

20.10.2015

## THE HINDU

### Customs duty on wheat increased to 25%



*The Food Ministry had proposed raising import duty to cut imports and protect the domestic market.*

Falling international wheat prices have prompted the government on Monday to increase the basic customs duty on the grain to 25 per cent till the end of this financial year.

“In view of the continued fall in international prices of wheat and the anticipated adverse impact of increased imports during the first half of this financial year, basic customs duty on wheat has been increased from 10 to 25 per cent for a period up to 31.03.2016,” the government said in a notification.

The new rates are effective from October 19.

International wheat prices have fallen considerably over the past year. The price of wheat in the U.S. was \$216 a tonne on October 16, which was -25.7 per cent of what it was a year previously.

Presumably, it is to protect Indian farmers against these cheaper imports that the government has raised the customs duty on the crop.

## **Implementing Swaminathan panel report, AP tells HC**

*In a counter-affidavit it says all steps are being taken to help farmers*

The Andhra Pradesh government has informed the Hyderabad High Court about measures it has taken, including implementation of the recommendations of the MS Swaminathan Commission, to avert farmers suicides and for welfare of farming community in the State.

The AP government filed a counter-affidavit following a direction given by the Division Bench comprising acting Chief Justice Dilip B. Bhosale and Justice S.V. Bhatt in a public interest litigation filed by ‘Vyavasaya Jana Chaitanya Samithi’ seeking the court directions to the Telangana and AP governments to take visionary steps to prevent farmers suicides and to invite applications from farmers who were in financial distress and to take remedial measures.

The AP government represented by Special Chief Secretary-Agriculture and Cooperation T. Vijay Kumar, in its counter, submitted that the recommendations made by the Swaminathan Commission, in 2006, were implemented. As per the recommendation regarding fixation of MSP, the State government submitted proposals to the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), New Delhi for fixation of MSP at 50 per cent more than the cost of production for providing remunerative price to the farmers, as the issue was under the purview of Central government.

Further, the AP government claimed of implementation of programmes like “Polam Pilusthondi”, “Neeru-Chettu”, promotion of farm mechanisation, pro-active steps for implementation of national crop insurance programme, top priority to micro irrigation etc. in the interest of farming community. In order to rescue farmers from bankruptcy or indebtedness, the government has decided to redeem the crop loans outstanding from April 1, 2007 to Dec 31, 2013, it added.

The government said it has constituted a three-member committee comprising RDO, AD agriculture and DSP at the district level to analyse the

reasons for the suicides and to submit proposals of compensation to the CM's relief fund section for process. Besides, help line centres and advertisements in print and electronic media were intended by informing farmers that committing suicide is an offence and that in the event of crop failure, the best steps available at the disposal of the state would be reaching the farmers.

Failure of borewells, raising of commercial crops with high cost of cultivation, non-remunerative prices, oral tenancy - ineligibility to avail bank loan, private lending with high interest rates, season failure due to low and erratic rainfall, natural calamities and heavy expenditures incurred in children education, health and marriages are among the reasons found from various cases of farmers suicides, it explained and mentioning all the possible measures being taken by government, sought the PIL's dismissal.

### **Permission given for Moharrum**

Justice P Naveen Rao of the Hyderabad High Court on Monday directed the Vijayawada city police to permit the Muslim community to conduct Moharrum" at 'Run-Hussain-Panja' on October 24 and 25.

He was dealing with a petition by one Sk. Suleman, a Vijayawada resident challenging the police, who cancelled the permission granted earlier, to conduct the festival between October 14 and 26 at the same venue. The petitioner said police had issued proceedings on September 18, according permission but on October 4, had issued fresh proceedings cancelling it because of the foundation-laying ceremony at Amaravati.

### **Training programme**

A large number of farmers participated in a training programme on value added products held in Semmandapatti village in Kadayampatti block recently.

The programme was organised by the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Agricultural Technology Management Agency-ATMA.

The focus was on getting high return from value addition of pulses, coconut, vegetables, and Allvera.

T. Sugumar, Deputy Director of Agriculture, explained the procedures of value addition.

G. Senthilnathan, technical officer, Krishi Vigya Kendra, said that the objective of the training programme was doubling the yield to ensure additional income through farm activities.

R. Prema, Agricultural Officer, K. Rajendran, Block Technology Manager; Thangaraju and R. Muthusamy, Assistant Agricultural officers, spoke. Members of the Amma Farm Women Group and farmers of Kadayampatti block participated in the event.

### **28 students receive gold medals at the convocation**



(From left) K.R. Kavya, Supriya Sankranti, Sujayasri and C.S. Chandana displaying their medals during the convocation of University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences in Shivamogga on Monday

K.R. Kavya, who was awarded three gold medals for emerging as topper in B.Sc., Horticulture, at the Horticultural College in Hiriyur, at the convocation of the University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences

(UAHS), Shivamogga, here on Monday, said that she would undertake research on improving agricultural and horticultural yield in dry land.

Ms. Kavya, who hails from Annehal, a perennially drought-hit village in Chitradurga district, told presspersons that she grew up amidst farmers, who faced difficulties due to drought. “I opted for agricultural science to bring about some positive changes in the lives of farmers in drought-affected areas.” At present, Ms. Kavya, who is pursuing post-graduation in Biotechnology and crop improvement at UAHS, Bagalkot, said that she would take up research on developing drought-resistant crop varieties with biotechnology.

C.S. Chandana, student of Horticultural College, Hiriyr, who was awarded three gold medals, is pursuing post-graduation in Post-Harvesting Technology at UAHS, Bagalkot. She said it was possible to tackle hunger and mal-nutrition with scientific post-harvest practices. Supriya Sankranthi, who was awarded two gold medals, said that she was preparing herself for civil services examination. “Participation in Rural Agricultural Work Experience programme provided me with an opportunity to closely understand the socio-economic problems in villages.

