

Dairy farm workers call off protest in Manapparai

Milk collection and supply, which remained crippled due to workers strike since Wednesday in Manapparai, resumed on Thursday afternoon following assurance by officials that the workers' demand for wage hike will be placed before higher-ups for prompt action.

Manapparai and neighbouring villages account for about 4,805 dairy farmers with a daily production of an average of 14,000 litres.

A total of 57 workers collect milk from the producers and distribute it to the members of the public. While the daily sale in the local market is an average 9,000 litres, the balance 5,000 litres is sent to the chilling plant. The workers have been demanding better wage complaining that their present monthly wage ranged between Rs.3, 200 and Rs.4, 500 depending on seniority. They went on indefinite strike on Wednesday afternoon, pointing out that the wages fixed 13 years ago in 2000 was not hiked despite repeated plea with the government. Talks were held with the officials in the presence of Muthukrishnan, Deputy Registrar of Cooperatives, and Chandrasekaran, MLA. The officials pointed out being a policy matter, any decision on enhancing their wage could be taken only by the State government. However, they assured the workers to place the matter before the higher authorities for prompt action. Following the assurance, the distributors called off their strike and resumed milk supply in the evening.

Workers call off protest following assurance of prompt action by officials

Foot-and-mouth disease: farmers seek compensation

Farmers under the banner of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) formed a human chain on the Bangalore-Mysore Highway on Thursday to urge the State government to release compensation for those who lost their cattle owing to foot-and-mouth disease.

It was held near Sri Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar Circle. The protesters accused the Animal Husbandry Department of not taking steps to save cattle.

KRRS leader Shambhuna Halli Suresh sought Rs. 50,000 as compensation for the loss of each head of cattle. The farmers requested the department to set up dispensaries and supply medicines to veterinary clinics across the State.

Cane price

They also urged the government to fix the procurement price for sugarcane at Rs. 3,500 a tonne for the present crushing season.

The traffic on the busy highway was disrupted for a while following the protest. Among those leaders present on the occasion were H. Nagaraju and Marilinge Gowda.

Arecanut prices skyrocket, but farmers are unhappy



Mismatch between supply and demand has led to price rise

The decline in arecanut yield in the district owing to climatic changes and disease has triggered a sharp increase in its price. The price of saraku variety of arecanut was around Rs. 18,000 per quintal last September and has doubled to Rs. 36,000 per quintal today. Similarly, the price of bette, rashi idi and api varieties have also increased by around 70 per cent during the same period.

The Union government's announcement of increasing the minimum import price of arecanut from Rs. 75 to Rs. 110 a kg in the second week of May triggered the northward climb in prices. There was a 20 to 30 per cent increase in prices in a span of 15 days. Arecanut growers had thought the State government's May 31 ban on gutka would result in a slump in arecanut prices. However, the price of api and rashi idi varieties that was around Rs. 18,000 per quintal prior to the ban went up to Rs. 21,000 by the first week of August.

The arecanut yield had declined by around 30 per cent in the district last year owing to poor rainfall. Farmers sold last year's produce by the end of June. The arecanut harvested this year will enter the market from November second week. With an acute mismatch between supply and actual demand in the past three months, prices have increased sharply.

D.B. Shankarappa, president of Shimoga Arecanut Growers' Association, told *The Hindu* that the price of arecanut is expected to escalate further. Owing to heavy rain that lashed the district this year, arecanut trees have been infected with fruit rot disease (koleroga).

So, the arecanut production in the district is likely to drop. As the gap between demand and supply widens in the coming months, there will be a further increase in price, he said.

The news of price rise has not brought cheer to the farmers of Hosanagar, Sagar, Tirthahalli and Koppa taluks, who sell their produce in the Shimoga market.

They have suffered heavy losses due to koleroga. Naveen Kumar, an arecanut grower from Golikoppa village in Koppa taluk, said he was not expecting much benefit from the increase in prices. "More than 50 per cent of the produce in my five-acre plantation was damaged.

Though the arecanut price has escalated, farmers in Malnad region where koleroga has caused extensive damage will not benefit much," he said.

Only the farmers in Shimoga and Bhadravati taluks, where the loss due to koleroga was comparatively less, are expecting some benefit from the price rise.

No change in paddy seed sale price

The State government has kept the sale rate of different varieties of paddy seeds unchanged at Rs. 1,350 per quintal for Rabi crops.

As per State Seeds Pricing Committee meeting, the cost of per quintal paddy seed was estimated at Rs. 2,424 after taking procurement price, transportation and other costs into account.

“The Centre gives subsidy of Rs. 500 per quintal in 15 districts covered under the National Food Security Mission programme. The balance requirement would be met through the State plan to maintain the sale rate at Rs. 1,350 per quintal at the same level of kharif season,” Agriculture Department sources said.

About 68,560 quintals of certified paddy seeds will be distributed during Rabi 2013-14 and entire quantity of seeds will be available within the State. Odisha State Seed Corporation (OSSC) would arrange 68,051 quintals while rest of the quantity will be made available by departmental farms.

The committee has fixed the sale rate of groundnut seeds at Rs. 4,000 per quintal even though per quintal procurement price including transportation cost of groundnut seed was estimated at Rs. 6,353. Farmers will get both the State and the Central government subsidy to the tune of Rs. 2,353.

During Rabi 2013-14, about 1.38 lakh quintals of groundnut seeds will be distributed to the farmers. However, the expected groundnut seeds production inside the State is about 41,000 quintal including the OSSC production.

The committee instructed the OSSC to arrange groundnut seeds of 80,000 quintals from outside after making reassessment of the seed requirement. Last year, unavailability of groundnut seeds had caused widespread resentment in different parts of the State. Farmers had no option, but to depend on substandard groundnut in the open market.

The pricing committee has also fixed sale rate of wheat, gram, field pea, mustard, moong dal and til. The Agriculture Department has been asked to prepare seed rolling plan or long term perspective seed plan mentioning the varieties and quantities to be produced to meet entire seeds requirement of the State.

The cost of per quintal paddy seed is estimated at Rs. 2,424

Banned pesticides found in vegetables

The samples, collected from the State during Onam, were analysed for organochloro pesticides



The accumulation of chlorinated pesticides in the human body can lead to serious health hazards.— File Photo

Traces of pesticides banned from agriculture have been found in vegetable samples collected from the State during Onam.

Traces of Benzene hexachloride, Dieldrin and Heptachlor were found in 15 samples of vegetables that were analysed by the Council for Food Research and Development, Konni. Though the traces of the chemicals were “within the permissible limit and one sample above the permissible limit”, the study indicated that the pesticides not intended for agriculture had reached the vegetables, said M.K. Mukundan, director of the council.

