

# GOE HARVEST

1st September 2025



**ASCI**  
Agriculture Skill Council of India

**CEASI**  
CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR  
AGRICULTURE SKILLS IN INDIA



**CEFMI**  
Centre of Excellence for  
Farm Mechanization Skills in India

**CEHSI**  
Centre of Excellence for  
Horticulture Skills in India

[www.ceasi.in](http://www.ceasi.in)





Dear Readers,

It is a privilege to reach you through our weekly newsletter, which reflects the pulse of CEASI working under the aegis of ASCI, our collective journey toward skill development and sustainable agriculture. Every story we share here is a testament to the dedication of our teams, partners, and farming communities.

Our mission remains clear: to empower farmers and agri-professionals with the skills, knowledge, and technology they need to thrive in a changing world. By combining innovation with grassroots engagement, we are laying the foundation for a more productive, resilient, and inclusive agricultural sector.

I invite you to read, learn, and actively participate in the opportunities this newsletter presents. Your involvement is what transforms ideas into impact.

**Dr. Satender Singh Arya**  
Chief Executive Officer



Dear Readers,

CEASI weekly newsletter is not only a summary of activities. Rather it is a platform to exchange ideas, celebrate achievements, and strengthen our shared vision for the future of Indian agriculture and its allied sectors like Dairy, Horticulture, Farm Mechanisation, Climate resilience, to name a few. Each edition carries stories of innovation, collaboration, and progress from across the agriculture domain and across geographies.

As we move forward, our focus will continue to be on sharing knowledge, latest developments, building capacity, and sharing success stories at every level from the farmer's field to the policymaker, ensuring that modern tools, techniques, and best practices reach those who need them most.

I agree that this newsletter is at its nascent stage. I encourage the readers and stakeholders to stay engaged with the initiatives, trainings, and updates featured here, and to share the salient achievements and developments that can be published herein. Your ideas for improvement of coverage, publication frequency, new sections to be included and feedback will be of immense importance to make it a model periodical that will provide opportunities to grow stronger and together.

**Jaswant Singh Kalsi**  
Chief Operating Officer

## Who We Are:

“Centre of Excellence for Agriculture Skills in India (CEASI)” is an autonomous organization working under the aegis of “Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI)”, which is working under Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) for skilling and capacity building of farmers, wage workers, self-employed professionals, extension workers etc. engaged in organized and unorganized segments of Agriculture & Allied sectors.

**CEASI is an apex organization of Centres of Excellence in various sub-sectors of agriculture viz.**

- Centre of Excellence for Dairy Skills in India (CEDSI)
- Centre of Excellence for Horticulture Skills in India (CEHSI)
- Centre of Excellence for Farm Mechanization Skills in India (CEFMI)
- Centre of Excellence for Climate Resilient Agriculture (CoECRA)
- Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture (CoE-AI)

## What We Do:

### Skilling & Capacity Building:

Building capacity based on stakeholder needs in agriculture and allied sectors.

### Knowledge Management:

Developing QPs, NOS, skill gap reports, and newsletters to support workforce standards.

### Research:

Conducting industry research to identify needs and bridge skill gaps as per industry demands.

### Advocacy & Advisory Services:

Creating networks to share innovations and address sectoral challenges.

## Our Vision

An autonomous institution of excellence committed to developing a highly skilled workforce in agriculture, driving innovation, technological advancement, and sustainable practices to enhance the prosperity and resilience of Indian agriculture.

## Our Mission

To emerge as the leading organization for skill development in cutting-edge agricultural practices, both nationally and globally, fostering holistic sector growth through sustainability, profitability, capacity building, knowledge dissemination, policy advocacy, and innovative research.

## CEASI's Impact:

CEASI is driving transformative change in Indian agriculture by empowering individuals, enhancing skills, and uplifting communities across the country.