The country can progress by upgrading infrastructure related to education, health and civic amenities in rural areas. As civil services provide an opportunity to bring positive changes in the lives of rural people, I am preparing to take up this task.” In all 28 students get gold medals at the convocation.

### **Call to protect natural resources**

*Farmers, Gandhian thinkers express concern over effect of industrialisation*  
A colloquium in Tamil on the ‘Ecological Economic Thoughts and Action of Gandhian Economist J.C. Kumarappa (JCK)’ was organised by SOLAI (Social Life Animation India), a non-governmental organization in Christianpet near here on Monday.

## **LPG regime**

The event brought to fore the yearning among farmers, Gandhian thinkers and social scientists for aggressive efforts at protection of natural resources from the clutches of the LPG (liberalization, privatization and globalization) regime. It was titled, 'Pasumayalargal Sangamam' (Greens Working Together).

U.R. Kaliappan, retired Professor of Sociology, Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore said that the development of science and technology has led to the setting up many industries by the capitalists, providing employment to many.

Sadly it has brought the decline of village industries. Over a period of time villagers who were running their own business ventures quit them. They joined the new industries as labourers.

## **Junk food**

Dr. Kaliappan said that the promotion of junk food by foreign companies under the LPG regime has led to obesity among children. This is likely to become a big health problem in another five years.

“We should produce and consume the food we need, and the food industry should be decentralized as propounded by JCK”.

Realizing the dangers of chemical farming, more and more people are taking to organic farming, he said.

## **Agriculture hit**

M.P. Gurusamy, Secretary, Gandhi Museum, Madurai and Kumarappa Research Centre, Dindigul said that the development of agriculture has been badly hit since colleges have come up on land meant for cultivation of pulses, a vital ingredient in the daily meal.

While JCK advocated the 'economy of permanence', the economy of the country is revolving round illegal activities such as the smuggling of sand and profiteering activities such as the dumping of cell phones on the poor labourers to enrich the coffers of the rich, he said.

### **Villagers lose self-dependence**

Elango Rangasamy, chemical engineer said that the villagers are united in many issues, but they have lost the self-dependence which was once the unique trait of villages. They look to the government even to deepen a tank or pond, without doing it themselves.

They are dependent on the government for each and everything. This has destroyed the independence of the villages.

Strong leaders should emerge from the villagers to instil confidence and revive self-dependence of the villages, he said.

### **Value-added products**

Rama Subramanian, president, Samanvaya, Chennai said that several farmers have shown the way in making agriculture profitable by producing value-added products from agricultural produce like coconut and through organic farming and marketing of organically produced vegetables.

R.T. Rajan, Director-SOLAI spoke on 'Iyarkayai Kakkum Manidhanmai' (Human Trusteeship on Nature) wherein he highlighted the role of human beings in protecting Nature.

*Colloquium was organised by the NGO SOLAI (Social Life Animation India) in Christianpet*

### **Direct procurement centres evoke good response**

*Higher price offered by the TNCSC has been the main reason*



Procurement of paddy has been picking up at Direct Paddy Procurement Centre of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation at Thiruthuraipoondi in Tiruvarur district after the fall in the price of paddy in the open market.—

Paddy procurement has been brisk in Tiruvarur district with the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation registering peak procurement in the past few weeks.

The attractive price – more remunerative than the open market rates, offered by the corporation has been the main reason for farmers marketing their produce at its godown.

The per quintal price offered by the corporation is Rs. 1,520 for the fine variety and Rs. 1,460 for common variety. The incentive for the varieties, includes Rs. 70 and Rs. 50 respectively.

Official sources said the procurement ‘kuruvai’ paddy stood at about 42,000 tonnes and the corporation had made special arrangements to ensure that farmers got remunerative price. Since the price of paddy had registered a dip in the open market, farmers were making a beeline to the Corporation’s Direct Paddy Procurement Centre (DPPC) at Tiruthuraipoondi.

About 26,000 hectares of land was brought under “kuruvai” and harvest was nearing completion on 1,200 hectares of land.



Although the corporation anticipated about 1.45 lakh tonnes of ‘kuruvai’ crop, the procurement was far below particularly in the initial phase in the last two months as private paddy traders offered more remunerative price for the paddy.

A cross-section of farmers said they preferred to sell the paddy at the corporation now as the price was more attractive.

In the initial phase, private dealers offered more price and even ignored the moisture content of the paddy, they said.

### **Farmers shown working of seed drill machine**

*The machine eliminates the problem of labour shortage*



Farmers examining the black gram raised under tractor-drawn seed drill machine near Pudukottai on Monday.

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra has been popularising the use of tractor-drawn seed drill machine in black gram cultivation for achieving higher productivity. Farmers are being taken to the fields where the crop had been raised using the technique for an exposure.

Explaining the advantages of the mechanisation technique at an exposure programme at Kammankadu near here on Monday, scientists and crop protection personnel of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra spoke on the increase in productivity, higher returns, and a solution to the problem of labour scarcity.

R.P. Gnanamalar, head of National Pulses Research Centre, said that although the crop was raised on about 6,800 hectares in the district, only limited number of farmers adopted the mechanisation technique.

She advised farmers to go in for ‘Vamban 6’ variety which prevented the incidence of diseases in black gram.

R. Manimekalai, Co-ordinator of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, said the exposure visit was aimed at sensitising the farmers to the importance of tractor-drawn seed drill machine.

