

# NEWSLETTER

# VICHAR

CULTIVATING IDEAS,  
GROWING FUTURES



# GENERAL AGRICULTURE

**Trends of 2024 pinch farmers, Maharashtra soybean cultivation area to drop by 2 lakh hectares.**

Maharashtra anticipates a decrease in soybean cultivation by two lakh hectares. Farmers are discouraged by last year's low returns and government policies. Other crops may become more appealing. The agriculture department assures adequate seed and fertilizer availability. The state aims for a substantial food grain and oilseed production target. Quality control measures are in place for seeds. SOURCE- THE ECONOMIC TIMES



**Jute industry pins hope on June 3 ECJ meet amid supply crunch, soaring prices.**

The Expert Committee on Jute will meet in Kolkata to assess raw jute supply. The industry faces high prices and delayed arrivals. The committee will discuss the supply-demand scenario. Jute mills report hoarding and inaction against it. Mills are struggling with rising costs. The industry seeks buffer stock release and strict MSP enforcement. They want to stabilize the market soon. SOURCE- THE ECONOMIC TIMES



**Maharashtra onion farmers reel under slump, unseasonal rains worsen woes.**

Pre-monsoon rains in Maharashtra have caused thousands of acres of onion crops to be damaged, causing heavy losses for farmers. The state's onion producers are facing falling prices due to the unseasonal rains. The Union government has imposed bans on onion exports since 2019, but the state's onion cultivation has grown significantly. The Union government should make public the yearly output needed to help farmers plan and export excess produce. SOURCE-BUSINESS STANDARD



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## Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar Inaugurates Agri-Industry Summit 2025 In Narsinghpur; Hails Agriculture As Foundation Of India's Economy.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the Agri-Industry Summit 2025 in Madhya Pradesh's Narsinghpur on Monday. VP Jagdeep Dhankhar stated that "agriculture is the foundation of India's economy and the basis of the nation's progress. Continuous development and innovation in the agricultural sector are essential for national prosperity. The well-being of our farmers, the providers of food to the nation, directly reflects the well-being of India". Vice President Dhankhar, Governor Mangubhai Patel, and Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav formally inaugurated the three-day summit (May 26–28) with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, Kanya Pujan, and floral tributes to Lord Balaram. SOURCE- THE FREE PRESS JOURNAL



## ISRO's Shubanshu Shukla: How his space farming experiments may shape life beyond Earth.

Indian astronaut Shubanshu Shukla is embarking on a mission to make space greener for future generations. He plans to test space agriculture, including seed sprouting and zero gravity, to provide astronauts with healthy food during long missions. Other experiments include recycling water, using solar energy, and reducing waste. Shubanshu's mission aims to inspire young people to care for the planet and shape the future of space travel and Earth's life. SOURCE- WIONEWS



## Drone didis are India's 'sky warriors', ushering new revolution in agriculture: PM Modi in Mann Ki Baat.

Narendra Modi highlighted the increasing use of drones by women in Indian agriculture. He referred to them as 'Drone Didi' and 'sky warriors'. These women are bringing significant changes to agricultural practices. Agriculture is vital to India's economy, providing livelihood and ensuring food security. India is also a key player in the global food supply chain. SOURCE- THE ECONOMIC TIMES



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**French farmers protest in Paris for law loosening environmental regulations.**

French farmers have disrupted highway traffic around Paris and rallied in front of parliament to protest against amendments filed by opposition lawmakers to a bill that would loosen environmental regulations on farming. Members of France's leading farming union, the FNSEA, parked about 10 tractors outside the National Assembly on Monday to put pressure on MPs, who began debating the legislation in the afternoon. SOURCE-ALJAZEERA



**Gaza's agricultural infrastructure continues to deteriorate at alarming rate.**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) have found that less than 5% of the Gaza Strip's cropland area remains available for cultivation, deteriorating food production capacity and exacerbating the risk of famine. As of April 2025, over 80% of the total cropland area has been damaged, with 77.8% not accessible to farmers. The situation is particularly critical in Rafah and northern governorates. Rebuilding will require massive investment and sustained commitment. SOURCE-FAO.ORG



**Trade deals will bring opportunities for Indian agriculture. But there will also be challenges.**

India's trade performance in FY25 was a 6.5% increase compared to FY24, with total exports reaching \$820.93 billion. Merchandise exports accounted for 53% of exports, while services contributed 47%. Imports grew 6.85%, reaching \$915.19 billion. The trade deficit increased to \$94.26 billion, with a trade-to-GDP ratio of 41.4%. The India-UK Free Trade Agreement has been successfully concluded, but the government is negotiating a bilateral trade agreement with the US. SOURCE- THE INDIAN EXPRESS



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## Copeland partners with Ecozen to aid agriculture sector.

