

India scores a win in Warsaw on emission cuts affecting farmers

Finds wide-ranging support from the entire G77+China bloc and the United States

India has scored an early victory at the negotiations here, ensuring that the talks remain focused on adapting agricultural practices to climate change and not on costly emission reduction measures that would impact farmers directly.

India found wide-ranging support from other countries, including the entire G77+China bloc and, surprisingly, the United States.

The developed countries, especially the European Union, have for several years been keen on ensuring that climate negotiations focus on reducing emissions in the agricultural sector. India, China and a large number of African countries have countered this by pointing out that emission reduction efforts in the agricultural sector would affect farmers — who constitute a large percentage of the population, and are often the poorest, in the developing world. They also argue that the effort to reduce emissions should be focused on fossil-fuel-based activities that spew out carbon dioxide — the greatest contributor to global warming by far. As paddyfields and livestock are some of the biggest causes of emissions, emission reduction in the sector has major implications for India and China.

The Indian delegation and other developing countries were taken by surprise on the first day of the Warsaw meet when the elected chairs of the talks announced that there was a plan to have a formal decision adopted on the agriculture sector by the end of the two weeks of negotiations.

Many objected, noting that such a plan had not been approved by the countries earlier and should not even be on the agenda of the talks. They pointed out that the countries had agreed only to an exchange of views in a workshop, a format in which only reports are generated and no formal decisions are adopted.

Fast-forwarding the talks to bring out a decision at Warsaw on the agricultural sector, including on the emission reduction front (very often referred to simply as mitigation), would have opened a Pandora's box, leading to emission reduction targets being set particularly for the agriculture sector in 2015, when the new global agreement is to be signed.

Significant Indian intervention supported by many other countries ensured that the talks remained focused on adaptation and only a report on this specific matter is produced for the countries to discuss in future.

"It's the emphatic realisation and thrust on adaptation in agriculture, given the diversity of needs and concern of poor countries, that was realised by one and all," said Ravi S. Prasad, one of the lead negotiators for India, explaining how many countries came together on the issue.

While the door has not completely been shut on mitigation in agriculture, the window that was surreptitiously opened this year has been firmly bolted down.

The Indian government had mandated its delegation to ensure that mitigation in the agricultural sector does not find space at the negotiations. In the three days here, the delegation has secured the one redline it came here with. The decision on this took two days of closed-door talks and is likely to be announced officially at the end of the week.

📌 ***India was taken by surprise when emission cuts in agricultural sector was made part of agenda***

📌 ***Now, only a report on this matter will be produced for the countries to discuss in future***

Farmers demand insurance

The Tamil Nadu Vivasaiyigal Sangam on Wednesday staged protests in Nagapattinam and Vedaranyam demanding crop insurance payment for 2012-13.

NABARD scheme for farmers to continue

CHENNAI, November 14, 2013 - The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on Wednesday announced the continuation of scheme of interest subvention for farmers during 2013-14.

In a press release, NABARD Chief General Manager Lalitha Venkatesan said the scheme was introduced to avoid distress sale of produce by small and marginal farmers and to facilitate storage of their produce in warehouses for enabling them to sell it at remunerative price at a future date.

She also said the bank had opened a separate line of refinance for co-operative banks and regional rural banks and urged them to implement the scheme with full vigour.

Will farmers of Malaprabha basin get their due?

DHARWAD, November 14, 2013 - The movement for the Kalasa-Banduri Nala project received wide support from farmers of Malaprabha basin, who have been optimistic about using the waters for irrigation in future.

Minister for Water Resources M.B. Patil said there was pressure from farmers to divert 9 tmcft of water for irrigation. Mr. Patil promised to explore the possibilities of utilising water in the future even as there are legal hitches. However, this promise appears to be an “eye wash”.

Complex issue

Sources in the Department of Water Resources said it would not be possible to utilise the waters for irrigation even in the future, as inter-basin water transfer is a complex issue. To avail water for irrigation purposes, the Kalasa-Banduri Nala project would involve the transfer of water from Mahadayi river to the Malaprabha basin.

Components

The project has three components – construction of Kalasa dam, Banduri dam and the Mahadayi hydropower project. Of the 24.15 tmcft water the project will provide, 14 tmcft is meant for the 200 MW Mahadayi hydro-power project.

The farmers have demanded diverting 9 tmcft of water from this share. The government had to sacrifice the hydro-power project if irrigation was allowed, they said, but ministers and higher officials in the government were favouring the hydro-power project.

Mohan Kataraki, senior advocate in the State's legal panel for the tribunal, said it was risky to talk about utilising Kalasa-Banduri water for irrigation, as it could weaken State's position in the legal battle with Goa.

Set aside

Earlier, the Cauvery tribunal had set aside the State's plea to utilise 18 tmcft water of Cauvery to supply drinking water to Bangalore city.

The tribunal had argued the project require inter-basin transfer of water between Cauvery and Palar rivers, he said.

Mr. Kataraki said that under the Kalasa-Banduri project, the State could opt for either hydro-power or the irrigation project. Even Goa has not objected to the hydro-power project.

He said that if the State sacrificed hydro-power project for the irrigation project, the chances of the tribunal refusing permission for irrigation were more and they would lose both.

Engineers gave the opinion that hydro-power project required a minimum of 14 tmcft of water, he said.

Dairy farming takes a progressive turn



Small-scale dairies are the new trend in the sector. Several youngsters have taken up dairy farming as it provides an assured income. — File Photo

KOCHI, November 14, 2013 - More than half the quantity of milk procured by Milma in Kerala is coming from Malabar

region. Apart from a congenial climate for rearing cattle, the Malabar region of Milma is offering a host of incentives to the dairy farmers, which could be emulated by other regions of the cooperative network.

About 5 lakh litres out of the total daily procurement of 9.46 lakh litres of milk is procured from Malabar. There has been a remarkable rise in the procurement in recent years, thanks

to the support schemes offered by the regional cooperative, according to George Thomas, coordinator of the 'Farm Support' programme.

The programme offers technical advice, help at every stage from buying cattle to maintaining and marketing. Apart from normal dairy activities, the agency facilitates farm tourism projects.

Setting up of small-scale dairies is the new trend in the sector. Several youngsters have taken up dairy farming as an occupation as it provides an assured income, he says.

Traditional way of rearing one or two cows is slowly disappearing, but a large number of existing milk producers and new entrepreneurs are entering the mini dairy farm sector, seeing the opportunities in the market. On an average, the farm size has grown up from 3-5 to 10-15. The number of such mini dairy farms in Malabar Region has jumped from 616 in 2009 to 3,091 in 2012, according to a study conducted by the region.

Usually, cattle loans bear an interest rate of 13-15 per cent, while car loans are available at lesser rates.

Milma's Farm Support programme identified NABARD's Dairy Entrepreneur Development Scheme (DEDS), which provides a subsidy of Rs.1.25 lakh for a loan of Rs.5 lakh. The cooperative promoted it by preparing project reports, tying up with commercial banks.

Mechanisation was promoted to overcome difficulties in getting labour. Farm Support procures dairy farm machinery in bulk and distributes them to farmers at affordable rates. A back-end subsidy is provided to farmers who supply milk to the village dairy cooperative. More than 800 milking machines have been distributed under the scheme. 'Chaff cutters' for chopping green fodder, rubber mats for providing comfort to cow and pressure jets to clean cattle sheds are distributed at subsidized rates.

Farm Support also provides financial assistance for mechanisation of dairy farms to the tune of Rs 25,000 per farmer, provided the farmer supplies a minimum quantity of 20 litres of milk per day to any of the Milma societies. The Malabar Milma distributed Rs.109 lakh under the scheme during the last financial year, according to Mr. Thomas.

According to statistics from the State Poverty Eradication Mission, 5 lakh out of 70 lakh families under Kudumbasree project are dependent solely on livestock for their livelihood in Kerala, while another 5 lakh depend on livestock as a subsidiary means. About 55 per cent of the people in the sector have 2 or 3 cows, while about 30 per cent maintain single cow. There is good scope for extending the farm support scheme to other areas, according to the proponents of the scheme.

Farmer files complaint against KJP leader, four others

MANDYA, November 14, 2013 - A sugarcane grower has filed a complaint against the former chairman of Mysore Sugar Company Ltd., who is also a Karnataka Janata Paksha leader, Nagarajappa, and four others on charges of misappropriating funds belonging to the sugar mill.

C. Puttaswamy, a resident of Kage Hallada Doddi in Kasaba hobli, said in his complaint on Tuesday that the fraud took place in 2009. But, he said he realised that the funds had been misused only recently. The four other persons named by the complainant are the former

managing director of the mill Ashwath Narayanagowda, manager accounts (finance) H.S. Ranganatha, manager (purchase) H. Lingaraju and a businessman at Belagola, Y.K. Sheriff.

Farmers seek relaxation of guidelines for discoloured paddy



Existing guidelines allow only 4 per cent of discoloured and sprouted paddy at the MSP

Members of the Central team inspecting damaged paddy at the agricultural market yard on Wednesday.- Photo: Singam Venkataramana

NALGONDA, November 14, 2013 - A four-member committee constituted by

the Centre to examine and collect the samples of discoloured and sprouted paddy after the recent rains in Nalgonda district, concluded its two-day visit.

The Committee under the chairmanship of Regional Assistant Director Quality Control, Ministry of Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution, K. Saipratap, entered Nalgonda district after completing their Warangal tour at Aler on Tuesday evening. The remaining members of the committee are Manager Marketing, AP Civil Supplies Corporation, Prabhakar, Assistant General Manager, Quality Control, Food Corporation of India, Hyderabad, Kamalakar and Joint Director Agriculture, Hyderabad, Lakshamnadas.

The committee had visited Bhuvanagiri, Valigonda, Tirumalagiri and other markets. On their last visit to Nalgonda market yard, Mr. Saipratap said that they were only sent to collect samples.

Stating that they would send these paddy samples to labs in Hyderabad, the chairman of the committee said they would send lab reports to the Centre by November 16 to enable the Centre to announce relaxation of existing guidelines on procuring discoloured and sprouted paddy for the benefit of farmers. The existing guidelines allow only 4 per cent of discoloured and sprouted paddy at the MSP, but the samples collected by the committee have much more than the 4 per cent discoloured and sprouted paddy.

At present, the government is offering Rs. 1,326 and Rs. 1,520 MSP on 1010 and Sambamasuri varieties of paddy, but the millers at Nalgonda market yard are offering a lesser price than the MSP for sprouted and discoloured paddy. Joint Director Agriculture, Nalgonda, B. Narasing Rao, has said that another committee from the Centre will be coming to Nalgonda on a two-day visit on November 17 to assess crop loss.

NECC egg rate on Wednesday

NAMAKKAL, November 14, 2013 - The National Egg Coordination Committee egg rate was fixed at Rs. 3.90 on Wednesday.

Farmer's notebook



Practical knowledge: Paulose showing the humus content in his caradamom farm in Idukki.-

Photo: Special Arrangement

So far more than 200 farmers have visited his plantation to learn

A range of wetlands needed for bird conservation: study

Ninety-nine bird species that used the wetlands in six SW U.P. districts were identified



Avian haven: Oriental Darter and Black-headed Ibis — both globally near-threatened species — at a village lake in U.P.'s Etawah district. — Photo: Dr. K.S. Gopi Sundar

Preventing human depredation and maintaining a range of agricultural wetlands, from small village ponds to large lakes, is essential for bird

conservation, according to research carried out by two Indian ornithologists.

K.S. Gopi Sundar of the International Crane Foundation and his wife, Swati Kittur of the Nature Conservation Foundation, have examined how wetlands of various sizes dotted across the landscape in south-western Uttar Pradesh could be sustaining diverse bird species.

“There has been an assumption that conserving a few large wetlands would suffice to protect the majority of wetland-associated bird species,” Dr. Sundar told this correspondent. “We decided to empirically examine how far this was true.