It minimised the use of seeds to just 4 kg an acre. Also, it minimised the time – just one hour for sowing the seeds.

M. Kathiravan, scientist, said the average profit per acre would be between Rs.15,000 and Rs. 20,000. Mathiyazhagan, resource-person, spoke on the pest management in black gram.

Later, farmers were taken to the fields where the crop was raised using the technique.

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- *It also reportedly improves productivity and speeds up the operation*
  - *KVK advocates ‘Vamban 6’ variety of black gram*
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### **‘Ensure availability of surplus water of River Cauvery for farm activities in Mettur’**

The Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) urged the State Government to ensure availability of surplus water of River Cauvery for the farm activities in Mettur and surrounding areas.

A resolution to this effect was adopted at the two-day district conference of the DYFI held at Vanavasi near here recently.

Another resolution called upon the State Government to order CBI probe into the death of R. Vishnupriya, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Tiruchengode and into the murder of Dalit youth V. Gokulraj.

With Salem district registering maximum tapioca crop production in the State, the Government should come forward to set up a sago manufacturing unit in the government sector in Attur, another resolution said.

The meeting also demanded setting up of perfume manufacturing unit at Panamarathupatti, mango fruit juice unit in Nangavalli, taking advantage of the abundant availability of flowers and mangoes respectively in these areas. The conference commenced with a rally on the first day, which was flagged off by R. Velmurugan, state secretary of the DYFI.

S. Muthukannan, state president of the DYFI, inaugurated the conference and A. Murugesan, district president, presided. A. Senthil, state joint secretary, and others spoke highlighting the political situation prevailing in the country and the role of youths in creating awareness among the public on the various problems confronting the country.

N. Praveen Kumar, district secretary, presented the work report.

K. Krishnan, was elected as the president of the district unit of the DYFI, Praveen Kumar re-elected as district secretary and V. Venkatesh, district treasurer.

### **Give cash incentive to grow millets: KRRS**

The Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) has demanded that the State government provide cash incentives to grow millets like ragi, bajra, niger, save, and navane.

KRRS leader Vishwanath Patil Koutha told presspersons on Monday that the Telangana government gave an incentive of Rs. 3,000 per acre for millet farmers.

He said millets had more nutritional value than other grains and were cheaper and easier to grow compared to traditional grains like rice or wheat. Millets grow in extreme conditions like drought or flood and are not labour intensive, he said.

Mr. Koutha said water-intensive crops like sugarcane and rice had damaged the soil fertility in districts like Raichur and Yadgir.

Water required to grow one acre of sugarcane was enough to feed a whole village, he said.

The KRRS also demanded distribution of 5 kg of millets to rural families through fair price shops, including millet-based diet in Anganwadis and midday meal programmes, and an incentive of Rs. 5,000 per acre to millet farmers.

According to Mr. Koutha, over 600 farmers in 10 villages of Bidar district were working with Zahirabad, the Telangana-based Deccan Development society, to popularise millets.

### **Conserve bio-diversity of Western Ghats, says expert**

*R.R. Hanchinal speaks at first convocation of UAHSShivamogga*



R.R. Hanchinal, chairman, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, at the maiden convocation of the Univerisy of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences in Shivamogga on Monday.

R.R. Hanchinal, chairman of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, has said the bio-diversity of the Western Ghats region, which can be a useful gene-pool for crop improvement, should be conserved. Mr. Hanchinal was speaking at the first convocation ceremony of the University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences (UAHS), Shivamogga, at Kuvempu Rangamandir here on Monday.

### **Seed banks**

He said the Western Ghats was home to a wide variety of cereals, pulses, vegetables, vines, tubers, root crops and fruit trees, and medicinal and aromatic plants. Farmers should be involved in the conservation of local plant genetic resources (PGR) by establishing community seed banks and encouraging farmers to undertake on-farm cultivation of such plant varieties. He suggested the UAHS- Shivamogga, could establish a germ plasma conservation bank on the bio-diversity of Western Ghats region. Although the nation had rich bio-diversity, at present, 60 per cent of the calorie requirements in the Indian diet was being met by three crop species, rice, wheat and maize, which were widely cultivated.

Owing to green revolution, most of the local varieties of crops that were rich in nutrients and known for their capacity to resist drought and pest infections had become extinct. The narrow crop diversity and its narrow genetic base would have detrimental impact on farming sector and human health in future, he said. The quality of agricultural education in India needed to be strengthened by overhauling the curriculum at regular intervals, upgrading the infrastructure in colleges, enhancing the competence of faculty members on cutting-edge technologies and creating a conducive environment for research. With the objective of enhancing the access to education in agricultural sciences, apart from the traditional under-graduate and postgraduate courses that were being offered by agricultural universities, it was necessary to offer diploma courses to rural youths, he said.

Mr. Hanchinal stressed the need to evolve ways to ensure effective dissemination of technical knowledge generated in agricultural universities and research institutions to the farming community.

Each scientist serving in agricultural universities, along with students, should adopt a village for technology transfer and conduct interactive sessions and on-field demonstrations on new agricultural technologies there, he said. Degrees were awarded to 448 students, who had completed bachelor and master degrees during the convocation ceremony. Minister of State for Agriculture Krishna Byre Gowda, Vice-Chancellor C. Vasudevappa, and Registrar M.S. Vignesh were present.

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- ***‘Bio-diversity of Western Ghats can be a useful gene-pool for crop improvement’***
  - ***‘Strengthen quality of agricultural education by revising curriculum at regular intervals’***
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### **Toor dal prices shoot up to Rs. 200/kg**

*In the same time last year, prices were Rs 85/kg. Prices this year continue to soar despite government taking measures.*

Retail toor dal prices on Monday shot up to Rs 200 per kg despite the government's steps to boost supply and check prices, aggravating consumers' woes.



