

## Wheat

1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2006

### MAJOR ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

- NCDEX Wheat Futures Remained Strong During This Week
- Wheat Prices Soared at the Spot Market from Lower Level
- Govt Considering Cut in Wheat Import Duties

### Technical Analysis

**Exchange:** NCDEX

**Perspective:** Short Term (Weekly)

**Contract:** June (Future)

NCDEX wheat futures showing a positive undertone following a sharp downfall at the ahead of this week due to the news of reduction on import duty for the private traders but the market bounced back to firm position on strong spot market price and speculative buying at this weekend. Most active June contracts soared from Rs.890 to Rs.924.8 and touched Rs.925.6, which was highest in this week and traded in between Rs.887.20-925.60. Volume as well as open interest is increasing.

All of the indicators like Candlesticks, RSI, Stochastic, MACD and MA are hinting to bullish sentiment of wheat prices.

#### Outlook:

The wheat futures at the NCDEX are expected to remain bullish early in the next week. However, slight bearish undertone might be possible during the later half of the coming week.

#### Advice:

Buy at lower level for short-term (2-3 days) trading.



#### Support and Resistance Levels:

Contract	Support Level		Resistance Level	
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
June Contract	917.5	909.5	935.5	945.6

### MARKET FUNDAMENTALS:

The bullish undertone for wheat prices is witnessed at the domestic spot market during this week though the prices declined much more at the ahead of this week due to the news of reduction on import duty for the private traders therefore the prices decreased by Rs.40-50/qtl at most of the pockets. But the sentiment rebounded to bullish afterwards and the prices recovered early losses. The lower stock as well as poor procurement to the government also encouraged the prices to up. According to the big traders, the wheat industry does not expect to get subsidized wheat from the government stocks and was, therefore, stocking up to meet their requirements. The various companies like ITC, Adani, Shaktibhog etc. are most active in the market to picking up the wheat from the farmers at higher price than MSP. Wheat dara mill quality quoted up at Rs.850-855/qtl with average arrival of 14000-16000 bags at the Lawrence road in Delhi, while totalled arrival witnessed at around 1.0-1.25 lakh bags at this state. The prices

remained firm at Kasgang, Ettah and Unnao mandis of Uttar Pradesh and wheat is offering at Rs.775-790/qtl with average arrival of 2000-3000 bags. The arrival remained poor in U.P. and M.P. for marriage occasion at this time. The prices are also spiralling in Punjab, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh mandis.

#### Prices of Wheat Products in Delhi (in Rs.)

Wheat Products	29.04.06	6.05.06
Atta (90kg)	906	866
Maida Grade 1(90kg)	1071	1040
Suji (50kg)	590	573
Chokar (50 kg)	301	308
Chokar (35 kg)	187	188
Chakki Atta (90kg)	810	810

**Spot Market Price For Wheat (In Rs./Quintal)**

Markets	29.04.06	6.05.06
Delhi (Lawrence Road)	820-825	850-855
Haryana (Karnal)	805-810	835-840
Punjab (Khanna)	830-835	827-832
Punjab (Sunam)	-	710-715
Ludhiana (Jagraon)	700-705	720-725
Ahmedabad	900-905	920-925
Rajkot	-	860-870
Rajasthan (Kota)	903-910	950-955
Uttar Pradesh (Kanpur)	810-815	885-890
Uttar Pradesh (Bareilly)	870-873	840-845
Maharashtra (Jalgaon)	920-925	960-970
Madhya Pradesh (Indore)	-	920-930
Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal)	-	865-875

**INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC NEWS:****Loading of Australian Wheat Waiting in the Dock**

The second cargo of 41,000 tonnes of wheat is expecting to wait for unloading at the Tuticorin port however the controversy has rocked against the first consignment of import. The controversy was about the high levels pesticide residue in the Australian wheat. Laboratory tests on the samples drawn from the cargo on Tuesday revealed more than the permissible pesticide content. According to sources, the results showed the pesticide content was 0.25 per cent, hundred times over the permissible limit of 0.02 per cent. The Central Food Technological Research Institute in Mysore would test the samples for finalization of the report. According to a source, the Customs would not clear the cargo until the test reports cleared the wheat. The nearly 51,000 tonnes of foodgrain was the first consignment of the five-lakh tonnes of Australian duty-free wheat that India proposes to import. The first load is to be distributed under the public distribution system in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. The FCI and the regional plant quarantine station also drew samples when the cargo arrived.

