

### **TNAU to draw up genetic heritage gardens' landscaping plans**

COIMBATORE: Experts from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) and its constituent colleges in other parts of the State will be involved in drawing up landscaping details for the five genetic heritage gardens that are to come up in as many locations in the State.

Vice-Chancellor of the University P. Murugesu Boopathi told The Hindu here on Thursday that a steering committee had been constituted to carry out the works of the genetic heritage gardens – Kurinji, Mullai, Marudham, Neythal, and Palai– proposed by Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi and he was one of the members.

“The role of the TNAU is to collect plant species that are described in the Sangam era for the five ecosystems. These will be segregated as seeds, saplings and grown trees,” the Vice-Chancellor said.

“As many as 35 to 45 species for each ecosystem has been identified. The list will be submitted to the Chief Minister. On his approval, the planting of these species will begin. Some we have collected. Others have to be found from the forests,” he said.

The species included flower, fruit, herb, shrub, and other varieties that were peculiar to each ecosystem. The university had decided on a common landscaping pattern for all the ecosystems. The team of experts from the university would visit each site and make plans for the planting of the species in the allotted 20 to 25 acres.

Since most of the animals of that era were extinct, models or figurines of these would be placed at vantage points among the plants. Those that were identifiable among the present living species would be chosen to be part of the fauna of the ecosystem. But, their movement would be restricted in order to protect the flora, the Vice-Chancellor added.

“Many intricate details have to be taken notice of while re-creating the ecosystem. For example, in Kurinji, honey is a very important factor to be included. Hence, a beehive has to be created on a tree. People of Kurinji slept in lofts made in elevated homes for fear of attack from animals. Hence, provision has to be made for these too,” Mr. Boopathi said.

The university hoped to start planting before the onset of the North-East monsoon in September. Some plants and trees could be uprooted and re-planted to save time. Various other aspects of the Sangam era would be taken into consideration from other experts before the university decided on the final plan.

“The work will be put on fast track because the gardens are expected to be inaugurated during Pongal, according to MSSRF Chairman M.S. Swaminathan,” the Vice-Chancellor said.

“We have also suggested to the government that models of these genetic heritage gardens may also be created in the Semmozhi Poonga coming up in Coimbatore so that people here can get to know of these even before going to the actual locations. Each model can occupy five acres, out of the total 165 acres of the Semmozhi Poonga,” Mr. Boopathi said.

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## Forest Ministry free to say 'no' to Vedanta, says AG

*It is bound to apply its mind and decide whether to grant independent clearance*

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*Judgment refers to Forest Conservation Act provisions which must be complied with*

*Verdict can't be used to obviate need for obtaining forest clearance*

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NEW DELHI: The Attorney-General has given the government a free rein to refuse forest clearance for Vedanta Aluminium's bauxite mining proposal in the Niyamgiri Hills of Orissa.

The project has been put on hold, while a committee led by NAC member N.C. Saxena examines how it would impact the life, livelihood and culture of Dongria Kondhs, a notified tribal community living in the region, as well as a possible impact on biodiversity and wildlife. Forest Conservation Act clearances for diversion of 660 hectares of land have not been granted to Vedanta and its partner, the Orissa Mining Corporation.

Vedanta, as well as certain sections within the government, suggested that the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) had no right to deny forest clearance, as the Supreme Court itself had granted approval for the project. One interpretation of the 2008 judgment was that the Ministry's role was limited to ensuring compliance with the court's conditions.

However, senior government sources say that following an MoEF query, the Attorney General has made it clear that the Ministry is bound to apply its mind and decide whether or not to grant an independent clearance on the merits of the case. If clearance is granted, the court's conditions would also have to be complied with; if not, the issue is moot.

According to the sources, the Attorney-General felt that the judgment, which said "the next step would be for MoEF to grant its approval in accordance with law," referred to the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act which must be complied with. There was never any question of the court judgment being used to obviate the necessity of obtaining forest clearances from the government.

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### **Farmers stage demonstration**

Coimbatore: Members of the Tamilaga Vivasayigal Sangham and representatives of those affected by various land acquisition proceedings staged a demonstration protesting against the acquisition of lands and sought compensation early for the lands acquired earlier.

The demonstration was led by President of the Sangham, M.R. Sivasamy. The demonstrators pointed out that the 200 ft by pass road would result in setback for agricultural prospects on either side of the road.

It had also rejected proposals for bypass roads with 200 ft width. Four lane projects fetch only very poor compensation for the land owners pushing them into poverty.

Mr.Sivasamy said that with the Coimbatore – Mettupalayam Road (NH 67) and Salem - Coimbatore – Palakkad Road (NH 47) having 100 ft width, the space is enough for laying a four-lane road, hence the Sangham sought dropping the move to acquire lands for Neelambur, Chavadi, Avanashi and Perumanallur by pass roads and also the land acquisition for the same.

Demonstrators sought immediate settlement of compensation as per the court orders for those whose lands were acquired 33 years ago.

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### Steps for increasing milk production in Manapparai



**Milking success: Pappa, a Society member receiving the prize at Manapparai recently.**

TIRUCHI: The Co-operative Milk Producers Society in Manapparai has chalked out a special plan to secure loans for 100 members to purchase milch animals this fiscal.

The Society has been registering a daily production of 12,000 litres and the new animals will help step up production by an additional 5,000 litres, said P. Govindasamy, special officer of the Society. Loans would be sanctioned under a tie-up system before March next year, he said,

speaking on the sidelines of a function at Manapparai recently, to honour members who registered maximum milk production during 2008-09.

R. Muthukrishnan, Deputy Registrar for Diary Development and R. Chandrasekaran, deputy general manager, Tiruchi District Milk Producers' Union, Aavin, gave away the prizes. Mr. Muthukrishnan said the Society's profit was Rs.9.56 lakh during 2008-09. Mr. Chandrasekaran said the Society with its wide producer network purchased 48.22 lakh litres of milk for Rs.6.53 crore and marketed it for Rs.7.17 crore during 2008-09.

