

Date:08/05/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/05/08/stories/2010050855430802.htm>

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## Farmers' plight

This has reference to P. Sainath's article on farmers' suicide in Vidarbha (May 6). Proverbially, farmers are born in debt, live in debt and die in debt. Unless the government makes drastic changes in its policy towards agriculture, the situation will remain for ever. In the U.S. and other European countries, billions are spent on boosting agriculture, though food is in surplus there. Corruption is the main culprit in our country where the intended beneficiary never gets the fruits of governmental policies and programmes. Mr. Sainath's essay should wake up the elected representatives.

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## Rain with strong wind uproots trees

KRISHNAGIRI: Heavy rain with strong wind uprooted trees and advertisement banners and hoardings were torn on Wednesday morning.

An old tamarind tree was uprooted on Tirupattur road, near Bargur, and damaged the compound wall of a school. Due to it, traffic on the route was affected for more than hour. As a precautionary measure, power was shutdown in many parts of the town on Wednesday night.

Power supply was affected in and around the Government General Hospital due to

sudden failure of the transformer in the Pappalapatti area in Krishnagiri town till Thursday evening.

Though the temperature during day time was at its peak, the cool breeze and the rain brought respite in the evening. Residents spent a sleepless night due to power failure. Denkanikottai registered the highest rainfall of 25 mm on Wednesday night.

V.S. Sankaran, Chennai

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### 3 lorry loads of mangoes seized from market

*They are ripened artificially using calcium carbide stones*



**SWIFT OPERATION:** Corporation employees seizing mangoes that were being ripened using calcium carbide stones from a shop at the Gandhi Market in Tiruchi on Friday under the supervision of T.Veeramani (left), District Supplies and Consumer Protection Officer, and K.C.Cheran (second from left), City Health

## **Officer.**

TIRUCHI: Three lorry-loads of mangoes, being ripened using calcium carbide stones, a chemical substance, were seized from fruit dealers at the Gandhi Market here on Friday during a special drive conducted by the officials of Corporation Health Wing and Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection.

The seizures were made by the official team when they conducted surprise inspections at the shops and godowns of fruit dealers at the Gandhi Market, a major market from where a large number of retail vendors of Tiruchi region procure fruits.

While several shops and godowns were inspected, officials found mangoes being ripened in at least five of them. One of the dealers, on seeing the officials ran away after closing his shop. The shop, with a stock of mangoes, was sealed by officials.

Three lorry-loads of mangoes, valued at around Rs.1 lakh, were seized from the other shops. The fruits were later transported to the Corporation garbage dump and destroyed, K.C. Cheran, City Health Officer, told 'The Hindu.' The operation was supervised by Dr. Cheran and T.Veeramani, District Supplies and Consumer Protection Officer.

The surprise inspections come as part of a drive taken up by the Health officials in the city over the past couple of days in various manufacturing and retail outlets of food products.

Meanwhile, Collector T. Soundiah has issued a warning to retail/wholesale dealers and manufacturers against selling expired packaged food products. In a press release, he has warned of legal action against those found selling food products in packets without mentioning the manufacturing date and the expiry period. Under Rule 5 of the Packaged Commodities (Regulation) Order, 1975, sale of packaged commodities without details such as date of manufacturing, maximum retail price,

producer's name and address has been banned.

Packaged commodities should be removed from the shops or godowns and destroyed after the date of expiry. Severe action would be taken under Section 273 of the Indian Penal Code and Section 7 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954, if any trader or retailer failed to remove and destroy the expired products from their shops/godowns or was found selling the expired goods.

Members of the public can lodge complaints, if any in this regard, to the State Consumer Helpline over the telephone at 044 28592828 or email:  
[www.consumer.tn.gov.in](http://www.consumer.tn.gov.in)

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### **Adequate stock of wheat available**

TIRUCHI: Adequate stocks of wheat and enriched wheat flour were available in all ration shops in the district, Collector T. Soundiah has said.

In a press release issued here on Friday, Mr. Soundiah said that the government has ordered the supply wheat and enriched wheat flour and ration cardholders could purchase the commodities from all ration shops.

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## Weather

Chennai - INDIA

### Today's Weather



Clear

**Saturday, May 8**

Max Min

36.9° | 28.3°

Rain: 00mm in 24hrs Sunrise: 05:46

Humidity: 34% Sunset: 18:25

Wind: Normal Barometer: 1008.1mb

### Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

**Sunday, May 9**

Max Min

37° | 27°

### Extended Forecast for a week

Monday

**May 10**



37° | 27°

Partly Cloudy

Tuesday

**May 11**



37° | 28°

Partly Cloudy

Wednesday

**May 12**



37° | 28°

Sunny

Thursday

**May 13**



37° | 28°

Sunny

Friday

**May 14**



37° | 27°

Partly Cloudy