

## Kerala to equip Ksheerasree portal for dispersing incentives to dairy farmers



The Kerala government has been planning to equip Ksheerasree portal for dispersing incentives to dairy farmers in the state. The portal has been rolled out for integrating all dairy farmers in the state under one roof and incentive disbursal mechanism will be included soon.

At present, around two lakh farmers are providing milk for 3,600 milk cooperative societies across the state. The plan is to make them register with the portal. A special drive will be conducted from August 15 to August 20 for the same.

Meanwhile, other dairy farmers, who are not associated with cooperatives, can also register in the portal. Apart from incentives, farmers can avail subsidies and allowances through the portal. Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development J Chinchu Rani informed that the allowances of MILMA and related departments will be disbursed through the portal in future.

## Centre restores farm loan interest subsidy, approves fillip of ₹34,856 crore



The Union Cabinet, at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Wednesday, decided to restore the interest subvention on short-term agriculture loans to 1.5% for all financial institutions, including cooperative banks.

The Centre said the increase in interest subvention support requires an additional budgetary provision of ₹34,856 crore for the period of 2022-23 to 2024-25.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur said as the Reserve Bank of India had recently increased the repo rate and an intervention was necessary to keep the interest rate on short term agriculture loan at 7%.

“Interest subvention of 1.5% will be provided to lending banking institutions for the financial year 2022-23 to 2024-25 for lending short-term agri-loans upto ₹3 lakh to the farmers,” a government release said.

## Drone tech will be adopted in agriculture, allied sectors in A.P: Appala Raju



Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, and Dairy Development Minister S. Appala Raju stated that drone technology would be fully adopted in the agriculture and allied sectors in the State.

Addressing the gathering after hoisting the national flag at the 75 th Independence Day celebrations here, Mr. Appala Raju said that farmers' groups and youth holding degrees in agriculture sciences would be given drones on a subsidy basis.

“Farmers' groups will be given drones on 40% subsidy. The youth holding degrees in agriculture sciences will get a 50% subsidy,” he said.

## Himachal to launch sexed semen technique in cattle breeding

The Himachal Pradesh government will launch the use of sexed semen in cattle breeding with the Central government's assistance to ensure the birth of female calves to enhance milk production and profitability of farmers, Animal Husbandry Minister Virender Kanwar.

The Centre's Department of Animal Husbandry has sanctioned a project to the state under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) by releasing a grant-in-aid of Rs 841.65 lakh.



The first lot of 20,000 doses of sex sorted semen has been purchased by the state government. The first insemination in cows and buffaloes will be undertaken in September, said Kanwar. The sex sorted semen of advanced breeds like Gir, Sahiwal, crossbred Jersey and crossbred Holstein Friesian will be available for farmers.

As per the programme, sexed semen doses will be used to obtain 3 lakh assured pregnancies in five years in Himachal Pradesh, which means the birth of around 2.4 lakh female calves in five years. The state will associate private technicians for the project who will be paid Rs 100 per artificial insemination with sexed semen.

## Lumpy skin disease: Haryana ready with vaccines, Punjab asks Centre to arrange more vaccines



The Union animal husbandry and dairying minister, Parshottam Rupala, who was in Chandigarh to review the situation prevalent due to the lumpy skin disease (LSD) in livestock, said that so far eight Haryana districts have remained unaffected by this disease.

Rupala said the Haryana government is working with caution in coordination with the Central government to prevent this disease. He hoped that with the introduction of vaccination, the disease will be contained which will also prevent its further spread to other districts.

Haryana Animal Husbandry and Dairy Minister, JP Dalal, has said that Hisar's National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE) has developed a vaccine for prevention of lumpy skin disease in animals, which will soon be made available to the cattle rearers of the state.

The Punjab government asked the Centre to immediately arrange the Goat Pox vaccine in adequate quantity for over 25 lakh livestock to prevent the contagious lumpy skin disease effectively in the state.

Principal secretary, animal husbandry, Punjab, Vikas Pratap said as many as 74,325 animals have been suspected to be affected by this disease in the state. Of these, 39,248 animals have been cured to date, while 3,359 deaths have been reported but these are not confirmed cases of lumpy skin disease, he added. Punjab has so far received around 3.16 lakh doses of vaccine in three phases, which have already been sent to all districts across the state, he said

## Amul, Mother Dairy to hike milk prices by ₹2 per litre from August 17

Leading milk suppliers Amul and Mother Dairy will increase milk prices by ₹2 per litre with effect from August 17 on account of rising input costs. This is the second hike by Amul and Mother Dairy in nearly six months. At the beginning of March, both had increased milk prices by ₹2 per litre.

The Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which sells milk and other dairy products under the Amul brand, on Tuesday said it has decided to increase the milk prices by ₹2 per litre in Ahmedabad and Saurashtra of Gujarat, Delhi-NCR, West Bengal, Mumbai and other markets effective from August 17.



Separately, Mother Dairy announced that it will hike milk prices in the Delhi-NCR (National Capital Region) by ₹2 per litre. Company official on Tuesday said it is "compelled" to raise its liquid milk prices by ₹2 per litre with effect from August 17, 2022. The new prices will be applicable for all milk variants.

Likewise, the cost of feed and fodder has also witnessed a significant rise due to the heat wave and the extended summer season. According to the official, the surge in farm prices is only being partially passed on to the consumers, thereby securing the interests of both the stakeholders — consumers and farmers.

## Jharkhand Becomes First State in India to Distribute Seed to Farmers via Blockchain Tech



In a significant development that will revolutionize agriculture in the country, the Directorate of Agriculture, Jharkhand, and global blockchain technology company, SettleMint, India jointly announced the successful launch of blockchain-based seed distribution to farmers.

