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THE HINDU

‘New policy for aqua industry soon’



The State government is all set to announce a comprehensive policy covering fisheries and aquaculture, identified as one of the growth engines, for accelerated growth of economy of the new State.

The new policy will cover various aspects relating to the industry like permissions for raising aqua farms, export related issues, market intervention by the government from time to time, human resource development and skill development among 14 lakh people who are dependent on the industry. The government has decided to establish a full-fledged university for fisheries and aqua industry along with colleges offering graduation courses and polytechnics.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, who formally inaugurated Aqua Aquaria India 2015, the international conference on aquaculture organised by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) here on Friday stopped short of making announcement on the broad contours of the policy citing the model code of conduct in force in view of the forthcoming election to the Teachers' constituency member of the Legislative Council. "We could not make an announcement because of the model code of conduct. But the government will consider all the issues expressed by aqua industry including farmers, hatcheries and processors in formalising the policy document," he said.

Advantages

The Chief Minister said the State had tremendous scope for leveraging the advantages offered by the 974 km coastline for boosting aqua industry. But the progress of the industry was hampered by procedural issues as the aqua sector was under the jurisdiction of various Ministries. "Indifference on the part of the officials of the Ministries concerned is severely hampering the growth of aqua industry in the State," he said.

The new policy, he said, would address all the concerns raised by representatives of the industry and the government would announce a slew of incentives for those venturing to invest in aqua trade. The policy would outline the measures that were needed to ensure effective coordination among line departments as well as the Ministries concerned at the Union government level to see that investors were given hassle free permissions for setting up their ventures.

On the university front, he said the government had decided to ensure skill upgradation and implementation of best practices in making the sector remunerative as well as best foreign exchange earner in the coming days. The proposed university would accordingly focus on exchange of best technologies available across the globe to ensure quantum jump in productivity and quality.

“The MPEDA on its part should encourage new entrants into the field by giving subsidies,” he said.

MPEDA chairman Leena Nair welcomed the participants while Agriculture Minister P. Pulla Rao presided over the inaugural.

PM promises to develop North East into an organic hub



With the government’s thrust on development of North East, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the Centre was planning to make the region an organic hub to boost agriculture production and improve 2G, 3G and 4G connectivity in the region neglected for long.

The Prime Minister said the Centre is pro-active about North East and will initiate measures to bring the region’s development on par with other developed parts of the country.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion of 29th Statehood Day celebration at Indira Gandhi Park here, he said the Centre was planning to convert North East into an ‘Organic Hub’ of the country to boost agriculture and horticulture production keeping

in view its conducive agro-climatic condition and has proposed establishment of six new agriculture universities in the region.

“My government is planning to launch 18 new FM channels for the region for which auction will be conducted soon.

Besides, proposals have been made to improve 2G, 3G and 4G connectivity in the region which had remained neglected for many years,” the PM said to thunderous applause of the people.

“There is no dearth of funds....but the respective state governments of the region should ensure judicious utilisation of all Central funds,” he said and added that he had directed all his ministers to visit the North East states twice in a month to oversee development initiatives undertaken and study the problems of the region.

Ship cotton from Gujarat to Tamil Nadu, says SIMA

Southern India Mills’ Association (SIMA) and Indian National Shipowners’ Association (INSA) have appealed to the Union Government to reduce taxes and provide duty-free bunkers for transport of cotton to Tamil Nadu from States such as Gujarat by ship.

SIMA Chairman T. Rajkumar has said in a press release that textile mills in Tamil Nadu consume over 100 lakh bales of cotton a year and the annual domestic production is just five lakh or six lakh bales. The mills buy cotton mainly from Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

The cost of transporting cotton by road from Gujarat to Tamil Nadu is Rs. 865 for one bale of 170 kg and by ship (Indian vessels) it is Rs. 672 for one bale. However, it is just Rs. 433 for a bale transported from West Africa to Tamil Nadu.

The textile industry has been seeking measures from the Union Government to make it viable for the mills to transport cotton by ship to Tamil Nadu from the cotton-growing States. A series of meetings was held between representatives of SIMA and INSA and recently the two associations submitted a joint memorandum to the Union Government.

