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CULTIVATING IDEAS, GROWING FUTURES

GENERAL AGRICULTURE

₹5,000 per box and counting: Himachal's apple season begins with a bang as quality fruit reigns

Himachal Pradesh's apple growers are experiencing a profitable start to the season as early varieties fetch high prices in wholesale markets. Farmers are earning between Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000 per box, with over 10 lakh boxes already sold. SOURCE- THE ECONOMIC TIMES



Indian millers, exporters optimistic as Bangladesh plans to import 9 lakh tonne rice: Stakeholders

Indian rice millers and exporters are optimistic as Bangladesh plans to import 9 lakh tonnes of rice due to potential crop losses. India, holding a significant share of global rice exports, is expected to be the primary beneficiary due to its proximity and competitive pricing. SOURCE - THE ECONOMIC TIMES



Pumpset makers seek cut in GST on agri-pumps

Manufacturers of pumpsets for agricultural applications have reiterated their demand for reduction of GST on these products to 12% from the existing 18%. The government increased the GST to 18% about three years ago mainly because the manufacturers supplying to Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) had problems in getting input tax credit. However, with 18% on agri pumps, farmers prefer to buy unbranded pumps that are sold without GST. This has brought down sale of branded and energy efficient pumps tremendously. The manufacturers are able to take 11.5% to 13% input credit. The rest is passed on to farmers. By reducing the GST to 12% the farmers will get substantial cost advantage, said Mithun Ramdass, president of the Southern India Engineering Manufacturers Association. SOURCE - THE HINDU



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

All in one: On the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana scheme

The Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) aims to address productivity disparities between states and districts. It will combine 36 existing schemes across 11 departments and promote local partnerships with the private sector. The scheme will receive an annual outlay of ₹24,000 crore for six years. The aim is to increase productivity, value addition in agriculture, local livelihood creation, and domestic production. The convergence of schemes is crucial in light of decreasing public spending on agriculture. SOURCE - THE HINDU



Rain-related calamities hit joint farming ventures in Kozhikode

Rain-related calamities have caused crop loss in Kozhikode district, affecting 17,671 farmers and causing crop insurance claims. The total crop loss is estimated at ₹44 crore, with field-level data covering 2,000 hectares. Farmers in Mukkom and Perambra are now compelled to borrow additional money to repay existing agricultural loans. Field-level damage assessments are still incomplete in many locations, potentially delaying the disbursement of crop insurance benefits. Agriculture department officials have not confirmed the timely processing and disbursement of compensation. SOURCE- THE HINDU



Naturally coloured cotton revival hit by funding crunch, low yields

India's naturally colored cotton, once commercially successful, struggles to regain traction despite rising demand for sustainable textiles. Low yields hinder farmer adoption, despite premium pricing and environmental benefits. Government support, improved seed systems, and market linkages are crucial for realizing its export potential and transforming India's textile sustainability profile. SOURCE - THE ECONOMIC TIMES



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Farmers' interests fully protected in India-UK trade deal: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan says the India-UK trade pact protects farmers. The agreement, signed on Thursday, will boost farm exports. India has not given duty concessions on agri commodities that could hurt domestic farmers. Key items like potatoes, onions, and grains are excluded. Oilseeds and nuts are also on the negative list. This ensures farmers' economic interests are protected.



India-U.K. trade deal: Agri exports to grow 20% in 3 years, other key sectors to benefit

The government expects the India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) signed by the two countries on Thursday (July 24, 2025) to lead to substantial benefits for a variety of Indian export-oriented sectors such as agriculture, textiles, leather, chemicals, and engineering goods, according to officials aware of the calculations. I see a removal or reduction of tariffs on 90% of the tariff lines, covering 92% of the items currently exported from the U.K. to India. Among the items that will find cheaper access to the India market from the U.K. are whiskey, items related to aerospace, automobiles and electrical machinery. The economic and trade deal was signed in the UK by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and the U.K.'s Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds, in the presence of the Prime Ministers of both the countries



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Maharashtra Agriculture Minister in row over video showing him playing rummy in Assembly

A political row in Maharashtra has erupted after a video of Agriculture Minister Manikrao Kokate playing online rummy during the Assembly session went viral. The Nationalist Congress Party (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar shared the clip, accusing the government of being indifferent to the agrarian crisis in the state. Pawar argued that the NCP, led by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, was functioning "under the shadow of the BJP", a partner in the ruling Mahayuti alliance. He claimed that the ruling NCP faction cannot accomplish anything without consulting the BJP, and that the Agriculture Minister seems to have time to play rummy. SOURCE- THE HINDU



