

11.11.2015



## Export of oilmeals



The export of oilmeals during October 2015 is reported at just 13,716 tonnes against 2,38,703 tonnes in October 2014, that is down by 94 per cent.

The overall export of oilmeals during April-October 2015 is reported at 7,63,113 tonnes against 12,63,073 tonnes during the same period of last year, that is down by 40 per cent, according to the data compiled by The Solvent Extractors' Association of India.

Soybean crushing is very much reduced due to continuous disparity and high price of domestic market affecting overall domestic availability of both oils and meals.

The export of soybean meal is at a historical low during current year and reduced month by month and reported 46,980 tonnes compared to 1,40,098 tonnes during the first seven months of the financial year 2015-16.

Similarly, rapeseed meal export is also reduced to one-third of last year. Also, capacity utilisation is at the lowest.

Industry is passing through very tough time and many plants are close down due to disparity in crushing and export, according to a press release.

The robust pace of soybean crushings and ample soybean supplies both in the northern and the southern hemisphere kept world market prices of soya meal under pressure and sharply below the year-earlier levels.

Soybean meal Argentina / Brazil origin being currently quoted CIF Rotterdam between \$360-370 per tonnes, where as Indian soybean meal is quoted at \$500 ex-Kandla.

India is totally out-priced in international market due to high price in local market, it added.

### **Paddy fields inundated in Karaikal**

*The coastal district records 17.4 cm rain under the influence of depression in Bay*



E. Vallavan, District Collector, inspecting the work on clearing a channel of hyacinth in Karaikal on Monday.

Normal life came to a grinding halt in Karaikal on Monday, following heavy rains under the influence of deep depression in Bay of Bengal.

A good part of the paddy fields remained water-logged following heavy downpour. For the 24 hours ended at 8.30 a.m. on Monday, Karaikal recorded a maximum of 17.4 cm of rain. Heavy rain lashed parts of the district and it was a sheet of water in the fields in major parts of the district such as Nedungadu, Valathamangalam near Tirunallar, Nallenzhundhur, Nallambaal, Agalankannu, Maanampettai, and Vizhidhiyur.

The thick growth of water hyacinth in Padutharkollai river posed blocked flow of storm water. With a view to preventing any problem due to water

logging, officials of the Public Works Department made immediate arrangements for clearing water hyacinth on the river.

Official sources told *The Hindu* that the fields in Tirumalairajanpattinam (T.R. Pattinam) and Neravi would be water-logged, if the water hyacinth was not cleared.

E. Vallavan, District Collector, visited various areas in the district and saw the arrangements for the clearing of water hyacinth at Paduthakollai river. The district administration has warned the fishermen not to venture into the sea in the wake of the deep depression. In a release here on Monday, Mr. Vallavan, District Collector, said that a round-the-clock control room has been set up at the Collector's Office to meet any emergency.

**ARIYALUR:** Jayamkondam recorded a maximum of 60 mm, Sendurai 38 mm, T. Pazhuvur 24, and Ariyalur 23. Perambalur district experienced moderate showers. Perambalur recorded 16 mm of rain, Veppanthattai 14, Padalur 13 and Thazhuthalai 7 . Members of the public in need of any assistance can call 1077 or 04368-222025.

### **Rain throws life out of gear in Salem**



Intermittent rainfall throughout Monday slowed down pace of life in Erode district.

Continuous downpour throughout Monday affected the normal life of people in Salem city and other parts of the district.

The worst hit were the people who had planned to do Deepavali shopping at the eleventh hour.

The city people and those hailing from rural parts who were thronging the textile showrooms had to spent more time than expected in the shops due to continuous rainfall.

The incessant rainfall led to inundation of many low lying areas across the district.

Rainfall coupled with Deepavali crowd led to heavy traffic congestion on all the main thoroughfares in the city throughout the day. The Omalur main road, Meyyanur main road, New Bus stand road, Three roads, Tiruvakavundanur bypass road, Salem – Bengaluru national highway, Five roads junction witnessed serpentine queue of vehicles.

The City Police had posted traffic police personnel on all the main junctions and this eased traffic congestion to a certain extent. The execution of underground drainage works had further worsened the situation in areas like Meyyanur and the many residential localities.

The hill station of Yercaud experienced continuous rainfall since Sunday evening. Tree falls have been reported from the villages on the hill. Yercaud town and the more than 60 villages went powerless for a major part of Monday. Veeraganur experienced 11.4 m.m. in the last 24 hours that ended at 8 a.m. on Monday, followed by Gangavalli 11.2 m.m.; Attur 7.4 m.m.; Thammampatti 6.8 m.m.; Yercaud 3.8 m.m. and Salem and Vazhavappadi 1 m.m. each.

Undeterred by the rainfall, people, both young and old, thronged the Salem Railway Junction, Town railway station and the New bus stand in the city to proceed to their native places for celebrating Deepavali with their family members.

The situation was no different in the rural towns such as Attur, Sankagiri, Mettur, Edappadi, Vazhappadi etc.

The Salem division of the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation operated special buses to Chennai, Tirunelveli, Bengaluru, Tiruchi, Madurai, Coimbatore and other parts of the State and all these buses were jam-packed since noon.

The TNSTC had posted special staff in the New Bus Stand to regulate the operation of buses.

## **Farmers urged to adopt new wheat varieties**

After the Punjab government faced the wrath of farmers over the cotton crop failure, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) is leaving nothing to chance ahead of the impending wheat sowing season.

In a bid to ensure that farmers get maximum profits from their produce, the PAU has asked them to go in for a varietal mosaic and diversify from the predominance of wheat variety HD 2967 as some diseases like yellow rust and ‘Karnal bunt’ were observed on this variety in several fields during the last crop season.

N.S. Bains, senior plant breeder at PAU, has advised farmers to adopt new varieties especially PBW 677, HD 3086 and WH 1105 for cultivation under irrigated timely sown conditions. “These new varieties possess higher grain yield as well as resistance to major diseases like yellow rust.” he said.

Dr. Bains suggested that to avoid risks associated with mono-culture, every farmer should grow more than one variety in his field.

The entire area on which a farmer plans to plant wheat should not be brought under just one variety. Besides, good quality certified and tested seed of these varieties should be procured from recognised agencies, he said.

In a tip to farmers who have self-saved seed available with them from the harvest of the previous season, Dr. Bains said they should not use the seeds for sowing in case more than five infected grains with ‘Karnal bunt’ disease are observed per 1,000 grains.

R.S. Sidhu, director of Extension Education, PAU, said the choice of a suitable variety was an important factor for determining crop productivity and farmers’ profitability. Hence, farmers of the State are advised to grow PAU recommended wheat varieties, he said.

## **Cyclone brings cheer to Chittoor farmers**

Heavy rain inundated several areas in Tirupati on Monday.-Photo: K.V. Poornachandra\_Kumar

Farmers of the tail-end Chittoor district, which has been reeling under severe drought conditions from a year, are a happy lot with the Roanu cyclone bringing copious rains during the last 48 hours.



Bordering Tamil Nadu at the south-eastern side, the impact of Roanu brought an average 40 mm rainfall all over the district for the last 24 hours ending Monday morning. While it is heavy downpour in Tirupati and eastern parts of the Chittoor division, the interior Madanapalle division too felt the impact with widespread rainfall.



Joint Director (Agriculture) Nirmal Nityanand told *The Hindu* that the normal rainfall predicted in the district in November is 126 mm, but the rain during the last 24 hours brought 115 mm, “which is a fantastic phenomenon as far as agriculture is concerned in Chittoor.”