The vegetable samples, collected from different parts of the State during Onam, were analysed for organochloro pesticides. The council analysed 43 vegetable samples in 20 categories. Of the 43 samples, 28 were found free of organochloro compounds. Carrot samples collected from Kozhikode had the banned pesticides beyond the permissible levels and the samples were classified as not satisfactory for human consumption, according to a report prepared by A. Bhadrans, senior analyst of the council.

Plantains, beans, cabbage, chillies, tomato, bitter gourd, ladies finger, brinjal and cluster beans were among the vegetables that were assessed for pesticides.

According to Mr. Mukundan, there existed the possibility of farmers directly applying chlorinated pesticides or plants absorbing those compounds from the soil. The accumulation of chlorinated pesticides in the human body can lead to serious health hazards. The human body cannot disintegrate or excrete chlorinated pesticides. Its accumulation beyond a particular level would have disastrous health effects, said Mr. Mukundan.

Magic diet for vegetable crops

Precision farming yields rich dividends for farmers



Eating large meals three times a day is a health risk. Doctors advise eating small, nutritious portions in short intervals. As with humans, so with plants.

The vegetable farmers in the Ozhalapathy grama panchayat limits in Chittur taluk follow a diet plan — precision farming — for their plants.

They are a happy lot because of the good profit they make when farming in general is considered a losing vocation.

Mohan Raj, who grows tomato, chilli, brinjal, okra and banana on an acre (0.4 hectare) of land, is a practitioner of this farm practice. He made a profit of Rs.2 lakh from an investment of Rs.70,000, of which Rs.39,434 is subsidy.

He produced 55 tonnes of tomato in one season and sold it at Rs. 5 a kg. Chilli went for Rs. 20 a kg.

He says 70 farmers of Ozhalapathy took up precision farming on one acre of land each. All of them made good profits in the past two years.

Profits

High profits between Rs.75,000 and Rs.2 lakh an acre a year has made more farmers switch over to high-tech precision farming.

Now 1,778 farmers in Chittur have taken it up on 980 acres and received a financial assistance of Rs.2.5 crore, 50-90 per cent of it government subsidy.

The high-tech precision farming started in the district four years ago is getting popular as more and more farmers from different parts of the State have shown interest in it because of its high productivity and profit, K. Krishnankutty, a pioneer of precision farming in Palakkad, says.

He says 2,000 farmers have together submitted a scheme for Rs. 4 crore to the government for financial assistance to take up precision farming in Chittur.

Precision farming's advantages are increased yield, early maturity, savings on water, fertilizer, energy and labour, reduced weed growth and easy management of pests.

Mechanisation makes the work easy, and even young farmers are attracted to it as a "white-collar farming method."

The difference

Mr. Krishnankutty says that when tomato was cultivated in the usual way, the yield was 9,808 kg an acre. But with drip water of precision farming, the yield rose by 155.5 per cent to 25,050 kg with 47 per cent saving on water.

In the case of capsicum, the yield was 5,430 kg against 8,990 kg, a 66.6 per cent increase, with 43.1 per cent saving on water. For brinjal, the figures were 5,044 kg against 8,569 kg, an increase of 69.9 per cent, and 40 per cent water saving.

For beans, 2,255 kg against 4,100 kg, 81.8 per cent increase, and 36.9 per cent water saving, Mr. Krishnankutty said.

Pesticide residues found in vegetables

Second lab report of College of Agriculture, Vellayani

A topping of grated carrot and freshly chopped coriander or mint leaves on your favourite dish looks great and adds to the smell and taste, but it could also spell trouble. The vegetables used for garnishing may be loaded with toxic pesticides, unless they are home-grown.

The second report of the Pesticide Residue Research and Analytical Laboratory at the College of Agriculture, Vellayani, has revealed dangerous levels of pesticide residue in 14 vegetables used by most households. While seven vegetables were found to be low in pesticide content, 38 were listed as safe-to-eat.

The laboratory carried out tests on 260 samples of 59 vegetables collected from retail shops, supermarkets and markets in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha and Kasaragod during the period from April 1 to June 30 this year.

Mint leaf, carrot, curry leaf, green chilly, coriander leaf, green capsicum, cucumber, celery, ladies finger, amaranthus (red and green), eggplant, radish and drum stick were found to be the most contaminated (exceeding the maximum residue limit set by the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India), while tomato, yellow capsicum, red capsicum, ginger, cabbage (violet), cauliflower and long beans were found to have less of pesticide residue.

The samples contained residues of several pesticides including Profenophos, a neurotoxic pesticide banned in Kerala and restricted to tea and cotton in other States.

Interestingly, ivy gourd (kovakka), gooseberry, red onion, tomato, cauliflower, cabbage (white and violet), long beans and capsicum (yellow and red) which were listed as dangerously contaminated in the first report published in June, have made it to the safe- to eat category in the current report, indicating that pesticide safety is becoming a priority for farmers.

The laboratory has taken up periodic analysis of vegetable samples at under a project titled 'Production and marketing of safe to eat vegetables for sale through government outlets. Thomas Biju Mathew, Professor and principal investigator of the project, said the pesticide residue level in the dangerously contaminated vegetables was found to be high in samples collected from different outlets. This, he said, indicated that most of these products were sourced from the same place, probably outside Kerala.

"The high-level of profenophos residue in carrot and mint, curry and coriander leaf is a matter of grave concern. It shows that the pesticide is widely misused by vegetable farmers in the neighbouring States."

The report of the study has been put up on the website of the Public Relations Department, Government of Kerala (www.prd.kerala.gov.in). It also contains information on methods to remove pesticide residue from vegetables using vinegar, salt, water and tamarind paste.

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- ❑ *Samples of 14 vegetables found contaminated*
 - ❑ *Banned pesticides being used in neighbouring States*
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Water resources dept. looks to rejuvenate tanks

The Water Resources Department has sought details of encroachments in water bodies in Tiruvallur from the district administration as part of its efforts to rejuvenate them.

There are nearly 340 tanks in the Tiruvallur district, several of which have been considerably encroached on.

The department has sought the support of the Tiruvallur collectorate to survey the extent of encroachments in the water bodies and collate data on them.

Sources in the WRD said that this would help the department to prepare an action plan for the restoration of water bodies under the Tamil Nadu Protection of Tanks and Eviction of Encroachment Act, 2007.

"We want the district administration to survey the extent of encroached structures so that we can demarcate the boundary of every tank across the district," said an official.

The water bodies in urban and peri-urban areas are commonly encroached by residential structures as in the case of Vellanur and Thandurai near Pattabiram.

In rural areas, several people encroach on the dry space of the lake area and cultivate crops.

For instance, the tank in Senji is heavily encroached. Nearly two-third of the lake area is used to cultivate paddy.

