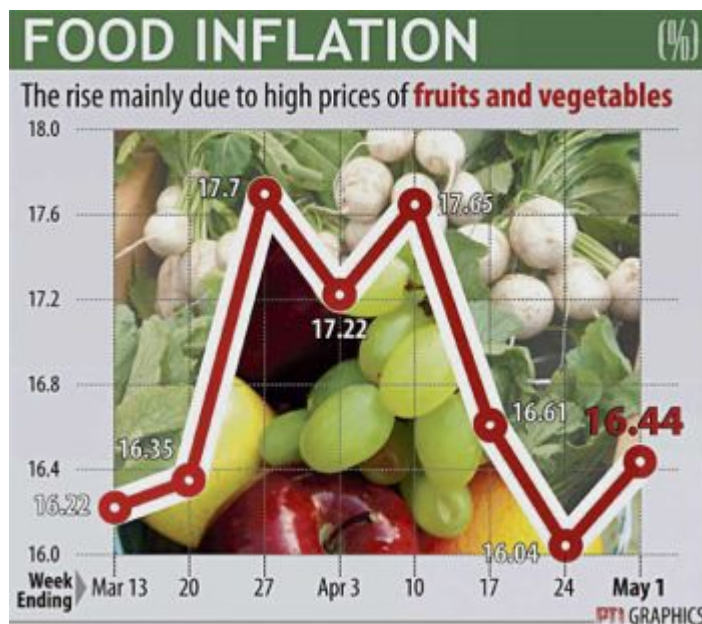


Date:14/05/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/05/14/stories/2010051453921900.htm>

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## Food inflation inches up again to 16.44%



NEW DELHI: Food inflation inched up again to 16.44 per cent for the week ended May 1 from 16.04 per cent in the previous week, mainly owing to costlier fruits and vegetables even as the rabi crops have started arriving in the markets.

Evidently, it will take some more time for inflationary pressures to soften. For, while the cool-down impact of fresh crop arrivals would be discernible only after a few more months, a declining trend in inflation is expected to set in only after there are definite indications of a normal monsoon throughout the country. At an economic seminar on Wednesday, Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Subir Gokarn

pointed out that the pressure on overall inflation was starting to become visible while earlier this week Finance Secretary Ashok Chawla expressed the hope that headline inflation would likely moderate to more acceptable levels on arrival of good rabi crops and better monsoon rainfall as compared to last year.

The food and primary articles inflation index data released here on Thursday showed that on a year-on-year basis, pulses turned dearer by 32.49 per cent and fruits by 15.51 per cent. Besides, on a week-on-week basis, potatoes turned 5.95 per cent more expensive while tea was costlier by 5 per cent, fruits and vegetables by 2 per cent and pulses (urad, arhar, masur), condiments and spices by one per cent each.

**Date:**14/05/2010 **URL:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/05/14/stories/2010051450920700.htm>

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## **Eight lakh saplings to be planted in private lands**

TIRUCHI: The Forest Department will plant eight lakh saplings in private lands in various forest divisions falling within the Tiruchi Circle under the Tree Cultivation in Private Lands Scheme (TCPL) in the current financial year with a view to enhancing tree cover outside forest areas.

The Department has set targets for each forest division specifying the number of casuarina saplings and saplings of timber species that needed to be planted in private lands across the Tiruchi Circle that encompasses Tiruchi, Perambalur, Pudukottai, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam Forest Divisions besides Tiruchi Social Forestry Division.

The total number of saplings of timber species to be planted in Tiruchi Circle this fiscal is five lakhs, while it is 3 lakhs in the case of casuarina. For the 2010-11 year, the Tiruchi Forest Division has been given a target to plant 1.70 lakh saplings of

timber species; while the target for Perambalur Forest Division is to plant one lakh saplings of timber species. Fifty per cent of the one lakh saplings to be planted in Pudukottai Forest Division will be casuarina. In Thanjavur Forest Division, 60,000 saplings of timber species and 40,000 saplings of casuarina will be planted, while in Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam Forest Divisions, the number of casuarina saplings to be planted is 60,000 and 75,000 respectively.

**Date:**14/05/2010 **URL:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/05/14/stories/2010051459080800.htm>

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## **Sericulture grant goes up**

*From Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 30 crore in three years, says Commissioner*



**Assistance: Harmander Singh (right), Commissioner of Sericulture, handing over a cheque to a farmer at Nerigam village in Krishnagiri district on Thursday.**

**KRISHNAGIRI:** The government grant for the sericulture sector has increased to Rs. 30 crores from Rs. 1 crore in three years, said Harmander Singh, Commissioner, Sericulture here on Thursday.