The agricultural wetlands were typically small and isolated, with the overwhelming majority coming under the common lands that were overseen by local panchayats, point out Dr. Sundar and Ms. Kittur in a paper published in *Biological Conservation* recently. Although often only seasonal, such wetlands served to meet many human needs, including the recharge of groundwater, water supplies for agricultural and household use, grazing for livestock as well as providing vegetation and aquatic fauna that could be harvested.

Using satellite imageries, the two of them identified close to 12,000 wetlands in six south-western U.P. districts. They then picked a random sample of 28, which varied in size from 0.06 hectares to over 30 hectares, for detailed study.

The various species of birds at each of these sites were surveyed during January and February this year. During this period, migratory birds would have completed their journey to India and not begun their return migration.

“We found that wetlands of all sizes, occurring at differing densities on the landscape, are necessary for retaining a large number of bird species,” said Dr. Sundar.

Their survey identified 99 bird species that made use of the wetlands. Some, like storks and cranes, preferred the larger wetlands. But about half the species were found only in smaller patches of water.

Protecting large wetlands would therefore only assist a few species that showed clear preferences for such sites but “will not help achieve conservation of the majority of the species on the landscape,” observed Dr. Sundar and Ms. Kittur in their paper.

Preventing all human use of such wetlands was not essential for bird conservation, their paper noted. “Despite prolonged and very high human pressure on the wetlands, Uttar Pradesh’s agricultural wetlands support a high number of bird species. The observed species richness is the highest known for agricultural wetlands in any landscape in south Asia.”

Human misuse of these wetlands was often illegal. That included draining or filling the wetlands and converting them for other activities. Since the vast majority of wetlands in U.P. are tiny and isolated, they could be converted relatively rapidly and required urgent conservation attention, the paper added.

As local communities usually had a strong interest in maintaining the wetlands, supporting local institutions and enforcing existing legal provisions could help protect these water bodies, Dr. Sundar remarked.

Fishermen told not to venture into sea

State Wednesday advised fishermen to remain cautious while venturing into the sea as a depression has formed over the Bay of Bengal.

“A depression has formed over Southwest and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal. It has moved westwards and lay centred about 870 km south of Gopalpur in Ganjam district,” an official of the Bhubaneswar meteorological centre told IANS.

The system would intensify into a deep depression and cross north Tamil Nadu coast between Nagapattinam and Chennai by Friday night or Saturday morning, he said.

No impact likely

Although it would have no significant impact on Odisha, fishermen have been advised to remain cautious while venturing into the sea, the official said.

Disease, pest menace in mulberry during winter

The cool and humid conditions in winter favour incidence of some seasonal specific pest and diseases on mulberry and silkworms which affect silk production.

Powdery mildew caused by the fungus, *Phyllactinia corylea*. It is a common disease of mulberry during winter season. In initial stage of infection, white powdery patches appear on lower surface of the leaf and then spread to cover the entire leaf.

Colour change

Finally the leaf turns black in colour. Such leaves are not preferred by the silkworms.

Further, growth of this fungus results in loss of leaf moisture and nutrients which reflect adversely on growth of silkworms and cocoon yield.

The leaf webber, *Diaphania pulverulentalis* is a serious pest of mulberry in winter. It attacks the apical shoot and defoliates the tender leaves which lead to stunted growth of plants. Farmers face shortage of tender leaves to rear young silkworms besides reduction in volume of silkworm rearing due to poor leaf yield. The silkworms also suffer from a fungal disease in winter called muscardine caused by *Beauveria bassiana*. After contact of its conidia with the integument of silkworm, mycelia penetrate into the body and grow vigorously absorbing the body fluid and finally mummify the larvae. This disease causes mortality of silkworms in mass during winter when the temperature comes down to 20 degree celsius.

Control measure

Severity in powdery mildew is found more on plant maturity. Therefore, timely harvest of leaves for silkworm rearing in winter helps to avoid the disease.

Spray of 0.2 per cent carbendazim (2g/litre) is effective.

To control leaf webber, spraying of dichlorovos (1ml/litre) is recommended. The pupal parasitoid, *Tetrastichus howardii* at 20,000 per acre and egg parasitoid, *Trichogramma chilonis* at 4 cc /acre are also promising.

Muscardine in silkworms can easily be controlled by manipulating the temperature and humidity inside the silkworm rearing house.

(Dr. N.Sakthivel, Scientist, Research Extension Center, Central Silk Board, Srivilliputtur – 626 125, Tamil Nadu and Dr. Chikkanna, Scientist, Regional Sericultural Research Station, Salem – 636003, email: sakthivelcsb@hotmail.com, mobile: 098427 61789)

Global precipitation link to climate change



A new study by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientists shows that changes in global precipitation are directly affected by human activities and cannot be explained by natural variability alone.

Organic terrace garden workshop



Run for health

Race Course; November 24; 6.30 a.m.

Rock N' Run Coimbatore organises MegaPink Coimbatore, an initiative promoted by Pinkathon, India's largest women 10 km running event. Run to create awareness on women's fitness, in the 3 km and 6 km categories. MegaPink will partner with Rao Hospital to provide free check up and consultation for registered women participants (post-run).

Registration fee is Rs. 100 and open to all. Participants will get free t-shirts and finisher certificates. For details call 96777-31611 & 98946-29229

Terrace garden workshop

Tara Hall, Hotel Sriram International, State Bank Road (near Railway Station) , November 17, 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Learn the basics of how to set up an organic garden, how to set up a terrace garden without using soil, and how to cultivate commercial ornamental plants. Learn how to make vermi-

compost, and how to raise medicinal herbs at home. You can also get re-introduced to nutrition-rich traditional millets for a healthy diet.

Registration fee is Rs. 750 (inclusive of lunch)

For details, call: 94420-19007 or 75985-16303.

Orchards give way to bustling healthcare hub



Concrete jungle: High-rise buildings dot Krishna Nagar in Visakhapatnam. (Right) St. Joseph Hospital in the locality. —Photos: A. Manikanta Kumar



Except for a few old trees and a handful of old structures, Krishna Nagar hardly has any trace of its past

VISAKHAPATNAM, November 14, 2013 - As the sun casts its first rays across the skies, the temple bells chime synchronously. After the morning ablutions are done, the priests get busy with prayers. A few hours later, the chime of the bells gets drowned in a cacophony of noises at the busy junction.

This is the scene on a regular day at the Zilla Parishad junction near the Krishna temple. For several years now, the residents of Krishna Nagar have been waking up to a mix of sounds. With hospitals and healthcare clinics, it is hard to believe that the same place was once a spread of cashew plantations and green stretches of mango and 'jamun' trees. Interestingly, the locality was previously known as 'Sarma Gardens'.

"The name was given because Sir B.N. Sarma, who was a member of the Viceroy Council in the pre-independence era, used to own the land here," says G. Nirmala, a resident of Krishna Nagar, who has been living there for over seven decades.

True to the name of the place, the area in those days resembled a garden with plenty of breeze and a direct view of the sea.

"As a kid, I remember studying under the mango tree next to our house here on summer afternoons. Those days, the area was so breezy that there was no need to use fans," says Dr. Nirmala.

The locality was a reflection of the affluence of society with palaces of the Jeypore Maharaja and the Zamindar of Kasimkota located in the vicinity.

"The area where the Krishna temple stands today used to be a trench belonging to the Maharaja of Jeypore. It was much later that the temple came up," she says.

Over the years, as the city grew, the colony turned into a concrete jungle.

Today, save for a few clumps of old trees and a handful of individual houses and old structures, Krishna Nagar hardly has any trace of its past.

Among the other old structures of the colony is the Andhra University Ladies Hostel. The place was once home to C.R. Reddy, the founder of Andhra University.

A walk towards the other side of the street leads to yet another towering old structure — the St. Joseph's Hospital. The tall walls of the hospital have been a witness to many stories of silent perseverance and selfless service since its inception in 1962.

"This does not have the feel of a hospital. It is a home for patients," says Sister Claire, hospital administrator.

In the 1960s and 70s, King George Hospital, or KGH, and St Joseph's Hospital were the only major two health centres in the city.

The hospital caters to 300 in-patients today.

Now, a plethora of hospitals and speciality health clinics dot the streets and lanes of the place. The approaches of the lanes are few and narrow.

"There isn't an inch of space left vacant in this area," says Sheila Jackson, director of Olivet School.

Located adjacent to the Krishna temple, Olivet School was started in 1979 by her parents. She is one of the few original residents of Krishna Nagar, who has seen the colony grow from a canopy of greens to one of the busiest localities of the city.

"In the past two decades, many families sold their plots and houses here and moved to other parts of the city or migrated to cities like Hyderabad," she says.

Not a garden anymore, Krishna Nagar today is an image of urban development and its effects.

The area where Krishna temple stands today used to be a trench belonging to the Maharaja of Jeypore

Dr. Nirmala

A resident

With hospitals and speciality clinics dotting the area, there isn't an inch of space left vacant

Sheila Jackson

Director, Olivet School

ICRISAT bags award

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) bagged the FICCI FOOD 360 Award in the Best Incubator category in the third-edition of FOOD 360°, International conference-cum-exhibition on Agribusiness and Food Processing. S.M. Karuppanchetty, COO-Agri-Business Incubation Program, representing ICRISAT, received the award, along with S. Aravazhi, COO-Innovation and Partnership Program and Dr Saikat Datta Mazumdar, COO-NutriPlus Knowledge Program,. The award was presented by P.K. Mohanty, Chief Secretary, recently.

Paddy ryots block Minister's convoy

KHAMMAM, November 14, 2013 - Paddy growers laid siege to the main road at Wyra and blocked the convoy of Minister for Horticulture R Venkat Reddy on Wednesday demanding compensation for the losses suffered by them due to the "fake seeds menace."

According to sources, the aggrieved farmers from various villages converged on the mandal headquarters to constitute a joint action committee to undertake an agitation for justice. They squatted on the main road on the outskirts of Wyra to press for their demands. The Minister's convoy which was on its way to Sattupalli came to a grinding halt due to the road blockade.

The agitated farmers submitted a memorandum to the Minister seeking the latter's intervention to bail them out from the crisis. They said their paddy crops had witnessed stunted growth and in majority of the cases completely failed on account of the use of the seeds supplied by the "Andhra Pradesh Seeds Development Corporation". They sought stringent action against the officials responsible for the fiasco and financial support to overcome the losses. The Minister assured them that he would take up the matter with the government to ensure justice to them.

ICAR chief to visit horticulture varsity

ELURU, November 14, 2013 - S. Ayyappan, Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), will inaugurate a Krishi Vignan Kendra (KVK) building and hostel facility for KVK farmers at the Y.S.R. Horticulture University at Venkataramannagudem in West Godavari district on November 16. He is scheduled to interact with the farmer representatives and students in this connection at 3pm, according to B. Srinivasulu, Registrar of the Horticulture University.

Autos to deliver fresh fish home

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, November 14, 2013 - Sixteen specially designed autorickshaws with insulated boxes will bring fresh fish to customers' doorstep. The facility was launched by Minister for Fisheries K. Babu on Wednesday.

The autorickshaws, at Rs.1.98 lakh each, were designed by Kerala Automobiles Ltd. for the Kerala Coastal Area Development Corporation which is spearheading the "Fresh fish to all" project under the Union Agriculture Ministry. A team of five fish workers were given a three-wheeler. The beneficiaries pooled 25 per cent of the cost and the rest was provided as grant by the Centre and the State.

Launching the autorickshaws, Mr. Babu said the Centre had agreed to provide another 1,000 motorcycles, 200 autorickshaws, and 50 trucks to the State under the project.

Managing Director of the Corporation K. Ambady said already nine trucks and 135 two-wheelers had been given. Of the Rs.3.9 crore, the Centre had provided Rs.2.70 crore.

Northeast monsoon vigorous in south Kerala

Rain, thundershowers forecast for at least two more days

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, November 14, 2013 - Northeast monsoon was vigorous over south Kerala during the 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday and the meteorological centre here has forecast rain or thundershowers at many places in the State for at least two more days.

