

## HIGHLIGHTS FOR JUNE 2011

### BIRLA SUGAR

#### SNAP SHOTS

##### ***Oudh Sugar board meets on June 29; stock up 3.2%***

Oudh Sugar Mills touched an intraday high of Rs 29 and an intraday low of Rs 28.30. At 09:35 hrs the share was quoting at Rs 28.50, up Rs 0.90, or 3.26%.

The company has board meeting on June 29 to approve issue of preference shares on a private placement basis, reports CNBC-TV18.

It was trading with volumes of 3,001 shares. In the previous trading session, the share closed up 1.10% or Rs 0.30 at Rs 27.60.

##### ***Oudh Sugar board to consider issue of preference shares***

Oudh Sugar Mills touched an intraday high of Rs 29.50 and an intraday low of Rs 29. At 09:56 hrs the share was quoting at Rs 29, up Rs 1.30, or 4.69%.

The company board is going to consider and approve issuance of preference shares on private placement basis, reports CNBC-TV18.

It was trading with volumes of 575 shares. In the previous trading session, the share closed up 0.36% or Rs 0.10 at Rs 27.70.

#### OTHER PLAYERS

##### ***Sakthi Sugars expects sugar prices to go up in FY12***

Domestic sugar market is under pressure since global sugar prices are witnessing a sharp downtrend due to weak demand. Sugar manufacturer Sakthi Sugars, which announced its standalone results for FY11, has reported a loss of Rs 99 crore and its EBITDA stands at Rs 92.1 crore for the current year. Its net sales stand at Rs 2137 crore for this year versus Rs 1374 crore last year.

##### ***Parrys Sugar to issue preference shares upto Rs 100 cr***

Parrys Sugar Industries on Thursday said that it plans to issue preference shares to promoters upto Rs 100 crore and it will also increase the authorised capital by Rs 100 crore.

The company has called an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) on June 28 to obtain the approval of its shareholders on these issues.

### ***TN Ministers inspect Alanganallur sugar mills***

Tamil Nadu Ministers Mr K. Sellur Raju and Mr Natham Viswanathan visited the Alanganallur Cooperative Sugar Mills to inspect the progress of installation of a power unit that could generate 15 MW using molasses.

Officials said today that the ministers were eager to expedite the project which was progressing slowly.

Pune-based Walchand City Company was involved in setting up 12 such units in the state.

### ***Parrys Sugar Industries to increase authorised share capital***

The members of Parrys Sugar Industries have approved to increase the authorised share capital of the company from Rs. 75 crore to Rs. 175 crore.

Further, the members have approved to issue 8% preference shares of Rs. 10 each, aggregating to a nominal amount not exceeding Rs. 100 crore to the promoters or such other investors.

This was approved at the extraordinary general meeting held on 28 June 2011.

### ***Sugar stocks surge on government's export nod***

Shree Renuka Sugars, Dhampur Sugar Mills and Bajaj Hindusthan surged, after the government allowed export of an additional five lakh tonne this season which will improve profitability of sugar producers who are reeling under high cost of sugarcane procurement.

Apart from permitting export of five lakh tonne of sugar as the country's production is estimated to outstrip demand after a gap of two years, the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on food had on Tuesday also lowered the monthly quota of domestic sales for July to 17.72 lakh tonne from 18.67 lakh tonne the previous month.

## **INDIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY**

### ***Maha sugar coops find Brazil model useful***

The sugar industry in Maharashtra, producer of nearly a third of all-India output, is enamoured of the Brazil model, given the various constraints on its revenue and growth.

Brazil's uses sugarcane juice for making both sugar and ethanol (they have one of the oldest programmes for using ethanol in motor fuel), deciding how much is to be used for each, depending on the price. This has, the industry says enabled Brazil to be the

leader in not only sugar and ethanol production but also the largest of exporters in these products.

### ***Sugar ends higher in global cues***

July Sugar closed up 0.19 at 23.18. This was 0.33 up from the low and 0.19 off the high.

SUGAR (JUL) 06/01/2011: Daily stochastics have risen into overbought territory which will tend to support reversal action if it occurs.

The close above the 9-day moving average is a positive short-term indicator for trend. It is a mildly bullish indicator that the market closed over the pivot swing number.

The near-term upside objective is at 23.66. The next area of resistance is around 23.44 and 23.66, while 1st support hits today at 22.92 and below there at 22.63.

### ***Mills offer sugar below Rs 2,500/quintal***

Sugar prices dipped Rs 25-30 a quintal on Friday as retail demand is expected to drop once schools and colleges reopen and monsoon sets in.

Naka and tender rates dropped by Rs 80-90 a quintal this week. Mills' tender rates fell below Rs 2,500 for the first time this year. Prices in the physical market extended losses by Rs 20-25 a quintal on Friday as demand remained need-based and selling at upper level increased.

In the last week, spot sugar has declined by Rs 50-60 a quintal, less than the fall in naka and tender rates, as buying for the new month began. Traders expect retail demand to go down with schools and colleges reopening. Sugar futures also extended bearish trend as stocks are high.

### ***Govt issues export release orders for 3.39 lakh tonne of sugar***

The Food Ministry has issued export orders for 3.39 lakh tonnes of sugar to mills so far, out of the total quantity of five lakh tonnes that the government had allowed for overseas shipments, in April.

Sugar mills cannot export the sweetener without a release order from the Food Ministry.

On March 22, an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on Food, headed by Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, had allowed mills to export five lakh tonnes of sugar under Open General Licences (OGL). The decision was notified on April 19.

Out of five lakh tonnes, 51,500 tonnes was reserved for neighbouring countries and the remaining 4,48,500 tonnes was allocated to the mills based on their average output over the last three years.

### ***Sugar weakens on ample supply***

Sugar prices settled 2.99% lower w-w owing to better supplies in the domestic market. Lower quota released by the government is also not seen supporting the prices.

India has made available 1.65 million tonnes of non-levy sugar for the month of June, lower than the 1.75 million tonnes which government had released for May 2011.

LIFFE and ICE raw sugar futures settled 1.66% and 1.86% higher on Friday owing to rise in demand for refined Sugar from Muslim countries amidst reports of Port congestion in Brazil which may hamper supplies.

India has raised the price sugar mills must pay to purchase cane from farmers to 145 rupees (\$3.20) per 100 kilograms in the next season that begins from Oct. 1, government sources said during the last week. In the current season to September, the cane purchase price had been fixed at 139.12 rupees per 100 kgs.

As on 20th April, 2011, mills in UP has crushed 643.13 lakh tonnes of Sugarcane and has produced 58.75 lakh tonnes of Sugar with an average recovery rate of 9.14%. UP state government had targeted 65 lakh tonnes.

### ***India's Maharashtra cuts 2010/11 sugar output f'cast***

India's western Maharashtra state, the biggest sugar producer in the country, has revised downward its 2010/11 sugar output forecast to 9 million tonnes from the previous 9.1 million tonnes, said a senior state government official. Wet soil makes transporting cane to factories difficult. At the beginning of the season, industry officials were forecasting an output of 9.5 million tonnes, which was later trimmed to 9.1 million tonnes.

The new forecast would be still higher than last year's output of 7.09 million tonnes.

### ***Sugar steady as selling slows***

Sugar prices ruled steady on Monday after declining sharply last week. Good quality sugar increased Rs 5-10 a quintal and routine quality dropped further by Rs 10 in the physical market.

To reduce selling pressure of stockists, naka prices improved Rs 10/Rs 20 a quintal.

Mill tender rates were steady as mills were not very keen to sell at lower levels.

Most mills kept tender offers open. The volume was as usual but less than expected. According to the Government's latest estimate, sugarcane has been planted on 50.61 lakh hectares till June 3 compared with 48.63 lakh hectares in the same period last year. Acreage was up by 1.98 lakh hectares.

### ***Sugar down on lower demand***

Sugar prices continued downtrend for the second straight week on weak demand from retailers and higher stocks with mills, traders and analysts said. The most active sugar for June delivery on National Commodity and Derivative Exchange closed up 0.24% at R2,504 per 100 kg. In Kolhapur, a key market in top producer Maharashtra, the most traded S-variety edged down 0.23% to R2,500 per 100kg. Demand for sugar is low from consumers and mills have sufficient stocks. Prices are unlikely to move up in short-term, said a member of the Bombay Sugar Merchants Association

### ***India sugar settles higher on fresh buying***

Sugar futures continued the recovery on fresh buying at previous losses on Monday. Futures started the day on marginally lower note on cues from prevailing bearish sentiments in spot market.

However, futures reversed the trend on positive side taking smart recovery on lower level buying.

However, lack of active demand from stockiest limited the upside and futures ended on slightly positive note.

Recovery in sugar futures are projected to continue on follow through buying on Tuesday. Extended fresh buying after huge losses might support the prices.

### ***Bears continue to rule sugar market***

The sugar market continued to witness a weak trend on less-than-expected local and up country demand, as producers are continuously selling at reduced rates, according to their requirement.

Production of sugar in the current as well as for the next season is expected to be very impressive, assuring smooth and easy supply position in the domestic markets. In the export front, despite international sugar prices having gone up sharply in the last one month, chances of exports are bright, but still there is no sign of any improvement at the domestic level. The area under sugarcane cultivation is expected to rise 15-20 per cent and so as sugar production will also rise, he said.