During the launching of an Intensive Sericulture Cluster Programme at Nerigam village near Berigai in Krishnagiri district, Mr. Singh said that the sericulture subsidy target has also increased to 10 times during the last three years i.e. from 1,000 farmers to 10,000 farmers.

He said sericulture is a respectable self employment opportunity for farmers, who can sell their cocoons directly to the consumers through the government-controlled 13 auction centres across the State.

This helps the farmers to get full price for their produce at Uzhavar Santhai (Farmers' Market), thus avoiding the middlemen and traders.

Sericulture is one of the profitable ventures if one can follow the technical expertise of the officials in the field. One can earn up to Rs. 1 lakh per month if he applies proper technology in sericulture farming, he added.

The subsidy for 2.5 acre land for sericulture farming has been increased to Rs. 1.5 lakh from Rs. 50,000 in the past.

Mulberry plants were cultivated over 4,000 acres in and around Hosur, including 400 acres in Berigai through 300 farmers.

All of them were given necessary training on mulberry cultivation and also extended loan for the same, Mr. Singh added.

R. Narayan, Chief General Manager, NABARD, said the success and failure of the project lies in the hands of the sericulture farmers, it is for them to decide their fate. The banks, Sericulture Department and government can only provide funding, training and technical know-how.

NABARD is extending a grant of Rs. 46.94-lakh for capacity building for about 250 farmers from 'Soil to Silk' concept.

Hence, farmers should choose the right technique to cultivate mulberry plants and to grow cocoons to reap maximum benefit from their investments.

By using the training offered by the Sanjeevani Trust, a Nodal Agency implementing the sericulture cluster project, farmers should be a role model and become brand ambassadors, it was pointed out.

**Date:14/05/2010 URL:**

**<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/05/14/stories/2010051460820300.htm>**

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## **Coconut complex to start operations soon**

*It is being built at a cost of Rs. 4 crore on 20 acre land*

PATTUKOTTAI: Coconut marketing complex would start functioning at Pattukottai soon, said Collector M.S.Shanmugham here on Wednesday.

He inspected the construction of the complex at a cost of Rs. 4 crore at Ukkadai village near Ponnavarayankottai near Pattukottai.

The complex, being constructed with state and central Government funds through Marketing committee, is coming up on 20 acres of land.

It will have ten drying yards, five modern godowns and ten shops.

Road and other facilities are also provided for the benefit of farmers. Farmers can prepare copra and market in the complex.

**Six-month deadline**

The Collector said that officials have been advised to complete the works within six months time.

Later, the Collector saw the construction of Pattukottai Panchayat Union building at a cost of Rs. 1.90 crore at Pattukottai.

PHC inspected

He also inspected the Primary Health Centre at Thamarankottai.

He saw the 30-bedded hospital of the PHC.

The centre receives 180 to 200 persons every day.

He also checked the enumeration of huts for conversion into concrete buildings in Pattukottai panchayat union.

Out of 42 panchayats, enumeration has been completed in 26 panchayats.

Manoharan, secretary of Marketing committee, Durairaj, Assistant Engineer and Veeraiyan, coconut farmer, accompanied the collector during his visit to the coconut complex.

Date:14/05/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/05/14/stories/2010051464850800.htm>

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## **Paddy procurement crosses 15 lakh tonnes**

*But, target cannot be achieved due to failure of kuruvai crop*

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*On an average 4,000 tonnes are arriving at the 400-odd direct purchase centres in the districts*

*Tiruvarur district topped among the delta districts by recording 4.22 lakh tonnes*

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CHENNAI: Paddy procurement in the State has crossed 15 lakh tonnes in the current khariff season, that is, between October 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010.

Though a target of 16 lakh tonnes had been fixed, the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, the procurement agency for the State, is unlikely to achieve it due to shortage in kuruvai procurement.

As on May 10, the Corporation had purchased 15.03 lakh tonnes from all over the State and the bulk of the purchase was from the delta districts viz., Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam and some taluks in Tiruchi, Pudukottai, Karur and Cuddalore districts.

Tiruvarur district topped among the delta districts by recording 4.22 lakh tonnes followed by Thanjavur with 3.9 lakh tonnes and Nagapattinam with 2.44 lakh tonnes. On an average 4,000 tonnes are arriving at the 400-odd direct purchase centres in the districts. There had been substantial arrivals in non-delta districts also, especially in Madurai, Kancheepuram, Erode and Sivaganga districts.

However, the procurement was less when compared to the last season. During the last khariff season, that is, 2008-09, the State had purchased 17.9 lakh tonnes. The shortfall, according to Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation officials, was due to failure of kuruvai crops. In the last season, the Corporation had purchased 3.04 lakh tonnes in kuruvai compared to a mere 36,000 tonnes in the current season.

Another reason was that farmers this time sold a substantial quantity to private traders who were ready to pay more than the minimum support price offered by the Corporation.

