

BASAI News Updates

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Paddy procurement begins in Punjab, private agencies buy 66% of stock sold

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BATHINDA: Private agencies bought 66% of the 12,000 tonnes of paddy sold in Punjab on Saturday on the first day of the 2022 kharif marketing season, which saw the arrival of 29,000 tonnes in the agricultural produce markets, official data show.

Patiala recorded a maximum arrival of more than 5,000 tonnes of non-basmati varieties. Private entities bought about 8,000 tonnes and government agencies procured the remaining 4,000 tonnes, as per the Punjab Mandi Board data.

About 17,000 tonnes of paddy remained unsold on the first day of the official purchase of the major kharif crop.

Out of 22 districts, eight including Bathinda, Pathankot and Sangrur did not report any arrival on Saturday.

Patiala, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Hoshiarpur and Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar districts were the key districts to see the crop arrivals.

The Centre has allowed 17% moisture in the paddy crop, as the state is expected to produce



Workers dry harvest paddy grain in Punjab's Patiala district on Saturday.

PTI

191 lakh tonne of paddy this season. The moisture in the crop reaching grain markets was well within permissible norms, Punjab food and civil supplies department officials said.

"The state government has made elaborated arrangements for procurement, and the staff of the food department and four procurement agencies have reached mandis.

"Authorities are monitoring to ensure adequate availability of gunny bags," said an officer of the Punjab food and civil supplies department, who wished to

remain unnamed.

The Mandi Board has notified more than 1,800 purchase centres across the state. To avoid a glut in the mandis, temporary purchase centres are being identified for the paddy procurement.

"State authorities have decided that, unlike the previous year, no temporary mandi would be established in any rice sheller," said Bathinda district mandi officer Rajnish Goel. "It has been done ensure to check malpractice of recycling of paddy."

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Agri minister visits Cranfield varsity in UK

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 1

The State Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister JP Dalal and Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Sumita Misra, visited Cranfield University in Bedford, UK for research and development of post-harvest technology.

The university is part of consortia of the University of Birmingham that has signed an MoU with the Haryana Government. It will help develop applied research on the fundamentals of post-harvest physiology, pre-harvest factors, biochemistry and preservation methods — TNS



Labourers at work in a grain market in Karnal on Saturday.

Paddy procurement resumes in Karnal

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, OCTOBER 1 Paddy procurement by government agencies resumed at the grain markets in the district today. The purchase was halted owing to facing technical issues in the issuance of gate passes in a few grain markets.

As per information, around 35,000 MT paddy arrived in grain markets of the district, of which around 5,000 MT was purchased till 5 pm today.

"In the morning, there was an issue in the issuance of gate passes, owing to which farmers faced problems," said Amar Singh, a farmer.

Procurement had begun in all grain markets of the district, said Ishwar Rana, District Marketing Enforcement Officer (DMEO), Karnal, adding: "We have made arrangements for the purchase of the crop," he added.

Jagmohan Anand, media coordinator to Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, also visited the Karnal grain market and reviewed the procurement process in the presence of the officials of various agencies.

Deputy Commissioner Anish Yadav said they were expecting to procure 11.5 lakh MT this season, of which around 7 lakh MT was likely to be procured by the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department. Hafed might procure nearly 2.5 lakh MT, while the warehouse was expected to purchase around 2 lakh MT, the DC added. Common paddy will be

Was halted due to technical snag

ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE FOR PURCHASE

Procurement has begun in all grain markets of the district. We have made arrangements for the purchase of the crop.

Ishwar Rana, MARKETING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

bought at Rs 2,040 per quintal, while A-grade paddy would be purchased at Rs 2,066 per quintal, he added.

The district authorities have also appointed duty magistrates on the Haryana-UP border to check the arrival of only registered farmers on the Meri Fasal, Mera Byora portal.

Meanwhile, farmers protested in Kaithal and blocked the Jind road, demanding to begin procurement. Farmers and arhtiyas alleged that rice millers had been stopped to purchase paddy.

Rice millers purchased paddy at Rs 2,000 per quintal on Friday, after which farmers came in large number with their produce today.

Hoshiyar Singh Gill, farmer leader, said the rice millers were procuring paddy above the MSP and farmers came to know today that rice millers had been stopped to purchase the crop.

Farmers lifted their blockade after the district authorities assured them procurement would begin soon.

Upload crop damage info on portal: CM tells farmers

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 1

CM Manohar Lal Khattar chaired a high-level meeting of the Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, here today. He said farmers must be encouraged to register their crop damage on the e-fasal kshati poorti portal for timely compensation.

"The state government is committed to ensuring complete transparency in the process of verification and compensation for crop loss. Therefore, I urge my farmer brothers to individually update their crop loss information on the portal to avoid any kind of delay in being compensated," said Khattar.

While directing Deputy Commissioners to ensure drainage of water from the waterlogged areas, the CM said every Deputy Commissioner should work on war footing to resolve the problem of waterlogging. He added that the complaints received at the CM Window must be timely redressed to ensure that the complainants were not making rounds of the office. — TNS

Govt may hike cane SAP by ₹20-30

Crushing season to begin in November | Private mills oppose move

RUCHIKA M KHANNA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 1

The AAP government is likely to hike the state advised price (SAP) of sugarcane by Rs 20-Rs 30 per quintal for the crushing season that begins in November.