The official said that with still 20 more days to go, and heavy rain prediction for the next 24 hours, most of the tanks and streams in the district are set to get good inflows, followed by recharge of groundwater. “The rain situation in Srikalahasti and Satyavedu is highly satisfactory.”

### **‘No possibility of crop damage’**

The Joint Director ruled out the possibility of crop damage in the district even in case of heavy downpour. “At present, we are having red gram (kandi) crop in about 8,000 hectares and rains are very much essential for us. The groundnut crop is also harvested by over 90%, and in some parts we have corn and horse-gram (ulavalu) crops. Other than these, we have no major crops as of now.”

Officials of the Water Resources Department termed the Roanu cyclone as timely for the district. The rains are expected to bring good inflows into the Araniyar project in Pichhatur mandal and Kalangi reservoir near Srikalahasti. Several tanks in Puttur division have started getting inflows, with a rainfall of 69 mm registered since Sunday evening.

*The Chittoor district receives an average 40 mm rainfall in the last 24 hours ending Monday morning*

### **‘WhatsApp’ number to get rain-related help**

The district administration has introduced a ‘WhatsApp’ number to inform and get relief from rain-induced incidents. The public could share any such information on ‘WhatsApp’ number 9443656811.

Toll-free helpline number 1077 could also be used, Collector M. Ravikumar said here on Monday.

The recent rain improved the storage of water in tanks in the district. During October, a rainfall of 303 mm occurred against the average of 383 mm. So far in November, 115 mm of rainfall had been registered against the average rainfall of 185 mm. Among 53 system irrigation tanks, storage reached their peak in 28 tanks, above 75 per cent in two tanks and below 75 per cent in 23 tanks.

The Collector said that there were 54 tanks in Korampallam basin reservoir area, in which water storage was below 70 per cent of the capacity. As for rain-fed tanks, seven out of 403 touched the brim, and 132 other tanks recorded a storage of 75 per cent and above, he said.

Fertilizers were adequately stocked to cater to the needs of farmers in the district. A total of 2,500 tonnes of urea, 1,240 tonnes of DAP, 635 tonnes of potash and 1,000 tonnes of complex were available. A special team comprising eight officials from the Department of Agriculture had been constituted to check overpricing of fertilizers by private dealers.

On agriculture productivity, the Collector said that a target of 1,58,253 hectares was set for cultivation of foodgrain crops across the district with the expected yield of 5.65 lakh tonnes. Last year, foodgrain crops covered 1,41,906 hectares and the productivity touched 5.54 lakh tonnes.

Joint Director of Agriculture V. Jeyakumar and Assistant Director of Agriculture S. Mathiazhagan (Quality Control) were present.

### **Designing a prize-winning device to help farmers**

*IFET college students come up with a machine to cut water channels and to make soil bed partitions*

Students of IFET College of Engineering, Villupuram, being appreciated by Principal G. Mahendran, Dean Placement J. Asha and Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, V. Velmurugan.



Two students of IFET College of Engineering, Villupuram, have designed a device to help farmers in cutting water channels and making partition soil beds. They have bagged the first prize at a national-level technical symposium held at SRM University for their product, said a release from the college.

The device has been designed by T. Arunkumar and P. Arun Pandian and they were guided by Professor K. Madheswaran. The device is a boon to farmers in the time of scarce availability of agricultural labourers, said the release. The students were appreciated by Principal G. Mahendran, Dean Placement J. Asha and Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, V. Velmurugan.

#### STRESS ON PATENTABLE RESEARCH

Young scholars were urged to carry out patentable research at a workshop on 'Intellectual Property Rights' organised by the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE) Chapter of Dr. Pauls Engineering College, Vanur, Villupuram District recently. .

The chief guest M. Kanthababu, Director, Centre for Intellectual Property Rights, Anna University, spoke about the Indian patent system, the procedures to register a patent, and various norms on who can file patent, said a press release from the college. He also gave insights on what needed to be disclosed while filing a patent. Around 100 participants



including researchers, faculty members and postgraduate scholars attended the event.

College Principal Y.R.M. Rao stressed on the importance of patents in technological and economic growth of the country.

### 110 PAPERS PRESENTED ON CHEMICAL BIOLOGY

A total of 110 papers by participants from different parts of India were presented at the seminar on 'Recent trends in organic synthesis and chemical biology' organised by the Department of Chemistry, Annamalai University recently.

S. Manian, Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University, emphasised the role of chemistry and organic synthesis in biology in his inaugural address. Participants from Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Assam, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka took part, said a press release.

The National Service Scheme of the university also conducted a slogan writing competition in Tamil and English and drawing competition for the students on the theme of 'save girl child and educate girl child' to observe the International Day of the Girl Child recently.

More than 100 students from various departments participated, it added.

Reporting by Annie Philip

### **Steep rise in price of flowers**

The price of flowers has skyrocketed in the Salem markets on the eve of Deepavali festival.

The price of 'gundu malli' rose from Rs. 200 per kg last week to Rs. 800 on Sunday.

The kanagambaram was priced at Rs. 700 per kg and 'kakkattan' Rs. 400 per kg.

The 'jathi malli' was priced between Rs. 160 and Rs. 200; 'kozhi kondai' Rs. 50 per kg; 'sambanthi' Rs. 60 per kg; 'button rose' Rs. 200 per kg; 'sambangi' Rs. 40 per kg; 'arali' Rs. 50 per kg. Bangalore Rose flower was selling at Rs. 60 per kg.

Despite the high price of the flowers, people thronged the VOC Flower Market in the city on Monday for purchasing the flowers.

The flower traders said that farmers of Veeranam, Panamarathupatti, Pallipatti, Vaazhakottapatti etc used to bring flowers to the VOC Market. Due to inclement weather, there was considerable drop in the arrival of flowers in the last few days.

The poor arrival coupled with heavy demand due to Deepavali festival, led to steep increase in the price of flowers, they said.

## Maggi lovers in State may have to wait

*The company has made a representation to Food Safety Commissioner but a few clarifications have been sought*

**WHAT IS THE MAGGI CONTROVERSY ALL ABOUT**

The product was found to contain high levels of lead, a toxic metal, in a test done in Uttar Pradesh, making it "unsafe and hazardous for human consumption"

**Other charges:** mislabelling of monosodium glutamate on the packets; the release of Maggi Oats and Masala Noodles without product approval

- In Tamil Nadu, tests had found that at least six samples had lead content higher than the mandated **2.5 parts per million**

**A TIMELINE**

- **June 4** Tamil Nadu government bans the manufacture, stocking and sales of Maggi noodles and three other brands — Wai Wai Express Noodles, Reliance Select Instant Noodles and Smith and Jones Chicken Masala Noodles
- **June 5** The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India had asked Nestle to withdraw its noodles from the market Nestle withdraws its products
- **August 12** Indian authorities said they would seek **Rs. 640 crore** in damages from Nestle India
- **August 13** The Mumbai High Court bench directs fresh tests to be conducted on all major Maggi samples by three separate laboratories within the next six weeks
- **October 16** **100 per cent** of the samples tested in three different labs were cleared as safe, Nestle announces

**November 9 - Maggi relaunches the product in India**

Nestle India re-launched its popular instant noodles brand Maggi and commenced sales on Monday, but the same is yet to available in Tamil Nadu, the State food safety department has said.

According to a senior food safety department official, “the company has made a representation to us but the Commissioner has asked for a few clarifications. Once they reply, it will be taken into consideration.”

However, with news about the re-launch of Maggi spreading, eager customers kept asking if the packets were back on the shelves in Tamil Nadu. A departmental store keeper in Vellore said customers continued to

ask if the sale of Maggi noodles had resumed. “Though we saw the advertisement that sale of Maggi noodles had commenced, we have not received any new stock. Customers inquire if the noodles are available and many purchase other brands of noodles,” he said.