"Jharkhand is the first state in the country to use blockchain to track seed distribution." The blockchain platform tracks seed supply distribution from the Directorate of Agriculture issuing supply orders, District Agriculture Officer placing seed demand,

tracking seed distribution from impanelled government seed producing agency to distributors, retailers, LAMPS/PACS, FPOs, and finally to farmers. The move to implement blockchain is intended to increase the transparency and authenticity of seeds received by farmers through the seed exchange scheme and other schemes.

It is planned to use blockchain technology to track the distribution of seeds, inputs, and implements under all of the schemes run by the Directorate of Agriculture, such as the State Seed Distribution Scheme, NFSM, PMKSY, and NHM. As it enables traceability, real-time monitoring, and efficient scheme management, this will play a critical role in the transparent execution of schemes while eliminating middlemen.

"It is the highest priority of this government to make quality seeds available to farmers at the right time, as well as to filter middlemen, identify beneficiaries, and create a farmers' database," stated Nisha Oraon, Director of Agriculture in Jharkhand.

## Rajasthan girl quits job in Germany to take up dairy farming

Contrary to popular belief that the educated and qualified populace of the country is more inclined towards securing job placement overseas, a female named Ankita has called it quits at her job abroad to head back to her motherland and venture into dairy farming.

Ankita, a resident of Rajasthan, left her job in Germany to practice farming in her hometown, Nasirabad. Ankita had, after completing her studies, headed abroad to work in the software sector in the US and thereafter in Germany. However, her recurring ill health and growing desire to turn entrepreneur pushed her to return to her country.



She said that she started her practice with an investment of 7 lakh rupees with which she purchased 7 cows which she reared on her father's land. She also shared that initially, it was difficult to convince people to buy 'desi' cow milk and other milk-based products and claimed that her hard work and perseverance eventually paid off. Ankita proudly shared that she made visits to local parks, in a bid to convince women to buy her products. Also, she visited door to door to deliver her products after she received her initial orders.

At present, Ankita has diversified into more than 300 organic products which include spices, milk-based products, flour, snacks, etc. She mentioned that her father and husband had been helping her in the business. During the last financial year, she claimed to have made a profit of Rs 33 lakhs.

## Health stamp must for imports of fish, dairy products



Imported consignments of milk, milk products, pork, fish and fish products will require health certificates issued by the competent authority of the exporting country. The certificates will be valid till 90 days from the date of issue.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has instructed its officials regarding the requirement of the health certificate with such food consignments. The development comes in the wake of a directive issued by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on August 3 which made health certification mandatory for such imports.

The certificate will require a detailed declaration, including country of origin and export, expiry date and details of ingredients. The preservatives have to be as per limits prescribed by the FSSAI.

FSSAI Food Licensing is a form of certification that ensures that food is fit for consumption and toxic elements are not present in it. Earlier, a veterinary certificate was required for milk and milk products and there was no standardised format. Experts said the move is in line with the government's policy of ensuring quality standards of goods imported into the country.

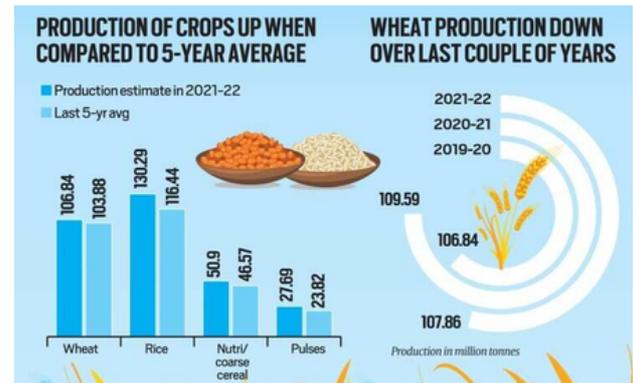
## Agriculture ministry expects record output in fourth advance estimate for major crops

Foodgrain output is expected to touch a record during the 2021-22 season, according to the fourth advance estimates of production of major agricultural crops released by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

According to the release, the production of foodgrain is estimated to be higher by 4.98 million tonnes than the previous year. The ministry estimates that the current foodgrain production will be 315.72 million tonnes.

The record production of foodgrain is higher by 25 million tonnes than average production in the previous five years (2016-17 to 2020-21). Notably, record production has been seen in crops such as rice, maize, gram, pulses, rapeseed and mustard, oilseeds and sugarcane.

According to the release, the total production of rice during 2021-22 is estimated to be higher by 13.85 million tonnes than the last five years' average production. The production of wheat during 2021-22 is estimated at 106.84 million tonnes, which is higher by 2.96 million tonnes than the last five years' average wheat production of 103.88 million tonnes.



## Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor launches 75 home stays to boost rural livelihood in partnership with OYO



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday 75 home-stays in rural areas to commemorate the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' in the 75th year of independence at a programme organised at SKICC.

A statement issued said, these home stays were owned by Self Help Group (SHG) members of Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) in partnership with OYO Group under project 'Crown of Incredible India'.

OYO Group in collaboration with JKRLM would build 200 more home stays by December 2022 to boost rural livelihood in J&K. He said that in a short time, SHGs had emerged as a powerful tool for women empowerment and socio-economic transformation in J&K.

The Lieutenant Governor said that under the banner of the UMEED programme, JKRLM was empowering the rural women entrepreneurs and the mission was to provide a national market for the local products. He said that the launch of 75 home stays with OYO Hotels and Homes would prove to be a milestone in the pursuit of social equality, social justice, and social security.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the partnership with OYO and the launch of Tourist Village Network, in which Mission Youth had selected 75 such villages under both Kashmir and Jammu divisions, known for their unique landscape, cultural diversity, and heritage value would go a long way in expanding the tourism ecosystem to rural areas of J&K.



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