### ***Sugar settles higher on short covering***

Sugar spot prices were quoted at steady to slightly lower rates owing to lackluster trades at domestic market. Prices in the Futures however bounced back from the lows owing to shortcoverings by the market participants yesterday. Crushing season is seen nearing its end in Maharashtra, the largest Sugarcane as well as Sugar producing state in India this is likely to provide support to the prices.

However, overall sentiments still remains weak as the planting figures of Sugarcane for the 2011-12 season point towards next bumper crop of Sugarcane given the favorable monsoon season.

Indian farmers planted sugar cane in 5.06 million hectares (12.5 million acres) as of June 3, up 4% compared with 4.86 million hectares a year earlier, as per the farm ministry data.

### ***Indian mills to seek nod for more sugar exports***

India's sugar mills will soon seek government permission to export an additional half a million tonnes of the sweetner as output is expected to rise in the next season from October, the chief of a leading industry body said on Wednesday.

"Now, it makes sense to export another 500,000 tonnes this season," Abinash Verma, director general of the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), a producers' body, told Reuters in an interview.

India, the world's top consumer of sugar and second-biggest producer after Brazil, has allowed 500,000 tonnes of unrestricted exports, known as Open General Licence (OGL) sales, so far in the current season.

### ***Sugar mill owners asked to clear dues to farmers by Jun 15***

The Uttar Pradesh government today directed its officials to arrest owners of sugar mills who fail to make full payment of cane dues to farmers by June 15. "During a departmental meeting Cane Development Minister Naseemuddin Siddiqui has directed that mill owners should be arrested if they fail to make cent per cent payment by June 15 to farmers despite recovery certificate," an official spokesman said.

### ***Cane area seen rising to depress sugar price***

India's sugar cane acreage is likely to rise in 2011-12 as farmers are still finding the crop remunerative over competing crops, raising hopes the world's biggest sugar consumer will have a surplus for the second straight year beginning October.

Higher sugar output is likely to pressure the government to increase the export limit beyond 500,000 tonnes, to support local prices which have fallen 12 percent in 2011, said industry and government officials.

Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are top two sugar producers in the country and account for 60 per cent of the country's total output.

In Uttar Pradesh, the area is likely to rise about 10 per cent in 2011-12 due to the increase in cane procurement prices and regular and timely payments to farmers by mills, said S P Bali, deputy commissioner at the sugar commissioner's office.

### ***Sugar futures fall on weak demand, higher output hopes***

Amid weak demand from bulk consumers and hopes of surplus production, sugar futures prices fell by 0.16 per cent to Rs 2,462 per quintal today as speculators reduced their positions.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, sugar for delivery in June fell by Rs 4, or 0.16 per cent, to Rs 2,462 per quintal, with an open interest of 16,300 lots. It had ended 1.68 per cent lower at Rs 2,452 per quintal in the previous session. Similarly, sugar for delivery in July fell by similar margin to Rs 2,511 per quintal, with an open interest of 14,520 lots.

### ***Sugar tumbles on ample supply***

Sugar spot prices were quoted at steady to slightly higher rates owing to slight recovery in demand from local stockists and settled 0.69% higher w-w . Prices in the futures touched new contract lows and settled 1.28% down w-w. Ample supplies in the domestic market is restricting buyers to build long positions in the futures.

Overall sentiments still remains weak as the planting figures of Sugarcane for the 2011-12 season point towards next bumper crop of Sugarcane given the favorable monsoon season.

Raw Sugar futures and LIFFE Futures settled 0.32% and 0.44% lower respectively on Friday owing to long liquidation. However, rise in demand for refined Sugar from Muslim countries amidst reports of Port congestion in Brazil and Thailand which may hamper supplies.

### ***Import duty on sugar likely as acreage improves***

Import duty on sugar is likely to be upped this week after the food ministry wrote to the finance ministry asking that the duty be hiked to 15%. Zero duty on imports will end by June 30 even as sowing picks up pace, making it imperative for the government to put in place a clear policy well before the deadline expires.

"The finance ministry could announce the increase in duty soon. The government does not want the industry and farmers to be disadvantaged by imports," a food ministry official said.

### ***Present conditions ideal for liberal export of sugar***

Production estimates revised to 26 mt for 2010-11 and supply to be boosted by 5 mt of stocks spilling over from last year.

At no point this season was there any doubt that the country will have rich enough production of sugar, creating an ideal condition for liberal exports. Not only was production of 26 million tonnes for 2010-11 forecast at season beginning, the supply was also to be boosted by close to 5 million tonnes of stocks spilling over from last year. There has now been a scaling back of production estimate to 24.5 million tonnes by the government and a little lower than this by Indian Sugar Mills Association (Isma).

### ***India sugar ends down on fresh selling***

Sugar July futures traded down on Monday shading all the previous gains on fresh selling.

Futures started the day on slightly lower note however, later on prices witnessed smart recovery on continued short covering.

Nonetheless, overall bearish trend amid huge surplus with mills along with poor demand pulled down the prices. However, fall remained limited and futures ended on marginally lower note.

### ***Sugar bodies join hands with farmers associations***

In a strategic move, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) and the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories. (NFCSF), two apex organisations in the Indian sugar industry, are joining hands with Indian farmers associations to build a common platform to address their major issues.

### ***Sugar mills to lobby hard for decontrol, exports***

Faced with mounting costs and unfriendly government policies on pricing, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (Isma) intends to get the industry to lobby hard on two major issues before the next season begins in October – decontrol and exports of at least 1.5 million tonnes (mt) by then.

Currently, in Maharashtra, the average cost of production is Rs 2,600 a quintal while the ex-factory selling price is Rs 2,350 a quintal. In the north, production cost and ex-mill price stands at Rs 2,850 a quintal and Rs 2,600 a quintal, respectively. Pricing is decided by the government, apart from issues like the compulsory levy for the Public Distribution System.

### ***Sugar lying in open damaged in Maharashtra***

An estimated 1.5 million tonnes of sugar worth around Rs 4,500 crore is lying in open space in Maharashtra due to lack of covered storage. Owing to the incessant rain, the stock is liable to spoilage due to high moisture.

According to Maharashtra Rajya Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Sangh, 141 mills crushed nearly 80 million tonnes of cane to produce 9 million tonnes of sugar this year.

The average recovery was estimated at 11.29 per cent. Last year, the largest sugar producing state reported an output of nearly 7.1 million tonnes after crushing 62 million tonnes of cane.

### ***Sugar prices decline on reduced offtake***

Sugar prices declined by Rs 20 per quintal in the national capital today on reduced offtake by retailers against adequate stocks position.

Market analysts said reduced offtake by retailers against easy availability of stocks mainly led to the decline in wholesale sugar prices.

Sugar ready medium and second grade prices declined by Rs 20 each to Rs 2,880-2,980 and Rs 2,850-2,970 per quintal, respectively.

Mill delivery medium and second trades followed suit and traded lower by the same margin to Rs 2,680-2,870 and Rs 2,655-2,845 per quintal, respectively.

### ***Sugar futures extend losses on low demand, supply pressure***

Continuing its yesterday's losses, sugar futures further shed 0.33% to Rs 2,453 per quintal as speculators engaged in reducing their positions, driven by low demand from bulk consumers.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, sugar for delivery in June remained under pressure and fell by Rs 8, or 0.33%, to Rs 2,453 per quintal, with an open interest of 15,250 lots.

It had closed 0.20% down at Rs 2,461 per quintal in yesterday's trade.

### ***Sugar slips further as mills continue selling***

The sugar market continued to decline on Tuesday, extending the price-dip further by Rs 8-10 a quintal on the spot and Rs 10-12 in Naka and mill tender rates. Prices were lower than the cost parity, attracting fresh buying from stockists on Monday, resulting in higher volumes at upper levels. However, local demand was steady due to monsoon and the beginning of end-of-month buying support. The sentiment was weak as mills have to offload a substantial quantity of the current month's free sale quota, said traders.

### ***Sugar mills seek 15 lakh tonne exports to tide over crisis***

The sugar industry, which is going through tough times, has demanded export of 15 lakh tonne of the sweetener to shore up mills' revenues. But Prof KV Thomas, minister of state for food and consumer affairs, said a decision would be taken at an appropriate time.

In a year of falling sugar and cane prices, farmers and sugar mills usually fight one another. But with the new sugar year three months away, young leaders of the sugar industry have decided to join hands with farmers to present their case unitedly to the government.

### ***Govt plans 15% duty on sugar imports***

The food ministry has proposed 15% import duty on sugar from 1 July as the country's production is higher than the domestic demand and mills are exporting the sweetener.

In February 2009, the government had abolished import duty to boost domestic supply.

### ***Sugar industry hit hard by imposition of VAT***

The sugar industries in Orissa are finding it hard to sell their products due to the recent imposition of value added tax (VAT) on sugar at the rate of four percent. There are six sugar industries in the state at Aska, Dhenkanal, Bargarh, Bolangir, Nayagarh and Badamba.

### ***Sugar closes lower on heavy stocks***

Sugar prices moved down by Rs 40 per quintal in the national capital today due to heavy stocks position amid increased supply and reduced offtake.

Market analysts said adequate stocks position on fresh supply from mills mainly pulled down sugar prices.

Sugar ready medium and second grade prices dropped by Rs 40 to end at Rs 2,850-2,940 and Rs 2,825-2,925 per quintal, respectively.

