



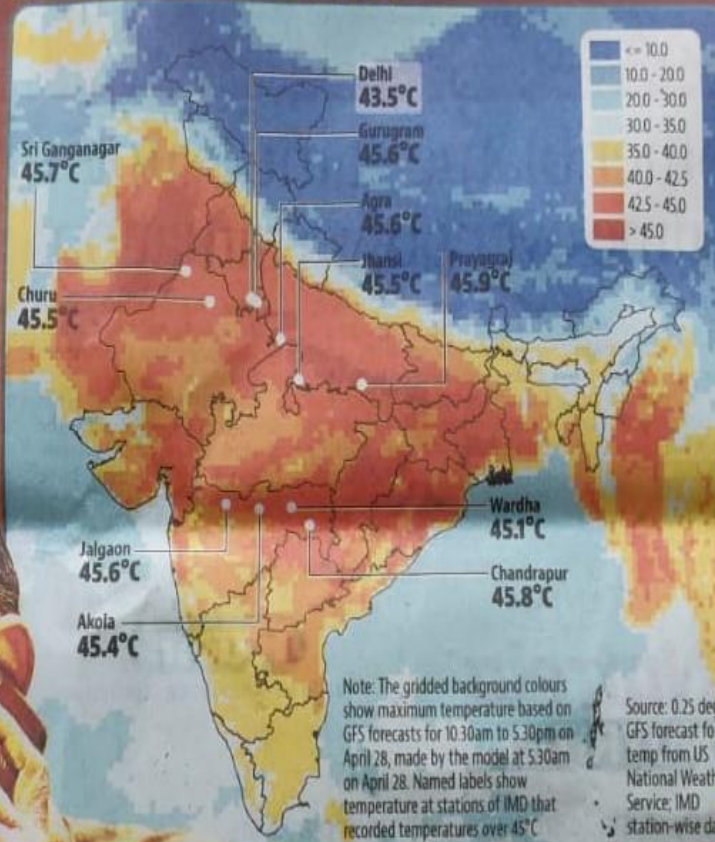
BASAI News Updates

April 29, 2022

Across India, an intense heatwave flashes red

An intense heatwave is sweeping large swathes of India, extending from the country's west and northwest to the east, with weather officials warning that it may worsen in coming days. A look at what regions in the country are grappling with record-breaking maximum temperature, and the role played by the rain (or lack of it)

HOT, HOTTER, HOTTEST



A RECORD HEAT IN INDIA'S NORTH-WEST

Historical data on temperatures is publicly available from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) only for grids and not individual stations or cities. These grids are of 1 degree resolution: boxes of latitudes and longitudes 1 degree apart.

According to IMD's gridded dataset, the average maximum temperature till April 27 was 35.7 degrees Celsius, the highest in five years for this period of April. However, India's headline number hides just how hot northwest India has been. In four states - Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, and Gujarat - the average max temperature in April 2022 so far has been the highest since 1951: while it has been the second highest in Delhi (including neighbouring districts because the city is too small to be captured alone in IMD's gridded data), Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana.

The national average has been drawn downwards by north-eastern states, most of which have experienced one of their coldest Aprils by maximum temperature, and southern states like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, where maximum temperature are closer to the middle value since 1951.

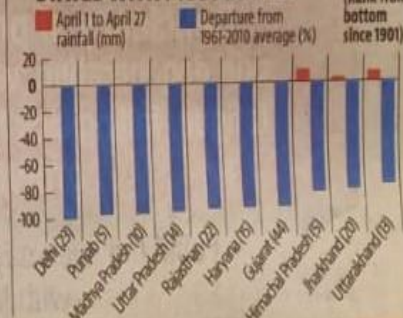
Note: The gridded background colours show maximum temperature based on GFS forecasts for 10:30am to 5:30pm on April 28, made by the model at 5:30am on April 28. Named labels show temperature at stations of IMD that recorded temperatures over 45°C

Source: 0.25 degree GFS forecast for 2m temp from US National Weather Service; IMD station-wise data

CONTRIBUTION OF RAIN?