V. Raman, a farmer in Thiruvalangadu, said farmers depended on the water bodies for irrigation. "Several of them have been left neglected. The department concerned must desilt and deepen the water bodies to increase their capacity to hold water," he said.

Officials of the WRD said that the tanks that contribute to irrigation such as those in Poorivakkam and Athikavanur, in the district would be given priority. Several supply channels and surplus courses also suffer from similar issues.

About 130 tanks are being taken up for restoration under the Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water-Bodies Restoration and Management (IAMWARM) project. However, several of them still are affected by encroachments. Once the data about the encroachments are collated, the process to issue notices and evict them would begin.

The department has sought details of encroachments in water bodies in Tiruvallur

Water released for irrigation

Water was released through the Thanthai Periyar and PTR Channels from Periyar dam to irrigate single crop in dry and wetlands in Theni and Uthamapalayam blocks on Friday. A total of 5,146 acres – 830 acres in Uthamapalayam and 4,316 acres in Theni – will benefit. Releasing the water at Uthamapalayam, Minister for Finance O. Paneerselvam said that 100 cusecs of water would be released for 120 days continuously for irrigation.

Farmers in Chinnamanur, Seepalakotti, and Veppampatti in Uthamapalayam block and Seelayampatti Poomalaigundu, Dharmapuri, Thadicherry, Venkachalapuram, Koduvilarpatti, Jangalpatti, Govindanagaram and Balakrishnapuram villages in Theni block would benefit. A total of 468 acres of wetlands and 4,678 acres of dry lands under the ayacut of these channels would be irrigated.

He appealed to the farmers to use water judiciously and raise short term crops for better income.

The PWD officials informed that quantum of release in future would be purely on the basis of the storage position in Periyar dam. If there were any slump in storage or failure of monsoon, turn system would be introduced to maintain supply to protect standing crops.

As the combined credit in Vaigai and Periyar dams have crossed 6,000 mcft mark, the PWD engineers released the water.

Water level

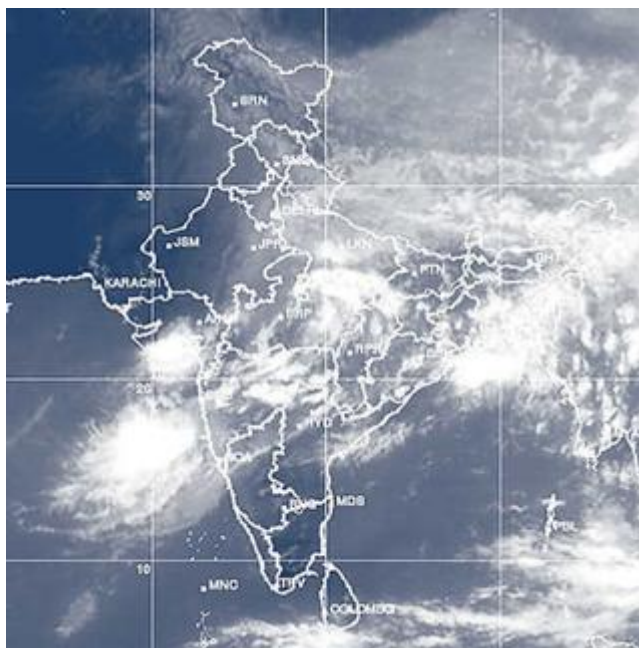
Water level in the Papanasam dam on Friday stood at 102.55 feet (maximum level is 143 feet). The dam had an inflow of 341.81 cusecs and 1,503.52 cusecs of water was discharged from the dam.

The water level in Manimuthar dam stood at 55.30 feet (118 feet). The dam had an inflow of 44 cusecs and 325 cusecs was discharged.

Kanyakumari

The water level in Pechipparai dam stood at 23.35 feet, 61.35 feet in Perunchani, 9.38 feet in Chittar I, 9.48 feet in Chittar II and 33.96 feet in Mambazathuraiyaru dam.

Weather



INSAT PICTURE AT 14.00 hrs. Observations recorded at 8.30 a.m. on October 04th.

	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	33	22	0	4
New Delhi (Sfd)	34	23	0	4
Chandigarh	33	23	2	7
Hissar	33	21	0	4
Bhuntar	31	17	4	4
Shimla	21	13	1	61
Jammu	31	22	60	110
Srinagar	29	13	0	0
Amritsar	33	22	8	8
Patiala	32	23	6	6
Jaipur	30	22	0	tr
Udaipur	31	21	0	1
Allahabad	29	25	10	20
Lucknow	25	21	8	14
Varanasi	32	25	tr	15
Dehradun	27	20	1	17
Agartala	34	24	4	61
Ahmedabad	34	26	0	24
Bangalore	29	19	0	tr
Bhubaneshwar	31	25	10	50
Bhopal	27	22	5	8
Chennai	34	24	5	17
Guwahati	33	23	87	88
Hyderabad	30	23	1	8
Kolkata	32	25	11	29
Mumbai	32	26	0	0
Nagpur	28	23	25	109

Patna	30	25	0	1
Pune	32	21	0	0
Thiruvananthapuram	32	24	0	14
Imphal	32	22	3	3
Shillong	24	16	3	8

The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (tr-trace) and total rainfall in mm since 1st October.

MAINLY DRY WEATHER

South-west monsoon has been vigorous over west Uttar Pradesh and active over east Uttar Pradesh. The withdrawal line of South-west monsoon continues to pass through Kalpa, Hissar, Jodhpur and Nalia.

Rainfall: Rain/thundershowers have occurred at many places over Uttar Pradesh and at isolated places over rest of the region. The chief amounts of rainfall in cm. are: (6 cm. and above) PUNJAB: Madhopur and Phangota 6 each, EAST RAJASTHAN: Bari 14, Baseri and Sapau 11 each, Roopwas 10 and Dholpur and Rajakhera 8 each, EAST UTTAR PRADESH: Naraini 6 and WEST UTTAR PRADESH: Garotha 17, Agra IAF 14, Rath 13, Budaun and Jasrana 9 each, Karhal 8, Bareilly CWC, Jalesar and Kasganj 7 each and Kirawali, Etah and Mathura CWC 6 each.

MAXIMUM TEMPERTURE: The maximum temperature fell appreciably in west Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, fell in east Uttar Pradesh and changed little over rest of the region. They were above normal in Jammu and Kashmir, appreciably below normal in east Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and normal in rest of the region. The highest maximum temperature in the region was 37.7°C recorded at Jaisalmer (Rajasthan).

MINIMUM TEMPERTURE: The minimum temperature fell in west Uttar Pradesh and changed little over rest of the region. They were markedly above normal in Punjab, appreciably above normal in Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand, above normal in Himachal Pradesh and normal in rest of the region. The lowest minimum temperature in the plains was 18.2°C recorded at Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh).