**India Claims High Levels of Pesticide in Australian Wheat**

The imported wheat is investigating by the Indian authorities to test the high levels of pesticide. The cargo of Australian wheat was shipped from Adelaide. The customs officials in Chennai are functioning further tests on 51,000 tonnes of wheat. India's State Trading Corporation imported the grain from the Australian wheat exporter AWB. According to the AWB's spokesman, Peter McBride, the company is concerned about the shipment and is waiting for the results. Therefore a delegation from AWB Ltd is also investing against these claims, according to him.

**World Market: Enough Wheat to Meet India's Demand**

According to source, it is witnessing that the world market has enough wheat to meet India's extra demand this

season. However overall wheat production is down, the top five exporting nations of the world would have ample supplies to sell to China and India over the next few months. India is likely to float a new tender for 3 million tonnes (Mt) of wheat this week. According to the IGC forecast, world wheat trade will be 112 Mt this year, increasing by 2 Mt over the previous year, due to increased purchases by China and India. They also stated, supplies in the exporting countries are expected to be adequate to meet world import needs. World stocks at end '06-07 are forecast to fall by 16 Mt, to 119 Mt, including 45 Mt in the five major exporters it has stated in its latest report.

**Wheat: Govt. Procurement Likely to Strike 10-Year Low**

The decision of Rs.50/qlt bonus on wheat MSP has apparently come too late. Total procurement during the ongoing 2006-07 rabi marketing season is unexpected to cross 95 lakh tonnes (Lt), the lowest ever since the 1997-98 level of 92.98 Lt. Many farmers had sold wheat at Rs.655-675/qlt to the private buyers before the bonus announcement. They now feel cheated, as only those who supplied to government agencies are eligible to get Rs.700/qlt, inclusive of the Rs.50 bonus. As on May 1, the FCI and State agencies had procured 88.42 Lt of wheat out of the cumulative market arrivals of 118.40 Lt as compared to 133.30 Lt out of the 141.07 Lt of arrivals as on April 1- May 1 of last year. Off-mandi transactions this time are estimated at nothing less than 20 Lt. The poor timing of the bonus is evident from the fact that by April 21 (when it was announced), total procurement had already touched 75 Lt. However they have added only about 13 Lt after the declaring of bonus. With the season virtually over, procurement would just about hit 95 Lt, whereas it could have been 40-50 Lt higher had the bonus been announced 20 days earlier.

**FCI: Wheat Stocks of 9.13 Mt for April**

According to a source, Food Corporation of India (FCI) has a stock of 9.13 million tonne (Mt) wheat for April against the buffer norm of about 4 Mt. The maximum buffer stocking norm for the calendar year is 17.1 Mt. This level needs to be accomplished by July 1, 2006. The government has fixed the target of procuring 18.6 million wheat for the central pool in the current marketing season beginning April. Moreover, this target is not realistic, given the fact that in the previous year the central pool procured 14.8 Mt against a total wheat production of 72 million tonne. There is, however, some slackness in wheat procurement by the government agencies this year. Of the total market arrival of 11.5 million tonne wheat in April, government-designated agencies could procure only about 8 million tonne.

**CFTRI Clears Quality Tests of Australian Wheat**

The first consignment of imported wheat was not unloaded due to reported of high levels of pesticides beyond permissible limits, has been tested and cleared, port sources said. The samples sent to the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) at Mysore for testing and they had been cleared and returned, according to the source. According to an official, the pesticides have been found within permissible limits. Therefore the unloading would resume soon, once the Port Health Officer gave the clearance.

**Wheat Harvesting: Around 85-90%Completed**

According to the latest available weekly crop weather watch report by the Directorate of Wheat, the area coverage under wheat for the entire country is 268.928 lakh hectares, which is

102.38 percent of the normal area of the crop in the country. The coverage till 27<sup>th</sup> April is higher by 3.85 lakh hectares than the coverage in corresponding period of the previous year. The state-wise harvesting situation is given below:

**Punjab and Haryana:** About 70-85% crop has been harvested.

**Gujarat, West Bengal, M.P. and N.E. States:** Harvesting of wheat crop is almost completed.

**Maharashtra:** Almost rabi crops except late sown wheat are mostly harvested. The late wheat crop is under harvest phase.