- ▶ 15+ States
- ▶ 15 FPOs Trained & Supported
- ▶ 20,000 Agri / Dairy Professionals Upskilled
- ▶ 5000+ Entrepreneurs Skilled
- ▶ 3000+ Women Empowered
- ▶ 30,000+ Lives Impacted



### PRYMA AEROSPACE GETS DGCA NOD FOR AGRICULTURE DRONE 'ARJUNA'



City-based drone manufacturer PRYMA Aerospace has received certification from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for its agriculture-focused drone, Arjuna. The approval allows the company to deploy the drone for farm-related applications such as crop monitoring and precision spraying.

The certificate was presented to PRYMA's founder and CEO, Dhanashree Mandhani, by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. This follows the recent recognition of the group's Drone School of Excellence as a Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO),

creating a complete pathway for drone manufacturing, pilot training, and large-scale deployment.

Earlier this year, PRYM Group signed a ₹300 crore MoU with the state government at the World Economic Forum in Davos to promote drone adoption and skill development.

With the DGCA approval, the company aims to expand drone-based solutions nationwide. Agricultural drones like Arjuna can help farmers improve crop yields, reduce chemical waste, and make more efficient use of resources, contributing to sustainable farming practices.

### AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON DRONE SPRAYING WITH NANO-FERTILIZERS HELD IN RANGAREDDY



An awareness programme and field day on drone-based agricultural technologies was organised at Nedunuru village, Kandukuru mandal, Rangareddy district. The event was jointly conducted by the Department of Agriculture, ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Rangareddy), and ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad.

The programme highlighted drones as more than just spraying tools, describing them as innovations that address challenges of timely input application, labour shortages, and farmer

safety. Participants learned that drones provide uniform coverage, save time and resources, and ensure precision in input use, thereby improving nutrient efficiency.

Special focus was given to nano-fertilizers. In rice, they strengthen plant health and reduce nutrient losses, while in maize, applications during the vegetative and grain-filling stages enhance growth and yield. Demonstrations showed how drones can cover large areas quickly compared to manual spraying.

Around 30 farmers attended, including maize and rice growers who directly participated in live drone spraying demonstrations. Farmers were also informed about government support, subsidies, and training opportunities.



## KERALA TO INTRODUCE BILL LEGALISING LEASE FARMING



The Kerala government is set to introduce a Bill to legalise lease farming, a move officials believe could be a game changer for reviving agriculture in the state. The Bill is expected to bring large tracts of fallow land back into cultivation and boost agricultural start-ups seeking land for hi-tech and scientific farming.

The proposed law will be modelled on Andhra Pradesh's Crop Cultivator Rights Act, 2019. At present, tenant farming is common in Kerala but remains outside the legal framework of the state's Land Reforms Act. Legalisation would enable tenant farmers to access bank credit, crop insurance, and government schemes.

Officials said Kerala currently has over one lakh hectares of fallow land, with nearly half lying permanently unused. Legalising lease farming is seen as a “win-win” for both landowners and cultivators, allowing owners to retain rights while ensuring productive use of land.

## ICAR-KVK NIMBUDERA TRAINS FARMERS ON MODERN TECHNIQUES FOR PADDY CULTIVATION



ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Nimbudera, conducted a three-day training programme on “Modern Agricultural Techniques for Paddy Cultivation” from August 21 to 23 at Samiti Hall, Rangat. The programme aimed to equip farmers with advanced knowledge and practical skills to enhance paddy productivity under island conditions.

The training was inaugurated by Shri Balamurugan, Pradhan of Parnasala Panchayat, who urged farmers to adopt scientific and sustainable practices for better yields. Dr. V. Damodaran, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Nimbudera, stressed the

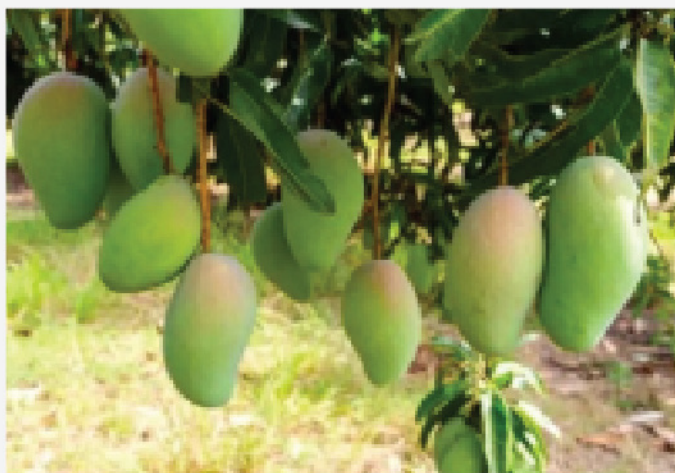
importance of modern methods in addressing challenges of limited resources and climate variability.