Till last week, toor was available at Rs 185 per kg in the retail market. The prices of pulses have increased unabated in the last few months due to a fall in domestic output by about 2 million tonnes (mt) to 17.20 mt in 2014-15 crop year (July-June) owing to deficient monsoon and unseasonal rains.

As per the data maintained by the Consumer Affairs Ministry, the maximum retail price of toor, also known as arhar dal, soared to Rs 200 per kg on Monday, as against Rs 85 per kg in the same time last year.

In the last five years, retail toor prices were ruling in the range of Rs 74-85 per kg, the data showed.

Urad too is retailing high at Rs 170 per kg today though it declined from Rs 187 per kg last week, but rates are still way higher than Rs 98 per kg that prevailed a year earlier.

Despite the government taking several measures, including imports and curbs on hoarding, to improve domestic supply, the prices of these two pulses have failed to cool.

To provide relief to the common man, the government is selling imported toor at subsidised rates in Delhi via 400 Kendriya Bhandar and Mother Dairy's Safal outlets. Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu governments have also started selling imported toor dal.

In a bid to prevent hoarding, the government had on Sunday imposed stock limits on pulses held by departmental stores, licensed food processors, importers and exports. There are stock limits already on traders.

That's not all. The state-owned MMTC has imported 5,000 tonnes of toor dal and floated revised tenders for import of 2,000 tonnes of chickpeas and is planning to float fresh bids for overseas purchase of additional toor dal to boost supply.

The Centre has asked all state governments to take the subsidised imported pulses from MMTC and supply in their states to bring down prices.

### **Govt. must find a permanent solution to problems of farmers'**



Writer Latha Rajashekar and Minister in-charge V. Srinivas Prasad inaugurating the Dasara Poets' Meet in Mysuru on Monday.—  
PHOTO: M.A. SRIRAM

Writer Latha Rajashekar on Monday urged the State government to work towards finding a permanent solution to farmers' problems by consulting agriculture experts despite making efforts to address their despair by



announcing various benefits. The government has also hiked compensation to the next kin of the deceased farmers.

Expressing her gratitude to the government for making the Dasara festivities “farmer-centric”, Dr. Rajashekar complimented the government for getting the age-old festivities inaugurated by a progressive farmer.

Speaking after inaugurating the Dasara Poets’ Meet, she said poets, writers and scholars participating in the meet will become the voice of farmers. “I’m sure the ongoing efforts in making Dasara a farmer-centric event will build the morale of farmers. I congratulate the government for its resolve,” she said.

The three-day poets’ meet will have separate sessions to discuss farmers and their problems.

Dr. Rajashekar said the participants of the meet would be explaining the life and problems faced by farmers from their perspective. They will be presenting a picture on the life of farmers, which, on many occasions, had inspired writers in coming up with their works.

“The nationalist fervor among farmers, the backbone of this country, is absolute. Their sacrifices are incredible,” she said.

Advising writers and poets to bring humanity in their works, she said their literary works should look beyond religion, caste, creed and colour. Humanity should be the basic essence of literary works. Any work without humankind becomes meaningless no matter how interesting it is.

Literary works should have the power that spread the message of equality and harmony, she suggested. Minister in-charge of Mysuru district V. Sreenivas Prasad was the special invitee and noted poet K.B. Siddaiah was the chief guest. Poets and literary personalities from across the State are attending the three-day meet.

## **Killing condemned**

Dr. Rajashekar condemned the killing of eminent researcher and scholar M.M. Kalburgi. “There is no death to literature and the litterateur’s thoughts,” she said. Saying that writers, poets and progressive groups have protested against the brutal murder of Dr. Kalburgi, Dr. Rajashekar lamented about the situation in which writers and poets, who are the voices of the public, have to carry on with their life under police protection.

## **Now, VHP bats for cow products**

The political controversy over cow slaughter and beef-eating may be recent, but the Sangh Parivar has over the decades put in a lot of “research” into the benefits of the cow to provide a scientific justification for its protection.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad has a Gou Vigyan Anusandhan Kendra (cow-science research centre) near Nagpur, which boasts many patents for therapeutic use of cow products.

It now has a detailed booklet on the “scientific” benefits of the cow. The booklet rues: “Unfortunately, around 36,000 slaughter houses in India are signalling the destruction of this priceless wealth we possess.”

The organisation’s website says that there are 450 heads of cattle, “saved from the hands of butchers,” on the centre’s campus.

## **Fertilizers**

Sunil Mansinghka, who runs the institution, told *The Hindu* : “Cow urine and dung can be used to make better fertilizers than the chemical fertilizers, which are harmful.”

Also concerned with the therapeutic uses of cow products, the institution boasts many patents.


*‘Cow urine and dung can be used to make better fertilizers than chemical fertilizers, which are harmful’*

## Northeast monsoon may be delayed by six days

**JUST DAYS AWAY**

On an average, Chennai has 28 rainy days during the northeast monsoon

<p><b>Delayed Monsoon</b></p> <p>⦿ During the last two decades, the northeast monsoon has set in as late as November 3 in 1992 and 2000</p> <p>⦿ <b>Most delayed monsoon:</b> November 11, 1915</p> <p><b>Early monsoon</b></p> <p>In 1999, onset of monsoon was declared on: October 4</p> <p>1996, 2002: October 9</p> <p>⦿ In 2005, when Chennai</p>	<p>experienced torrential rains of 211 cm between October and December, the monsoon set in on October 11</p> <p>⦿ Onset of rain has been close to normal in the last four years</p> <p>2011-October 14 2012-October 19 2013-October 21 2014-October 18</p> <p>⦿ Average amount of rainfall during northeast monsoon: 84 cm</p>
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—PHOTO: K.PICHUMANI

That cool breeze and fresh earthy smell of rain that herald the onset of the northeast monsoon may take a while coming to the city. The Meteorological Department has forecast that rain may be delayed by five-six days.