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### **Water supply irregular: farmers**

Tuticorin: Farmers voiced concern over irregular supply of irrigation water at a grievances redressal meeting convened at the Collectorate here on Thursday.

The meeting was presided over by Collector G. Prakash who agreed to call a meeting with officials to sort out the issue shortly.

The Collector gave his consent for setting up a paddy procurement centre at Kurumbur village. Earlier, a procurement centre was established at Vasavappapuram in Srivaikuntam taluk.

Referring to the setting up of a salt pan and a membrane project in DCW Ltd at Sahupuram, G. Srinivas, its Senior Vice-President, said that the project would not affect farmland. As a polythene film lining was used on the field, salt \_the key ingredient for manufacture of caustic soda\_ could be dried without leakage or spillage of sea water.

He also stated Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Salt Commission Office granted approvals following assessments. Besides, the villagers of Thalaivanvadali did not raise any objection to the salt pan.

Sixty seven petitions including 27 pertaining to non-agriculture issues were taken up for consideration.

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## **Food inflation eases to 12.5 %**

NEW DELHI: Food inflation eased a tad to 12.47 per cent for the week ended July 10 from 12.81 per cent in the previous week owing to a marginal fall in prices of essential items such as pulses, vegetables and wheat, apart from the effect of a high base as the food price spiral in the like period last year was at 11.93 per cent.

Even as the softening trend in food inflation is expected to be more pronounced in the coming weeks following a good monsoon, the cascading impact of the hike in fuel prices, especially that of diesel, is yet to be fully reflected in the prices of other items although the category-wise inflation for 'fuel, power, light and lubricants' remained steady at 14.27 per cent for the week.

The prime concern for the government is that both the WPI (Wholesale Price Index) based food and headline inflation have remained in double digits, despite the high base effect, and a discernible decline is not expected before September.

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**National Livestock Show begins today**



**From the land of Amul:A Gir bull, endemic to Gujarat, brought for the National Livestock Show beginning in the city on Friday**

**Date:23/07/2010 URL: <http://www.thehindu.com/2010/07/23/stories/2010072351910300.htm>**

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### **No export of fruits, vegetables for two days**

Kozhikode: Representatives of fruit and vegetable exporters have decided to suspend exports for two days from Friday to focus attention on the 'severe crisis' in the trade.

There would be no exports from the airports in Kozhikode, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram on these days, spokesman for the exporters' co-ordination committee said here on Thursday.

The crisis was mainly due to the refusal of foreign merchants to increase payment in tune with the rise in air freight, warehouse and transport charges, he said.

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### **Food inflation eases to 12.5 %**



PTI Labourers load sacks of onions onto a truck at a wholesale market in Allahabad. Food inflation fell to 12.47 per cent for the week ended July 10 from 12.81 per cent in the previous week on back of decline in prices of onion and potato. File photo

Food inflation eased a tad to 12.47 per cent for the week ended July 10 from 12.81 per cent in the previous week owing to a marginal fall in prices of essential items such as pulses, vegetables and wheat, apart from the effect of a high base as the food price spiral in the like period last year was at 11.93 per cent.

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**hindustantimes**



**Press Trust Of India**

New Delhi, July 22, 2010



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### **Food inflation falls to 12.47 pc; vegetables turn cheaper**

Food inflation eased marginally to 12.47 per cent for the week ended July 10 as some essential items like vegetables turned cheaper, but experts said it may not deter RBI from hiking short-term rates in its upcoming monetary review.

However, petroleum product prices remained flat week-on-week as the government decision to raise fuel prices had only led to one-time hike in these rates. The fuel, power, light and lubricants inflation remained intact at 14.27 per cent.

But the fuel price hike could lead to indirect impact on inflation and this cascading impact will be felt in near future.

Analysts said that the decline in food inflation augurs well for times to come and inflation is likely to go down further due to good monsoon.

They also attribute fall in inflation by 0.34 percentage points from 12.81 per cent in the previous week to the high-base effect. Food inflation had stood at 11.93 per cent at the same time last year.

"No doubt the base affect is responsible for it. Besides, monsoon is progressing and with a good production we can expect the inflation to decline further from now on," Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC) member Govinda Rao said.

On weekly basis, pulses prices declined by 0.84 per cent, vegetables by 0.13 per cent and wheat by 0.11 per cent.

However, poultry chicken, condiments and spices, milk, gram and river fish turned expensive over the previous week.

Even as food inflation declined, it remained at elevated level of over 12 per cent, despite high inflation last year.

Year-on-year, a number of essential items like pulses, fruits and milk remained quite expensive. Pulses prices rose by 23.79 per cent, milk by 17.33 per cent and fruits by 10.02 per cent.

Some economists said that not much should be interpreted from the weekly fall in inflation as these minor changes would continue and any genuine decline in inflation would come only from September.

"These are minor changes. And we have been seeing such minor ups and downs for some weeks now. So it is better not to read much in the week-to-week food inflation figures.... From September, we expect a steep decline in the food inflation figures with a good monsoon leading to rising productivity," Crisil Chief Economist D K Joshi said.

As such, economists expect RBI to further jack up borrowing costs by raising short-term rates.

"The focus will remain on containing inflation. We expect the RBI to hike the short-term lending and borrowing rates by 25 basis points at its policy review meeting on July 27," Joshi said.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/575967.aspx>

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### **Farmer asks HC to find 'missing' drain**

Jul 23 2010

July 22: An aggrieved farmer who donated a piece of land for a drainage channel has sought the intervention of the Madurai bench of the Madras high court to trace the 'whereabouts' of the once-lively Pandi channel in Ettayapuram in Thoothukudi district.

