



VICHAR

CULTIVATING IDEAS GROWING FUTURES

Onion prices rise 20%

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.



DBN's transgenic soybean event

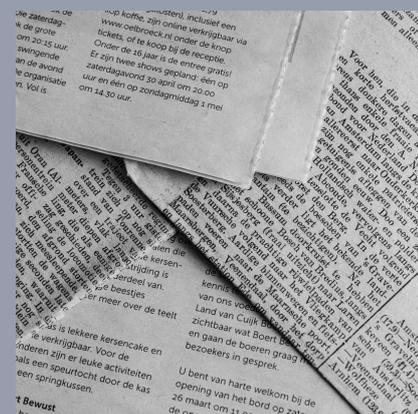
Beijing Dabeinong Technology Group (DBN) has been granted a cultivation permit for its transgenic insect-resistant and herbicide-tolerant soybean event DBN9004×DBN8002

Odisha mangoes now in France

Odisha has expanded its agricultural exports by adding France and Belgium to its mango export destinations. This success builds upon existing markets like Dubai and London, with exports nearing 100 MT since May 2024.



Information without borders for curious minds



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GENERAL AGRICULTURE

India-Ukraine 1st Joint Working Group Meeting on Agriculture Held.

India and Ukraine held their first Joint Working Group meeting on Agriculture, co-chaired by Shri Ajeet Kumar Sahu and Deputy Minister Oksana Osmachko. The meeting emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors. Sahu highlighted India's agricultural achievements and government initiatives, while Osmachko emphasized Ukraine's commitment to deepening cooperation in key areas like food processing, agricultural mechanisation, digital agriculture, and soil fertility. Both countries have the potential to enhance productivity and improve farmers' welfare. SOURCE- ORISSA DIARY .COM



Maharashtra cabinet clears AI policy for agriculture.

The Maharashtra cabinet has approved the MahaAgri — AI policy 2025-29, which aims to use Artificial Intelligence in agriculture. The policy will establish agro data exchanges, geospatial intelligence, agro-food safety standardisation, real-time farmer guidance, and agriculture-related information. Projects using AI will be approved by the State Level Scrutiny Committee, with the AgriAI cell conducting the primary evaluation. The policy will also include competitions for projects addressing agriculture sector issues. SOURCE-INDIAEXPRESS.COM



Sowing Sustainability: Cotton, culture and the quiet return of natural farming.

Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is quietly transforming Indian agriculture, reviving ancient practices and reducing reliance on chemicals and credit. Farmers are experiencing improved soil health, lower input costs, and a return of biodiversity. Value-driven businesses like Patanjali are supporting this shift by sourcing organically grown cotton, aligning with a growing consumer demand for sustainable and ethically produced goods. SOURCE- TIMESOFINDIA



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

13.4 cr farmers engaged in Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyaan to bridge lab-to-land gap: Agriculture Minister.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan highlighted the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyaan campaign, which engaged 13.4 crore farmers across 1.43 lakh villages. The campaign aimed to bridge the gap between land and labs, showcasing farmers' innovations and addressing their problems. Chouhan assured support and stated that the government's primary focus is to increase farmers' income and make India the world's food basket. The campaign will continue with government officials and scientists visiting farmers' fields.

SOURCE -NEWSNAIR.GOV.IN



Govt will tighten seed & pesticide laws, tackle stray animal issue: Chouhan.

The Indian government plans to address stray animal issues and tighten legislation on seeds and pesticides to ensure quality inputs for farmers. The amendments will improve traceability, bring uncertified seeds under regulation, increase penalties, and be more farmer-friendly. The government is also launching a mobile application for real-time weather updates and promoting technology for crop monitoring and deterrent systems. SOURCE- BUISNESS STANDARD.COM



Paddy sowing up 13% to 4.53 lakh hectare till June 13 this year: Govt

Paddy sowing during this Kharif season has seen a 13% increase, reaching 4.53 lakh hectares compared to 4 lakh hectares last year. Pulses acreage also rose to 3.07 lakh hectares. While Shri Anna cum Coarse cereals remained stable, oilseeds witnessed growth, and sugarcane sowing saw a slight uptick. SOURCE- THE ECONOMIC TIMES



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

UP's Dussehri mango goes global with first export consignment to Dubai.

Uttar Pradesh achieved a significant milestone in boosting farm exports by airlifting 1,200 kg of Dussehri mangoes to Dubai. This USD 2,992 consignment, involving three Farmer Producer Organizations trained under the Indo-German AMD Project, marks a new global opportunity for the state's mango growers. The initiative aims to establish a strong presence for Uttar Pradesh mangoes in the international market. SOURCE-ECONOMIC TIMES



Government aims to make J&K Rs 1 trillion agricultural economy by 2030: LG Manoj Sinha.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha emphasized the government's commitment to empowering farmers in Jammu and Kashmir, envisioning their crucial role in India's progress by 2047. He highlighted the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, a comprehensive strategy aimed at transforming J&K into a robust agricultural economy by 2030. SOURCE- ECONOMIC TIMES



Rice reveals surprise ability to adapt to cold faster than evolution.

