

09-12-2015

# THE HINDU

## Agriculture-horticulture Vision Group set up

*M.S. Swaminathan to head high-power committee; Krishna Byre Gowda is vice-chairman*

---

### **MANDATE**

---

☉ To identify areas eligible for development in farm and horticulture sectors

---

☉ To develop suitable new technologies to help improve yield and reduce cost of cultivation

---

☉ To bridge the gap between laboratory and land in respect to transfer of technology

---

☉ To recommend steps giving thrust to processing and marketing of agriculture and horticulture produce

---

The State government has constituted a high-power Vision Group on Agriculture, Horticulture and Food Processing, headed by agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan. It has also constituted a working group for drafting a micro irrigation policy.

Although the Vision Group was announced by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during the presentation of the 2015-16 budget in the Assembly, the State government has issued a formal notification constituting the Vision Group and identifying its members only now.

Sources told *The Hindu* here on Tuesday that Minister of State for Agriculture Krishna Byre Gowda will be the vice-chairman of the Vision Group.

Apart from the Director-General of International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics, Hyderabad, the Director of the Indian Institute of Management, the Director of the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, the former Director of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute S.A. Patil, the former Chairman of Unique Identification Authority of India Nandan Nilekani, the former Director-General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research R.S. Paroda, and M.R. Srinivasamurthy, agricultural scientist, and the former Deputy Director-General of International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics C.L. Lakshmipathi Gowda will be members.

Principal Secretary, Agriculture Department, will be the member-secretary.

The Vision Group has been mandated to identify areas eligible for study of development in the agriculture and horticulture sectors, development of suitable new technologies for the two segments to help improve yield and reduce cost of cultivation, to bridge the gap between laboratory and land in respect to transfer of technology.

The sources said that the Vision Group will also look into avenues for improving dryland agriculture as a profitable venture by adopting the latest technologies and mechanisation.

The Vision Group has been asked to recommend steps to give thrust to processing and marketing of agriculture and horticulture produce. The Vision Group will recommend steps to tackle the agrarian crisis.

### **Micro irrigation policy**

The sources said that in line with the announcement made by Mr. Siddaramaiah in the budget for framing a micro irrigation policy for ensuring efficient use of water and preserving micro nutrients in soil, a notification has been issued constituting a working group headed by Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary.

Taking into account the need to promote the efficient use of the limited water resources available in the State for agriculture and allied uses, a micro irrigation policy had become imperative.

The State government is of the view that one way of ensuring the efficient use of water was to expand the area under micro irrigation using drip and sprinkler irrigation to economise the use of water and increase productivity.

Through micro irrigation practices, the problem of water logging and soil salinity in the canal command areas could also be tackled effectively.

The other members of the committee are the Secretaries of the departments of Water Resources (Minor Irrigation), Horticulture, Agriculture, the Agriculture Commissioner, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agriculture and Horticulture Sciences at Shivamogga, the Managing Director of Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigam Ltd., the Director of International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics, Suhas P. Wani, the Principal Researcher, International Water Management Institute, Hyderabad, K. Palanisami, and M.L. Jat from the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre, Siddarthan Balasubramanian from Global Green Growth Institute, New Delhi, Lakshmi C. Lokur, a progressive farmer, and K.V. Sarvesh, Managing Director of Karnataka Antarganga Corporation.

## **India's 2014 merchandise exports valued at \$321 billion**

India's total merchandise export for 2014 was valued at \$321 billion against \$314 billion in the previous year, a UNCTAD report on Tuesday said.

The report said international service exports accounted for 21 per cent of the total global exports (valued at just over \$5 trillion) in 2014, a growth of almost 5 per cent over the previous year. The total global exports for 2014 stood at \$24 trillion, up 1.2 per cent, compared with the previous year.

Services exports from both developed and developing economies grew strongly in 2014 at 5.3 per cent and 4.8 per cent, respectively.

While total exports from developed economies accounted for 55 per cent (\$13.2 trillion) of the total global trade, developing economies constituted 41 per cent, with transition economies bringing in the residual \$890 million, or 4 per cent.

“Growth in exports of food and agricultural raw materials from Africa and Asia in particular were strong (4.8 per cent and 3.7 per cent, respectively), as was the exports of manufactured goods from these regions (2.6 per cent and 4.6 per cent, respectively),” it said.

## **Agriculture can't remain the same, says FAO official**



EVERY DROP COUNTS:Policies should be devised to ensure rational use of resources. Photo shows a field with drip irrigation system in Tamil Nadu.

: With rapid soil degradation, fast depletion of groundwater, excessive use of pesticides-fertilizers and extreme weather events all collectively putting stress on farming and forestry, it is time to recognise the fact that agriculture cannot remain the same, either in India or across the globe.

This was pointed out by Kundhavi Kadiresan, Assistant Director-General of the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, while speaking to *The Hindu* on the FAO's focus areas in the region and India's role in it.

At a critical juncture when population is increasing and there are more mouths to feed, it is important that better practices are adopted with an agro-ecological approach, Ms. Kadiresan, an Indian national, said.

“I think researchers are doing a good job in developing new technologies, but transferring these technologies to farmers should be our focus. Scientists do research from their perspective, but it is the farmers' perspective that should be kept in mind while researching on agri-forestry issues. Farmers themselves are scientists...they know how to take care of soil, natural water resources — the need is to work with them in their fields to strengthen integration between research, extension and farmers. Farmer-centric approach is key to the success of climate smart agriculture and FAO is focused towards its realisation.”

Elaborating on elimination of hunger and malnutrition in India, Ms. Kadiresan said the country has continued to develop the expertise, knowledge and capacity to win this war.

“But, having said this, I must reiterate that we still have a Herculean task before us — even now, there are over 800 million hungry people across the globe and nearly one in four of them live in India. With these startling numbers we cannot say that India has achieved food sufficiency. At FAO, we aim for zero hunger and it will certainly be my endeavour during this tenure to put an end to malnutrition and hunger and enhance food security,” she said.

Ms. Kadiresan said it is not just producing more food but access to food and its best utilisation that needs attention. “Just because you have more food doesn’t necessarily mean everybody has access to it. More than 30 per cent people in this country are poor and close to 200 million are in a state of hunger.”

A balanced diet is important and FAO will actively spread awareness in India, especially among women and children regarding adoption of diversity in diet to reduce malnutrition, she said.