Petchimuthu of Kovilpatti, who has taken up several social causes in the region, was made to run from pillar to post to identify a vast portion of the major channel, which has been silted and encroached upon during the past six years. In fact, Mr Petchimuthu had offered 15 feet of his land free to the government in 1994 for the creation of one of its sub-channels to facilitate free flow of stormwater. The century-old main channel of the Pandi kanmoi (tank), which is used for agriculture and drinking water purposes, has disappeared from the town's topography, the farmer said in his public interest litigation filed before the court.

He submitted that 110 metres of the waterway that traversed along the northern side of Eraatchi Salai could not be spotted now due to encroachments. Several unauthorised buildings have come up causing stagnation of rainwater and sewage, especially during rainy season, posing a threat to the health and hygiene of residents.

His petition to the Thoothukudi collector and revenue officials yielded no results and the petitioner urged for the eviction of encroachments and restoration of the channel. A division bench comprising justices K. Suguna and C.S. Karnan directed the public prosecutor to take notice and file a status report on the present condition of the channel.

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**Source URL:**

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/chennai/farmer-asks-hc-find-%E2%80%98missing%E2%80%99-drain-690>



**Weather**

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

**Friday, Jul 23**

Max    Min

33.8° | 25.3°

Tomorrow's Forecast



Rainy






**Saturday, Jul 24**

Max    Min

31° | 24°

Rain: 00 mm in 24hrs      Sunrise: 05:51  
Humidity: 84%              Sunset: 18:38  
Wind: Normal                Barometer: 1005.0

Extended Forecast for a week

Sunday Jul 25	Monday Jul 26	Tuesday Jul 27	Wednesday Jul 28	Thursday Jul 29
				
30°   26° Rainy	33°   27° Rainy	32°   27° Rainy	33°   27° Rainy	33°   27° Rainy

# Business Standard

Friday, Jul 23, 2010

**Govt plans \$900 export price for premium non-basmati**

Nayanima Basu / New Delhi July 23, 2010, 0:49 IST



Export ban likely to be partially lifted by October 1.

The government is likely to fix the minimum export price (MEP) on shipments of premium non-basmati rice at \$900 a tonne, on a par with the basmati rice, in the upcoming meeting of the empowered group of ministers (EGoM). It is also considering partial lifting of the two-year-old ban on export of non-basmati rice.

The government is looking at relaxing the ban on particular varieties of non-basmati rice such as Sugandha and Sharbati from northern India and Pooni, Sona-Masuri, Matta from the southern part of the country. These varieties enjoy very high demand in the US, the UK and West Asia.

“There is a strong case for lifting the ban, only partially, on the premium variety of non-basmati rice because it is in demand overseas. Moreover, here, there is not much demand for such rice. Hence, there is no question of this affecting the common man or the normal ration system. The MEP for non-basmati would be decided based on the prevailing international prices,” a senior official told Business Standard. Officials in the agriculture ministry also said that the exports could be permitted from October 1.

Both the ministries of commerce and industry as well as agriculture have discussed the matter, and a final decision would be taken by the EGoM, headed by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, that is expected to meet next month.

“The MEP should be fixed at around \$900 a tonne at par with that of basmati rice as that would then ensure that only the premium or the expensive range is being exported and not the ordinary ones. There is a growing demand for such varieties, particularly Pooni and Sona Masuri, wherever there is a heavy concentration of Indian population,” said A K Gupta, head – cereals division, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Apeda).

The ban on export of non-basmati rice was imposed in April 2008 to tame the spiralling rate of inflation at that time. Earlier this week, commerce secretary Rahul Khullar had said that the government is considering allowing exports of certain variety of rice depending on the quantum of the summer crop.

At present, four to five million tonnes of premium variety non-basmati rice is produced annually. “Out of this if one million tonne is exported then I don’t think it would affect the domestic market.

Continuation of the ban should be determined on the basis of price," said Vijay Setia, president, All India Rice Exporters Association.

He also said that a two-year blanket ban on non-basmati rice exports has put competitors like Pakistan, Vietnam and Thailand at an advantageous position who have not only increased their shipments but have been selling at a lower price thereby grabbing some of India's traditional markets

### **Centre, states to take stock of grain storage capacity**

**Komal Amit Gera / Chandigarh July 23, 2010, 0:59 IST**

The huge stock lying in the traditional food baskets of Punjab and Haryana and the slow movement of these stocks are likely to create pressure on procurement agencies in the coming kharif season.

Food secretaries across India will have a brainstorming session with the Union food secretary in New Delhi on Tuesday to take stock of the situation. The preparedness for procuring paddy will be the focus of the discussion.

The rapid rise in the volume of foodgrain production in the past few years has engaged food procurement and distribution agencies in more than one way.

Although it is an annual ritual to take cognisance of the requirements before the procurement season starts, the growing self sufficiency of other states has affected the utilisation of foodgrain in Punjab and Haryana.

The state of Punjab has a stock of 6.3 million tonnes and another 2.3 million tonnes is under processing. Against the total required contribution of 9.4 million, the state still has a pending stock of 8.6 million tonnes.

This is an area of concern because like wheat, rice cannot be kept in open plinth. If the covered godowns are not emptied in time the storage chain will be in a mess.

### **Edible oils maintain upward march on millers buying**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 22, 2010, 15:47 IST**

Select edible rose further upto Rs 20 per quintal in the wholesale oils and oilseed market today on continued buying by vanaspati millers and retailers, driven by coming festival season and reports of a firming global trend.

In the non-edible section, castor oil also showed a sharp rise on increased industrial offtake. Sentiment remained bullish after palm oil surged to the highest in almost two months in Malaysia on the outlook for increased demand from Asian nations for upcoming festivals.

Meanwhile, the palm oil futures for October delivery rose 1.6 per cent to \$775 a metric tonne on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange, the highest since May 24.

Marketmen said continued buying by vanaspati millers to meet the coming festive demand and reports of a firming trend in global markets mainly led to a rise in select wholesale edible oil prices.