Unprecedented deficits in rainfall in north-western India is a reason why temperatures in this region are creating new records. Rainfall in the April 1 to April 27 interval in Punjab, Haryana, MP, UP, Jharkhand, Himachal, Uttarakhand, and Telangana is in the bottom 20 since 1901, according to IMD's gridded dataset. The rainfall deficit, compared to the average in 1961-2010 period, in all these states except Uttarakhand (79%) and Telangana (69%) is more than 80%. In states like Delhi, Rajasthan, and Gujarat, the departure may not be unprecedented, but is 94% or higher. They have not recorded even half a millimetre of rainfall. Most north-eastern states, on the other hand, have recorded surplus rainfall.

STATES WITH MOST DEFICIT



Biological Agri Solutions Association of India

2,029 farm fires in 48 hrs

PATIALA/LUDHIANA, APRIL 28

As many as 2,029 incidents of stubble burning have been reported over the past 48 hours in the state. Around 965 incidents were reported on Thursday and 1,064 on Wednesday. The number is likely to shoot up in the coming days.

As per the Crop Residue Burning Information and Management System, the state has already reported over 3,093 incidents in this season so far. After harvesting the crop, farmers burn the residue on the fields. This cre-

ates a health and environmental risk.

Sangrur, the home district of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, has reported 357 incidents in the current season. This number is highest among districts. Sangrur is followed by Ferozepur with 327 incidents. In Ludhiana too, there has been a steep rise in the incidents. From only nine incidents in the first 20 days of the current wheat harvesting season, till April 20, the incidents in the state's largest district touched the total of 107 on April 28. — TNS

Source T 29.04.2022 Delhi Edition

Source HT 29.04.2022 Delhi Edition

Group of 60 nations backs US push for 'open' internet

Binayak Dasgupta and Prashant Jha

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON: The Internet must remain open, protect the human rights of all people, and should not be used to further digital authoritarianism, a group of 60 mostly Western countries said on Thursday in a joint declaration, calling for efforts to ensure "the use of digital technologies reinforces, not weakens, democracy and respect for human rights", offers "opportunities for innovation", and helps societies connect.

The Declaration for the Future of the Internet was signed by 60 partners, according to officials in the US, which headed the effort, counting European Union nations, Australia, New Zealand and Japan as partners.

India was not among these countries.

A senior US administration official indicated that the declaration was aimed at combatting a growing "splintering" of the Internet, with countries like Russia and China on the other side of the spectrum with policies that censor swathes of the cyberspace for their citizens.

"On the international front -- what we're talking about today -- we have seen a trend of rising digital authoritarianism, where some states have been acting to repress freedom of expression, to censor independent news sources, to interfere with elec-

tions, promote disinformation around the world, and deny their citizens other human rights," the official said, citing recent example of Russia's "disinformation" and internet censorship.

"Russia, however, is hardly alone but just one of the leaders in a dangerous new model of Internet policy along with the People's Republic of China and some of the other most censorial states in the world," the official added.

On India, the official said, "the hope remains that time isn't fully passed yet for India to join. But we've been engaged in -- in very intensive efforts to have all of these - all of these countries join", referring to others that were not part of the declaration.

According to the text, countries backing of the declaration "intend to work toward an environment that reinforces our democratic systems and promotes active participation of every citizen in democratic processes, secures and protects individuals' privacy, maintains secure and reliable connectivity, resists efforts to splinter the global Internet, and promotes a free and competitive global economy".

Among other things, the declaration urges countries to refrain from "internet shutdowns or degrading domestic Internet access, either entirely or partially" and not misuse or abuse "the Internet or algorithmic tools or techniques for

unlawful surveillance, oppression, and repression... including developing social score cards or other mechanisms of domestic social control or pre-crime detention and arrest".

On Thursday, the internet advocacy group Access Now, in the latest edition of its internet shutdown report, said there was an increase in the number of instances globally when countries shut down the internet in 2021 compared to the year before.