Experts delivered sessions on seed selection, nursery preparation, transplanting, integrated nutrient management, and use of organic manures. Live demonstrations were conducted on the use of the Conoweeder. Farmers also received guidance on mechanization, paddy-cum-fish culture, post-harvest processing, and value addition.

Around 31 farmers and farm women actively participated in the programme, gaining valuable insights to improve productivity and sustainability.



## INDIA'S HORTICULTURE OUTPUT REACHES RECORD 367.72 MILLION TONNES



India's horticulture sector has achieved remarkable growth, with production reaching 367.72 million tonnes in 2024-25 (second advance estimates), up from 280.70 million tonnes in 2013-14. The output includes 114.51 million tonnes of fruits, 219.67 million tonnes of vegetables, and 33.54 million tonnes from other horticulture crops. Between 2014-15 and 2023-24, fruit production rose by nearly 30% and vegetable output by 22%, supported by improvements in productivity—fruits from 14.17 to 15.80 tonnes per hectare and vegetables from 17.76 to 18.40 tonnes per hectare.

This progress is attributed to sustained

government support through the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, which promotes high-quality planting material, expansion of cultivation areas, rejuvenation of orchards, and protected cultivation practices. Key initiatives include Centres of Excellence, cluster-based development, organic farming, water management, and advanced post-harvest infrastructure such as pack houses, cold storages, and integrated supply chains. These interventions have strengthened sustainability, enhanced crop quality, and improved market access, positioning India's horticulture sector for continued growth.

## HIMACHAL TO INTRODUCE HORTICULTURE IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES FROM NEXT SESSION



Shimla: Himachal Pradesh is set to integrate horticulture as a vocational subject in schools and colleges from the next academic session. The initiative will cover classes IX-XII and extend to undergraduate and postgraduate levels, aiming to build scientific knowledge, practical skills, and entrepreneurial aptitude among students. As horticulture forms the backbone of the state's economy, particularly through apples, mangoes, citrus fruits, and other crops, this step is expected to strengthen career opportunities in cultivation, processing, marketing, and allied industries.

The move is designed to prepare students for

both higher education and direct employment, while also encouraging self-employment in horticulture-related fields. Introducing the subject early in schools will instil awareness about sustainable agriculture, environmental balance, and the state's agrarian heritage. With nearly 90% of the state's population living in rural areas, the initiative positions horticulture as not only a means of livelihood but also a modern, profitable, and respectable career option for the younger generation.



### TIRUCHY: SEED VILLAGE SCHEME LAUNCHED TO BOOST TRIBAL LIVELIHOODS IN PACHAMALAI HILLS



The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bengaluru, has launched the Seed Village Scheme in the Pachamalai Hills near Thuraiyur to enhance livelihood opportunities for tribal communities. Under this model, introduced for the first time in a hilly tribal region, farmers will cultivate vegetables exclusively for seed production, which will be directly procured by IIHR. This approach ensures that farmers earn assured income while preventing losses from unsold produce. The initiative is part of wider efforts to promote sustainable horticulture in the region, supported by the Tamil Nadu Tribal Welfare Department.

So far, 125 tribal farmers have successfully cultivated tomato, chillies, mango, guava, and papaya using high-yield seedlings supplied by IIHR, while seed kits for beans have been distributed to 400 families to encourage kitchen gardening. The programme, initially piloted last year, has now been scaled up, with organic manure and horticultural inputs also being provided. The initiative is expected to benefit around 250 cultivators, strengthening livelihoods through sustainable fruit and vegetable cultivation.