Isolated places in the State will receive heavy rainfall exceeding 7 cm on the gauge on Thursday and Friday, the Thiruvananthapuram Meteorological Centre said in its bulletin on Wednesday.

A depression formed over southwest and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal early in the morning on Wednesday and the system lay centred over a location some 650 km east-southeast of Chennai at 8.30 a.m.

The system would move westwards initially and then west-northwards and intensify into a deep depression.

It would cross Tamil Nadu coast between Nagapattinam and Chennai by Friday night or Saturday morning, the Chennai Regional Meteorological Centre said in a bulletin. A cyclonic circulation too was persisting over Lakshadweep and neighbourhood at lower levels of the atmosphere on Wednesday.

During the 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday, heavy rainfall occurred in Thiruvananthapuram and Aryankavu (9 cm each); Nedumangad, Neyyattinkara, Kayamkulam, and Piravom (8 cm each) and Chengannur and Kurudamannil (7 cm each). Punalur and Varkala received 6 cm of rainfall each and Kottayam, Mavelikara, Kayamkulam, and Konni 5 cm each.

Most of the places south of Ernakulam received rainfall and isolated places in Thrissur and Palakkad district also received good showers.

The northeast monsoon has been 16 per cent deficient for the State so far, with the rainfall recorded between October 1 and November 13 coming to only 325 mm against a normal of 385 mm for the period.

☐ ***Isolated places to get over 7 cm rain on Thursday, Friday***

☐ ***Cyclonic circulation persists over Lakshadweep***

A expo for the eco-conscious



A scene from the 'Chanthakkaree' exhibition now on at CSI Hall in Kozhikode. —Photo: S. Ramesh Kurup

KOZHIKODE, November 14, 2013 - 'Chanthakkaree,' as the word suggests, tries to sell a variety of products from one basket, like in the village markets, adding to the 'chantham' (beauty) of

those who buy these products.

Chanthakkaree, a three-day exhibition-cum-sale of a wide range of 'eco conscious' products at the CSI Hall in Kozhikode, is an attempt to provoke the common man to think about nature and keep from polluting it as far as possible, by introducing some stylish yet cheaper alternatives.

The main focus of Chanthakkaree is to bring together people with indigenous ideas to use materials that would otherwise be wasted, in a creative manner. Thus, the exhibition showcases stylish bags made out of tailoring waste; ornaments made of terracotta, paper, and bamboo; toys and puzzles mainly made of coconut wood and shells; bags made of screw pine leaves, etc.

A few stalls promoting eco friendly clothing, mostly cotton, add to the show value. There are also stalls that showcase different types of jewellery.

Chanthakkaree, conceptualised by Aparna Vinod of Kozhikode with the help of Radha Gomathy, began three years ago with a small-scale show near Palayam in Kozhikode. Later,

there had been exhibitions in Kalpetta, Kochi, and Thiruvananthapuram, besides two shows a year in Kozhikode.

This year, Chanthakkaree is also a platform to showcase the toys from waste made by students under the banner of 'Pachappada,' a value education initiative of Chanthakkaree.

Pachappada is an army of 150 students from 12 schools in Kozhikode, who will be given environment awareness classes and training to make toys from waste materials.

The first batch of Pachappada underwent training at the BEM girls' high school in Kozhikode last week. The toys, mainly fans, they had created from waste paper are displayed at the Chanthakkaree exhibition, which concludes on Thursday.

NIT-C's entrepreneurship development programme

KOZHIKODE, November 14, 2013 - The Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of National Institute of Technology, Calicut (NIT-C) is conducting an entrepreneurship development programme in December, aimed at giving guidance to prospective entrepreneurs to start their own small-scale technology-related business units.

The four-week programme, sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, will help the participants identify a suitable project and study its feasibility. The participants will also be familiarised with the legal and statutory requirements for setting up a small-scale venture.

The programme will be held on the NIT-C campus from December 2 to 27.

Accommodation will be provided at nominal rates on the campus.

Details may be had from the Manager, Technology Business Incubator, National Institute of Technology, Calicut, Kozhikode -673601.

Phone: 0495-22 86 147, 99954 21341 or 98952 64652.

Water conservation approaches discussed

KALPETTA, November 14, 2013 - The significance of adopting traditional and scientific approaches in water conservation has been stressed at a seminar here on drought management and water conservation.

The programme was organised by the State Disaster Management Authority at the Collectorate conference hall here on Wednesday.

Sufficient rainfall

Presenting the topic, District Soil Conservation officer P.U. Das said Wayanad district was receiving an average rain of 3,000 mm a year and it was more than sufficient for the agriculture, industrial, and household usages, if it was conserved scientifically. The lack of

water-absorbing capacity of soil during monsoon was a major reason for the drought-like situation the district experiences at the advent of summer, he said.

The issue could be tackled effectively by constructing check-dams in rivers and rivulets, he said.

Long-term projects

Moreover, the district needed long-term water conservation projects, instead of adopting emergency measures during summer, he added.

Mr. Das also stressed the need for implementing a scientific water budget and stringent measures to ban unscientific sand-mining.

Speaking after inaugurating the seminar, District Collector K.G. Raju said the habit of misusing water in public water bodies should be avoided and use of water in public offices and public functions should be controlled.

Experts led classes on the topic.

‘Stop fall in yield in cows hit by foot-and-mouth disease’

KOLAR, November 14, 2013 - *Effective steps sought to help farmers cut down losses*

The Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha has urged the government to take steps to prevent decrease in milk yield in cattle suffering from foot-and-mouth disease to help save farmers from losses.

While holding responsible the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department for the recent cases of foot-and-mouth disease causing death of about 8,000 head of cattle, the sangha sought adequate compensation for the farmers.

Speaking to presspersons here on Wednesday, KPRS State unit vice-president G.C. Bayya Reddy said that the list prepared by the department putting toll at 5,200 was faulty and demanded that it be revised.

“More than 8,000 head of cattle died of the disease. In Kolar district, the number was 1,700 and in Chickballapur district, it was 800,” he said.

The government should think of taking effective steps to help farmers cut down losses due to decrease in yield in cattle affected by the disease, he said.

Mr. Bayya Reddy said that the compensation amount announced by the State government was not enough to meet the losses suffered by farmers. “At least Rs. 50,000 should be given per milch cow, including the Rs. 25,000 announced by Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar,” he added.

The compensation should be a one-time payment instead of being given by the government once and then the milk federations as mentioned in the amended order of October 28, 2013, the sangha said.

The government should appoint adequate number of doctors and other staff in the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, Mr. Bayya Reddy said.

KPRS district president P.R. Suryanarayan, secretary T.M. Venkatesh and Kolar taluk president Kurki Devaraj were present.

📌 **‘List of cattle toll prepared by department faulty’**

☐ ***'More than 8,000 head of cattle have fallen to disease'***

Training programme tomorrow

BIDAR, November 14, 2013 - Agriculture scientists will interact with farmers at a training programme on Friday on growing 100 tonnes of sugarcane an acre.

It will be held at the Basava Mantap on Bidar Sahakari Sakkare Karakhane campus in Hallikhed- B.

Srikanth M., soil scientist; Veerendra Patil, bio-technology consultant; and Ravi Deshmukh, training coordinator of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, will speak. Krishi Vigyan Kendra and Rotary club of Bidar are jointly organising the programme, said a press release here on Wednesday.

KRRS to lay siege to Suvarna Vidhana Soudha

BELLARY, November 14, 2013 - *'It's a bid to draw government's attention to farmers' plight'*
In an attempt to bring to the government's notice the plight of farmers and to draw attention to neglected rural areas, the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) will lay siege to the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belgaum on November 25, the opening day of the winter session of the Legislature.

Speaking at a press conference here on Wednesday, KRRS president Kodihalli Chandrashekar, said that pressure would be mounted on the State government to initiate steps that would benefit farmers. Revision of sugar cane price, withdrawal of the government order fixing exorbitant fees for mutation of land, minimum support price for maize, allocation of 25 percent of the budget for irrigation sector, among other things, would be put forth on the occasion.

Mr. Chandrashekar took strong exception to the reported statement of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah that farmer leaders had agreed to fix cane price at Rs. 2,500 per tonne. "At a meeting with the Chief Minister, we had pointed out that the yardstick adopted for fixing State Advisory Price (SAP) for sugarcane was unscientific. The government should fix cane price at Rs. 2,800 per tonne instead of Rs. 2,500 at 9.5 per cent sugar recovery. The price should be revised and the government should protect the interests of sugarcane growers," he said.

He accused the Siddaramaiah government of favouring sugar factories and sacrificing the interests of farmers. Taking umbrage over the government extending tax benefits to sugar factories to the tune of Rs. 300 crore, Mr. Chandrashekar described it as the 'first economic failure' of the Siddaramaiah government.

The Sangha urged the government to implement the two positive points in the Rangarajan Commission report – no levy, and allowing cane growers to sell their cane in the open market which fetched them good remunerative price.

Mr. Chandrashekar also criticised the government for not implementing long and short term plans to tackle drought in north Karnataka region. He said the government should utilise water resources available in the State for irrigation purposes by earmarking 25 percent of the total budgetary provision for irrigation.

☒ *'Yardstick adopted for fixing State Advisory Price (SAP) for sugarcane was unscientific'*

☒ *'Fix cane price at Rs. 2,800 per tonne instead of Rs. 2,500'*

Paddy to be procured at Rs. 1,600 a quintal

BANGALORE, November 14, 2013 - To supply rice to below poverty line families under the Anna Bhagya scheme, the State Cabinet has decided to procure paddy from farmers at Rs. 1,600 a quintal.

Addressing presspersons on the Cabinet decisions, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs T.B. Jayachandra said the minimum support price for paddy has been fixed at Rs. 1,310 a quintal. The government has decided to pay an additional Rs. 290 a quintal. The government would take steps to convert paddy into rice and ensure timely supply of rice to all ration shops. The decision would reduce the State's dependence on Chhattisgarh for rice. Local procurement of paddy would reduce the burden on the government. The State has been importing rice from Chhattisgarh at Rs. 30 a kg. The Karnataka Warehousing Corporation, Karnataka Marketing Federation and Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation would procure paddy from farmers, he said.

The State requires 2.84 lakh tonnes of rice a month. It has been receiving 1.77 lakh tonnes from the Centre.

Cabinet panel

A decision has been taken to set up a Cabinet sub-committee to look into the formation of the Agriculture Price Commission to fix suitable prices for the produce of farmers. The Cabinet has approved repairs and renovation of 216 treasuries at an estimated cost of Rs. 36.58 crore.

Water level

TIRUNELVELI, November 14, 2013 - Water level in the Papanasam dam on Wednesday stood at 90.40 feet (permissible level is 143 feet). The inflow was 1,156.51 cusecs and 1,147.25 cusecs was discharged.

The level of Manimuthar dam stood at 66.30 feet (118 feet). The inflow was 178 cusecs and 35 cusecs was discharged.

Rainwater harvesting structures planned along storm-water drains



Campaign planned against release of raw sewage into storm-water drains

SAVING EVERY DROP: V.P. Thandapani, Commissioner, Tiruchirapalli City Corporation, addressing the gathering at a workshop on 'simple steps to achieve water security' in Tiruchi on Wednesday. — PHOTO: A. MURALITHARAN

TIRUCHI, November 14, 2013 - The Tiruchirapalli City Corporation has planned to set up rainwater harvesting structures (RWH) along the storm-water drains in the city soon.

“We have storm-water drains running for about 650 km in the city and RWH structures could be put up every 10 metres along the drains. The structures will have filter beds and pipes running into the ground for up to 20 metres depth to recharge the water table. We will soon incorporate the provision for RWH structures in the design of the storm-water drains,” said Corporation Commissioner V.P. Thandapani here on Wednesday.

He was speaking at a workshop on “simple steps to achieve water sufficiency — rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling,” organised by Rain Centre, Chennai, in the city.