At present, the price offered to sugarcane growers in Punjab is Rs 345-Rs 360 per quintal, depending on the variety. Before the elections, AAP had promised to hike the cane price to Rs 380 per quintal. The cane growers, who have been protesting against the unpaid dues by private sugar mills, have been demanding that the prices be increased to Rs 390-Rs 400 per quintal.

Official sources said the Bhagwant Mann-led government was likely to honour its pre-poll commitment to cane growers. Agriculture Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, earlier this week, said the announcement about the SAP and assurances for other demands of the cane growers



CLEARANCE OF DUES

- Though the crushing season got over much earlier, ₹300-crore dues of nine coop sugar mills were cleared this month
- The seven private sugar mills still have to clear an amount of ₹50 crore due since last year
- Though the assets of the biggest defaulting private mill at Phagwara were sold off and ₹23.36 crore are being credited to farmers, it still owes dues of previous years

would be made by the Chief Minister on Monday.

Talking to *The Tribune*, Jangveer Singh Chauhan, state president, Doaba Kisan Sangharsh Committee, said since the fair and remunerative price (FRP) of sugarcane had been fixed at Rs 305 per quintal this year (up by Rs 15 per quintal over last year), the state gov-

ernment should increase it to Rs 390-Rs 400 per quintal.

The move to increase the SAP is, however, getting a stiff resistance from the private sugar mills in the state, who have 70 per cent of the cane crushing capacity.

The Punjab Private Sugar Mills Association, through Inderbir Singh Rana of

Rana Sugars (who is also an independent MLA), has shot off a letter to the CM, asking him not to increase the SAP, as they were not in a position to pay any price over and above the FRP of Rs 305 per quintal at 10.25 per cent sugar recovery.

"In the past, when the government would increase the SAP, it has extended the cane subsidy to the industry. A subsidy of Rs 50 per quintal was paid in 2015-16, Rs 25 in 2018-19 and Rs 35 per quintal in 2021-22 was paid to us by the government. Also, most of the other states only pay the FRP to the cane growers, even though the sugar recovery there is much higher at 10.90- 11.40 per cent than in Punjab (9.58 per cent). In the last season, the cost of sugar production was much higher (Rs 3,641 per quintal) as compared to our wholesale selling price of Rs 3,475 per quintal. We can't start the bonding of cane, unless the SAP issue is decided," Rana told *The Tribune*.

Bathinda farmers flay ban on cattle fairs with impunity

BATHINDA, OCTOBER 1

Showing scant regard to the directions of the government, farmers and traders today reopened the cattle market at Rampura Phul in the district. The government had banned cattle fairs in the wake of the lumpy skin disease (LSD). According to the Animal Husbandry Department, more than 150 LSD cases had been reported in the district in the past one week.

Earlier, the administration had managed not to let farmers and other stakeholders reopen the cattle markets in Maur and Sardulgarh. Citing "massive losses", farmers somehow managed to hold the cattle fairs. Today, more than 2000 animals were brought from the region and over half of the cattle changed hands.

Nodal Officer for the LSD, Dr Rampal, said, "There is no direction from the government to reopen the cattle markets, but farmers are doing it forcefully. They know that the cases have come down considerably, but the disease

REOPENED MARKET SANS PERMISSION

“As per the district panchayat officer concerned, the govt contractor didn't open the market. Some unidentified persons reopened it without permission.

Showkat Ahmad Parray, DC

has not abated completely. Farmers need to exercise restraint for some time.”

Yesterday, senior officials accompanied by the police personnel didn't let farmers and traders reopen the cattle market in Mansa.

DC Showkat Ahmad Parray said, "As per the District Development and Panchayat Officer concerned, the government contractor didn't open the market. Some unidentified persons reopened it without permission. The DDPO has been told take action as per law." — TNS

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Bhagwant Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab



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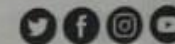
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No pollution certificate, no fuel from Oct 25

Delhi Govt move aimed at checking vehicular emission | Implementation plan ready

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 1

Vehicle owners will not be provided fuel at petrol pumps in Delhi without showing a valid pollution under control (PUC) certificate from October 25, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Saturday. The decision was taken at a meeting of officials from environment, transport and traffic departments on September 29 during which modalities and implementation of the plan were discussed, he said.

“Vehicular emission is one of the key contributors to rising pollution in Delhi. It is imperative to reduce it so it has been decided that from October 25 petrol, diesel will not be provided at petrol pumps without PUC certificate of the vehicle,” Rai said in a press conference here.

He said that a notification in this regard would also be issued soon and the modalities of the plan would become clear in a week’s time. According to the Delhi Transport Department, over

NEED OF HOUR

“Vehicular emission is one of key contributors to rising pollution in Delhi. It is imperative to reduce it.

Gopal Rai, ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

17 lakh vehicles, including 13 lakh two-wheelers and three lakh cars, were plying without valid pollution under control certificates till July 2022.

If caught without a valid PUC certificate, vehicle

owners may face imprisonment up to six months or fine up to Rs 10,000 or both as per the Motor Vehicles Act. The minister said that all government departments had also been advised to get pollution under control certificates of their vehicles checked. “On March 3, we issued a public notice inviting suggestions on the implementation of the move (No PUC, No fuel). “On May 2, suggestions were received and many people were in favour of the implementa-

tion of this move. So, the government is preparing to implement it from October 25,” Rai said.

He also said the Delhi Government would launch its 24x7 war room on October 3 to combat pollution and ensure effective and serious implementation of the amended Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) — a set of anti-air pollution measures followed in the national capital and its vicinity according to the severity of the situation. — PTI