FORECAST FOR REGION VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 06th OCTOBER 2013

Rain/thundershowers may occur at many places over east-Uttar Pradesh. Rain/thundershowers may occur at many places over southeast parts of west-Uttar Pradesh during next 24 hours and decrease thereafter. Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Uttarakhand, east Rajasthan and rest parts of west Uttar Pradesh. Rain/thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh during next 48 hours and mainly dry weather thereafter. Mainly dry weather over rest of the region.

HEAVY RAINFALL WARNING: Heavy rainfall may occur at one or two places over east Uttar Pradesh during 48 hours and over southeast parts of west-Uttar Pradesh during next 24 hours.

FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 06th OCTOBER 2013: Partly cloudy sky. Very light rain/thundershowers could occur in some areas.

Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Cloudy

Rain: 0

Humidity: 89

Wind: normal

Saturday, Oct 5

Max Min

36° | 27°

Sunrise: 05:58

Sunset: 05:57

Barometer: 1007.0

Tomorrow's Forecast



Sunny

Sunday, Oct 6

Max Min

34° | 25°

Extended Forecast for a week

Monday
Oct 7



34° | 26°

Partly Cloudy

Tuesday
Oct 8



34° | 26°

Partly Cloudy

Wednesday
Oct 9



31° | 26°

Overcast

Thursday
Oct 10



32° | 27°

Overcast

Friday
Oct 11



32° | 27°

Overcast

THE TIMES OF INDIA

India pushes for deal on farm support

NEW DELHI: Commerce & industry minister [Anand Sharma](#) is expected to make a strong pitch for reaching a final deal on a revision of the [domestic support cap](#) for [agriculture](#) when WTO's new director general Roberto Azevedo meets him on Monday to seek India's help for a breakthrough at the Bali ministerial meeting in December.

After a year of negotiations, the [WTO](#) membership has agreed on an interim solution, which will prevent countries from initiating action if the procurement from farmers breaches the ceiling of 10% of the value of production. With international prices on the rise, and local price fixed at 1986-88 levels, most developing countries with large populations are now staring at the prospect of breaching the limit. Food sold through the public distribution system also faces restrictions.

In case of India, the prospects appear stronger given that the food security law will increase the procurement requirement and push up the subsidy level. China, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines are also in the same boat.

India is keen that before it agrees to demands for an agreement on trade facilitation — which will speed up cargo clearance at ports — WTO members should agree to provide a legally binding solution to the problem of food security. This arrangement has to continue till the conclusion of the Doha Round, said a source familiar with the discussions.

India and other members of the G-33 coalition led by Indonesia have also proposed modification in the rules on agriculture, saying that the calculations are flawed. But, their main argument is that food procured for public stockholding, such as the one done by Food Corporation of India, from poor farmers should not be included, while calculating domestic support or the aggregate measure of support. The argument is now finding support from economists and global agencies such as the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO), which are battling for livelihood support.

In a recent study, Franck Galtier from CIRAD, the French think tank on farm sector, has said the current WTO rules overestimate the real subsidies to agriculture provided by public stocks. "This discussion should be straightforward as it concerns a technical matter (correcting errors in the AMS calculation) rather than a change in the scope or intent of the rules," he said in a paper.

Oct rains highest in past 28 years

KANPUR: October rains broke the records of the past 28 years in the industrial city. The city received 136.6 mm rainfall in past 76 hours which is highest after 1985. The met expert predicted more rains by weekend.

After heavy showers on Wednesday and Thursday, the rains continued to lash the city on Friday too. The total rainfall on Friday was 4.6 mm.

According to the weather bureau of [Chandra Shekhar Azad University](#) (CSA), more showers are likely in the city for another couple of days. The met experts claimed October rains to be highest in 28 years.

"The CSA has been maintaining weather data since 1971 and in the span of past 42 years, October rains have crossed the mark of 100 mm only twice. The rains on October 03 is highest in past 42 years as 129.6 mm rains on this date is a new record," said Anirudh Dubey, the met expert of CSA.

The rains also brought a dip in the mercury level giving signs of early arrival of winters. The minimum temperature recorded on Friday was 20.2 degrees while the maximum temperature went down to 26.2 degrees. The humidity recorded for the day was 93% and 97%.

The retreating monsoons gave a tough time to the residents. Majority of roads in the city remained waterlogged making it difficult to commute. Potholes and slippery roads added to the troubles of people.

Majority of city-based Ramlila committees were forced to postpone the staging of Ramlila or to cut-short the event.

The city people enjoyed the pleasant weather on Friday. Spots like Ganga Barrage, Mooti Jheel, parks and Ganga Ghats witnessed heavy rush of people who visited these places to enjoy with their family and friends. Eatery joints too witnessed heavy rush of locals.

Jharkhand to promote state as eco-tourism destination

RANCHI: The state government, in its bid to promote [Jharkhand](#) as an [eco-tourism destination](#), is trying to utilize its existing infrastructure at popular forest spots.

The vast spread of forests in Dalma, Betla, Netarhat and Behragora in Hazaribag, with their wide range of flora and fauna, are among popular tourist draws. The places, which saw a waning inflow of tourist following extremist problems, have infrastructure which have so far remained under-utilized.

"Dalma is a beautiful place, and the best forest area in Jharkhand where tourists can stay and enjoy natural beauty. There is Pindrabeda guest house that has two double-bed rooms and a dormitory with six beds. Also, there are bamboo cottages with modern facilities," said [Siddhartha Tripathy](#), director at the tourism department, who recently visited the forest along with Sajal Chakravarty, the additional chief secretary at the department.

There are eco-resorts and cottages in Dalma forest which are set up by the forest department. Such facilities are also there in other forest areas. However, these infrastructure remains grossly unutilized due to the department's lack of promotion.

"The forest department does not have a tourist-friendly set up and has not been able to market its natural resources to draw more tourists. There are many beautiful guest houses but they are underutilized," said Tripathy.

The department will launch a toll-free number on October 5 at which people can directly enquire about tourism in the state.

"Many eco resorts and cottages have been made by forest department in the area where tourists can enjoy a comfortable stay. Also there are four elephants in the forest who seem to have separated from their herd and are being taken care of by the forest officers.

Tripathy said [Dalma forest authorities](#) are looking after four elephants which have got separated from a herd. "We are planning to use the elephants for safari after discussing about it with forest department," he added.

"A meeting will be organized at secretary level for tourism and forest department to discuss the ways to promote eco tourism. In the first phase we are planning to promote tourism in

Dalma, Betla, Netarhat, Behragora and Hazaribagh where forest department has already constructed many guesthouses."

Tripathy said, "We are also planning to tag forest department in the helpline number so those interested in forest tourism can directly contact on that number and get details."