### **Retailers’ compunctions**

However, for retailers, it is necessary to keep in view clearances from the food safety officials and co-ordinate stocks with the wholesaler. Representatives of a few supermarkets in Chennai said though they had not received Maggi stock as yet, Nestle had intimated that the ban had been lifted and they expected the arrival of packs anytime.

A manager at one of the leading chain of supermarkets at Kilpauk said the packs might arrive by Wednesday. “But we may not get all the flavours immediately; only the regular ‘masala’ flavour of Maggi may come at first,” he said.

Another staff of a leading supermarket in Anna Nagar said they would start accepting the Maggi products after seeing the reviewed license and certificate of Nestle. “We have received communication from Nestle. But it is going to take time before it reaches our outlet,” he said.

In Tiruchi and Coimbatore, Food Safety department officials had the same story to tell. “We are yet to receive any directive from our higher authorities till now to lift the ban,” a senior department official in Tiruchi said.

Over five tonnes of Maggi noodles were taken back by the distributors from the retail outlets across the district after the ban was imposed, in the district, he added, and since then, a team of 18 Food Safety Officers were nominated for different parts of Tiruchi district to ensure that there was no sale of Maggi noodles. In Coimbatore, officials said that a second round of tests might be done in the State before the packets hit the shelves here.

On June 4, the Tamil Nadu government had banned the manufacture, stocking and sales of Maggi noodles and three other brands — Wai Wai Express Noodles, Reliance Select Instant Noodles and Smith and Jones Chicken Masala Noodles — for a period of three months, on the grounds that the products contained unacceptable levels of lead.

On the other three brands, the official said that the makers had been told to submit their products for re-testing. “Reliance noodles have already

been sent for testing and results are awaited. Wai Wai Express has not come forward, while Smith and Jones have said they do not want to be tested as of now and will not market in Tamil Nadu,” he said.

### Nestle’s statement

In a statement released on Monday, Nestle House said most States did not have a ban on the sale of Maggi noodles. “For States where specific directions are required, we are engaging with them,” the statement said. It added that the company was committed to collaborate and work proactively with FSSAI and FDA authorities in States and other stakeholders.

**(With inputs from R.Rajaram, Serena Josephine, Sunita Sekar, and V.S.Palaniappan)**

### Heavy rain expected to continue for 2 days

**TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT**

Cyclones crossing the coastline near Chennai are not rare. Even after the depression weakens, they bring rain to the coastal areas for some time

Cuddalore in November 1978 has some similarities to the present one. It too brought heavy rainfall with Cuddalore recording 38 cm of rainfall in a single day.

Chennai had a severe cyclonic storm crossing north of the city in November 1972 and a depression on November 12, 1985

A severe cyclonic storm that crossed south of Chennai in November 1996 had a long life. It originated on November 28 and crossed on December 7

The most recent cyclone Jal, which crossed the coast around November 8, 2010, brought 8 cm of rain to the city and 14 cm to Puducherry

So far, 13 weather systems have crossed the Tamil Nadu coast close to either 110 km north or south of Chennai, during the northeast monsoon between 1971 and 2014

A deep depression that crossed the coast near

Six of them have crossed the coast close to Chennai in the month of November

PHOTOS: M. KARUNAKARAN

For the city, the downpour that started on Sunday is going to continue for two more days. Before the deep depression crossed the north Tamil Nadu coast near Cuddalore late in the evening on Monday, it deluged parts of the city and gave it the year’s highest volume of rainfall in a single day.

S. R. Ramanan, director, Area Cyclone Warning Centre, said that even though the weather system crossed the coast on Monday, it will continue have an impact on the coastal areas, including Chennai, on Tuesday.

Several areas will experience light to moderate rain till Wednesday after which monsoon activity will pick up in the interior districts.



Experts note that weather systems that cross the Tamil Nadu coast during the northeast monsoon would have rain clouds up to a radius of 400 km. Y.E.A. Raj, former deputy director general of meteorology, Chennai said such weather systems would bring plenty of rain to coastal areas like Chennai even if it crossed near Nagapattinam.



## Mega food processing unit to come up in Nizamabad

The long cherished dream of the people of this agrarian district to have a mega food processing industry is set to become a reality soon with decks being cleared for laying the foundation stone to it at Lakkampally in Nandipet mandal on November 16.

Though the Smart Agro Food Park Private Limited floated by three NRIs in the US began its work a couple of years ago and set up a huge sheep farm, to begin with, it was not launched yet officially. Hence, the Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur will formally lay the foundation.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Sadhvi Niranjan Jyothi, Industries Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, Agriculture Minister Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, Member of Parliament K. Kavitha, local MLA A. Jeevan Reddy and other dignitaries are expected to attend the function. Giving details of the industry, here on Monday, one of the promoters of Smart Agro and its Director Mohan Reddy Patolla, said that once completed, the industry would generate

directly and indirectly a total of 12,195 jobs. All jobs except those of highly technical nature would be given to local youth, he said.

Initially, this project funded by the Central government would create all necessary infrastructure such as cold storages, godowns and so on in 78 acres with an estimated outlay of Rs.110 crore. The first phase would be completed within 30 months and in the second phase big industries would come up, he said. "Locally called Lakkampally SEZ , it would be very useful to farmers who grow soya, maize and turmeric as industries basing on those crops would be set up. A research centre would also come up in the 378 acre zone. Major industries like Britannia and Pepsi Co have already enquired with us," said Mr. Mohan Reddy.

It will provide appropriate linkages between agriculture and industries and help enhance and stabilise income levels of farming community. It will also be useful to reduce post-harvest losses as cold storages and ripening chambers would become available. Farmers could get relevant training with regard to latest farming techniques, he said.

### **TS to allocate Rs.25,000 cr. for irrigation every year**

*Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao favours 2 p.c. incentive to contractors completing irrigation works in time*

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has directed the engineers of the Irrigation Department to prepare an action plan to provide water to the ayacut, at least in the first phase of the lift irrigation projects being planned on the river Godavari, by 2017 monsoon.

In a review meeting held here on Sunday, the projects proposed on Godavari were discussed at length.

Ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao and G. Jagadish Reddy, Advisor to Government R. Vidyasagar Rao, Principal Secretary S.K. Joshi, Engineer-in-Chief C. Muralidhar, OSD Sridhar Rao Deshpande, Chief Engineers B. Hariram, M. Purushothama Raju, Anil Kumar and others were present at the meeting.

### **Barrages**

The Chief Minister directed the engineers to take up construction of barrages at Tummidihatti, Kaleshwaram and Kothur (to supplement water to Devadula) simultaneously.

He told them to plan two more barrages to lift water till Yellampalli. Work on canals, tunnels, lifts and reservoirs should also begin at once by preparing an action plan.

Asking the engineers to examine the possibility of grounding at least some works by the month-end, the Chief Minister said the government's aim is to make agriculture a profitable vocation by providing irrigation facility and other support. In addition to the existing Mid Manair and Lower Manair reservoirs, new ones would have to be constructed at Kaleshwaram, Yellamapalli, Imambad, Ananthagiri, Gandhamalla, Baswapur, Gowrapalli, Pamulaparthi and Mallannasagar. He told the engineers to redesign Rajivsagar and Indirasagar projects to suit the needs of Telangana.

The Chief Minister asked them to keep in mind to limit the extent of acquisition of land and displacement of people but to create maximum irrigation potential. As the government would be allocating Rs.25,000 crore for irrigation sector every year, it was the responsibility of the departments concerned to execute works as per plan, he said.

