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Assam Cabinet Approves Key Decisions to Boost Dairy, Food Security, and Employment

The Assam Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, has approved several key initiatives aimed at strengthening the state's rural economy, food security, and employment landscape. A major highlight is the approval of a state-of-the-art dairy processing plant by AMUL at the Institute of Farm Management Campus in Rani.

The Cabinet has leased 20 bighas of land for the project, which will have a capacity to process 1 lakh litres of milk per day. The plant is expected to cost between Rs 75 crore and Rs 150 crore and will directly benefit around 20,000 dairy farmers, boosting rural income and employment. This move follows the MoU signed with AMUL during the Advantage Assam 2.0 summit.

The Cabinet approved subsidised foodgrains for the economically weaker sections to boost food security and announced financial benefits for ICT instructors to improve their welfare. It also cleared major private investments under the IIPA, expected to create over 1,000 jobs, reflecting a commitment to inclusive growth.

Andhra Pradesh Aims to Become Global Hub for Smart, Sustainable Animal Husbandry

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has declared the state's ambition to emerge as a global hub for smart and sustainable animal husbandry. At an animal husbandry conclave in Vijayawada, Naidu highlighted efforts under the National Livestock Mission to boost indigenous breeds, modernise infrastructure, and train dairy farmers in tech-driven practices.

Naidu announced a 96% success rate in the 'Cow Aadhaar' system for identifying livestock, saying it will streamline management. He also highlighted AI's role in detecting animal health issues, even through bird sounds.

With over 11% of Andhra Pradesh's GSDP in 2024–25 attributed to the livestock sector, the Chief Minister reaffirmed his vision to position the state as a model for tech-enabled rural development and to contribute significantly to the Swarna Andhra Pradesh 2047 vision.

He also noted Andhra Pradesh's leading national rankings—first in egg production, fifth in meat, and seventh in milk. Emphasising the role of innovation, Naidu called for widespread adoption of technology to enhance productivity and ensure sustainable growth in the agriculture and livestock sectors.



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Centre Pledges Full Support to Make Tripura Self-Reliant in Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh has assured full central support to help Tripura become *aatmanirbhar* in milk and fish production. Speaking at the inauguration of a modern milk processing plant at Bamutia in West Tripura, the minister highlighted India's 6% annual growth in milk production, compared to the global average of 2%. He highlighted Tripura's strong potential in animal husbandry and fisheries.



Tripura has long aimed for food self-sufficiency, setting targets since 2002-03. However, earlier efforts fell short. Despite various initiatives, the state continues to depend on imports for meat, milk, and eggs. The minister's commitment marks a renewed opportunity for Tripura to transform its dairy and fisheries sectors and achieve sustainable growth and rural prosperity.

The new plant can handle 40,000 litres of milk daily, with 10,000 litres for curd and buttermilk. Singh urged Tripura to follow Varanasi's model and tackle foot and mouth disease to boost dairy exports.



DAHD Seeks NDRI's Help on Adulteration, Breeds & Dairy Innovation

Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), along with Commissioner Dr. Abhijit Mitra and senior officials, visited ICAR-NDRI in Karnal. The team interacted with scientists and praised NDRI's longstanding contributions to the dairy sector. Upadhyaya expressed interest in collaborating on the dissemination of adulteration detection kits, pregnancy testing tools, and farmer-focused extension activities.

She also emphasized the development of the Lakhimi cattle breed from Assam, known for its climate adaptability, and called for joint efforts in disease prevention, genetic improvement, and dairy sector growth. Dr. Mitra reaffirmed DAHD's commitment to integrated animal and human health and environmental sustainability.

NDRI Director Dr. Dheer Singh highlighted the institute's 102-year legacy with 144 technologies developed, 71 commercialised, and 56 patents. The visit ended with Dr. Ashish Kumar Singh's vote of thanks and eagerness for continued collaboration with DAHD.

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UP Boosts Dairy Sector with 35% Subsidy, Empowers Panchayats for Self-Reliance

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved key amendments to the UP Dairy Development and Milk Production Promotion Policy 2022, significantly increasing the subsidy for establishing and upgrading dairy units. To boost private investment, the state has raised the subsidy for new and modernised dairy units from 10% to 35%, capped at ₹5 crore.