The workshop was meant for members of the media, architects, builders, municipal engineers, and town planners.

Mr. Thandapani, who inaugurated the workshop, pointed out that the corporation had framed bylaws making it illegal for residents to let out sullage from toilets into open drains. Once the bylaws were gazetted, the corporation would launch a campaign to sensitise residents against letting out sullage into the storm-water drains.

Emphasising the need for proper design and maintenance of rainwater harvesting structures, Mr. Thandapani said the corporation had conducted a survey recently and found that nearly 80 per cent of the 1.85 lakh properties in the city had RWH structures. However, many of them were not properly maintained and needed to be revived.

He said most of the RWH structures had not been designed properly in proportion to the built up area and open space in a particular building and the quantity of the rainwater that could be harvested.

In most buildings, RWH structures had been put up to meet minimal requirement and excess rainwater often flowed on to the streets. Builders and engineers should design the RWH structures properly to tap the maximum potential for harvesting rainwater. City residents needed to be educated more on creating proper RWH structures, he said.

Sekhar Raghavan, Director, Rain Centre, Chennai, said although the concept of rainwater harvesting had been talked about for 10 years, it had still not got the importance it deserved. Designing RWH structure for a particular site had not been well understood.

These structures had not been maintained properly.

Builders, architects, and engineers had a responsibility to ensure proper design of the structures and implement the concept correctly.

The Akash Ganga Trust, which had set up the Rain Centre, had received a grant from Arghyam, a non-governmental organisation, based in Bangalore, to conduct 15 workshops on efficient methods of rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling in Tamil Nadu. Six of them had been held in Chennai and three each were organised in Coimbatore, Madurai, and Tiruchi, he said.

V. Ganapathy, Liaison Officer, SCOPE, Tiruchi, spoke.

Technical sessions were held on rainwater harvesting and water security.

☒ ***RWH structures to be put up every 10 metres***

☒ ***They will have filter beds and pipes running to 20 metres depth***

Training at TNAU

COIMBATORE, November 14, 2013 - The Department of Agricultural Entomology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, is organising a 21-day training from November 13 to December 3 on 'Recent Advances in Stored Product Insect Pest Management' under the aegis of the Centre for Advanced Faculty Training (CAFT) scheme. According to a release, the training was inaugurated by S.K. Nandha, Project Co-ordinator, AICRP on Post-Harvest Technology, Ludhiana, Punjab.

Poultry waste found dumped in the open

Officials to find out persons responsible for act



COIMBATORE, November 14, 2013 - Illegal: Plastic bags containing poultry waste lying in the open at the Coimbatore Corporation's dump yard in Vellalore.

Vellalore residents have found poultry waste dumped in the open in the Corporation's dump yard.

According to J. Daniel, a resident and member of the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, a few residents on Wednesday found the waste lying in bags in the open.

The waste found dumped in the open could equal a lorry load.

He said that a few of those bags were not closed properly, the waste could be seen in the open and maggots could be seen moving around the waste.

It had also attracted crows and dogs that were pulling away the bags. There was every possibility of the waste polluting the groundwater, he said and wanted the Corporation to take responsibility and punish those behind the incident.

In response, Commissioner G. Latha said that the Corporation had tied-up with an agency to dispose of the poultry waste. As of Wednesday, the agency had taken away 2.70 tonnes poultry waste. Nevertheless, she would ask the officials to find out the persons behind the open dumping of poultry waste.

Fishermen launch relay fast



Fishermen observing fast at Thangachimadam in Ramanathapuram district on Wednesday.— Photo: L. Balachandar

RAMESWARAM/CHENNAI, November 14, 2013 : Members of various fishermen associations on Wednesday launched a relay fast at Thangachimadam near here, pressing for a charter of demands which

included the release of all fishermen from Tamil Nadu lodged in Sri Lankan prisons.

The fishermen, who launched an indefinite strike on November 6 protesting against the continuing arrests of the fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy on the charge of straying into their waters, intensified their stir by launching the relay fast. About 250 people, including leaders of 11 fishermen associations, and the family members of the arrested fishermen, observed the fast on Wednesday.

The protest, inaugurated by Thangachimadam panchayat president V.K. Gnanaseelan, is expected to continue for the next two days. “We are observing the fast demanding the release of the Tamil Nadu fishermen incarcerated in the Sri Lankan prisons along with their boats, and also urging the State government to release the Sri Lankan fishermen lodged in various prisons here,” said P. Sesu Raja, district secretary, Tamil Nadu Coastal Mechanised Boat Fishermen Association.

He said more than 80 Tamil Nadu fishermen were in Sri Lankan prisons and about 40 trawlers were detained in the island nation. Among the imprisoned fishermen were the five, who were arrested two years ago on alleged charges of drug peddling. The protesters also demanded the release of Lankan fishermen held in prisons in Andhra Pradesh and their boats, he said. Mr. Sesu Raja said the fishermen reiterated their demand that the Central and State governments arrange a meeting between the fishermen of the two countries and help them find a lasting solution to the problems faced by them through dialogue. “We have been traditionally fishing in the Palk Strait and the governments should protect our traditional fishing rights and livelihood,” he told *The Hindu* .

N.J. Bose, president of the Rameswaram Port Mechanised Boats Fishermen Association, said External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, who was visiting Colombo to participate in CHOGM should utilise the opportunity to take up the issue with the Sri Lankan government

and secure the release of the fishermen. A. Simon, coordinator, Island Fishermen, Pamban, said fishermen in Pamban would abstain from fishing on Thursday and take part in the fast. In a related development, Commodore Amar K. Mahadevan, Naval Officer-in-charge, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, said there was not a single attack on Tamil Nadu fishermen in Indian waters. Complaints of fishermen that the Sri Lankan Navy personnel crossed the International Maritime Boundary Line and attacked them were investigated.

“We have unmanned aerial vehicles and sensors monitoring the Palk Bay ...there was not a single instance of the Sri Lankan Navy crossing the IMBL. The Navy was working closely with the Indian Coast Guard to ensure that the fishermen were safe in Indian waters,” he told reporters on board INS Satpura on Wednesday. Commodore Mahadevan said fishermen issues were being discussed with the Sri Lankan Navy during regular interactions. Since the fishermen had GPS facility on boats they would know the location of the IMBL. “The possibility of external forces (attacking the fishermen) is also being looked into,” he said.

Foot and mouth disease: cattle shandies closed in Erode



COMMUNICATION GAP: A farmer takes away calves from the Karunkalpalayam Shandy in Erode on Wednesday after being informed about the ban on cattle sale imposed by the district administration.- PHOTO: M.GOVARTHAN

ERODE, November 14, 2013 - The Erode district administration on Wednesday ordered suspension of weekly shandies for cows and goats, due to the outbreak of foot and mouth

disease. In the last one month, 24 cows were reported dead and 146 heads of cattle continue to suffer from the ailment.

Officials of the Animal Husbandry Department told Erode Collector V.K. Shanmugham that the disease spreads quickly due to two main reasons: confluence of cattle and their transportation.

Besides stopping the conduct of weekly shandies throughout the district at Karungalpalayam, Kanagapuram, Gobi Modachur, Perunduraj, Seenapuram, Sivagiri, Anthiyur, Melampadi, Sanisandai, Kavindapadi, Sathyamangalam, Siruvalur, Puliampatti, and Puduchandai, the administration would also not let in cattle from other districts, the Collector said in a press release.

To prevent foot and mouth disease, cattle-rearers must spray washing soda and bleaching soda around the sheds. For the affected cows, the mouth and foot must be cleaned with potassium permanganate solution, and the animals must be fed ragi porridge and honey.

At the level of each block, an advisory committee comprising Assistant Veterinary Surgeon, panchayat president, village administrative officer, town panchayat executive officer would monitor the situation.

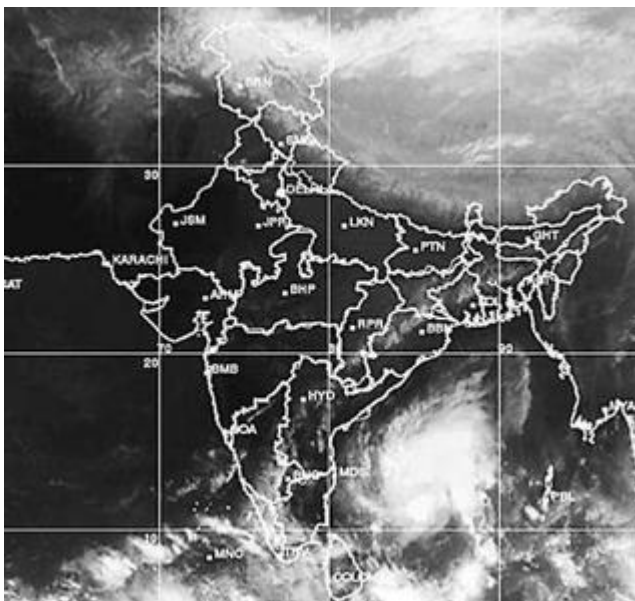
At the level of taluks, committees comprising Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry Department, Block Development Officer, and Tahsildar would be formed. The committee must meet once a fortnight. At district level, the Collector would chair a committee comprising the Joint Director of Animal Husbandry department and District Revenue Officer to oversee the situation, the release said.

Since the order for temporary closure of cattle shandies was issued only towards noon, a handful of sellers had already brought their cattle to the Karunkalpalayam shandy that is under the control of the city corporation. The sellers dispersed with their cattle on the advise of Revenue Department officials. The district administration has advised the city corporation to close the shandy until further notice.

Coimbatore Staff Reporter adds:

The district administration in Coimbatore has asked farmers not to purchase cattle from shandies in neighbouring districts, as it had been noticed that the disease spread from cattle bought from outside Coimbatore. The administration said in a press release on Wednesday that so far the Animal Husbandry Department had vaccinated 2.27 lakh cattle in Coimbatore against the disease.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 11-30 hrs. Observations recorded at 8-30 a.m. on November 13.

ANDHRA PRADESH

| | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|---|-----|
| Anantapur | 31 | 19 | 0 | 51 |
| Bapatla | 31 | 18 | 0 | 504 |
| Calingapatnam | 28 | 19 | 0 | 922 |
| Gannavaram | 31 | 19 | 0 | 411 |
| Hanamkonda | 31 | 15 | 0 | 284 |

| | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|-----|
| Hyderabad AP | 29 | 15 | 0 | 239 |
| Kakinada | 31 | 20 | 0 | 622 |
| Khammam | 31 | 22 | 0 | 98 |
| Kavali | 31 | 20 | tr | 406 |
| Kurnool | 31 | 18 | 0 | 96 |
| Mahabubnagar | 34 | 16 | 0 | 163 |
| Machilipatnam | 31 | 21 | 0 | 384 |
| Narasapur | 31 | 20 | 0 | 606 |
| Nellore | 31 | 22 | 0 | 323 |
| Nizamabad | 30 | 16 | 0 | 106 |
| Ongole | 32 | 21 | 0 | 489 |
| Ramagundam | 30 | 14 | 0 | 201 |
| Tirupathi AP | 31 | 21 | 0 | 256 |
| Tuni | 31 | 20 | 0 | 470 |
| Vizag AP | 32 | 21 | 0 | 555 |
| Vizag | 31 | 22 | 0 | 511 |