India saw fewer shutdown instances in 2021, but still remained the world's biggest offender for the fourth straight year, the report said.

"In 2021, authorities deliberately shut down the internet at least 182 times across 34 countries," the report said. "India is the world's largest offender, and blacked out the internet at least 106 times."

On the declaration, Access Now in a statement on Thursday said it "largely avoids addressing mass digital surveillance, which the US government and its Five Eyes partners pioneered, and offers little to combat the rampant profiling and maximal data collection that characterizes the big tech business model and fuels disinformation campaigns".

"The burden is on the Biden Administration and allies to do more than talk the talk," said Jennifer Brody, US advocacy manager at Access Now.



Biological Agri Solutions Association of India

Nilekani to take on e-com giants with open network

Bloomberg

feedback@livemint.com

BENGALURU: He co-founded software powerhouse Infosys Ltd., became a billionaire and went on to spearhead a colossal government program to create biometric identification for India's almost 1.4 billion people.

Now 66, Nandan Nilekani has one more ambitious goal. The high-profile mogul is helping Prime Minister Narendra Modi build an open technology network that seeks to level the playing field for small merchants in the country's fragmented but fast-growing \$1 trillion retail market.

Its stated purpose is to create a freely accessible online system where traders and consumers can buy and sell everything from 23-cent detergent bars to \$1,800 airline tickets. But its unspoken objective is to eventually curb



Nandan Nilekani, co-founder and chairman of Infosys Ltd, at EkStep office in Bengaluru, India.

BLOOMBERG

the powers of Amazon.com Inc. and Walmart Inc.-owned Flipkart, whose online domination has alarmed small merchants and the millions of local mom-and-pop stores, called kirana, that form the nation's retail backbone. As the two global

giants poured a combined \$24 billion into India and captured 80% of the online retail market with aggressive discounts and promotion of preferred sellers, the kirana shops are fearful of an uncertain future. Despite online commerce accounting for just

about 6% of the overall retail market, they are anxious they will be eventually snuffed out, meeting a fate similar to many family-owned businesses in the US and elsewhere.

The not-for-profit system, which goes by the unwieldy name of Open Network for Digital Commerce, or ONDC, seeks to address those concerns. Never attempted anywhere else, it aims to allow small merchants and retailers to plug in and gain the reach and economies of scale of giants. Essentially, the government would create its own e-commerce ecosystem for everyone, designed to loosen the stranglehold of companies like Amazon that dictate which brands get access to prime consumers and on what terms.

"It's an idea whose time has come," Nilekani said recently in a conversation at his private office in the Billionaire's Row

area of Koramangala in Bangalore, home to some of the nation's top tech tycoons. "We owe it to millions of small sellers to show an easy way to participate in the new high-growth area of digital commerce."

A pilot of the not-for-profit, government-run network is set to be rolled out next month to select users in five cities. Lenders including ICICI Bank Ltd. and state-owned Punjab National Bank and State Bank of India have bought stakes in the entity. A spokesman for Amazon said they're trying to better understand the model to see if the Seattle-based company has a role to play. Flipkart didn't respond to a request seeking comment.

India has become a battlefield for some global retail behemoths that are either shut out of China or are struggling to compete with local rivals there.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Attention: Owners/Drivers of Transport Vehicles (Public Service Vehicles, Goods Carriage vehicles, Educational Institute Buses, School Cabs and other Transport Vehicles etc.)

It is to bring to the notice of owners/drivers of transport/commercial vehicles that as per section 56 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, a transport vehicle is not deemed to be validly registered for the purposes of section 39 of the said Act, unless it carries a valid Certificate of Fitness (CoF) issued by the Transport Department, Government of NCT of Delhi. The said transport vehicle is not eligible to ply on the roads till the "CoF" is obtained.

As per rule 62 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, the "CoF" is valid for a period of two years for vehicles upto 8 years old and one year for vehicles older than 8 years. The validity of "CoF" in respect of E-rickshaws and E-carts is for a period of 3 years.