Animal Husbandry Minister Dharampal Singh said the revised subsidy now aligns with the state's Food Processing Industry Policy 2023. Additionally, the government will provide 35% or up to ₹2.5 crore for modernisation of dairy plants and up to ₹1 crore for purchasing machinery and equipment.

To boost rural self-reliance, the Cabinet approved a scheme offering Gram Panchayats five times their locally generated revenue—like fish breeding—as aid, up to ₹5 lakh. Minister Suresh Khanna said the move aims to foster local entrepreneurship and strengthen village governance.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurates veterinary college, announces ₹338.83 Cr aid for Nagaland.

Union Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the new Administrative-cum-Academic Block of the College of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, Central Agricultural University (Imphal), at Jalukie in Nagaland. During the event, he announced a financial assistance package of ₹338.83 crore for the overall development of the agriculture sector in Nagaland.

The Minister urged the state government to prepare a comprehensive action plan for agriculture and rural development, assuring full central support. He recommended forming scientific teams in each district, including scientists, KVK officials, university experts, and farmers, to engage with local communities twice a month and address grassroots challenges.

Chouhan highlighted natural farming's potential and assured Centre's support for sustainable agriculture. He praised the college, invited students to Delhi to share ideas, and pledged backing for startups. At the Farmers' Fair, he engaged with farmers, while Nagaland's Governor and Deputy CM lauded scientific advances. The event hosted 639 farmers and 84 officials.



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UP Aims to Boost Horticultural Processing from 6% to 20% by 2027

The state government of U.P. unveiled targets to increase horticultural area from 11.6% to 16% of total cropped acreage by 2027 and to raise processing of produce from 6% to 20% in the same period. An investment of Rs 11,000 crore will underwrite mega food-processing units and infrastructure development, including storage and logistics.

The Micro scheme drives rapid growth of processing enterprises with technical and credit support. To boost yield and water efficiency, the government will expand drip and sprinkler irrigation subsidies to cover 9% (10 lakh hectares) by 2027, up from 2.64% in 2017–2022.



Two Centres of Excellence for fruits and vegetables will be established in each district with international collaboration to provide disease-free, high-quality planting material. The state will also expand protected farming to 500 hectares through subsidies on polyhouses and shade nets, enabling off-season cultivation and higher market returns.



Mizoram launches ₹2.5 crore bamboo processing units to boost green economy

The state government of Mizoram inaugurated bamboo processing units at Sairang Horticulture Centre, established under the National Bamboo Mission with an investment of Rs 252.826 lakh. The facilities include a Bamboo Treatment and Seasoning Plant, a Bamboo Depot and Godown, and an Activated Charcoal Unit. Officials called bamboo a fast-renewing resource and hailed the project as a key step in Mizoram's sustainable industrialisation.

The Activated Charcoal Unit will produce up to three tonnes of charcoal per day (900 tonnes annually) and generate about 100 litres of vinegar daily, yielding 54 litres of refined vinegar post-distillation. The Treatment Plant will extend bamboo's lifespan to 50 years, while the Depot ensures proper storage and supply.

Three bamboo clusters have been developed to supply raw material, and the North East Cane and Bamboo Development Council will oversee technical assistance and workforce training. Operators must actively maintain high standards to ensure long-term viability.

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Punjab Leads Litchi Cultivation Drive, Exports 1st Consignment to England

To address declining groundwater levels, the Punjab government launched an initiative to promote litchi cultivation, encouraging farmers to shift from water-intensive paddy to horticulture. In 2024, Punjab emerged as a leading exporter by sending its first litchi consignment to England from Pathankot, Gurdaspur, and Hoshiarpur.

Coordinated by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority in partnership with the Horticulture Department, this inaugural shipment secured roughly five times the prevailing domestic market price, bolstering farmer interest.

Litchi is grown on 3,250 hectares in Punjab, with output set to hit 13,000 metric tonnes. Pathankot, producing 60% of the state's litchis, is known for its premium quality. A litchi estate now supports production, aggregation, and exports. Dehradun and Calcutta varieties are grown across key districts, with efforts to boost profits and global reach.