**Rajasthan:** About 90% wheat crop has been harvested remaining 10% are left for harvest in Ganganagar District.

**U.P.:** 70-85% area under wheat crop has been harvested.

**Uttaranchal:** 80% area under wheat crop has been harvested in the state.

#### **Punjab: Estimated Wheat Production to 14.6 MMT**

According to the weather watch report by the Directorate of Wheat, the estimated production of wheat during rabi 2005-06 will be about 14.63 million metric tonnes (MMT). However, due to adverse weather conditions the production may decrease by 1-2%. As per advance estimates, the area under wheat during the season is 34.3 lakh ha. However the actual data is yet to be received from the revenue department of the state government. On the basis of 85% response under TRS, the estimated area under wheat is about 36.65 lakh ha. Loss is more pronounced on early sown crop. Major area in the state is under PBW343 variety and varieties fatigue is also contributing towards the loss in yield. The new variety PBW502 is giving better productivity under the similar conditions. Due to high velocity winds blowing in state for past 7-10 days, the moisture contents of the harvested crop is about 10% only which also contributes to the loss in yield as compared to the last year.

#### **Haryana: Wheat Output Likely to Down by 38 qtl/ha**

According to the weather watch report by the Directorate of Wheat, the estimated area under wheat crop is 23.08 lakh ha against the target of 22.00 lakh ha. As per initial estimates of the department a production of more than 40 quintal/ha with a total production of 92.4 lakh tonnes was anticipated. But continuous dry spell for five months coupled with unwarranted high temperature during month of February caused some damage to wheat crop. At that time it was anticipated that production might be decline to 38 quintal/ha with a total production of 86.03 lakh tonnes. Fortunately, widespread low to medium intensity of rains were received during first fortnight of March. Though these rains caused lodging in some pockets of the state yet saved the critical situation that arose because of abnormal temperature and long dry spell. The rains arrested the rising trend of temperature all over the state, which proved beneficial for the crop in totality. The crop was in dire need of irrigation at the time of grain formation /milking/dough stage and rains proved beneficial. The trend of temperature remained normal during 2nd fortnight of March. In view of the above facts, productivity of wheat is

now likely to be more, which is estimated at about 3830kg/ha with a total production of 88.47 lakh tonnes.

#### **FCI Likely to Receive Delivery of Australian Wheat**

The Government confirmed it on Tuesday that the first wheat consignment from Australia has been cleared for delivery to the Food Corporation of India's (FCI) godowns. The presence of Fenitrothion, a pesticide, in the imported wheat has been detected at 0.01 mg per kg, which is within a permissible limits at 0.02 mg per kg stipulated under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, according to the scientists at the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore, where the tests were done. The laboratory on Saturday were received the samples nearly one week later following the grain reached the port. It is possible that whatsoever residue present in the grain had dissipated. According to a Chennai Port Trust official, the samples usually to collect following the hatches would be kept open for a couple of hours for the pesticides to evaporate. But here the samples were collected immediately on opening the hatches. As a result, higher level of pesticide content was found, according to him. The port health office in its first report said there was a higher level of pesticides, but gave its concurrence for the cargo after taking further samples, he concluded.

#### **Private Buyers Purchased Over 3 MMT of Wheat**

The wheat industry and traders have already bought over 3 million tonne from the regular mandis, including about a million tonne in Punjab and about 7 lakh tonne in Haryana. In other wheat growing states, the private trade is mopping up almost all the stocks. Substantial quantities of wheat are reported to have been transacted outside the mandis (to save on taxes). The precise estimate of such trade is not available as it goes unrecorded. According to the big traders, the wheat industry does not expect to get subsidized wheat from the government stocks and was, therefore, stocking up to meet their requirements. The private trade was seldom so active in the wheat market in the past. However, the procurement season is not over yet as more than 2 lakh tonne of wheat is still coming to mandis every day.

