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Fishing harbours to be dredged

Sand accumulated over the years is hindering boats

MANGALORE: Clearing apprehensions voiced by officials, Minister for Fisheries Anand Asnotikar on Friday said that the Government would buy a dredge to remove sand from fishing harbours. The sand accumulated over the years is proving to be a hindrance to fishing boats.

He told presspersons here that the Government would, after buying the dredge, appoint a private agency to operate it for a fee.

The Government would seek Central assistance in purchasing the dredge after preparing a detailed report on the cost and operational expenses. The Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation (KFDC) would be asked to purchase it, he said.

Earlier, during a meeting with KFDC and Fisheries Department officials, KFDC Managing Director V.K. Shetty and Joint Director of the department Gangadhar V. Maddikeri expressed reservations about the proposal.

Mr. Shetty said that dredging was the responsibility of the Ports Department. Mr. Maddikeri said the Centre had a scheme that provided 75 per cent of the cost of dredging. He said this scheme could be made use of instead of purchasing a dredge. Maintenance of the equipment would become a problem, he said and it would prove to be a proverbial white elephant.

Mr. Maddikeri suggested that the Government could set aside Rs. 5 crore a year for dredging and invite global tenders. Mr. Asnotikar said ports in Mangalore and Honnavar would be developed at a cost of Rs. 65 crore each, and the one in Malpe at a cost of Rs. 53 crore.

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Tata Tea, PepsiCo to form venture

MUMBAI: Tata Tea has signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MoU) with PepsiCo to explore the formation of a joint venture in the area of non-carbonated ready-to-drink beverages, focussed on health and enhanced wellness.

According to a joint statement put out by both companies, more details will only be available once the definitive agreements for the joint venture are finalised and executed, which are expected to be done over the next few months. "The proposed joint venture is not intended to conflict with any existing arrangements of either party," the statement said.

Tata Tea has begun its journey of transformation into the 'good for you' liquid beverages company with the launch of Himalayan, natural mineral water and T!ON an active refreshing drink made from fruit juice, tea extracts and ginseng.

PepsiCo, the U.S. foods giant, entered India in 1989 and has grown to become the country's largest selling food and beverage business. The group has 41 beverage bottling plants in India and three foods plants. It offers a large and diverse portfolio of food and beverage products, including 19 different brands.

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Appeal to farmers to cultivate pulses



PATIENT: A. Suganthi, Collector, listening to the grievances of a villager at North Keeramangalam village near Pudukottai.

PUDUKOTTAI: Farmers should take to pulse cultivation, taking advantage of subsidy-based credit schemes being implemented in the district under the 'National Pulses Mission', A. Suganthi, Collector, said.

Presiding over the 'mass contact day' programme at North Keeramangalam village near Alankudi recently, the Collector said that farmers in the village practised System of Rice Intensification (SRI) technique and benefited much. She appealed to them to take to pulses cultivation for which several villages in the district were ideally suited. Referring to a plea by the villagers, the Collector assured them that immediate action would be taken for identification of a site for setting up flower market. Villagers earlier said that a flower market was the felt-need of the residents most of whom raised horticultural crops. Earlier, the Collector received petitions from 505 villagers. Most of the demands pertained to orders effecting name-change in patta records; housing facility under the Chief Minister's Housing scheme and employment opportunities. .

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Free training in goat farming

COIMBATORE: The Veterinary University Training and Research Centre here will offer a free intensive training programme in goat farming on April 15 and 16 which will benefit farmers and entrepreneurs involved in livestock farming and also those of poor and landless labourers, according to a release.

Goat farming management has changed because of shrinkage of pasture lands, ban on grazing in forest areas and shortage of labour for range rearing of goats.

The existing marketing of live goats and goat meat is not profitable for the producers as it has too many intermediaries. Hence, the training is expected to be profitable for goat farmers.

Details

Those interested can contact the centre at Kalappati Pirivu, Saravanampatti P.O.; or call 0422-2669965, for details and registration.

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Farmers urged to grow cocoa as an inter crop

COIMBATORE: As there is a good price for cocoa beans – Rs. 160 a kg – coconut farmers can augment their income by growing cocoa as an inter crop, the Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) P. Murugesu Boopathi, has suggested.

Speaking at the annual research meet on Palm Crops at the university recently, the Vice-Chancellor said TNAU would take up trials in farmers' fields to standardise packages of practices for growing cocoa as an inter crop. "The university is planning to produce good quality cocoa planting material for the benefit of farmers," he added.

He also said that since palmyrah was a subsistence crop for the economically weaker sections, the university had plans to take up new schemes on the plant. Growing palmyrah had several advantages, especially for effective soil conservation.

P. Rethinam, former Executive Director, Asian and Pacific Coconut Committee, Jakarta, and former Director, Coconut Development Board, said the causes for low productivity included old and senile plantations, sparse population, non-descriptive varieties, poor soil fertility management, pest and diseases, inappropriate soil and water management, and natural disasters like cyclone and droughts.

Since tender coconuts fetched a good price, farmers were urged to earmark 50 per cent of the area for its cultivation.