The Chief Minister asked the authorities to be cautious against the contract agencies which would bag works by quoting less and leaving the works unfinished midway. He suggested that two per cent incentive too should be given to those contractors who would complete the works as per schedule.

The meeting had a unanimous opinion on constructing as many barrages across Godavari as possible in the State.

### **108 posts**

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister also signed files pertaining to sanction of 108 posts of engineers in higher positions. Accordingly, eight more Chief Engineers posts would be created in addition to the existing 14 and the number of Superintending Engineers would go up from 49 to 46, that of Executive Engineers from 183 to 204, Deputy EEs from 619 to 674 besides others.

### **Rs. 119-crore plan to revive fisheries sector**

With Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu keen on reviving the aquaculture sector, the Fisheries Department has prepared a Rs. 119-crore plan. The funds for the project will be transferred to the State under the Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Scheme for 2015-16.

As part of the initiative, District Collectors and Joint Collectors will now monitor the measures taken to enhance shrimp and fish production. Besides, fisheries officials will tour villages to identify defunct tanks and reservoirs. The State, with a 974-km coastline, has 25,740 potential inland tanks, but only 8,000 are in use.

Of the 107 reservoirs in the State, only a few are being used. On the other hand, officials are identifying fishing zones using remote-sensing maps.

“We are also working with the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, Marine Products Export Development Authority, National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture, and the Central Aquaculture Pathology Lab to increase production and quality of aqua products,” Fisheries Commissioner Ram Shankar Naik said.

In addition, the government has appointed as many as 300 multi-purpose Fisheries Extension Officers who will collect data on fish, shrimp and crab from farmers. In Krishna district, fisheries officials have identified 1,000 acres to raise Seabass at Garala Dibba, Polata Dibba and Tallapalem. A hatchery will be set up at Tallapalem, while MPEDA has identified land in East Godavari to raise mud crab. The other programmes being planned include registration of fish and prawn ponds, workshops for entrepreneurs, technocrats, officials, exporters and capacity building programmes for farmers.

*Officials to tour villages to identify defunct tanks and reservoirs*

### **Rain triggers a flood of problems**



Fisheries Minister K.A. Jayapal and District Collector S. Palanisamy monitoring the flood relief work in Nagapattinam on Monday. A farmer checks the status of the samba paddy crop amidst the downpour at Mukandanur village in Tiruvarur district on Monday.



Heavy, widespread, and incessant rain has been lashing almost all parts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, and Nagapattinam districts throughout Monday with the marked low pressure developing into a cyclone off the Puducherry-Karaikal coast.

Strong winds swayed the trees menacingly along the long coastline from Adirampattinam to Poompuhar while the fishermen preferred the safety of shores to the rough seas.

In the 24 hours ending 8.30 a.m. on Monday, Sirkali recorded 197.2 mm rainfall closely followed by Kollidam that clocked 197 mm. Not to be left behind, Tirupoondi registered 161, Talaignayar 151.4, Nagapattinam town 141.8, Mayiladuthurai 124.1, Manalmedu 115.6, Vedaranyam 95.8 and Tranquebar 75 mm rainfall reflecting the intensity of the rains across the district.

During the day, Nagapattinam district, which is proximate to the low pressure formation, experienced heavy, widespread, and continuous rain uniformly throughout all areas.

Reports from Sirkali region said that more than 25 power transmission poles were uprooted in Tandavankulam, Puliyanthurai, and Mahendrapalli areas of the district.

Tangedco officials were trying to set right the disrupted power supply in several parts of the district.

The wet spell inundated low level areas including Wards 16, 17 and 20 where Fisheries Minister K. A. Jayapal and District Collector S. Palanisamy inspected the water-logged areas and directed expeditious draining of stagnant flood waters from the residential areas.

In Tiruvarur, the rains continued to lash several parts with Kodavasal registering 104.2 mm rainfall in the 24 hours ending 8.30 a.m. on Monday. Tiruvarur town recorded 103.8 mm, trailed by Nannilam 98.2, Tiruthuraipoondi 85.2, Valangaiman 65.2, Nidamangalam 57, Muthupet 56.4, Pandavaiyaru Head 53.6, and Mannargudi 53 mm rainfall.

District Collector M. Mathivanan inspected flood-prone areas such as Vettar Barrage as also Manakkal, Ayyarpettai, Pulavanallur, Komal, and Perumpugalur where he inquired about agricultural input availability as well with the primary agricultural cooperative societies. He directed the Food and Civil Supplies Department officials to ensure adequate stocks

of essential commodities. Superintendent of Police Jeychandran accompanied him.

In Thanjavur district, there has been widespread and moderate drizzle that lasted throughout the day in several parts of the district. While Lower Anicut recorded 77.6 mm rainfall, Manjalaru 77.2, Tiruvidaimarudur 73.4, Kumbakonam 68.2, Madukkur 62.4, Ayyampettai 61, Papanasam 45.8, Neivasal Thenpathy 45.2, Pattukkottai 40, Adirampattinam 39, Peravoorani 30.4, Tiruvaiyaru 27, Thanjavur 26.6, Vallam 23.5, Budalur 20.2 and Kurungulam 19 mm rainfall in the 24 hours ending Monday morning.

### **Farmers blame govt's agriculture model for straw burning**

As Delhi blames the smog and haze on straw burning in the National Capital Region and the neighbouring states, the farmers are pointing the finger at the government's inefficient agricultural model that they say has forced them to take up the polluting practice.

Gora Singh Chaina, a farmer from Punjab, says the government itself promoted chemical-based farming which leaves farmers with no option but to engage in straw burning. "Why did it promote farming of just wheat and rice leaving no time for soil to replenish itself?"

"The government always gave more subsidy and mechanised chemical farming is basically rotational farming of wheat and rice. Farmers who are growing only these two crops are forced to burn the stubble as they are not growing pulses, which can replenish the soil's lost nutrients. They also have very little time between the harvesting and sowing of the two crops," said Mr. Chaina.

He and his brethren assured that if the government helped in utilisation of the straw, they would check straw burning.

Umendra Dutt, Executive Director of NGO Kheti Virasat Mission, is also blaming the government for adopting ill-conceived agriculture model and failing to give incentives to farmers.

Vikrant, a farmer from Noida, says very few farmers in NCR are indulging in straw burning because now whatever straw remains is consumed by cattle. "Farmers should not be fined as they already suffer the brunt of climate change, bad returns for their crops and expensive pesticides," said Mr. Vikrant.

## **At the helm of monsoon affairs**

*Tangedco keeps men, materials ready to ensure cables don't snap during rain*

The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) has kept its men and materials ready to respond swiftly to attend problems during the monsoon.

Steps have been taken to tackle rains by stocking adequate equipment including jumpers, clamps and insulators in the event of disruptions and emergencies, senior officials of the Corporation said.

In addition, executive engineers have been instructed to inspect divisional areas to identify water logged areas, re-stringing of overhead lines to prevent sagging and replacing damaged pillar boxes and poles with new ones.

The electricity maintenance staff in north Chennai have been asked to be on high alert regarding water stagnation in slum tenements in areas like Pulianthope, Seven Wells, MKB Nagar, Korukkupet and Otteri, to avoid electricity leakage that might leading to accidents. Steps have already been taken in advance to prune tree branches in southern suburbs where overhead electricity supply is maintained.

Officials said that as part of monsoon preparatory measures, instructions have been issued to field staff to take precautionary measures to ensure that un-interrupted power supply to all telephone exchanges and other telecom installations, sewage pumping stations and water distribution networks is ensured.

Officials have been advised to identify points of leakage and take remedial measures to avoid accidents due to electrocution.