Maharashtra Expands Fruit Plantation Area by 68,541 Hectares

The area under fruit plantations in Maharashtra rose by 68,541 hectares—from 1,332,000 in 2023–24 to 1,400,000 in 2024–25—driven by mango, pomegranate, guava, lemon, custard apple, coconut and fig. Domestic and export demand backed by state schemes has fuelled this expansion. Nashik led with 5,141 hectares, followed by Amravati (5,088 ha) and Pune (4,287 ha).



Under the Fundkar Falbagh Lavgad Scheme, 27,292 farmers received financial assistance worth \$11.9 million. The government acts as intermediary between growers and buyers to streamline production and export. Farmers have secured returns by exporting bananas, pomegranates and grapes to Gulf markets. In April, 14 tonnes of pomegranates were shipped to New York by sea for the first time, offering a cost-effective, sustainable alternative to air freight. Collaborative trials have validated sea transport viability.

Five agri-export clusters for mango, grape, pomegranate, and orange are planned. Growers seek tailored crop insurance and timely disaster relief to reflect higher investments, aiming to boost rural incomes.

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NRFMTTI Hisar Secures CMVR Approval & NABL Accreditation

Northern Region Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institute (NRFMTTI) in Hisar has received CMVR Testing Approval for tractors and NABL accreditation for testing tractors and combine harvesters, highlighting NRFMTTI's dedication in agricultural machinery evaluation to high standards and reinforcing its status as a premier testing institute in Northern India.



The institute's advanced facilities and skilled staff ensure fast, efficient testing for farm equipment producers. NABL-accredited CMVR certification boosts NRFMTTI's credibility, aligning with global standards and supporting Haryana's mechanization. It helps Indian manufacturers access global markets, driving growth and innovation in the region's agri-machinery sector.

With official approval under Central Motor Vehicle Rules for tractors—complementing its existing harvester credentials—NRFMTTI now offers manufacturers a streamlined, local testing solution.



Assam to Install 500 Off-Grid Solar Pumps for Irrigation and Water Supply

Assam will deploy 500 off-grid solar photovoltaic water pumping systems (SPWPS) under Component-B of the PM-KUSUM scheme. The pumps, with capacities from 1 HP to 7.5HP, will be installed across areas lacking reliable grid power. These solar units are designed to meet the irrigation needs of small and marginal farms while reducing reliance on diesel generators.

In addition to supporting irrigation, the standalone solar pumps will improve access to drinking water and community water points in remote locations. By replacing conventional energy sources, the initiative aims to lower operational costs for farmers and cut greenhouse-gas emissions associated with diesel-powered pumps.

The project is implemented by KLK Ventures in collaboration with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. Installation, commissioning, and maintenance services will be provided locally, ensuring that the systems remain operational and continue to benefit agricultural and rural communities throughout Assam.

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Launch of National Soil Spectral Library to Propel Digital Agriculture

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will inaugurate the National Soil Spectral Library (NSSL) in Nagpur during a 'Viksit Krishi' consultation. Developed by ICAR's National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (Nagpur), the Indian Institute of Soil Science (Bhopal), and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (New Delhi), NSSL is part of the Precision Agriculture Network Programme.

The NSSL introduces contactless, rapid, and cost-effective soil analysis by replacing traditional wet-chemistry tests with spectral data across India's diverse agro-climatic zones. Alongside the library launch, an AI-based Smart Trap for Pink Bollworm—leveraging machine-learning algorithms for precise pest control—will be unveiled by the ICAR-Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur.

Senior ICAR leaders, university VCs, and Maharashtra directors will attend, honoring progressive farmers; the initiative advances soil health management and boosts productivity nationwide through digital tools and collaboration.

Uttarakhand CM Launches e-RUPI Digital Payments and New Agricultural Policies

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama inaugurated the e-RUPI digital payment system in Dehradun, enabling fast, transparent agricultural subsidy transactions through mobile e-vouchers redeemable at authorized input suppliers; village training programs will support smooth adoption. Alongside e-RUPI, four major crop-focused policies were unveiled.

