Agriculture Current Affairs

- The Calcutta High Court had stayed the withdrawal of armed forces from Darjeeling hills.
- Union Agriculture Ministry launches six new user friendly features of e-NAM Platform
- Grievance Redressal Management System has been developed to help Mandi Secretary to raise technology issues related to portal or software and its operation.
- India and Iran have signed 9 agreements to strengthen their cultural ties, boost connectivity and trade and expand cooperation in various sectors including health, medicine, agriculture, traditional systems of medicine and postal cooperation.
- National Conference on doubling farmers' income to be held in Delhi
- A National Conference with the title 'Agriculture 2022 – Doubling Farmers’ Income’ will be organised by Agriculture Ministry in Delhi to build a consensus around appropriate recommendations and arrive at practicable solutions that can be implemented for the benefit of farmers in the country.
- Under the Union Budget 2018, the government would be doubling the farmer’s income by 2022 and would be working with the states to ensure that all farmers get a fair price for their produce.
- Promote secondary agriculture, composting, bee-keeping, says panel on doubling income
- Singh, who was addressing the 16th convocation ceremony of ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), said the government is committed towards ensuring more income to farmers, uplifting the economically backward sections of society, youth employment, better education and healthcare.
- Sugar industry expects government to scrap export duty this week
- The advent of steam engine made possible the transfer of this perishable fruit to the American market. The commercial popularity of banana resulted in the formation of United Fruit Company in 1899.
- Per capita availability of milk rose by 15.6 per cent from 307 gms a day to 355 gms per day between 2013-14 and 2016-17, an official statement quoted the minister as saying.
- The nodal agency for procurement and distribution of foodgrains would raise Rs 32,000 crore through government-guaranteed bonds, informed the panel further.
- In light of the Finance Minister’s budget announcement that NITI Aayog will develop and put in place a fool-proof mechanism, its vice chairman Rajiv Kumar presided over a consultation meeting today.
- As the planters explained, a tea worker receives a daily cash wage of Rs 150 and directly work output linked incentive. In addition, there are other benefits.
- The company which reported 14% jump in net sales at ₹390 crore for the financial year ended March 31, 2017 and 24% increase in net profit at ₹46%, maintained a profit margin of nearly 12%, the highest in the jute sector.
- The latest move risks another row with the US company, the world's biggest seed maker, which threatened to leave India in 2016 when the government cut its royalties by over 70 percent.
• After two difficult years, export of oilmeals has revived in the current year, but still lower than earlier years, when India used to export annually over 40 lakh tons to 45 lakh tons of oilmeals.
• The trade body claimed that the yields recorded in Maharashtra and Karnataka are reportedly one of the highest ever noticed in the past from either of these states.
• Though the new market was ready in 2014, traders resisted following apprehensions about the distance — it is 18 km from Yeshwantapur — lack of facilities and losing customer base.
• If not settled by 10th March, this grievance may cause major turmoil with enough potential to ruin the coming high value first-flush output.
• Around 40 of the 522 mills across India already stopped crushing operations and a majority of the mills from Maharashtra are expected to shut operations by April.
• “We have revised our preliminary estimate of 73 lakh tonnes to 100 lakh tonnes now,” said Sambhaji Kadu Patil, sugar commissioner of Maharashtra.
• Fresh hailstorm, along with heavy rain, lashed Rajasthan's Sikar and its adjoining areas on Sunday.
• Food processing to help double farmers' income by 2022: Harsimrat Kaur Badal
• Small growers' contribution rise, Tea Board voices concern
• Spice exporters suffer Rs 75 crore loss due to MIP on black pepper
• PM Narendra Modi has been trying to cut India's edible oil import bill of more than $10 billion a year, but consumption has far outpaced demand in the country.
• Bengaluru may get private agricultural marketing yard
• Though the new market was ready in 2014, traders resisted following apprehensions about the distance — it is 18 km from Yeshwantapur — lack of facilities and losing customer base.
• Fighting climate change: How a 'crazy' engineer solved Ladakh's water crisis
• Chewang Norphel took inspiration from his childhood observations and made a breakthrough by devising the first artificial glacier in picturesque Leh.
• Andhra Agriculture Minister disappointed over Jaitley’s statement on special status row
• Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister Chandramohan Reddy expressed his disappointment over Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley’s statement on the demand for special status to Andhra Pradesh.
• Health sector could create jobs on massive scale: Public Health Foundation of India
• K Srinath Reddy, who cited a 2016 UN report, said the country needs to invest in the training and skilling of youth so that they can become world class professionals.
• Mumbai on tenterhooks as 12,000 farmers reach doorstep
• The morcha caused massive snarls on roads connecting Thane and Mumbai to Nashik. Several vehicles, including an ambulance, were stuck in snarls for many hours.
• Maharashtra budget puts farm in focus
• No other big-ticket announcements made in the last budget of the Devendra Fadnavis-led government in the state, where elections would be held next year.
• Crack the growth numbers puzzle
• Every macroeconomic data release leaves a set of puzzles in its trail.
• PM Narendra Modi calls for concessional, less-risky financing for solar projects
A 10-point action plan that calls for raising the share of electricity generated from photovoltaic cells in the energy mix and creating support for bankable solar projects shared.