KARNATAKA

| | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|---|-----|
| Agumbe | 31 | 16 | 0 | 583 |
| Bengaluru AP | 28 | 18 | 0 | 113 |
| Bengaluru | 29 | 19 | 0 | 104 |
| Bagalkote | 29 | 13 | 0 | — |
| Belgaum AP | 29 | 12 | 0 | 60 |
| Bellary | 31 | 17 | 0 | 63 |
| Bijapur | 29 | 12 | 0 | 113 |
| Chitradurga | 29 | 18 | 0 | 54 |
| Chickmagalur | 29 | 16 | 0 | 41 |
| Chintamani | 28 | 15 | 0 | 50 |
| Gadag | 29 | 16 | 0 | 88 |
| Gulbarga | 32 | 17 | 0 | 35 |
| Hassan | 29 | 19 | 0 | 83 |
| Honavar | 34 | 21 | 0 | 261 |
| Karwar | 35 | 21 | 0 | 167 |
| Madikeri | 25 | 16 | 0 | 189 |
| Mangalore AP | 33 | 23 | 0 | 292 |
| Mysore | 29 | 21 | 2 | 127 |
| Mandya | 30 | 20 | 0 | 132 |
| Panambur | 34 | 24 | 0 | 235 |
| Raichur | 30 | 15 | 0 | 102 |
| Shirali | 33 | 21 | 0 | 414 |

KERALA

| | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|-----|
| Alappuzha | 30 | 24 | 25 | 187 |
| Kannur | 33 | 25 | 0 | 320 |
| Kochi AP | 29 | 23 | 26 | 393 |
| Kottayam | 30 | 23 | 47 | 470 |
| Kozhikode | 32 | 25 | 0 | 208 |
| Punalur | 31 | 22 | 60 | 506 |
| Thiruvanantha | | | | |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| -puram AP | 29 | 24 | 92 | 282 |
| Thiruvanantha | | | | |
| -puram City | 29 | 23 | 89 | 363 |
| Vellanikkara | 31 | 12 | 3 | 87 |
| TAMIL NADU | | | | |
| Adiramapattinam | 31 | 22 | 0 | 110 |
| Chennai | 30 | 23 | 0 | 197 |
| Chennai AP | 31 | 22 | 0 | 256 |
| Coimbatore AP | 31 | 23 | 1 | 106 |
| Coonoor | 19 | 14 | 2 | 285 |
| Cuddalore | 31 | 22 | 0 | 170 |
| Dharmapuri | 30 | 18 | 0 | 159 |
| Kanyakumari | 31 | 22 | 58 | 177 |
| Karaikal | 30 | 23 | 0 | 162 |
| Kodaikanal | 15 | 12 | 1 | 165 |
| Madurai AP | 31 | 24 | 0 | 197 |
| Nagapattinam | 30 | 23 | 0 | 154 |
| Palayamkottai | 33 | 23 | 10 | 226 |
| Pamban | 31 | 27 | 0 | 194 |
| Parangipettai | 31 | 23 | 0 | 286 |
| Puducherry | 31 | 21 | 0 | 130 |
| Salem | 33 | 20 | 0 | 153 |
| Thanjavur | 30 | 25 | 0 | 117 |
| Tiruchi AP | 31 | 23 | 0 | 161 |
| Tirupattur | 30 | 15 | 0 | 133 |
| Tiruttani | 31 | 19 | 0 | 205 |
| Tondi | 30 | 24 | 0 | 259 |
| Tuticorin | 31 | 23 | 53 | 161 |
| Ooty | 18 | 11 | 5 | 204 |
| Valparai | 25 | 15 | 27 | 270 |
| Vellore | 30 | 21 | 0 | 78 |
| LAKSHADWEEP | | | | |
| Amini Divi | 33 | 25 | 0 | 92 |
| Minicoy | 29 | 25 | 8 | 117 |
| OTHER STATIONS | | | | |
| Kolkata (Alipore) | 29 | 18 | 0 | 523 |
| Mumbai | 32 | 23 | 0 | 66 |
| New Delhi | 27 | 11 | 0 | 73 |

The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (trace) and total rainfall in mm since October 01, 2013.

DRY WEATHER IN ANDHRA PRADESH

CHENNAI: A depression has formed over southwest and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal at 5.30 a.m. on Wednesday. The system moved westwards and lay centered at 8.30 a.m., about 650 km east-southeast of Chennai and 680 km east-northeast of Nagapattinam. The system would move westwards for some more time and then west-northwestwards, intensify into a deep depression and cross north Tamil Nadu coast between Nagapattinam and Chennai by 15th November night or morning of 16th November 2013.

Northeast monsoon has been vigorous over Kerala.

Rainfall occurred at many places over Kerala and at a few places over Lakshadweep. Isolated rainfall occurred over Tamil Nadu and south interior Karnataka. Dry weather prevailed over A.P., coastal and north interior Karnataka. The chief amounts of rainfall recorded in centimetres are:

Tamil Nadu : Colachel (Kanyakumari Dt.) 10, Eraniel (Kanyakumari Dt.) 9.

Kerala : Aryankavu (Kollam dt.) 9 .

Karnataka : Halli Mysore (Hassan dt) 4.

Forecast (valid till Friday morning): Rain would occur at a few places over south Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Lakshadweep. Isolated rain may occur over north T.N. and Puducherry. Mainly dry weather will prevail over A.P. and Karnataka.

hindustantimes

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Thursday, Nov 14

Max Min

31° | 24°

Rain: 0

Humidity: 59

Wind: normal

Sunrise: 06:05

Sunset: 05:39

Barometer: 1006

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Friday, Nov 15

Max Min

31° | 24°

Extended Forecast for a week

Saturday
Nov 16



30° | 24°

Sunny

Sunday
Nov 17



32° | 24°

Partly Cloudy

Monday
Nov 18



26° | 26°

Overcast

Tuesday
Nov 19



26° | 26°

Overcast

Wednesday
Nov 20



27° | 25°

Overcast

Potato prices rise as traders supply it to MP, Chhattisgarh



Potato prices are spiralling in UP following their large-scale supply from Etawah, Kannauj and Ferozabad to neighbouring Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Officials claim it to be an artificial crisis created by traders but admit no action is imminent.

"This crisis has been created by some (traders) and will continue till December. While the stock is enough to meet the state's demand for two months, the same is being supplied to other states. The UP government, however, is not planning any action on the lines of West Bengal," Dharmendra Pandey, Deputy Director, Potato, Department of Horticulture, said. West Bengal CM Mamata Bannerjee has imposed restrictions on supply of potatoes to neighbouring Orissa to control the rising prices.

An estimated 100 trucks of potatoes are being sent to MP and Chattisgarh every day from UP's potato belt — the stronghold of Samajwadi Party (SP) president Mulayam Singh Yadav.

"Potato is indeed being supplied to other states. We cannot stop them as traders are getting good prices. Crisis has been created in UP by market forces," Pandey said.

He added potato supply to other states will continue in the coming days as the government has no plans to stop it

Potato, which was sold at nearly Rs 20 per kg before Diwali, is now available at Rs 25-35 per kg. The prices are further expected to rise.

Potato has become a prized commodity with big stores in Lucknow offering 2 kg of potatoes to their customers on purchases.

The crisis was spawned due to October rains, which spoiled the early potato crop. "Now we will not get new potato before December and till then prices will remain high," Pandey said.

"We are getting good rates — nearly Rs 900 per packet of 50 kg in MP and Chattisgarh.

Orders are coming from Maharashtra which will be nearly Rs 1,050 per packet. In UP, we hardly get Rs 750-800 per packet. We are preferring supply to MP and Chattisgarh," said Shiv Pratap Rajput, Cold Storage Union president in Etawah.

Uttar Pradesh produces nearly 135 lakh metric tonnes of potato on an area of 5 lakh hectares which is nearly 37 percent of country's production. The internal potato consumption is nearly 100-105 lakh metric tonnes. For the storage, there are 1555 cold storage with a capacity of 113.78 lakh metric tonnes. Nearly 70 percent of the production comes from Etawah, Kannauj, Shikohabad (Ferozabad) and neighbouring districts which are stronghold of Samajwadi Party (SP) president Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Waterlogging on farmland: HC order makes SSNNL respondent party in PIL

The Gujarat High Court (HC) on Wednesday joined Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited (SSNNL) as a respondent party in connection with a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) that has raised the issue of water-logging of 100 acres of farmland in a village of Banaskantha district. The water-logging is allegedly due to the fact that the SSNNL has not completed work on the "tail channel" of its network in the region. While joining SSNNL as a respondent party, the court posted the matter for further hearing after two weeks.

A division bench of HC, comprising Chief Justice Bhaskar Bhattacharya and Justice J B Pardiwala, was hearing the PIL moved by one Sardarsinh Vaghela which raised the water-logging issue of Nagla village of Tharad taluka.

According to the petitioner, around 100 acres of farmland of the village has been waterlogged following heavy rains in October. The petitioner also argues that the SSNNL has not completed work of its 'tail channel' in the region which could have drained out the accumulated water.

In the earlier hearing, the court had directed the district administration to de-water the farmland at the earliest while also asking the concerned officers of Banaskantha Collectorate to remain present before the court over the issue.

On Wednesday, officers of the district administration remained present before the court. However, since certain technical issues related to the canal arose during the hearing, the assistant government pleader requested the court that it was better that the SSNNL is joined as party to the petition so that its lawyers could represent its case. The court, meanwhile, also ordered the district administration to continue de-watering of the farmland.

Odisha looking for ways to increase potato output



Odisha Government decided to encourage farmers for large-scale cultivation of potatoes after West Bengal Government imposed restriction on its inter-State movement triggering a crisis. Even as the State has attained self-sufficiency in food grains production, it continues to lag behind in potato production as farmers are not very keen to go for commercial production

of the cash crop.

A highly perishable commodity, farmers do not want to take the risk to go for large-scale production of potato in the absence of adequate storage facilities, lack of institutional support for marketing and assurance of a minimum support price from the Government, State Farmers Association president Ashok Pradhan said.

About 14,000 hectares of the State were under potato cultivation during 2012-13 while the area coverage for the crop in neighbouring West Bengal was four lakh hectares during the same period.

The State produced 2.01 lakh tonnes of potato as against a production of 95 lakh tonnes in West Bengal, which is meeting the needs of north-eastern States, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

The State Government decided to encourage farmers for large-scale cultivation of potatoes after West Bengal Government imposed restriction on its inter-State movement triggering a crisis.

If the State Government's potato seed supply programme for the current rabi season is any indication, its seriousness for achieving self-sufficiency in tuber production appears quite hollow.

The Government had planned to supply 2,000 quintals of seeds for kharif and 20,000 quintals for rabi crops as against 2,800 quintals and 14,818 quintals during the same season last year. Considering 12.5 quintal of seeds will be required to cover a hectare of land, the Government seed support will cover 1,760 hectares under potato cultivation.

According to the estimate of the Horticulture department, the total seed requirement of the farmers of the State is 1.68 lakh quintals. In effect, potato cultivation will be taken up over 14,000 hectares.

"The average production of potato of the State being 14 quintals per hectare, the annual production will be around two lakh tonnes," a senior officer of the Horticulture department said.

As per 2011 estimate, the State's annual requirement of potatoes was 8.8 lakh tonnes. The requirement might have crossed 10 lakh tonnes, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Secretary Madhusudan Padhi said.

The Government has to launch potato cultivation on a mission mode and all out efforts should be made to achieve both horizontal and vertical growth in tuber production, the officer said.

Currently, the State has 104 cold storages with a total capacity of over 2.74 lakh tonnes. While 24 of them were established under cooperative sectors, the majority are owned by private organisations. Most of the cold storages under the cooperative sectors are lying defunct.

* About 14,000 hectares of the State were under potato cultivation during 2012-13, while the area coverage for the crop in neighbouring West Bengal was four lakh hectares during the same period.

* The State produced 2.01 lakh tonnes of potato as against a production of 95 lakh tonnes in West Bengal, which is meeting the needs of north-eastern States, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

SHRC cracks whip on illegal sale of cattle in TN



People for Cattle in India, an NGO in their petition, listed several entry and exit points on the State borders through which cattle were being illegally transported into Tamil Nadu. Express file photo
In perhaps a first-of-its-kind order, the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has intervened on the issue of illegal cattle trafficking in the State and ordered the

police to crackdown on violators and file a report within two weeks.

The commission, which heard on Wednesday a petition filed by a few animal rights activists, said that the matter involved human rights issues as well as the cattle, which are hardly ever certified, end up in the plates of humans and cause health hazard.