Further, as per rule 81 of Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, there is provision for additional levy of Rs. 50/- for each day of delay after expiry of "CoF". In addition, as per sub-rule (4) of rule 52 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, fee for renewal of certificate of registration is also required to be paid by the owner of such vehicles, as the vehicle is not deemed to be registered on account of expiry of "CoF".

It has been observed by the Transport Department, Government of NCT of Delhi that many owners/drivers (including transport vehicles belonging to Government departments/Local Bodies/PSUs) are plying their transport vehicles without valid "CoF", which is gross violation of The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and rules framed there under.

The owners and drivers plying their transport vehicles on the roads, without valid "CoF" attracts a severe punitive action under section 192 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, which stipulates for a fine of Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 5000/- for first offence and Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 10000/- for second and any subsequent offence. In such cases, there is also a provision of imprisonment of owner/driver.

All the owners/drivers of transport vehicles (including Government Vehicles) are hereby advised to obtain their "CoF", within the stipulated time, to avoid payment of renewal fee for certificate of registration, late penalty/fine and prosecution against such vehicles.

(C. S. Nawani)
Deputy Commissioner (VIU)



Biological Agri Solutions Association of India



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SASTRA/NCOM/001/2022

**INVITING EXPRESSION OF
INTEREST FOR COMMERCIALISATION OF NAVAL INNOVATIONS**

Security and Scientific Technical Research Association (SASTRA) constituted as a Section 8 company under the aegis of Rashtriya Raksha University is inviting Expression of Interest from MSMEs/SHGs/Companies for commercialisation of patented products through transfer of technology developed by Indian Navy's Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO). The products are as under:

1. NavRakshak® Isolation Gown
2. NavRakshak® -95 FFP-2 Antimicrobial Mask
3. Compact Automatic Poisonous-Gas Absorption Module (CAPAM)
4. Modular Small Arms Employment System (MOSES)
5. Magnetometer Sensor Based Search (MSBS)

For more details about the products, kindly visit <https://rru.ac.in/tender>
All interested bidders will need to send their Expression of Interest till 10th May 2022 at msme@rru.ac.in

Date:28/04/2022
INF/207/22-23

Registrar I/c

NUMBER THEORY

Understanding India's trade deal with the UK

By Pavitra Kanagaraj

After inking back-to-back trade deals with UAE and Australia, India is now working on a trade deal with the United Kingdom. The trade deal featured prominently on the agenda when British Prime Minister Boris Johnson came on a two-day visit to India, with the two countries agreeing to conclude the third round of negotiations on new free trade agreement by the end of October. The deal in the works, like India's other regional and bilateral trade agreements is quite ambitious. "India and the UK agreed to double trade in goods and services to about \$100 billion by 2030 as (commerce minister) Goyal and UK trade secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan launched formal negotiations for an FTA on January 13", HT reported on April 13.

What does historical data convey on the trade relations between the two countries? Where does Britain stand post-Brexit? Here are three charts that explain in detail.

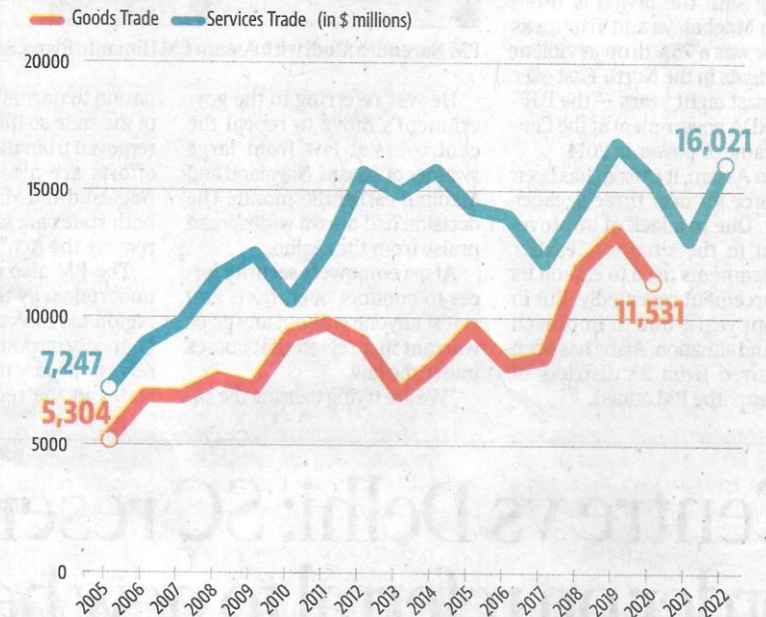
1 Bilateral trade in goods lost momentum after the 2008 crisis