#### **Second Imported Cargo of Wheat Arrived at Tuticorin Port**

The second shipment carrying 41,000 metric tonnes of wheat from Australia has reached at the south Indian port of Tuticorin on Wednesday, according to an official. State Trading Corp. Of India (STC), which is importing 5 lakh metric tonnes of wheat from Australia's AWB Ltd. at \$178.75 a ton, on cost and freight basis on behalf of the government. The first shipment of around 50,000 tons of wheat arrived last week and is currently being discharged at Chennai, another port in south India. The officials from the Plant Protection and Quarantine Department and Ministry of Health will inspect the new arrival of imported wheat at Tuticorin port. If it satisfies the quality standards then it would be discharged from the port.

#### **USDA Raised Wheat Import by India to 4.5 MMT**

United States Department of Agriculture has revised up its estimates on wheat import by India from 2-2.5 million tonne (MMT) of earlier estimation to 4.5 million tonne during 2006-07 (April-March). The main reason was significant decline in government wheat procurement till now and record low carryover stocks. Till Monday, the government had bought 8.91

million tonne wheat from farmers, down 34% from the year earlier. As of Monday, the country's buffer wheat stock was at 9.1 million tonne, down 39% from a year earlier.

#### **Govt.'s Procurement Stagnant to 20 Mt in M.P.**

According to the source, the procurement in Madhya Pradesh, one of the main wheat growing regions of central India, has been stagnant at just 20 tonne (Mt). Till May 1 last year, the government had procured 3,73,830 tonne wheat in Madhya Pradesh. Dealers said high open market prices are prompting farmers to sell wheat to private traders rather than the government. In Madhya Pradesh, the private traders are buying wheat at about Rs.825-835 per quintal, while the government's intervention price is only Rs.700/ql.

#### **Govt to Float Tender for 3 Mt of Wheat Within a Week**

According to the senior food ministry official, the government will float a tender for the import of 3 million tonnes (Mt) of wheat within a week. But the import of 500,000 tonnes of the wheat from Australia could not suppress the price at the domestic spot market. At the pick time of harvesting, the wheat prices were jumped by Rs.90-110/ql at the most of the pockets within a month. Therefore the government had decided to import another 30 lakh tonnes of wheat in the current year to replenish the stocks of the government and suppress the prices.

#### **U.P.: Now Barter System for Wheat Procurement**

District officials in Uttar Pradesh have initiated offering gun licenses to any farmer who sells FCI just 250 quintals wheat to meet procurement targets. But the farmers are not interesting at that time as the spot prices are continue to increase and paying much more than the cost of a gun license. With a target of 2,400 tonnes and just 157 tonnes in the bag yet, the district administration in Sitapur has offered an innovative incentive to local farmers and traders. Guns are traditional symbols of social status in western UP because of the difficulty and expense that goes in acquiring them. According to a senior official of Sitapur, initially the offer was that anyone who delivers 500 quintals will be offered a revolver, rifle or pistol license but anybody did not give a single application. Farmers told it would be possible if the quantity were halved to 250 quintals and they agreed that proposal. There is a price difference of anything between Rs 170-Rs 225 per quintal between FCI and open market prices.

#### **Haryana Received around 29 lakh tonnes of Wheat**

According to a source, the grain markets of Haryana have received around 29 lakh metric tonnes of wheat so far. The six government agencies have been procured around 22 lakh metric tonnes of wheat during the rabi season. Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Chander Mohan told that out of total procurement Hafed had bought 8.32 lakh metric tonnes of wheat, FCI 2.66 lakh metric tonnes, Food and Supplies Department 4.89 lakh metric tonnes, Haryana Warehousing Corporation 2.15 lakh metric tonnes, Haryana Agro Industries Corporation 2.36 lakh metric tonnes, and CONFED had procured 1.66 lakh metric tonnes. He also

concluded that the farmers were getting payment within 2-3 days. The wheat was procuring at the rate of Rs 650 per quintal besides Rs 50 per quintals was being given as bonus to the farmers.

#### **Ludhiana Shows Stable Sentiment for Wheat Market**

The wheat prices remained almost stable at the Ludhiana mandis due to moderate arrival and stable buying demand from the stockists as well as companies. Wheat dara mill quality offered stable at Rs.710-720/ql with average arrival of 8000-10000 bags today at the mandis. The prices are likely to stable in the coming days due to releasing stocks by the stockists at higher level.