Mill delivery medium and second grade prices also went down by Rs 30 each to Rs 2,650-2,850 and Rs 2,625-2,825 per quintal, respectively.

### ***Mills continue to offload sugar***

Sugar market again turned weak at upper level on Thursday as some mills offloaded it at reduced rates. In the physical market, need-based demand kept the volume steady.

Naka rates were down by Rs 10 a quintal. Tender rates ruled almost steady as mills were reluctant to sell at lower rates. Traders are continuously buying according to need, said a wholesaler of Vashi wholesale market.

He said considering the lower price, local as well as upcountry traders are now ready to bet for building inventory, which was lacking for some time due to need-based retail demand.

### ***Govt rules out sugar exports before Diwali***

Rising global prices notwithstanding, the domestic sugar industry is unlikely to see any relief in terms of exports to boost its bottomline anywhere in the near future. Food , PDS and consumer affairs minister K V Thomas said categorically today that the Centre had no plans to open up exports before Diwali , which is in October.

### ***Surplus sugar lies wasted in Maharashtra***

After wheat and paddy, the big grain drain now includes sugar which has been left out in the open at the risk of getting spoiled because Maharashtra has had a bumper harvest this year and has run out of storage space.

Seventy thousand quintals of sugar has been stored out in the open at a sugar factory in Kolhapur in Maharashtra, covered with only a plastic sheet, exposing lakhs of rupees worth of sugar to the threat of fungus, humidity and water.

But this season, it is a familiar sight at sugar factories in Maharashtra with the largest sugar producing state in the country seeing a bumper crop of sugar cane, in stark contrast to previous years.

### ***India's sugar output to be 32 MT per year till 2020***

Sugar production in India, the world's second biggest producer and largest consumer, is expected to be on an average 32 million tonnes (MT) per year for the next 10 years, says a latest report.

According to the Agriculture Outlook prepared jointly by Paris-based OECD and UN body FAO, global output of sugar is expected to soar to 209 MT in 2020-21 as against 158 MT in 2010-2011.

### ***Sugar down in futures trade on profit-booking***

Sugar prices fell by 0.10 per cent to Rs 2,519 per quintal in futures trade today as speculators booked profits amid hopes of higher output.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, sugar for July delivery was trading Rs 10, or 0.40 per cent, lower at Rs 2,519 per quintal, with an open interest for 21,860 lots. Prices of the sweetener ended 0.19 per cent higher at Rs 2,549 per quintal in the previous session.

### ***Sugar dealers bitter over VAT***

After textile traders, the sugar dealers in the State have now begun to get restive over the delay in withdrawal of Value-Added Tax (VAT) imposed on the commodity by the Government. Like their counterparts in textiles and garments business, the sugar dealers have also threatened to take to the streets if the dilly-dallying over VAT continues to persist. The traders have been opposing 4 per cent VAT imposed on sugar by the Government. They have complained that it was contrary to the principle of uniformity of taxes in the country, as professed by VAT.

### ***Sugar stock holding limit to be eased***

The food and consumer affairs ministry plans to ease stock holding limit on sugar and paddy for traders to improve supplies and clear pipelines stocks.

In March, an empowered group of ministers had relaxed the limit on sugar to 500 tonnes per month from the earlier limit of 200 tonnes.

This was done as sugar production in the 2010-11 crop marketing season rose to almost 24.5 to 25 million tonnes (mt), while consumption was estimated to be around 22 mt.

### ***Sugar hits low as selling pressure mounts***

Spot sugar price of “S” grade variety at Vashi terminal market again broke down the level of Rs 2,600 a quintal, lowest level in current crop year on Monday due to increase selling pressure at upper mill and naka level. Market may see further down side move on expectation of desperate selling by mills to complete current months allotted quota before due date - month end, said traders. For June 11 total free sale quota is 16.50 lakh tonnes (lt) less than 17.50 lt for May 11.

### ***Financial crisis for sugar mills***

Around 300 small and midsize sugar factories, representing 40 per cent of India’s 24.2 million tonnes of output, face a financial crisis due to losses in cane crushing. The situation is likely to worsen in the ensuing season.

In the first eight months of the current sugar season beginning October 2010, banks lent working capital to mills based on an estimated average price of Rs 2,800 per quintal, the then prevailing spot market price.

### ***Maharashtra mills crush largest volume of cane***

Maharashtra sugar mills crushed the largest quantity of cane in state's history this season. The mills have crushed 801 lakh tonne cane till Saturday, surpassing the earlier record of 798.49 lakh tonne cane in 2006-07. But the state could not record the highest sugar production due to a fall in the recovery. The mills produced 904 lakh quintal sugar at a recovery rate of 11.28%.

### ***Talk of removal of stock limit sweetens sugar***

Sugar prices rebounded on Tuesday as the futures market firmed up amid talk of the Centre doing away with stock limits because producers have built up huge stocks boosted sentiment.

Price rose by Rs 18-20 a quintal at the upper level. In the spot market, prices rose by Rs 10-12 due to limited demand. At *naka* and mill-tender levels, the price rise was higher. Volumes rose on higher demand from stockists.

Local demand may remain subdued till month-end and arrest rise in prices. Gains in futures of Rs 30-35 supported the market. Talk of the Government removing caps on stocks may have improved buying, but it is not in favour of more exports until September.

### ***Sugar hits 2 month high, Pawar seeks more exports***

Agriculture minister Sharad Pawar has written to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh urging him to allow further export of sugar, as India has only one month to encash on high global prices, sources said on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, sugar rose to a two-month high on Tuesday as shipping delays mounted in Brazil, the world's biggest exporter. Backlogs of sugar shipments from Brazilian ports are expected to last an additional 20 to 30 days, according to Datagro, an industry researcher. Last week, futures in New York climbed 3.4%, the sixth straight gain.

### ***State produces 90 lakh-tonne sugar***

With the production of 90.29 lakh tonne sugar in the state till Tuesday and crushing activity still on to some extent - the final sugar production figure of the state is expected to be around 91 lakh tonne for the crushing season 2010-11.

Some remote pockets from Satara, Pune, Solapur and Ahmednagar districts still have some sugarcane, which would be crushed by June end, said Anil Bansode, joint director (sugar development) at the sugar commissionerate.

### ***Food EGoM to meet tomorrow to decide on sugar exports***

At the behest of Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar, the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on food has decided to meet on June 23 to take a call on allowing the export of more sugar. Although Pawar will not be present at the meeting, as he is travelling, he wants the EGoM to meet and allow additional exports of at least one million tonnes of sugar.

Pawar's absence has forced the government to defer meeting of the EGoM on oil prices at least twice during the past few weeks. The oil EGoM is expected to decide on the issue of an increase in diesel, kerosene and LPG prices.

### ***Sugar traders threaten to stop import***

The sugar traders in the state have threatened to stop importing sugar from other states if the government does not withdraw the imposition of four per cent Value Added Tax (VAT) on the commodity by end of June.

Mohanty claimed that with the imposition of four per cent VAT on sugar along with the two per cent entry tax levied on the commodity; both the sugar traders and the consumers have been overburdened.

As against the requirement of 6.5 lakh tonne of sugar per annum, the production in the state is a meagre 35,000-45,000 tonne, catering to only five per cent of the demand.

### ***Sugar futures recovers by over 1% on spot demand***

Sugar prices rose by 1.21% in futures trade today, buoyed by pick-up in demand at the spot markets amid tight supplies by millers.

However, prospects of higher production in current season, though, capped the gains

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, sugar for delivery in August moved up by Rs 31, or 1.21%, to Rs 2,596 per quintal, with an open interest of 14,230 lots.

Likewise, sugar futures for delivery in July rose by Rs 28, or 1.11%, to Rs 2,553 per quintal, with a business turnover of 24,190 lots.

### ***FinMin mulling sugar import duty at 15%, additional 4% ad vaLorem***

The finance ministry is reviewing the import duty on sugar, which is currently under a duty-free regime.

Following a recommendation by the food ministry, the duty may be pegged at 15 per cent albeit with ad valorem of four per cent.

The duty on import was brought down to zero as an anti-inflationary measure in the beginning of this year and got extended beyond March 31.

### ***Sugar turns sweeter on Bull Run in futures market***

Sugar prices extended gains by Rs 20-25 a quintal at the mill level for the second day on Wednesday on expectations the Government will allow additional export of sugar.

A bull run in the futures market on speculative buying, helped by the active participation of operators, has changed the overall sentiment. The local market's pipeline is empty as most of the volume this month is need-based. Ready and *naka* level prices were up marginally by Rs 10-12 due to less-than-expected local demand. Volumes were at routine levels. Sources at the Vashi market said sugar prices have witnessed a sharp rise from their lowest levels of the year, in the last two days, following the bullish trend in the futures markets and expectations of a removal of stock limits.

### ***Govt in a fix as Pawar mounts pressure for sugar exports***

The **government** is in a quandary as agriculture minister Sharad Pawar is mounting increasing pressure to open up **sugar exports** at a time when **headline inflation** is ruling at over nine per cent.

While Pawar's argument makes sound logic for the sugar industry as it will enable it to rake in higher profits, it also entails the risk of domestic prices of sugar spiralling upwards. The empowered group of ministers (eGoM) will be meeting on Thursday to take a call on the issue. According to sources, food minister K.V. Thomas, who is touring Chhattisgarh, has been caught unawares by the move and will be rushing back for the meeting.

