

# VICHAR

CULTIVATING IDEAS GROWING FUTURES

## Farmers, traders warned against use of calcium carbide for artificial ripening of mango.

The Chittoor district administration declared on Monday that calcium carbide ( $\text{CaC}_2$ ), which is typically used to artificially ripen the fruit, would be prohibited during the height of the mango season. Speaking to the media here, Joint Collector G. Vidyadhari cautioned the farmers, vendors, and traders that it is illegal to sell calcium carbide or transport or store it. Violators will face penalties under Section 44(A), which carries a ₹1,000 fine and three years in jail. SOURCE – THE HINDU

## Rice yield to rise up to 30%

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched two genome-edited rice varieties, made by ICAR. These varieties boost rice yields by 20-30%

## PJTAU to allot 15% seats

Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University (has decided to allot 15% of seats in the courses offered by it to the children of farm workers

## 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

Information without borders for curious minds



8<sup>th</sup> Edition

# GENERAL AGRICULTURE

## India will protect farmers' interest in U.S. trade talks: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

India will prioritise protecting its farmers' interests while assessing potential gains and losses in the ongoing trade negotiations with the U.S. over agricultural market access, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said. "Our priority is to protect the interest of our farmers. India will not work closing its eyes. We will assess our gains and losses. Keeping that in mind, an agreement will be finalised," Mr. Chouhan told the PTI in an interview.



## Delays in Insurance Claims to Attract 12% Interest, Says Agriculture Minister During VKSA Outreach in Sehore

Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced a reform aimed at strengthening the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in India. Delays in disbursing crop insurance claim payments will attract an additional 12% interest from insurance companies, ensuring farmers receive timely compensation for crop losses. The Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA) initiative aims to build a unified and modern agricultural system across India. Chouhan also highlighted welfare schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, which has distributed 8 lakh letters of acceptance for new houses.



## Export-import policy must protect farmers' interests

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the Indian Minister of Agriculture, is visiting states to familiarize 15 million farmers with agro-climatic farming practices. He discusses issues impacting the agriculture sector, including ensuring small landholder farmers profit from agricultural activities, focusing on seed creation, crop diversification, and increasing soybean yield. Scientists are encouraged to research farmers' needs.



# GENERAL AGRICULTURE

## PM-Kisan 20th Instalment: Will farmers get their next payment this month? Check latest update

The 20th instalment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN) is expected to be released this month, providing financial support to crores of Indian farmers. The scheme, launched in February 2019, offers Rs 6,000 per year, split into three equal instalments of Rs 2,000 each, through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. The 20th instalment is expected to be disbursed in June 2025. To receive the instalment, farmers must have an e-KYC done, have Aadhaar linked with their bank account, and match names in both Aadhaar and bank records.



## Indian tea prices rise 18% as demand surges from Russia, Iran, Iraq and UAE

Indian tea prices have surged by 18% in the first four months of this year. This is due to high demand from Russia, Iran, Iraq, and the UAE. Exports are expected to remain strong. Major consumer goods firms are increasing purchases. Auctioneers anticipate prices to stay firm. Packet tea sellers are hesitant to raise prices for local consumers.



## Odisha mangoes now in France, Belgium as exports soar

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. Farmers are benefiting from 40-60% higher prices due to direct export access and improved quality, solidifying Odisha's position as a growing agri-export hub.



# GENERAL AGRICULTURE

## UPL's Brazil co to sell assets of Serra Bonita

Advanta Comercio de Sementes (Advanta Brazil), a UPL Group company, has announced the sale of all assets of its Brazilian associate, Serra Bonita Sementes SA, for \$125 million. This strategic move aims to optimize UPL's asset portfolio and unlock value. The sale proceeds will be disbursed to Serra Bonita's shareholders in the coming months