Ms. Kadiresan also stressed on speeding up efforts to increase yield of many crops in India as it was very low on the global level.

“The government should encourage crop diversification. Policies should be drafted keeping in mind long-term solutions for ensuring food security. It’s important to realise that we have limited natural resources and hence, policies should be framed to ensure that everyone resorts to rational use of these resources. Only then will we be able to achieve food security with sustainable development in India and around the world.”

### **Central teams to assess loss due to flood, drought in State**

Agriculture Minister P. Pulla Rao has said Central government teams will be touring various districts from December 9 to 10 to assess drought and damage caused by floods. After field inspections, the teams will hold a meeting with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on December 11 and submit a final report.

Two teams, led by Satyadev Garg, Joint Secretary, Home Ministry, will be visiting Nellore, Chittoor and Kadapa districts. While, one team will be visiting Nellore district from December 9 to 10, the other will visit Chittoor and Kadapa districts during the same days.

The State government had submitted a report to the Centre, putting the total loss due to heavy rain in the three districts at Rs. 3,759 crore.

Similarly, three teams led by Shakeel Ahmed, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, will be visiting the seven districts, including Anantapur, Kurnool, Kadapa, Chittoor, Krishna, Guntur and Prakasam to assess the drought damage.

One team will be visiting Anantapur and Kurnool districts from December 9 to 10, while the other two teams will be visiting Kadapa and Chittoor districts and Krishna, Guntur and Prakasam districts.

The State government had declared 359 mandals across the State as drought-hit. It had submitted a report, estimating crop production losses at Rs. 2,352 crore. Out of these, the NDRF authorities have estimated the loss to be Rs. 2,001 crore. The variation is owing to the high input subsidy offered by the State government, Mr. Rao said.

Staff Reporter from Nellore adds: Ahead of the Central team's visit, the district officials have prepared full fledged reports along with photos to show the extent of flood damage in Sullurupeta, Nayudupeta, Manubolu, Gudur and Nellore areas especially. Following the breaches to irrigating tanks and overflowing of several streams like Swarnamukhi and Kaivalya, there was severe damage to roads and houses in Gudur and Nayudupeta revenue divisions.

The Nellore Municipal Corporation limits also witnessed severe floods with water logging inundating many residential colonies like Mansurnagar, Khuddusnagar and so on.

On the first day of their visit on Wednesday, the Central team consisting of nearly four higher officials from Delhi will visit Sullurupeta, Tada and Gudur areas respectively. On the second day on Thursday, the team members will come to Nellore and inspect the damage to roads and railway under bridges here.

Collector M. Janaki instructed officials at the mandal level to be prepared for the Central team visit and highlight the extent of damages in the affected areas.

## **Glass house for Cubbon Park in the works**

*The design will be different from that in Lalbagh or Crystal Palace, which was the pride of London*

The century-old Glass House in Lalbagh Botanical Gardens, which has been modelled on the lines of the Crystal Palace in London, is proving to be a source of inspiration. Authorities are planning to construct a glass house in Cubbon Park too.

The new structure is unlikely to resemble either the Glass House in Lalbagh or Crystal Palace, which once stood proudly in Hyde Park, London, but was destroyed in a fire in 1936. Cubbon Park officials want to give an Indian twist to their glass house.

They have written to the chief architect of the Public Works Department and have also approached some private architects to come up with an original design. A meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Rajeev Chawla, Principal Secretary of the Horticulture Department, about a fortnight ago. He has reportedly given the go-ahead for this project.

Mahantesh Murgod, Deputy Director of Cubbon Park (Horticulture Department), said authorities had identified space near Ring Wood Circle, behind Central Library. Mr. Murgod said that the glass house could be used for various activities, including flower shows, yoga and exhibitions. “The space can even be rented out for meetings and other gatherings,” he said.

This year, Cubbon Park authorities had hosted two flower shows. Authorities said rains had destroyed some of the flowers. In such cases, a glass house would be handy.

## **Showpiece of the city**

Since the 19th century, Lalbagh Botanical Gardens has hosted 202 flower shows, usually during Independence Day and Republic Day. The Lalbagh glass house was constructed in 1890 under the direction of the then superintendent of Lalbagh, J. Cameron.



## Relief materials sent to flood-hit areas



Trucks with relief materials that were sent to Chennai by the traders association from Coimbatore on Tuesday.

A truck load of relief materials was despatched by 'Bharat Gas Parivar' from its LPG bottling plant in the city to flood-affected areas in Chennai on Tuesday.

The truck carried 2,000 litres of drinking water, biscuits worth Rs. 1.5 lakh and 600 blankets worth Rs. 1.10 lakh.

Fourteen volunteers from Bharat Gas have also accompanied the materials to render assistance to the affected people.

### Contribution

BPCL Territory Manager Pradeep Nair said that these materials (and transportation) were organised with the contribution of Rs. 3 lakh by Bharat Gas distributors of Coimbatore and Kerala.

Members of Tamizhaga Viyabarigal Sammelanam, Coimbatore, have set off to Chennai with relief materials worth Rs. 15 lakh, on Tuesday.

With the relief materials that include ten tonnes rice and two tonnes dhal loaded in two trucks, around 100 members have accompanied the materials in 15 four-wheelers.

The Coimbatore South District Unit of Tamilnadu Thowheed Jamaath has collected Rs. 10 lakh in cash and relief materials worth Rs. 3 lakh as part of the organisation's efforts to help the people of flood-hit coastal districts of Tamil Nadu. The materials and money was handed over by the district secretary of the organisation to its State representative Abdul Raheem.

Members of the All India Central Council of Trade Unions attached to Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) in Coimbatore collected Rs. 4 lakh for flood relief.

The party's district president K. Balasubramanian said that this was part of their State-wide drive and it would be handed over at their State headquarters.

As the third phase of extending relief to the flood victims, the district committee of Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Tuesday sent a truck load of relief materials worth Rs. 8 lakh to Cuddalore.

### **From Tirupur**

The district administration on Tuesday deputed 1,000 people from the district for flood relief and rehabilitation works in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Cuddalore and Kanchipuram districts.

A press release issued by the Information and Public Relations department said that officials from various departments and conservancy workers were among them.

Already, the district administration dispatched relief materials worth Rs. 5.1 crore mobilised from people for the flood victims. The materials were sent in 31 containers.

## **Bleak prospects for samba, thalady crops in Delta**

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

Officials inspecting a breach on the Konavari tank in Kallaperambur near Thanjavur.

