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# VICHAR

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

CULTIVATING IDEAS,  
GROWING FUTURES

# GENERAL AGRICULTURE

## For Developed India, Farmers Must Prosper': Shivraj Singh Chouhan In Motihari.

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan has emphasized the importance of agriculture development and farmers' prosperity in India. He visited Motihari, the district headquarters town of East Champaran district, as part of his nationwide tour under the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA) campaign. The campaign aims to accelerate the state's agricultural transformation and empower farmers through greater access to innovation, infrastructure, and institutional support. Around 16,000 agricultural scientists are working with farmers to increase production, reduce input costs, ensure fair prices, and provide compensation in case of losses. SOURCE- NEWS.ABPLIVE



## Farmer-Scientist Interaction: Agriculture Minister's Push.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched a campaign aimed at educating farmers on climate-resilient crop varieties, balanced fertiliser use, soil nutrient conservation, crop disease management, and agricultural diversification techniques. The campaign, launched from Puri in Odisha, has connected 7.95 lakh farmers to the initiative, aiming to build a 'Viksit Bharat'. SOURCE- MONEY REDIFF



## Agriculture Secretary visits Nubra Valley.

Bhupesh Chaudhary, the Administrative Secretary of the Agriculture and Horticulture Department in Ladakh, visited the villages of Thang, Turtuk, and Tyakshi during a tour in Nubra Valley. He addressed concerns about brown tail moth infestation, visited progressive farmers, and visited traditional Rantaks and water mills in Turtuk.



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## Farmers' body warns of climate change impact on agriculture, urges Andhra Pradesh government to take action

The Federation of All India Farmer Associations (FAIFA) has called for government subsidies for renewable energy, organic inputs, and micro-irrigation to make climate-smart practices more accessible to small and marginal farmers. The FAIFA has launched a report titled "Nourishing the Future: A Report on Climate-Resilient Agriculture" to mark World Environment Day. The report highlights the impact of climate change on Indian agriculture, with erratic rainfall, unseasonal droughts, temperature spikes, and pests disrupting crop cycles affecting productivity and incomes.



## Punjab News: Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Urges Farmers To Embrace Crop Diversification & Water-Saving Techniques

Union agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan urged Punjab farmers to adopt diversification and water-saving methods for increased yield and water efficiency. During a visit to Punjab, Chouhan met with state agriculture minister Gurmeet Singh Khuddian, Punjab Agricultural University vice-chancellor Satbir Singh Gosal, and scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. He praised Punjab's record production in wheat, paddy, maize, and soybean and assured the Union government to address the issue of purchasing alternate crops below the minimum support price.



## Mahindra Tractors Sells 38,914 Units in India, Records 10% Growth in May 2025

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.'s Farm Equipment Business reported a 10% increase in tractor sales for May 2025, with 38,914 units sold domestically and 40,643 units exported. Veejay Nakra, President of Farm Equipment Business, attributed the growth to the early advancement of the Southwest monsoon, progressing land preparation for paddy sowing, approval of a hike in MSP for kharif crops, better reservoir levels, and government announcements of record foodgrain production. Exports saw 1729 tractors sold. The company's performance is expected to boost tractor demand in the coming months.



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## Maha CM pitches for use of technology in the agriculture sector

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis emphasized the importance of using advanced technology in the agriculture sector to address rising costs and lack of manpower. He suggested incubating useful technologies at the Pune Agri Hackathon and bringing them to farmers. The Agriculture Department should set up incubation centers in agricultural colleges to develop these technologies into commercial products. The 'Clean Plant' program will ensure disease-free plants from nurseries for horticulture. SOURCE-SAKSHIPOST.COM



## Sustainable Farming Boost: Oil Palm Saplings Planted in Ryalampadu

Jogulamba Gadwal Additional Collector Narsinga Rao emphasized the potential of oil palm cultivation as a long-term income source for farmers. He highlighted the crop's economic and agricultural benefits, including its permanent investment potential and low water usage, making it suitable for water-scarce regions. Rao also highlighted government incentives enhancing the profitability of oil palm cultivation, encouraging more farmers to adopt this crop for better financial security. SOURCE-THEHANSINDIA.COM