Monday was rather hot and sultry for October as the day temperature soared to 33.8 degree Celsius, two degrees above average for the season. Meteorologists attribute this to lack of moisture in the air. While the southwest monsoon completely withdrew on Monday, the conditions are not yet favourable for the northeast monsoon to set in.

According to met department officials, the monsoon normally sets in around October 20. Chennai may get light showers because of an upper air circulation in the Comorin area. “It is normal for the monsoon to be early or late by up to seven days. What is more important is the amount of rainfall it brings,” said S. R. Ramanan, director, Area Cyclone Warning Centre.

A typhoon in Philippines that made landfall on Saturday was a major reason behind the delay in the onset of monsoon, added officials.

K. Srikanth who blogs at Chennaiyil Oru Mazhaikalam said: “The typhoon that made landfall in Philippines has changed the wind pattern around Andaman Islands, which usually pushes moisture to the Tamil Nadu coast.”

Mr. Srikanth said weather factors like El-nino are likely to be favourable for the monsoon. Chennai has experienced above-average rainfall on nearly 70 per cent of the El-nino years from 1966. A recent El-nino year was 2006 when the city had excess rainfall by 32 per cent.



### **Top 5 Maggi recipes you will love**

With Gujarat having lifted the ban on Maggi, why not brush up on some interesting recipes using the popular snack.



Maggi has been one of the favourite breakfast options for kids and adults alike, since the time it was launched (in 80's) in India. With its simple preparation and lingering taste, the instant noodles also often came to the rescue for hostel students, and for those who were least interested in cooking.

Earlier this year, the Lucknow Food Safety and Drug Administration found that Maggi contains monosodium glutamate (MSG) and lead in excess amounts and have also written to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) asking to cancel the licence for Maggi. Eventually, the popular food product was banned nation-wide, but in recent developments, the state of Gujarat has lifted the ban on Maggi — much to the delight of many.

According to [reports](#), the company said it will now commence manufacturing and will sell “only after the newly manufactured products are also cleared by the designated three laboratories”.

So, in preparation, why not brush up on some delicious recipes featuring the snack?

### **1. Maggi with eggs and caremelized onions**

Boil water, add Maggi noodles and the tastemaker. Allow the Maggi to cook; in the meanwhile take out onion flakes. Put some olive oil in a pan and saute the onion flakes. You can also add garlic pieces. To caramelize onions, add a bit of sugar. Take out the yolk of two eggs and add it on the pan above onions and garlic.

Serve Maggi in a plate, layer fried eggs on the top and then top it with the caramelized garlic and onions.

### **2. Maggi Noodles Spring Rolls**

#### **Ingredients**

1/4 cup shredded cabbage  
1/2 capsicum cut lengthwise  
1 spring onion cut lengthwise  
4-5 french beans cross cut  
Maggi noodles and taste maker  
1 cup of tomato sauce  
1 tablespoon oil  
1/2 teaspoon ginger chilli paste  
1 teaspoon chaat masala  
salt to taste

tabasco or capsico sauce  
plain flour paste

## **Method**

To make the filling:

- Heat 1 tbsp. oil. Saute capsicum and french beans for 2 minutes.
- Add Maggi noodles.
- Add water and let the mixture boil. Add the taste maker.
- Add ginger chilli paste, chaat masala, 1 and 1/2 tbsp. tomato ketchup, shredded cabbage and spring onions. Add salt as per taste and mix well.

To make the rolls:

- Take one spring roll sheet. Spread the noodles mixture over the sheets.
- Make tight rolls covering up the noodle mixture completely. Fix the edges of the rolls with plain flour paste and deep fry the rolls.
- Cut the rolls in pieces once they cool down a bit.
- Serve with capsico and tabsaco sauce mixture.

## **3. Street Masala Maggi**

### **Ingredients**

2 packs Maggi  
1/2 tbsp Vegetable Oil  
Chopped ginger, green chillies  
1/2 Onion (chopped)  
1/2 tbsp salt  
1/2 yello bell pepper (diced)  
1/2 diced tomato  
1/4 cup peas  
2 tastemaker

### **Method**

- \* Take and pan and add oil
- \* Add chopped ginger and green chillies
- \* Saute this on medium to high flame for a minute

- \* After a minute, add onion and saute for another minute or two
- \* Add salt, bell pepper (you can also add green capsicum), tomato
- \* Add 1 cup of water and peas and tastemaker
- \* Add noodles
- \* Cook for few minutes

#### **4. Noodle Cutlet**

##### **Ingredients**

1/2 cup green peas  
 1/2 cup corn, boiled and mashed  
 2 tbsp gram flour (besan)  
 1 1/2 cup noodles, boiled, drained  
 1/2 tsp cumin powder roasted  
 Salt to taste  
 1 tsp garlic powder  
 1/4 tsp garam masala  
 1/4 tsp turmeric powder  
 1 tsp chilli flakes  
 1/2 cup cheese grated  
 2 tbsp milk  
 Bread crumbs to coat  
 Oil (to shallow fry)

##### **Method**

- \* Add boiled peas in a bowl and mash it with your hands
- \* Now add yellow corns. Mash it a bit
- \* Add besan and mix well
- \* Add noodles, salt, cumin powder, garlic powder, garam masala, turmeric powder, chilli flakes
- \* Mix everything well and add cheese.
- \* Add a bit of milk and mash everything really well
- \* Make cutlets and coat them with bread crumbs
- \* Add oil to a pan and place your cutlets; shallow fry

