



New Initiative

Madhya Pradesh builds six ultra modern silos to store 4-lakh MT grain

The State Government of Madhya Pradesh is building steel silos to minimise the storage loss of food grains. So far 6 ultra modern granaries have been built with a total capacity of four lakh metric tonnes at Sehore, Dewas, Ujjain and Vidisha, while construction is in final stage in Satna, Harda and Hoshangabad. Food grains can be stored safely for three years in these silos. Also, no gunny bags are required as the food grains can be deposited directly. The state gives a 10-year commercial guarantee to the private entities which invest in such silos. The scheme, aimed at minimising the storage losses, is in operation for the last three years. The total investment in these silos at nine places is about Rs 270 crore.

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DTB facility for farmers to buy agriculture equipment

In Maharashtra, the government facility of DTB (Direct to Bank Account) has been extended to farmers to buy agriculture equipment. The farmers will now be able to purchase quality equipment of their choice for their farm related activities without any interference of middlemen. The agriculture commissionerate / project directorate have issued instructions to all district agriculture superintendents and agriculture officers to deposit the money direct to the bank account of beneficiary farmer, for purchase of agriculture equipment to be bought during years 2015-16 under National Food Security Project. 50% of the cost of the equipment would be directly given to beneficiary in cash.

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Agriculture Marketing

Government to give Rs 10 subsidy on imported arhar dal

The Central Government has announced Rs 10 subsidy on every kg of imported arhar dal that will be sold to consumers through state agencies. The 5,000 tonnes of imported un-milled arhar will be available by mid-September at Rs 77 per kg while another 5,000 tonnes of imported urad dal at Rs 86 a kg will be available by October first week. The decisions to import urad and subsidy for arhar came as prices of these pulses have seen a steep increase.

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State Governments taking measures to curb onion price rise

With onion prices hitting the Rs.80 per kg mark and more various state Governments are adopting measures to make the commodity available at cheaper rate to the consumer. • The State Government of Haryana has directed the Haryana Agriculture Federation (Hafed) to place an indent with the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (Nafed) to purchase 1,000 tonnes of onions for sale at Rs.35 per kg. • The Goa state horticulture cooperation is selling onions at Rs 40 a kg at 8 places across Goa through corporation's mobile carts. • The Delhi Government began selling onions at Rs.40 per kg at the 280 fair price shops in the capital. The price was later slashed by Rs 10 to sell at Rs 30 per kg.

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Trade

Amendments in tariff value

| 4 Sep

Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC), has made amendment in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 36/2001-Customs (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3, Sub-section (ii), vide number S. O. 748 (E), dated the 3rd August, 2001. As a result of the amendment the Tariff Value of Crude Palm Oil, RBD Palm Oil, others – Palm Oil, Crude Palmolein, RBD Palmolein, others – Palmolein, Crude Soybean Oil will change.

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Wheat import likely to take a pause

The price volatility of imported Australian wheat in the past few weeks has put a pause on forward booking contracts of wheat. The expected announcement of 10 per cent duty on wheat imports might further impact wheat imports, creating hurdles for flour millers consuming high-protein wheat.

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US extends anti-dumping duty on Indian mushrooms for 5 years

The United States has extended the anti-dumping duty on Indian preserved mushrooms for another five years. The move would impact domestic exporters as the US is a major export destination for India. USITC has "determined that revoking the existing anti-dumping duty orders on preserved mushrooms from Chile, China, India, and Indonesia are likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury within a reasonably foreseeable time.

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Partnership

Australia to collaborate with Indian researchers

The Australian government, through the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF), would collaborate with Indian researches in the field of agriculture among others. The Australian government has earmarked \$84 million to be spent over three years in creating infrastructure, awarding fellowship and scholarship to promote research between the two countries.

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Dairy

Centre accepts Punjab plea to lower cow milk fat standards

The Centre has decided to accept Punjab's demand to bring fat standards of cow milk down from 4% to 3.5%, as is permitted in the rest of India by FSSAI. Final notification in this regard would be issued by the Ministry of Health within two months after getting green signal from the WTO. The decision is expected to give a

major boost to the dairy sector and offer a level playing field to farmers in the state.

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Sugar

AP govt scraps tax on sugar

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has decided to source all its sugar requirements from local factories and do away with Value Added Tax and Central Sales Tax. This has come as a huge relief to the sugar industry in the state that was burdened with huge stocks of unsold sugar.

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