Copeland has partnered with Ecozen to develop a solar-powered cold storage system for rural communities in India. The system, which uses ZBW variable speed compressors and solar-powered technology, has reduced CO2 emissions by approximately 22 tons for 5 tons of cold room. The system also improves efficiency by up to 17%, reducing operational costs. The solar-powered refrigeration technology ensures consistent operation even during low solar intensity or the monsoon season. The system is particularly beneficial in the first mile of the agricultural ecosystem, allowing farmers to quickly cool and preserve crops post-harvest, increasing profitability. SOURCE- FNBNEWS



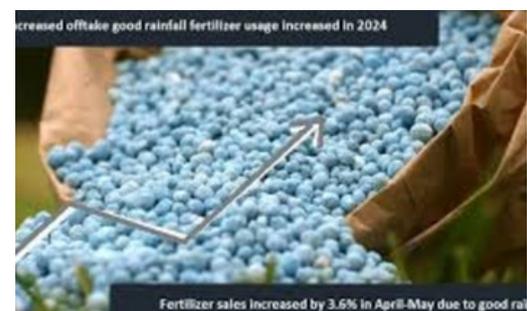
## India to emerge as world's biggest rice producer

India is set to become the world's largest rice producer in 2024-25, surpassing China, as foodgrain output reaches a record 353.2 million tonnes. The country's agriculture ministry reported a 6% increase in rice, wheat, pulses, and oilseed production, with the third advance estimates of foodgrain production for 2024-25 crop year showing a 7% increase. The US Department of Agriculture projected China's rice production at 145.28 MT in 2024-25, implying India would emerge as the largest rice producer. The prospects of adequate rainfall boost agriculture-sector output for a second year in a row. SOURCE-FINANCIAL EXPRESS



## Fertilisers production in April drops, sales higher, import nearly flat

India's chemical fertiliser production decreased in the first month of the current fiscal, while sales increased and imports remained flat. However, sales were lower than estimated demand for April, despite availability issues. Overall consumption of key fertilisers increased 17.4% to 18.92 lakh tonnes in April, with urea sales increasing 15.7% and MOP sales rising 58%.



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## Pawar promises agricultural status for animal husbandry

Maharashtra's deputy chief minister and guardian minister of Pune, Ajit Pawar, announced plans to grant agricultural status to animal husbandry to ensure livestock farmers receive similar facilities and subsidies. He also emphasized the importance of research and vaccine development in controlling diseases from animals to humans. Pawar inaugurated three major veterinary facilities in Pune. SOURCE- HINDUSTAN TIMES



## Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Reviews Progress at ICAR-CCRI, Nagpur

Union Minister visited the ICAR-Central Citrus Research Institute (ICAR-CCRI) to assess its progress and future plans. Chouhan praised the institute's contributions to citrus research and development in India and urged technology-driven interventions to tackle key challenges in citrus cultivation. Chouhan also urged active involvement of ICAR-CCRI scientists in the upcoming Pre-Kharif Campaign under the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan. The visit also included a visit to the institute's citrus nursery, where Chouhan commended five progressive citrus farmers for their exemplary adoption of ICAR-CCRI technologies. SOURCE- ICAR.ORG



## India weather agency dismisses concerns over early onset of monsoon

Pre-monsoon rains in Maharashtra have caused thousands of acres of onion crops to be damaged, causing heavy losses for farmers. The state's onion producers are facing falling prices due to the unseasonal rains. The Union government has imposed bans on onion exports since 2019, but the state's onion cultivation has grown significantly. The Union government should make public the yearly output needed to help farmers plan and export excess produce. SOURCE-BUSINESS STANDARD



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## Patanjali's push for organic farming: A path to sustainable agriculture

Patanjali's push for organic farming: A path to sustainable agriculture. Patanjali is promoting sustainable agriculture in India by offering a range of organic inputs that reduce reliance on harmful chemical fertilizers. These products improve soil fertility, enhance crop quality, and protect the environment. SOURCE- TIMES OF INDIA



## Cabinet hikes minimum support price of Kharif crops for 2025-26; ups paddy MSP by Rs 69 per quintal

Amid concerns of an above-normal monsoon disrupting sowing, the Cabinet has declared the Minimum Selling Price for kharif crops for the 2025-26 marketing season. Early pre-monsoon showers have saturated the soil, hindering land preparation for planting. A consistent and uniform monsoon spread is crucial for a successful kharif season and to bolster India's agricultural output and economic growth. SOURCE- ECONOMIC TIMES



## Former agriculture official sentenced to rigorous imprisonment

The Thalassery Vigilance Court has sentenced M. Abdul Rahman to 37 years in prison and a ₹3 lakh fine for embezzling funds from a government-linked agriculture society. Rahman was found guilty of misappropriating ₹9,41,888 from the District Agriculture Produce Storage and Distribution Society between 2004 and 2008, allegedly by forged signatures of the society's chairman and treasurer. SOURCE - THE HINDU .COM



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## Brazil's Tocantins state says agriculture ministry ruled out bird flu on commercial farm

Brazil's Tocantins state said on Wednesday the agriculture ministry has ruled out an outbreak of bird flu on a local commercial farm, citing conclusive test results received from the ministry. There are currently seven potential outbreaks of highly pathological avian influenza in Brazil under investigation, including one on a commercial farm in Rio Grande do Sul. SOURCE- INVESTING.COM