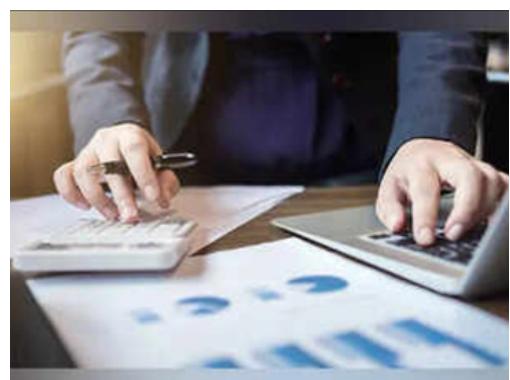
## India's agri sector transformed by five-fold budget surge over 11 years: Govt

The Indian government announced a significant transformation in the agricultural sector over the past 11 years, driven by increased budgetary support and farmer-centric schemes. This has led to a surge in foodgrain production, rising MSP for key crops like wheat and paddy, and substantial financial assistance to farmers through PM-KISAN and Kisan Credit Card schemes.



## India will protect farmers' interest in US trade talks: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

India prioritizes safeguarding its farmers' interests during ongoing trade negotiations with the US regarding agricultural market access. Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan emphasized that India will carefully assess potential gains and losses before finalizing any agreement. While the US seeks greater access for its agricultural products, India remains cautious to protect domestic producers from price volatility and potential backlash.



# GENERAL AGRICULTURE

## Rajasthan's Visionary Woman Farmer Soniya Jain Earns Rs 1 Crore Annually Through Dairy, Herbal Farming, and Diversified Agribusiness.

Soniya Jain, a progressive woman farmer from Jhalawar, Rajasthan, is revolutionizing Indian agriculture through her innovative and inclusive approach. As a first-generation farmer, she has built a diversified agribusiness that generates an impressive annual income of up to Rs 1 crore. Her enterprise goes beyond personal success, serving as a platform for empowering fellow farmers, especially women, by promoting sustainable practices, direct-to-market models, and rural entrepreneurship. Soniya has adopted integrated and sustainable farming systems, adopting advanced agronomic practices that enhance productivity while preserving soil health. She cultivates a wide variety of crops, striking a balance between commercial markets and local farmers' needs. Soniya has also developed 4000 square meters of polyhouse and net house infrastructure to boost productivity and crop quality. She has expanded her venture to produce high-quality dairy products, integrating it with her overall farm enterprise. Soniya is committed to supporting rural communities, empowering farmers and unemployed individuals, particularly women, to achieve financial independence. SOURCE- KRISHI JAGARAN



## Strengthening Women's Role in Agriculture.

Gender inequality in land ownership, limited access to technology, and low formal education hinder women farmers' productivity and decision-making power. They also face barriers to technology, financial services, and modern practices. Women also face a heavy workload, managing farming, household chores, and childcare, leading to physical exhaustion and time poverty. Market exclusion and gender-based discrimination further marginalize women from value chains. Climate change exacerbates these challenges, increasing natural disasters and domestic responsibilities. SOURCE- DRISHTIIAS



# GENERAL AGRICULTURE

## Govt clears procurement of moong, groundnut under Price Support Scheme.

The Indian government has approved the purchase of moong, groundnut, and tur, urad, and masur under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) for the 2025-26 summer crop season. The move aims to protect farmers' interests and extend the procurement period in Andhra Pradesh. Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan stated that agricultural production in India has increased by 40% over the past decade, with a 5.4% growth rate in the fourth quarter of the 2024-25 financial year. SOURCE- BUSINESS STANDARD



## The Jamtara Story: How Natural Farming and Indigenous Wisdom Turned Barren Land into a Thriving Agro-Hub.

Chanchal Biswas, a retired engineer, worked with tribal villagers to revive barren soil using cow dung, cow urine, and buttermilk solution. With a simple prayer ceremony, he doubled the income and introduced indigenous cows, Jeevamrut, and natural farming. The villagers grew crops like cauliflowers, tomatoes, brinjals, chillies, and radishes, and even new rice varieties. Chanchal Da's success highlights the importance of faith in securing water. SOURCE- KRISHI JAGARAN