The associations have said that duty-free bunkers should be provided in Indian flag vessels to carry cotton and textile products on Indian coasts. Issues pertaining to restriction of number of moves in ports (such as Thuthukudi) should also be sorted out.

Restrictions

The associations pointed out that the Indian shippers faced several restrictions and duties and these are not applicable for foreign shipping companies for coastal shipping among Indian States.

The Union Government should provide the required relaxations in the Union budget to Indian shippers so that transportation of cotton and textile products from cotton-producing States to cotton-consuming States by ship is made cost-effective.

‘Next-generation genomics key to global food security’

Renowned agriculture scientist M.S. Swaminathan said on Friday that making a hunger and malnutrition-free society should be the ultimate goal of every agricultural scientist and stakeholder.

Next-generation genomics backed by strong technological advancements will facilitate science-based agricultural innovations such as development of nutrition-rich crops to eradicate hunger.

He was addressing the concluding session of the 5th International Conference on Next Generation Genomics and Integrated Breeding for Crop Improvement (NGGIBCI-V) held at the International Crops Research for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

Over 300 delegates representing private and public sectors from 30 countries worldwide participated and deliberated on future collaborations and ways to integrate next-generation genomics into the future of crop improvement to contribute to global food and nutrition security.

Genomics – or deciphering the genomic content of crop species using high-throughput and next-generation approaches – allows the scientific community access to ‘good genes’ to speed up breeding for superior crop varieties with agronomically important traits.

“It is not so much a question of more food. It is more a question of better food,” opined Dr. Howard-Yana Shapiro, Chief Agricultural Officer, MARS Inc.

USA, while talking on genomics interventions to ensure food and nutritional security in developing countries.

“Next-generation sequencing technologies are vital in feeding the ever growing global population,” said Asis Datta, founder and former director, National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), India. “It is important to train the next generation

of breeders to deploy modern technologies for crop improvement,” stressed Jean-Marcel Ribaut, Director, CGIAR Generation Challenge Program (GCP), Mexico, in highlighting successful case studies in translating genomics research for crop improvement and the GCP’s role in providing the platform.

A big challenge

“The challenge of producing more nutritious food to feed 9 billion people in 2050 amid the threat of climate change is enormous. Next-generation genomics is one of the ‘best bets’ for sustainably eradicating hunger, malnutrition and poverty. This powerful tool can dramatically increase our capacity to utilise genetic diversity and develop highly nutritious, stress tolerant crop varieties faster and cheaper than conventional crop improvement practices,” emphasised David Bergvinson, Director General, ICRISAT.

‘Fertilizer stocks adequate’

Action has been taken for supplying fertiliser to farmers without any interruption, said District Collector S. Ganesh.

Presiding over the monthly ‘farmers grievances day’ meeting here on Friday, he said that 973 tonnes of DAP, 864 tonnes of urea 1,481 tonnes of potash, and 1,123 tonnes of complex had been stocked at the Agriculture and Cooperative Department depots. He said the ‘samba’ cultivation was in full swing in parts of the district.

About 65,600 hectares of land had been brought under cultivation this season. Many farmers pleaded for proper maintenance of water bodies.

S. Madhavan, district secretary of the Farmers Wing of the CPI, pleaded for special arrangements for the sale of fodder for livestock.

Farmers asked to install solar dryers at 50 p.c. subsidy

The district administration has asked farmers and farmers groups to use solar dryers at 50 per cent subsidy and get benefitted.

Supply

Collector V. Dakshinamoorthy, in a press release, said that the Department of Agricultural Engineering was vested with the responsibility of supplying of solar

dryers for drying vegetables, bananas, coconut, masala items, green tea, other fruits and food products.

The process would help in ensuring the products did not lose their nutritional value and the consumers get healthy products.

The cost of installing the dryer was Rs. 3.97 lakh, including taxes, and 50 per cent was given as subsidy. The dryer could be installed in a 400 sq.ft. area as green house solar dryer.

Documents

The Collector said that interested farmers in Namakkal, Rasipuram and Kolli Hills could submit their name, address, copy of identity card, topography of the land and other documents to Assistant Executive Engineer, Department of Agricultural Engineering, opposite Weekly Market, 39/19, Tiruchengode Road, Namakkal.