Data from the ministry of commerce and industry shows that bilateral trade in goods between India and the UK lost momentum after the 2008 Global Financial Crisis. While the goods trade grew at CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 8.5% during the 2000s decade, it slowed to 6% between 2010 to 2015 and 4.15% between 2015 to 2019. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the post-2020 values cannot be taken as part of a longer trend. India-UK bilateral trade in goods was \$16 billion in 2021, \$850 million lower than the 2019 figure.

Data from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) shows a similar trend for bilateral trade in services between the two countries. This expanded rapidly in the second half of the 2000s – CAGR was 12% between 2005 to 2010 – but grew by a mere 0.7% between 2010 and 2015. However, there has been some recovery on this front since 2015, with services trade expanding at a CAGR of 8.56% between 2015 and 2019. In absolute terms, the bilateral trade in services was \$11.5 billion in 2020.

Against this backdrop, the target of reaching \$100 billion in total bilateral trade between the two countries by 2030 seems a tall task. A HT calculation shows that the bilateral total trade in goods and services should grow by 11.47% CAGR to reach \$100 billion by 2030, from \$30.3 billion in 2019. The CAGR for total trade in goods and services between 2010 and 2019 has been 4.7%.

TREND IN THE BILATERAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES BETWEEN INDIA AND UK



Source: Ministry of commerce and industry and UNCTAD

2 Export and import items of UK trade

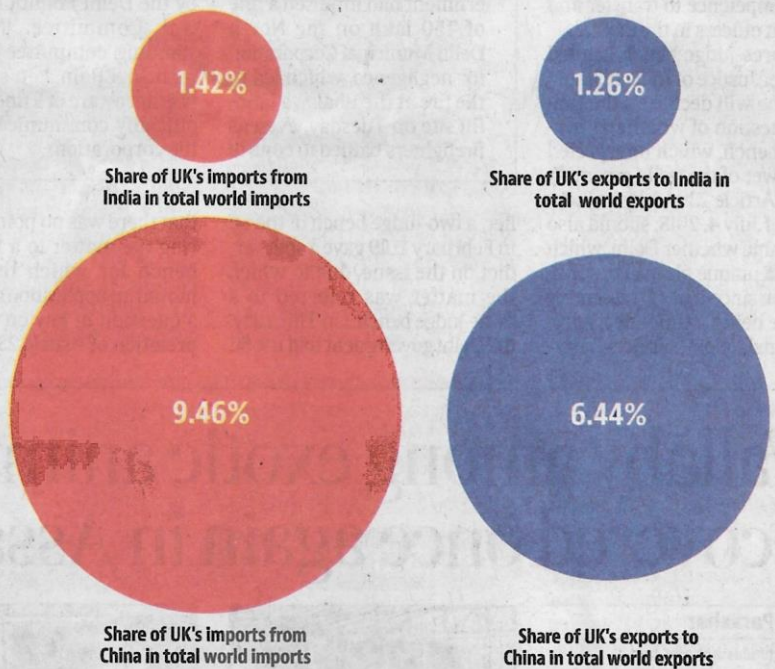
Data from World Integrated Trade Solutions (WITS) shows the UK to be a major exporter of consumer goods to the world; WITS classifies goods into four categories based on their stages in the production process. The share of consumer goods in total exports of UK to the world was 35.33% in 2019. Capital goods and intermediate goods accounted for 29.91% and 22.51% in the total exports of UK to the world in 2019.