The official said the procurement operations would come to an end by May, the officials added.

Date:14/05/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/05/14/stories/2010051463600300.htm>

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## Milk production at Madurai Aavin Union all set to go up

*Officials attribute decline to intense summer; expect recent rain to offset it*

MADURAI: Collector C. Kamaraj, on Wednesday, conducted a review meeting with veterinary officers and officials of Madurai Aavin Union which also comprises Theni district.

He expressed concern over the decline of over 19,000 litres in milk production. Attributing the intense summer heat and drought conditions for the dip, Aavin officials said that milk production would climb again in the wake of recent rains.

Mr. Kamaraj urged the Aavin officials to revive dormant milk producing cooperative societies (MPCS) and to conduct regular review meetings with dairy farmers. He also wanted them to follow up the functioning of the seven bulk milk coolers installed last year and to convince more self-help group members to supply milk to MPCS.

He also directed the marketing officials to ensure adequate availability of milk products, ghee, butter and milk peda, in the markets.

The Collector also honoured secretaries of the cooperative societies at Thumbaipatti, Kottanathampatti and E. Pudupatti for having produced over 1,000 litres of milk a day. In the last year, Perarignar Anna Centenary Integrated Dairy Scheme for Women self-help group members was implemented in 29 villages. It would be implemented in another 21 villages in the current fiscal. K. Thangarajan, General Manager (in-charge) of Madurai Aavin, and S. Karthikeyan, Marketing Manager, took part in the meeting, an official press release said.



**Date:14/05/2010 URL:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/05/14/stories/2010051456490600.htm>

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## **Farmers plead for waiver of loans**

PERAMBALUR: The Perambalur, Ariyalur and Tiruchi district wings of the Tamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam has urged the State Government to declare these districts as drought-prone zone in the wake of failure of crops.

A resolution adopted at its executive meeting held here on Tuesday, said that the ground water in these districts had got depleted seriously, affecting agricultural operation altogether.

The State Government should also write off the farm loans sanctioned through the commercial and cooperative banks in these districts.

Another resolution referred to the state-level agitation on May 17 called by the Tamil Nadu Milk Producers' Welfare Association demanding higher price for milk.

Expressing solidarity with the Association, the resolution urged the State Government to raise the procurement milk by Rs.5 a litre.

**Date:13/05/2010 URL:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/thehindu/mp/2010/05/13/stories/2010051350800300.htm>

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## **Red hot chilli peppers**

Try your hand at a Korean dish this time



### **FIRE AND FLAVOUR Cayenne Pepper**

The cayenne pepper is a member of the Capsicum family, more commonly known as chilli peppers. It is known botanically as *Capsicum annuum*. The common name “cayenne” was given to this pepper because of its cultivation in a town that bears the same name in French Guiana on the northeast coast of South America.

It is not surprising that cayenne peppers, as well as other chilli peppers, can trace their 7,000-year history to Central and South America, regions whose cuisines are renowned for their hot and spicy flavours. Cayenne pepper is an excellent source of vitamin A, vitamin B6, vitamin C, vitamin K, manganese and dietary fibre.

Now, for a recipe.

### **Kim Chi**

#### **Ingredients**

Cabbage: 1 head

Salt: 1 lb (450 gm approx.)

Cayenne pepper: 15 gm

Whole spring onions, finely chopped: 6

Whole red chilli peppers, finely chopped: 3

Fresh ginger root, finely chopped: 50gm

Dashi stock: 100 ml

Soy sauce: 30 ml

**Method:** Cut the base off cabbage; then slice it lengthwise into 6 segments. Dry it in the sun for half a day, cut each segment into halves crossways, then put them into an unglazed earthenware pot alternately with liberal handfuls of salt and a sprinkling of cayenne pepper, making several layers. Cover the pot with a wooden lid just small enough to fit the inside of the pot so that it rests directly on the cabbage. Weight it down with a heavy stone and leave it for a week, then rinse the cabbage thoroughly under cold, running water. Squeeze out as much moisture as possible.

Slice the cabbage into 2.5 cm (1 inch) sections or chop it more finely if preferred and put it into the rinsed-out jar, this time layering it with onions, garlic, chillies and ginger. Fill the pot with the Dashi stock mixed with the soy and MSG. Cover it with wax paper; put the lid back and refrigerate the pot. After 4 or 5 days, the Kim Chi is ready for eating. Serve it with hot white rice and a dash of soy sauce.

**Note:** In cold weather, Kim Chi does not require refrigeration, but when the weather is warm store it in the refrigerator for up to three weeks. Kim Chi is one of Korea's national dishes, with as many versions as there are cooks.