## 5. Spicy Chicken Maggi Noodles

### Ingredients

1 pack Maggi Hungroo  
Chopped garlic  
Chopped Onion (1 1/2)  
Juice of 1/2 lemon  
1/4 tsp Turmeric  
1/2 tsp chilly powder  
1/2 kg boneless chicken (cut in small cubes)  
1 tsp sugar  
2 tbsp oil

### Method

- \* Take chicken in the bowl, add chilly powder, turmeric powder and lemon juice
- \* Add tastemaker and a bit of sugar
- \* Pour oil in a pan, add garlic, saute for few seconds and add chopped onions and saute for 1-2 minutes
- \* Add chicken and let it cook for 10 minutes
- \* Add more salt if you want
- \* Add boiled Maggi noodles to the pan
- \* Mix, cook and serve

### **Shortage of pulses: Maharashtra govt takes anti-hoarding measures, sets stock limit**

Reports show the rains during retreat of monsoon in Vidarbha helped increase tur dal production by 10 to 12 per cent.





The state government is hoping for a better yield next season.

The Maharashtra government on Monday began operations to prevent hoarding of pulses and set stock limits to regulate prices of pulses across markets in the state.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis held a meeting to bring the prices of pulses under control, taking the cue from guidelines provided by the Centre. The stock limit and regulation provisions would continue till September 2016.

The state government is hoping for a better yield next season. Reports show the rains during retreat of monsoon in Vidarbha helped increase tur dal production by 10 to 12 per cent.

Agriculture Minister Eknath Khadse said, “While drought has badly hit pulse production in Marathwada, the retreating monsoon helped to recover the shortfall from parts of North Marathwada and Vidarbha.”

Pulse production from Vidarbha would help increase overall stock of tur dal by 10 to 15 per cent in the state. But crops like urad dal have been damaged. The Centre has also urged the state government to initiate measures to promote pulse and oilseed production by giving free seeds and fertilisers to farmers. It expects prices to come down by Rs 10 to 15 in a week.

Those holding huge stocks of pulses will have to declare the quantity to tehsildars in their respective regions. It would be open to monitoring at regular intervals.

The big operators will not be allowed to stock more than 1,000 quintal and smaller ones 40 quintal of pulsed daily. The regulation comes at a time when the domestic and international markets are reeling under severe shortage of pulses.

The chief minister said, “Our primary concern is to ensure people are not subject to exploitation because of black markets.” The prices of pulses have risen due to short supply and it was felt that artificial shortage would compound the problems.



### **Winter monsoon set to quench southern states**

India’s back-to-back drought is likely to end in winter with the weather department predicting higher-than-normal rainfall between October and December in the southern part of the country and normal rains in the rest, boosting prospects of the winter harvest.

The rabi, or winter-sown, season is vital since it accounts for nearly half the country’s total food output. The forecast eases worries about water shortages in the nation’s 89 nationally important reservoirs critical for drinking, power and irrigation, following the 13th worst monsoon ever recorded.

The special forecast made jointly with the weather bureaus of eight South Asian countries comes as a relief after a near dry summer sent food prices spiralling and stoked rural distress. Poor winter rains could deepen the crisis. “Given the unfavourable reservoir storage levels in the eastern, western, central and southern regions, the rabi crop as well as food prices will remain vulnerable to the magnitude of rainfall in the coming months,” said Aditi Nayar, senior economist with ratings firm ICRA.

The October-December winter monsoon is a major rain-bearing system for southern states which grow a range of crops. In Tamil Nadu, for instance, this is the main rainy season, accounting for 48% of its total rainfall.

“Normal to above normal rainfall is likely during the 2015 northeast monsoon season (October–December) over southern parts of South Asia including southeast peninsular India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. During the season, normal to above normal temperatures are likely, over most parts of the region,” the consensus forecast says.

Farm output is expected to dip nearly 5% in the 2014-15 crop year because of a stormy spring followed by a parched summer, according the government’s quarterly projections. Households are reeling under high pulses and onion prices, which rose by 38.6% and 113.7% in September.



## THE TIMES OF INDIA

### **5 cookies that you can make in minutes**



*There is nothing like biting into a delectable cookie while sipping hot coffee and browsing through your favourite book or watching an entertaining movie.*

But you often refrain from buying them from the market as you are not sure of the quality of the ingredients and manufacturing date. So what's a better option than making warm, nourishing cookies at home? Try out these easy to make recipes.

## **Oats Raisin Cookies**

### **Ingredients**

Maida - 1/2 cup  
Wheat Flour - 1/2 cup  
Rolled Oats - 1 1/2 cups, large flakes  
Cinnamon Powder - 1 tsp  
Baking Soda - 1/2 tsp  
Baking Powder - 1/4 tsp  
Salt as per taste  
Nutmeg Powder as per taste  
Butter - 1/2 cup  
Brown Sugar - 3/4 cup  
Eggs - 2, medium  
Vanilla Extract - 1 tsp  
Raisins - 1/3 cup

### **Method**

- Mix maida, wheat flour, oats, cinnamon, baking soda, baking powder, salt and nutmeg powder in a large bowl.
- In a separate bowl, combine butter and sugar.

- Whisk till light and fluffy, for a minute.
- Add the eggs and vanilla.
- Add the maida-wheat flour mixture and mix till combined.
- Add raisins.
- Drop about 2 tblsp of batter onto a baking sheet.
- Using wet fingers press down each cookie, spreading it about 2 1/2 inches across.
- Bake in a preheated oven at 190C/375F for about 10 minutes or until the bottom turns golden brown.
- Remove and cool.
- Serve as a snack.

