

Govt sets conservative target for wheat procurement at 30-32 million tonnes in 2024-25 season

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The government has fixed a conservative target of wheat procurement in the range of 30-32 million tonnes during the 2024-25 rabi marketing season, according to the food ministry.

The lower target has been fixed despite the Ministry of Agriculture hoping for a record wheat production of 114-115 million tonnes in the 2023-24 crop year (July-June). The target was fixed after deliberations with state food secretaries in a meeting chaired by Union Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra in the national capital on Wednesday. "After deliberations, the estimates for wheat procurement during the ensuing rabi marketing season of 2024-25 were fixed in the range of 30-32 million tonne," the ministry said in a statement. Apart from wheat, the ministry has also fixed the target for paddy procurement in terms of rice for rabi season in the range of 9-10 million tonnes. Besides, the government has set a procurement target of 6,00,000 tonnes for rabi coarse grains (millets) (Shri Anna). In the meeting, the Centre has asked states and Union Territories to focus on procurement of millets for diversi-

fication of crops and enhanced nutrition in dietary patterns. In the 2023-24 season, the government procured about 26.2 million tonnes of wheat against the target of 34.15 million tonnes. In 2022-23, wheat procurement was only 18.8 million tonnes against the target of 44.4 million tonnes. The procurement was lower due to fall in production. Recently, the food secretary had said the farmers' protest at the Punjab-Haryana borders is unlikely to impact the procurement operations.

Normally, the wheat procurement is carried out from April to March. However, this time, the Centre has decided to allow states to procure depending on the arrival of the crop in the market. In most states, wheat arrivals begin in the first fortnight of March. Uttar Pradesh and some other wheat growing states have indicated that they will begin procurement from March 1.

Government agencies buy wheat and paddy at a Minimum Support Price (MSP) to add foodgrain stock to the central pool for public distribution under the National Food Security programme and other welfare schemes. At the beginning of each marketing season, the procurement targets are

set by the central government in consultation with states and the Food Corporation of India. In Wednesday's meeting, the state governments were also asked to adopt or improve their existing MSP procurement applications in line with the standard and core features of the Centre's AgriStack portal, for bringing about transparency and efficiency in the procurement system before the start of 2024-25 kharif marketing season. During the meeting, issues relating to supply chain optimization for transportation of foodgrains from designated depots to Fair Price Shops, improving infrastructure in procurement centres, good milling practices and on-boarding Fair Price Shops on the government-backed Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) were also discussed.

In the meeting, the Telangana government said it was able to save Rs 16 crore annually with the adoption of supply chain optimisation, while the UP government shared how linking of e-POS (electronic point of sale) with electronic weighing scale has effectively ensured supply of foodgrains to the beneficiaries as per their entitled quantity. PTI.

Degree College Ukhral organizes an awareness programme on "Digi-locker, ABC ID & Aadhar Linking"



STATE TIMES NEWS UKHRAL: The NSS Unit of Govt Degree College, Ukhral, in collaboration with Department of History and Computer Science, organised an awareness session among students about Digi-locker, ABC ID & Aadhar Linking.

Prof Iftikhar Hussain, HOD English presented the welcome address and Ankit

Kumar HOD History and Akash Verma HOD Computer Science highlighted the importance of Digi-locker, ABC ID & Aadhar Linking among the students. They displayed the various steps of creating id's of ABC and process of Aadhar Linkage.

The program was attended by all the teaching and non-teaching staff members of

the college including Prof Iftikhar Hussain, Dr. Sajad Ahmed Dar, Mushtaq Ahmad, Ishfaq Ahmad, Ankit, Farooq Ahmad and technical support was given by Akash Verma.

Some of the students also presented their views on the above given topics. The vote of thanks was presented by Dr Sajad Ahmad of Political Science.

Soldier injured in accidental firing in J-K's Poonch

STATE TIMES NEWS

MENDHAR/JAMMU: An army personnel was injured when his service rifle went off accidentally near the Line of Control in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Thursday.

The incident occurred on Wednesday night.

The soldier, who was part of a patrolling team in the Balmoi area of the Mendhar sector, slipped after losing balance which led to accidental fire from his service weapon, officials said.

He was injured on the left foot and taken to a hospital, they said.

Meanwhile, a rusty grenade was defused near the border fence in Balmoi on Wednesday evening, officials said.

The grenade was detected by the Army during a patrol. The bomb disposal squad was summoned and the explosive device was safely defused, they added.

GDC Samba Organized a Discussion on Interim Budget 2024-25.



STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Department of Economics of Shri Pandit Prem Nath Dogra Government Degree College Samba in collaboration with Viksit Bharat Committee has organised a discussion on Interim Budget 2024-25 under the Viksit Bharat @2047 campaign. The aim of organising a discussion was to enlighten the students about the interim budget, various government schemes discussed in it and the role of budget in economic development. While addressing the students, Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Principal of the College highlighted that the interim budget was balanced for all

the sectors of the economy. She also discussed that the focus of the government has been on key aspects like self-reliance, empowering youth and healthy India.