In the early 1800s, 'the theory of acquired characters' was the most widely accepted explanation of evolution. Simply put, the theory stated that characteristics that an organism developed during its lifetime, through use, disuse or environmental influence, could be inherited by its offspring. The French naturalist Jean-Baptiste Lamarck formalised this idea in two laws in 1809, and it remained unrivalled until half a century later. In 1859, Charles Darwin proposed natural selection, which said that variations are passed from parents to offspring and that changes that confer benefits survive while the detrimental ones perish. The two ideas co-existed for a brief while until two major scientific developments challenged Lamarck's views. SOURCE-THE HINDU



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Kothari Industrial Corporation launches agri-products that can boost farm output.

Kothari Industrial Corporation Ltd. has introduced 30 new agro-products to enhance agricultural productivity and meet the increasing demands of farmers. The launch includes bio and organic fertilizers, along with neem-based options suitable for drone and traditional spraying methods. These products aim to empower farmers nationwide by addressing pest and disease challenges. SOURCE-ECONOMIC TIMES



From Selling Prawns at Roadside to Building a Shrimp Empire: Inspiring Story of Dr. Manoj M. Sharma's Aquaculture Revolution.

Dr. Manoj M. Sharma revolutionized Gujarat Shrimp Aquaculture by transforming barren coastal land in Gujarat into thriving shrimp farms. Through Mayank Aquaculture and support of SAFA (Surat Aqua Farmers Association), he championed sustainable practices, empowered rural communities, and built a Rs. 100 crore individual enterprise. His and the group efforts made Gujarat a prominent supplier in catering premium shrimp at world level. SOURCE-KEISHIJAGARAN



KVIC Disburses Rs 300 Crore Subsidy to Over 11,000 Beneficiaries Nationwide Under PMEGP.

On June 17, 2025, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) disbursed Rs 300 crore as margin money subsidy to 11,480 beneficiaries under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). The funds were transferred directly to the beneficiaries' bank accounts through a virtual event held at KVIC's Rajghat office in Delhi. The disbursement was made against a total loan sanction of Rs 906 crore. KVIC Chairman Manoj Kumar led the event, joined by CEO Roop Rashi and other senior officials. SOURCE-KRISHI JAGARAN



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

PM Kisan 20th Instalment 2025 Update: Rs 2,000 Payment Expected Soon; Check Date, Beneficiary Status, and Avoid These Mistakes to Get It on Time

Farmers across the country are eagerly waiting for the 20th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Yojana, which is expected to be released soon. Under this central government scheme, eligible farmers receive financial assistance of Rs 2,000 every four months. The 19th instalment was released on February 24, 2025, benefiting over 9.8 crore farmers with a total disbursement of Rs 22,000 crore through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Now, all eyes are on the 20th instalment.



Shivraj Singh Chouhan Visits ICAR Patna, Calls for Lab-to-Farm Research to Achieve 'Viksit Bharat @2047'

The visit began with a ceremonial tree plantation at the ICAR-RCER campus, where the ministers were joined by senior officials from both the central and state governments. During his address, Chouhan praised the scientific community for their efforts in uplifting the farming sector in the region and urged them to align their research with the national vision of “Viksit Bharat @2047.” He stressed that scientific advancements should not remain confined to laboratories but must be translated into tangible benefits for farmers, particularly in the eastern region, which faces unique agricultural challenges. Highlighting the importance of translational research, the Union Minister said scientific breakthroughs must reach the grassroots level and directly benefit farmers. He appreciated the role played by ICAR and its Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the recently concluded Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, calling it a historic collaboration between the Centre and the states to deliver science-backed solutions at the grassroots.



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Wholesale Inflation Eases to 0.39% in May; Fuel and Food Prices Soften Further

India's wholesale price inflation decreased to 0.39% in May 2025, down from 0.85% in April, driven by price increases in manufactured food products, electricity, chemicals, transport equipment, and non-food articles. This marks the fifth consecutive month of low wholesale inflation, indicating moderated input costs for businesses. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) declined slightly by 0.06%.



Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan: Empowering Farmers to Shape Policy Through Bottom-Up Governance

Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan lays the foundation for a transformative shift in Indian agriculture by empowering farmers and listening to their voices through bottom-up governance. The true test lies ahead in maintaining this momentum, ensuring these changes endure, and turning farmer feedback into meaningful, lasting improvements.