#### **Wheat Prices Remains Marginally Up in South India**

Wheat prices are offering at higher side in Chennai and quoted at Rs.1025-1030/ql for mill quality today. The arrival remained slight weak. The most of the wheat is coming from Rajasthan by racks. The FCI is likely to sell wheat at this market, according to the market participants. The poor supply and good domestic demand is encouraging the prices to up in Bangalore market. Wheat prices are still traded above Rs.1000/ql and mill quality wheat fetched Rs.1030-1040/ql at the major mandis today. Monthly 10-12 racks are loading from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. The government did not release wheat and market prices are much more than that of government's selling prices of Rs.945-950/ql, according to the traders.

#### **Pakistan Eyeing on Export Wheat to India**

Pakistani traders are keeping watchful eyes on government's green signal to export wheat to India this year from the country's surplus stocks. According to the traders, they could explore the possibility of exporting wheat to India, Afghanistan and the Middle East in spite of globally soft prices, if the government resumes its export refund policy. According to an exporter, if the government gives green signal then they can export over 1 million tonnes of wheat to India. He also concluded that, they need subsidies on export, as their prices would be \$185 to \$200 per tonne, which are higher than the world market. Pakistan has a surplus of 2 million-2.5 million tonnes, in this current year.

#### **Wheat: Brisk Buying by MNCs in M.P.**

In Madhya Pradesh, the farmers in Hoshangabad, Harda and surrounding districts are getting good remunerative prices for their produce from the big companies as they are offering higher rate than the MSP of wheat with Rs.50/ql as bonus. Multinational companies' (MNCs) aggressive buying has made wheat in the region dearer by as high as Rs.900/ql. And purchase is going on at a brisk pace. Representatives of Cargill India, ITC, Hindustan Levers Limited, AgroTech Foods, Australian Wheat Board and Adani Exports etc are more active into State mandis with attractive offers to farmers. The companies are purchasing Sharbati, Durrum, Lokvan, WH147 and Sujata 306 varieties from Harda, Itarsi, Pipariya, Vidisha, Hoshangabad, Sehore and Raisen. According to the traders, the companies are buying wheat worth Rs. 20 to 25 lakh daily and are likely to buy about three lakh tons.

#### **India: Wheat Import Likely to Hit 5.5 MMT in FY 2007**

The government procurement became lower due to the weak arrival, strong buying activity by the private agencies and hoarding stocks by the farmers on speculation of price increase



in later months. The government is exploring several options to make up the shortfall, including procuring wheat from the open market and substituting wheat with rice for its subsidized sale programs, according to the official. In this current financial year, the government requires at least 1.3 million tonnes (MMT) of wheat to maintain its subsidized sale programme and welfare schemes therefore the government would require about 15.60 MMT of wheat. This requirement can be condensed by around 2 million tons overall by substituting wheat with rice, according to the government official. On the other hand, the government also has to require a buffer stock of 4 MMT. It is witnessing that the government is likely to acquire around 15.5 MMT of wheat including previous stock of April 1, imports of 3.5 MMT and local procurement of 10 MMT this year. According to one government official, it might be required by further import of 2 MMT by the next March due to shortfall. Another option for the government is to cut the quantity of monthly food grains sales in its subsidized sales programs, currently 35 kilograms for each household, he said.

### Wheat: US Export Sales Remaining Strong

According to the latest export sales highlights by USDA on wheat, the net sales of 388,800 metric tons (MT) were two and one-third times the previous week and 72 percent over the prior 4-week average. Increases for Egypt (114,000 MT), Japan (73,900 MT, including 21,600 MT late reporting), Iraq (54,100 MT), the Philippines (50,800 MT), Chile (33,000 MT), and Venezuela (31,000 MT) were partially offset by decreases for unknown destinations (31,900 MT), Guatemala (9,600 MT), and Mexico (8,500 MT). Sales of 185,500 MT for delivery in 2006/07 were primarily for South Korea (44,000 MT), Japan (40,000 MT, including 20,000 MT switched from 2005/06), Jamaica (30,000 MT), Nigeria (22,000 MT), Mexico (19,700 MT, including 6,700 MT switched from 2005/06), and Italy (15,000 MT). Exports of 606,200 MT were 17 percent above the previous week and 74 percent over the prior 4-week average. The main destinations were Nigeria (75,600 MT), Egypt (59,000 MT), Yemen (58,400 MT), Thailand (51,300 MT), Iraq (50,600 MT), Japan (43,000 MT), Mexico (35,400 MT), and Chile (33,000 MT). Note: Accumulated exports were adjusted down for Chile 21,900 MT. (This summary is based on reports from exporters for the period April 21-27, 2006)