In their petition, People for Cattle in India, an NGO, listed several entry and exit points on the State borders through which cattle were being illegally transported into the State. The petitioners also listed hundreds of cases to prove their point.

Based on the petition, the SHRC, had on November 7, summoned the inspectors of the seven relevant areas to be present before it on Wednesday. However, three among them did not appear.

Counsel for the petitioners, K Sudhan, argued that all guidelines provided in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act on transport of animals are being flouted rights under the nose of the police.

This included the rule that only six animals can be transported in a truck and that they had to be provided food and water during transit. Trucks also need to be covered to provide shade and a government-authorized veterinarian should certify the animals. The counsel said the police were also slack in filing FIRs in the case. When SHRC Member Jayanthi questioned the police officers of Kavarapettai in Tiruvallur, Chengalpet, Hosur Town and Krishnagiri on the number of cases that have been booked this year in the mentioned points, the officers said not more than five had been lodged.

“Given the material provided, it is certain that at least 50 such trucks pass by these points every day. Are you telling me you have booked only five cases in a year? This is bad,” she said.

The Member said that one of the reasons for the violations taking place was the collusion between police officers and the violators. “Collusion is certainly involved. You have to deal with this,” she said and added that the issue involved health and environment hazards. Therefore, she directed the officers to start booking cases immediately and file an action-taken report by November 27 on how many trucks have been seized in the interim period and what action has been taken.

When the officers pointed out the difficulties in keeping the cattle, the Member said they could coordinate with the NGO. .

The Superintendents and Joint Commissioners of Police of the relevant jurisdiction were asked to ensure enforcement of the commission’s directions.

“Any truck that violates the six guidelines provided by the Act should be impounded certainly. We will issue further orders after the report comes,” she said.

CM launches Insurance Scheme for farmers

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday inaugurated the Biju Krushak Kalyan Yojana which aims at providing health insurance cover to farmers up to `1 lakh against one time payment of `30.

All types of farmers including share croppers and farm labourers will benefit from the scheme that was launched at Khamar under Pallahara block. Naveen gave away insurance smart cards to 10 local farmers.

Speaking at the function, the Chief Minister described it as a ‘historic step’ by his Government which he said works for the development of farming sector and farmers in the State.

“Government gives top priority to the agriculture sector as 80 per cent of the State’s population depend on it,” he said. He informed that 60 lakh farmer families will be provided insurance cover this year. “We are doing everything that is required for development of agriculture and welfare of farmers. That is the why we provided a special budget of Rs 7000 crore for the sector in the current

fiscal. Similarly, Rs 4000 crore has been allotted for irrigation in this fiscal. So far, irrigation has been provided to at least half of the total agricultural land in the State,” Naveen said.

Calling upon the farmers to take advantage of the insurance scheme, he said now the registered farmers can get medical facilities in both Government and 85 enlisted private hospitals up to a cost of Rs 1 lakh.

Agriculture Minister Debi Prasad Mishra, who was present on the occasion, said enrolment drive was set in motion from Tuesday.

Among others, MLAs of undivided Dhenkanal district including Pallahara MLA Rabi Narayan Pani spoke on the occasion.

Black Flag Demo

Police made preventive arrest of around 15 Congress activists including five who showed black flags at the meeting venue.

Invasive fish species pose a threat to indigenous breeds

A succulent dish made of 'Green Chromide', also known as 'Pearlspot' or 'Karimeen' locally, is considered emblematic of the famed fish preparations of Kerala. It has also been declared as the 'official fish' of Kerala.

However, according to a recent study conducted by the Kerala State of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (KUFOS), several indigenous fish species in the state, including the 'Pearlspot', are facing serious threats from exotic fish varieties.

A research team, comprising B Madhusoodana Kurup, vice-chancellor, KUFOS, and M P Prabhakaran and Ratheesh Kumar, both assistant professors of the same University, has revealed that the 'Three Spot Gourami', an exotic fish species belonging to the Osphronemidae family, is proliferating in the freshwater ponds and canals of Pollathai, a village near Kalavoor, Alappuzha, raising concerns about its impact on the indigenous fish species of Kerala.

The study says that the invasion of the species has resulted in the depletion of indigenous fish species such as 'Pearlspot', and other locally popular species such as 'Orange Chromide' (Pallathi) and 'Malabar Danio' (Paral), among others. The KUFOS team has also found that the presence of this invasive species has resulted in the habitat destruction of indigenous fish.

The 'Three Spot Gourami', introduced in India as ornamental species exclusively for aquariums, belong to the fresh water wetlands of Africa and South Asia. Gouramis are predominantly algal feeders but could turn omnivorous or carnivorous. It is territorial, aggressive and a resource competitor and these pose threats to the indigenous fish populations.

According to Kurup, the prolific breeding capacity of the 'Three Spot Gourami', together with its high fecundity, makes it an invasive species which affects the habitats of the indigenous fish species. "The invasion of exotic breeds is one of the major biodiversity threats to the 270 inland fish species in Kerala. The Periyar lake, which harbours more than a dozen endemic fishes, and many other species new to science, has now been invaded by the 'African Muzhi', Common Carp and Tilapia. The introduction of 'Tilapia' to the Vembanad Lake has resulted in the reduction of 'Pearlspot', owing to competition for food and space", said Kurup

Business Standard

End of onion crisis in sight

Market arrivals surge and prices start dropping, with the pace of decline expected to pick up



The signs are visible of the [onion crisis](#) getting resolved. New arrivals have increased at key markets, pushing down the price, which had become a matter of worry for not only consumers but governments.

Market sources reveal fresh arrivals from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have started hitting mandis. [Prices](#) have fallen to one of the lowest levels since August. “This will bring down prices at the [wholesale](#) markets below Rs 20 a kg. Now on, we will see prices falling,” said R P Gupta, director, National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF).

In the retail market, prices were Rs 50-70 a kg in Ahmedabad and Mumbai. A few days before Diwali, these were Rs 70-90 in many places. With whole sale prices expected to come down further, traders say retail prices could fall to around Rs 40 a kg or lower. “Onions from Saurashtra and Maharashtra have started coming in the market. While [demand](#) is stable, high arrivals have pushed down prices. We see further downside in prices,” said a trader at Ahmedabad’s Chimanbhai Patel APMC.

At Lasalgaon (near Nashik), the country’s largest onion market, daily arrivals have increased from 400 quintals at the beginning of the month to 8,100 quintals. Prices were Rs 2,950 a quintal on Wednesday; they were Rs 4,200 a quintal on November 6. The Lasalgaon market had even seen a high of Rs 6,000 a quintal. In the retail market, prices hit Rs 100 a kg at some urban pockets.

“Arrivals from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh will start reducing as the kharif (harvest) gets exhausted there. But we see increased arrivals from other parts of the country. This will keep prices in check,” said Gupta. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India had issued tenders to import onions at end-August. However, even after around 400 tonnes were brought in, prices did not begin cooling.

West Bengal traders cry foul over ban on potato exports

A section of traders used to smuggle out potatoes to other states



As the West Bengal government goes on a war footing to control [potato](#) prices at Rs 13 a kg, a large section of [traders](#) in [Paschim Medinipur](#), Bardhaman and Bankura is angry, as they are unable to meet their trade commitments.

The three districts together cater to the Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar markets. Most of the potato trade runs on credit, which means, payment is made only at a later date.

A section of traders used to smuggle out potatoes to other states. On Tuesday, the state government sternly implemented the ban on the export of the commodity to other states. A special police force, deployed at the borders, seized a number of trucks carrying potatoes, and sent these back to Kolkata, according to sources.

Fearing a crackdown, vendors are emptying their stocks at Rs 17-20 a kg. The government has been procuring the commodity directly from cold storages at Rs 11 a kg. The entire procurement process has turned into a forcefully executed exercise.

Farmers usually sell their produce at cold storages to their owners or investors, who trade on [potato bonds](#). The investors use these receipts to trade in potato.

These receipts change multiple hands, often sold at a premium. Thus, potato bonds sold at Rs 120-200 per 50 kg in September were till recently selling at Rs 400-500 for 50 kg.

“When government’s officials ask us to sell the stock, it is like an order,” said a cold storage owner.

West Bengal produces nearly 10 million tonnes of potato a year. Of this, only 5.5 million tonnes is consumed in the state. At present, close to 1.4 million tonnes of potato and potato seeds are lying in cold storages. In the next two months the total consumption of the both would be not more than 12 lakh tonne, leaving a surplus stock of 2 lakh tonne.

Meanwhile, sowing for new potato crop has already started in West Bengal. Though delayed by more than a week, the arrival of new crop by January is expected to ease prices substantially.

National coffee production to rise 9%

Growers to tap Brazilian expertise to develop new varieties



India's [coffee](#) production is expected to grow by 9 per cent during 2013-14 to 347,000 tonnes from last year's 318,000 tonnes.

According to data from [Karnataka Planters Association \(KPA\)](#) — the state's growers account for as much as 75 per cent of India's production — the post-blossom forecast of the Coffee Board will comprise 12.5

per cent growth in Arabica production to 111,000 tonnes and a 7.5 per cent increase in Robusta production to 236,000 tonnes.

This is despite a series of problems growers face, with productivity per hectare dropping dramatically as compared to leading growing countries such as Brazil and Vietnam. Nishant R Gurjer, chairman of Karnataka Planters Association (KPA), said Vietnam's productivity is approximately 2.6 times that of India and Brazil's is 1.5 times. Productivity in India has declined to 748 kg a hectare from 850 kg a hectare earlier.

“We have to work with many constraints. We are still growing the crop varieties planted two generations ago and there has been no innovation on developing new crops resistant to various adverse factors,” he added.

To address this, KPA has roped in two experts from Brazil to see how Indian coffee growers can benefit. “We need crops that are to an extent resistant to many stem-borer problems and give better yields. For instance, over the past 25 years, growers in Brazil have invested heavily in research and the yield per hectare has grown by as much as three times,” Gurjer noted.

KPA members also urged the Karnataka government to rationalise depreciation rates in line with the Central Income Tax rates. “Given the shortage of fertilisers, we have requested the state government to exempt value added tax on chemicals, fertilisers, nutrients and mechanisation equipment used in agriculture,” said Gurjer.

Uttar Pradesh cane being rushed to jaggery units

This has forced small and marginal farmers to start distress sales of cane



With the delay in sugarcane crushing in [Uttar Pradesh](#), with private mills insisting on lower state-set prices and [farmers](#) demanding much more, the [jaggery](#) industry in the state is getting a boost.

Farmers needing cash and those who need to clear their land for wheat sowing are selling [cane](#) to jaggery units at whatever price they get. Since there is an adequate supply of cane this year, jaggery prices have crashed. It is Rs 30 a kg in the retail market and Rs 28 a kg in the wholesale one. According to a jaggery unit owner, this is the lowest price in the five years.

In the cane belt of Lakhimpur, Pilibhit, Saharanpur, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Sitapur, Bareilly and Gonda, private sugar mills are yet to announce the start of crushing. This has forced small and marginal farmers to start distress sales of cane.

According to Harinam Singh of the Bhartiya Kisan Union, around 40 per cent of the cane farmers go for wheat cultivation after supplying cane to millers. A delay in cane crushing is a big problem for them. Cane farmers are selling to jaggery units at Rs 150-180 a quintal, an unexpected low. Last year, when the government's [state advised price \(SAP\)](#), which sugar mills have to pay to farmers for buying cane, was Rs 280 a qtl, jaggery units had paid Rs 200 a qtl at the beginning of the season.

According to Baldeo Verma, a jaggery owner in Hargaon of Sitapur district, "Last season, there was no cane available for us after the SAP announcement." The government had announced the cane SAP on December 7 last year.

According to Hari Shankar Shukla, a Lucknow trader, the state contributes 40 per cent of the national jaggery production and this year it will exceed 50 per cent. There are around 23,000 jaggery units in UP, of which 14,000 were operational last year. This year, all of these are operational and 5,000 new ones have come up.