How R. Narasimman Earns Rs. 50 Lakh Annually from Mangoes, Bananas, Timber & Training- Redefining Agroforestry for a Self-Sufficient Future

While others lament lost employment or look forward to retirement to chase their dreams, R. Narasimman of Trichy (Tamil Nadu) took a different path. He built a farming empire from the ground up, starting with 2 acres and now managing over 158 acres of vibrant agroforestry land. What began as an 80-acre mango orchard in 1998 has since evolved into a sustainable, organic farm ecosystem, generating an annual revenue of Rs. 40–50 lakh.



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

More Rice, Maize and Wheat In 2025, But Bird Flu, Trade Tensions & Extreme Weather Threaten Global Food Security: FAO

A major area of concern highlighted in the report is the continued spread of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI), which the FAO described as one of the most significant biological threats to the global poultry sector. The disease has affected over 173 million chickens in the US since 2022.



Nano fertilisers see a jump in sales, but questions around efficacy remain

Sales of nano fertilisers in the financial year ending March 2025 have seen an increase, suggesting greater acceptability but, strangely, the higher volumes have not stopped questions being asked around the product and its efficacy, possibly holding it back. A few weeks ago, Udai Shanker Awasthi, chief executive officer and managing director of Iffco, one of India's largest fertiliser manufacturers in the cooperative space, said that though sales have risen, he would have liked it to be much more. Subsequently, Sailesh C Mehta, newly-appointed chairman of Fertiliser Association of India (Fai) and chairman and MD of Deepak Fertilisers and Petrochemicals.



Growers welcome Centre's move to include tea in weather insurance scheme

Tea growers in India have welcomed the government's decision to introduce the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) to help mitigate losses due to erratic rainfall and rising temperatures. The scheme will come into effect from Kharif 2025, and states and union territories are asked to expedite tenders, insurance company finalisation, and other modalities by June 20. The Indian Tea Association (ITA) secretary general, Arijit Raha, emphasized the necessity of weather-based crop insurance in the face of frequent fluctuations in production due to climate change adaptation and mitigation challenges.



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Edible oil companies reduced rates after duty cut, says Indian government

The Indian government has announced a reduction in the basic customs duty of imported crude edible oils, causing most edible oil companies to reduce their maximum retail price (MRP) and Price to Distributor (PTD). The levy was cut from 20% to 10% on May 30, and many processing units have assured the government to continue cutting prices in the coming days. Retail inflation of oil and fat in May 2025 recorded a 17.91% jump, with mustard oil experiencing the highest inflation at 19.61%. The Department of Food and Public Distribution Secretary, Sanjeev Chopra, advised the industry to pass on the benefits of the duty reduction to consumers immediately.



Govt to tighten seeds, pesticides laws after farmers flag poor-quality inputs Chouhan

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday said the government will tighten seeds and pesticides legislations and may bring amendments to the existing laws to ensure quality inputs to farmers. The minister pointed that many farmers have raised concerns about the quality of seeds and pesticides during the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, a pan-India campaign to reach out to the farmer community. The campaign was launched on May 29 from Puri, Odisha and concluded on June 12 at Bardoli, Gujarat.



MahaAgri AI: A game changing step towards smart, sustainable agriculture in Maharashtra

The Maharashtra government has introduced a policy called "MahaAgri AI" to revolutionize agriculture by integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI). The policy, which will cost Rs 500 Crores for the first three years, aims to improve productivity, reduce input costs, optimize resource utilization, and enhance income for farmers, particularly in sugarcane crops. The policy will also help farmers achieve higher yields, reduce input costs, and preserve long-term land fertility. However, challenges include ensuring drip irrigation coverage and implementing a consolidated farming policy.



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Farmers vital to India; agriculture still the backbone of economy: Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan emphasized that agriculture remains the backbone of the Indian economy, contributing 18% to the GDP and supporting 46% of the population. He highlighted significant progress under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, with foodgrain production increasing by 44%. Chouhan outlined a roadmap for enhancing farmer prosperity and strengthening the agricultural sector, including increasing productivity, reducing input costs, ensuring fair prices, compensating crop losses, promoting diversification, and protecting soil health through responsible fertilizer usage.



Neeraj Sharma assumes charge as Agriculture Officer (HQ) at Ferozepur

Neeraj Kumar Sharma, a seasoned officer in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, has been appointed as the Agriculture Officer (HQ) at Ferozepur. Sharma is expected to bring new strategies and development-oriented initiatives to the agriculture sector in the region. During the charge-taking ceremony, Dr. Gurpreet Singh Sidhu, Chief Agriculture Officer of Ferozepur, and other departmental officers and staff were present. Sharma emphasized the role of the agriculture department in implementing government schemes, strengthening farmers' economic conditions, and encouraging farmers to adopt new techniques and sustainable practices.