### HORTICULTURE AWARENESS DRIVE ORGANIZED UNDER VIBRANT VILLAGE PROGRAMME



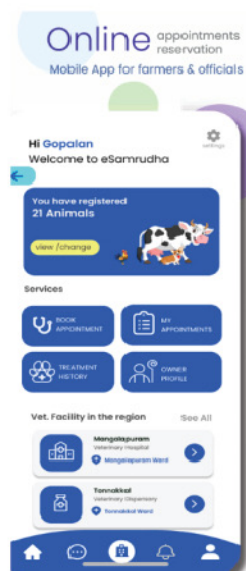
Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh: A Horticulture Awareness cum Input Distribution Programme was organized at Duitongkhar Circle under the Vibrant Village Programme (VVP) and the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). The initiative highlighted organic farming practices, promotion of locally suitable crops, and distribution of input kits aimed at improving productivity and rural income. Demonstrations on organic inputs such as liquid manure, bio-pesticides, fungicides, and granular manures were conducted to showcase their environmental and health benefits. Farmers were also encouraged to adopt group farming, enhance market access,

and align their practices with local agro-climatic conditions.

A key feature of the programme was the ceremonial distribution of horticulture input kits to 48 farm families. Each kit contained 12 types of hybrid vegetable seeds, organic manures, bio-fertilizers, plant protection inputs, and agricultural sprayers. The event witnessed active participation from local representatives, horticulture officials, and security forces, reflecting collective efforts to strengthen border communities through sustainable horticulture and eco-friendly rural development.



## ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT TO LAUNCH E-SAMRUDHA DIGITAL LIVESTOCK & E-HEALTH MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

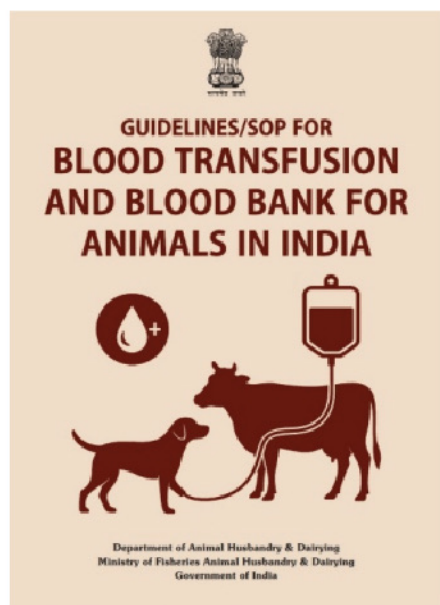


The State Animal Husbandry Department is set to launch e-Samrudha, a comprehensive digital livestock and e-health management system, on August 30 in Adoor. The initiative, with an investment of ₹7.5 crore, marks a significant step towards fully digitizing livestock-related services across the State.

Piloted successfully in Pathanamthitta district, the platform will now be extended to all districts. e-Samrudha aims to integrate a wide range of services on a single platform, ensuring better efficiency and accessibility for farmers and veterinary professionals. Key features include animal health information management, online booking for OP consultations, mobile applications for farmers and department officials, laboratory information management for departmental labs, and breeding management services.

Developed with the support of the Digital University Kerala, the system will be rolled out across 130 veterinary establishments, including multi-speciality veterinary hospitals. The department expects this digital initiative to improve service delivery, strengthen animal health management, and provide seamless access to resources for stakeholders in the livestock sector.

## INDIA RELEASES FIRST-EVER NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR ANIMAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION AND BLOOD BANKS



The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) has released India's first national Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Blood Transfusion and Blood Banks for Animals, filling a critical gap in veterinary healthcare.

Previously, animal blood transfusions in India were largely conducted during emergencies without standardized screening or storage protocols. The new framework establishes a structured system covering donor selection, blood collection, component processing, storage, transfusion procedures, monitoring, and safety safeguards.

Developed with inputs from the Veterinary Council of India, ICAR institutes, veterinary universities, state governments, and practitioners, the guidelines align with global best practices and incorporate One Health principles to manage zoonotic risks.