In the national capital, mustard expeller oil (Dadri) and sesame mill delivery oil rose by Rs 20 each to Rs 5,070 and Rs 5,870 per quintal, respectively. Soyabean refined delivery (Indore) and soyabean degum (Delhi) remained in demand and added another Rs 10 each to Rs 4,660 and Rs 4,460 per quintal.

Crude palm oil (ex-kandla) and palmolein (rbd) enquired higher by Rs 20 and Rs 10 to Rs 3,770 and Rs 4,410 per quintal. In the non-edible section, castor oil jumped up by Rs 150 to Rs 7,600-7,700 per quintal on increased industrial offtake.

Following are today's quotations in Rs per quintal:

Oilseeds: mustard seed 2,500-2,600 and groundnut seed 2,100-2,850

Vanaspati ghee (15 litres tin) 720-830

Edible oils: Groundnut mill delivery (Gujarat) 8,000, groundnut Solvent refined (per tin) 1,350-1,360, Mustard Expeller (Dadri) 5,070, Mustard Pakki ghani (per tin) 690-845, Mustard kachi ghani (per tin) 845-945, Sunflower 6,300

Sesame mill delivery 5,870, soybean Refined mill delivery (Indore) 4,660 Soyabean degum (Delhi) 4,460, Crude Palm Oil (Ex-kandla) 3,770, Cottonseed mill delivery (Haryana) 4,400, Palmolein (RBD) 4,410, Rice bran (phy) 3,750 and Coconut (per tin) 1,030-1,060

Non-edible oils: Linseed 4,000, Mahuwa 4,000, Castor 7,600-7,700, Neem 3,700-3,800, Rice bran 3,300-3,400 and palm fatty 3,225-3,300

Oilcakes: groundnut de-husk 800-850, sesame 950-1,150, Mustard (new) 1,025-1,050, Mustard 1,200-1,210 and Cottonseed

### **Rice basmati, wheat up on fresh buying**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 22, 2010, 15:57 IST**

Rice basmati and wheat dara prices rose up to Rs 200 per quintal in the wholesale grains market today on emergence of stockists buying on expectations of pick up in demand.

Marketmen said stockists buying on hopes of a rise in demand, mainly pushed up rice basmati and wheat dara prices. In the rice section, rice basmati common rose by Rs 200 to Rs 5,300-5,400 per quintal.

Wheat dara (for mills) also traded higher by Rs 5 to Rs 1,235-1,240 per quintal on increased offtake by flour mills.

Atta chakki delivery followed suit and inched up by Rs 5 to Rs 1,240-1,245 per 90 kg, while atta flour mills gained Rs 10 to Rs 650-670 per 50 kg.

Maida too traded in positive zone with a rise of Rs 25 to Rs 780-810 per 50 kg.

Following are today's quotations in Rs per quintal:

Wheat MP (desi) 1,725-1,825, wheat dara (for mills) 1,235-1,240 chakki atta (delivery) 1,240-1,245, atta Rajdhani (10 kg) 175, Shakti bhog (10 kg) 175, Roller flour mill 650-670 (50 kg), Maida 780-810 (50 kilos) and Sooji 820-840 (50 kg)

Basmati rice (Lal Quila) 9,300, Shri Lal Mahal 9,300, Super basmati rice 9,000, Basmati common 5,300-5,400, rice Pusa-(1121) 4,400-4,900, Permal raw 1,750-1,800, Permal wand 1,825-1,975, Sela 2,050-2,100 and Rice IR-8- 1,575-1,600

Bajra 1000-1010, Jowar yellow 1,400-1,500, white 2,450-2,500, Maize 1040-1050, Barley (UP) 1,070-1,090 and Rajasthan 1,080-1,090



### **Chana futures up on firm demand in spot markets**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 22, 2010, 17:43 IST**

Chana prices traded higher by Rs 4 to Rs 2,338 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators enlarged their positions on expectations of pick up in demand in spot markets.

Restricted arrivals from producing region also influenced trading sentiment in futures trading.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange, chana for August month gained Rs 4 or 0.17 per cent to Rs 2338 per quintal, with an open interest of 1551 lots.

Similarly, chana for delivery in September edged up by Rs 3 or 0.13 per cent to Rs 2380 per quintal in 199 lots.

Traders attributed the rise in chana futures prices to increased buying by speculators on hopes of pick up in demand in spot markets for the coming festival season.

### **Black pepper surges on strong demand, tight supply**

**Press Trust of India / Mumbai July 22, 2010, 16:46 IST**

Black pepper prices surged at the spices market here today due to persistent demand from stockists and retailers. Strong export enquiries as well as lower supplies mainly pushed up prices and the trend is likely to continue, traders said.

Black pepper rose further by Rs 10 per kilo to Rs 235/251 from Tuesday's closing level of Rs 225/241. Meanwhile, copra edible Mumbai and copra office Alapuzha declined on reduced buying support.

Copra edible Mumbai dropped by Rs 75 per quintal to Rs 4,600 from Rs 4,675 and copra office Alapuzha slipped by Rs 50 per quintal to Rs 3,850, as against Rs 3,900 yesterday.

Following are today's closing rates in rupees, with the previous rates in brackets:

Black Pepper (per kilo) 235/251 (225/241), ginger bleached (per kilo) 235 (235), ginger unbleached (per kilo) 255 (255), copra office Alapuzha (per quintal) 3,850 (3,900), copra office Kozhikode (per quintal) 3,750 (3,750)

copra Rajapur Mumbai (per quintal) 5,900 (5,900) and copra edible Mumbai (per quintal) 4,600 (4,675)

### **Tomato prices may fall in next 10 days**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 22, 2010, 16:42 IST**

The prices of tomato, currently being sold at more than Rs 50 a kg in the retail market here, are expected to fall in the next 10 days with fresh arrivals from Maharashtra, Karnataka and Uttaranchal.

"There is almost 70 per cent shortage in supply of tomato in Azadpur mandi (Asia's biggest vegetables market) due to which prices have skyrocketed," Vegetables Traders Association president Surendra Kohli said.