At the same time, UK is also a major importer of consumer and capital goods from the world. The share of consumer and capital goods in total imports to UK was 37.81% and 26.96%, in 2019, respectively.

India is a less significant export market for goods from the UK than China. The share of total exports from UK to China was 6.44% of the former's total exports while the share of total exports from the UK to India was only 1.26% in 2019. The United Kingdom is a major export market for goods from China (more so than India). The share of total imports of the UK from China was 9.46%, while the share of total imports of the UK from India was 1.42% in 2019.

Waiving duties on UK's whisky exports into India and making it easier for Indian professionals to work in the UK are among the key demands on each country's wish list in the ongoing negotiations which are likely to be controversial in both countries, the BBC reported recently.

IMPORTANCE OF INDIA AND CHINA IN UK'S TOTAL EXPORTS/IMPORTS FOR 2019



Source: WITS



Biological Agri Solutions Association of India

3 The impact of Brexit on UK's economy

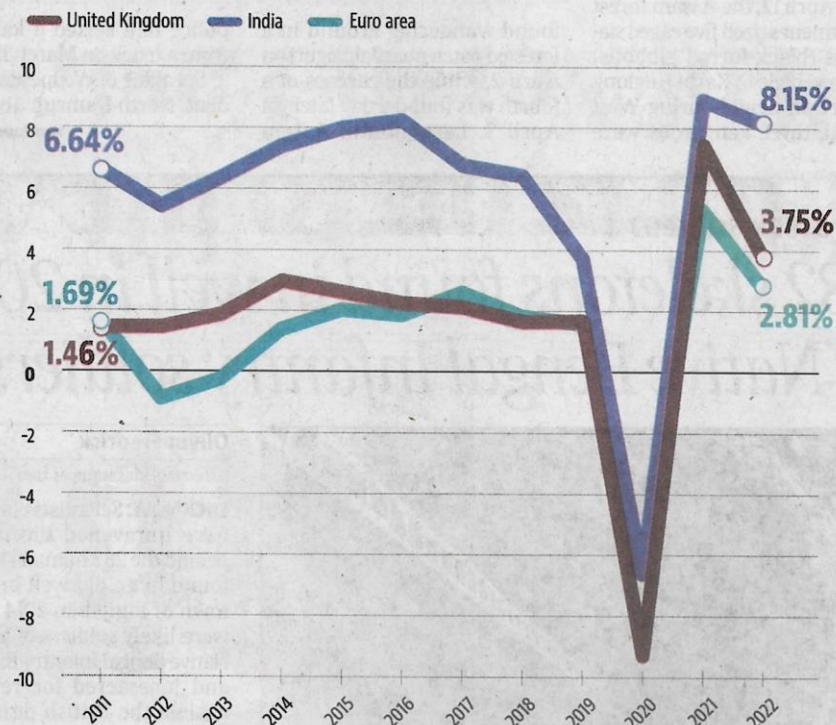
The UK ended its 48 year-long membership with the European Union (EU) on January 2021. Economists agree that growth has been negatively hit but the exact costs of the Brexit are not known "because the effects have not been immediate, and are difficult to disentangle from the impact of the coronavirus crisis", according to a Financial Times article on December 23.

The October 2021 forecast from the UK's Office for Budget Responsibility says that "the new trading relationship between the UK and EU will reduce the long-run productivity by 4 per cent relative to remaining in the EU".

This new deal with the EU has ensured the trade to be free of tariffs, but companies face higher administration costs stemming from tighter border controls. Researchers from the London School of Economics' Centre for Economic Performance show that "the number of British export relationships with EU firms dropped by 30% after the UK left the single market and customs union in January 2021", reported Bloomberg on 26 April, adding that the trade was largely unaffected in the four and half years directly following the vote to leave the EU in 2016.