## India's 15-Day Agri Campaign Concludes.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan concluded the 15-day 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' campaign in Bardoli, Gujarat, highlighting the government's ongoing engagement with farmers. The campaign, designed to implement Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Lab to Land' vision, deployed 2,170 teams of 16,000 scientists to engage with farmers, providing research-based information tailored to local conditions and field requirements. Chouhan praised Gujarat's agricultural performance and announced an ambitious target for natural farming across 7.5 lakh hectares this year. SOURCE- MONEY REDIFF.COM



# GENERAL AGRICULTURE

## Immigration Raids Spread to Agriculture as Meat Plant Targeted.

Immigration raids targeting farm workers are spreading across cities, including the agriculture industry. Over 70 people were detained in a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid at a meat plant in Omaha, Nebraska, and a field where farm laborers were picking blueberries in Tulare County, California. The Trump administration is ramping up immigration raids across the country, with nearly half of the US's 850,000 crop workers being undocumented. California's largest agricultural state has seen federal agents in farm fields and packinghouses, raising concerns among Democratic Senators Alex Padilla and Adam Schiff. SOURCE-LIVEMINT.COM



## Upcoming kharif crop area estimates to be fully based on satellite data.

The first advance estimates for kharif acreage this year, likely to be released in September, will be based on satellite data, eliminating the traditional manual 'girdawari' system for calculating crop area, sources told Business Standard. "In our pilot studies, the results have shown accuracy in the range of 93–95 per cent, which is considerably higher than the manual method. Starting September, we will release fully digital acreage data for kharif crops," the sources said. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare is working to improve crop area estimation by fully digitising the process across all districts using satellite-based data. SOURCE- BUSINESS STANDARD



# GENERAL AGRICULTURE

## India Pushes Back On US Trade Demands Over Agriculture, Dairy And Digital Services Ahead Of Tariff Deadline.

India-US bilateral trade negotiations are entering their final phase, with discussions becoming increasingly complex due to sensitive issues in dairy, agriculture, digital, and medical services. The US is pushing aggressively to open these sectors, while India seeks a more equitable agreement that protects domestic priorities. Negotiations are expected to continue virtually, with both sides aiming to finalise an agreement before the expiry of a 90-day pause on reciprocal US tariffs. A major sticking point remains US dairy exports, with India reluctant to liberalize due to social sensitivities and potential market disruptions. The US approach veers from the joint pledge for a "mutually beneficial" trade pact by autumn 2025. SOURCE-SWARAYA.MARG.COM



## Kerala Economics and Statistics dept report pegs average monthly income of agricultural households at ₹28,984.

The average monthly income of agricultural households in Kerala, while showing an increase over 2019, continues to hover below the ₹30,000-mark, indicates a report compiled by the Economics and Statistics Department of the Kerala government. The average monthly income of agricultural households, at current prices, stood at ₹28,984 in 2024, according to the Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households in Kerala: 2024-25, compiled by the department in collaboration with the Agriculture Department. Of this, crop production by itself accounted for a mere 22.97% (₹6,658), with the rest being contributed by wages (60.71%), animal farming (6.25%), non-farm business (9.93%) and income from leasing out land (0.13%). In addition to these sources, the earnings from pensions and remittances stood at ₹6,348. SOURCE-THE HINDU



# GENERAL AGRICULTURE

## Yeida fixes rates to buy agricultural land near Noida airport

Union Agriculture Minister concluded the 15-day 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' campaign in Bardoli, Gujarat, highlighting the government's ongoing engagement with farmers. The campaign, designed to implement Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Lab to Land' vision, deployed 2,170 teams of 16,000 scientists to engage with farmers, providing research-based information tailored to local conditions and field requirements. Chouhan praised Gujarat's agricultural performance and announced an ambitious target for natural farming across 7.5 lakh hectares this year. SOURCE- MONEY REDIFF.COM