In the wholesale market, the prices of tomato jumped twofold to about Rs 30 a kg in the last one month, mainly due to floods in Punjab and Haryana, from where they arrive at this point of time.

Kohli pointed out that against a daily requirement of 125-150 truckloads of tomato, merely 15-20 were coming into the Azadpur market. However, Kohli and other traders believe that prices would ease in the next 8-10 days with fresh arrivals from the south.

"Fresh supply of tomato is expected to arrive in Azadpur market from Nashik, Peepal Gaon and Mumbai in Maharashtra, Mangalore and Bangalore in Karnataka and Haldwani (Uttaranchal) in the next 8-10 days, resulting in a fall in prices," Kohli said.

Supply from Himachal Pradesh is also expected to increase in the coming days.

Surendra Kumar of the Tomato Traders Association expressed confidence that the crisis is "temporary" and consumers will soon get the commodity at much cheaper rates, with adequate arrival from producing areas.

However, they did not specify the quantum of fall seen in the next fortnight. The country produced over 11 million tonnes of tomato in 2008-09, according to National Horticulture Board data.

### **Gur pedi rises on fresh buying**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 22, 2010, 16:44 IST**



In restricted activity, gur pedi prices rose by Rs 100 per quintal in the wholesale jaggery market of the national capital today on fresh buying against paucity of stocks.

Marketmen said fresh buying by stockists, against restricted arrivals due to rains in producing regions mainly led to a rise in gur pedi prices.

At Delhi, gur pedi prices quoted higher at Rs 2,950- 3,000, against the last close of Rs 2,900- 3,000 per quintal.

Gur pedi in Muradngar, also shot up by Rs 100 to Rs 2,800-2,850 per quintal on stockists buying.

#### **Sugar eases on reduced offtake**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 22, 2010, 16:45 IST**

Sugar prices continued to slide by Rs 25 per quintal in the national capital today on slack demand against adequate stocks.

Marketmen said adequate stocks position, reduced offtake from bulk consumers and retailers in view of monsoon rain mainly led to a fall in wholesale sugar prices.

Sugar ready medium and second grades prices eased by Rs 25 each Rs 2,775-2,850 and Rs 2,765-2,840 per quintal, respectively.

Similarly, the mill delivery medium and second traded lower by Rs 20 each at Rs 2,625-2,690 and Rs 2,615-2,680 per quintal, respectively.

Following are today's rates in Rs per quintal:

Sugar ready M-30 2,775-2,850 and S-30 2,765-2,840

Mill delivery M-30 2,625-2,690 and S-30 2,615-2,680

Sugar mill gate prices (excluding duty): Kinonni 2,700, Asmoli 2,695, Mawana 2,650, Titabi 2,630, Thanabhavan 2,610, Budhana 2,600 and Dorala 2,630

### **Maize production may go up 14%**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 22, 2010, 16:23 IST**

India's maize production may go up by 14 per cent in 2010-11 crop year to over 19 million tonnes on prospects of good rains, better usage of seeds and a higher acreage in traditional paddy-growing states.

"Though there was some delay in the arrival of monsoon and certain areas reported deficient rainfall, the prospect of good rains might see maize production to be over 19 million tonnes in 2010-11," a senior official with Directorate of Maize Research said.

India had produced 16.68 million tonnes of maize in 2009-10, down from 19.73 million tonnes in 2008-09. The dip in production last year was mainly because of poor monsoon. The official further said greater availability of hybrid seeds in recent times would also help boost maize production.

"In the last few years, the trend has moved towards hybrid seeds and their greater availability, especially from the private sector, will surely help increasing maize production," he added.

A source added maize cultivation is gradually picking up in the traditional paddy-growing states like West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra as well, raising prospect of an increased acreage.

"The maize acreage is around 8.17 million hectares now. However, with even paddy-growing states moving towards maize cultivation, its acreage is also expected to go up. In fact in the last two years, maize acreage has gone up by two million hectares," he said.

Though the US Grains Council's India representative Amit Sachdev declined to comment in the current year's expected maize production "as it is too early", he said, "Good rains should result in a handsome crop this year".

### **Potato recovers 1.42% on spot demand**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 22, 2010, 16:21 IST**



Potato prices recovered by Rs 6.00, or 1.42 per cent, to Rs 425.90 per quintal in futures market today, as traders enlarged their positions on pick up in spot market demand.

Restricted supply from the producing regions also supported the uptrend.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange counter, potato for September-month contract gained Rs six, or 1.42 per cent, to Rs 425.90 per quintal, with a trading volume of 777 lots.

Potato for August-month contract traded higher by Rs 5.60, or 1.33 per cent, to Rs 423.60 per quintal, with an open interest of 611 lots, while October delivery up by 5.20 or 1.23, to Rs 426.80 per quintal, with a business volume of 322 lots.

Marketmen said increased buying by speculators on pick up in demand in the spot market mainly led to a rise in potato prices at futures trade.

They said restricted arrivals from the producing belts in Haldwani and Agra also influenced the trading sentiment to some extent.

### **Almond prices weak on profit booking**

**Press Trust of India / New Delhi July 22, 2010, 16:19 IST**



Almond prices declined by Rs four, or 1.21 per cent, to Rs 325 per kg in futures trade today, as speculators booked profits at the existing higher prices.

Weak trend in the spot market followed by fresh arrivals from overseas markets, against sluggish demand also put pressure on the prices.

At the Multi Commodity Exchange counter, almond for September-month contract declined by Rs four, or 1.21 per cent, to Rs 325 per kg, with a trading volume of two lots.

Traders said profit-booking by speculators and weak trend in the spot market mainly led to a fall in almond prices in futures trade.

## THE HINDU Business Line

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### **Food inflation eases on lower wheat, pulses prices**

*Fuel prices remain flat; primary articles group rises.*

Our Bureau

New Delhi, July 22

Food inflation, based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), eased, while fuel prices ruled flat in early July, even as analysts predict that a rate hike looks imminent when the Reserve Bank of India reviews its policy on Tuesday.