### **Jam Biscuits**



### **Ingredients**

Maida - 1 cup

Baking Powder - 3/4 tsp

Sugar - 1 tblsp

Vanilla Extract - a drop

Cream - 150 ml

Butter - 125 gms, unsalted, softened

Jam - any of choice

Caster Sugar

### **Method**

- Mix the butter, cream, sugar, vanilla extract and baking powder.
- Gently add the maida and mix to soft, pliable dough.
- Knead well and roll it out as thinly as possible.
- Using a sharp knife cut into small triangles.
- Add 1 tsp of jam and roll the triangle over the jam.
- Form this into desired shapes and place them in a baking tray.
- Alternatively, cut small thin circles of the dough and place 1 tsp of jam in the centre.
- Place the tray in a preheated oven at 200C and bake until the biscuits are golden.
- Remove and sprinkle some caster sugar on top while still warm.
- Keep aside to cool.
- Serve.

### **Melting Moments**



## **Ingredients**

Butter - 115 gms, soft

Caster Sugar - 85 gms, golden

Egg Yolks - 1, large

Maida - 140 gms

Oats - 25 gms

Vanilla Extract - few drops

Red Cherries to garnish (optional), quartered

## **Method**

- Combine and mix the butter, sugar, egg, maida and vanilla extract to a soft dough.
- Make small balls of the dough and roll them in oats till well coated.
- Flatten each ball slightly and top with cherry.
- Place them on a baking tray lined with baking sheet.
- Bake them in a preheated oven at 190C for about 15 to 20 minutes or until golden.
- Remove and cool for a few minutes.
- Serve or store them in airtight container.

## **Semolina Biscuits**



## **Ingredients**

Semolina - 250 gms

Egg Yolks - 3

Coconut - 1, grated, ground finely

Sugar - 250 gms

Water - 1/4 cup

Vanilla Essence - 1/2 tsp

## **Method**

- In a pan, mix the sugar and water.
- Place over low-medium flame till a smooth syrup is formed.
- Add the ground coconut and stir well.
- Cook for 2 to 3 minutes and then keep aside.
- Add the egg yolks and mix thoroughly.
- Add the semolina and vanilla essence.
- Stir to mix well and shape into small balls.
- Place them in a greased tins and bake in a preheated oven at 180C/350F for 25 to 30 minutes or until golden brown.
- Remove and cool.
- Store in airtight containers.
- Serve as a snack during tea time.

## **Coconut Cookies**





## **Ingredients**

Sugar - 2 cups

Coconut - 1, grated

Cardamom Powder - 1/2 tsp

Ghee - 1 tsp

## **Method**

- Cook sugar with 1 cup of water to a 2 string syrup.
- Add grated coconut.
- Cook together on low heat till thick.
- Add cardamom powder and mix well.
- Apply little ghee around the edges to loosen the mixture from the sides of the pan.
- Remove from fire.
- Spread out in a lightly greased tray and leave to cool.
- Cut into desired shapes.
- Serve.

## **Retail tur prices hit Rs. 200/kg, add to consumers' pain**

Retail tur dal prices today shot up to Rs. 200 per kg despite the government's steps to boost supply and check prices, aggravating consumers' woes.

Till last week, tur was available at Rs. 185 per kg in the retail market.

The prices of pulses have increased unabated in the last few months due to a fall in domestic output by about 2 million tonnes (mt) to 17.20 mt in 2014-15 crop year (July-June) owing to deficient monsoon and unseasonal rains.

As per the data maintained by the Consumer Affairs Ministry, the maximum retail price of tur, also known as arhar dal, soared to Rs. 200 per kg today, as against Rs. 85 per kg in the year-ago period.

In the last five years, retail tur prices were ruling in the range of Rs. 74-85 per kg, the data showed.

Urad too is retailing high at Rs. 170 per kg today though it declined from Rs. 187 per kg last week, but rates are still way higher than Rs. 98 per kg that prevailed a year earlier.

Despite the government taking several measures, including imports and curbs on hoarding, to improve domestic supply, the prices of these two pulses have failed to cool.

To provide relief to the common man, the government is selling imported tur at subsidised rates in Delhi via 400 Kendriya Bhandar and Mother Dairy's Safal outlets. Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu governments have also started selling imported tur dals.

In a bid to prevent hoarding, the government had yesterday imposed stock limits on pulses held by departmental stores, licensed food processors, importers and exports. There are stock limits already on traders.

That's not all. The state-owned MMTC has imported 5,000 tonnes of tur dal and floated revised tenders for import of 2,000 tonnes of chickpeas and is planning to float fresh bids for overseas purchase of additional tur dal to boost supply.

The Centre has asked all state governments to take the subsidised imported pulses from MMTC and supply in their states to bring down prices.

### **After pulses, M&M eyes foray into dairy products**

After successful foray into selling fruits and pulses, Mahindra and Mahindra plans to make an entry into dairy business by doing a pilot in Madhya Pradesh.

Speaking to media on the sidelines of launching its branded pulses NuPro tur dal, Pawan Goenka, Executive Director, Mahindra and Mahindra, said the company has under taken a pilot project for a venture into dairy business and it would be anchored under its Saboro brand.

“We are in the process of charting out our strategy and a business plan which may be finalised by end of this financial year,” he said.

The company targets to become one of the top three players in pulses business in three years with the launch of other pulses and its value-added products in Pune and Nashik.