Farmers in Tiruchengode and Paramathi Velur could submit their details to Department of Agricultural Engineering, D.N.A Complex, Salem Main Road, Tiruchengode.

The District Collector said that solar dryers would be installed by companies that were approved by the Government.

Air grievance, drink healthy

The farmers attending the monthly grievances redress meeting will be provided with traditional drinks such as kambankoozh (a village health drink) or butter milk, instead of the regular tea, from next month onwards.

A.R. Shanmugam of Panaimarathupatti said that the district administration has taken various steps for propagating millets. He suggested that with summer months ahead, the district administration could consider providing 'kambankoozh' or 'neer more' (butter milk) to the participating farmers.

R.P. Rajendran, Personal Assistant (agriculture) to the Collector instantly conceded the demand and said 'Kambankoozh' will be provided to the farmers at the next meeting. The farmers received the announcement with thumping of the desks.

Call to step up research in post-harvest processing

Tamil Nadu has the potential to be the food processing capital of the country and the State tops in production of banana and tapioca, according to K. Singaravadivel, Director, Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT).

There was a need to strengthen research and development in post-harvest processing, preservation and value addition, he said at the inaugural of a one-day programme organised here on Thursday jointly by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Ministry of Food Processing Industries Government of India, Government of Tamil Nadu and Coimbatore District Small Industries Association (CODISSIA).

Surendra Singh, Assistant Industrial Advisor, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, said that fruit processing, fruit wines, vegetable industry and medicinal plants were some of the potential areas for investment in the State.

According to Chief General Manager of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, the Union Government has earmarked Rs. 2,000 crore to develop the food processing sector.

K. Ramasamy, Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, said the level of food processing in India against over all productivity stood at a mere six per cent, against 30 per cent in many Asian, Latin American and other developing countries. "It is 60 per cent to 80 per cent in developed countries," he said.

CODISSIA President E.K. Ponnuswamy highlighted the constraints in linkages in food processing sector and appealed to the State Government to facilitate building partnerships with various central government bodies, bank, technical and management institutions.

CM to inaugurate agricultural summit in Belagavi today



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate a three-day agricultural summit titled 'Agrovision' at the Exhibition Complex at Auto Nagar here on Saturday. Agriculture and Animal Resources Minister of the Republic of Rwanda Gerardine Mukeshimana will be present.

The event is being organised by the Karnataka State Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA), MM Activ Sci-Tech Communications, Karnataka State Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Ltd. (KSSIDCL) and Vishveshwaraiah Trade Promotion Council, Bengaluru.

Though the preparations for the event began here a fortnight ago, publicity material were not visible till Friday afternoon as pointed out by KSSIDCL chairman B. Gurappa Naidu. He was seen firing the organisers for these short-comings and wondered whether the persons engaged for organising the event had mistaken the event for just another 'Krishi Mela'. He said the staff had no idea on how to project an event of such an importance and threatened that he would suggest the Chief Minister keep away from it.

According to KASSIA president Chidananda M. Rajamane, around 150 stalls would be set up exhibiting farm technologies and practices. They would also showcase agricultural extension practices such as food processing and related sectors. There will be 21 free workshops and a conference on 'Supply chain management/food processing'. Thirty-one experts from India and Israel will be speaking.

Greens say government stands exposed on Yettinahole project

The State government does not want to assess the impact of the Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project on the environment because it says such a study is not mandatory for a drinking water project. However, while popularising its irrigation projects through an advertisement in the media, the government states that Yettinahole is an irrigation project. Environmentalists in Hassan have opined that the advertisement, published in major dailies on February 2, has exposed the government.

Minister's assurance

Minister for Water Resources M.B. Patil, during his meeting with farmers in Sakaleshpur in December 2014, had said that the project was purely for drinking water purpose. Water drawn from the Yettinahole would not be utilised for irrigation, he had said, and made it clear that the name of the project was altered to suit the purpose. Earlier it was called Yettinahole Diversion project.