Tangedco has also organised safety awareness programme for staff and has provided to residents, contact details of staff who can be reached during emergencies.

## **India shining, Part 2**

Government must not ignore the warning signs. It needs to double its overall support to farmers and move from price policy to direct income support.



Reports from drought-affected states suggest significant losses in agriculture.

It was farmer leader Sharad Joshi who propagated the usage of “India”, representing urban elites, and “Bharat” for neglected rural folks in the mid-1980s. He was leading lakhs of farmers protesting against anti-farmer policies, ranging from export controls to movement restrictions, from stocking limits on agri-produce to low agri-prices, etc.

He wanted to free up agriculture from government controls. He succeeded only partially. Today, policymaking seems to be heading in the same direction — towards urban elites, and to the neglect of Bharat. Once again, the urban elites in policymaking are celebrating, with India climbing up four positions in the World Bank’s ease of doing business rankings. This is being cited as a major achievement, given that Prime



Minister [Narendra Modi](#) has promised to bring India into the top 50 in his first term.

This self-patting is more noise than strategy, and gives an inkling of how NDA2 may also end up like NDA1's "India Shining", when the overall GDP growth hovered around 8 per cent but agriculture performed poorly at about 2.5 per cent. We all know the final result — how NDA1 was voted out of power in 2004.

Nevertheless, India's overall GDP growth is still inspiring for FY16, between 7-7.5 per cent. But if this growth is to translate into significant poverty reduction, one must ask how agriculture is faring since most of the poor are in or around agriculture, engaging almost half of India's workforce and supporting roughly 60 per cent of its population.

And the news from the agri-front is not good. Last year, with a rainfall deficit of 12 per cent, agri-GDP grew by only 0.2 per cent (basic prices). This year, the rain deficit is bigger (-14 per cent), and it's back-to-back drought with much lower water in reservoirs. Reports from drought-affected states suggest significant losses in agriculture. For example, in Madhya Pradesh alone, the soya crop is likely to be down by more than 40 per cent over last year. The situation is similar for other crops in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Odisha, etc. The likely results suggest that overall agri-growth could be negative, unless the government starts massaging data to keep up the economy's morale! In any case, agri-growth in the first four years of the 12th Five Year Plan is likely to be below 1.5 per cent, against a target of 4 per cent. This reflects extreme neglect of "Bharat" by the urban policy elites of "India". Will this neglect

throw up another Sharad Joshi to rally the cause of Bharat? Only time will tell.

Those in pursuit of making India a manufacturing hub, a la China, must remember that all major countries with large populations, like the US or EU, as well as emerging economies like China and Indonesia, have been supporting their farmers through myriad policy tools — high output prices, low input prices, direct income support, or crop insurance. The OECD has developed indicators like producer support estimates (PSEs) to assess the levels of total support to farmers as a percentage of gross farm receipts.

India aspires to compete with China, but are our policymakers aware of how China produces more than double India's foodgrain from an agricultural land smaller than India's and with an average holding size half of India's? One of the reasons behind China's spectacular achievement on the agri-front is the level of support given to farmers.

China's PSE level increased from 2 per cent in 1995-97 to 19 per cent in 2012-14. For Indonesia, the PSE has gone up from 4 per cent to 21 per cent over the same period. There are no PSEs available for India, but subsidies on major inputs like fertilisers, power, irrigation, and agri-credit — the main policy instruments through which the government supports farmers — hover between 6-8 per cent of the value of agri-output (2012-14). This is way below what a Chinese or Indonesian farmer gets. Even on the output price front, Indian farmers get much lower MSPs compared to their counterparts in Pakistan and China. In Pakistan, the MSP for wheat is \$320/ MT and in China, \$385/ MT, against India's \$226/ MT.

The Chinese government has realised the limitations of using pricing policy to provide inputs at cheaper rates. It has begun making direct payments for input subsidies to farmers at a flat rate per unit of land. Overtime, aggregate amount of transfer has increased from 12 billion yuan in 2006 to 107.1 billion yuan in 2014 (about \$17bn). The government has also increased the coverage under crop insurance to 73 million yuan per hectare (45 per cent of total planted area in 2013) by providing premium subsidy of 80 per cent.

There are two important lessons here for India: One, if India wants to feed its people well, it has to almost double (if not triple) its support to farmers, from current levels of about 6-8 per cent of the value of agri-output; two, it should move from price policy support to income support directly on per hectare basis. More like a DBT. Can India make this bold move? The chances are dim, as there's no champion of agriculture in the Modi government. Unless the PM himself realises the need for this and acts fast, the condition of Indian peasants isn't going to improve. The current set of elitist policies may not deliver for the poor, and they may hit back through the ballot when their time comes.



**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

**Government allows 100% FDI in five plantation crops including coffee**

The government on Tuesday allowed 100 per cent FDI in five plantation crops, mainly coffee, rubber, cardamom, palm oil tree and olive oil tree via automatic route, a move hailed by the industry.

At present, 100 per cent FDI is allowed only in tea plantation through the government approval route.

"In line with this sector, the government has decided to open certain other plantation activity namely, coffee, rubber, cardamom, palm oil tree and olive oil tree plantations also for 100 per cent foreign investment," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

Foreign investment in the plantation sector would henceforth be under automatic route, it added.

Welcoming the decision, Mumbai-based Solvent Extractors Association (SEA) executive director B V Mehta said, "Allowing FDI in palm oil tree is a welcome step and will boost domestic production."

He, however, said that the benefit would be more if the government declares palm oil tree as a plantation crop and exempted from land ceiling act.

The country produces annually around 3 lakh tonnes of coffee, over 8-9 lakh tonnes of rubber and about 17,000 tonnes of cardamom.

### **Harriers eat crop-eating locusts , farmers stop using pesticides**

Labhubhai Bhagwan, a farmer from Velavadar, has stopped using insecticide for his traditional cotton crop. Thanks to harriers — migratory birds from Europe — which eat crop eating locusts.

Labhubhai says that usually the crop is attacked by locusts, but the presence of harriers in the field has helped him to minimize the use of insecticides. "We usually don't spray insecticides on cotton. Harriers which fly into large numbers in Velavadar are the farmers' best friends as they eat locusts. Instead of shooing them away, local farmers are known to be compassionate towards these birds," he said, adding, "Earlier, we used seven liters of insecticides in the field. But now we don't use it. The insecticide use to be mixed in water and sprayed."

Not just Labhubhai, but people of 15-odd villages in and around Velavadar National Park have stopped using insecticides. Farmers traditionally grow cotton in and around Velavadar bird sanctuary in Bhavnagar district. The fact has also been substantiated in the findings of the forest department.

Velavadar, known for black bucks, is also the biggest roosting site of harriers, the birds of prey, which have migrated in the park in September. "We have just taken the initial count and the figures are yet to be calculated. But according to an estimate, there are over 1,500 harriers which have already arrived in the park," said A P Singh, chief conservator of forest, wildlife circle, Junagadh.

Singh said that the interesting fact is noticed that in the area where the cropping depends on rains only the farmers are into farming of indigenous cotton. In these villages the farmers do not use insecticides as the harrier help them to get rid of such insects.

However, Singh said that wherever the farmers have switched over to BT Cotton, harriers are moving away from those areas and started depending



on the traditional cotton crops. The birds come from the colder regions of Europe and stay at Velavdar till February.

D J Vaghela, the range forest officer at the park, said, "The bird is farmer's friend and biological controller of many animals and insects damaging the cotton crops."

Ranjanben Balwantbhai, sarpanch of Bhalbhir village, said, "We don't use insecticides as by the time the insects arrive to attack the crop, these birds fly down in large numbers and feed on them." Earlier, on an average, a farmer would use around 5-10 liters of insecticide annually, but now these farmers do not use it," she said.