Citrus fruit component may improve kidney health



Component of grapefruit and other fruits can block the formation of kidney cysts, says Scientists

Scientists have found that a component of grapefruit and other citrus fruits can successfully block the formation of kidney cysts.

Known as polycystic kidney disease, this is an inherited disorder which leads to the loss of kidney function, high blood pressure and the need for dialysis. Few treatment options are currently available.

The team of scientists from Royal Holloway University, St George's, University of London and Kingston University London used a simple, single-celled amoeba to identify that the component - naringenin - regulates the PKD2 protein responsible for polycystic kidney disease and as a result, blocks formation of cysts.

"This discovery provides an important step forward in understanding how polycystic kidney disease may be controlled," said Professor Robin Williams from the School of Biological Sciences at Royal Holloway. "In the study, we have demonstrated how effective the amoeba Dictyostelium is in the discovery of new treatments and their targets.

"Having previously applied the same method of testing in our work into epilepsy and bipolar treatments, it is clear that this new approach could help us reduce reliance on animal testing and provide major improvements," he said. To test how this discovery could apply in

treatments, the team used a mammalian kidney cell-line, and triggered the formation of cysts in these cells.

They were then able to block the formation of the cysts by adding naringenin and saw that when levels of the PKD2 protein were reduced in the kidney cells, so was the block in cyst formation, confirming that the effect was connected.

"Further investigation is underway to understand the action of naringenin at the molecular level. This work will entail looking at the function of the PKD2 protein as a cell growth regulator," said Dr Mark Carew, from the School of Pharmacy and Chemistry at Kingston University.

"Indeed, this study provides a good example of how chemicals identified in plants can help us develop new drugs for the treatment of disease," added Professor Debbie Baines from St George's, University of London. The study was published in British Journal of Pharmacology.

Business Standard

Crude palm oil down 0.2% on sluggish demand

Continued its losing streak for the fourth straight day, [crude palm oil](#) prices fell further by 0.29% to Rs 510.20 per 10 kg in futures trading today as speculators indulged in reducing positions amid sluggish demand in the spot market.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), crude palm oil for delivery in October fell further by Rs 1.50, or 0.29% to Rs 510.20 per 10 kg in business turnover of 152 lots.

Similarly, the oil for delivery in November shed Rs 1.40, or 0.28% to Rs 503.70 per 10 kg in 16 lots.

Analysts attributed the continued fall in crude palm oil at futures trade to sluggish demand in the spot market against sufficient supplies.

Cardamom up 0.3% on strong demand

Supported by strong demand in the spot market and restricted arrivals from producing regions, [cardamom](#) prices rose further by Rs 2.40 to Rs 751 per kg in futures trade today.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), cardamom for delivery in November added Rs 2.40, or 0.32%, to Rs 751 per kg in business turnover of 388 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in October edged up 60 paise, or 0.08%, to Rs 706.50 per kg in 546 lots.

Market analysts said besides strong demand in the spot market, limited arrivals from producing regions mainly influenced cardamom for the third day at futures trade.

Sugar up 0.3% on spot demand

[Sugar](#) prices rose by Rs 9 to Rs 2,873 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators enlarged positions on expectations of a rise in demand during the festive season.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), sugar for delivery in October rose by Rs 9, or 0.31%, to Rs 2,873 per quintal with an open interest of 5,810 lots.

Similarly, sugar for delivery in November gained Rs 8, or 0.28%, to Rs 2,901 per quintal in 28,110 lots.

Market analysts said fresh positions built up by speculators on expectations that the demand for the sweetener will pick up during the festive season mainly attributed rise in sugar prices at futures trade.

Jeera up 0.3% as demand picks up

[Jeera](#) prices rose by 0.38% to Rs 12,655 per quintal in futures trading today as speculators engaged in creating fresh positions, driven by pick up in demand in the spot market.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), jeera for delivery in October month rose by Rs 47.50, or 0.38% to Rs 12,655 per quintal with an open interest of 7,488 lots.

Similarly, jeera for delivery in November traded higher by Rs 20, or 0.16% to Rs 12,872.50 per quintal in 5,673 lots.

Market analysts said the rise in jeera prices at futures trade was mostly attributed to fresh positions created by speculators supported by rising demand in the spot market.

Turmeric up 1.2% on rising demand

[Turmeric](#) prices rose by 1.20% to Rs 4,740 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators enlarged positions amid rising demand in the spot market.

At the [National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange](#), turmeric for delivery in October

month rose by Rs 56, or 1.20%, to Rs 4740 per quintal with an open interest of 11,230 lots.

Similarly, the spice for delivery in November moved up by Rs 50, or 1.03%, to Rs 4,884 per quintal in 9,650 lots.

Market analysts said rising demand in the spot markets mainly influenced turmeric prices at futures trade.

After wheat, now rice procurement too drops

FCI this year purchased around 34.1 MT of rice from farmers, while last year it had purchased around 35 MT

After a almost 32% drop in [wheat](#) procurement, government's [rice](#) purchases in 2012-13 too have fallen by around 3% primarily because of low procurement in main rice producing states of Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

However, experts said this is unlikely to have any impact on long-term prospects as stocks in state-run including the ambitious National [Food Security](#) Bill warehouses.

According to government data, [Food Corporation](#) of India (FCI) this year purchased around 34.1 million tonnes of rice from farmers, while last year it had purchased around 35 million tonnes.

The drop in procurement has been in Andhra Pradesh, where purchases fell from 9.6 million tonnes to 6.45 million tonnes, while in Uttar Pradesh it fell from 3.35 million tonnes to 2.28 million tonnes. "Procurement has dropped because of increased purchases by private traders and also low output," a senior government official said.

"The drop in procurement of paddy is good for the country as government has ample stocks and this is not reflective of any long-term trend," eminent agriculture economist and chairman of Commission for [Agriculture Costs](#) and Prices (CACP), Ashok Gulati told Business Standard.

As per FCI data, rice stocks in central pool was estimated to be around 21 million tonnes, three times more than the required quantity of 7 million tonnes, while wheat stocks was estimated to 38.3 million tonnes, as against the required quantity of 14 million tonnes.

In wheat, this year procurement fell by almost 34.1% to around 26 million tonnes from 38.1 million tonnes last year largely because of increased purchases by private traders and fall in overall wheat production.

Meanwhile, on rice, the data showed that procurement in Punjab, Haryana and Chattisgarh remained higher than the previous year.

The government's rice purchase from Punjab rose to 8.55 million tonnes in 2012-13 from 7.73 million tonnes in the previous year. Rice buys from Chhattisgarh grew to 4.8 million

tonnes from 4.11 million tonnes, while procurement from Haryana increased to 2.5 million tonnes from 1.6 million tonnes in the review period, as per the FCI data.