Environmentalists, at a press conference here on Friday, displayed copies of the advertisement released by Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Ltd. (KNNL). The KNNL states in the ad that the Yettinahole project would provide water for agricultural land. "When we demanded a study on the project's impact on environment, the government said there was no need for it as drinking water projects were exempted from holding such a study. But the government, in its advertisement, states the

opposite,” said H.A. Kishor Kumar, president of the Malenadu Janapara Horata Vedike.

Environmentalists suspect that the government named it a drinking water project only to avoid environment impact and social impact studies and public hearing.

“Moreover, we are being criticised for opposing the so-called drinking water project. Congress MLA Ramesh Kumar, in his speech in the Legislative Assembly, termed environmentalists as inhuman,” Mr. Kishor Kumar said.

Instead of pushing projects that damage environment, legislators should visit Rajasthan to study water conservationist Rajendra Singh’s work. “Let them visit Rajasthan and learn what best can be done to tackle drinking water problem,” he said.

Status quo

A Sakaleshpur court has ordered *status quo* on the project following a petition filed by farmers. “All work regarding the project have to come to a halt immediately. If anybody continues the work, we will move court against them,” Mr. Kishor Kumar said.

Hurudi Vikram, S.M. Manjunath and Ballu Gopal were among those present.

World Bank team checks progress of projects

A World Bank team recently visited the district to ascertain the progress of the Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water Bodies Restoration and Management project being implemented using its funds.

The visiting team headed by Edward Cook, task team leader (senior land administration specialist), and Paul Singh Sidhu, agriculture specialist visited project sites.

The team visited Koneripalli, where vegetable cultivation is being carried out through precision farming; the marketing collection centre at Kaman Thotty village; and the single window information and knowledge centre at Pillai Puthur village.

The team visited Pathakotta village where paddy cultivation is being carried out under the System of Rice Intensification method, and floriculture through drip irrigation.

The project started in 2008 with the objective of ‘high productivity from a drop of water’ is jointly implemented by departments of agriculture, horticulture, agricultural engineering, animal husbandry, Water Resources Organisation, fisheries, agricultural marketing, and the Tamil Nadu Agriculture University.

Focus

The focus will be on paddy cultivation under SRI, horticulture through precision farming; drip irrigation under agricultural engineering; aquaculture under fisheries; fodder development and artificial insemination under animal husbandry; product collection centres under agriculture marketing; crop demonstrations and training through farmers clubs, and micro irrigation under the TNAU; and water budgeting under the Water Resources Organisation. Though the project was scheduled for completion last year, it has been extended up to June 2015.

Leasing land for ginger cultivation gaining popularity in H.D. Kote taluk



Farm owners work for whom they lease the land and earn extra income

Leasing land for ginger cultivation is gaining popularity in H.D. Kote taluk among farmers as it is an assured source of easy income in current times of uncertainty plaguing the agricultural sector.

But there are other social and environmental dimensions to the issue which have not been seriously studied.

The land is leased to contractors from Kerala at the rate of Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 80,000 per acre for 18 months and the farmers receive the lease amount in advance. This assured source of income is not only a welcome relief for most farmers but is big money due to uncertainty that plagues other commercial crops like bt.cotton, turmeric and sugarcane.

Vivek Cariappa, an organic farmer from Birwal in H.D. Kote taluk, told *The Hindu* that about 12,000 acres of land has been brought under ginger cultivation in the region and most of the farmers leasing out land have small holdings. "The advance money is a manna from heaven for farmers for whom agriculture has become a dicey proposition with increasing cost and declining income," he added.

Not only do the farmers lease out land, but these land-owning farmers work on a daily wage basis for the contractors to whom they lease the land and earn extra

income. With uncertainty over sugarcane procurement price and vagaries over bt.cotton, farmers prefer leasing their land for short to medium duration.

But there are other consequences of this development which are yet to be studied. These lands were granted by the government for SC/ST communities to till and cannot be leased as per the law. However the lease agreement is informal in nature and nothing on record to initiate action. Ginger cultivation requires enormous quantity of water apart from intensive use of pesticides and the run-offs enter water bodies which will have a bearing on the landscape and local ecology in future.

Though agriculture is carried out under rain-fed conditions in H.D. Kote, borewells are being sunk indiscriminately and the water table has begun to drop, said Mr. Cariappa.

