



# **BASAI News Updates**

**Sept. 15, 2022**

# Fruit-laden trucks stranded on highway, traders protest

Valley's ₹8,000-crore apple industry in distress for years, say growers

SAMAAN LATEEF

**SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 14** Fruit growers on Wednesday started Kashmir-wide protests, claiming that 90% of the apple-laden trucks were stranded due to the closure of the Jammu-Srinagar highway. Nearly 1,500 trucks, mostly from Sopore, move towards Qazigund in south Kashmir before crossing the Banihal tunnel everyday. "Only 200 trucks are allowed to cross the tunnel and the remaining are stranded at Qazigund. Scores of trucks are stranded since September 9," said Fayaz Ahmad Malik, president of the Fruit Mandi, Sopore.

Kashmir's ₹8,000-crore apple industry faced a major crisis after lockdown in the Valley for a few months in 2019 after the suspension of Article 370 and later due to Covid.

Apple trader Ghulam Hassan Rather of Baramulla questioned, "If traffic from



Traders during a protest in the Valley on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## MAJOR SETBACK

■ The apple industry suffered back to back setbacks as the Valley saw shutdown for a few days after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 and then due to Covid.

■ During the Amamath Yatra recently, time restrictions were imposed on the movement of trucks, rue traders.

## STUCK FOR DAYS

● Only 200 trucks are allowed to cross Banihal tunnel everyday. Scores of trucks have been stranded since September 9.

Fayaz Ahmad Malik, PRES, FRUIT MANDI, SOPORE

Jammu can reach Srinagar normally, why are trucks from Kashmir stopped?" He urged the administration to allow smooth passage of trucks on the highway.

"The protest was held against deliberate stoppage of apple/pear-laden trucks on various spots of the Srinagar-Jammu highway for two to

three days, resulting in damage to fruits," read a statement issued by the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers' Union. "We are worried about the late arrival of fruits to respective destinations within the country," said Bashir Ahmad Basheer, chairman of the union.

The protesters said trucks

should be allowed to move from 11 am to 4 am. Earlier, trucks were stopped on the highway during the Shri Amarnath Yatra.

A delegation of fruit traders and officials, led by Horticulture Director, is on way to Qazigund to take stock of the situation and look into the reason behind the issue.

# Farmers lock grain market in Karnal

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**KARNAL, SEPTEMBER 14**

Infuriated over the use of fans to clean grains and also the charging of money for unloading grains, scores of farmers protested at the Tarori grain market here today.

They locked the gates and staged a dharna outside the market committee office. Besides, they demanded the start of government procurement of the PR varieties from September 15.

The protesting farmers highlighted the issue of the lack of basic facilities in the grain market. SDM Karnal Anubhav Mehta assured

Protest unloading fee, use of fans for cleaning grains



Farmers protest outside the market committee office in Karnal.

them to resolve their issues, but the farmers were adamant on their demands.

Bhupinder Singh Ladi, a farm leader, said they had served an ultimatum to the

administration for today, but when nobody came to resolve the issue, they had no option but to protest.

The farmers had hi-tech trolleys, which did not require any manual labour to unload the grain. Despite this, unloading charges were being taken from the farmers, which was unfair, he added.

Farmers harvest crop with the help of combine machines and grains did not require fans. In the grain market, fans were used to clean grains and Rs 2 was charged per quintal from farmers for using fans, which would not be given at any cost, he said.

# At 12.41%, wholesale inflation eases to 11-month low in Aug

**NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 14**

The wholesale price-based inflation eased to 11-month low of 12.41% in August, on softening in prices of manufactured and fuel products, even as food items remained expensive.

Although the Wholesale Price Index-based inflation declined for three consecutive months, it remained in double digit for 17th months beginning April last year.

The inflation was 13.93% in July and 11.64% in August last year. It had touched a record high of 15.88% in May this year. The inflation was lower than August print in September last year when it was 11.8%.

Inflation in food articles in August rose to 12.37%, as against 10.77% in July, on account of costlier cereals, fruits and vegetables. The rate of price rise in vegetables was 22.29% during the month

## IN DOUBLE DIGITS FOR 17TH MONTH IN ROW

■ Inflation in food articles rose to 12.37% on account of costlier cereals, fruits and vegetables

■ The rate of price rise in vegetables was 22.29% while in case of potato it was 43.56%

■ In the fuel and power basket, inflation was 33.67% in August, as against 43.75% in July



under review, while in case of potato it was 43.56%.

Inflation in cereals was 1.77%, while in wheat and fruits it was 17.35% and 31.75%, respectively. In the fuel and power basket, inflation was 33.67% in August, as against 43.75% in July. In manufactured products and oil seeds, it was 7.51% and -13.48%, respectively.

Retail inflation has remained above the RBI's upper tolerance threshold of

6% for the eighth month in a row and was at 7% in August.

To tame stubbornly high inflation, the RBI has hiked the key interest rate three times this year to 5.40%.

According to the central bank's projections, retail inflation is likely to average 6.7% in 2022-23.

Domestic rating agency Icria said WPI inflation is likely to ease to 11-12% in September 2022 and print in single digits thereafter. — PTI