

Monday

**Mar 31**



34° | 24°

Partly Cloudy

Tuesday

**Apr 1**



30° | 24°

Overcast

Wednesday

**Apr 2**



31° | 25°

Overcast

Thursday

**Apr 3**



30° | 25°

Cloudy

Friday

**Apr 4**



30° | 25°

Overcast

## THE HINDU Business Line

### Sugar rises on higher demand

**Mumbai, March 28:** Sugar prices in Vashi market rose by Rs. 30- Rs. 50 a quintal coming up in line with the cost of purchase from mills. However, producers also sold the commodity at Rs. 10- Rs. 15 higher on festival demand. Retailer's demand also improved as the market will remain closed on Sunday and Monday. Firm prices in the spot market lifted futures prices as speculators enlarged positions following increased summer season demand against lower output estimates, sources said. Our Correspondent

### Coconut oil prices may come down

**Erode, March 28:** Coconut oil prices may decrease soon as copra prices have increased . "Prices of coconut oil may come down soon as arrivals are up . Prices touched Rs. 1,930 for a 15-kg loose pack a few days back. But buyers were less as the prices were high ," said RM Palanisamy, a coconut oil dealer. On Friday, at the Aval Poondurai Regulated Market, 865 quintals of copra arrived and were sold out within a few minutes The first grade was sold at Rs. 8,600-9,000 a quintal, while the second grade sold at Rs. 6,900-8,700 a quintal. Our Correspondent

# Lack of buyers saps rubber

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**Kottayam, March 28:** Spot rubber continued to remain unchanged on Friday. “There were no quantity buyers or sellers in the local trading houses and we expect a visible change in the market only after only after the current financial year,” traders said. Sheet rubber finished flat at Rs. 149 a kg, traders said. The grade closed steady at Rs. 148.50 and Rs. 145.50 respectively, as reported by the Rubber Board and dealers. April futures improved to Rs. 148.25 ( Rs. 146.38) May to Rs. 152.15 ( Rs. 150.15), June to Rs. 154.51 ( Rs. 152.70) and July to Rs. 156.20 ( Rs. 153.33) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange. Our Correspondent

## Business Standard

### Chana down 0.4% on profit-booking

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[Chana](#) prices moved down by 0.46% to Rs 3,276 per quintal in futures trading today as speculators booked profits at prevailing higher levels driven by subdued demand in the spot market.

At the National Commodity and Derivative Exchange, chana for delivery in April declined by Rs 15, or 0.46% to Rs 3,276 per quintal with an open interest of 60,930 lots.

Likewise, the commodity for delivery in May contract traded lower by Rs 15, or 0.45% to Rs 3,333 per quintal in 49,720 lots.

Analysts attributed the fall in chana prices at futures to profit-booking by speculators at prevailing higher levels, due to subdued demand in the spot market.

### Sugar up 0.3% on increased summer season demand

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[Sugar](#) prices rose further by 0.11% to Rs 3,111 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators enlarged positions following increased summer season demand in the spot market against lower output estimates,.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), sugar for delivery in April added Rs

11, or 0.35% to Rs 3,111 per quintal with an open interest of 31,630 lots.

Similarly, the sweetener for delivery in May contract gained Rs 7, or 0.22% to Rs 3,162 per quintal in 39,410 lots.

Analysts attributed the consistent rise in sugar prices at futures trade to increased buying by speculators, driven by increased summer season demand in the spot market.

## Turmeric down 1.8% on sluggish demand

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[Turmeric](#) prices fell by 1.80% to Rs 6,220 per quintal in futures market today as speculators trimmed positions, tracking sluggish demand in spot market.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), turmeric for delivery in April fell by Rs 114, or 1.80% to Rs 6,220 per quintal with an open interest of 14,295 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in May lost Rs 100, or 1.56% to Rs 6,310 per quintal in 7165 lots.

Analysts said offloading of positions by speculators, triggered by sluggish demand in the spot market, contributed to fall in turmeric prices at futures trade.

## Potato futures fall 0.34% on higher supply

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[Potato](#) prices fell by 0.34 per cent to Rs 1,283.50 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators reduced positions, triggered by higher supplies from producing regions against low spot market demand.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, potato for delivery in May fell by Rs 4.40, or 0.34 per cent to Rs 1283.50 per quintal in business turnover of 51 lots.

Likewise, the potato for delivery in April contract shed Rs 2.20, or 0.18 per cent to Rs 1238 per quintal in 26 lots.

Market analysts said speculators reduced positions, triggered by higher supplies from producing regions against low spot market demand and this mainly led to decline in potato prices at futures trade.

## Cardamom sheds 0.5% on subdued demand

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[Cardamom](#) prices declined by 0.53 per cent to Rs 851 per kg in futures market today as speculators trimmed positions on subdued demand in the spot market.

Adequate stocks position in the physical market on increased arrivals from producing belt also put pressure on cardamom.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, cardamom for delivery in April fell by Rs 4.50, or 0.53 per cent to Rs 851 per kg in business turnover of 425 lots.

However, the May contract held steady at Rs 875.80 per kg in 198 lots.

Analysts said speculators trimmed positions on subdued demand in the spot market against adequate stocks position and this mainly led to decline in cardamom prices at futures trade.

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