

# Wheat piles up, lifting crawls

Tardy buying ails mandis across the state, though govt claims smooth purchase

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 15  
Complaints of tardy lifting of procured wheat seemed to be ailing mandis across the state even as the five government procuring agencies and traders purchased over 24.01 lakh metric tonnes of grain that had arrived in the mandis till Saturday.

While a spokesman of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department said the procurement process was running smoothly in mandis, farmers maintained that space to offload wheat was gradually falling short and there was little in the name of arrangements in case of rain.

Sources in the department, however, said the lifting of procured wheat was slow since the rain during the last week had raised its moisture levels.



Wheat bags lying in the open at the grain market in Panipat. TRIBUNE PHOTO

"We cannot store it while the moisture content is high and will have to wait to clear it till the moisture level reaches the acceptable limit. Other than this, there is absolutely no complaint from anywhere," said an official.

Meanwhile, e-procurement, launched with much fanfare from Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's district Karnal in 2016, seemed to have been given a quiet burial after the move was resisted by arhtiyas for two

successive years. The sources said the government did not initiate any move to implement it during this wheat procurement season though it was in place as far as mustard procurement was concerned.

# Wheat from Rajasthan, UP glut G'gram, Nuh markets

SUMEDHA SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURUGRAM, APRIL 15  
The arrival of wheat has troubled in the past few days at the grain markets in Farukh Nagar and Sohna. Wary of change in weather, farmers are arriving in large number to sell wheat. This has led to shortage of space in most of the mandis for unloading and stocking the grain.

Farmers allege the markets have been glutted with wheat from neighbouring Rajasthan and UP.

Chairman of the market committee Mohan Joval said over 1,400 farmers had registered online for procurement, but the number of farmers that have reached here in the past two-three days is way higher.

The situation is no different in the four grain markets of Nuh, Punhana,

"Haryana has better procurement rates. So, farmers from Rajasthan and UP have brought wheat here. We were asked for get the procurement slip in advance, but what is the point doing so, if they cannot keep a check"

Mahender Singh, A FARMER OF PATLI VILLAGE

Taudu and Ferozpur Jhirka. Here, a large number of local farmers are yet to bring their produce to the markets, which are already clogged with wheat from neighbouring states.

Farmers allege that commission agents from Rajasthan and UP were buying wheat in their states at a lower price and selling the same to the government agencies here at higher rates. They also claim that local officials were exempting them from mandatory registration and market fee.

Farmers are also worried over extra grain cleaning charges levied by commission agents. "The commission agents filled moisture-laden wheat in bags and charged us extra for drying the grain. It is not our fault, if there are no sheds to store or plastic sheets for protecting wheat from rain," rued Yousuf Azim of Ghasera village.

Meanwhile, Principal Secretary Ankur Gupta visited Mewat mandi on Saturday and reprimanded local agents for the chaos.

## Purchase anything but smooth

DEEPENDER DESWAL  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, APRIL 15  
Farmers are facing harrowing time selling mustard produce at the grain market here. Long queues of farmers can be seen outside the HAFED office here a month after the procurement started.

Farmers complain mustard was being procured by arhtiyas in open auction at rates less than the prescribed MSP of Rs 4,000 per quintal. Apart from waiting from days, farmers are being asked to produce land record certified by a patwari before the purchase.

Krishan Singh of Dhansu village is in a fix. He has brought mustard crop belonging to his elder brother,

who is bedridden due to paralysis, to the market. But, the HAFED officials have reportedly told him that his brother will have to be present during purchase, which according to Krishan Singh is not possible.

Another farmer Jagdish of Balawas village faces similar predicament. Eighteen members of his family jointly own the land on which mustard was grown. "Now, the HAFED wants all the 18 members to be present in the mandi for verification and procurement. It's difficult to bring all of them here. I have no option, but to sell the produce at below MSP to the traders," said Jagdish.

A young farmer, Rajesh Singh of Bhiwani Rohillan

village, alleged that arhtiyas were selling mustard, which was procured from farmers at below MSP, to government agencies at MSP by showing the original documents of farmers.

Dharambir of Kanwari village said arhtiyas were weighing one kg less per quintal by citing high moisture content.

District Food and Supplies Commissioner (DFSC) Subhash Sihag said 80,000 metric tonne mustard and 1,00,000 metric tonne wheat had been procured by the government agencies in the district. "HAFED has fixed the procurement days of villages. A farmer can get the token and bring the produce on the prescribed day," he said.

## Rain affects wheat ripening, slows arrival

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

YAMUNANAGAR, APRIL 15  
Untimely rain and low temperature have affected the maturity of wheat crop, thereby slowing its arrival in various markets of the district. "Prolonged winter and untimely rain in March and April delayed the ripening of wheat crop in Yamunanagar district," said Satish Kumar Sharma, a progressive farmer of Dhaurang village.

As per reports, 31,272 metric tonne wheat has arrived in all the eight grain markets and five sub-grain markets of the district up to April 14 this year compared to 59,933 metric tonne wheat last year.