### ***Sugar futures up 0.7 pct***

Sugar prices surged by 0.74 per cent in futures trade on Wednesday as speculators enlarged their positions on hopes that the government may relax the export cap on the sweetener.

However, higher supplies and lower demand from bulk consumers capped the gains.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, sugar for July delivery was trading Rs 19, or 0.74 per cent, higher at Rs 2,571 per quintal, with an open interest for 26,130 lots.

### ***Centre allows export of 5 lakh tonnes of sugar***

An Indian ministerial panel on food on Thursday allowed the export of 5 lakh more tonnes of sugar, food minister KV Thomas told HT. The decision is aimed at offsetting losses for sugar manufactures due to surplus stocks, even as food-deficit countries battle rising food costs.

Thomas said no decision yet has been taken to lift the ban wheat export. No decision has been made on scrapping limits on sugar stocks traders can hold at any point, which is state-decided. The latest approval for shipments is over and above export quota of 5 lakh tonnes for this marketing year ending September. The industry may cash in on lower output by Brazil, the world's largest sugar exporter.

### ***Hooda asks coop sugar mills to popularise SVP technique***

Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda has asked the Haryana Federation of Cooperative Sugar Mills to popularise Single Bud Vertical Plantation (SVP) techniques among the cane growing farmers as it gives double yield, consumes 75 per cent less water and seed quantity. The Chief Minister was presiding over a meeting to review working of Cooperative Sugar Mills in the State here today, official release said. The Chief Minister was informed that sugarcane production per unit area can be increased by using new sugarcane sowing technique like SVP and space transplanting.

### ***Maharashtra sugar mills crush record sugar cane***

Maharashtra sugar mills crushed highest ever quantity of sugar cane in the history of the state's sugar industry. Maharashtra sugar mills have crushed 800 lakh tonne sugar cane till Saturday, surpassing the state's earlier record of 798.49 lakh tonne sugar cane in 2006-07. But the state could not break the target of highest sugar production due to a fall in the recovery.

### ***All is not that sweet for sugarcane***

In sugarcane, unlike other monsoon-dependent crops, the bulk of planting for the ensuing 2011-12 crushing season (October-September) is already over.

The country's No. 1 sugar producer, Maharashtra, grows three cane crops. The 18-month *adsali* cane is planted during April-July, which is followed by a 'pre-seasonal' crop of 15 months sown from July to December. Besides, there is a third 12-month *suru* crop planted in January and early February.

The 2010-11 season has seen total sugar production of 239.73 lakh tonnes (lt) as on June 15, compared with 189.12 lt for the whole of 2009-10. With crushing completed in all States – barring Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra – output for this season may end up at around 245 lt.

### ***Sugar prices slide back due to lack of clarity on stock limit***

Sugar prices, which rose by Rs 1/kg before the announcement of the second tranche of sugar export quota on Thursday, fell back later because there was no clarity on the limit of stocks traders hold. The stock-holding limit on traders had been relaxed to 500 tonne/month in March from 200 tonnes/month. As there were reports of a further relaxation in this limit, prices had moved up.

### ***Indian monsoon advances to cane-growing regions: IMD***

India's crucial monsoon rains have advanced to remaining regions of cane-growing west Uttar Pradesh and some parts of pulses-growing Rajasthan ahead of schedule, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a statement.

The monsoon has also reached remaining parts of wheat-growing Punjab and Haryana, the weather office said.

India, one of the world's largest producers and consumers of crops such as rice, sugar and corn, relies heavily on the June to September monsoon for agricultural output.

### ***Maharashtra sugar industry for export of 2.5 mn tones***

Maharashtra cooperative sugar industry, which is reeling under a financial crisis due to mismatch between the production cost and the realisation, has made a strong pitch for allowing exports of 2.5 million tonnes, imposition of 50 per cent import duty, creation of a buffer stock of five million tonnes, exclusion of sugar from the Essential Commodities Act and also from futures trading.

### ***Sugarcane overtakes paddy as top kharif crop***

Although the Union Agriculture Ministry does not seem too concerned about the less-than-positive forecasts for the monsoon, there is perhaps cause for worry that kharif sowing this year is nowhere near where it was this time last year. Most significantly, sugarcane has overtaken paddy cultivation in some of the states.

Farmers appear to be shifting from paddy to sugarcane, and the reasons are evident. The latter already commands a high price in the market. Add to that the latest government move allowing increased exports of sugar.

### ***'Record sugarcane crushing this year'***

This year, sugar factories in the state have crushed 801 lakh metric tonnes of sugarcane, producing 904 lakh quintals of sugar, the highest in the history of the sugar industry in Maharashtra, said State Cooperation Minister Harshvardhan Patil here on Friday.

The ministry has given permission to blending of five per cent ethanol into diesel to three sugar factories in the state, Patil told a news conference at Yashada.

### ***Sugar export has pushed price: Thomas***

The government took the decision to allow export of five lakh tonnes of sugar following representation by sugar-producing states and cooperative societies.

Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, K.V. Thomas on Monday said the government's decision to allow export of five lakh tonnes of sugar last week has led to an increase of Rs. 4 per kg in the sweetener's retail price.

While domestic prices are pegged in the range of Rs 2,500-2,600 per quintal, the international prices are calculated in Indian currency at around Rs 2,800 per quintal giving a premium of around Rs 200 per quintal.

### ***Sugar worth Rs 19 cr kept in open in Kolhapur***

It's not just wheat and paddy, sugar too has been left out in the open at the risk of getting spoiled in Kolhapur in Maharashtra.

The state has had a bumper harvest this year. Maharashtra has produced nearly 6.95 lakh quintal of sugar and has run out of storage space.

Nearly 77 thousand quintal of sugar has been stored out in the open at a sugar factory in Kolhapur. The stock is covered with only a plastic sheet.

### ***Punjab target sugar production to touch 32.5 lakh quintal this season***

Expecting sugar production in the state to touch 32.5 lakh quintals this season, the Punjab Government has decided to provide big relief to the farmers by disbursing on the spot payment for the cane.

An official spokesman said that as the area under sugarcane cultivation has increased to 0.93 lakh hectares from 0.84 hectares and an expected production of cane is expected to 618 lakh quintals. He said that Punjab was hoping 32.5 quintals of sugar, which would be 2.3 lakh quintals higher than previous season. Sugar production in the previous seasons was recorded 30.2 lakh quintals.

### ***Sugar futures up as govt allows additional export***

Sugar prices rose by 0.80% in futures trade today as speculators enlarged positions after the government allowed export of additional five lakh tonnes of sugar amid pick-up in demand at spot markets.

At the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange, sugar for July delivery rose by Rs 21, or 0.80%, to Rs 2,640 per quintal, with an open interest for 31,240 lots.

In addition, pick-up in demand from bulk consumers at the spot markets also supported the rise in prices of sweetener.

### ***Govt may include sugar, textiles under 4% VAT slab***

The state government is likely to include sugar and textiles under the 4 per cent value added tax (VAT) slab, official sources said.

Sugar and textiles were so far exempted from VAT at the state level on the ground that they were under the list of additional excise duty (AED) levied by the central government. But from April 1, 2011, the central government had removed both the items from the list of items being levied additional central excise duty.

### ***17.72 lakh tonne sugar released for July***

The government has decided to make available 17.72 lakh tonne of sugar (levy sugar - 2.12 lakh tonne and non-levy sugar - 15.60 lakh tonne) for the month of July 2011. This quantity of 17.72 lakh tonne is sufficient to meet the internal demand of sugar for the month of July, 2011.

### ***Sugar output touches 24 mn tonnes; prices stable: ISMA***

The country's sugar production has touched around 24 million tonnes (MT) so far this season and prices of the sweetener have remained stable in the past five months despite exports, industry body ISMA said.

### ***Millers can sell 17.72 l tonne sugar***

The government has allowed millers to sell a total of 17.72 lakh tonne of sugar via rations shops and in the open market next month. The government fixes the quota of sugar that each mill can sell every month. Last month, the government had allocated a quota of 18.57 lakh tonne of sugar.

### ***Sugar prices to be held till November***

The Union government on Wednesday admitted that the hike in diesel prices would adversely impact food grain prices in the open market but promised to hold sugar prices till November, when the festival season comes to a close.

Addressing a press conference here, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution K.V. Thomas said the decision to allow the export of the second 5 lakh tranche of sugar would not impact prices. He denied that there was any pressure from Cabinet Ministers. Union Water Resources Development Minister Salman Khurshid was also present.

### ***Sugar futures up as government allows sugar export***

Sugar prices rose by Rs 28 to Rs 2,757 a quintal in futures trading on Wednesday on speculators creating fresh positions after allowing of sugar export by the government.

At the National Commodity Derivatives Exchange, sugar for delivery in July rose by Rs 28, or 1.03 per cent, to Rs 2,757 per quintal, with an open interest of 41,380 lots.

Similarly, the sweetener for delivery in August moved up by Rs 27, or 0.98 per cent, to Rs 2,773 per quintal, with an open interest of 18,180 lots.

### ***CCI to hear sugar mills' cartelisation case today***

On July 22, 2010, representatives of these mills from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh met in Mumbai. Representatives of major sugar federations and associations across the five states attended the meeting and decided unanimously that sugar would not be sold from mills below the level of the cost of production. The cost of production last year was decided at Rs 2,700 a quintal. Hence, these mills agreed among themselves to fix a floor price of Rs 2,700 a quintal for selling sugar. It was ostensibly a voluntary initiative and not binding on any mill.