Goenka said the branded pulses market, which is estimated at ₹2 lakh crore at the retail level, is as big as the automobile sector. Interestingly, the scope for business in pulses is huge as the organised market accounts for 1-2 per cent at ₹2,000 crore and the largest company commands sales of ₹300 crore, he said.

M&M has tied up with 13 distributors in Mumbai and the NuPro dal will be available at 45 retail outlets soon.

The company has tied up with six milling centres with a cumulative capacity to process 175 million tonnes a day. It has also set up a pro-type farm at Latur in Maharashtra.

“We are continuously working with the farmers to improve the yield. The target is to raise yield from 650 kg/hectare to the world average of 1,100. In Canada, the yield is 1,936 kg/hectare,” he said.

### **Met sees surplus ‘reverse’ monsoon for South**

The South-West monsoon has exited the country 19 days after the normal date, an India Meteorological Department update said on Monday.

This clears the way for the North-East monsoon over the five Met subdivisions in the South of the country; but the onset has already been delayed beyond the normal May 15-20 timeline.

**Surplus monsoon** The Met has forecast a surplus North-East monsoon during the October-December season this year with rainfall expected to be 11 per cent above the long-period average (33 cm).

The five Met subdivisions covered by the North-East monsoon are Tamil Nadu, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Kerala and South Interior Karnataka.

The seasonal rainfall for Tamil Nadu is most likely to be above normal 12 per cent above the long period average of 43.8 cm (base period being 1951-2000), the Met said.

The probability of an above normal North-East monsoon season rainfall over the South Peninsula and over Tamil Nadu is 88 per cent and 90 per cent respectively.

The five Met subdivisions receive about 30 per cent of its annual rainfall

during the October-December season. Tamil Nadu in particular receives about 48 per cent of its annual rainfall during this period.

**Riding El Nino** In this manner, the North-East monsoon is expected to ride the El Nino on the Pacific that has even in the past returned good rainfall for South Peninsular India without direct cause-effect relationship. The Met bulletin on Monday did not, however, say as to when the North-East monsoon would set in over Peninsular India.

What it did say was that the South-West Monsoon has withdrawn from remaining parts of East and Northeast India, Peninsular India, the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.

In recent years, its exit and the entry of the reverse monsoon (North-East monsoon) have taken place simultaneously.

This year, two raging typhoons ('Koppu' and 'Champi') in the Northwest Pacific have sent the wind flows over upstream Bay of Bengal into disarray, upsetting the Met applecart.

**Winds in disarray** The winds are weak north easterlies over the Bay currently, but it will not be long before they are reversed to being south-westerly under the influence of the typhoons.

A welcome change is expected to happen around Monday when the south-westerlies flows turn around over the Gulf of Thailand to form a cyclonic circulation and reverses flows to being easterlies.

A couple of other circulations are also expected to form over the Northeast Bay of Bengal off Myanmar and also to the south-east of Sri Lanka, both of which are ideally positioned to trigger the North-East monsoon.

Under their influence, the rains may set in over Sri Lanka and adjoining south-east Tamil Nadu towards the end of the month, according to global forecasts. But most of Tamil Nadu and the rest of adjoining peninsula, except Kerala, are expected to witness deficient rainfall right until the month-end, these forecasts say.

## **Adani Ports to handle pulses imports**

In a bid to ease the supply pressure for pulses amid spiralling prices of the commodity, the India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA) and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) on Monday entered into an agreement to handle pulses at the latter's port facilities in Gujarat.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) in this regard is believed to help facilitate the development of a dedicated, cost-effective and efficient supply chain using Adani Ports located at strategic locations along the coast of Gujarat.

Pravin Dongre, Chairman, IGPA, said, “India’s pulses imports have been increasing every year and the infrastructure at the existing ports are finding it difficult to meet the requirements of the trade. The APSEZ Ports at locations like Mundra and Hazira will certainly help in reducing the load on the existing ports as well as allow quick and efficient evacuation of cargo in a cost-effective manner.” India imports nearly five million tonnes of pulses annually for domestic consumption, mainly from Canada, Australia and regions around the Black Sea.

“We now have the largest dedicated covered warehouse space inside ports for agri goods. We also have tied up with partner agencies to provide collateral management and trade finance services at the port itself. Our ports are also ideally connected to the key markets of North, West & Central India,” said Captain Unmesh Abhyankar, CEO, Mundra Port.

## **Centre to import 2,000 tonnes more of tur dal**

Even as tur (arhar) dal prices continues to cross ₹200/kg in some regions, the government announced that it would import a further 2,000 tonnes of tur (arhar) and 1,000 tonnes of urad in its attempt to keep runaway prices in check by improving supplies.

The tender will be floated by State-owned MMTC shortly, according to an official statement here on Monday.

The move comes after a high-level meeting held by Cabinet Secretary PK Sinha with the Secretaries of Consumer Affairs, Agriculture and Commerce, among others, where production, procurement and availability of pulses were reviewed.

“It was...decided that Government would further import 2,000 tonnes of tur dal and 1,000 tonnes of urad dal and tender will be floated by MMTC immediately,” said the statement.

Average retail rates of tur dal crossed ₹200/kg in some markets, such as Puducherry – ₹210 from ₹85 a year ago and Mysuru (₹205) on Monday, according to data from the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Urad was selling here at ₹152/kg on an average across New Delhi on Monday – up from ₹83 a year ago – an 83 per cent rise.

In New Delhi, government outlets such as Kendriya Bhandar and the Mother Dairy-owned Safal stores have been directed to sell tur for ₹120/kg.

The MMTC also floated a revised tender on Monday to increase the import quantity of chickpeas to 2,000 tonnes from Australia.

Shipments are expected to be available in India by end-November.