## Expand Loan Facility to PACS Under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund: Amit Shah

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has called for the expansion of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) loan facility to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to improve their financial condition. The AIF aims to build the world's largest cooperative food grain storage network and strengthen economic progress in India by increasing PACS income and creating rural employment opportunities. Shah directed the Ministry of Food and Public Distribution and Food Corporation of India to conduct national-level warehouse mapping. SOURCE-OUTLOOKBUSINESS



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## Heatwave hijacked: Freak weather conditions in Punjab impact agriculture

Punjab, has been experiencing extreme weather, with four severe thunderstorms, freak rain spells, and cool mornings and nights. Meteorological Department reported 35.5 mm of rainfall from May 1 to 25, a surplus of 135 per cent compared to the long-period average. The May thunderstorms caused damage, uprooting over 500 trees and affecting the state's green cover. Experts warn that climate change is likely to impact productivity and agricultural patterns, particularly wheat and paddy crops, leading to increased evaporation, heavy rainfall, and disruptions in agricultural patterns due to ozone concentration. SOURCE-TRIBUNEINDIA



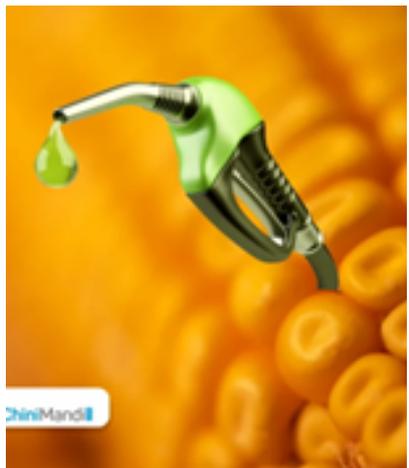
## Frontline Ukrainian families face perilous task of farming mined fields

The UN warns that many frontline Ukrainian families are at risk of missing critical planting and harvesting windows due to the ongoing war in Ukraine. Agriculture is a crucial part of rural society, and vulnerable families need support to survive and rebuild. As the war continues, these families face growing challenges in cultivating their land due to anti-personnel mines, land contamination, labor shortages, lack of inputs, shelling, and frequent electricity cuts. Ukraine's agriculture sector has suffered \$83.9 billion in damages and losses since the war began. SOURCE-NEWS.UN.ORG



## Maize once sold for Rs 1200–1500 now sees sharp price surge in Bihar amid ethanol push: Agriculture Minister

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, participated in the 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' campaign, interacting with farmers at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Piprakothi, East Champaran, Bihar. He highlighted the surge in maize cultivation due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies and the importance of collective effort for a developed India. Chouhan also addressed concerns over counterfeit pesticides and directed ICAR scientists to develop techniques. SOURCE-CHINIMANDI.COM



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## Onion prices rise 20% in past two weeks as rains damage crop

Pune's onion prices have surged by approximately 20% in the last two weeks due to crop damage from heavy rains, leading to reduced market arrivals. Despite increased production and storage, onions are becoming more expensive. Trade sources anticipate further price increases, potentially fueled by upcoming government onion procurement. SOURCE-ECONOMIC TIMES



## Sugar industry seeks ethanol price revision as blending share drops to 28% from 73%

The sugar industry is urging for revised ethanol procurement prices and extended blending targets due to a sharp decline in its contribution to the national ethanol program. They are advocating for accelerated promotion of Flex-Fuel Vehicles to boost ethanol demand. SOURCE-THE ECONOMIC TIMES



## Market demand playing key role in reviving nearly extinct mango varieties like Husnara, Ratol

Changing consumer preferences are revitalizing nearly-extinct mango varieties like Husnara and Ratol in Lucknow's Malihabad orchards. Farmers are shifting focus from Dussehri to meet rising demand for diverse flavors, fetching higher prices for red-fleshed varieties. However, unfavorable weather, rising production costs, and counterfeit pesticides pose challenges to profitability despite increased output. SOURCE- THE ECONOMIC TIMES