BHOLANATH JHA *Chef de Partie, Taj Connemara*

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## **Food inflation inches up to 16.4%**

May 14 2010

May 13: Food inflation rose to 16.4 per cent for the week ending May 1. This has reversed the downward trend seen over the last two weeks. This is mainly due to the high prices of fruits and vegetables. Inflation for the last month was 16.04 per cent.

“There is an urgent need to bring down inflation. Monetary policy alone will not solve the issue of high food inflation, as there are supply side factors as well,” said CII president, Mr Hari S. Bhartia. The finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, had expressed concerns over the high inflation on Wednesday.

Food inflation is high at a time when the rabi crop has begun entering the market. Therefore it will not address the issue of supply side constraints of all the commodities. The food inflation situation will become clearer when we have good picture about the monsoon,” said rating agency Crisil chief economist, Mr D. K. Joshi.

He said there will be a sharp dip in food inflation only in the second half of the financial year in case of a normal monsoon.

The Indian Meteorological Department has predicted a normal monsoon this year, which has raised hopes that the food prices will be controlled. The food prices were high as last year parts of country witnessed a severe drought in decades.

Now with industrial growth back on track, the RBI is likely to shift its focus to controlling the high inflation. The overall inflation was at a 17-month high of 9.90 per cent in March. Due to this the RBI is expected to further tighten the monetary policy in the coming

days. The RBI in its annual monetary policy last month had raised the key inter-bank lending and borrowing rates and cash reserve ratio by 25 basis points each.

“The RBI is expected to raise interest rates 25 basis points at every policy review said,” Mr Joshi adds.

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**Source URL:**

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/business/food-inflation-inches-164-402>



## **Food inflation spikes to 16.44 pct**

**Agencies** Posted online: Thu May 13 2010, 11:30 hrs

**New Delhi :** The food inflation snapped a two-week declining trend in late April, but the RBI is seen awaiting more cues on prices and on demand before deciding on further policy action.

The food price index rose 16.44 per cent in the year to May 1, government data released on Thursday showed, above the prior week's annual rise of 16.04 per cent with prices of vegetables rising as a heat wave in the country damaged the perishable food.

Fuel prices rose 12.33 per cent, down from the previous week's annual rise of 12.69 per cent, while the primary articles index was up 16.76 per cent, compared with the previous week's reading of 13.93 per cent.

The RBI is seen by analysts as waiting for more definitive readings on inflationary pressure and demand in the economy from April inflation and March quarter GDP data. Inflation data is in on Friday and GDP numbers are due on May 31.

Supply shortages of food, following a poor harvest last year, had pushed headline inflation upwards to a 17-month high of 9.9 per cent in March.

Analysts see it easing to 9.5 per cent in April, but rising demand outstripping increases in supply capacity has given rise to new inflationary pressures which the central bank has said are "worrisome."

Still, the central bank has indicated it will stick to its stated position of gradually exiting its easy monetary policy as high risks were associated with stronger action.

Broadening inflationary pressures have had the central bank raise rates twice by a total of 50 basis points since March 19, and markets expect further tightening down the year.



*By Prince Jebakumar*

*14 May 2010 05:54:30 AM IST*

## Food scarcity imminent: CPM leader

MADURAI: Food scarcity is imminent in India, as the wrong policies of the Union Government continue to wreak havoc in the lives of farmers and farm coolies in the country, said Varadharajan, CPM politburo member.

In an exclusive interview to the Express here on Wednesday, Varadharajan said that the reduction in the fertilizer subsidy to the tune of Rs 3,000 crore in the current budget added to the woes of farmers as it would directly increase the cost of food production.

On the wrong policies of the Centre, he said that it had banned procurement of wheat from six States, including Punjab and Rajasthan, for the PDS, citing the dip in the yield as the reason.

In fact, all the cultivated wheat in those States would be procured by several capitalists for a meagre advance price fixed by them.

Asked about the reports citing that Union Minister M K Alagiri's abroad visit was informed to the Prime Minister's Office, Varadharajan said Alagiri was unfit to continue as the Union Minister for everyone knows how he accrued power.

Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar had announced that she was not informed.

## Weather

Chennai - INDIA

### Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

**Friday, May 14**

Max Min

37.8° | 28.8°

Rain: 00mm in24hrs Sunrise: 05:44

Humidity: 42% Sunset: 18:27

Wind: Normal Barometer: 1008.1mb

### Tomorrow's Forecast








Sunny

**Saturday, May 15**

Max Min

38° | 29°

### Extended Forecast for a week

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| May 16  | May 17  | May 18  | May 19  | May 20  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 37°   29°   | 37°   29°   | 37°   29°   | 35°   29°   | 35°   29°   |
| Partly Cloudy   | Partly Cloudy   | Partly Cloudy   | Tstorm  | Tstorm  |