NITI Aayog to work on mechanism for MSP implementation

In light of the Finance Minister's budget announcement that NITI Aayog will develop and put in place a fool-proof mechanism, its vice chairman Rajiv Kumar presided over a consultation meeting today.

What I read this week: Is Amazon out to decimate asset managers?

The biggest beneficiary of an Amazon entry into fund management will be retail investors.

Tripura to form panel for hike in employees' salaries

Roy, also the Agriculture and Transport Minister, said the first session of the new Tripura assembly would be held on March 23.

Motor vehicle 3rd-party cover premiums to become cheaper

Irdai has released exposure draft on premium rates for motor third-party (TP) insurance covers for 2018-19 fiscal and has invited stakeholders comments till March 22.

Indian-owned firm's $30 mn investment aims to revive agriculture in Ghana

The company has set up a hatchery at Apedwa with a capacity to produce four million chicks a year, Lalit Mishra, Managing Director of Park Agrotech said.

India set for record foodgrain output in 2017-18: Agriculture ministry

Foodgrain output is expected to increase 0.9% to 277.49 million tonnes, exceeding the previous record of 275.11 million tonnes during 2016-17.

Banks' gross NPAs at Rs 8.41 lakh crore in Dec

The gross NPAs or bad loans of scheduled commercial banks as on December 31, 2017 due to loans to industry were at Rs 6,09,222 crore.

Part of Sridevi's ashes immersed in Ganga at Haridwar by husband Boney Kapoor

Anil Kapoor and family friends Amar Singh and Manish Malhotra were also present.

Irresponsible, anti-national to allege graft in Rafale deal: Nitin Gadkari

"Where is the corruption? It is irresponsible and anti-national to make such allegations," the minister for shipping, ports, road transport and Ganga rejuvenation said.

MapmyIndia, IBM arm to offer hyper local weather information

The Weather Company said such weather data available on the digital maps could also help government bodies deal with natural disasters better.

India February inflation likely hit 4-month low but still above RBI target: Polls

If the data matches the consensus, February's pace will be the lowest since October, and down from a 17-month high in December, but still above the RBI's 4 percent medium-term target for a fourth month.

Agriculture ministry plans norms to fast-track insurance cover

The ministry will also hire 20-odd professionals to ensure that all issues related to the PM Crop Insurance Scheme are addressed comprehensively.

Agriculture ministry adds six new features in e-NAM platform

A new feature has been introduced for farmers where they can see the progress of their lot being traded and also real time bidding progress of price will be visible to farmers on mobile app.