## New scheme to study crops using AI: What is CROPIC

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is set to launch CROPIC, a study using field photographs and AI-based models to gather crop information. The study will be conducted for two seasons, kharif 2025 and rabi 2025-26. The CROPIC mobile app will collect field photographs from farmers, analyzing crop type, stage, damage, and extent. The initiative aims to automate loss assessment and compensation for farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). SOURCE- INDIA EXPRESS.COM



## Agriculture ministry embraces complete satellite-based crop area estimation

The ministry will release its final estimates of agricultural crop production for 2024-25 in September 2025. The initiative will use satellite-based data, which is 95% accurate compared to traditional surveys, to revolutionize crop area estimation across the country. The ministry plans to release the first-ever comprehensive satellite-based crop estimates in September 2025, including production data for crops, marking a significant leap forward in agricultural data collection and analysis for the country. The ministry began testing satellite-based data for estimating crop area in 2024 and conducted a survey under the Digital Agriculture Mission (DAM) last year to prepare the estimates. SOURCE- MONEY CONTROL.COM



# GENERAL AGRICULTURE

## New Seed Law Soon to Protect Farmers' Rights and Ensure Quality: Telangana Agriculture Commission Chairman

Telangana State Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Commission Chairman M. Kodanda Reddy announced the implementation of a new Seed Law within 15 to 20 days to provide long-term relief to farmers facing issues with cotton seeds. The law control seed companies and secure farmers' rights, ensuring accountability. The law will provide regulatory oversight on seed companies and safeguard farmers' rights. The government is also addressing issues faced by women in agriculture and ensuring justice for them. The law will provide a permanent solution to problems faced by farmers. SOURCE-THE HANS INDIA



## Dialogue with farmers will continue, says agriculture minister; concludes 15-day agri campaign

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan concluded the 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' in Gujarat, emphasizing continued support for farmers. The campaign, reaching over a crore farmers across India, promoted research-based agricultural practices. Chouhan highlighted Gujarat's agricultural achievements and outlined strategies for improvement, including natural farming, aiming to expand it across 7.5 lakh hectares this year. SOURCE-ECONOMIC TIMES



## Kilvelur Agricultural College set for ₹120-crore campus upgrade in Nagapattinam

The Agricultural College at Kilvelur in Nagapattinam district, which has been functioning from a temporary facility, would soon get a permanent campus at an estimated cost of ₹124 crore. Established in 2022 under the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), the college offers a four-year B.Sc. (Agriculture) course. The annual student strength ranges between 40 and 70. At present, the college functions from the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) at Kurukkathi village in Kilvelur taluk, which is inadequate for both academic and residential needs. SOURCE- THE HINDU.COM



# GENERAL AGRICULTURE

## Punjab agriculture department begins collecting soil samples for scientific analysis

The Agriculture Department in Patiala has launched a campaign to collect soil samples and provide scientific guidance to farmers for the upcoming Kharif season. The campaign, led by Chief Agriculture Officer Dr Jaswinder Singh, has collected over 10,000 samples so far. The data helps guide farmers on fertilizer requirements, reducing unnecessary use. Singh also urged farmers to use fertilizers based on soil testing reports and avoid cultivating Pusa-44 and hybrid varieties. SOURCE- TRIBUNETIMES



## Govt approves procurement of 54,166 tonnes moong, 50,750 tonnes groundnut under PSS

The government has approved the procurement of 54,166 tonnes of moong from Haryana, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh, along with 50,750 tonnes of groundnut from Uttar Pradesh, under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) for the 2025-26 season. Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan also extended the procurement period in Andhra Pradesh by 15 days. SOURCE-ECONOMIC TIMES



## Northeast tightens its hold on rubber as tyre majors scout beyond Kerala

Northeast India's rubber production is significantly up. Tripura, Assam, and Meghalaya now contribute 17.5% of India's total natural rubber output. This is a rise from 7.8% a decade ago. Tripura's production more than doubled. Assam and Meghalaya also saw substantial increases. Tyre companies are increasingly sourcing from the Northeast. Government initiatives and industry support are driving this growth. SOURCE-ECONOMIC TIMES