As continuous rain for the past few days in the delta region is turning out to be a potent threat to standing samba and thalady paddy crops in thousands of hectares in the inundated region especially in low-lying and coastal areas Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur districts, farmers are racing against time to drain their fields off rainwater.

Thousands of farmers are staring down the barrel due to prolonged inundation of paddy crops in vast swathes of land in Sirkali, Tranquebar, Mayiladuthurai, Tiruthurai, Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Kodavasal, Nannilam and Mannargudi regions of the two districts with little or no scope of survival.

In Tiruvarur district, samba and thalady paddy crops raised on over 1.50 lakh hectares, especially those in the crucial flowering stage, is under severe stress in low-lying areas.

In Nagapattinam district, paddy crop raised on 1.29 lakh hectares where the oldest crop could be around 85 days old and waiting to step into flowering stage, is also under severe stress.

Though proper and independently verifiable estimate of inundation and damage in these districts could not be ascertained immediately, travelling through the two districts reveal that thousands of hectares of paddy could be in jeopardy.

In several areas, the government-promoted mechanised planting of paddy has left the farmers in the lurch as the crops simply started floating unable to take roots in the wake of continuous rain, said CPI (M) member J. Manoharan of Peralam and M. Selvaraj of Yenaikudi, in Nagapattinam district.

Revenue, Public Works and agriculture departments must intensify their coordination and try to alleviate the sufferings of farmers who face a bleak prospects in samba.

### **Rainfall**

In the 24 hours ending at 8-30 a.m. on Tuesday, Kodavasal registered 126.8 mm of rainfall followed by Tiruvarur 110.2, Nagapattinam 107.4, Nannilam 106.4, Mannargudi 90, Pandavaiyaru Head 82.6, Nidamangalam 69.4, Valangaiman 68.2, Mayiladuthurai 64.8, Tirupoondi 49.4, Sirkali 45.6 and Talaignayar 34.6 mm rainfall.

### **Relief should reach rain-hit people, says Stalin**

Former Deputy Chief Minister and DMK treasurer M.K. Stalin said the DMK's priority was to ensure that relief reached all people affected by the rain.

In a brief interaction with the media on his way to monsoon-hit Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts here on Tuesday, he commented that the quantum of compensation announced by the State was inadequate.

He was pointing out the demand of farmers for Rs. 25,000 per acre as compensation while the State Government had granted Rs. 13,500 per hectare. It was imperative that relief committees that had members from various political parties were formed at the panchayat level too, and not just at the district level, to monitor and supervise rehabilitation measures. It would also prevent the ruling party from trying to gain political mileage out of the largesse granted by the Centre, he added.

Later, he inspected inundated fields in Kavanur, Chidambarakottam and Puzhuthikudi in Tiruvarur district.

### **PPCC asks Rahul to get Rs.400 crore as relief from Centre**

*Submits memorandum to the Congress leader highlighting the plight of Karaikal and Puducherry*

The Puducherry Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) requested Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi to impress upon the Central Government to sanction Rs. 400 crore for the relief and rehabilitation of the people affected by the flood.

Mr. Rahul Gandhi was received by PPCC president A. Namassivayam and senior leaders- former Union Minister of State V. Narayanasamy, Leader of Opposition V. Vaithilingam and other leaders at the airport.

Submitting a memorandum to the Congress leader, Mr. Namassivayam said Puducherry and Karaikal region has been reeling under severe flood for the last 25 days.

Agricultural crops in these areas were severely affected. Paddy plantations were inundated in flood waters. Banana plantations were destroyed due to heavy winds, paddy fields were fully damaged, Topioca and Beetle leaves were also destroyed. Mr. Namassivayam also said the State administration had not taken any step to drain the water. People living in the rural areas lost their habitation due to heavy rain. They have no place to live. State Government did not provide shelter and food to the people whose houses were damaged.

The Puducherry Congress Committee sought the government to waive the agricultural loan debt and to give compensation to the fishermen who lost their livelihood, nets and boats.

## **Workshop held for farmers**

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) on Monday conducted a regional workshop for Farmers' Producers Organisations in Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, and Salem.

A. Bhama Buvaneswari, Assistant General Manager, Nabard, said that these organisations promoted with Nabard support through Producer Organisation Promoting Institutions were in different stages of formation. Nabard provides guidance to these organisations to take up viable business activities like aggregation of produce, collective marketing, bulk procurement of inputs, and primary processing.

A detailed presentation on the loans offered to these organisations by Nabard was made by Ms. Bhama Buvaneswari.

G. George, Coordinator, ESAF, explained the process involved in registering farmers' producers organisations.

N. Sriram, Professor in-charge, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sandhiyur, spoke of the major challenges before the farmers. R.P. Rajendiran, Deputy Director/PA (Agriculture) to District Collector, Salem, and A. Udayakumar, Lead District Manager, Nasreen Saleem, DDM, Nabard, Krishnagiri, spoke.

Chief executive officers and directors from about 15 Farmers' Producers Organisations participated in the workshop.

## **Farmers sensitised to the importance of soil health maintenance**

Farmers were sensitised to the importance of soil health maintenance at a programme organised by Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Paapireddypatty to mark the World Soil Health Day recently. Soil fertility is determined by the concentration of organic matter in the soil. The programme drew from the experiences of and initiatives by the Papparapatty Panchayats in composting bio-waste collected from within the Panchayat. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Director of Agriculture P. Venugopal highlighted various schemes initiated by the Agriculture Department to promote organic farming. Farmers were advised against over cultivation on a soil, neglecting its need for organic manure and over-use of inorganic fertilizers.

Programme coordinator P.S. Shanmugam explained the activities of KVK. A special demonstration on the various methods of soil sampling and the use of TNAU's bio-mineraliser and bio- inoculants as quick ways of composting of farm waste was also given to over 100 farmers.

*Farmers were advised against over cultivation on a soil, neglecting its need for organic manure*

### **Farmers, PWD thank Pennycuick as Periyar dam touches 142 feet**

*They garland his statue on PWD office*



P. Valliyappan, Chief Engineer, Madurai Region, along with farmers, celebrating in front of Col. John Pennycuick statue on the PWD office campus in Madurai on Tuesday

Public Works Department engineers and farmers rejoiced at Periyar dam touching the maximum permissible level of 142 feet on Monday night by garlanding the statue of Col. John Pennycuick, the British Engineer who constructed the dam.