“Earlier we used to get water at 100 ft and now it has gone below 250 ft in most places while the existing bores are going dry,” he added.



Unemployment can change your personality



Unemployment could be a vicious cycle. It can change peoples’ core personality — making some less conscientious, agreeable and open — which may make it difficult for them to find new jobs, says a study.

“The results challenge the idea that our personalities are ‘fixed’ and show that the effects of external factors such as unemployment can have large impacts on our basic personality,” said Christopher Boyce from the University of Stirling in Britain.

“This indicates that unemployment has wider psychological implications than previously thought,” Boyce added.

The researchers examined a sample of 6,769 German adults (3,733 men and 3,036 women) who took a standard personality test at two points over four years, from 2006-2009.

Of this group, 210 were unemployed for anywhere from one to four years during the experiment; another 251 of them were unemployed less than a year but then got jobs.

The researchers looked at the so-called “Big Five” personality traits – conscientiousness, neuroticism, agreeableness, extraversion and openness.

They found that men experienced increased agreeableness during the first two years of unemployment, compared to men who never lost their jobs.

But after two years, the agreeableness levels of the unemployed men began to diminish and, in the long run, were lower than those of the men with jobs. For women, agreeableness declined with each year of unemployment.

Unemployment also reduced levels of conscientiousness and openness in men.

The study suggests that the unemployed may be unfairly stigmatised as a result of unavoidable personality change, potentially creating a downward cycle of difficulty in the labour market, Boyce said.

Walk Hard. Walk Easy. Repeat.



Intense, interval-style workouts — brief bouts of very hard exercise broken up by periods of recovery — have been shown to improve the health and fitness of people who exert themselves for only a few minutes a week. Such efficiency is alluring, and has helped this kind of conditioning attract widespread media attention in recent years (including in this column). But high-intensity interval training programmes aren’t for everyone. As researchers from Australia and England point out in the

December issue of *Frontiers in Psychology*, “a largely sedentary population” is unlikely to “feel physically capable and sufficiently motivated to take up and maintain a regime of highly intense exercise.” That doubt is what makes some news out of Japan about a much-less-punishing form of interval training so welcome. A decade ago, scientists led by Dr. Hiroshi Nose at the Shinshu University Graduate School of Medicine in Matsumoto, Japan, started developing walking programmes. They knew that walking was physically the easiest (and also the most practical) exercise for those in middle age and older, but the researchers suspected that people might need to push themselves to achieve the greatest health benefits. So they created a regimen consisting three minutes of fast walking at a pace that Nose says approximates a 6 or 7 on a scale of exertion from 1 to 10. Each “somewhat-hard” three-minute spell was followed by three minutes of gentle strolling. In their original experiment, the results of which were published in 2007, walkers between the ages of 44 and 78 completed five sets of intervals, for a total of 30 minutes of walking at least three times a week. A separate group of older volunteers walked at a continuous, moderate pace, equivalent to about a 4 on the same exertion scale. After five months, the fitness and health of the older, moderate group had barely improved. The interval walkers, however, significantly improved aerobic fitness, leg strength and blood-pressure readings. In their latest study, which came out in December in the *Journal of Applied Physiology*, Nose and his colleagues report that most of the participants stayed with the walking programme long after their original five-month commitment ended. Two years later, almost 70 per cent of the walkers with whom the researchers remained in contact were still following their regimen at least three times a week and had retained or improved their health gains. Those who quit cited “family, health and job issues,” says Dr. Shizue Masuki, the new study’s lead author, but they rarely complained about the complexity of the training. So those who have considered high-intensity interval training but have been apprehensive about its demands should go for a walk.

Consuming soft drinks increases risk of cancer



People who consume one or more cans of cold drinks per day are exposing themselves to a potential carcinogen, warns a new study.

[\(Also read: Red wine can prevent head, neck cancer\)](#)

The ingredient, 4-methylimidazole (4-MEI) – a possible human carcinogen – is formed during the manufacture of some kinds of caramel colour. Caramel colour is a common ingredient in colas and other dark soft drinks.