Key features include voluntary and ethical blood donations, mandatory blood typing and cross-matching, a Donor Rights Charter, digital registries, real-time inventories, and mechanisms

for reporting adverse reactions. The roadmap also envisions a National Veterinary Blood Bank Network, supported by mobile blood collection units, cryopreservation, and digital applications for donor-recipient matching.



## PUNJAB'S ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZED FOR INNOVATIVE PRACTICES



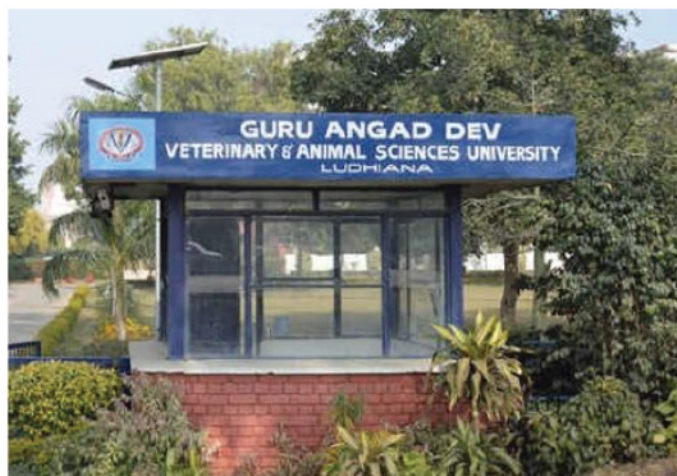
Punjab's Animal Husbandry Department has received national recognition for its innovative practices in livestock management and farmer outreach. The department was commended during the Regional Review Meeting (RRM) for Northern States and Union Territories, held in Punjab, for effectively leveraging social media platforms like YouTube and Facebook to share vital information and promote extension activities among livestock farmers.

The department's doorstep artificial insemination services were particularly appreciated, with recommendations for replication in other northern states. Key

achievements highlighted included the procurement of 3.75 lakh doses of sex-sorted semen to increase female calf production, 100% coverage of the FMD vaccination target, and conducting 22.26 lakh artificial inseminations in FY 2024-25. The department also produced 18.50 lakh semen straws to strengthen breeding programs.

The review meeting brought together eight northern states and UTs to evaluate progress under the Livestock Health Disease Control Program and the National Livestock Mission, while also planning priorities for 2025-26. The gathering facilitated knowledge exchange, collaboration, and strategies for improving animal husbandry services across the region.

## VET UNIVERSITY, PDFA COLLABORATE TO ENHANCE CATTLE GENETICS AND MILK YIELD IN PUNJAB



Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Progressive Dairy Farmers' Association (PDFA) to advance cattle genetics and boost milk productivity in Punjab.

Under the partnership, elite Holstein Friesian (HF) and Jersey male calves, selected from PDFA members' herds, will be screened for breeding. The university will produce high-quality frozen semen from these calves and supply it back to farmers through PDFA. This initiative aims to ensure wider access to superior germplasm, enable progeny testing

with accurate data, and promote sustainable genetic advancement.

GADVASU officials highlighted that the collaboration will enhance milk yields, reduce farmers' dependence on costly imported semen, and establish a long-term model of livestock improvement. With HF and Jersey cattle making up nearly 80% of Punjab's herd and contributing 40% of its milk production, the program is expected to strengthen Punjab's position as a leader in dairy genetics, while offering farmers reliable, cost-effective, and high-quality breeding solutions.



### WFP DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEETS AGRICULTURE SECRETARY TO DISCUSS FOOD SECURITY PARTNERSHIPS



Mr. Carl Skau, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the World Food Programme (WFP), called on Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, at Krishi Bhavan today. The meeting focused on strengthening WFP's engagements at national, regional, and global levels.

Welcoming the delegation, Dr. Chaturvedi highlighted India's vision of becoming a global food basket and achieving food and nutrition security through innovation and South-South cooperation. He underlined key initiatives such as digital agriculture, crop insurance, traceability systems, and the development of bio-fortified crop varieties by ICAR.