Chief Engineer, Madurai Region, P. Valliyappan, and Executive Engineer (Periyar Vaigai Basin Circle), M. Muthupandi, were among the scores of PWD engineers and office staff who offered their respects to the life-size statue of Pennycuick on the PWD office premises here on Tuesday.

The Chief Engineer also distributed sweets to the staff and the farmers who had gathered to celebrate the water touching the maximum level for the second consecutive day.

“After the Tamil Nadu government fought a legal battle in the Supreme Court and got permission to increase the level in the Periyar dam to 142 feet, it is for the second consecutive year that the water level touched 142 feet. We have started discharging from Periyar dam to build up storage in the Vaigai dam for irrigation and drinking water needs of five southern districts,” Mr. Valliyappan, said.

A progressive farmer R. Arul Prakasam, who was among those who paid his gratitude to the British Engineer, said that many a time paddy crops on single and double crop areas had been lost only because of lack of two wettings.

With the additional storage capacity of 1,548 mcft in the Periyar water, this shortcoming was taken care of in 2015 resulting in good yield in Madurai district. “With Periyar dam and Vaigai dam having storage to their brim now, we expect a good harvest this year too,” he said.

Farmers were gearing up for transplantation in the district as the wet condition due to rain in the last few days helped them a lot in land preparation, he said.

### **Widespread rainfall in Kanyakumari**

The district received good rainfall on Tuesday, thanks to the low pressure persisting off the coast of Kanyakumari.



Various parts of the district including Kottaram, Mayilaadi, Surulacode, Aralvaimozhi, Eraniel, Aanaikidangu, Marthandam, Colachel, Adaiyamadai, Mullanginaavilai, Thiruvattar, Kulasekaram and Arumanai experienced intermittent drizzle since Monday night. Kottaram recorded the highest rainfall of 43.60 mm.

Following heavy rainfall in the Western Ghats, influx of water into Pechiparai and Perunchani dams increased substantially. After the PWD officials inspected the dams, 2,000 cusecs of water was released from Pechiparai dam, where water level in the reservoir stood at 46.32 feet against the maximum level of 48 feet while storage level in the Perunchani dam was 75 feet, the maximum capacity.

Tourists have been banned from taking bath in the Thirparappu Falls and people living close to the river at Kaliyal and Thengaaipattinam have been alerted to move to safer places as the dams have started overflowing even as incessant drizzle continues across the district. Subsequently, Collector Sajjan Singh R. Chavan had declared holiday for all schools and colleges on Tuesday.

### **Farm journalism awards**

The government has instituted farm journalism awards for students.

Addressing a seminar organised by the Farm Journalists Forum here on Tuesday, Agriculture Minister K.P. Mohanan said the awards would be presented to the winners at Kochi on January 9.

Entries for the awards are to be sent to the Director of Agriculture, Vikas Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram- 34 before December 31. The contest will be held in two categories- Class 1 to 7 and Class 8 to 12.

### **Campaign to raise awareness among farmers on pesticides**

The Agriculture Department has taken up an intensive campaign to create awareness among farmers about proper application of pesticides to Avare crop (field beans) to ensure that incidents of farmers falling sick after spraying pesticides will not recur this year.

Agriculture officers are visiting villages in Hunsur, K.R. Nagar, Periyapatna and Mysuru taluks and talking to farmers about what pesticides could be sprayed and procedures of spraying pesticides. Apart from visiting the Avare fields, they will hold meetings at hobli level.

The department has instructed the company that manufactures Lannate 40 SP (pesticide) to ensure it is not be available in the district, particularly in places where field beans are grown.

M. Mahanteshappa, Joint Director and S. Nagendra, Agriculture officer, told *The Hindu* that farmers were instructed not to smoke while spraying the pesticides and not to do spraying on an empty stomach. Farmers were being asked not to spray pesticides against the wind and to wear protective clothing including glasses and hand gloves. Avare is grown in over 10,490 hectares in the district.

Last year, over a hundred farmers were admitted to hospital in Hunsuru and in Mysuru after they fell ill after spraying pesticides last year.

A farmer Diwakar lost his life. An official team found that farmers had used Lannate 40 SP, which was not a recommended insecticide for field beans. The team was of the opinion that Lannate 40 SP was to be used only for cotton, chilli, pigeon pea and soybean.

### **KVK to train in de-weeding**

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

Training on use of machine to clear out undergrowth at Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Peruvannamuzhi.

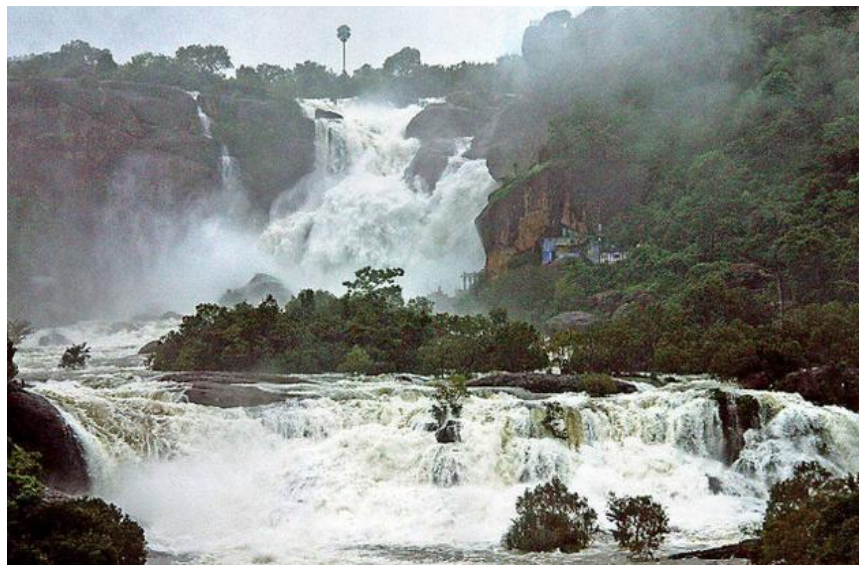
: The Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Peruvannamuzhi organised a training programme for interested youngsters on the use of the machine to remove undergrowth and weeds in farmlands. Around 15 youngsters took part in the programme held on Friday. Mechanisation in agriculture opens up a whole new employment opportunity to youngsters who are acquainted with various machines. Controlling weeds in the farmland using chemicals is possible only to an extent. Using machines for the process is more suitable for organic farming.