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**Irrigation and cropping must be in sync.**

India's agricultural landscape has seen a more dynamic relationship between irrigation and cropping decisions over the past decade. The growth of gross irrigated area (GIA) and gross sown area (GSA) has led to a rise in crop yields and a steady increase in sown area under irrigation. This contradicts conventional wisdom in irrigation planning, which assumes farmers will adapt their cropping choices once assured water becomes available. To be effective, irrigation policy must become more adaptive and time-sensitive, aligning with sowing calendars and agricultural time frames. This requires institutional reforms, data support, input convergence, and sustainability. The adoption of water-efficient technologies and encouraging a shift towards less water-intensive and climate-resilient crops is also crucial. SOURCE- FINANCIAL EXPRESS



**Focus on sustainable agriculture that is profitable and environmentally friendly, says Minister.**

With many farmers moving away from agriculture, there is a need to focus on sustainable farming that is both profitable and environmentally friendly, said Minister for Milk and Dairy Development Mano Thangaraj at the valedictory of the Tamil Nadu Climate Smart Dairy Entrepreneurship Programme at the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (Tanuvas) in Chennai on Monday. Mr. Thangaraj said loans would be made available to all farmers across Tamil Nadu, and that plans were being developed to ensure that all cooperative societies operate profitably. He added that a review was under way to optimise the use of the 2,500 veterinarians in the Animal Husbandry Department and to enhance the research capabilities of Tanuvas. SOURCE- THE HINDU



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## Vietnam To Sign Agriculture Deals With US Worth \$2 Billion.

Vietnam is set to sign deals with the US to buy over \$2 billion worth of agricultural products to counter President Donald Trump's proposed 46% tariff. The announcement comes as Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Environment delegation visited the US. The deals include five memorandums of understanding to buy products worth around \$800 million from Iowa over three years. Vietnam is set to enter a third round of trade talks with the US in the coming days. The country has sought assistance from US tech giants and signed an agreement with Westinghouse Electric on nuclear power development. SOURCE-NDTV.COM



## Nagaland marks completion of FOCUS Agriculture Project.

The Fostering Climate Resilient Upland Farming System in the Northeast (FOCUS) project completed in Nagaland, marking a significant milestone in strengthening farming systems and boosting agricultural income. The project, the first Externally Aided Project in Nagaland's agriculture sector, was implemented in partnership with IFAD and aimed to benefit around 1,18,000 households across 9 districts. Despite challenges, the project reached 86% of its target group, focusing on improved Jhum, value chain development, and market access. The project also contributed to knowledge-building through technical materials, procurement guidelines, and sectoral assessments. SOURCE-NAGALANDPOST.COM



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## New Centre of Excellence Launched to Promote Agricultural Development through South-South Cooperation

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has launched the ICRISAT Centre of Excellence for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (ISSCA) in New Delhi. The initiative aims to accelerate agricultural innovation and collaboration among countries in the Global South, which face common challenges related to agriculture, climate, and socio-economic development. ICRISAT signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding with the Development and Knowledge Sharing Initiative (DAKSHIN), a Government of India initiative focused on strengthening South-South cooperation through capacity building and development partnerships. The ISSCA includes a digital portal for peer-to-peer learning, partnership facilitation, and deployment of low-cost, high-impact technologies and policy models.



## Natural Farming: Benefits & Government Initiatives

Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat emphasized the necessity of natural farming, stating it preserves soil fertility, strengthens farmers' self-reliance, and provides chemical-free food. He attended a seminar with over 5,000 farmers from Himachal Pradesh and other parts of the country. The National Mission on Natural Farming, sanctioned by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, aims to reach one crore farmers and establish 10,000 Bio-Input Resource Centres.



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## Transforming Rural Agriculture: VKSA activities gain momentum in Budgam

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has launched a nationwide campaign to empower farmers by providing access to scientific knowledge, government schemes, and a voice in shaping future agri-innovations. The campaign has reached over 7700 farmers in over 150 villages, encouraging them to adopt modern techniques for better productivity and resilience. The campaign reinforces the nation's commitment to cultivating a resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking agricultural landscape.