If factors such as these have a long-term impact on UK's economic growth, the trade potential is bound to suffer as well.

REAL GDP GROWTH OF UK IN COMPARISON TO INDIA AND EUROZONE



Source: IMF



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Letter No.

Hort./HBC/2021-22/

Date:-

प्रशिक्षण बारे सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि आलु प्रौद्योगिकी केंद्र, शामगढ़, करनाल पर माह मई 2022 के दौरान 20-20 किसानों के लिए "उत्तम आलु बीज उत्पादन तकनीक" विषय पर निम्न विवरण अनुसार 5 दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया जा रहा है :-

क्रमांक	दिनांक	प्रशिक्षण का विषय	आवेदन शुरू होने की तिथि
1.	09 से 13 मई, 2022	"उत्तम आलु बीज उत्पादन तकनीक"	27.04.2022
2.	16 से 20 मई, 2022		

उपरोक्त प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम में भाग लेने के इच्छुक किसान को चयन के लिए बागवानी विभाग हरियाणा के पोर्टल <http://kaushal.hortharyana.gov.in> पर अपना ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण करवाना होगा जिसके लिए उम्मीदवार को हरियाणा प्रदेश का स्थाई निवासी होना अनिवार्य है। प्रशिक्षण के विषय में अधिक जानकारी के लिए दूरभाष नंबर 9468435399 पर संपर्क करें।

विशेष सूचना :-

- प्रशिक्षण के लिए केवल ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण मान्य है।
- प्रार्थी के 5 दिन के प्रशिक्षण के दौरान रहने की व्यवस्था केंद्र द्वारा की जाएगी।
- भोजन एवं जलपान की व्यवस्था केंद्र द्वारा सुनिश्चित की जाएगी।
- प्रार्थी को प्रशिक्षण के दिन अपने आधार कार्ड एवं परिवार पहचान पत्र की प्रति उपलब्ध करवानी होगी।
- प्रत्येक प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम के लिए अधिकतम 20 किसानों का चयन किया जाएगा।
- प्रशिक्षण के दौरान सभी उम्मीदवारों को स्वास्थ्य विभाग द्वारा निर्धारित कोविड नियमों का पालन करना होगा।

V.P.O. Shamgarh (In between Karnal and Taraori-1.5 K.M. away from National Highway-1 towards Ramba village) Karnal-132001, Haryana, India

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PRDH/1149/11/162/2023/9268/31/4



Biological Agri Solutions Association of India

Farmers fume over long cuts

Say cotton sowing likely to be delayed, other crops drying up

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, APRIL 28

In the cotton belt of the state, farmers are upset over inadequate power supply. As a result, cotton sowing is likely to be delayed.

Farmers claimed that 6-10-hour-long power cuts were being imposed every day due to which they were facing problems in sowing cotton. The canal water supply to the Talwandi Sabo and Sangat Mandi areas is very low as these are located at the tail-end due to which farmers are dependent on tubewells.

Farm union leader Jasvir Singh claimed that cotton sowing had been recommended by the Agriculture Department between April 15 to May 15, but if the power supply remains the same, then sowing might be delayed, affecting the yield.

Farmers claimed the heat-wave was also affecting green fodder and vegetables.

Meanwhile, paddy farmers feel that if the power supply was inadequate, then the situation may worsen when paddy sowing starts.



Farmers storm the power grid at Jeond village in Bathinda.

Oppn takes on Mann

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 28

PCC chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring today took a jibe at CM Bhagwant Mann, saying "by now Mann Sahib, you must have realised, governance is a real challenge and not a laughter challenge".

"Now that you are at the helm, what stops you from sorting this out," the PCC chief asked Mann in a post.

Meanwhile, the SAD said the party's 'Delhi Model' had been "electrocuted" in Punjab. Party leader Balwinder

SITUATION TO NORMALISE TODAY

“The situation will normalise by Friday morning.