The food price index rose 12.47 per cent on an annual basis in the week-ended July 10 against 12.81 per cent year-on-year surge in the previous week, Government data showed on Thursday.

Food price inflation eased on lower prices of wheat, pulses and vegetables, even as the primary articles group index was up 16.48 per cent, compared with the previous week's 16.25 per cent.

The fuel price index rose an annual 14.27 per cent during the latest reported week, unchanged at the previous week's level.

### Monetary policy

Analysts say the sharp revisions in the headline inflation number in March and April have maintained the case for further monetary tightening even after Tuesday's policy review.

According to data released on Thursday, the Primary Articles group index increased 0.4 per cent on a sequential basis as the index for 'Food Articles' group gained 0.6 per cent due to higher prices of poultry chicken (6 per cent), condiments and spices (3 per cent) and milk, gram, fish-inland and fruits and vegetables (1 per cent each).

However, the prices of moong (3 per cent) and fish-marine, maize and arhar (1 per cent each) dropped.

The index for 'Non-Food Articles' group declined marginally due to lower prices of raw cotton (1 per cent).

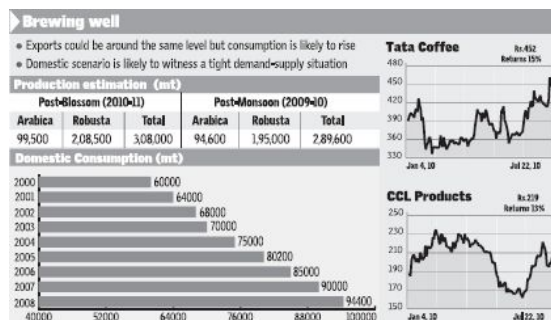
However, the prices of raw silk and raw rubber (1 per cent each) moved up.

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### Coffee stocks wow with strong aroma

*Tight demand-supply situation bodes well for cos.*



M.R. Subramani

Chennai, July 22

Stocks of companies involved in the coffee sector have gained over 10 per cent this year.

The rise comes at a time when coffee exports are looking up and the Coffee Board has projected a record crop of 3.08 lakh tonnes for the new season that begins in October.

If one nurtures a thought that coffee prices may ease in view of a projected record output, then chances of that going wrong are bright.

A Promise

This is leaving aside the doubts raised by the industry, especially the growers, on the exact prospects of the crop. Reports also point to an extended dry spell and pest attack.

There is one development in the sector that holds promise not just for the near-term but for the long grind also. That is domestic consumption.

The Coffee Board in its latest data has said that domestic consumption has touched one lakh tonnes. Finally, the board's efforts to boost domestic consumption are bearing fruit. This figure is being contested, but then those contesting the figures agree that the domestic consumption could have crossed 80,000 tonnes.

Let's look at the fundamentals. During the current season ending September, the production is estimated at 2.89 lakh tonnes (lt). Exports are estimated at around 2 lt, leaving the rest for domestic consumption. In between, there have been imports for re-exports. But that could have spared another 20,000 tonnes for domestic consumption.

For the coming season, exports could be around the same level, but consumption is likely to rise. Industry players say domestic consumption is rising by at least six per cent a year.

Going by the current export data, exports during January-July are up by 58,000 tonnes at 1.69 lt. This includes re-export of 25,000 tonnes imported coffee.

This could mean that the inventories could be dwindling or scarce.



However, prices in the global market could come under pressure on hopes of a good Brazilian arabica crop. But it is unlikely to affect India since it exports robusta; that too at premium.

The domestic coffee sector is likely to witness a tight demand-supply situation in the coming days. The falling arabica production in the country will add to the situation, while incomes of growers are likely to be supplemented by surging prices of pepper that is grown as inter-crop in coffee plantations.

Prices may fall on the Brazilian crop as well due to harvest in Vietnam, the biggest robusta producer. However, with Vietnamese growers holding back their produce, any fall in the prices may be capped.

#### Consumption Boost

But what holds promise for the sector and stocks of companies in this sector is the emerging tight demand-supply scenario. The increase in surplus money for spending in the country, going by the all-around growth, is sure to boost consumption further.

Therefore, even if the coffee sector stocks drop in the near-term, they are set to gain in the long-term.

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#### **Hot weather cools tea demand**

P.S. Sundar

Coonoor, July 22

With Europe and the US experiencing prolonged hot weather that is projected to continue for some more days, tea exports from the country to these destinations is causing concern.

Russians, who import the bulk of Indian teas, are complaining of heat waves with Moscow reporting daytime temperature of 34 degrees Celsius. Europe too is complaining with 35

degrees being experienced in Madrid, Berlin and Athens and 33 in Warsaw and Rome. In the US, daytime temperature is 35 degrees in Atlanta, 34 in Washington, 33 in Chicago and 32 in New York. Elsewhere too, West Asia, Japan, Thailand, China, Bangladesh and Singapore are reporting heat wave conditions.

“Used to cold weather, the preference in Europe and the US now is cold drink, not hot tea. Some announced tea parties have been cancelled in the US. Most of our teas are not suitable for making iced tea. So, the export demand is less. We are picking up some teas for blending ahead of the forthcoming winter demand,” an exporter told Business Line.

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### **Urad dal slumps on profit-booking**



Our Correspondent

Indore, July 22

Urad dal prices slumped to Rs 5,800 as bear operators swung into action, while urad monger (seed) prices quoted at Rs 8,100 a quintal.

No major changes were reported in the price of other pulses, apart from chana dal.

Chana kanta in the spot market was quoted at Rs 2,310 a quintal.

## Soya oil gains

The rising trend in soya oil continued on the back of high demand at the plant level and week arrivals.

In the spot market, soya refined oil quoted at Rs 455-458 for 10 kg, up Rs 10, while soya solvent was quoted at Rs 428-430.