FCI and state procurement agencies procured common variety paddy at Rs 1250 per quintal and 'A' grade variety paddy at Rs 1280 last year. Procured paddy was later milled into rice. The country had harvested 104.4 million tonnes of rice in the 2012-13 marketing year.

Potato up 0.9% on spot demand

Potato for delivery in April moved up by 0.88%

[Potato](#) prices recovered by 0.90% to Rs 838.50 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators created fresh positions on hopes of a pick-up in demand at spot markets ahead of "Navratras" festival.

At the [Multi Commodity Exchange](#), potato for delivery in March recovered by Rs 7.50, or 0.90% to Rs 838.50 per quintal in business turnover of 31 lots.

The potato for delivery in April also moved up by Rs 7, or 0.88% to Rs 802 per quintal in 7 lots.

Analysts said fresh positions created by speculators on expectations that the demand in the spot markets might pick up for the 'navratras' festive beginning tomorrow, influenced potato prices at futures trade.

Wheat export: MMTC,STC & PEC get bids lower than floor price

In Aug, CCEA had approved 2 MT of wheat exports from FCI godowns for this fiscal subject to a floor price of \$300 per tonne

State-owned trading firms [STC](#), [MMTC](#) and [PEC](#) have received 11 bids for their tenders to export 1.6 lakh tonnes [wheat](#) from the [FCI](#) godowns with highest quotation of \$267 per tonne, which is lower than the floor price fixed by the government.

In August, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs ([CCEA](#)) had approved 2 million tonnes of wheat exports from FCI godowns for this fiscal subject to a floor price of \$300 per tonne through STC, MMTC and PEC.

STC received highest bid of \$267 a tonne, while maximum quotations by global bidders in case of MMTC and PEC were \$261 per tonne and 260.08 per tonne, respectively, a government official said.

STC and MMTC had invited tenders for export of 60,000 tonnes each from Mundra and Kakinada ports, respectively, while PEC had invited bids for export of 40,000 tonnes from Kandla port.

Sources said that PEC received six bids, MMTC got two bids and PEC three bids. The bidders included Cargill, Emmsons and Starcomm.

As bids are lower than the base price, the Empowered Committee headed by Commerce Secretary may not approve export at such a lower rate.

In 2012-13 fiscal, the government had earned \$1.4 billion from export of 4.2 million tonne wheat by PSUs. Indian wheat had fetched an average price of \$311.38 per tonne.

Efficient post harvest management can avoid wastage of upto 25 mn tn: Assocham

Loss of food grains assumes significance as quantity constitutes around 10% of India's overall annual production

With increased focus on post harvest management, India can save over 25 million tonnes of foodgrains from spoilage every year, a study by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India ([Assocham](#)), said.

According to a similar study in the past, the country as a whole loses around 25% of annual foodgrains production due to poor post harvest management of crops. Lack of farmers' education coupled with poor infrastructure and handling for transportation result into pilferage of foodgrains, an unrecoverable loss for the country.

While the loss accrued at the farm gate reduces farmers' income, pilferage and other losses results into an unnecessary price increase of foodgrains.

The loss assumes significance as the quantity constitutes around 10% of India's overall annual foodgrains production.

“India can save over 25 million tonnes of foodgrains annually from spoilage i.e. about 10% of the total food grain production of over 250 mt from [wastage](#) and spillage provided the farmers are educated about how to handle post-harvest cleaning, grading and switch to standardised packaging of produce as per the domestic and export market requirement,” Assocham study said.

THE HINDU Business Line

Spot pepper up on short supply

Kochi, Oct. 4:

Spot pepper prices continued their uptrend on Friday on good buying support amid short supply, while prices on the futures market fell on limited activities.

Day traders continued to be active, while exporters and investors did not take positions on the futures market. Sellers were also not forthcoming, trade sources said.

Dealers from Bihar and Jharkhand were buying directly from the primary market dealers on cash-and-carry basis. The trade here attributed the shift of these upcountry dealers, who were hitherto covering low bulk density pepper from Karnataka to Kerala, to non-availability of pepper in Karnataka.

Besides, Kerala's inter-State dealers, who transport the material by rail, were also buying from the primary markets in the plains.

In the international market, all the origins except Brazil – where harvesting is in the full swing – were firm. Brazil was selling slightly lower.

However, Indian parity moved up further today and remained slightly above other origins, market sources told *Business Line*.

October and November contracts on the NMCE fell by Rs 256 and Rs 423 respectively to Rs 43,050 and Rs 42,390 a quintal. Total turnover moved up by one tonne to 12 tonnes while open interest declined by three tonnes to 19 tonnes.

On the IPSTA platform, turnover increased by 10 tonnes to 88 tonnes. October and November contracts decreased by Rs 221 and Rs 210 respectively to Rs 43,179 and Rs 43,290.

Spot prices on good buying support went up by Rs 200 to close at Rs 40,400 (ungarbled) and Rs 42,400 (garbled) a quintal.

Copra rises as coconut output drops



Erode, Oct 4: With coconut production dropping, copra and coconut oil prices are surging on demand from crushers.

At the Avalpoondurai market here, copra prices increased by Rs 300 a quintal on Friday. “Prices increased sharply despite heavy arrivals. This was mainly since coconut oil was sold at Rs 1,380 for 15 kg loose pack. Still, crushers are expecting prices to rise,” said R.M. Palanisamy, a trader in Erode.

He said that palmolein and palm kernel oil prices ruled unchanged at Rs 64 a k but traders are buying limited quantity of coconut oil.

Coconut oil crushers said that they have adequate stocks but the sales were low.

Production of coconut has started decreasing and so they are trying to stock copra. Farmers expect the prices to increase next week.

At the Avalpoondurai market on Friday, 1,000 quintals of copra arrived for sale.

Many oil crushers from Kerala and local oil crushers participated in the auction and purchased all the offerings, quoting a higher price. Even the price of second grade copra increased by Rs 400 a quintal.

At Avalpoondurai the first grade copra was sold at Rs 6,315-6,655 a quintal, second grade at Rs 4,585-6,315; 1,000 quintals were sold.

Mixed trend in spot rubber

Kottayam, Oct. 4:

Physical rubber prices were mixed on Friday.

The under current was weak, as the absence of genuine buyers continued to influence the overall market sentiments.

But RSS 4 managed to sustain at the prevailing levels following a better closing on the National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE).

Sheet rubber closed steady at Rs 165.50 a kg, according to traders.

The grade was unchanged at Rs 166 at Kottayam and Kochi, according to the Rubber Board.

October futures improved to Rs 167.74 (Rs 166.47), November to Rs 167.04 (Rs 165.79), December to Rs 168.72 (Rs 167.62) and January to Rs 171 (Rs 170.10) while February dropped to Rs 172.97 (Rs 178.31) on the NMCE.