The discussion was followed by Dr. Papinder Bhagat and discussed that a well-planned budget is essential for any government to achieve economic stability and growth. By strategically allocating resources, encouraging investment and savings, promoting business growth, reducing economic disparities, and supporting public sector enterprises, the government can effectively steer the country towards prosperity.

The event was attended by the students of all the semesters of the Economics Department. On the occasion, ten students have shared their views on the interim budget and various aspects of economic development.

The whole event was organised by Dr. Papinder Bhagat HOD, Economics, Dr. Chinky Sangral and Prof Neelam Kumari under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, the Principal of the College. The event ended with a Vote of Thanks by Nikhil from Semester VI. The event proved to be really informative and helpful for all the participants.

GDC Udhampur emerges overall winner of Wrestling Championship held at University of Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: GDC Udhampur emerged overall winner of Inter-collegiate Men's Wrestling Championship, organised by Directorate of Sports and Physical Education at University of Jammu on 27th of February, 2024. Bishal Singh scripted the history as he became one of the best emerging wrestlers of the colleges, who won the gold medal in the 70 Kg weight category while the other students who won silver medal were Atul Raina, Mohammad Sajjad, Jasveer Singh and Razak Mohammad in 98 Kg, 92 Kg, 57 Kg and 61 Kg respectively.

Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal GDC, Udhampur expressed his delight by congratulating Bishal Singh and the other winners for winning the overall championship. Principal in his address, appreciated the efforts and sportsmanship of the students which they proved by winning the tournament in such a gallantry manner. He also added that such achievements are the source of inspiration for the young sportspersons and will provide a new perspective to others also. He further said that college always emphasised on the sports, infrastructure and development on the campus to allow students to prepare for a career in their respective games.

Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta felicitated the medal winners, organised by the Department of Sports, in presence of Dr. Mohinder Pal, Convener Sports Committee, Shashi Sharma, PTI and the other faculty members of the college.



Valedictory function of the 07 day long Winter camp held at GDC Khour



STATE TIMES NEWS

KHOUR: Valedictory function of the 7 day long winter camp was organized by NSS unit of Government degree College Khour on 29th Feb 2024. In this occasion Prof. (Dr.) T.K Sharma, the most revered Principal of the College was the Chief Guest. The event was witnessed by senior faculty members, teaching staff and NSS volunteers of the College. The whole proceedings were taken over by dedicated and active volunteers who organized the valedictory function on the theme "Promoting Dogra Culture". The event started by the traditional lightening of ceremonial lamp followed by

recitation of NSS song.

Volunteers namely Bhavana and Mansi recited inspiring and mesmerizing poems on Dogra culture. Other volunteers namely Anju, Ambika, Preeti and Taniya gave vibrant dance performance that was wonderful blend of grace and energy. Diljit and Shagun shared their experiences regarding winter camp. NSS Programme officer, Prof. Himanshu Khajuria shared detailed report of the activities done in 7 day special winter camp in power-point presentation.

The Principal of the College appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers and encouraged them to

render community services in the interest of people which would help them to develop personality, confidence and most importantly to win over gloom and gloom.

Prof. Himanshu Khajuria NSS PO extended his gracious thanks to the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India, Regional Directorate NSS Delhi, Dr. Hema Gandotra, Respected NSS Coordinator, University of Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) T. K Sharma, Principal and NSS volunteers of the College without whom support it was quite difficult to organize and channelize seven day long Winter camp.

FDI inflows decline 13 pc to USD 32 billion in Apr-Dec 2023

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows in India declined 13 per cent to USD 32.03 billion in April-December 2023, dragged down by lower infusion in computer hardware and software, telecom, auto, and pharma sectors, according to the latest government data. FDI inflows stood at USD 36.74 billion during the corresponding nine months of the preceding fiscal. Inflows during the October-December quarter of the current fiscal, however, rose by 18 per cent to USD 11.6 billion as against USD 9.83 billion during the same quarter of 2022-23.

The total FDI -- which includes equity inflows,

reinvested earnings and other capital -- declined by about 7 per cent to USD 51.5 billion during the period under review against USD 55.27 billion in April-December 2022, the data from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) showed.

During the nine-month period of this fiscal, FDI equity inflows decreased from major countries, including Singapore, the US, the UK, Cyprus and the UAE. Investments fell significantly from the Cayman Islands and Cyprus to USD 215 million and USD 796 million, respectively, during April-December 2023 as against the two comparative figures of USD 624 million

and USD 1.15 billion recorded in the year-ago period. However, inflows increased from Mauritius, the Netherlands, Japan and Germany.

Sectorally, inflows contracted in computer software and hardware, trading, services, telecommunication, automobile, pharma and chemicals.