“Soft drink consumers are being exposed to an avoidable and unnecessary cancer risk from an ingredient that is being added to these beverages simply for aesthetic purposes,” said Keeve Nachman, senior author of the study.

Building on an analysis of 4-MEI concentrations in 11 different soft drinks first published by Consumer Reports in 2014, researchers estimated exposure to 4-MEI from caramel-coloured soft drinks and modelled the potential cancer burden related to routine soft drink consumption levels in the United States.

[\(Also read: Two-thirds of cancer cases due to bad luck\)](#)

“This unnecessary exposure poses a threat to public health and raises questions about the continued use of caramel colouring in soda,” Nachman of Johns Hopkins Center for a Liveable Future (CLF).

Results indicated that levels of 4-MEI could vary substantially across samples, even for the same type of beverage.

While there is currently no federal limit for 4-MEI in food or beverages, Consumer Reports petitioned the Food and Drug Administration last year to set limits for the potential carcinogen.

Aquaculture to get agriculture status in Andhra Pradesh

VIJAYAWADA: Chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday said the state government will announce a new aquaculture policy in order to make Andhra Pradesh the top exporter of marine products in the world.

He said the government is planning to grant agriculture status to aquaculture so that there can be an influx of funds into the sector.

Addressing a meeting after inaugurating 'Aqua Aquaria', an aquaculture expo, in the city, Chandrababu Naidu said he was unable to elaborate on the aqua policy due to the MLC election code in Krishna district. He, however, promised to extend support to fishermen and exporters. He said the government will make use of 3,000 tmcft water which is going into the sea from the Godavari river to promote the aqua sector in the state. He said the government has fixed a target of exports worth Rs 30,000 crore per annum.

The government will also introduce new courses in aqua technology in professional colleges to boost the industry.

Foods to reduce stress



Dark Chocolate

Dark chocolate helps ease emotional strain and helps to elevate your mood naturally. Fortunately, dark chocolate is somewhat of a guilt free snack. Buy good quality dark chocolate go for organic. Go as dark as you can handle, and try to find chocolate with as few ingredients as possible.

Almonds

Almonds are packed with nutrients such as Vitamin B and Vitamin E. These vitamins help to strengthen your immune system during stressful times. Just about five to seven almonds does the trick.

Sweet potatoes

Sweet potatoes are full of immune boosting nutrients which help you fight stress. A

warm dish of sweet potatoes after a long day gives you a feeling of satisfaction and tranquility.

Good Fat

Avocado is an excellent source of fat. You need at least one half avocado per day. Other good fats include olive oil, fish oil, etc. One or two tablespoons per day should do the job.

Sugar

Your body needs sugar-good sugar. You can get sugar from a natural source, such as fresh or dry fruit, and raw honey. Honey boosts your immune system. Honey also gives you a better night's sleep. A spoonful of honey per day is all you need.

Green vegetables

Asparagus, spinach, kale are packed with vitamins and minerals, such as folic acid and magnesium. These minerals promote emotional well-being. A cup of these vegetables per day is all you need.

THE HINDU **Business Line**

350-550 million Indians to join mobile internet in four years: McKinsey

Digital India in the next 10 years will have a \$550 billion to \$1 trillion impact on the GDP resulting from the use of intelligent applications of technology. This is 20-30 per cent of India's incremental GDP growth and 3-6 times the current economic contribution of the industry itself, according to Noshir Kaka, Managing Director, India, McKinsey & Company.

In the next four years, there will be a dramatic change in technology in India with the largest migration in mankind's history after the invention of the Internet taking place with humans attaching themselves to the internet. It is expected that 350-550 million people will join the mobile internet in the next four years.

This is a huge shift, and that's why the Centre is putting Digital India as the centrepiece, he said at the inaugural session of the annual convention of the Madras Management Association on the theme India 2015 – The Year of Resurgence.

The scale of opportunity will come mainly from sectors like financial services, which will be the largest, followed by education, healthcare, agriculture, food, energy, infrastructure and government services.

“This is the opportunity for all of us if we use technology intelligently. It is not about using complex technology for algorithms but use of simple technology for India today,” he said.