The Rs 894 crore kiwi cultivation plan aims to develop 3,500 hectares and produce 14,000 metric tons over six years, benefiting 9,000 farmers. A Rs 15 crore dragon fruit scheme targets 228 acres for 350 metric tons of yield.

The post-harvest apple management plan allocates Rs 144.5 crore for storage and grading across 5,000 hectares, while the Rs 135 crore millet mission will cultivate 70,000 hectares in 68 blocks by 2030-31.

These initiatives are designed to boost farm incomes, generate local employment, and curb rural migration. By combining digital payments with targeted support for high-value and resilient crops, the state aims to strengthen its agricultural economy and empower farmers with modern tools and practices.



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Haryana to Launch Natural Farming Demo Zones on State Farmland

The Haryana government will convert 53 acres, 4 kanal, and 19 marla of state-owned land in Jatheri village, Kaithal district, into natural farming demonstration zones. The pilot project will involve existing tenant farmers under Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Department leases, offering training and resources to support the shift to chemical-free farming.



By demonstrating practical, scalable techniques, officials aim to empower local communities and improve farm incomes sustainably. If successful, the Jatheri pilot will scale across Haryana, positioning the state as a national model for eco-friendly farming by using government land to demonstrate natural farming's environmental and livelihood benefits.

This initiative promotes low-cost, regenerative agriculture that enriches soil health and lowers input dependence. Under the scheme, tenant farmers will receive guidance on cover cropping, compost preparation, and pest management without synthetic chemicals.



HP CM Advocates Natural Farming for Statewide Agricultural Change

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has urged statewide adoption of natural farming, directing Agriculture Department, JICA, and ATMA officials to provide hands-on farmer support and certification guidance. Panchayat-level camps will register farmers, with accountability at all administrative levels. To boost market access, CM urged APMC heads to help farmers market naturally grown wheat, maize, and turmeric.

High-end silos will be established for procurement, and an MSP of Rs.60 per kg is already in effect for naturally grown wheat. The Agriculture Department will also distribute high-quality seeds to participating growers, ensuring strong yields and product quality.

The CM highlighted three model farms in Kangra, Sirmour, and Solan districts, with more sites planned. He reviewed the rollout of controlled atmosphere storage facilities funded by Rs.330 crore across several districts and emphasized the need to fully utilize the Rs. 1,010 crore JICA project.

CEASI ACTIVITIES

The North-East Dairy Conference

CEDSI, in collaboration with the Directorate of Dairy Development, Government of Assam, successfully convened the North East Dairy Conference 2025. The event brought together over 150 distinguished delegates representing 36 organizations across government bodies, industry stakeholders, academic institutions, and farmer collectives.

The conference was graced by Shri Kalyan Chakravarthy, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Labour Welfare and Skill Development Department, Government of Assam, who served as the Chief Guest. Shri M S Manivannan, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, Government of Assam, delivered a keynote address as a distinguished speaker.

Discussions during the conference centered around strengthening organized dairy systems, integrating advanced technologies, promoting skill development for rural livelihoods, and enhancing financial inclusion within the dairy value chain.

The active engagement of all participants and the high level of discourse reaffirmed the shared vision of establishing a self-sufficient, resilient, and sustainable dairy ecosystem in the North Eastern region. CEDSI extends its sincere appreciation to all speakers, panelists, and delegates whose valuable contributions made the conference a significant and impactful milestone in the region's agricultural development journey.



CEASI ACTIVITIES

Promoting Sustainable Sugarcane Cultivation in Ayodhya

Under the Sashwat Mithas project, the Centers of Excellence for Agriculture Skills in India, in collaboration with UPL SAS Limited, is implementing sustainable sugarcane cultivation practices in Ayodhya. The project focuses on enhancing farmers' knowledge and skills related to eco-friendly farming techniques.

A dedicated team is actively conducting field surveys to assess current farming practices and identify areas for improvement. Additionally, the establishment of demonstration plots is underway at the field level, showcasing sustainable methods of sugarcane cultivation.

These demo plots serve as practical examples to guide farmers in adopting better practices, which include water management, soil health improvement, and the use of organic fertilizers. Through these efforts, the project aims to create awareness among local farmers about the importance of sustainable agriculture for both improved yields and environmental conservation.



WHO ARE WE

“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)