### **Mettur water level**

The water level in the Mettur Dam rose to 95.45 ft on Tuesday against its full level of 120 ft. The dam was receiving 4,962 cusecs of water.

About 1,000 cusecs is being discharged from the dam for farm activities in Delta region, and under the dam's East-West canal system in Salem, Namakkal, and Erode districts.

### **Rain and discharge from dams cause heavy flood in Tamirabharani**



Call it bounty or fury: A menacing flow was witnessed at the Agasthiyar falls in Tirunelveli District after heavy discharge from Papanasam dam on Tuesday; (right) flood in the Tamirabharani submerges a causeway at Karuppanthurai connecting Melappalayam with Tirunelveli Town

*Floodwater inundates houses, enters paddy fields; flood affected population moves to relief centres*

The overnight intermittent drizzle and heavy discharge from Papanasam and Servalar dams swelled the Tamirabharani further to inundate low-level causeways and surround around 150 houses situated close to the watercourse near Tirunelveli Junction on Tuesday.

As the catchment areas of Papanasam and Servalar dams experienced heavy rainfall, the influx of 11,476 cusecs forced the officials to release 11,596 cusecs from the already overflowing reservoirs.

Moreover, the intermittent drizzle further swelled up the Tamirabharani to trigger severe flood in the Agasthiyar Falls.

The floodwater also entered over 110 acres of paddy fields at Mukkoodal and the river water entered Muthumalaiamman Temple.

The heavy influx of over 6,500 cusecs in Manimuthar dam following the precipitation of 31 mm of rainfall in the catchment areas took the storage level from 103 feet to 109 feet.

The water level increased further to 113 feet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday even as the inflow stood at 6,700 cusecs.

As the dam has a decent inflow of water, the reservoir built by former Chief Minister K. Kamaraj is expected to reach its maximum capacity of 118 feet in the next 48 hours.

Vehicular traffic from Melapalayam to Tirunelveli Town remained cut off after the flood submerged the low-level Karuppanthurai causeway.

When the swollen Tamirabharani surrounded 25 houses at Anna Nagar and as many houses at C.N. Village near Tirunelveli Junction, the inmates were evacuated safely.

While an old lady and her 10-year-old granddaughter were shifted to the Corporation's relief camp at Corporation Higher Secondary School at Meenakshipuram, others left for their relatives' houses.

Similarly, the families living in around 100 houses at Kurukkuthurai, Karuppanthurai and Kurunthudaiyarpuram were also shifted to relief camps, where relief materials were distributed to them by Mayor E. Bhuvaneshwari.

As the Western Ghats experienced good rainfall, the Main Falls and Old Falls at Courtallam were flowing menacingly and bathing was banned for the fourth day today.

However, the tourists were allowed to take bath at Five Falls.

District Collector M. Karunakaran convened a meeting of top officials to review the preparedness of the official machinery and arrangements made in the designated relief centres.

“We've taken all measures to avoid damage to the maximum possible extent,” Dr. Karunakaran said.

## **Rainfall**

Rainfall in the district (in mm): Papanasam dam 125, Servalar dam 52, Gadana dam 40, Manimuthar dam 31.40, Kannadian Channel 29.40, Ramanadhi dam and Nanguneri 26, Kalakkad 25, Aayikudi 20.60, Ambasamudram 20.40, Palayamkottai 18, Gundar dam and Moolaikkaraipatti 17, Cheranmahadevi 15.80, Karuppanadhi dam 15.50, Shencottai 15, Radhapuram 14, Tenkasi 13.40, Kodumudiyar dam 12, Tirunelveli 10, Nambiyar dam 6, Adavinainar dam 4 and Sivagiri 3.

## **Water level**

Water level in the dams in feet (maximum capacity in brackets): Papanasam 142.10 (143); Servalar 147 (156); Manimuthar 113 (118); Gadana 83.50 (85); Ramanadhi 82 (84); Karuppanadhi 70.86 (72); Gundar 36.10 (36.10); Adavinainar 132 (132); Vadakku Pachchaiyar 48.75 (67); Kodumudiyar 52.50 (57) and Nambiyar 22.96 (25).

*Families living in around 100 houses at Kurukkuthurai, Karuppanthurai and Kurunthudaiyarpuram shifted to relief camps*

## **Inflow into dams comes down**

Inflow of water into the reservoirs of Thirumoorthy and Amaravathi dams has slightly come down on Tuesday.

Public Works Department (Water Resources Organisation) officials told *The Hindu* that the inflow of water was at the rate of 2,250 cusecs into the Thirumoorthy reservoir at 3 p.m. with majority of the water coming from River Palar and Panchalingam Falls.

The officials had kept the outflow of water from Thirumoorthy dam into Parambikulam Main Canal at 1,009 cusecs, the same as on Monday.

The water level at Thirumoorthy dam was 57.67 feet against the full level of 60 feet.

The rainfall recorded at the dam site was 19 mm for the 24-hour period ended at 6 a.m. on Tuesday. During the previous 24-hour period, the area received 63 mm rain.

Officials said that the water inflow into Amaravathi reservoir was at the rate of 5,508 cusecs and outflow recorded at 4,755 cusecs, both at 6 p.m. on Tuesday.

*The water level at Thirumoorthy dam was 57.67 feet against the full level of 60 feet*

## Surplus water released from Srivaikuntam dam



Gushing flow:Floodwater in the Tamirabharani flowing over the Eral bridge in Tuticorin district on Tuesday

People living in low-lying areas along the Tamirabharani have been asked to move to safer places, following discharge of huge amount of surplus water from the dams in Tirunelveli and Tuticorin districts.

Since Tuticorin and Tirunelveli districts had been experiencing consistent rains, 30,000 cusecs of surplus water from Srivaikuntam dam was being released on Tuesday.

Hence, the people living in low lying areas near the banks of the Tamirabharani in the district had been asked to move to safer places identified by the district administration, District Collector M. Ravikumar said here on Tuesday.

The surplus water being released from the Srivaikuntam dam was flowing over a low-level bridge at Eral.

Sources in the Public Works Department said that 17, 857 cusecs of water was released from Srivakuntam dam in the morning and 21,000 cusecs was released through the 18 sand vents in the evening.

On Monday, 13, 484 cusecs of surplus water was released in the morning and 24,500 cusecs of water in the evening, sources said.