SRM College of Agricultural Sciences to launch growth promoters for four crops

The SRM College of Agricultural Sciences, a unit of the SRM Institute of Science and Technology, will soon launch crop growth promoters in the "SRM" brand for lady's finger (okra/bhindi), chilli, black matpe (urad) and groundnut. The crop-specific promoter formulations aim to enhance physiological traits such as photosynthetic efficiency, nutrient uptake, stress tolerance, and overall biomass accumulation, leading to improved yield. SOURCE- THE HINDU



West Bengal to expand maize cultivation by 60,000 hectares to meet rising feed demand

Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, a farmer's wing of Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh, has demanded the cancellation of permission to test Genetically Modified (GM) maize in Punjab Agricultural University's fields. The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) approved the trials, which are expected to begin in the kharif season. The committee recommended a proposal by Bayer Crop Science Limited for confined field trials on herbicide-tolerant and insect-resistant transgenic maize. SOURCE- THE ECONOMIC TIMES



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Revenue Minister asks officials not to acquire land of Regional Agricultural Research Centre at Kovilankulam

Revenue Minister K.K.S.S.S.R. Ramachandran has requested the Virudhunagar district administration to spare 130 acres of land belonging to the Regional Agricultural Research Centre at Kovilankulam and find alternative land for setting up the SIPCOT industrial estate in Aruppukottai. Farmers objected to the proposal, claiming the research centre was a "sanctuary" for farmers, producing quality seeds for rain-fed areas of southern districts. The farmers appealed to the Collector to pass a resolution against acquiring the research centre's land. The Collector stated that the Revenue Minister had informed him that the research centre's land would not be acquired for the industrial park. SOURCE- THE HINDU



From soil to screen: How digital finance is enabling smarter farming in rural India

India's agricultural sector, which supports 60% of the population, has been largely excluded from financial and technological advancements, particularly for rural farmers, particularly women. However, the rise of digital finance is addressing this exclusion, enabling rural farmers to access credit, crop insurance, digital payments, and online marketplaces. This has led to smarter, more informed, and empowered farming communities. Historically, farmers relied on informal moneylenders, local brokers, and traditional market systems, which were often high in interest rates and slow. Digital platforms like Kuberjee enable farmers to secure loans against old vehicles and access cattle loans through mobile apps. This shift is not only financial but also transformational, improving productivity and income stability. SOURCE- THE HINDU



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Maharashtra govt brings new scheme with Rs 25,000 crore outlay to boost agri sector

The Maharashtra government has unveiled the 'Krishi Samruddhi' scheme. It aims to empower farmers and promote sustainable farming. The agriculture department will implement it over five years with a Rs 25,000 crore outlay. Manikrao Kokate calls it a gift to farmers. The scheme focuses on capital investment, infrastructure improvement, and productivity enhancement. SOURCE- THE ECONOMIC TIMES



India's July rice stocks at record high and wheat hits four-year peak

India's rice reserves hit a record high, 15% up from last year. Wheat stocks also reached a four-year peak. This is due to increased buying from farmers. High rice stocks could boost exports. Improved wheat reserves may help control prices. The government procured nearly 30 million tons of wheat. India may not need to import wheat this year. SOURCE - THE ECONOMIC TIMES



Amit Shah lauds Sukhu govt for natural farming initiatives in Himachal

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah praised the Himachal government's initiatives in natural farming at the Manthan Baithak held recently on cooperatives, a state government spokesperson said on Friday. The spokesperson said Shah especially commended Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu for taking the lead in promoting chemical-free agriculture, setting an example for the rest of the country. The meeting was attended by cooperative ministers from all states.



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Get ready for supply shock in crop prices after uneven rainfall distribution: ICICI Bank

Uneven rainfall distribution across India is expected to cause a near-term supply shock in crop prices, according to an ICICI Bank report. While some states experience excess rainfall, others face significant deficits, potentially damaging crops in rain-deficient regions. Despite this, overall kharif sowing shows positive growth, but regional disparities could lead to price pressures.



Singapore-based Unique Global to acquire up to 12% stake in IFL Enterprises

IFL Enterprises may get a boost. Unique Global Managed Services of Singapore wants to buy 12% of the company. The board will discuss the offer on August 1. The offer price is Rs 2 per share. This is more than double the current price. Four Foreign Portfolio Investors recently bought 16.08% stake.



Significant rise in acreage of oilseeds, pulses in Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow is experiencing a surge in oilseed and pulse cultivation during the Kharif season. Sesame, groundnut, and soybean acreage have expanded significantly, with sesame cultivation witnessing the most striking increase. Pigeon pea remains a popular choice among farmers, while paddy, maize, and cotton cultivation have also seen substantial growth, contributing to an overall increase in Kharif crop area.

