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Newspaper Clippings
Friday 29-07-2022 Pg .1
Jai Kisan

11ನೇ ಕೃಷಿ ಗಣತಿಗೆ ತೋಮರ್ ಚಾಲನೆ

ನವದೆಹಲಿ: ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕೃಷಿ ಸಚಿವ ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಸಿಂಗ್ ತೋಮರ್ ಅವರು ಗುರುವಾರ 11ನೇ ಕೃಷಿ ಗಣತಿಗೆ ಚಾಲನೆ ನೀಡಿದರು. ಇದೇ ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟ್‌ಫೋನ್ ಮತ್ತು ಟ್ಯಾಬ್ಲೆಟ್ ಬಳಸಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಲೆ ಹಾಕಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. 11ನೇ ಕೃಷಿ ಗಣತಿಯು ಆಗಸ್ಟ್ ತಿಂಗಳಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಆರಂಭವಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಕರೊನಾ ಸಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕದಿಂದ ಈ ಗಣತಿಯನ್ನು ತಡವಾಗಿ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಕೃಷಿ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯ ಹೇಳಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಪ್ರತಿ 5 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಗೊಮ್ಮೆ ಕೃಷಿ ಗಣತಿ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಕೃಷಿ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯವು 1970-71ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಗಣತಿಯನ್ನು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಿತು. ಇದೇ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಚಿವರು ರಾಜ್ಯ/ಕೇಂದ್ರಾಡಳಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳ ಜನಗಣತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಣಾ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ಕೈಪಿಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಡೇಟಾ ಕಲೆಕ್ಷನ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್/ಆ್ಯಪ್ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ ಮಾಡಿದರು.

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New addition to Kerala's damselfly list

Anamalai Reed-tail first spotted at Peechi Wildlife Sanctuary in Thrissur district

SARATH BABU GEORGE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The odonates' checklist of Kerala has now grown to 182 with the discovery of a new damselfly species from the Western Ghats in the Peechi Wildlife Sanctuary in Thrissur district.

Three entomologists, Kalesh Sadasivan, Vinayan P. Nair and Abraham Samuel of the Travancore Nature History Society (TNHS), have identified the species, Anamalai Reed-tail (scientific name: *Protosticta anamalaica* Sadasivan, Nair and Samuel, 2022). The discovery has been published in the *Journal of Threatened Taxa*.

The tiny insect was first spotted at the Ponmudi hills in the Peechi Wildlife Sanctuary that forms part of the Nelliampathies-Anamalais sub-unit of the Munnar landscape in November 2021. The group later spotted the same species from Mankulam, Malakkappara and Edamalakudy. This is the second species belonging to the damselfly genus *Protosticta* to be described by the TNHS researchers after Ponmudi Reed-tail (*Protosticta ponmudiensis*) that was described in 2015 from Ponmudi hills in Thiruvananthapuram.



Hidden wonder: Anamalai Reed-tail, or *Protosticta anamalaica*. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

According to Dr. Sadasivan, the genus *Protosticta Sels*, 1885, consists of slender-built damselflies commonly known as Reed-tails or Shadow-damsels. They inhabit hill streams in tropical, subtropical and temperate jungles of the Indian subcontinent and south-eastern Asia. In India, they are distributed in the Western Ghats and north-eastern region towards Myanmar.

The genus was described from Sulawesi in Indonesia. The genus has 53 extant species distributed from Pakistan, through the Indian subcontinent to Indo-China and south-eastern Asian islands. There are 15 species of *Protosticta* in India, among which 12 inhabit the Western Ghats. The addition of *Protosticta anamalaica* to the checklist raises the odonata species diversity of the Western Ghats to 208 with 81 endemics. Kerala has 182 species with 69 endemics.

PUNJAB

After wheat & flour, now prices of maida soar

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh



THE prices of maida (refined wheat flour) are soaring due to escalating international prices following the Ukraine conflict. The result is bakery products such as bread and biscuits could be costlier soon.

Sources said the price of wheat has touched ₹2,350 per quintal in Punjab from ₹2,260 last month. The flour millers believe that sellers would not step in the market until prices touch around ₹2,450. This has affected the maida price, which hovers around ₹2,800 per quintal in Punjab against ₹2,500 a month before.

The market buzz is that at Kandla port in Gujarat, from where maida is traded abroad, the price has touched around ₹3,000 per quintal with rumours of it becoming even more costly in the coming days due to the overseas demand pressure. Traders are trying to get in touch with flour millers in Punjab and other states.

The price of wheat flour has gone up to ₹2,600 per quintal from ₹2,400 two months back. With 5% GST, wheat flour price has already increased by ₹140 per quintal.

Naresh Ghai, president of the Punjab Roller Flour Mills Association, said the rates of maida have gone up in the last few months across states. "We are only processors of wheat. The maida rates depend on the prices of wheat in the market. As the Punjab government has procured most of wheat in comparison with other states, the Centre should issue wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) for processors in Punjab so that the maida and suji (granulated wheat or semolina) rates come down."

More than one lakh lakh metric tonne of maida is exported. This year it might be a little more due to the rise in demand, said Ghai.

Vivek Nijhawan, owner of Magic Dough, and Jas Partap, owner of IL Forno Magico bakers, say production cost of bread and biscuits has gone up. "We have not yet passed it on to the consumer. But if maida prices keep increasing at this pace, we will have no option but to raise the prices of bakery products," says Nijhawan.

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