## Recognising Excellence: Mukesh Suryavanshi Honoured for His Contributions to India's Organic Agriculture and Exports

Spice Temple Foods Pvt. Ltd., founded by Mukesh Suryavanshi, has been recognized for its commitment to organic farming, ethical sourcing, and clean-label spice exports. The award, presented by a regional agro-export body, celebrates entrepreneurs who have shown leadership in transforming India's agriculture through sustainable practices. The brand exports a wide range of organic spices to UAE, Saudi Arabia, and other Gulf markets, where demand for clean-label Indian products is rapidly growing. Mukesh's hands-on approach, including regular visits to farms and investment in farmer training programs, has boosted the confidence of international buyers and set a new benchmark for Indian agribusinesses in the 21st century.



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## Fertiliser sector needs policy clarity to attract investment: FAI chairman

The fertiliser industry in India needs clarity on subsidies policies to attract more investments, according to Sailesh C Mehta, Chairman of the Fertiliser Association of India (FAI) and Chairman and Managing Director of Deepak Fertilisers and Petrochemicals Corporation. The industry has been working under the Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) regime for over a decade, but no actions have been taken to bring urea under NBS. Mehta suggests gradual reduction of subsidies on urea and a more market-oriented approach to ensure long-term improvements in fertiliser supply.



## Milan Singh Vishwakarma Earns Lakhs Annually from 26-Acre Lac Farming in Chhattisgarh, Selling at Rs 700/kg

Milan Singh Vishwakarma, a visionary farmer from Chhattisgarh, has transformed the agricultural landscape in India by introducing lac farming. Initially relying on traditional crops, Singh's journey led him to adopt lac farming, a natural resin cultivation practice with modern potential. Today, he earns lakhs annually from his 26-acre lac farm and is recognized with district, state, and national awards. Singh cultivates two major varieties of lac: Kusumi Lac and Rangini Lac, ensuring crop diversity and income stability.



## PM-KISAN 20th Instalment 2025 Soon: Check Expected Date, Beneficiary List, Complete e-KYC and Other Steps to Get Rs 2,000 Without Delay

The government is set to release the 20th instalment of PM-KISAN, providing financial aid to nearly 9.8 crore farmers. The previous instalment, released on 24 February 2025, totaled Rs 22,000 crore. Farmers are advised to complete certain steps to avoid delays in their next Rs 2,000 payment, as failure to do so will result in the 20th instalment not being received.



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**Only 20.7% annadatas fully depend on agriculture for income':  
Report calls for rethinking rural development strategies.**

A report by People Research on India's Consumer Economy (PRICE) suggests that while 42.4% of rural households earn some income from agriculture, only 20.7% are fully dependent on it. The report also highlights that 33% of agricultural households' income comes from non-farming activities, such as non-agricultural self-employment, salaries from jobs outside agriculture, and remittances. The report suggests reforms in the farm sector to support farmers and their households, including promoting non-farm employment and expanding agricultural productivity. SOURCE- BUISNESS TODAY



**Govt to integrate agri-schemes at Centre, states with Krishi Nivesh portal.**

The Indian government is integrating various agriculture schemes under a unified digital platform, the Krishi Nivesh portal. The portal provides information on 17 flagship schemes, covering initiatives from seven ministries. It serves as a centralised interface for tracking investment opportunities, monitoring application status, and accessing information on schemes. The portal aims to unlock investment potential in the sector. SOURCE- FINANCIAL EXPRESS



**Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan 2025: On Day 6, Shivraj Singh Chouhan Meets Pune Farmers, Promises Action on Fake Fertilizers**

Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan visited Narayangaon in Pune, Maharashtra, to engage with local farmers and discuss the government's commitment to empowering the agricultural community. He addressed concerns about fake pesticides and emphasized the importance of farmers' prosperity for India's progress. Chouhan also discussed the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) and the importance of region-specific agricultural research. He praised Narayangaon's success stories and assured farmers of government support in their journey towards self-reliance and prosperity.