Groundnut prices: Gujarat govt steps in to stabilise market



It is doing so for the first time since 2001

With groundnut production expected to surge this year, the [Gujarat](#) Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd ([Gujcomasol](#)) has started procurement to avoid a sudden fall in prices. It is doing so for the first time since 2001. Gujcomasol will buy on behalf of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd ([Nafed](#)). It began last Friday, from 17 centres across the state.

"The decision (to procure) has been taken for groundnut farmers, as production is expected to be very high," said [Govind Patel](#), the state's agriculture minister. Gujcomasol and Nafed aim to enter the market whenever the price falls below the Union government's minimum support price.

The MSP for groundnut is Rs 800 per 20 kg. At present, the price is Rs 600-750 per 20 kg in this state. The daily arrival is 80,000-85,000 bags (40 kg a bag) and will increase to 125,000 bags by the end of this month.

Patel said, "The purpose is to give a better price to groundnut farmers and balance the market." If the market price climbs beyond Rs 800 per 20 kg, Gujcomasol will stop procurement.

Various trade organisations have predicted a bumper crop in the country; it might even double, due to good monsoon and higher sowing. Gujarat accounts for about 45 per cent of total national output.

The Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council says production in the kharif season this year is estimated to be 4.91 million tonnes from five states - Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu - which account for close to 90 per cent of total output. This is higher by 2.1 mt as compared to Kharif 2012, when the crop was only 2.81 mt in these states, owing to monsoon failure.

The Solvent Extractors' Association of India recently issued a kharif crop estimate of the Central Organization for Oil Industry & Trade. The report stated kharif groundnut production for 2013-14 would be 4.71 mt, against last year's 2.62 mt. For Gujarat, it has estimated production of 2.5 mt.

The rabi crop for groundnut is much lower, from 300,000-500,000 tonnes in a year. Gujarat accounts for the bulk of this.

Nafed supplies may ease potato crisis



Nafed has already started loading potatoes procured from Kanpur

The prevailing crisis in [potato](#) supplies to Odisha could ease, with the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India ([Nafed](#)) committing supplies of 20 tuber-laden trucks in three to four days.

"Nafed has already started loading potatoes procured from Kanpur. It has assured that 20 potato-laden trucks will reach Odisha in three-four days. While six trucks are earmarked for [Bhubaneswar](#), four trucks each will reach Cuttack, Berhampur, Rourkela, Sambalpur and

Puri will receive two trucks each. The state will get 20 truckloads of potatoes from Nafed for three days,” said Pravakar Rout, deputy director, department of food supplies & consumer welfare.

Suresh Kumar Vashishth, managing director, Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation (OSCSC), had written to Nafed on November 11 to ensure potato supplies.

“As per the decision taken by the government on November 11, it is requested to procure potato of 20 trucks each (one truck containing 200 quintals of potatoes approximately) per day for the next three days commencing from November 12. The rate of one quintal of potato, including handling cost both at loading and unloading point and transportation charges and other taxes, if any, up to the delivery point may be intimated,” Vashishth wrote to the branch manager, Nafed.

Potato crisis in the state has only deepened with the West Bengal government refusing to budge from its stand to lift export curbs completely on potatoes.

Supplies of the essential vegetable on Wednesday dwindled sharply with only seven trucks reaching Bhubaneswar compared to 23 trucks on Tuesday and two trucks in Cuttack, as against five trucks the previous day. Three truckloads of potatoes from Uttar Pradesh reached Sambalpur while Rourkela received three trucks.

“Potato prices are high due to [supply](#) shortfall. Stability in potato prices is unthinkable till normal supplies are restored by the West Bengal government. The supplies from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar will not suffice,” Rout said.

Potatoes are procured by the state at a price of Rs 2,000 per quintal, while they are sold at Rs 25 per kg at the government’s fair price shops and Udyan Fresh stores, where people stand in serpentine queues. Retail prices of the vegetable were still ruling at Rs 40 a kg. The state’s annual potato requirement stands at around 900,000 tonnes, a lion’s share of which is met by West Bengal.

Bumper groundnut crop led to procurement after 11 years



Gujarat body starts buying groundnut from 17 centres on behalf of Nafed

Even as [groundnut](#) production expected to rise this year cooperative bodies have started procurement to avoid any sudden fall in groundnut prices. Gujarat Co-operative Marketing Federation Limited (also known as Gujcomasol) has started procurement of groundnut in

Gujarat first time after as many as 11 years.

The cooperative body will buy groundnut on behalf of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd ([Nafed](#)). The Federation has started buying groundnut since last Friday from 17 centers across Gujarat including Rajkot, Gondal, Junagadh Himmatnagar, Modasa and others.

“After a very long time, Gujcomasol has entered to procure groundnut. The decision has been taken for the groundnut farmers as this year groundnut production is expected to be very high,” said Govind Patel, state agriculture minister.

Sources informed that last time in 2001 Gujcomasol and Nafed had procured groundnut in Gujarat. The agencies enter the market whenever the market price falls below minimum support price ([MSP](#)) levels.

MSP of groundnut is Rs 800 per 20 kg. At presently, groundnut price is ruling around Rs 600 to 750 per 20 kg in Gujarat. Per day arrival of groundnut is about 80,000-85,000 bags (40 kg each bag) and it will increase over 125,000 bags by end of this month.

Patel said, “The purpose behind this decision is to give better price to groundnut farmers and balance the market.” If the market price will go beyond Rs 800 per 20 kg then Gujcomasol will stop procurement of groundnut.

Various trade organizations of India have predicted bumper groundnut production in the country. According to survey report by trade bodies, groundnut production is likely to double this year due to good monsoon and higher sowing.

Indian [Oilseeds](#) and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC) predicted that groundnut production during Kharif 2013 is estimated to be 4.91 million tonnes in five major states Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu which account for close to 90% of total groundnuts produced in India.

This is higher by 2.10 million tonnes as compared to Kharif 2012, when the crop was only 2.81 million tonnes in these states, owing to monsoon failure.

Similarly, [Solvent Extractors](#)’ Association of India (SEA) recently released kharif crop estimate of the Central Organization for [Oil Industry](#) & Trade (COOIT), which hosted the 51st All India Convention of Oilseeds, Oil Trade & Industry at Delhi last month.

The COOIT report stated that kharif groundnut production for the year 2013-14 will be 4.71 million tonnes as against last year’s 2.62 million tonnes, higher by 2.09 million tonnes. For Gujarat it has estimated production of 2.50 million tonnes.

Turmeric up 3.1% on pick up in spot demand



Spice for delivery in December edged up by 1.27%

[Turmeric](#) futures prices today rose by 3.16% to Rs 4,702 per quintal as speculators enlarged their positions supported by a pick up in demand amid restricted arrivals from producing belts.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), turmeric for delivery in November gained Rs 144, or 3.16%, to Rs 4,702 per quintal, with an open interest of 310 lots.

Likewise, the spice for delivery in December edged up by Rs 60, or 1.27%, to Rs 4,796 per quintal, with an open interest of 1,027 lots.

Analysts attributed the rise in turmeric futures to increased buying by speculators on pick up in demand in the spot market amid fall in arrivals from producing belts.

Potato down 0.6% on subdued demand



Commodity for delivery in March declined by 0.54%

[Potato](#) futures prices fell by Rs 5.90 to Rs 891 per quintal today as speculators offloaded their positions, driven by weak trend in the spot market.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), potato for April contract fell by Rs 5.90, or 0.65%, to Rs 891 per quintal, with a business volume of 10 lots.

The potato for delivery in March declined by Rs 5, or 0.54%, to Rs 918.50 per quintal in 42 lots.

Marketmen said fall in potato prices was mostly due to stockists offloading positions in line with subdued demand in the spot market.

Besides, increased supplies in the spot market from producing regions further pulled down the prices.

Chana up 0.9% on spot demand

Commodity prices for delivery in November increased by 0.63%



[Chana](#) prices rose by Rs 29 to Rs 3,184 per quintal in futures trade today as traders enlarged their holdings on account of good demand in the spot market.

However, significant stocks and reports of conducive weather for sowing amid adequate soil moisture restricted the upside.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), chana for delivery in December rose by Rs 29, or 0.91%, to Rs 3,184 per quintal, with an open interest of 98,000 lots.

Similarly, chana prices for delivery in November increased by 19, or 0.63%, to Rs 3,050 per quintal, with an open interest of 1800 lots.

Traders said fresh enquiries from millers at lower levels is supporting the upside in prices, but it is unlikely to sustain the uptrend because sowing is progressing well in the leading cultivating states.

THE HINDU Business Line

Bengal curbs on potato export to other States may go soon

Kolkata, Nov. 13: The West Bengal Government is likely to relax “restrictions” on movement of potatoes to other States after December second week.

“Restrictions on export of potato to other States are expected to be removed after December 15, by when the extended deadline ends for holding the commodity in cold storages,” Subrata Biswas, Principal Secretary of the State’s Department of Agricultural Marketing, told *Business Line*. Usually, the January-March crop inventory in the State’s 425 cold storages diminishes by November 30.



Biswas said the Agricultural Marketing Department had issued a notification on October 20 “restricting” export of potato to other States according to the West Bengal Agriculture Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act, 1972.

The official said the State used a regulatory provision provided by the Act to impose the curb.

This came after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee last month decided to “cap” the retail price of Jyothi variety potato at Rs 14 a kg. About 40 per cent of the State’s production goes to Odisha, Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

Shortage

The State’s “restriction” for inter-State movement of potato has been objected to by farmers and traders across other

States. It has also created a shortage in retail markets in West Bengal, as farmers and traders were reluctant to sell it a “lower price”. Arunava Ghosh, a lawyer, however, said: “The so-called restriction was in effect a ban and is essentially bad in law. The State’s agri-marketing laws cannot be invoked in such an issue in our federal structure. “Potato is not an essential commodity and no restriction can be imposed on sale, price and movement of potato, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955”.

A member of the State’s agri produce marketing task force explained that a “such a restriction could only be temporary” and inter-State movement of potato is expected to be normal after December 15. “The current stock of about 13 lakh tonnes in cold storages should suffice for the local consumption (5 lakh tonnes a month) before the new crop arrives,” the member said.

Patit Patit Paban De, a member of the West Bengal Cold Storage Association, said the supply situation should become normal as harvesting of the tuber varieties begins in the first week of January in West Bengal.

Mixed trend in sugar

Mumbai, Nov. 13: Sugar prices ruled steady in the spot market on Wednesday, while they dropped in the futures market on hopes of higher production.

On the Vashi wholesale market, S-grade dropped by Rs 18, while M-grade increased by Rs 4 a quintal.

Naka rates were unchanged barring some mills that sold S-grade Rs 10 lower. Sugar prices are ruling below production costs, despite the delay in cane crushing due to dispute between farmers and producers over cane prices.

Arrivals in Vashi market declined to 58-60 truckloads (of 100 bags each) while local dispatches were 55-56 loads.

On Tuesday evening, about 14-15 mills offered tenders and sold 38,000-40,000 bags at Rs 2,700-2,830 (Rs 2,710-2,830) for S-grade and Rs 2,860-3,000 (Rs 2,860-3,000) for M-grade.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs 2,862-2,995 (Rs 2,880-2,995) and M-grade Rs 3,016-3,232 (Rs 3,012-3,232).

Naka delivery rates were: S-grade Rs 2,825-2,900 (Rs 2,825-2,900) and M-grade Rs 2,890-3,110 (Rs 2,890-3,110).

Uttar Pradesh rates were: Muzzafarnagar Rs 3,225.

Karnataka growers worried by dip in coffee yields

Higher input costs, labour shortage a concern for sector



Bangalore, Nov. 13: The coffee industry's productivity in the country has dropped nearly 12 per cent to 748 kg a hectare, according to the Karnataka Planters Association. Addressing reporters in connection with the UPASI-KPA coffee conference here, Nishant R. Gurjer, Chairman of Karnataka Planters'

Association, said: "The once vibrant plantation industry is now at crossroads with steep rise in inputs costs, followed by severe shortage of labour and higher labour wages."