Mr. Skau commended India's remarkable progress in advancing food security and noted its growing role in shaping global solutions amid climate change and conflict-related challenges. He emphasized that India's experience in social protection, diversification, fortification, women's empowerment, and climate-resilient livelihoods provides valuable lessons for other countries.

He reaffirmed WFP's commitment to deepen collaboration with India in the collective fight against global food insecurity.

### INDIA, BHUTAN SIGN PACT TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED SECTORS



India and Bhutan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to deepen cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors. The agreement was signed in Thimphu on August 28, 2025, by Agriculture Secretary Devesh Chaturvedi and Thinley Namgyel, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL), Bhutan.

The MoU provides a framework for collaboration in agricultural research and innovation, livestock health and production, post-harvest management, value chain development, and the exchange of knowledge, skills, and expertise. It reflects the two countries' shared commitment to food security, sustainable farming, and rural prosperity.

To facilitate implementation, the first meeting of the Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG) was convened, where both sides finalized the Terms of Reference and identified priority areas for immediate action. Discussions covered agriculture, livestock, seed development, food processing, research partnerships, marketing, cooperatives, and capacity building. The next JTWG meeting will be hosted in India at a mutually convenient date, strengthening bilateral collaboration for agricultural growth and resilience.



## STRENGTHENING CLIMATE-SMART SUGARCANE CULTIVATION IN AYODHYA UNDER THE SASHWAT MITHAS INITIATIVE

Under the Sashwat Mithas initiative, the Centres of Excellence for Agriculture Skills in India (CEASI), in collaboration with UPL SAS Limited, are advancing sustainable sugarcane farming practices in Ayodhya. To date, 500 farmers have been surveyed across 90 unorganized and 3 organized farmer groups to assess current cultivation methods and identify opportunities for improvement. Based on these insights, village-level demonstration plots have been set up to showcase best practices in water-use efficiency, soil health management, and the use of organic inputs.

To strengthen community engagement and peer-to-peer learning, the initiative has facilitated 92 retailer visits, organized 8 field days, and conducted 3 organized meetings along

with 90 unorganized meetings with farmers. These platforms provide opportunities for growers to directly interact with experts, discuss ground-level challenges, and observe the practical application of climate-resilient practices.

Through field research, live demonstrations, and active stakeholder participation, the initiative equips sugarcane farmers with eco-friendly, resource-efficient techniques that enhance yields, conserve natural resources, and build resilience against climate change. The broader vision is not only to increase sugarcane productivity but also to establish a replicable model of ecological sustainability and inclusive agricultural growth in the Ayodhya region.





# CEFMI PARTNERS WITH EKL CSR FOUNDATION TO STRENGTHEN FPO LEADERSHIP IN HARYANA

Centre of Excellence for Farm Mechanization Skills in India (CEFMI), in collaboration with Escorts Kubota Limited, successfully conducted a 3-day residential capacity-building training program for Farmer-Producer Organizations (FPOs) at Escorts Kubota Advanced Farming Institute (EKFAI), Kurukshetra, Haryana. Held from 25th to 27th August 2025, the program brought together 50 participants representing 29 FPOs from Uttar Pradesh.

The training was designed to strengthen the organizational governance and structure of FPOs, enhance participants' understanding of farm mechanization, and improve their knowledge of financing mechanisms for

agri-business activities. Special emphasis was placed on developing leadership skills, fostering better decision-making practices, and promoting sustainable mechanization solutions that directly benefit member farmers.

Through interactive sessions, case studies, and group discussions, the program created a platform for FPO leaders to exchange experiences, address operational challenges, and explore opportunities for collective growth. The residential format ensured an immersive learning environment, encouraging peer-to-peer learning and collaboration across participating FPOs.







# CEASI

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(CEASI), Unit No. 101, First Floor, Greenwoods  
Plaza, Block 'B' Greenwoods City, Sector-45,  
Gurugram, Haryana-122009



+91 74287 06078



info@cedsi.in



www.ceasi.in



@ceasi\_india