### **Enjoy these sugar free sweets for Diwali**



*Diwali is a difficult time for diabetics who have to resist the wide variety of mithais on offer.*

For those who've been got a sweet tooth but have been told go off sugar completely , it is time to learn to make these simple, yet tasty sugar-free delicacies.

## Fruit payasam

### FRUIT PAYASAM

#### Ingredients

1 cup milk, 100 gms sevaiyaan, 1 orange, 1 guava, 2 pineapple slices, ¼ cup pomegranate, ½ cup grapes

#### Method

- Peel the orange and pomegranate and remove the seeds. Chop the guava and pineapple. Grind all the fruits in a mixer.
- Roast the sevaiyaan in a pan and keep aside.
- Heat milk in a pan. Add gulkand to the milk and stir so that it dissolves.
- Finally add the fruits and the roasted sevaiyaan.
- Stir well and switch off the gas, when it comes to a boil. Refrigerate and serve chilled.



## Date laddoos



### DATE LADDOOS

#### Ingredients

1 tbsp ghee, 1 cup deseeded and finely chopped black dates, 1 tbsp chopped almonds, 1 tbsp chopped pistachios, 1 tbsp chopped walnuts, poppy seeds and cashewnuts for garnish

#### Method

- Heat the ghee in a heavy bottomed pan. Add the chopped dates and cook them on a low flame stirring continuously for 8-10 minutes.
- The dates should mix well with the ghee. When it turns into a soft lump, switch off the heat. Add in the chopped nuts and mix them well with the dates mix.
- When cool, roll the date and nuts mixture in the shape of round laddoos.
- In a plate take some poppy seeds and roll the laddoos to coat them well.
- Press a cashewnut on each of the laddoo and refrigerate. Serve when they are set and firm.

## Oats and dates gujiya

### OATS AND DATES GUJIYA

#### Ingredients

**For the crust** —  
2 cups maida, 3  
tablespoons oil  
plus more for  
deep frying

#### For the filling

—1 cup oats, 12  
cup dates  
chopped, 10  
cashewnuts, 10  
almonds, 10 wal-  
nuts, 15-20  
raisins, 1 tbsp  
sesame seeds  
toasted

#### Method

- Sift the refined flour into a bowl and add three tablespoons of oil. Rub it well and add water as required, knead into a stiff dough. Cover with a damp cloth and set aside.
- Chop the cashewnuts, almonds, walnuts and in a bowl mix them well with oats, raisins and sesame seeds.
- After greasing your palms with some oil, divide the dough and make small balls.
- Roll out the balls to make small round puris. Place a portion of the stuffing on one of the puri. Apply a little water on the edges of the puri, press and close firmly.
- Cut alongside the edges with a fancy cutter or pinch the edges to create a pinched shape.
- Heat oil in a kadai and deep fry the gujiyas on medium heat till they are golden.
- Drain on absorbent paper and when cool store in an airtight container.



## Dry fruits burfi

### DRY FRUITS BURFI

#### Ingredients

1 cup anjeer, 1/3 cup dessicated coconut, 1/3 cup almonds, 1/3 cup walnut, 1/3 cup pistachios, 1/3 cup raisins, 1 tbsp gulkand, 1/2 tsp cardamom powder, 1/4 tsp nutmeg powder, 1 tbsp ghee

#### Method

- Soak the anjeer in warm water for 15 minutes. Strain and dry well.
- Finely chop the almonds, cashewnuts, raisins, walnut, pistachios and dates.
- Make a fine paste of the anjeer in a grinder without using water.
- Heat ghee and add the anjeer paste. Mix well and saute for a minute. Now add chopped dates and mix well, cook for 2 minutes.
- Add all the chopped nuts and dessicated coconut and keep stirring.
- Lastly add the cardamom powder, nutmeg powder, gulkand and mix it all well. Cook for a minute and switch off the flame.
- Take a plate or tray, place the greased butter paper and pour in the burfi mixture.



- Press with a flat spoon to level well and allow it to cool down.
- Refrigerate for half an hour and before serving cut in desire shape with a greased knife. Sprinkle a little of the dessicated coconut for garnish.
- These can be stored in air tight containers, and if kept in room temperature they stay fresh for almost two weeks.

## 5 diet tips for arthritis



*One of the most painful physical conditions to deal with, Arthritis can not only reduce your mobility but in extreme cases can make you bedridden.*

The truth is that with age and weakening of bones every individual may face the wrath of Arthritis. But just like diabetes can be controlled with diet, can patients of arthritis follow a particular diet as well? Neelanajan Singh, nutritionist with Heinz Nutri Life Clinic explains that indeed there are certain foods that can help you reduce arthritic pain.

### **What is arthritis?**

'Arthritis is a form of joint disorder that involves inflammation of one or more joints.' As mentioned on Wikipedia, Arthritis.

The major fallout of arthritis is joint pain; the pain is a result of inflammation at the joints. Hence, today we look at ways to reduce inflammation with diet. But before that, let's understand arthritis in a bit more detail.



## **Different forms of arthritis:**

There are over 100 types of arthritis but the major ones are:

- Osteoarthritis
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Gout
- Psoriatic arthritis
- Lupus
- Septic arthritis

## **Expert speak**

Neelanajana Singh explains why an arthritic experiences pain and what he / she should do, "Arthritis is an inflammation of the body so certain foods that have anti-inflammatory properties should be consumed. These foods help to reduce inflammation in the body; the foods should be rich in omega 3 fatty acids. Omega 3 fatty acids are present in many seeds like flax seeds, watermelon seeds and even in fish oil. These food are helpful and are known to reduce inflammation."

## **Herbs for arthritis**

A lot of arthritis patients rely on organic foods to treat arthritis instead of relying solely on prescription and over-the-counter drugs. Dr. Jaishree Bhattacharjee, Ayurvedic consultant with Satvikshop.com tells us the herbs which works best for Arthritis.

- Eranda
- Ashwagandha
- Bala
- Garlic



- Punarnava
- Hadjod
- Guggul
- Haridra
- Rasna

### **Inflammatory foods**

Often chronic inflammation is associated with a host of diseases, some even life threatening like cancer and heart disease. You will be surprised to find that most of the internal inflammatory conditions occur due to the increased consumption of certain foods such as:

- Salt
- Sugar sweeteners
- Alcohol
- Caffeine
- Injected meat
- Common cooking oil
- Trans fat
- Red meat
- Dairy products
- Sugar

### **Top 6 fats that lower cholesterol**

*Often given a bad name, fats can be a good addition to anyone's daily diet. In fact, one should never, completely, cut good fats out from everyday meal plans as they are very essential for your body.*

While some bad fats may pose grave risk of cardiovascular diseases, others may shield your heart. An important source of essential fatty acids and concentrated energy, fats are full of fat-soluble vitamins, they assist in cooking too and also keep hunger pangs at bay. Today, Delhi-based Diet Consultant Munisha Bhanot tells us about the top 6 fats that help in lowering cholesterol.



**Sip red wine, instead of cocktails.** Red, blue, green cocktails look tempting, but these drinks are full of calories. So, if you are health conscious, then avoid cocktails. Instead, you can sip red wine because it is full of antioxidants, which are helpful in preventing different types of cancers. And an even red wine has saponins, which help in lowering bad cholesterol LDL. But intake of red wine should be limited. The American Heart Association recommends that you limit your daily intake to two glasses (for men) or one glass (for women).’