### ***Global sugar prices ring sweet bell for Indian exporters***

This could be sweet news to domestic sugar exporters: Brazil, the world's biggest exporter, is likely to export significantly lesser quantity this season, firming up global

sugar prices. The price of sugar jumped more than 5 per cent on Tuesday to hit a 3½-month high as traders worried about lower Brazilian production, reports said.

### ***Maharashtra mills owe Sugarcane arrears to farmers, payments unlikely soon***

The sugar cane crushing season is about to get over in Maharashtra and there are arrears of over a month to be paid to cane farmers. But the payments seem unlikely soon. Almost all the cashstrapped sugar cooperatives have huge bank loans due to selling sugar below the cost of production.

It is mandatory for mills to pay farmers within 14 days of the delivery of cane. However, most of the mills have not been able to fulfil this obligation. The sugar commissioner has issued revenue recovery notices to three sugar mills which have very high dues to farmers.

### ***Only 4 per cent VAT on sugar, textiles***

The State government has decided not to further pinch the aam aadmi who has been hit hard by the recent fuel and LPG price hike.

It has decided to collect value-added tax (VAT) of only 4 per cent on sugar and textiles. In other words, it means the prices of both will not rise.

With effect from April 1, the Central Government has removed both sugar and textiles from the Additional Excise Duty list. As a result, there was confusion among traders on whether both items were liable for VAT at the rate for other goods.

## **INTERNATIONAL SUGAR INDUSTRY**

### ***Bidders emerge in race to purchase Greek sugar firm***

A NUMBER of companies appear to be closing in on a deal for Hellenic Sugar Industry, which is being sold by Agricultural Bank of Greece as it looks to reorganise.

### ***Agrana soll Gusto auf Hellenic Sugar haben***

Laut einem Bericht der griechischen Zeitung "Imerisia" will sich die Agricultural Bank of Greece von ihrer Zucker-Beteiligung trennen. Interesse wird neben anderen auch der Agrana nachgesagt.

### ***Drought hits sugar industry***

Crookes Brothers join the list of sugar companies reporting drops in profit and turnover

### ***Fiji sugar industry needs new mind-set***

Commissioner Western Commander Joeli Cawaki says they will need to remove the old players of the sugar industry if they do not change their mind-set.

### ***Sugar execs sign 12 month deal in London***

Two Senior Executives of Fiji's sugar industry were in London to sign a 12 month agreement with Tate and Lyle who will buy sugar from the Fiji Sugar Corporation for a set price.

### ***Mill failures cause of sugar decline***

NON-performing sugar mills brought about by a botched mill upgrade program is the reason the sugar industry is in the doldrums.

### ***Kenya: Halt Sugarcane Harvesting, Farmers Urge Millers***

Nairobi Farmers have asked millers to halt temporarily harvesting of sugarcane due to the heavy rains pounding the area.

### ***Kenya: Mumias Sugar Sees Full-Year Output Up 6 Percent***

Mumias Sugar expects better cane quality and higher factory efficiency to lift output by about 6 percent to 250,000 tonnes this year, its chief financial officer said this week.

### ***Nigeria: Residents Urge FG to Regulate Price of Sugar***

Minna Consumers of sugar in Kano have urged the federal government to regulate the price of sugar as it did with the price of cement.

### ***Mackay Sugar sticks with Proserpine***

AUSTRALIA'S second biggest sugar producer, Mackay Sugar, will consider making a rival offer for nearby Proserpine mill in a move that could scuttle a deal by Singapore's Wilmar to pick up the assets.

### ***Cofco lifts offer in Tully Sugar bidding war***

Chinese state-owned trader Cofco has once again lifted its takeover offer for Australia's Tully Sugar, gaining a board recommendation that may fend off rival bids from Bunge and Mackay Sugar.

### ***White sugar contracts ease after early gains***

London: White sugar futures reversed early gains as the dollar strengthened on Monday, buoyed by tight supplies, while cocoa was firm as dealers focused on a narrow differential between New York and London markets.

### ***EC acts to ensure 'functioning' of the EU sugar market***

European Commission measures to open a further 200,000 tonne import quota for raw or refined sugar at zero import duty and the possibility for further imports at reduced import duty via a tendering system have been backed by member states.

### ***Droughts hit China's domestic sugar production***

Recent droughts have dramatically reduced the domestic sugar harvest in China, according to new market estimates.

### ***Brazil seeks to boost stagnant ethanol industry***

SAO PAULO, June 6 (Reuters) - Brazil's government unveiled new financing and other incentives for sugar cane ethanol production on Monday, vowing to work closely with the private sector to boost production in an industry that has struggled recently despite its immense promise.

### ***Cane farmers turn to new crops and businesses***

More sugar cane farmers in the north have taken up new business ventures, turning away from the sugar industry.

### ***Coca-cola criticized for pre-mix sugar***

The Sugar Watch defenders of Negros Occidental slammed Coca Cola Philippines for its importation of premix sugar, pointing out that 80 percent of the gross domestic product of the province comes from sugar.

### ***CARGILL, USJ GROUP ANNOUNCE JV IN SUGAR, ETHANOL AND BIOELECTRICITY***

Cargill and the USJ Group announced today they are entering an agreement to establish a joint venture in the sugar, ethanol, and bioelectricity segment. Each party will have a 50 percent interest in the venture, and management will also be shared. Transaction figures have not been disclosed. The transaction should be concluded within 60 days and is subject to regulatory approval.

### ***German retailers rationing sugar***

Some German retailers are limiting the amount of sugar that customers can buy to 4 kilogrammes per purchase due to a shortage, weekly magazine Focus reported, without citing sources.

***A \$A115 million bid was made on Friday by a Singapore company for the Proserpine sugar mill in north Queensland.***

Sucrogen already owns and operates seven sugar mills in Queensland producing almost half of Australia's raw sugar supply.

***Shop sued over sugar***

Philadelphia - A woman with diabetes has filed a lawsuit against a Dunkin' Donuts shop, claiming workers put real sugar instead of artificial sweetener in her coffee, sending her into diabetic shock.

***\$100m for sugar did not work: FSC CEO***

Fiji injected \$100 million to try and improve the sugar industry, but it did not work, says Fiji Sugar Corporation chief executive Abdul Khan.

***A golden age for Brazil ethanol? Not quite***

Yet, despite high prices for the biofuel and a massive expansion in the domestic fleet of cars that use it, Brazil's ethanol industry is struggling with stagnant investment, insufficient supply growth and a government that can't seem to figure out whether to treat it as a friend or a foe

***Kenya: Mumias Scoffs At Sh34 Million Sugar Claim***

Mumias Sugar yesterday dismissed claims by a Ugandan minister that Sh34 million sugar which has been lying at the port of Mombasa belonged to him.

***Amalgamated Sugar hopes new venture sweetens sales***

Amalgamated Sugar Co. hopes to position itself to take advantage of new marketing opportunities through a new joint venture with a France-based sugar trading company.

***De Lacy joins board of Chinese company bidding for Tully Sugar***

The chairman of Cubbie station, the largest irrigation property in Australia, has joined the board of COFCO, one of the companies vying for control of the Tully Sugar mill in north Queensland.

***\$115million bid for mill***

THE jury is out as to whether the Proserpine Sugar Mill will be sold to Singapore owned company Sucrogen for \$115m.

### ***Czarnikow sees high sugar surplus in 2011/12***

CZARNIKOW has forecast a global sugar surplus of 10.3m tonnes in 2011/12, as growers increase plantings to take advantage of high prices, after a small deficit of 0.5m tonnes in 2010/11.

### ***Brazilian Government Investing \$22 Billion in Sugarcane and Ethanol Production***

Brazil's government unveiled new financing and other incentives for sugarcane ethanol production on Monday, vowing to work closely with the private sector to boost production in an industry that has struggled recently despite its immense promise.

### ***EC defends flash boosts to sugar quotas***

The European Commission has defended its decision to release thousands of tonnes of sugar on to the market after accusations that the move would have a detrimental impact on the yeast industry.

### ***75 Queenslanders awarded on honours list***

A leading figure in the state's sugar industry is among 75 Queenslanders who received Queen's birthday honours today.

### ***Zimbabwe: Sugar Production Outlook Sweet for Tongaat Hulett***

Tongaath Hulett Hippo Valley Estates sees sugar production up in the 2011/12 season to between 360 000 and 380 000 tonnes helped by improved cane age and yields on a similar number of hectares harvested.

### ***Kenya permits investors to sugar firms***

NAIROBI: Kenya has published laws that allow strategic investors to take up at least a 51 percent stake in the five state-run sugar millers that are scheduled for sale, the ministry of agriculture's top official said on Friday.

### ***Bitter clauses in Sugar Bill***

NAIROBI, Kenya, June 10- As the country continues to mull reforms that will address the challenges in the sugar sector, industry players have acknowledged that the current Sugar Bill will have to be revised before it is presented in Parliament for debate and approval.

### ***Mumias to produce vitamin A fortified sugar to boost health***

Mumias Sugar Company has launched a new sugar variety, as it moves to strengthen its market footprint in the sector.