### **Coping with climate change**

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

Indigenous leaders at Paris Summit.Photo: reuters

Tashka Yawanawa's Amazonian tribe lived on the plains along the Gregorio River for millennia -- until a wall of flood water last year forced them to flee their homes for good.

"We had never seen a flood this big, this fast, this ferocious," the tribal chief told AFP on the sidelines of UN climate talks in Paris aimed at agreeing a pact to stave off disastrous climate change.



He chalked the flooding disaster up to global warming.

"This was the first time we felt the direct impact of climate change," the 40-year-old said at Le Bourget airport on the northern outskirts of Paris, standing out in an elaborate headdress of tall, bright feathers among the throngs of negotiators in suits. "Now we have to change our life and move to the hills."

Scientists caution against linking a single extreme weather event to an unpredictable and long-term phenomenon such as climate change.

However, there is a growing body of evidence that some environmental changes can already be blamed on planet warming caused by humanity's greenhouse gas emissions.

Such changes hit indigenous communities first because they live beyond the safety cushion of money and technology -- relying as they do on nature for food, shelter and medicine.

Indigenous groups from Africa to the Arctic have gathered at the Paris climate conference -- tasked with crafting a climate rescue pact -- to call for a robust deal to help protect their way of life.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, for example, the Bambuti Pygmy people are finding it ever harder to source food.

Joseph Itongwa, a hunter-gatherer of forest foods, said warmer temperatures have forced small game like porcupines to higher, cooler climes.

"Plants are disappearing too. That is not only bad for our food supply, but for our medicines too."

Pygmies are central African nomads whose very survival depends on what nature can provide.

Like many indigenous peoples they face discrimination and mistreatment from majority communities, while farming, mining and deforestation encroaches upon their traditional way of life.

"We have been forced to directly change our way of living," Itongwa said. "And that is a problem. We are losing our identity." AFP

**Changes hit indigenous communities first because they live beyond the safety cushion of money and technology**

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

**Flood alert sounded in Tamil Nadu, southern rivers in spate**



**Chennai:** A flood alert has been sounded in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu. After the deluge in the northern and coastal regions, rivers in the southern districts are now in spate as more than a dozen reservoirs located in the Madurai, covering southern districts of Tirunelveli and Madurai are brimming. Kanyakumari district, which has been receiving above normal rainfall for the past month, has again started receiving heavy rains.

## Food check list: 6 Pan-Asian dishes recommended for diabetics



**Mumbai:** Do you constantly ask yourself, ‘What can I eat?’ It’s time to stop worrying! Being diabetic doesn’t mean you that you need to be deprived of eating delicious food. All you need to learn is to balance your meals and make the healthiest food choices.

When you go out for dinners at Pan-Asian restaurants you can always order a salubrious dish from the menu. Here are few dishes that you can order without worrying about your sugar level. So relax and dig into a wide variety of meals. The list of dishes given below are recommended for a diabetic patient.

### **TOM YUM SOUP**



This soup is a lot like clear soup however, it's a blend of vegetable stew and tomato soup. Some even say that it helps to cure a cold. This popular Thai soup has a tangy and has an exotic flavour of galangal, lemongrass, kaffir lime leaves, fresh lime juice and Thai chillies. Packed with herbs, spices and soothing broth, it's topped up with the fresh mushroom that will light up your taste buds.

*Nutritional Values: Kcal-80, Carbs- 9g, Fat- 2.5g, Protein- 5g.*

## **CRYSTAL DUMPLING WITH SHITAKE MUSHROOM AND WATER CHESTNUT**



Consisting of just 86 Kcal, this is a unique kind of dumpling that takes the name of crystal as it looks a bit like crystal due to its almost translucent skin. But obviously this dish doesn't contain any crystal. The skin of this type of dumpling is much more soft and chewy as wheat starch is added in the dough. The dumpling has a filling of finely chopped mushrooms and water chestnut along with other vegetables like carrot, red and yellow bell pepper that gives it a fresh, luscious flavour.

*Nutritional Values: Kcal-86, Carbs- 21g, Fat- 1.7g, Protein- 2.2g.*

“Most people with Diabetes are unaware of the significance of a healthy diet on blood sugar management. Diet coupled with exercise and medication are 3 key ingredients to managing Diabetes well,” says Seema Pinto, the brain behind the ‘*Diabetic Food Trail*’.

## **CHICKEN AND CORIANDER DIM-SUM**



These gorgeous steamed buns are delicious and stuffed with boiled chicken. The chicken filling has fresh chopped coriander and salt. Finely greased these dim-sums are very light on the stomach and highly recommended for sugar patients.

*Nutritional Values: Kcal-57, Carbs- 7g, Fat- 4g, Protein- 3g.*

## **TOSSED BANGKOK CHICKEN WITH BASIL AND BIRDS EYE CHILLY**



This particular chicken entrée is quite a filling meal and consists of zero carbohydrates. Chicken cubes tossed in pepper and barbeque sauce with lots of minced garlic is indeed a treat for your taste buds. The meal is topped up with safflower fried basil and sautéed Birds eye chillies commonly known as Thai chillies.

*Nutritional Values: Kcal-261, Carbs- 0g, Fat- 16.5g, Protein- 27g.*

“When we were asked to design a menu keeping in mind the needs of a diabetic person, it wasn’t easy, there are so many things one needs to keep in mind for a sugar person. It took us time to come up with this menu, however, it felt really good to do something like this,” says Ameya Kambli, Manager of restaurant *Lemon Leaf, Mumbai*.

### **ASIAN STYLE GRILLED VEGETABLE WITH PEANUT SAUCE AND LEMONGRASS RICE**



For all the vegetable lovers, this meal is a perfect pick from the menu. Specially designed for diabetic patients this is served with lots of fresh vegetables like baby corn, broccoli, bell pepper, sautéed in peanut sauce and lemongrass rice topped with sprouts.

*Nutritional value: Vegetables: Kcal-109, Carbs- 35g, Fat- 4g, Protein- 15.5g. Lemongrass rice: Kcal-199, Carbs- 45g, Fat- 2.4g, Protein- 4.2g.*

### **THAI STYLED GRILLED CHICKEN WITH BROWN RICE AND CURRY SAUCE**



This grilled chicken meal accompanied with brown rice is smoky and very fresh in taste. Served along curry sauce that has coconut base is very palatable and flavourful. Low in carbohydrates and fats, this meal is finger-licking good.