## More than 95 percent of Gaza's agricultural land unusable, UN warns

Over 80 percent of Gaza's cropland has been damaged, with 77.8% of it now inaccessible to farmers. Only 4.6% of cropland remains available for cultivation. The destruction also extends to greenhouses and water sources, with 71.2% of greenhouses and 82.8% of agricultural wells damaged. The collapse of Gaza's agrifood system and lifelines is a significant concern, with rebuilding requiring massive investment and a sustained commitment to restore livelihoods and hope. SOURCE- ALJAZEERA



## Encourage shrimp farming by making ponds in waterlogged areas: Haryana agri minister

Haryana agriculture minister Shyam Singh Rana has directed the state government to reclaim 1 lakh acre of waterlogged land under the Agriculture Sankalp Abhiyan. He urged concerned departments to prepare an action plan and work together to reclaim saline-affected land. Rana also directed officers to encourage shrimp farming by constructing ponds in waterlogged areas. SOURCE - TIMES OF INDIA



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## Can trade in soil carbon credits help farmers – and the climate?

Thomas Gent, a 27-year-old farmer from Cambridgeshire, UK, believes regenerative agriculture has the potential to tackle the climate crisis while benefiting farmers financially. Regenerative methods, such as tilling the soil less, growing cover crops, reducing ammonia-based fertiliser, and keeping organic matter in the soil, have become a big business, allowing farmers to earn and sell carbon credits. SOURCE- THE GUARDIAN.COM



## Leading In Agriculture Development": PM Modi At Sikkim's 50th Celebration

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has praised Sikkim as a pride of the country and aims to make it a global tourism destination. He emphasized the importance of boosting Sikkim's economy and becoming a "wellness state" for the entire world. Modi also highlighted Sikkim's leadership in agricultural development and the importance of empowering the poor, farmers, women, and youth. He also mentioned the export of Dalle Khorsani chilli, a famous chilli from Sikkim, and the progress of connecting northeastern states to the railway. SOURCE-NDTV



## CM Bhupendra Patel launches campaign in state aimed at transforming agriculture sector

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has launched a nationwide campaign called Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, aiming to transform the agriculture sector by integrating value-addition, farm mechanisation, and natural farming using technology. The campaign, organized by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, will reach over 3.50 lakh farmers through 2951 clusters across 235 talukas. During the campaign, farmers will learn about natural farming, modern farming methods, improved seeds, nano fertilizers, and farmer-beneficiary schemes. SOURCE-INDIA EXPRESS



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## Scientists to visit farmers' homes ahead of kharif season, teach better practices: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan campaign to enhance farm productivity and farmer incomes. The campaign, which will run until June 12, will involve scientists visiting farmers' homes to teach them scientifically proven farming techniques. Chouhan emphasized the importance of farmers' participation and the need for India to become the world's food basket. He cited recent data indicating India produced 3539.59 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrain this year, 216.61 lakh metric tonnes more than last year. Chouhan also praised the Union Cabinet's recent approval of an increase in the minimum support price for 14 kharif crops. The campaign aims to improve farmers' yields and strengthen India's economy.



## Government extends stock limits on wheat till March 2026 to check hoarding, ensure food security

The government has prolonged wheat stock limits for traders and retailers until March 2026. This action aims to manage food security nationwide. It also seeks to prevent hoarding and market speculation. The new rules specify stock limits for various entities. Strict monitoring will be done by officials. Violators will face penalties under the Essential Commodities Act.



## Government raises 2024-25 foodgrain output forecast to record 353.95 million tons, wheat at 117.50 million tons

India's foodgrain production is projected to reach a record 353.95 million tonnes in the 2024-25 crop year, driven by bumper harvests of wheat, rice, and maize. The Agriculture Minister attributed this success to supportive government policies, including fair pricing and agricultural schemes. Significant increases are also expected in oilseeds and sugarcane production, contributing to overall agricultural growth.



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## Telangana Launches 'Vikasit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' To Connect Farmers With Agricultural Experts

Central Agriculture Research Institutions and State Agriculture Universities in Telangana launched the "Vikasit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan" to bridge the gap between agricultural research and the farming community. Over 200 experts will interact with 12 lakh farmers during a 15-day campaign, focusing on crop varieties, improved technologies, seed availability, and welfare schemes from both Central and State governments.



## Correcting distortions in input and output pricing will enable climate-resilient growth in agriculture: Ramesh Chand

Ramesh Chand of NITI Aayog urges the government to tackle distortions like power and fertilizer subsidies to enhance climate resilience in agriculture. He proposes direct payments to farmers for power usage and full urea pricing to boost MSP. Chand also advocates for compensating farmers growing nitrogen-fixing crops and addressing distortions across all sectors for long-term societal benefit.



**Niti Aayog**  
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## How early, bountiful rains can change a lot of things for India in several significant ways

India is likely to get above-average monsoon rains in 2025, the IMD said. The monsoon arrived early in Kerala. This is eight days ahead of schedule. The rains are vital for agriculture and the economy. Good rainfall may stabilise food prices. It may allow the Reserve Bank of India to lower interest rates.