**Best oils for low-cholesterol cooking.** All the oils and fats have some good qualities for our health. So we should not stick to one type of oil or fat for cooking. We should follow rule of rotation of oils. For example, in one month you can use sunflower oil and in the next month you can use

mustard oil. Or you can even use different types of oils in your meals like one vegetable in sesame oil and another in mustard oil.

**The low cholesterol cooking oils are olive, canola, sesame oils and mustard oil.** Good quality oil is also found in avocados and avocado oil, nuts and their oils, corn, cottonseed, and safflower oils; sunflower seeds and sunflower oil; flaxseed and flaxseed oil; soybeans and soybean oil; tub margarine and soft spreads; and seafood.

**Monounsaturated fats are the healthiest fats.** There are two types of cholesterol - one type of cholesterol clogs our arteries, it is known as bad cholesterol or LDL and other type helps in removing these clogs, it is known as good cholesterol or HDL.

Monounsaturated fats decrease your total blood cholesterol but maintain your HDL (good) cholesterol. Monounsaturated fats, therefore, help lower the risk of heart diseases. Olive oil has 75% of monounsaturated fat. Examples of monounsaturated fats are macadamia nuts (80% of fat is monounsaturated), avocados (71%), almonds (70%), canola oil (59%), and peanuts and peanut oil (46%).

Other sources are almonds, cashews, hazelnuts, natural peanut butter, pecans, pistachios, sesame oil and sesame seeds.

**Polyunsaturated fats may also be somewhat healthy.** A polyunsaturated fat has good cholesterol but it decreases your total blood cholesterol by lowering both the LDL (bad) cholesterol and the HDL (good) cholesterol. Because of this reason we should use them in moderation.

The good sources of polyunsaturated fats can be found in corn oil, mayonnaise, pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, flaxseed oil, hempseed, hempseed oil, soybean oil, and pistachios.

**Liquid plant oils should be your best bet for daily use.** It is general tendency to use butter or ghee for cooking and baking. But butter and ghee are high sources of bad cholesterol or LDL.

**They increase risk of heart diseases by clogging your arteries.** So, to prevent this we should use vegetable oils like soya oil, sesame oil, canola, olive, mustard oil etc. for cooking and baking. These oils have high level of good cholesterol HDL and lower our LDL levels.

Meat fats also help in lowering cholesterol. However, it is important that one reduces the fat content of meat. There are many quick ways to reduce the fat content of meat. First, always buy lean cuts of meat. Before cooking, remove and cut the all visible fats for example remove the skin from chicken because there are fat deposits just below the skin. If you want to make broth or soup then chill meat broth and dripping. This will help fat to rise and solidify. Remove this fat before using broth and dripping.

**Applicable to Meat or Non-Meat foods:** Avoid frying as fried food has maximum number of calories. Instead of frying, you can grill, roast, steam, broil, and stir fry etc.

## **Govt allows 100% FDI in five plantation crops including coffee**



The government today allowed 100 per cent FDI in five plantation crops, mainly coffee, rubber, cardamom, palm oil tree and olive oil tree via automatic route, a move hailed by the industry.

At present, 100 per cent FDI is allowed only in tea plantation through the government approval route.

“In line with this sector, the government has decided to open certain other plantation activity namely, coffee, rubber, cardamom, palm oil tree and olive oil tree plantations also for 100 per cent foreign investment,” the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

Foreign investment in the plantation sector would henceforth be under automatic route, it added.

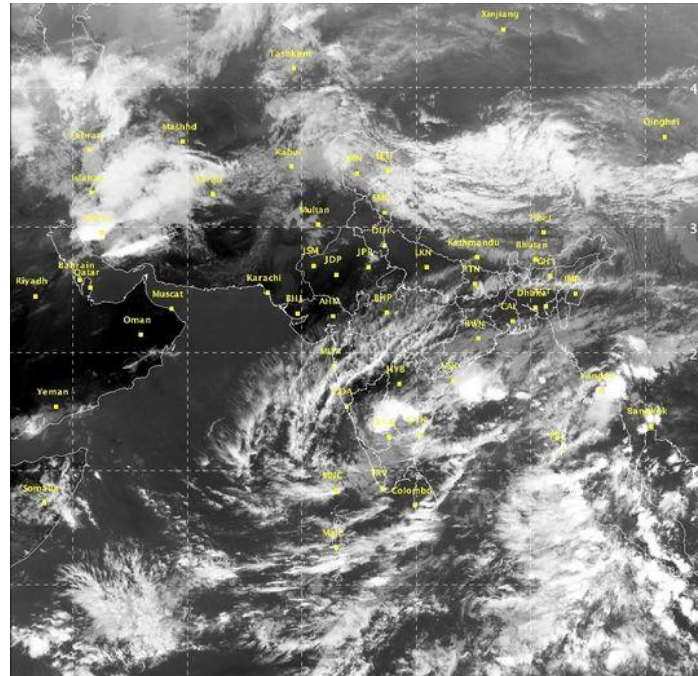
Welcoming the decision, Mumbai-based Solvent Extractors Association (SEA) Executive Director B V Mehta said, “Allowing FDI in palm oil tree is a welcome step and will boost domestic production.”

He, however, said that the benefit would be more if the government declares palm oil tree as a plantation crop and exempted from land ceiling act.



The country produces annually around 3 lakh tonnes of coffee, over 8-9 lakh tonnes of rubber and about 17,000 tonnes of cardamom.

### Deep depression weakens rapidly over land



The deep depression over North Tamil Nadu has weakened into a depression and lay centred 80 km east of Tirupattur and 60 km South-South-East of Vellore this morning.

It is expected to move westwards into the interior over North Tamil Nadu and continue to bring moderate to heavy showers over the region.

It features a wind speed of 40 km/hr to 50 km/hr gusting to 60 km/hr.

It would weaken as a well-marked low-pressure area within the next 12 hours and travel towards Coastal Karnataka and into the Arabian Sea.

### HEAVY RAIN

Among these are (in cm): Tirupattur-16; Tirupathy and Vellore-8 each; Cuddalore-7; Nungambakkam-6; Tiruthani and Dharamapuri 5 each; Arogyavaram, Meenambakkam and Salem-4 each; Kavali-3; Nellore-2 and Ongole, Pudducherry, Thiruvananthapuram and Karaikal-1 each.

Satellite pictures this morning showed convective (rain-producing) clouds massed up over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Coastal Andhra Pradesh,

Rayalaseena, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathawada, Konkan-Goa, South and East-central Arabian Sea, the Comorin area and South and Central Bay of Bengal.

### **SPREADS OUT**

This means that the clouds have since spread out to all sides around the core of the depression and would bring showers into these regions.

There is no forecast for heavy rain anywhere but India Met Department said that rain or thundershowers would occur at many places over South Peninsular India.

### **Coonor tea prices rise**

As much as 88 per cent of the offer of 15.18 lakh kg was sold in Sale No: 45 of Coonoor Tea Trade Association auction despite the average price raising to ₹74.05 a kg from previous week's ₹73.77. Vigneshwar Specialty Red Dust grade, auctioned by Paramount Tea Marketing, topped the Dust auction and the entire CTC market when JK Enterprises bought it for ₹208 a kg. Homedale Estate's Red Dust, auctioned by Global Tea Brokers, came next at ₹203. Vigneshwar Specialty Broken Pekoe, auctioned by Paramount Tea Marketing, topped Leaf auction when Nisha Enterprises bought it for ₹200 a kg. Kairbetta topped orthodox market fetching ₹251 a kg, followed by Kodanad ₹249, Havukal ₹248 and Chamraj ₹226. Quotations held by brokers indicated bids ranging ₹40-48 a kg for plain leaf grades and ₹100-130 for brighter liquoring sorts. They ranged ₹58-65 for plain dusts and ₹110-175 for brighter liquoring dusts. *PS SUNDAR*

### **Panel seeks views on climate impact on food**

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture has sought expert and individual views on tackling food security in the face of the growing impact of climate change on crops.