"The industry is also plagued by low productivity, extreme volatility in prices with prices of arabica coffee dropping to its lowest in seven years," he said.

Low productivity

Due to low productivity, the industry is losing out to other coffee-growing countries. "Indian productivity has declined in the last few years to 748 kg a hectare. The productivity levels in high-yielding coffee producing countries clearly indicate that Vietnam and Brazil are way ahead in productivity levels." Vietnam's productivity is estimated to be 2,188 kg a hectare which is approximately 2.6 times that of Indian levels. Brazil's productivity is 1,257 kg a hectare, 1.5 times that of India. India's production has stagnated at around 5 million bags (60 kg) for over a few decades. Brazil, on the other hand, has been clocking at over 43-40 million bags for the last four years and Vietnam, which was not in the picture a few decades ago, is now witnessing production levels upward of 20 million bags.

Gurjer said: "It is regretful that for the last several decades, no sufficient research has been done to find a remedy for the incidence of white stem borer in arabica coffee or in coming up with clonal varieties that are high-yielding and can resist drought and disease."

Stressing the urgent need for developing high-yielding coffee varieties to boost production, he said: "Countries such as Brazil and Vietnam have made phenomenal developments in research by bringing out high yielding varieties that are resistant to pests, diseases and drought."

“In India there has been research in other commodities such tea, rubber and spices leading to release of improved varieties,” he said.

TN coast bracing for twin strikes by weather systems

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov. 13: Tamil Nadu coast may be bracing for twin strikes by dissimilar weather systems during this weekend and into the middle of next. The existing well-marked low-pressure area has intensified one round to a depression on Wednesday.

DEEP DEPRESSION

India Met Department expects it to strengthen another round to a deep depression (just below tropical cyclone status) and cross the coast by Saturday night or Sunday morning. It has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places over north coastal Tamil Nadu on Friday with extremely heavy falls at isolated places.

Heavy to very heavy falls have been warned of at a few places over south coastal Andhra Pradesh as well. Isolated heavy rain will lash Rayalaseema and interior Tamil Nadu.

Outlook for next two days said that rain or thundershowers punctuated by heavy to very heavy falls would break out at many places over Tamil Nadu and south Andhra Pradesh.

SUCCESSOR SYSTEM

Many places over Kerala also may witness moderate to heavy rainfall during this period. US National Centres for Environmental Prediction persists with the outlook for some rains to radiate further northeast along the coast to Odisha. Meanwhile, a follow-up low-pressure area is forecast to spin up over the Andaman Sea even as the existing depression crosses the Tamil Nadu coast.

A ‘pulse’ from erstwhile killer Pacific typhoon Haiyan is seen as setting up the new ‘low’ in the Andaman Sea.

(The current depression too had taken shape as a ‘low’ in the same area, after crossing in as a pulse from South China Sea typhoon Krosa that pre-dated Haiyan.)

The new ‘low’ is forecast to trek almost a similar path as the current storm, but not perhaps growing to the same strength, and approach coast next week.

FOG IN NORTH

Meanwhile in the North, fog to shallow fog conditions prevailed during the morning hours over parts of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Tripura.

Minimum temperatures are below normal in Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, gangetic West Bengal and the Northeastern States.

East Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Saurashtra, Kutch, Maharashtra and Telangana too witnessed cooler climes.

Minimum temperatures are below normal by 4 to 6 deg Celsius in interior Odisha and north interior Karnataka. The lowest of 6.6 degree Celsius was reported at Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh. vinson.kurian@thehindu.co.in

Spot rubber prices improve

Kottayam, Nov.13: Spot rubber prices improved on Wednesday. Reports of intensified rains and absence of sellers kept prices firm during a major part of the day. But the gains were limited following a weak closing in futures, possibly on profit booking ahead of the expiry of September contracts on Thursday. The trend was mixed as ISNR 20 and latex finished flat on slack demand.

Sheet rubber improved to Rs 158 a kg at Kottayam and Kochi from Rs 157.50 and Rs 157 respectively, according to traders and the Rubber Board. The grade firmed up to Rs 155 (Rs 154), as quoted by the dealers.

November futures declined to Rs 157.50 (Rs 160.59), December to Rs 160.15 (Rs 161.24) and January to Rs 162.25 (Rs 163.32) for RSS 4, while February and March futures were inactive on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) closed marginally higher at Rs 158.71 (Rs 158.08) at Bangkok. November futures closed at ¥ 248.5 (Rs 158.40) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates Rs/kg: RSS-4: 158 (157.50); RSS-5: 149.50 (149); Ungraded: 145 (144.50); ISNR 20: 149 (149); and Latex 60%: 106 (106).

Uptrend in pulses may continue



Indore, Nov. 13: Pulses and pulse seeds ruled flat on subdued demand on Wednesday in Indore *mandis*.

Weak buying support dragged tur prices in Indore *mandis* by Rs 100 a quintal in the past one week with tur (Maharashtra) being quoted at Rs 4,500-50, while tur (Madhya Pradesh) ruled at Rs 4,100-4,200.

Given the expected rise in demand in tur in the coming days on account of the marriage season, any major fall in prices appears unlikely, said a trader .

Tur dal (full) was at Rs 6,400-6,500, tur dal (sawa no.) ruled at Rs 5,700-5,800, while tur marka was quoted at Rs 7,000 a quintal respectively.

URAD

Urad and its dal also ruled steady on subdued demand with urad (bold) being

quoted at Rs 4,400-4,500 , while urad (medium) ruled at Rs 3,700-3,900.

Given the extensive damage to the crop affecting the output, any major fall in urad prices from its current level appears unlikely.

Urad dal (medium) was at Rs 5,000-5,100, urad dal (bold) ruled at Rs 5,200-5,400, while urad mongar ruled at Rs 5,600-6,000 a quintal respectively.

moong

Moong (bold) also ruled firm at Rs 5,800-6,000, while moong (medium) ruled at Rs 4,800-5,100.

Rally in moong this year has mainly been due to lower crop output and extensive damage to the crop on account of rains this year.

Moong dal (medium) was being quoted at Rs 6,300-6,800, moong dal (bold) at Rs 6,900-7,100, while moong mongar ruled at Rs 7,300-7,500 a quintal respectively.

Poultry-feed seen ruling at current levels



Karnal, Nov. 13: With prices of soyameal and a few other key ingredients ruling higher, prices of poultry-feed products increased on Wednesday.

The uptrend was anticipated as prices of key ingredients have increased rapidly over the last few days, said Aditya Mishra, a commodity expert.

A sudden increase in soyameal prices last weekend mainly pushed up feed prices, he said. Traders expect that feed prices may continue to rule around current levels over the next few days.

In the physical market, after witnessing a rally last weekend, soyameal has been ruling firm. It is currently selling at Rs 35,800 a tonne, while bajra was at Rs 12,600 a quintal.

Di-calcium phosphate went up by Rs 1.10

to Rs 34.80 a kg, MBM moved up by Re 1 to Rs 31.50 a kg while maize improved by Rs 30 to Rs 1,520 a quintal.

Rice bran oil was at Rs 60 a kg, DRB eased by Rs 500 to Rs 8,300, while mustard de-oiled cake improved by Rs 200 to Rs 15,000 a tonne.

Feed products

Broiler concentrate quoted went up by Rs 50 to Rs 2,010 for a 50-kg bag while Broiler Starter Mash sold at Rs 1,550. Pre-lay mash moved up by Rs 15 and sold at Rs 1,040. Layer concentrate 25 per cent and Layer concentrate 35 per cent improved by Rs 15 each to Rs 1,480 and at Rs 1,165, respectively.

Poultry Products

Meanwhile, a positive trend was witnessed in the poultry products market on Wednesday. Broiler improved by Rs 2 and quoted at Rs 70 a kg, egg was up 15 paise and quoted at Rs 3.90, while chick went for Rs 24, Rs 2 up.

Pepper output projected at 45,000 t next year



Kochi, Nov. 13: The country's pepper production next year is estimated lower at 45,000 tonnes. The projections were made at the International Pepper Community (IPC) meet that is underway at Kuching in Malaysia now. The output is against 58,000 tonnes produced this year. Domestic consumption is projected at 48,300 tonnes next year. Thus, the availability is likely to be lower, market sources attending the IPC session told *Business Line*.

Globally also the output next year is estimated to be lower by over 6,500 tonnes at 3,33,500 tonnes.

Strong domestic demand for the winter season and tight availability is attributed to the sharp rise in prices, they said.

In the primary markets, ungarbled pepper was traded above Rs 500 a kg. But, those who are holding the material are not ready to sell looking at the sharp rise in spot prices day by day, they said.

On the spot, four tonnes of farm-grade pepper arrived and the offtake was eight tonnes. On the IPSTA platform, 89 tonnes of pepper were traded. "There were, in fact, more buyers than sellers," they said. On the NMCE, November contract moved up by Rs 84 to Rs 50,200 while December and January contracts increased by Rs 470 and Rs 400 respectively to Rs 50,799 and Rs 58,000 a quintal. Total turnover decreased to seven tonnes. On the IPSTA, November contract was up by Rs 1,000 to Rs 51,000 while December was at Rs 50,250 up by Rs 550 a quintal.

Spot prices continued to shoot up. On Wednesday, it surged by Rs 500 to Rs 49,800 (ungarbled) and Rs 51,800 (garbled) a quintal on strong demand amid tight availability. Prices for exports moved up to around \$8,550 (c&f) Europe and \$8,850 a tonne for the US, higher than other origins.

Turmeric gains colour on quality arrivals



Erode, Nov. 13: Spot turmeric prices increased in Erode on Wednesday as the quality of arrivals improved.

“After several days, quality turmeric arrived for sale and traders, quoting a higher price, purchased 60 per cent of the total arrival of 2,550 bags. The demand for the hybrid was high as fine variety turmeric was offered on sale,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said that some traders received a few upcountry orders. He also said that if the super fine variety arrives for sale, prices may increase.

The hybrid variety rose by Rs 300 , while the other varieties increased by Rs 100-200 a quintal.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,689-6,174 a quintal; the root variety at Rs 3,306-5,109.

Salem Hybrid: The finger variety fetched Rs 4,769-6,308 and the root variety at Rs 4,409-5,278. Of the 608 bags that arrived, 121 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,769-5,899; the root variety Rs 4,619-5,169. Of the 310 bags on sale, 250 were traded.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety quoted Rs 4,529-5,940 and the root variety Rs 3,698-5,169.

All the 368 bags found takers.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 4,517-6,069; the root variety Rs 4,110-5,031. All the 96 bags were sold.

Coconut oil zooms to record Rs 105/kg

Kochi, Nov. 13: Coconut oil prices surged a record high of Rs 105 a kg in Kerala on tight supplies.



Prakash B. Rao, President, Cochin Oil Merchants Association (COMA), said that the market has been rising continuously for the last one week. Traders and manufacturers have started buying copra at Rs 72-76 a kg.

In Tamil Nadu, coconut oil quoted at Rs 99/kg and copra at Rs 73.

Rao said that prices of both coconut oil and copra were moving up for the last one week due to tight supply. Major corporates have increased their purchase of copra.

According to Rao, prices are likely to rule at this level in the short-term. The ensuing Sabarimala pilgrim season will lead to a higher demand for raw coconut, leading to further rise in coconut oil prices.

Imported oils are also ruling high on weak rupee. Palm oil prices touched Rs 65 a kg against Rs 60 last week and palm kernel oil stood at Rs 78 (Rs 72).

Thalath Mahmood, Director of COMA, said that the supplies are tight and the offseason has resulted in low arrivals.

The surge in prices has dampened domestic consumption.

According to Bharat N. Khona, former Board Member, COMA, shortage of copra and tight supply may continue. At these levels, corporates and upcountry buyers are unlikely to venture into the market.