### ***Cane area seen rising to depress sugar price***

India's sugar cane acreage is likely to rise in 2011-12 as farmers are still finding the crop remunerative over competing crops, raising hopes the world's biggest sugar consumer will have a surplus for the second straight year beginning October.

### ***Sugar barge finally raised after 13 days of havoc***

AYUTTHAYA : A sunken sugar barge that created an environmental disaster on the Chao Phraya River was finally raised and towed away yesterday, 13 days after it sank.

### ***Positive outlook for sugar production***

SUGAR exports fell by 58 per cent on an annual basis in 2010 - but sugar exports are expected to rise by 32 per cent in 2011 on account of an increase in sugar production, says Reserve Bank of Fiji Governor Barry Whiteside.

### ***Stabroek Business spread on GuySuCo exuded nuanced flavour of a press release'***

There are in this community a significant number of former employees whose cumulative institutional memory (and current intelligence) of the sugar industry would total easily over 600 years, a good proportion of which would be at the highest decision-making level in the organisation preceding, and since, GuySuCo.

### ***Putting the foot on the pedal***

GuySuCo's quest to lift the sugar industry out of its present condition has pushed the management of the company towards deeper introspection. Revisiting its auditing structures and procedures has been an integral part of that process. In this second and final part of the series of interviews with key functionaries of the company, Stabroek Business speaks with Chairman of the Audit Committee Geeta Singh-Knight. In the remaining parts of this series Stabroek Business will be publishing extended interviews with Chairman of the Company's Central Tender Committee Keith Burrowes and Minister of Agriculture Robert Persaud.

### ***Stagnation and decline: Guyana's sugar woes***

In last week's column I presented some background information showing both the robust performance of the global sugar and sweeteners industry over the past several decades, and describing the broad outlines of the prevailing structure for marketing sugar globally. That information is intended to preface my examination of the

contrasting stagnation and decline that has occurred in Guyana's sugar industry over the same period of time.

### ***Guyana should be made attractive for private investment***

What follows below is an adapted version of the editorial I wrote for the Guyanese Online Newsletter for June 2011.

### ***Sugar industry still wasting energy***

VietNamNet Bridge In the countries where the sugar industry develops well, byproducts can bring the values even higher than main products and help ease the sugar production costs. However, this does not happen in Vietnam, even though Vietnam's sugar industry has been developing for 20 years.

### ***Sunken sugar barge refloated***

The sugar barge that sank into the Chao Phraya River in Ayutthaya province on May 31 was successfully salvaged on Sunday after 12 days in the water.

### ***Zimbabwe: StarAfrica Share Plunges***

STARAFRICA Corporation's share price plunged 85,7 percent since the beginning of the year to trade at US1c, its lowest since dollarisation.

### ***Sugar lying in open damaged in Maharashtra***

An estimated 1.5 million tonnes of sugar worth around Rs 4,500 crore is lying in open space in Maharashtra due to lack of covered storage. Owing to the incessant rain, the stock is liable to spoilage due to high moisture.

### ***Sugar mills to lobby hard for decontrol, exports***

Faced with mounting costs and unfriendly government policies on pricing, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (Isma) intends to get the industry to lobby hard on two major issues before the next season begins in October decontrol and exports of at least 1.5 million tonnes (mt) by then.

### ***Govt issues export release orders for 3.97 lakh tonne of sugar***

New Delhi, Jun 14 (PTI) The Food Ministry has issued export orders for 3.97 lakh tonnes of sugar to mills so far, out of the total quantity of 5 lakh tonnes that the government had allowed for overseas shipments.

### ***Police find 185kg sugar hidden in Bundaberg bedrooms***

A sweet-toothed crook who took 185kg of sugar from his workplace and stashed it around his house has been ordered to complete 100 hours of community service.

### ***Dr Luisa Dillner's guide to . . . sugar***

Sugar is hard to resist and our consumption of it has increased relentlessly. Last week, research from the Universities of Bristol and Bangor, published in the journal *Appetite*, showed that drinking two sugary drinks a day makes us crave even sweeter food and drink.

### ***Kenya: Mumias Launches Vitamin a Sugar to Boost Nutrition***

Mumias Sugar Company has launched a new brand of sugar fortified with Vitamin A. The new sugar brand joins edible and cooking oils as among the foods fortified with Vitamin A in Kenya.

### ***Traffic snarls as truck with sugar overturns***

HARRISON COUNTY -- Traffic remains snarled at Canal Road near Interstate 10 as emergency crews unload hundreds of pounds of sugar from a truck that overturned near the Canal Road exit around 2 p.m.

### ***Green fields: USDA testing climate credits with Iowa, Illinois farmers***

With the Obama administration looking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Agriculture Department is trying to perfect methods for farmers and landowners to get paid for emission-saving practices.

### ***Guv calls to mechanize sugar industry***

NEGROS Occidental Alfredo Maraon Jr. said it is high time that the sugar industry's research efforts should focus on possible mechanization rather than solely on sugar varieties.

### ***Guysuco urges workers to maximize production***

The Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) is appealing to workers for their continued cooperation to maximize sugar production, in light of the current wet weather. A release from the corporation says harvesting at Skeldon has been ruled out, due to its dependence on mechanization.

### ***Malayan Sugar hits the sweet spot, but HK IPOs still sour***

Malayan Sugar Manufacturing got huge demand for its M\$821m (\$270m) IPO on Wednesday, drawing shock and envy from Hong Kong bankers hoping to close their own deals...

### ***Sugar beet growers offered price of 27.53/t***

Sugar beet growers have been offered a contract price of 27.53/t for the 2012 crop, as part of a number of changes announced by British Sugar's managing director Gino De Jaegher at Cereals 2011.

### ***Coke boycott rally set June 22***

VARIOUS groups of sugar planters, agrarian reform beneficiaries, labor unions and non-government organizations under the umbrella of Sugar Watch will launch with a big rally, protesting and calling to boycott Coca-Cola products on June 22.

### ***Sugar industry hit hard by imposition of VAT***

The sugar industries in Orissa are finding it hard to sell their products due to the recent imposition of value added tax (VAT) on sugar at the rate of four percent. There are six sugar industries in the state at Aska, Dhenkanal, Bargarh, Bolangir, Nayagarh and Badamba.

### ***Lord Sugar criticised for 'engineers can't run businesses' comment***

Speaking in the latest episode of BBC One programme, the peer made the comment as he fired Glenn Ward, a design engineer from Hertfordshire. Making the decision after the candidates were tasked with launching a free magazine, Lord Sugar said: "I have never yet come across an engineer who can turn his hands to business."

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***Kenya: Lobby Cautious Over Fortified Sugar***

Nairobi A consumer lobby group has cautiously welcomed the production of sugar fortified with Vitamin A but said more information should be made public.

***Lord Sugar should be sweet on engineers***

Lord Sugar's comments on The Apprentice do reflect the depressing truth that engineers and engineering are undervalued in the UK

***PHL to ship 100,000 MT sugar to global market***

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) on Thursday bared plans to export at least 100,000 metric tons (MT) of sugar to the world market before the crop year ends next August 31.

***Sugar exporters switch to Laem Chabang due to Bangkok congestion***

Congestion in Thai ports and problems with river transportation forced trading houses to find alternative routes to ship sugar, allaying fears of a build-up in stocks as domestic output hits record this year, industry sources said.

***Mackay Sugar 'locked out' of formal takeover talks***

The chairman of Mackay Sugar says the company has been "locked out" of entering formal takeover discussions with Proserpine Sugar in north Queensland.

***Blackleg strikes sugar beet crops***

BLACKLEG infection has been identified in sugar beet plants sent into the Broom's Barn plant clinic.

### ***Salvaging Sugar Fighting inefficiencies, irregularities in the procurement process***

Last year, the Guyana Sugar Corporation's (GuySuCo) total spending on the acquisition of capital and current goods and services was more than \$20 billion; a remarkable statistic for a company immersed in debt and battling for at least the last five years to produce enough sugar simply to bring its operations to a break-even point.

### ***Unstable industrial relations regime threatening sugar production target***

Efforts by the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuCo) to reach out to workers in its quest to push its aggressive first crop drive towards its highest production level in eight years continues to be hampered by excessive industrial action according to a release issued on June 9, by the corporation. GuySuCo says the unstable industrial relations situation in the industry persists despite the fact that managers at all levels of the industry have sought to address workers' concerns and that the trend remains a significant hindrance to production.

### ***Pacete: Mechanized sugar industry***

WE ALL find denouement to the ailing sugar industry. So far, this is the only industry that we are best at. Our ancestors flattened the mounds and cultivated the swampy areas. Sacadas' from Antique, Iloilo, Negros Oriental, Capiz and Bohol worked side by side with our dumaans' in converting cogonal lands to productive sugarcane fields. This was sometime in 1940, before the Second World War broke out.

### ***Bicycles new sign of status in Mozambique***

QUELIMANE, Mozambique (AFP) A bundle of sugar cane juts from the back of a bicycle that artfully weaves through hundreds of other cyclists, whose numbers have grown along with the economy of Mozambique.

### ***Sugar production expected to increase by over 60,000 tons***

The Sugar production this year is expected to increase by more than 60,000 tons.

### ***Summer rum drinks have a long history***

If you find yourself either pool- or seaside this summer with a rum punch or pia colada in your hand, you'll be holding a little history.