Meanwhile, farmers are demanding improvement in



Officials inspect procurement of wheat at the grain market in Jagadhri on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

facilities at the grain markets.

Rambir Singh Chauhan, district president of Bhartiya Kisan Sangh, said there were no toilets at the grain markets in Jathlana and Gumthala. He said farmers had to go out in the open to attend nature's call, adding water coolers at the grain markets were not func-

tional. "The grain markets do not have adequate number of sheds. Those available are being used by procurement agencies to stock the grain purchased. Farmers have no choice, but to store wheat in the open," said Chauhan.

Anil Kumar, a farmer of Lal Chhappar village, said the

government should provide facility for the farmers to stay in the grain market.

"Most of the times, the farmers have to wait for their turn to sell produce. The government should make rest rooms in the grain markets, where farmers can rest till their crop is procured," said Anil Kumar. Farmers also said they had no problem in selling their crop at the grain markets in the district.

Surinder Kumar, District Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Controller, Yamunanagar, said wheat arrival was gaining momentum. "Necessary arrangements have been made for farmers at the grain markets. If there is any shortcoming, we will rectify it," he said.



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## Haryana Diary

**59 awarded degrees in Jhajjar**



A passout receives degree during the convocation ceremony at Jagannath University. TRIBUNE PHOTO

**Jhajjar:** A total of 59 passouts of LLM, M Tech, B Tech, B Ed, MBA, BBA and B Com (Honours) courses were awarded degrees by Chancellor of Jagannath University. Speaking on the occasion, the VC said sincerity, sacrifice, skill development and support system were four secrets to success in professional and academic life of an individual. Vice-Chancellor Prof HL Verma stressed on skill development, industry integration and entrepreneurship-oriented programmes.

**Demand for Ahir regiment in Army**

**Rewari:** The demand for formation of an Ahir regiment is gaining momentum in the Ahirwal region. The Akhil Bhartiya Yadav Sewak Samaj (ABYSS) raised the issue and wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Rajnath Singh and all Members of Parliament in this regard. Swami Sudhanand Yogi, chief patron, and Satish Khola, vice president, ABYSS, questioned why an Ahir regiment had not been formed when several regiments had already been formed on the basis of region and caste. "A considerable number of Ahirs are serving in the Army while people of this community have played a vital in every war after independence, but no Ahir regiment has so far been formed," said Khola. He added that the ABYSS would contact all MPs of the Ahir community to mount pressure on the government.

**Exhibition on Dr Ambedkar's quotes**

**Sonepat:** An exhibition on quotes of Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar was organised at Gohana on Saturday to mark his birth anniversary. The exhibition was organised by organised by Jan Sewa Samiti. It was attended by several students. State convener of the samiti Dr CD Sharma said the quotes were taken from his writings, speeches, articles and other sources on freedom, civil rights and role of human values in society. "People should know about Dr Ambedkar's teachings," said Dr Sharma.

**846 conferred degrees in Hisar**

**Hisar:** Rajya Sabha MP Lt Gen DP Vats (retd) conferred degrees on 846 passouts during the convocation at Dayanand College here on Thursday. Vats urged the students to strengthen the social and communal bonding among different sections of society. College principal Dr

**VC gets international award**

**Hisar:** Vice-Chancellor of Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology Prof Tanakeshwar Kumar has been conferred with Fellow Award by the International Academy of Physical Sciences in its 22nd International Conference at RML Avadh University, Faizabad. The award was given by eminent scientist T Chandrashekharan. The award is given to eminent scientists from India and abroad in the field of physics, chemistry, mathematics and computer science.

**RTI Act strengthens democracy: Activist**



Activists of Jan Abhiyan Manch present a skit during a seminar in Sonepat. TRIBUNE PHOTO

**Sonepat:** The Right to Information (RTI) Act ensures transparency and is a hallmark of healthy democracy. These views were expressed by state president of Jan Abhiyan Manch and RTI activist PP Kapoor while addressing a seminar on RTI Act, 2005 at CDR Janata College in Butana on Thursday. The seminar was organised to acquaint students about the Act. Activists of the manch explained the Act through skit performance. PP Kapoor said, "The RTI Act gave empowered the common man to question government functioning. It is a weapon to fight corruption."

**Ambala railway division wins 12 shields**

**Ambala:** The Ambala Railway Division won 12 shields (three independent and nine joint) during the 63rd Railway Week function organised on April 12 at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi. Railway officials were awarded for their outstanding performances during the year 2017-18. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (Ambala) Praveen Gaur Dwivedi has been selected for Minister of Railways (MR) Award. As per information, Ambala Railway Division won the Best Division Shield for overall performance in all fields, cleanliness, and establishment work in the Division. Nine joint shields were presented for Accounts, Civil Engineering, Accident Relief Medical Van, Family Welfare, Rake and Terminal Management, Signal Maintenance, Best Maintenance Running Room, Overall Store Working, and Wagon Maintenance. Thirteen employees and two officials of the Division won General Manager awards individually.

CONTRIBUTED BY RAVINDER SAINI, BS MALIK, DEEPENDER DESWAL AND NITISH SHARMA