“We cannot solve problems of India today without aggressively leveraging technology. We have the technology and the capability, and need to leverage what we do with it for the rest of the world, for India. My belief is that resurgence should never lie only with the government, which is only an enabler. We will see people will be retrained and new technology will emerge for India, and from India. We will see a huge theme around innovation that will lead to huge growth,” he said.

The impact technologies are going to have on the industries like manufacturing, financial services, government, energy and agriculture is expected to be between \$16 trillion and \$39 trillion in the next 10 years.

Kaka said about 30 per cent of the work done by knowledge workers today is not likely to be done by humans anymore. In other words, in the next 10 years machines will do 30 per cent of the work that humans do today, he said.

The Indian IT services in the first 20 years of its existence added one person for every dollar added. It is now down to 0.5 and for the next \$100 billion that this industry is going to add, “we are going to take one-third of the people that we historically needed”, he said.

“In India, we will have an opportunity because as technology takes away jobs, it also creates new jobs of 14-28 million that did not exist in the past mainly from non-farm sectors,” he said.

AP per capita income put at Rs. 90,517 in 2014-15

The per capita income in Andhra Pradesh for 2014-15, at current prices, is estimated at Rs. 90,517 as against Rs. 81,397 in 2013-14, registering a growth of 11.21 per cent.

State Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu released the Advance Estimates of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2014-15, compiled by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DE&S) with 2004-05 as a base year.

The advance estimate of GSDP for 2014-15 at constant (2004-05) prices works out to Rs. 2,64,521 crore, a growth of 7.21 per cent over Rs. 2,46,724 crore in 2013-14.

The advance estimates at current prices are Rs. 5,20,030 crore showing a growth rate of 12.03 per cent over the previous year 2013-14 of Rs. 4,64,184 crore.

In spite of scanty rainfall, a drought-affected situation in some mandals and the Hudhud cyclone, a positive growth on the whole was observed in all sectors, according to a statement from the Finance Minister.

The agriculture sector's contribution at constant (2004-05) prices for the year 2014-15 is Rs. 63,414 crore, a growth of 5.90 per cent over the previous year's estimates of Rs. 59,879 crore. Industry's contribution for 2014-15 is estimated at Rs. 51,771 crore, up 5.25 per cent over Rs. 49,187 crore in 2013-14.

The services sector's contribution is estimated at Rs. 1,49,336 crore, up 8.48 per cent against Rs. 1,37,658 crore in 2013-14.

These are not comparable with the All-India estimates as the latter is compiled with New Base Year (2011-12).

Organic farming convention in Chandigarh from Feb 28

The 5th National Organic Farming Convention, co-hosted by the Organic Farming Association of India, Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture (ASHA) and Punjab-based Kheti Virasat Mission, will be held in Chandigarh between February 28 and March 2.

The event, organised in association with local partner National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, is expected to be the largest congregation of Indian organic farmers from across 25 States and expects 2,500 participants including policy makers, scientists, entrepreneurs and activists.

“Despite the acknowledgement that natural resources have been subjected to a great deal of degradation and depletion due to the intensive agriculture model, very little is being done by governments to promote organic farming. In the last six years, under *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana*, less than 2.5 per cent of the projects and outlays have gone into organic farming,” said Kavitha Kuruganti, Convenor, ASHA, at a press briefing.

The convention will also see the participation of vice-chancellors of over six agriculture universities, as well as 270 of India's best seed conservators and seed-breeding farmers in a 'Biodiversity Festival'.

Business Standard

Area Coverage under Rabi Crops

As per Rabi Crops data released by Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, total area coverage as on today under Rabi crops moves to 617.97 lakh hectares while last year's sowing area was at 659.31 lakh hectare. The area under sowing of Rice is at 27.04 lakh hectares this year while the last year's figure was 31.51 lakh hectares. Wheat's sowing area is at 306.35 lakh hectares as compared to last year's 315.32 lakh hectares. The area under sowing of total Coarse cereals is at 57.74 lakh hectares as compared to last year's 60.08 lakh hectares. Area coverage under Total Pulses is at 145.92 lakh hectares while the last year's sowing area coverage was 162.21 lakh hectares. Similarly sowing area under total oilseeds is at 80.92 lakh hectares as compared to 90.20 lakh hectares last year.