In contrast, construction (infrastructure) activities, development and power sectors registered growth in inflows.

State-wise, Maharashtra received the highest inflow of USD 12.1 billion during the period. It was USD 10.76 billion in the same period a year ago.

Overseas capital inflows in Karnataka plunged to USD

3.6 billion in April-December 2023 from USD 8.77 billion in the same period of previous fiscal year.

Other states/Union Territories where FDI dipped during the period under review included Delhi, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Haryana.

The inflow, however, recorded a positive growth in Gujarat, Telangana, and Jharkhand.

An official has earlier stated that hardening interest rates globally and worsening geopolitical situation impacted FDI inflows.

FDI equity inflows into India declined 22 per cent to USD 46 billion in 2022-23. PTI.

India, Bangladesh DG-level border talks in Dhaka next month

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India and Bangladesh will hold their bi-annual DG-level border talks in Dhaka next month to discuss issues related to curbing a variety of cross-frontier crimes and measures to create better coordination between their security forces and agencies, official sources said on Thursday.

A delegation led by Border Security Force (BSF) Director General Nitin Agrawal is slated to travel to Bangladesh for the meeting to be held between March 5-9, the sources told PTI.

This will be the 54th edition of the talks between the BSF and the Border

Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

The discussions will be held at the BGB headquarters in Dhaka's Palkhanna.

BGB DG Maj Gen M o h a m m a d Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui will lead the Bangladeshi delegation. The talks will include officials from home and external affairs ministries, and anti-narcotics and other agencies of the two countries, they said.

Both sides are expected to deliberate on a number of issues related to border management like taking steps to stop incidents of assault and attacks on BSF personnel and civilians by Bangladeshi crim-

inals, jointly checking crimes like smuggling of goods and fake Indian currency along this front, improving the coordinated border management plan (CBMP) and checking illegal construction activities along the border fence, among other things, a senior Union home ministry officer said.

The BSF guards the 4,096-km-long Indian front with Bangladesh on the country's eastern side.

The DG-level border talks were held annually between 1975 and 1992 but they were made bi-annual in 1993 with either side alternatively travelling to the national capitals of New Delhi and

Dhaka. The last talks were held in Delhi in June 2023.

The officer said the relations between the two countries and the forces are very good and this meeting is aimed at enhancing these ties.

According to official data, more than 3,342 Bangladeshi nationals were apprehended by the BSF along the border in 2023, the highest number in over the last six years.

A total of 77 BSF personnel were injured in attacks by Bangladeshi and Indian miscreants last year as compared to 43 and 64 such incidents in 2022 and 2021 respectively, the data showed. PTI.

GDC Marheem organises Signature Campaign



STATE TIMES NEWS

MARHEEM: Voter Literacy Club of GDC, Marheem, organized Signature Campaign to encourage the students to make them aware about their right to cast their vote under the campaign organized by Govt. of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports on the theme "Mera Pehla Vote

Desh ki Aur". The programme was organized under the patronage of the worthy Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Anupama Gupta.

The principal personally shared her views about the related topic and guided the students by clearing the queries raised by the students on the spot. Further the Principal

appreciated the staff members for initiating such activities inside the college campus to make students become responsible future citizens of our country and can contribute a lot in the development of their society as well as for the nation. Students of the college actively participated in the programme.

GDC Ramgarh organised a Seminar on Voter Awareness

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMGARH: GDC Ramgarh organised a Seminar on Voter Awareness, under the aegis of SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Program). The program was organised under the guidance and supervision of the esteemed Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra. The motive of this event was to educate the students about the importance of their participation in the elections. The Seminar was organised by Department of Political Science and the resource person, Dr. Shivali Choudhary spoke on the theme "Chunav ka Parv, Desh Ka Gary". She had and

interactive session with the students wherein she highlighted the Importance of Voting and said that the Right to Vote is a constitutional right and it is guaranteed under Article 326, and voting helps citizens to become more involved in the democratic form of Government. She also educated the students about the type of Government and the kind of electoral process in India, and the value of their one vote in choosing their representatives.

The faculty members who were present in the seminar include Priya Sharma, Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed Bhat, Dr. Fayaz Ahmed and Ram Murti.



SPPND GDC Samba organizes Class to Class Campaign on Voter's Awareness



STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: As part of two Week Voter's Awareness Programme, the Pravaad Electoral Literacy Club of SPPND Govt. Degree College, Samba organized Class to Class Campaign" under the aegis of Viksit Bharat@2047. The event was conducted under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.)

Twinkle Suri, Principal of the College.

During the campaign, ELC team interacted with the students in different class rooms and made them aware about the value of their vote. They also motivated the students to apply for voter registration as responsible citizens of the country.

The registration of new voters is prerequisite to increase voter turnout for proper functioning of our democracy. The team also emphasized the role of young voters, especially college students for making electoral process a success and thereby, strengthens the Indian Democracy.