Headed by BJP leader Hukum Deo Narayan Yadav, the panel has invited suggestions within three weeks on subjects such as the need to evolve new varieties of crops that can withstand climatic fluctuation, improved methods of irrigation, popularisation of consumption of crops/fruits that can provide better nutrition, developing indigenous varieties of cattle that can withstand extreme climatic stress, among other things.

After getting the suggestions, the Standing Committee will take oral evidence on the subject, an official release said here on Monday.

“Those who wish to appear before the Committee, besides submitting memorandum, are requested to specifically indicate so,” the release, adding that the Committee’s decision in the regard shall be final.

### **Poor rains may trim pepper output**



Production for 2015-16 season seen lower in Kerala, Karnataka, say growers and traders

The next Indian pepper crop is expected to be less by 30 to 40 per cent due to erratic weather conditions.

Some growers in Karnataka’s Sakleshpur and Chikmagaluru told *BusinessLine* that shortfall in monsoon this year is going to affect the crop in the plantations mainly in Sakleshpur, Chikmagaluru, Hassan and Coorg.

Sunil Kumar, a grower, said hardly 10 per cent of the estates in the State might have a good crop, he said. Consequently, the Karnataka output is expected to drop by 35 per cent, he said. He said the weight of berries produced in the State was 20 per cent lesser than that produced elsewhere. Besides, he said, yield in the old vines is also very poor.

### **Kerala’s scenario**

Meanwhile, in Kerala’s main growing area Idukki district, the output is likely to be down by around 20 per cent due to unfavourable weather. The number of spikes is less and at the same time the number of berries in the spikes are also less, a grower in Kumily said.

The trade estimate, according to Hemant Kishore, a dealer who had visited the plantations Idukki last week, is around 9,500 tonnes.

Reports from Wayanad were also indicating of a fall in next crop. The estimated output from this district is about 4,500 tonnes.

The production in Pathanamthitta and Kollam districts is also going to be less because of the erratic monsoon, Joshua Daniel, a major pepper grower said.

Total output from Pathanamthitta, Kollam and rest of the areas is estimated at 5,000 tonnes and thus the combined production in Kerala is likely to be around 19,000 tonnes.

When it is added to the Karnataka output of 20,000 tonnes, the total next crop might come to around 40,000 tonnes, traders and growers claimed.

### **Board projections**

Spices Board estimate of Indian output for 2015 was at 70,000 tonnes consisting of 68,000 tonnes of black and 2,000 tonnes of white pepper.

The current domestic consumption in India, according to the trade, is estimated at around 60,000 tonnes following growth in per capita consumption.

The International Pepper Community (IPC) had projected production for 2015 at 3,74,500 tonnes. The carry forward stocks from 2015 to 2016 were projected at 60,386 tonnes while that from 2014 into 2015 was estimated at 59,036 tonnes.

### **Cardamom steadies as demand matches supply**

A steady trend continued to persist in the small cardamom auctions held last week in Kerala and Tamil Nadu on matching demand and supply.

However, arrivals continued to show an upsurge because of the peak harvesting season.

At last week's auctions, 796 tonnes arrived against 747 tonnes the previous week. Of the material arrived, 781 tonnes were traded. Whereas, during the same week in 2014 the arrivals and sales were at 660 tonnes and 647 tonnes respectively.

Exporters have also gone slow last week and they have bought an estimated around 60 tonnes.

The individual auction average last week remained unchanged and vacillated between Rs. 580 and Rs. 620 a kg. Total arrivals during the season up to November 7 were at around 10,421 tonnes against 6,011 tonnes the same day last year. Sales were at 10,137 tonnes and 5,907 tonnes respectively.

The individual auction average was at Rs. 635.69 ( Rs. 786.22) a kg.

Prices of graded varieties ( Rs. /kg): 8mm bold good colour 900-920; 7-8 mm 690-740; 6-7 mm 590-640; below 6 mm: 550-600.

### **House panel seeks views on climate impact on food**

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture has sought expert and individual views on tackling food security in the face of the growing impact of climate change on crops.

Headed by BJP leader Hukum Deo Narayan Yadav, the panel has invited suggestions within three weeks on subjects such as the need to evolve new varieties of crops that can withstand climatic fluctuation, improved methods of irrigation, popularisation of consumption of crops/fruits that can provide better nutrition, developing indigenous varieties of cattle that can withstand extreme climatic stress, among other things.

After getting the suggestions, the Standing Committee will take oral evidence on the subject, an official release said here on Monday.

“Those who wish to appear before the Committee, besides submitting memorandum, are requested to specifically indicate so,” the release, adding that the Committee’s decision in the regard shall be final.

## **Business Standard**

### **Basmati rice exports to Iran via Dubai soar**

Iran had stopped issuing fresh licences for import of basmati rice since October 2014, citing reasons such as high pesticide content and self-sufficiency in production





Indirect export of basmati rice from India to Iran, via the United Arab Emirates (UAE), is helping India regain its basmati rice market. Four months after world leaders agreed to lift sanctions on Iran, Dubai has emerged the new stopover for India's basmati rice exports to Iran. There has been a sudden spurt in India's basmati rice export to the UAE, from an average of 15,000 tonnes a month in 2014 to nearly 80,000 tonnes at present, according to data from rice traders.

The UAE is Iran's biggest non-oil trading partner. When sanctions on Iran were on, there had been a 30 per cent reduction in UAE's export to Iran, according to a 2012 consultation paper of the International Monetary Fund. Since the sanctions were lifted, the trade between two countries have returned to normalcy, which has given Indian basmati rice exporters the opportunity to use ports in Dubai to ship basmati rice to Iran. Direct exports of basmati rice to Iran are subject to permits by Iran to India, which had severely impacted Indian basmati rice exports. The rice exported to Iran via the UAE does not require permit.

Iran had stopped issuing fresh licences for import of basmati rice since October 2014, citing reasons such as high pesticide content and self-sufficiency in production. Iran has, however, decided to open a direct

route to import basmati rice from India. Permits for Iranian importers are expected to be issued over the next two months.

Between August and September, India exported 81,000 tonnes of basmati rice to the UAE, compared to 18,000 tonnes in the year-ago period. According to rice exporters, about 80 per cent of the exports are shipped to Iran. Iran's annual demand for basmati rice is close to 2.4 million tonnes (mt), and its own production is 1.4 mt. This means, an annual import requirement of 1 mt. Thus, Iran needs to import about 100,000 mt of basmati rice every month to meet its demand.

"With a substantial amount of basmati rice export taking place via Dubai, the system of permits for rice exports is gradually becoming redundant. Moreover, the demand for basmati rice in Iran is gradually increasing. Earlier, in the wake of sanctions, Iran had built a substantial stock of rice. As the sanctions are set to be removed, Iran has now resumed normal buying. The exports are almost same as that in the pre-permit regime if taken both from the UAE route and India," said Vijay Sethia, former president of All India Rice Exporters' Association.

Traditionally, basmati rice has been among India's top agri-export commodity, and Iran the biggest buyer. Following Iran's reluctance to buy basmati rice from India, exports have taken a major hit. In 2014-15, India exported 0.93 mt of basmati rice to Iran compared with 1.4 mt in 2013-14, according to Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority. The realisation from basmati rice exports to Iran in 2014-15 was Rs 6,759 crore, against Rs 10,976 crore in 2013-14 - a fall of 60 per cent.