RSS 3 (spot) weakened to Rs 155.35 (Rs 156.37) at Bangkok.

October futures closed at ¥245.0 (Rs 155.47) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

Spot rubber rates Rs/kg were: RSS-4: 165.50 (165.50); RSS-5: 160 (162); Ungraded: 155 (155); ISNR 20: 157 (158) and Latex 60%: 129 (131).

Record global tea output likely this year

Coonoor, Oct. 4:

With only the last quarter of the current calendar remaining, indications are that the global tea production is heading for a new record in 2013.

With almost every country posting a higher crop than last year, global traders are predicting the overall production of all teas to rise to 4.8 billion kg this year from last year's 4.6 billion kg.

It was only in 2010 that production crossed, for the first time, 4-billion-kg mark and the expectation as of now is that 5-billion-kg mark would be reached as early as in 2014.

This means a growth of one billion kg in just five years.

Official production data for August is available for Sri Lanka, Malawi, Uganda and Bangladesh while it is confined to July for India.

“According to our compilation, the global black tea production so far this year has increased to 1,177 million kg (mkg) from 1,066 mkg”, Rajesh Gupta, publisher of annual Global Tea Digest, told *Business Line*.

This marks a growth of 111 mkg or 10.41 per cent.

All countries except Malawi and Indonesia have posted an increase.

Even here, Malawi’s output has fallen just marginally by 0.53 mkg to total 33.67 mkg.

Indonesia’s output has drifted by just 1.20 mkg to reach 33.30 mkg.

The 0.63 mkg increase in August has helped Sri Lanka’s eight-month production to rise by 7.03 mkg to 222.13 mkg.

Unfavourable climate in August pulled down the month’s production in Uganda by 3.40 mkg but helped by higher output in earlier months, the overall production in eight months rose by 0.33 mkg to reach 35.95 mkg.

Bangladesh’s output also slipped marginally by 0.10 mkg in August, but the eight month cumulative production rose by 0.66 mkg to 33.31 mkg.

Bayer’s multi-crop breeding station to focus on hybrids

Hyderabad, Oct. 4:

Bayer CropScience India has launched a new multi-crop breeding station in Chandippa, some 46 km from Hyderabad.

The facility will focus on breeding and development of germplasm for high performing hybrids in rice, cotton and millet, says a press release from the company.

“This is one of the most significant investments made by Bayer CropScience India over the last three years. Chandippa will serve as a strategic site for product development activities in India and Asia-Pacific markets” said Stephan Gerlich, Country Group Head, Bayer in India, during the inauguration recently.

Over the last three years, Bayer CropScience India has invested nearly Rs 100 crore in various projects.

These include capacity expansion at its existing seed processing plant in Toopran near Hyderabad, a new mustard breeding station in Palwal, Haryana, and the multi-crop breeding station in Chandippa.

Spread over 36 acres, the breeding station will be equipped with all aspects of R&D infrastructure.

These include – labs, open fields for trials, screen houses and fully automated greenhouses, which will be used to speed up breeding cycles.

The labs will support activities in resistance breeding, tissue culture and qualitative testing.

The new facility will also have a cultivable area of 25 acres for field experimentation.

The Chandippa breeding station will have approximately 80 employees. A key highlight will be its rain water harvesting pond, which is a first of its kind facility in India and has been imported from the Netherlands.

This fully automated system will harvest rain water, which will be filtered and utilised for cooling in the greenhouses.

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'Better post-harvest handling can help save 25 mt foodgrains'



New Delhi, Oct. 4:

An estimated 25 million tonnes of foodgrains, accounting for about a tenth of country's output, could be saved from wastage if farmers are trained to adopt proper post-harvest management practices, a study has revealed.

The study "Value Addition in Agricultural Products in India," carried out by industry body Assocham said if farmers are educated on how to handle post-harvest cleaning and grading, it would help avoid significant spillage and wastage at various points from farm-to-market yard.

Farmers sell their produce in market yards without cleaning and grading, which is done by traders. As a result, farmers get a low price, it pointed out.

"There is a need to educate farmer community about traders' needs in terms of quality, grades and application of permissible preservatives for a longer shelf life," said Assocham Secretary General D.S. Rawat. Also, the present system of bulk procurement of wheat and rice by the Government in various States is disincentivising the farmers to invest their time in cleaning and grading, as any premium on better quality and grade is not commensurate with the returns they fetch, the study said.

Farmers must be informed that higher grades would fetch them better price and they should thus go for better varieties right from the time of sowing. Further, it pointed out that the Government should also encourage system of farmer graded grain in procurement in synchrony with the trade and export needs. "The government should encourage private sector participation in grain trade with a pro-active export policy given the severe storage and maintenance problems together with mounting subsidy on wheat and rice procurement," Rawat said.

The study said post-harvest infrastructure development is a pre-requisite for value addition in agri-exports.

"India can also tap the great potential for exporting 20 mt rice, wheat, maize and other cereals without disturbing the domestic equilibrium," the study said.

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Govt to spend Rs 3,507 crore to boost oilseeds output in 12 {+t} {+h} Plan



New Delhi, Oct 4:

The Centre proposes to spend Rs 3,507 crore during the 12 {+t} {+h} Plan to boost oilseeds output and bring an additional area of 1.25 lakh hectares under oil palm.

“The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the implementation of National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm with an allocation of Rs 3,507 crore,” a statement said.

fresh fruit bunches

Besides enhancing oilseeds output by 6.58 million tonnes, the Mission would also bring additional area of 1.25 lakh hectares under oil palm cultivation with increase in productivity of fresh fruit bunches from 4,927 kg a hectare to 15,000 kg and increase in collection of tree-borne oilseeds to 14 lakh tonnes. “The implementation of the proposed mission will enhance production of vegetable oil sources by 2.48 mt from oilseeds (1.70 mt), oil palm (0.60 mt) and tree borne oilseeds (0.18 mt) by the end of the 12th Plan period,” the statement said.

seed replacement ratio

The mission would lay stress on increasing the seed replacement ratio with focus on varietal replacement; increasing irrigation coverage under oilseeds from 26 per cent to 38 per cent and diversification of area from low yielding cereals crops to oilseeds crops. Under the mission, the recommended varieties and proven technologies would be demonstrated in a cluster approach to ensure participation of all categories of farmers, irrespective of the size of their holdings, social status.

existing schemes

The national mission on oilseeds is built upon the achievements of the existing schemes of Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds Oil Palm and Maize , Tree Borne Oilseeds Scheme and Oil Palm Area Expansion programme during the 11th Plan period.

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Stockists' demand drives up sugar freight rates

Mumbai, Oct. 4:

Sugar prices on the Vashi wholesale market ruled flat on Friday on normal demand and ample supply.