*Nutritional Values: Kcal-261, Carbs- 0g, Fat- 16.5g, Protein- 27g.*

“We have used more fresh and exotic vegetable and herbs while cooking for the diabetics. The amount of herbs and spice used is minimal, every dish that is part of this menu was initially tested by our nutritionist and then was served to the people, after approval,” says Mitesh Rangras, Director of restaurant *Lemon Leaf, Mumbai*

### **Peach fruit dates back to 2.6 million years ago: researchers**



**Beijing:** Chinese researchers have found fossils of peach seeds dating back to more than 2.6 million years ago, strengthening the belief that the fruit originated in China. Eight peach kernel fossils found in southwest China's Kunming date 2.6 million years ago and predate the existence of modern humans and even our ancestor *Homo erectus*.

Previously, the oldest fossilised peach seed was no more than 10,000 years old, Su Tao, a paleoecologist at Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG), told state-run Xinhua news agency. Research of the fossils, first found in 2010, was published in the British journal *Scientific Reports* in late November with the title "Peaches preceded humans: Fossil evidence from SW China."

The fossils also strengthened the belief that peaches originated in China. The Latin name of peach trees '*prunus persica*' suggests that they were once believed to be from Persia, central Asia, he added. Primates might have consumed peaches before human beings existed, according to the joint research of XTBG, University of Pennsylvania, Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Kunming University of Science and Technology.

The fossils also lend researchers a glimpse into the environment and climate of 2.6 million years ago, which is the subject of further studies, Su said.

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

## **A super easy recipe to make tasty, healthy, low-cal granola**

Making granola isn't a tedious task — toss the ingredients together and roast them in an oven, or on a stove. "An average breakfast cereal in its simplest form contains cooked and toasted grains, a sweetening agent such as sugar or honey, plus a flavour," says Dr Chinthu Udayarajan, a senior food scientist at Synthite in Kolenchery, Kerala.



QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

“Flavour could be out of a bottle, or bits of fruits such as raisins, dried banana or strawberry, or even a pinch of cinnamon powder.” Ecologist Shivani Shah pretty much follows that basic recipe — she roasts rolled oats, mixed nuts and seeds on the stove and adds coffee powder and coffee, along with dates and raisins for a bit of sweetness. The result is a delicious, toasty mix of nuts, fruit, seeds and oats.

The versatility of the granola makes it an appealing breakfast option, or even a nutritious mid-day snack. When journalist Neha Margosa couldn't find the right mix of granola in stores, she decided to make her own. Ingredients can be easily swapped, and delicious quirks such as coffee or bits of chocolate make it more interesting.

### **Home-made granola recipe**

(Adapted from BBC Good Food)

#### **Ingredients**

2 tbsp coconut oil

125ml date syrup

2 tbsp honey

1 tsp vanilla extract

300g rolled oats

50g sunflower seeds

4 tbsp sesame seeds

50g pumpkin seeds

100g flaked almonds

100g raisins

50g coconut flakes

### **Method**

\* Preheat oven to 150 degrees C.

\* On the stove, toast coconut on a skillet lightly.

\* In a large bowl, mix coconut oil, date syrup, honey and vanilla extract. Add the remaining ingredients, except the dry fruit and coconut. Toss to mix well.

\* On two baking sheets, spread the granola mixture evenly. Bake for 15 minutes. Now, add the coconut and dry fruit and bake for another 10-15 minutes.

\* Remove from oven and immediately transfer to a flat tray or plate to cool.

\* The granola can be stored in an airtight container for a month. Eat with cold milk or yogurt and sliced fruit.

are needed to see this picture.  
decompressor  
QuickTime™ and a

## **Maharashtra has more sugarcane than reported by the agriculture department: BJP**

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

PUNE: Madhav Bhandari, chief spokesperson, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Maharashtra unit claims that there is more sugarcane plantation in Maharashtra than reported by the state's agriculture. He said that the state needs to rethink over the sugar industry and the sugarcane plantation.

Speaking to ET on the sidelines of a function about implementing a pilot project for equitable water distribution in the Chikotra river basin of Maharashtra, Bhandari said, "There could be about 7% to 10% excess cane in Maharashtra than reported by the agriculture department. The sugar industry needs huge water and many a times it is stolen."

Even as Bhandari called for rethinking over sugarcane, the sugar industry in the country has already been complaining that the BJP government in the centre is thinks that the sugar industry is 'pampered' and that it is tough to get assistance from the central government.

"There is water scarcity in the state. We are supplying water to villages by tankers. But next to the tankers stands the sugarcane crop. The permanently drought-prone Solapur district has highest number of sugar mills in the state. It is a myth that sugar industry is a boon. It has used huge government money and defaulted on paying farmers their money. If it is a boon, then it is boon for a select few in the state. Experts tell us that only a limited area of Maharashtra can get irrigation.

Water expert Pradeep Purandare too blamed the sugarcane crop for the water scarcity in the state. "Firstly there is no clarity about each stakeholders right over water yet. Industry still continues to get preference over agriculture when it comes to water distribution. And in agriculture, it is sugarcane crop, which consumes the maximum water," said Purandare

are needed to see this picture:  
decompressor  
and a  
QuickTime™

### **Oil palm developers want import duty hiked to 45%**



The oil palm developers in the country have welcomed the move to increase the import duty of crude palm oil by another 5 per cent to take it to 17.5 per cent. They, however, have asked the Government to consider revising the import duty to 45 per cent to safeguard the interest of palm growing farmers in the country.

The oil palm developers association pointed out that the CACP (Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices) has pegged crude palm oil price at \$800 a tonne as the price of oil at which the Indian farmer makes a decent return. “In order to meet the minimum remunerative price to farmers (as indicated by the CACP guidelines), the import duty on crude palm oil needs to be close to 45 per cent,” it said.

“Besides protecting the interest of farmers, it would help the industry in the long term. It would also help us make the country self-sufficient in the edible oil sector,” the Oil Palm Developers and Processors Association (OPDPA) has said.

“Of the \$10 billion worth vegetable oil import bill, palm oil and its derivatives comprise about 80 per cent. Palm oil prices are commodity based and is dictated by the large oil palm producers in Malaysia and Indonesia. Falling global prices have cut into the margins of the farmers and processors, making it difficult for the industry to remain viable” Sanjay Goenka, President of OPDPA, has said, responding to the Government decision to increase the duty.