### ***Guyana sugar: How do we measure stagnation and decline?***

The detailed figures presented in last Sunday's column on Guyana's sugar production for the years 1961 to 2010 (on the basis of 3-year averages) and the accompanying chart reveal three notable features. The first of these is that sugar production had peaked during the period 1961 to 1972. Thus for three of the 3-year average periods (1961-63; 1967-69 and 1970-72) sugar production exceeded 305,000 metric tons

(tonnes). The second feature is that between 1997 and 1999 output fell to its lowest level at 153,000 tonnes or approximately one-half the level attained at peak output. The third feature is that after substantially regaining high output levels in the period 2002 to 2005, there was a consistent decline in production after 2005. Thus for the five years (2006-2010) sugar production only averaged 241,000 tonnes; this was about 50,000 tonnes below the average production for the years 2003-05.

#### ***Bacaoco: Sugar industry mechanization***

This came from a research paper 'Land Use Dynamics and Sugarcane Production' by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis. I am not familiar with this think tank but they use Food and Agricultural Organization (a UN agency) statistics

#### ***Upgrade for 149 cane roads***

THE Government has upgraded 149 cane access roads in Lautoka during the first quarter at an estimated \$47,000.

#### ***Guysuco to release Enmore Packaging Plant's records; Ram nixes latest offer***

Badgered about the wisdom of constructing the US\$12.5 million Enmore Packaging Plant, government on Sunday announced that it would make public all the financial records of the project on the website of the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuco).

#### ***Indonesia's Sugar Crisis Presents a Sticky Situation for Importers***

Indonesia's sugar production is predicted to meet only 50 percent of domestic demand, including demand from food and beverage industries, so imports will be necessary to cover the balance.

#### ***Kenya: Kisumu Cane Growing Programme Launched***

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Uganda's three biggest sugar producers boosted output by 20 percent in the first four months of this year as plantings increased, the Uganda Sugar Cane Technologists Association said.

### ***Financial crisis for sugar mills***

Unable to repay working capital loans due to a fall in prices, many small and medium ones to face problems in the coming season.

### ***Company steps up sugar shipment plan***

Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL) says it has designed an aggressive shipping schedule to get product to its customers as soon as possible.

### ***Bicycles new sign of status in Mozambique***

QUELIMANE, Mozambique (AFP) A bundle of sugar cane juts from the back of a bicycle that artfully weaves through hundreds of other cyclists, whose numbers have grown along with the economy of Mozambique.

### ***Sugar production expected to increase by over 60,000 tons***

The Sugar production this year is expected to increase by more than 60,000 tons.

### ***Summer rum drinks have a long history***

If you find yourself either pool- or seaside this summer with a rum punch or pia colada in your hand, you'll be holding a little history.

### ***Guyana sugar: How do we measure stagnation and decline?***

The detailed figures presented in last Sunday's column on Guyana's sugar production for the years 1961 to 2010 (on the basis of 3-year averages) and the accompanying chart reveal three notable features. The first of these is that sugar production had peaked during the period 1961 to 1972. Thus for three of the 3-year average periods (1961-63; 1967-69 and 1970-72) sugar production exceeded 305,000 metric tons (tonnes). The second feature is that between 1997 and 1999 output fell to its lowest level at 153,000 tonnes or approximately one-half the level attained at peak output. The third feature is that after substantially regaining high output levels in the period 2002 to 2005, there was a consistent decline in production after 2005. Thus for the five years (2006-2010) sugar production only averaged 241,000 tonnes; this was about 50,000 tonnes below the average production for the years 2003-05.

### ***Bacaoco: Sugar industry mechanization***

This came from a research paper 'Land Use Dynamics and Sugarcane Production' by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis. I am not familiar with this think tank but they use Food and Agricultural Organization (a UN agency) statistics

### ***Upgrade for 149 cane roads***

THE Government has upgraded 149 cane access roads in Lautoka during the first quarter at an estimated \$47,000.

### ***Guysuco to release Enmore Packaging Plant's records; Ram nixes latest offer***

Badgered about the wisdom of constructing the US\$12.5 million Enmore Packaging Plant, government on Sunday announced that it would make public all the financial records of the project on the website of the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GuySuco).

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Indonesia's sugar production is predicted to meet only 50 percent of domestic demand, including demand from food and beverage industries, so imports will be necessary to cover the balance.

### ***US raises India's sugar import quota***

In a bid to ease a supply shortage of sugar amid surging retail prices, the US has boosted its import quota for raw sugar by 120,000 tonnes including 1,421 tonnes from India.

With the addition of 120,000 tonnes to the tariff-rate quota (TRQ) for the 2011 fiscal year ending Sep 30, the quota now totals 1.676 million tonnes, the US Department of Agriculture said Wednesday.

### ***Sweet as: Sugar doesn't make you fat***

HOLEY donut, Batman! Could it be that having two sugars with your cup of tea or hoeing into that after-dinner cupcake won't make you fat? Praise the sugar gods!

### ***Govt in a fix as Pawar mounts pressure for sugar exports***

The government is in a quandary as agriculture minister Sharad Pawar is mounting increasing pressure to open up sugar exports at a time when headline inflation is ruling at over nine per cent.

### ***Sugar merger 'misleading' for growers***

Proserpine Sugar says Mackay Sugar in north Queensland is misleading growers about their proposed merger

### ***Sugar fix***

THE State is focussed on getting rid of dirty politics in the sugar industry. And it will keep a tab on unions, to ensure farmers get the assistance they deserve.

### ***Sugar production up by 20 per cent***

Uganda is on course to achieve sugar production of 350,000 metric tonnes in 2011, compared with 292,000 tonnes realised last year.

### ***Sugar Harvest and Commitment***

The workers from the Sugar Enterprise Boris Luis Santacoloma, from Madruga municipality, are immersed in the preparations of the next sugar harvest with the commitment to fulfil the agreements of the VI Congress of the Cuban Communist Party (PCC) in relation to the economic activity.

### ***Sugar industry stakeholders sign MOU***

A Memorandum of Understanding on the sugar cane replanting programme was signed this morning before the Sugar Industry Tribunal in Lautoka - by all sugar industry stakeholders.

### ***5,000 planters, workers stage rally vs Coke***

AROUND 5,000 workers and planters yesterday joined the rally staged in front of the Coca-Cola Plant in Barangay Mansilingan and then at the Bacolod City Public Plaza for their call to boycott the company's products.

### ***FinMin mulling sugar import duty at 15%, additional 4% ad vaLorem***

The finance ministry is reviewing the import duty on sugar, which is currently under a duty-free regime.

### ***Cameroon: Promotional Sale Of Sugar Underway***

Sugar, a basic food item consumed in various forms in households, is once more becoming increasingly available in the main markets of Yaounde. In collaboration with major importers and wholesalers, the Ministry of Trade launched a promotional sale campaign for sugar yesterday June 20.

### ***Sugar-based chemicals book chapter by NJIT professor takes ACS kudos***

NJIT Research Professor Mike Jaffe's recent book chapter about sugar-based chemicals is topping the American Chemical Society (ACS) book series' must-read list. "Sugar-Based Chemicals for Environmentally Sustainable Applications" appeared in the most recent ACS Symposium Series <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/bk-2010-1061.ch001> and is racking up kudos. Co-authors were Xianhong Feng, a doctoral student and research professors A. J. East and W. Hammond, all at NJIT.

### ***Bundy cane sugar content high***

THE SUGAR content of early harvested cane stalks in the Bundaberg region has been higher than expected.

### ***Sweet news for environment as sustainable sugar comes to market***

Related links Bonsucro Reducing impacts: Sugar cane Sao Paulo, Brazil: A mill in Sao Paulo, Brazil has become the first to have its sugar cane production certified under the new Bonsucro sustainability standard.

### ***State backs RSL farm plan***

GOVERNMENT lauded the launch of a joint venture partnership between the Retired Servicemen's League Western Division and Mid West Tractors Limited which will see the development of 1463 hectares of land between Nadi and Lautoka for sugarcane farming.

### ***Increased sugar production signals hope for industry***

Data released by the Sugar Industry Authority (SIA) daily factory operations report for June 16, 2011, have revealed that there has been increase in sugar production. According to the figures, a combined 134,507 tonnes of the sweetener were churned out across five of the seven estates during the 2010-11 crop.

### ***Unable to tame inflation, govt curtails price flexibility***

The sugar industry has been a lot in news lately. On Friday, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) issued notices to 50 sugar traders on the basis of the investigation made by Director General of Investigation (DGI) for forming a pricing cartel.

### ***Sugar Alcohol Production Capacity Increasing Steadily in China***

Guangzhou, Guangdong -- (SBWIRE) -- 06/21/2011 -- Sugar alcohol industry has been witnessed uptrend in the past decades. Therefore, some producers intend to expand the production capacity of sugar alcohol in the next few years. The output volume of sugar alcohol is increasing steadily in China.

### ***Not so sweet year for Florida sugar cane growers Read more:***

<http://www.cbs12.com/articles/cane-4733274-sugar-lake.html#ixzz1Pz28e8Hb>

PALM BEACH COUNTY, Fla. -- The severe drought is taking a toll on Palm Beach County's sugar cane crops.

### ***Kenya: Kisumu Cane Growing Programme Launched***

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Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL) says it has designed an aggressive shipping schedule to get product to its customers as soon as possible.

### ***EU on track to okay sugar exports if well-supplied***

The EU is on track to approve some 700,000 tonnes of sugar exports if the EU market is well supplied, Lars Hoelgaard, deputy director general, agriculture and rural development , of the EU Commission, said on Thursday.