At the higher level, prices for S-grade dropped by Rs 10-20 a quintal.

Fine and bold varieties ruled unchanged. Naka rates were steady on routine activities.

Freight rates from producing centres were up Rs 4-5 a bag on higher demand from stockists ahead of Dussehra.

Traders made new commitments to fulfil festival demand. The volume was higher with mills compared with the last few days.

More than 75,000 bags were sold by producers on Thursday evening with fair quality S-grade being sold Rs 10-20 lower. Bold variety prices were unchanged, said a Vashi-based trader.

Due to ample supply Vashi market carries more than 120-125 truckloads of stocks forcing mills to sell at discount.

Upcountry buying is also lacking in Maharashtra and hope for exports is bleak at current price.

Arrivals at Vashi market continued to be at 61-62 truckloads (100 bags each), while local dispatches were 62-63 loads.

On Thursday, 16-18 mills sold about 75,000-80,000 bags at Rs 2,800-60 (Rs 2,810-80) for S-grade and Rs 2,930-3,000 (Rs 2,930-3,000) for M-grade.

The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were: S-grade Rs 2,960-3,115 (Rs 2,960-3,115) and M-grade Rs 3,132-3,272 (Rs 3,131-3,272).

Naka delivery rates were: S-grade Rs 2,900-2,960 (Rs 2,900-2,960) and M-grade Rs 3,010-3,100 (Rs 3,010-3,100).

Uttar Pradesh rates were: Muzzafarnagar Rs 3,240.

Cotton set to wilt on higher arrivals next week



Rajkot, Oct. 4:

Cotton price remained unchanged on Friday as demand was limited. Also arrivals of the new crop have begun to rise in Gujarat after the weather has cleared.

According to traders, cotton may rule at the current levels, as buyers are waiting for quality cotton to arrive in the market.

Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton traded at Rs 47,000-48,000 a candy of 356 kg. About 4,000 bales of 170 kg new crop and 2,000 bales old cotton arrived in Gujarat. About 18,000 bales arrived across the country. Price of raw cotton or *kapas* also ruled steady. New *kapas* price quoted at Rs 700-1,150 for a *maund* of 20 kg and old *kapas* at Rs 750-1,200. In some parts of Saurashtra, *kapas* quoted up to Rs 1,300.

A broker said that ginning activity in Gujarat has not yet gathered momentum and buyers are waiting for quality cotton which is likely to come at the month-end.

Price may decline marginally next week as arrivals are set to rise and demand is subdued.

Meanwhile, the All Gujarat Ginners' Association has projected a crop of 375 lakh bales with Gujarat seen contributing 140 lakh bales.

Pulses may rally on reports of crop damage



Indore, Oct. 4:

With demand outstripping arrivals, both pulses and pulse seeds are ruling higher in Indore mandis. Even as local mandis were closed on Friday on account of *Amavasya*, a majority of pulse seeds ruled firm. Both moong and urad have been witnessing a bullish trend on slack arrival and higher demand. Moong (new) is currently ruling at Rs 5,400-5,600 a quintal, while moong (Maharashtra) ruled at Rs 5,600-5,800.

Amid report of damage to moong and urad crops, arrival of both the pulse seeds in mandis here has declined sharply leading to steep rise in prices (Rs 700 a quintal) in the past two weeks.

Rally in moong also perked up its dal with moong dal (medium) being quoted at Rs 6,200-6,400, moong dal (bold) at Rs 6,500-6,700, while moong mongar ruled at Rs 6,800-7,200 a quintal. Urad (bold) was being quoted at Rs 4,100, while urad (medium) ruled at Rs 3,500-3,800. Amid report of damage to the crop, a rally in urad also appears imminent in the coming days, said a trader Prakash Vora.

Urad dal (average) was at Rs 4,500-4,600, urad dal (bold) ruled at Rs 4,700-4,800, while urad mongar is ruling at Rs 5,200-5,500.

Rise in demand and improved buying support from the millers have lifted masoor in Indore mandis as well with masoor (bold) being quoted at Rs 4,200-25, while masoor (medium) ruled at Rs 3,800-4,200. Masoor dal (average) was being quoted at Rs 4,850-5,000, masoor dal (medium) at Rs 5,050-5,200 a quintal.

Lack of N. India order grinds turmeric

Erode, Oct. 4: Turmeric exporters and traders are yet to receive any upcountry orders despite *Durga puja* and *Diwali* drawing near. Almost all exporters and traders are disappointed as they have not received any fresh order so far.

“Usually by this time, they would have received good orders to facilitate the transportation of the turmeric. Merchants in North India have turned to Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh for

their needs since turmeric is cheaper there,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said that over the past few months, quality turmeric has been available in Andhra Pradesh, so North Indian buyers are have placed orders there. Prices are also slightly lower than Erode. Now, only inferior variety turmeric is arriving for sale in all the four markets.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 3,466-5,495 and the root variety Rs 3,336-4,811 a quintal.



Salem Hybrid Crop: The finger variety fetched Rs 4,608-5,911; the root variety Rs 4,489-5,002. Of the 372 bags that arrived, only 89 were sold.

At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,689-5,799; the root variety Rs 4,059-4,877. Of the 385 bags up for sale, 370 found takers.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety quoted Rs 4,591-5,689 and the root variety Rs 4,269-4,889. All the 369 bags on offer were traded.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,769-5,842; the root variety Rs 4,002-5,057. All the 92 bags put up for sale were picked up.

Bullish trend likely to continue in wheat



Karnal, Oct. 4:

The bullish trend in the wheat market continue with prices of dara variety moving up further by Rs 10 a quintal on Friday.

Radhey Sham, a trade expert, told *Business Line* that domestic demand for flour is supporting the market and may continue to rule around current levels for the next few days without much fluctuation, he added.

In the physical market, dara wheat moved up by Rs 10 and quoted at Rs 1,530-40 a quintal.

Around 1,200 bags of wheat arrived and stocks were directly offloaded at the mills. Mill delivery was at Rs 1,530 while delivery at the chakki was at Rs 1,540. Wheat futures witnessed a fall on the NCDEX on Friday. Wheat for October delivery lost Rs 12 at Rs 1,534 with an open interest of 4,260 lots. The grain touched a high of Rs 1,546 earlier in the day. October contracts have some support at Rs 1,530, while resistance is at Rs 1,565. November contracts eased by Rs 7 to Rs 1,553. Market may continue to witness a range-bound to weak movement in the coming days, said market experts.

In the spot market, prices dropped by Rs 35.50 to Rs 1,564.50 a quintal.

Flour Prices

Following a continuous uptrend in wheat, flour too moved up by Rs 25 and quoted at Rs 1,775. On the other hand, Chokar ruled flat at Rs 1,290 a quintal.