He called for an exclusive Import Policy to oversee the oil palm sector, keeping in view the interests of the farmers and processing industry that could save valuable foreign exchange by developing robust domestic supplies.

### **Buyer resistance saps rubber**

Spot rubber resumed the downward journey as it continued to remain under pressure on buyer resistance. RSS 4 weakened to 104.50 (105) a kg, according to traders and the Rubber Board. The grade dropped to 101.50 (102) as reported by the dealers. December futures slid to 105.25 (105.32), January to 105.15 (105.82) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange. RSS 3 (spot) improved to 86.73 (86.24) at Bangkok. December futures closed at ¥164.3 ( 89.11) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange. Spot rubber rates (/kg): RSS-4: 104.50 (105); RSS-5: 102.50 (102.50); Ungraded: 93(93); ISNR 20: 85.50 (86) and Latex (60% drc): 78 (78).

## Pepper markets stay steady

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

Pepper markets ruled steady on limited activities. However, some 60-70 tonnes of allegedly tainted pepper were released and have been moved out to up country markets, market sources told *BusinessLine*.

On the terminal market, 13 tonnes were traded today at ₹ 640-670 a kg depending upon the quality. Release of the tainted pepper, arrival of Sri Lankan pepper in north Indian centres and trickling in of new crop are likely to have some pressure on the market, they said. Overseas buyers were quoted as saying that they have received offers from India at lower rates, below \$10,000 a tonne. December, January and February contracts on the IPSTA remained unchanged. Export prices were at \$10,500 a tonne c&f for Europe and \$10,750 for the US.

## Quality lends colour to turmeric

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

Spot turmeric prices increased at Erode markets on quality arrivals. “A few bags of best quality turmeric arrived for sale and the traders procured limited stocks for a higher price.

Arrival stood at 2,200 bags; the traders purchased 1,180 bags,” said RKV Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association. At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger turmeric was sold at ₹ 8,436-9,909 a quintal; the root variety at ₹ 8,289-9,509. Of the arrival of 692 bags, 310 were sold.

### **Edible oils slip on bear signals**

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

Edible oils ruled weak tracking bearish futures amid slack demand. On the BCE, groundnut, rapeseed, soya oil decline by 5 for 10 kg each and palmolein lost by 6. Sources said tracking weak reports from overseas futures markets stockists stayed away from fresh bet. Liberty was quoting palmolein at 480, super palmolein 510, soyabean refined oil 643. Ruchi's rates: palmolein 480, soyabean refined oil 635 and sunflower refined oil 745. Allana traded palmolein 483, soya refined oil 643 and sunflower oil 745.

In Saurashtra-Rajkot, groundnut oil *telia* tin was at 1,455 (1,450) and loose (10 kg) at 925 (925).

BCE spot rates (/10 kg): groundnut oil 945 (950), soya ref. 625(630), sunflower exp. ref. 685 (685), sunflower ref. 745 (740), rapeseed ref. oil 995 (1,000), rapeseed exp. ref. 965 (970), cottonseed ref. oil 589 (585) and palmolein 466 (472).

### **Thermo Fisher ups India focus**

Thermo Fisher Scientific is betting big on life sciences solutions, IT, pharma and manufacturing in India in the near term.

The company, with revenues of \$17 billion, is increasing investments to turn India into its IT hub and support global operations. The recently established Global Technology Development Centre in Bengaluru will see an addition of at least 70 professionals over the next year to its 180-odd workforce now.

Both skilled manpower and expertise on cloud technologies and specific platforms ranging from J2EE and SAP to E1 and Informatica are being strengthened.

In life sciences, Thermo Fisher is increasing its offerings with high throughput, next generation DNA sequencing machines which have a range of applications in the fields of healthcare, agriculture, food testing and seeds, says Ravi Shastri, Managing Director (life sciences solutions), South Asia operations.

“We are talking to Indian institutes involved in research in healthcare and genetics like the AIIMS, CCMB, CDFD and forensic labs to bring in the latest DNA sequencing machines, which are finding increasing use in developed nations,” he told *BusinessLine* in a recent interaction.

The company has set an ambitious growth target of 13-14 per cent for the Life Sciences Solutions business and 20-25 per cent for the group in the South Asia region. The global business market in the segment is estimated to be \$4.5 billion.

According to global reports, India might not see the high growth rate of Australia or China in clinical diagnostics because of the long funding cycles and slow adoption of Next Generation Sequencing technologies by researchers and clinicians. It is estimated that the current market size for sequencing services in India is \$20 million, and most of that market consists of plant sequencing for agricultural crops, which are priorities.



On the research front, the company is committed to scale up facilities at the (R&D) center, Bengaluru. “We have 45 people in the R&D centre, which would double in coming year”, Shastri said.

In 2014, Thermo Fisher opened a 1,800 sq ft large customer experience center in Bengaluru where scientists and customers can experience various new technologies so that they can incorporate them to accelerate their research that can lead to ” born in India” solutions.

The company believes that Indian researchers have the potential to become global leaders in developing and manufacturing affordable healthcare, agriculture and environment solutions. “With our cutting edge technologies and long time grounded in India expertise, we can contribute substantially to this endeavour,” he added.

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

### **Rallis India hits 19-month low after block deals**



[Rallis India](#) has dipped nearly 6% to Rs 170, its lowest level since April 22, 2014 on the BSE, after a huge [block deals](#) executed on the counter.

Around 6.68 million shares representing 3.4% of total equity of Rallis India have changed hands on the counter through multiple block deals, the BSE data shows.

As of September 30, 2015, Rakesh Jhunjhunwala held 10.34% stake in Tata Group [agrochemicals](#) firm, the shareholding pattern data shows.

Amansa Holdings Pvt Ltd, Hasham Investment & Trading Company Pvt Ltd, Franklin Templeton Investments Funds, Mondrian Emerging [Markets](#) Small Cap Equity Fund LP, FIL Investments (Mauritius) Ltd and Oppenheimer International Small Company Fund held 1%-4% stake in the company.

Since October 23, the stock has underperformed the market by falling 20% from Rs 213 after reported a 22% decline in its consolidated net profit at Rs 57 crore for the quarter ended September 30, hit by a decline in sales.

Sales were adversely impacted due to poor monsoon in India, while the international market also faced pressure with Brazil (a key market for the company) witnessing a severe drought. In USA, low crop commodity prices along with higher inventory prices impacted consumption.

At 03:19 PM, the stock was down 2.5% at Rs 175 on the BSE.