Mustard oil prices also rose by Rs 2 with its prices in the local mandi touching Rs 500. Week arrivals and high demand were the reasons behind the surge.

On other hand, the price of soyabean in the local mandi was quoted Rs 1,910-2,000 a quintal, up Rs 40.

The plant delivery rate of soyabean also perked up by Rs 50, with crushers purchasing at Rs 2,030-2,050.

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## Cotton rises on millers' demand



Our Correspondents

Rajkot/Erode, July 22

MCU-5 and Surabi fine variety cotton fetched higher prices at the Bhoodapady regulated market in Erode district at the weekly sale on Wednesday and Thursday.

Surabi fetched Rs 41-45 a kg against last week's Rs 42.20, while MCU-5 was quoted at Rs 36-40 a kg against Rs 35-38. Bt cotton also ruled high at Rs 30-36 a kg against Rs 32-35 last week.

All the 6,500 bags (of 100 kg) that arrived were sold. . Bt Cotton was sold at Rs 29-35. This is also higher than the last week's price of Rs 30-34.

All the 5,475 bags arrived were sold on Monday and Tuesday. Prices ruled high in the Sathyamangalam Cooperative Marketing Society by Rs 3-4 a kg of all varieties. At Rajkot, prices were unchanged despite arrivals dropping in major mandies of Gujarat. Shankar-6 prices have stabilised at Rs 29,200-29,500 a candy (of 356 kg). According to traders, arrivals are lower due to off-season

About 2,500-3,000 bales (170 kg each) arrive in Gujarat daily. Raw cotton or kapas price at Rajkot mandi was quoted at Rs 650-747 for 20 kg.

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**Domestic, global cues boost edible oils**



Our Correspondents

Rajkot/Mumbai, July 22

Groundnut oil price hit a record Rs 1,405 for a 15-kg tin on Thursday as shortage of groundnut continued. The commodity has gained Rs 40/tin this week. With this, groundnut price gained Rs 20-25 to Rs 450-700 for 20 kg.

According to millers, lower production has led to the shortage

In Mumbai, prices of all major edible oils rose sharply between Rs 3 and Rs 5 on Thursday following demand from stockists and retailers.

In Mumbai spot markets, 1,600-1,700 tonnes of palmolein and about 200 tonnes of soya oil were traded on Thursday. Traders estimate that 150-200 tonnes of resale trade also took place in palmolein.

Liberty, Ruchi and Allana were active. In groundnut oil, a big difference between buying and selling rates kept traders away and no trade took place on Thursday. In Mumbai, groundnut oil witnessed a stiff rise of Rs 10 and was quoted Rs 860 for 10 kg. Palmolein and soya refined oil gained Rs 3 and Rs 4 respectively. Cotton refined oil rose by Rs 3. Sunflower oil and rapeseed oil rose by Rs 5 per 10 kg.

In international markets, BMD CPO futures touched a 2-month high and surpassed 2,500 Malaysian ringgits (MYR) on the back of a rise in other commodity markets and short coverings. August futures closed at 2,580 MYR a tonne.

In Mumbai, spot market rate for 10 kg was Rs 860 for groundnut oil, Rs 458 for soya refined oil, Rs 450 for sunflower expeller refined, Rs 500 for sunflower refined oil, Rs 570 for rapeseed refined oil and Rs 540 for rapeseed expeller oil. Cotton refined oil was at Rs 477 and palmolein was at Rs 428 for 10 kg.

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**Retail buying helps sugar gain**



Our Correspondent

Mumbai, July 22

Sugar prices rose by Rs 5-10 a quintal on Thursday on the Vashi wholesale market following increased retail buying.

Arrivals were limited. Mills did not quote any offer in view of a meeting between them. They closed their offering at previously decided base rates with very thin volumes on Wednesday.

The naka and tender delivery rates were steady with normal volume. Sentiment showed a firmness in price, traders said.

The upcountry markets witnessed a firm trend. In Uttar Pradesh, Bengal, Rajasthan and Gujarat, sugar prices went up by Rs 20 to Rs 30 for 100 kg bag. All the concerned players eyed the millers' meeting, Mr Hirenbhai of Surya traders said.

Arrivals in the Vashi market were about 20-22 truckloads (10 tonnes each) and delivery lifting at 18-20 truckloads was less because of the rain.

According to the Sugar Merchants' Association, the spot rate was Rs 2,680-2,715 a quintal for the S-grade and Rs 2,700-2,770 for M-grade.

The naka delivery rate for S-grade was Rs 2,650-2,670 and for M- grade Rs 2,700-2,720. The mill delivery tender (including excise) was quoted at Rs 2,585-2,600 (S-grade) and Rs

2,610-2,650 (M-grade).

Ex-mill prices were not quoted due to a meeting in the morning session. On Wednesday, it was Rs 2,500-2,525 for the S-grade and Rs 2,530-2,570 for M-grade.

Reuters reports: October raw sugar on ICE broke above a double top at 17.70 cents/lb set earlier this week and rose as high as 17.80 cents before falling back slightly to 17.76 cents by 1309 GMT, up 1.7 per cent. October whites on Liffe rose 2.3 per cent to \$554.80 a tonne.

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## **Q1 spices export up in volume, value**

C.J. Punnathara

Kochi, July 22

Spices exports increased in volume and value during the first quarter of the current fiscal.

The spurt was mainly due to steep increase in volume and value of major export items such as chilli and turmeric. In fact, chilli has become the biggest item of export, relegating traditional spices mint, mint products, spice oils and oleoresins.

Other items such as garlic and ginger also shown exceptional growth in volume and value but their overall contribution is not significant.

While the total spices' export volumes moved up 17 per cent to 1,48,730 tonnes (1,27,265 tonnes), value realisation increased even more at 19 per cent to Rs 1,533 crore (Rs 1,293 crore). Foreign exchange earnings have gone up 22 per cent to \$336.43 million (\$275.19 million).