### INTERNATIONAL WHEAT PRICES

**Latest Australian wheat board exports cash prices indicative basis quotes over US futures**

Contract	ASW 10%		AH 11.5%		APH 13%		APH 14%	
	May.05	May.04	May.05	May.04	May.05	May.04	May.05	May.04
May.06	199	197	167	167	177	178	202	202
Jun.06	199	197	167	167	177	178	202	202
Jul.06	187	185	163	163	174	174	198	198
Aug.06	189	187	165	165	176	176	201	201
Sep.06	180	177	164	164	175	175	200	199
Oct.06	184	181	168	168	179	179	203	203

Source: FAS, USDA

### Progressive procurement of Wheat as on 1.05.2006 (lakh tonnes)

State	Total procurement 2005-06 (Oct.	Progressive Procurement (as of 1.05.06)	
		2006-2007	2005-2006
Haryana	45.29	21.78	42.72
M.P	4.84	-	3.56
Punjab	90.10	66.40	83.88
U.P	5.60	0.23	1.89
All-India	147.87	88.42	133.30

Source: Department of Food & Public Distribution

### IGC WORLD WHEAT ESTIMATES (27.04.06)

(Million tons)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Forecast)		2006-07 (Projected)
				30.03	26.04	26.04
Production	566	555	623	617	619	598
Trade	106	103	106	109	110	112
Consumption	600	593	613	620	623	614
Stocks	165	127	138	136	135	119
Year-Year Change	-34	-38	+11	-3	-4	-16
5 Major Exporters <sup>#</sup>	43	40	52	52	51	45

# Argentina, Australia, Canada, EC, United States

Source: International Grains Council

### PORT WATCH:

Kandla Port is expecting 'Aristagoras' to load 30,000 MT of wheat to Ulsan. DBC agents will be handling the vessel. Tuticorin Port is expecting 'Equinoxdown' to discharge 41,000 MT of wheat. St.John agents will be handling the vessel.

## WEATHER WATCH

### ZONE-WISE WEATHER FORECAST

#### **NORTH & NORTH-WEST INDIA [J&K, HP, UTTARANCHAL, PUNJAB, HARYANA, DELHI, WEST UP]**

- Mainly dry weather during next 2 days. Isolated to scattered rains/ snowfall is likely over J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal and isolated duststorms/ thundershower activity over Punjab, Haryana, west U.P. during 7-9 May 2006.

#### **EAST AND NE INDIA [EAST UP, BIHAR, JHARKHAND, WEST BENGAL, ORISSA, NE STATES]**

- Scattered to fairly widespread rains are expected over NE States and Sub-himalayan West Bengal. Coastal Orissa, Gangetic West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand may experience isolated rains during next 3-4 days.

#### **CENTRAL INDIA [ MP, CHATTISGARH, VIDARBHA]**

- Occasional Isolated thunder storm activity is likely over Chhatisgarh, east MP and Vidarbha during next 3-4 days.

#### **SOUTH INDIA [TAMILNADU, AP, KERALA, KARNATAKA, ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS, LAKSHADEEP]**

- Isolated to scattered thunderstorm activity is expected over the region especially Kerala, southern parts of Karnataka, south Rayalaseema, south coastal Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu during next 3-4 days.

#### **WEST INDIA [MAHARASHTRA OTHER THAN VIDARBHA, GUJARAT, RAJASTHAN]**

- Mainly dry weather conditions are likely to prevail over the region. Isolated duststorm activity is expected in North Rajasthan on 7th and 8th May.

Winter wheat in maturation to harvest across north India will benefit from a recent turn to drier and warmer weather.

#### **FOREX (As on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2006):**

Foreign Currency	Rs. per unit
1 US \$	44.88
1 Euro	56.94
100 Yen	39.47
1 British £	83.07

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