



### New Initiative

#### DBT to participate in Bharat Innovation Fund

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and its PSU BIRAC has announced its participation in the Bharat Innovation Fund to support innovation and innovative startups under this program. The DBT will engage with the Bharat Fund and invest Rs 50 crore over the next three years, as part of DBT's efforts under the Startup India initiative, to help commercialize technologies from its labs and facilities, while also mentoring startups in the healthcare, agri-tech, and other biotech-related areas. The Bharat Fund is a public-private-academia partnership set up by IIM Ahmedabad's Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE). The objective of the fund is to support and provide funding (grants, seed capital, venture capital) and business support to innovation-driven start-ups that solve real problems faced by the masses of India through technology-enabled and rapidly scalable solutions and will focus on - healthcare and life-sciences (including biotech, medical devices), sustainability (energy, agriculture, environment, water), and digital technologies (especially in manufacturing, design).

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#### Himachal Pradesh launches 'The Himachal Pradesh Forest Eco-system Climate Proofing Project'

The state Government of Himachal Pradesh has launched The Himachal Pradesh Forest Eco-system Climate Proofing Project for Chamba and Kangra districts at a cost of Rs.310 crore. The project envisions enhancing bio-diversity and making forests resilient to the risks of climate change. Started with funding from KfW bank of Germany, the project also aims to enhance the adaptive capacities of local communities to cope with the negative effects of climate change. The project would

be implemented for six years in eight forest divisions of both districts based on climate vulnerability assessment. It would provide direct and indirect employment to about 1.5 lakh people of 600 cluster villages.

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## Investment in Agriculture

### Gol signs loan agreement with world Bank for irrigation project

The Government of India has signed a loan agreement with World Bank for the Neeranchal National Watershed Project. The project to be implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development over a six-year period (2016-21) will support the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana in hydrology and water management, agricultural production systems, capacity building and monitoring and evaluation. Of the total cost of Rs 2,142 crore of the Neeranchal, the Government of India will bring in Rs 1071 crore and the balance will be borne by the World Bank. All 28 states which implement the watershed projects will benefit from Neeranchal. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana will benefit more from the project due to implementation of large number of watershed schemes in these states.

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## MoU

### India Germany sign Joint Declaration of Intent for bilateral cooperation in the area of food safety and good agricultural practices

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India, and the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) of Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Federal Republic of Germany signed a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) for bilateral cooperation in the area of food safety and good agricultural practices specifically in the field of plant protection products to facilitate and support mutual exchange of scientific and technical expertise and information, to strengthen the professional qualification of experts and to benefit from each other's knowledge and experience. A communication channel will be established by both countries for exchange of experience, knowledge and study visits, workshops and seminars will be organized by both the countries.

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## Agri Marketing

### Price Stabalisation Fund to be shifted to MoC

The Rs 500-crore Price Stabalisation Fund (PSF) under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare will be shifted to Ministry of Consumer Affairs for effective control of price rise in essential commodities and provide relief to the consumers. An in-principle approval has already been given in this regard.

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## Trade

### Iraq extends ban on imports of frozen and live poultry products

Iraq has extended a ban on imports of frozen and live poultry products to cover two dozen countries in wake of possible threat of H5N1 bird flu virus. The affected exporters are Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Bhutan, China, Egypt, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Ivory Coast, Kazakhstan, Laos, Libya, Myanmar, Mexico, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Palestine, South Africa, South Korea and Vietnam.

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### Direct export of Basmati to Iran resumes

With direct exports of basmati rice to Iran resuming realization from the commodity, that had plunged very low, is expected to improve. Due to sanctions imposed on Iran, basmati exports to that country remained suspended from October 2014 to December 2015 and exports were being routed through Dubai at a lower price. The average export price of basmati slipped from \$1,352 per tonne in April-November 2014 to \$897 in the same period in 2015.

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### India gets timeline to remove import restriction on poultry from US

India has got time till June 16, 2016 to remove import restrictions on poultry from the US. The move is going to impact Indian poultry farmers as Chicken legs from

the US could be available in the Indian market at less than half the price at which it is available domestically. According to various estimates made by poultry associations representing India's four-lakh-plus poultry farmers, local players could lose between 15 per cent and 40 per cent of their domestic markets once US products start flowing into the market. Local industry produces an estimated 3.5 million tonnes of chicken every month.

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## Vietnam lifts ban on export of Groundnut

Vietnam has lifted ban on the import of Indian groundnut, after satisfactory steps are taken by India to make consignments pest-free. The Vietnamese Plant Protection Department will issue import permits for groundnuts.

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## Conditions on export of Sesamum to EU

The government has put certain conditions such as taking an export certificate for outbound shipments of sesame seeds to the European Union countries. DGFT has designated Indian Oilseeds & Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC) as competent authority to issue export certification. The move assumes significance as large numbers of alerts were received from the EU countries about the presence of salmonella bacteria in the consignments. Earlier, the IOPEPC in a circular had advised the exporters to conform the testing norms of sesame seed cargo to the EU countries. They had urged the exporters to comply with the guidelines for exports of all grades and varieties of sesame seeds to EU.

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## Dairy

### SUMUL set to transform dairy business in Goa

The state Government of Goa has allowed Gujarat-based Surat District Cooperative Milk Producers Union Limited (SUMUL) to establish large scale dairy farms in Goa on line with Anand Milk Union Limited (AMUL). The Government expects to achieve self sufficiency in milk production with the initiative SUMUL will work towards enhancing productivity, profitability, stability and sustainability of animals and create self employment for educated and unemployed rural youth in Goa. SUMUL will have to also provide Mobile Veterinary Clinic Services to the

above four talukas together with emergency services round the clock at the reasonable cost.

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