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Bench refuses to review ban on lotus cultivation

Orders issued in public interest

MADURAI: The Madras High Court Bench here on Thursday dismissed a petition filed by the Kanyakumari District Lotus Flower Producers and Contractors Welfare Society to review an order passed by the court on November 12 directing the Kanyakumari District Collector and the Public Works Department officials not to

lease out any water body in the district for cultivating lotus plants after the expiry of the lease agreements in force.

No necessity

A Division Bench comprising Justice F.M. Ibrahim Kalifulla and Justice K.B.K. Vasuki held that there was no necessity to review the order as it had been passed only after taking into account both the pros and cons of banning lotus cultivation in Kanyakumari district.

Solid grounds

The court had issued the orders in public interest because cultivating the lotus plants might turn the floating beds into solid grounds, they said. A Bench comprising Justice D. Murugesan and Justice S. Nagamuthu had passed the original order on November 12.

Order

Then, they said: "Lotus, prized for its serene beauty, is perhaps the most spectacular plant in the aquatic environment. In India, its flower is associated with the Goddess of Wealth. It is also used for medicinal purposes. Above all, it is our National flower... But if grown on a commercial basis, the consequences would be disastrous."

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Farmers demand 50% internal reservation

Out of 33% seats for women in Parliament

Farmers demand payment of Rs.2500 per tonne for sugarcane from next season

TNEB urged to supply power for 6 hours in the morning and 8 hours at night

VELLORE: The president of the Tamil Nadu Farmers Association M.R. Sivasamy has demanded 50% internal reservation for representatives from farmers' families from out of the 33% of the seats proposed to be reserved for women in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies.

In a release, Dr. Sivasamy said that whichever party comes to power, agriculture is neglected. Therefore, the government should provide for 50% internal reservation, in order to ensure the implementation of the demands of farmers. The farmers' body president demanded payment of Rs.2500 per tonne for sugarcane from the next season. The price of Rs.2000 per tonne announced by the Tamil Nadu government includes the cutting charges and lorry transport charges. He wanted the government to announce Rs.2500 per tonne, excluding transport and cutting charges.

Dr. Sivasamy urged the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board to supply power for agricultural purposes for six hours in the morning and eight hours in the night.

At present, power supply for agriculture was effected only for three hours each in the morning and night. Besides, farmers also suffered unscheduled power cuts, which seriously affected the farm operations.

The association president said that the farmers belonging to the association would be staging an agitation in front of the offices of the forest department, revenue department and local bodies in Pernambut on April 12 in support of their above demands, as well as other demands including lifting the ban on transport of jaggery

for trade, permission for toddy tapping, waiver of loans and ban on import of palmolein.

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Sugar price eases in metros

Apr 10 2010

New Delhi, April 9: The government today said that the price of sugar, which had skyrocketed to around Rs 50 per kg in mid-January, has declined in Kolkata, Mumbai and New Delhi.

“According to data collected by the department of consumer affairs, sugar prices have declined at Delhi, Shimla, Mumbai, Jaipur, Kolkata, and Thiruvananthapuram and remained steady at all other reporting centres, barring Bhubaneswar,” the government said in a statement.

The price of the sweetener has fallen sharply in the last two months and is likely to remain under pressure going forward on expectations of higher availability from two leading sugar producing states — Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

Sugar prices are hovering in the range between Rs 34 and Rs 36 a kg in the metros. Meanwhile, wheat prices have decreased at Delhi, Lucknow and Bengaluru and remained steady at all other reporting centres except for an increase at Bhopal, the government said. The prices of pulses, potatoes, onions and edible oil were unchanged at most places during the first week of the month.

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Relocation of fishing harbours mooted

Express News Service

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CHENNAI: The National Shipping Board has deliberated on a proposal to shift fishing harbours from the proximity of major ports on security grounds.

Speaking to reporters after the board's meeting here on Friday, Chairman of National Shipping Board Capt P V K Mohan told reporters that major ports have been asked to come up with proposals in the next Indian Ports Association (IPA) meeting.

Detailing on the advantages of the proposal, which he claimed was under "study" and would help officials to differentiate merchant ships and fishing vessels, he said it would also help the expansion of ports.

Conveying that the Vizag port had already submitted a blueprint for shifting the fishing harbour to a place nearly 30 km away from it, he pointed out that the move would affect the livelihood of the traditional fishermen. But it would benefit the fishing harbours to acquire more infrastructure like exclusive wharfs and warehouses.

It may be recalled that there was a plan to relocate Kasimedu fishing harbour from its present location, which faced stiff resistance.

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 Sat, 10 Apr 2010

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Clear

Saturday, Apr 10

Max Min

36.2° | 26.8°

Rain: 00mm in24hrs Sunrise: 06:01

Humidity: 34% Sunset: 18:21

Wind: Normal Barometer: 1008.1mb

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Sunday, Apr 11

Max Min

37° | 27°

Extended Forecast for a week

Monday

Apr 12



37° | 27°

Partly Cloudy

Tuesday

Apr 13



37° | 28°

Partly Cloudy

Wednesday

Apr 14



37° | 27°

Partly Cloudy

Thursday

Apr 15



38° | 28°

Sunny

Friday

Apr 16



38° | 28°

Sunny