### ***Swaziland: Living On the Coke Side of Life***

Coca-Cola is one of the largest and wealthiest companies in the world, as well as being one of the world's best-known brands. The desperate situation of the poverty-stricken workers in the sugar cane fields in Swaziland, who harvest the sugar cane that is the most important ingredient of African Coke, on the other hand, is a well kept secret

### ***India's higher food inflation may restrict further sugar exports***

NEW DELHI: Global sugar markets may have to wait until November to see if they will get any further supplies from India, as the government of the world's second-biggest producer waits to check next season's output before allowing more exports.

### ***Save sugar industry***

Leaders of Sugar Watch yesterday submitted a position paper to Sugar Regulatory Administration chief Ma. Regina Bautista Martin calling for action to save the sugar industry.

### ***Record sugarcane crushing this year***

This year, sugar factories in the state have crushed 801 lakh metric tonnes of sugarcane, producing 904 lakh quintals of sugar, the highest in the history of the sugar industry in Maharashtra, said State Cooperation Minister Harshvardhan Patil here on Friday.

### ***Sugarcane season 'off to a good start'***

CRUSHING began at the Broadwater sugar mill last week, with about 260 tonnes of sugarcane being crushed every hour around the clock.

### ***Sugar leaders told: Prepare for zero tariff***

GOVERNOR Alfredo Maraon Jr. said sugar industry leaders and stakeholders should start preparing for the challenges ahead when zero-tariff for foreign sugar producers will be implemented in 2015.

### ***Zubiri seeks Senate probe of sugar premix***

Senator Juan Miguel Migz Zubiri yesterday said he has filed Senate Resolution 517 seeking an investigation on the reported technical smuggling of sugar resulting to losses in government revenues and a possible collapse of the local sugar industry.

### ***Tanzania hosts sugar conference***

The Tanzania Sugarcane Growers Association (TASGA) Chairman Dr George Mlingwa told reporters last week that over 100 delegates are expected to attend the historic gathering in Dar es Salaam . "Tanzania expert will contribute to developments in sugar production, policies, sustainability practices, plus cane and tropical beet research," Dr Mlingwa said.

### ***Michigan's sugar beet growers in fight against 'corn sugar'***

Its beets and cane versus corn, with a lawsuit recently filed after Archer Daniels Midland and Cargill started rebranding high-fructose corn syrup as a more healthy-sounding "corn sugar."

### ***Kenya: State to Help Cane Farmers Buy Sugar Firms - Nyagah***

Cane farmers have been assured of a 30 percent stake in all state owned sugar companies when they are put up for sale. Co-operative development Minister Joe Nyagah said farmers co-operatives will be facilitated through a government fund to buy shares on behalf of farmers and the amount recovered from the earnings accrued from their cane deliveries.

### ***Ethiopia: Omo Kuraz Sugar Factories Project Kicks Off***

The first phase of Omo Kuraz Sugar Factories Project kicked off in South Omo Zone, Southern Regional State, earlier this month with the preparation of the land earmarked for the sites of the future factories and plantations

### ***FSC welcomes move by govt***

The Chairman of the Fiji Sugar Corporation Abdul Khan has welcomed the move by the Government to create a Sugar Ministry in Lautoka as part of its efforts to revitalize the sugar industry.

### ***Fiji revamp creates sugar ministry***

The Fiji Sugar Ministry has been made into a stand-alone ministry amid efforts to reform and revitalise the industry.

### ***Sugar ministry created for Lautoka***

THE Government has decided to create a dedicated Ministry of Sugar to be based in Lautoka, as part of its efforts to revitalise the sugar industry.

### ***MSF quits sugar contracts as far northern mills decide to go it alone***

One of the State's most northern milling groups has announced it will stop selling sugar through Queensland Sugar Limited from 2014.

### ***Kenya: Sugar Board Hopefuls Up in Arms Over Papers***

Aspirants for the Kenya Sugar Board elections are up in arms following lack of nomination forms for the looming elections. The candidates have taken the Ministry of Agriculture and the Kenya Sugar Board to task claiming the missing forms could be a ploy to bar some out of the polls of them out of the elections scheduled for July 12.

### ***Kenya: Nzoia Outgrowers Changes Its Name***

The annual general meeting for the embattled Nzoia Outgrowers Company was at the weekend held despite a group of farmers going to court to have it canceled. The meeting that was held at the Mabanga Farmers Training Institute saw the farmers change the company to Nzoia Outgrowers Limited Mpya " with the new company taking all the assets and liabilities of the previous one.

### ***Zimbabwe: Hippo Valley Exceeds Milling Target***

Tongaat Hulett, South Africa's largest sugar producer says the re-establishment of cane supply and milling capacity utilisation at its Zimbabwean unit, Hippo Valley Estates, which began last year, has continued with "more normal economic fundamentals relevant to a sugar business".

### ***Sugar Ministry moves to the West***

Fiji's Sugar ministry will be located in West as part of governments' efforts to revitalize the Sugar industry.

### ***LHC refuses tax relief for Sharifs sugar mills***

LAHORE A Division Bench of the Lahore High Court on Monday dismissed as many as 16 petitions filed on behalf of the sugar mills owned by the Sharif family and others against the levy of special excise duty on their income on the commodity.

### ***LHC dismisses appeals against recovery of duty from sugar mills***

LAHORE: A division bench of the Lahore High Court (LHC) comprising Justice Umar Ata Bandial and Justice Asad Munir on Monday dismissed 16 inter-court appeals challenging the recovery of special excise duty from different sugar mills including three owned by Sharif family.

### ***Mauritius sugar producers get 11% price increase***

MAURITIUS' Sugar Syndicate said on Monday producers would be paid Rs15,000 (\$526.3) per tonne of sugar this year as the Indian Ocean island shifts to exporting refined sugar.

### ***Caned by nature***

With disasters ravaging the local industry, sugar producers are being forced to seek help from foreign suppliers, writes David Sutherland.

### ***COFCO secures 26% of Tully Sugar***

Chinese grains marketer and food manufacturer COFCO has secured a stake of more than 25 per cent in Queensland canegrowers cooperative and sugar miller Tully Sugar.

### ***Chinese grains marketer COFCO buys stake in Queensland grower Tully Sugar***

CHINESE grains marketer COFCO has secured a stake of more than 25 per cent in Queensland sugar miller Tully Sugar.

### ***SUGAR CANE CROP SEASON ENDS***

The 2010-2011 sugar cane crop ended over the weekend. According to Belize Sugar Industry's factory Manager at Tower Hill John Gillett there was a shortfall in the amount of cane that was expected; but the factory was firing on all cylinders.

### ***Guv willing to mediate between Sugar Watch, Coke***

NEGROS Occidental Governor Alfredo Maranon said he is willing to mediate between Coke and Sugar Watch, in line with the issue of premix importation that affects the sugar industry

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## ETHANOL

### ***The ethanol imperative***

India's ethanol blending programme (EBP) for petrol has remained in limbo for too long. The government mandated 5 per cent blending in September 2006; raised the level to 10 per cent in October 2007; and made such blending compulsory in October 2008. Further, in 2008, the Cabinet approved the National Policy on Biofuel, which envisaged blending of biofuels with petrol and diesel to a level of 20 per cent by 2017. Yet, owing to conflicting views among the Ministries of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Agriculture, and Petroleum and Natural Gas, and the reluctance of some State governments to require sugar units to make available adequate quantities of ethanol for the fuel industry given the more lucrative options offered by the liquor industry the oil marketing companies have failed to achieve even 5 per cent blending countrywide.

### ***UP mills vexed as govt bars ethanol transport***

Uttar Pradesh sugar mills are in financial trouble as the state government stops permission to transport ethanol/molasses, their top revenue earner after sugar, out of mill compound. The state government had wanted to impose a cess but when the high court overruled it, the government stopped issuing transportation permits.

Mills are now burdened with large stocks and overflowing tanks, while customers; especially the oil companies that blend ethanol with petrol, watch haplessly. Uttar Pradesh sugar mills have contracted to supply 26 crore litres of ethanol of which 9.5

crore litres has been shipped till now. With permits no longer being issued, millers cannot complete the contract and are about to lose their bank guarantees.

Owners of a few private mills said some mills were recently raided at the behest of a liquor lobby. Liquor is a big revenue earner for the state. Mill owners said such raids would ensure there is a steady supply of molasses at cheaper rates for producing potable alcohol. The 5% mandatory ethanol blending program not only saves foreign exchange but is also seen as beneficial to cane farmers.

The ethanol-blending program has been conceived to increase the use of environment-friendly ethanol and it directly benefits farmers following a union government directive in 2010 that ethanol can only be produced from domestic molasses alone. But Uttar Pradesh, the second largest producer of ethanol in the country, has stopped issuing permits for the transport of ethanol to neighbouring states.

### ***Three Maharashtra sugar co-operatives blend ethanol in diesel on pilot basis***

Three cooperative sugar mills in Maharashtra have started blending ethanol in diesel on pilot basis. "We are acquired permission of the central government for this pilot project. We have started blending ethanol in diesel in vehicles used for our sugar mills," said Vijaysinh Mohit Patil, president of All India Ethanol Manufacturers' Association and president, Maharashtra Cooperative Sugar Factories Federation.