Chilli Rules

Chilli exports accounted for close to 23 per cent of the export basket in value. Chilli exports grew 33 per cent in volume to 56,750 tonnes and 39 per cent in value to Rs 349 crore.

The second biggest contributor to the export basket was mint and mint products that accounted for close to 18 per cent of the export basket in value. However, mint and mint product exports fell 16 per cent in volume to 4,000 tonnes and 7 per cent in value to Rs 274 crore.

The fall in mint exports was partly compensated by spice oils and oleoresins with exports increasing 7 per cent in volume to 1,790 tonnes and 12 per cent in value to Rs 204 crore. As the arrivals of small cardamom dwindled, there was a 22 per cent fall in volume to 165 tonnes. However, prices continued to rule high with export realisation growing 47 per cent to Rs 19.57 crore.

Small cardamom fetched the highest unit value realisation at Rs 1,186 a kg, followed by spice oils and oleoresins at Rs 1,141 a kg. Mint and mint products unit value realisation was Rs 685 a kg.

Garlic Fastest

Garlic accounted for the fastest growth in volume and value. Garlic exports grew 1,301 per cent in volume to 8,825 tonnes and 1,908 per cent in value to Rs 31.61 crore. Ginger saw the next fastest growth with volume spurting 138 per cent to 2,850 tonnes and value 148 per cent to Rs 20.57 crore.

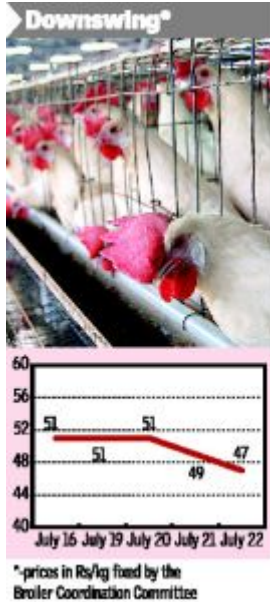
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**Egg, broiler turn cheaper**





Gayathri G

Chennai, July 22

Poultry producers have lowered the selling price of egg and broiler this week due to a slowdown in consumption.

The Namakkal-based zonal committee of the National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC), which pruned its weekly price by ten paise last week, further reduced the price by another ten paise to Rs 2.45 a piece on Thursday.

The slowdown is caused by a confluence of factors – lower offtake on the export front, a dip in domestic consumption on account of the austere 'Aadi' month and the onset of monsoon in the neighbouring Kerala, a major market for Tamil Nadu's shell egg and broiler trade.

Slack exports

Mr R. Nallathambi, President, Tamil Nadu Poultry Farmers Association, said that the Gulf countries are still wary of importing eggs from India although the Union Government has declared the country is free of avian influenza.

“Last year, during July we shipped around 300 containers, but so far this year just 77 have been shipped. Slack demand on the export front coupled with a slowdown in domestic consumption has led to a decrease in prices of poultry products.”

Poultry industry sources told Business Line that with egg shipment from the region keeping a low pace, traders were not opting to build up stocks and hence favoured lowering the price.

Similarly, Broiler Coordination Committee has lowered live chicken prices this week. The wholesale price has decreased to Rs 47 a kg from the Rs 51-53 price band a week ago.

The price cuts come after a bullish trend the producers experienced since the start of the year as there was a cut in production by 10-15 per cent the previous year.

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### **Fresh arrivals knock down wheat prices**



Our Correspondent

Karnal, July 22

Wheat prices witnessed a declining trend on Thursday on fresh arrivals from Uttar Pradesh and slack demand in local market.

Prices of wheat (dara) dropped to Rs 1,200 a quintal. Dara variety was quoted Rs 1,190-

1,200 a quintal and Tohfa variety of Madhya Pradesh ruled at Rs 2,190 a quintal.

Mr Subhash Chand, a wheat trader, told Business Line that lukewarm demand in the face of fresh arrival was the reason behind the drop. Big flour mills were already out from the market as they had ample stocks besides procuring directly from the Uttar Pradesh farmers, he said. Around 300 quintals wheat arrived on Thursday. Small atta chakki owners and retail traders lifted the stock.

While the wheat ruled around Rs 1,200 a quintal in local market, flour is quoted between Rs 150-200 a bag of 10 kg, according to the brand.

Flour mills are reaping a good margin after procuring the stock at between Rs 1,170 and 1,200 a quintal.

Prices depend on brands such as Gautam Bhog and OM Bhog, which rule at between Rs 150 and Rs 155 a bag of 10 kg. Big brands such as Aashirwad and Rajdhani rule at Rs 170-200 a bag of 10 kg.

Mr Satish Kumar, a local trader, said Gautam Bhog and OM Bhog brands rule the local market. Usually, people hold fresh stocks of wheat that arrive in the grain market but those who can't prefer these local brands.

On the other hand, big brands such as Rajdhani and Aashirwad prices command a premium at retail outlets. Rajdhani brand quoted Rs 175 a bag of 10 kg, while the Aashirwad at Rs 200 a bag of 10 kg.

Bloomberg reports: Wheat futures for September delivery rose 14.75 cents, or 2.5 per cent, to \$6.03 a bushel at 9:36 a.m. on the Chicago Board of Trade, after touching \$6.10, the highest price for a most-active contract since June 16, 2009.

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## Food inflation eases on lower wheat, pulses prices

*Fuel prices remain flat; primary articles group rises.*

Our Bureau

New Delhi, July 22

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Monetary policy

Analysts say the sharp revisions in the headline inflation number in March and April have maintained the case for further monetary tightening even after Tuesday's policy review.

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However, the prices of moong (3 per cent) and fish-marine, maize and arhar (1 per cent each) dropped.

The index for 'Non-Food Articles' group declined marginally due to lower prices of raw cotton (1 per cent).

However, the prices of raw silk and raw rubber (1 per cent each) moved up.

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