Harbhajan Singh
ETO, POWER MINISTER



Singh Bhundur asked Mann to immediately set his house in order. — TNS

Muktsar locals feel the heat

MUKTSAR, APRIL 28

As the temperature is rising, the duration of unscheduled power cuts is also increasing in Muktsar district, irking residents of both rural and urban areas.

Some farmers also claimed that they were yet to get power supply for their tubewells.

In Muktsar town, residents are witnessing 6-7-hour-long power cuts daily. In Gidderbaha, residents said they were witnessing power cuts for nearly seven-eight hours daily. In Malout town, the situation was similar.

Ranjit Singh, a farmer of Gurusar village, said, "The situation is dismal in rural areas. We hardly get power supply for 15-20 minutes. We are having sleepless nights. Inverter batteries too do not last the entire day. The government should do something about it." An elderly resident said, "The power supply scenario is dismal in April. With the government promising 300 free units from July, the situation will get worse." — TNS



Biological Agri Solutions Association of India

POLLUTED IRRIGATION CANALS BLOT ON SMART CITY

THE Gurugram and Agra canals bringing irrigation water for the fields in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have become stinking water bodies in Faridabad. While these have become breeding grounds of all kinds of diseases, the smell emitted by these is unbearable as these have become sewage drains. One can't pass from near them because of the bad odour coming out of the canals at any time of the day. This water does not have many uses as it cannot be used for irrigation and needs to be treated properly. This is a huge waste of natural resources. Another problem that the district is facing is that there is garbage spread on many roads in the city and due to construction of multiple projects at once, pollution and dust remain in the air round the clock. How can we tag Faridabad a Smart City tag with all these problems. Everyday, people receive notifications about the air quality index being really high and nearing dangerous levels, advising residents to stay inside. **YASH, FARIDABAD**

Crisis looms as Indonesia export ban halts palm oil shipments

MUMBAI, APRIL 28

Indonesia's wider palm oil export ban has trapped at least 290,000 tonnes of the edible oil meant to be headed to India at ports and oil mills in the world's top producer, four industry officials said on Thursday.

The disruption in shipments after Indonesia widened its export ban to include crude and refined palm oil will create a vegetable oil shortage in top importer India, the officials said. Second-biggest exporter Malaysia is already struggling to meet higher demand levels and is asking for near record prices for prompt shipments, they said.

"Our vessel of 16,000 tonnes is stuck at Kumai port in Indonesia," said Pradeep Chowdhry, MD of Gemini Edibles & Fats India Pvt Ltd., which buys around 30,000 tonnes of Indonesian



Trucks with palm oil fresh fruit bunches are parked in a queue at a palm oil factory in Siak regency, Riau province, Indonesia. REUTERS

INDIA TOP IMPORTER

The disruption in shipments will create a vegetable oil shortage in India. Second-biggest exporter Malaysia is already struggling to meet higher demand levels and is asking for near record prices for prompt shipments

India is the world's biggest importer of palm oil and relies on Indonesia for nearly half of the 700,000 tonnes it takes in every month

palm oil every month.

"We don't know when Indonesia will lift the ban, and stuck shipments will be delivered."

India is the world's biggest importer of palm oil and relies on Indonesia for nearly half of the 700,000 tonnes it takes in every month.

Buyers are now rushing to make purchases from Malaysia, but Kuala Lumpur

cannot fill the demand, said Sandeep Bajoria, chief executive of Sunvin Group, a vegetable oil brokerage and consultancy firm. Malaysian sellers are obliged to meet their old commitments and cannot provide palm oil for prompt shipments, he said.

Palm oil — used in everything from cakes and frying fats to cosmetics and cleaning products — accounts for nearly 60% of glob-

al vegetable oil shipments, and top producer Indonesia accounts for around a third of all vegetable oil exports.

India meets nearly two-thirds of its vegetable oil demand from imports. New Delhi was banking on palm oil after sunflower oil supplies from top exporter Ukraine were halted because of what Russia calls its "special operation" in the country. — Reuters