Niti Aayog to meet states on March 9 to discuss new MSP formula
• The government in the Budget for 2018-19 last month announced that it will fix the MSP of Kharif 2019 crops at least 1.5 times than the cost of production.
• Japan to Indian techies rescue: Country wants to recruit 2 lakh IT professionals
• Japan wants to fill in the yawning gap of more than 200,000 IT professionals and is looking towards India’s assistance in the IT space.
• RICH to set up agricultural park with Rs 25 crore fund size, targets 1L farmers
• The park will come up in an area of 70-15 acres provided by the Telangana government while the Centre is expected to assist with Rs 20-25 crore fund size.
• Irreconcilable guns need to be silenced in Afghanistan, India tell UNSC
• India said it should be clear to the armed opposition that there would be no tolerance for those who continue violence in Afghanistan.
• River data to flow again as India, China defuse conflicts
• The two neighbours have a bilateral arrangement under which China shares with India hydrological data on cross-border rivers between May 15 and October 15 every year.
• A Nellore farmer is harvesting a bumper crop, all thanks to Sunny Leone
• A Chenchu Reddy has put up massive flex boards of a bikini-clad Sunny Leone in his 10-acre agriculture field to protect his crop from evil eyes.
• Truefarm Foods makes its organic food available on Amazon India
• Truefarm offers a wide range of products such as pulses, superfoods, spices & nuts, breakfast cereals, flours & sweeteners.
• Ornaments losing sheen for cautious buyers
• The exchange had filed its draft prospectus in December 2016 and originally planned to hit the market by 2017. It now expects the share sale to take place next year.
• Pesticide Management Bill to be finalised in 3 months
• “With a focus to protect farmers and promote safe use of pesticide, we will finalise the Pesticide Management Bill very soon,” said B Rajender, joint secretary, at agriculture ministry.
• Wheat-based products' price set to go up: ITC
• The higher prices are due to lower wheat output expected this year, as well as the higher minimum support price announced by the government, said an ITC executive.
• Watch: PM Modi addresses national conference on ‘Agriculture 2022 doubling farmers’ Income’
• Asserting that agriculture is the basis of mankind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that India introduced tremendous techniques of farming at the global front.
• EU proposes retaliatory tariff of 25% against US goods
• The EU’s list targets imports from the US of shirts, jeans, cosmetics and other goods.
• Asia’s biggest exporters bristle over US tariffs, fanning trade war fears
• Washington’s key ally S Korea, which is also the third largest steel exporter to the United States, has said it may file a complaint at the World Trade Organization.
• IMF expresses concern at Pakistan weakening economy
• The IMF said the near-term economic growth outlook was broadly favourable but "continued erosion of macroeconomic resilience could put this outlook at risk".
• How India-backed International Solar Alliance can expand its outreach and capacity
• International Solar Alliance is India’s contribution to enable developing countries to transition to a low-carbon economy.
• The Latest: Former ag secretary Espy running for Senate
5:45 p.m. Mike Espy, a Democrat who served as President Bill Clinton's secretary of agriculture, says he has a "strong intention" to run for an open U.S.

• NCDEX group firm, BoB in tie-up for repository participant for pledge finance

• Bill & Melinda Gates donate $170 mn for women empowerment in 4 countries including India

• The investments will build on the foundation's previous commitments to advance progress on gender equality.

• Andhra Pradesh presents Rs 1.91 lakh crore budget for FY19

• Presenting his last full budget in the election year, finance minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu said the state's fiscal deficit was expected to touch Rs 24,205 crore.

• The Latest: Gov. Bryant seen as unlikely to go to Senate

• 11:10 a.m. Republican leaders doubt that Mississippi Gov.

• Trump top economic advisor Gary Cohn resigns after trade dispute

• For several weeks Cohn had been discussing with the President that it was nearing time for him to transition out.

• BJP win in Tripura an ideological victory: Narendra Modi

• Modi was addressing the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting, where he was greeted with the slogan, 'Jeet hamari jari hai, ab Karnataka ki bari hai'.

• India, Vietnam vow to jointly work for open, prosperous Indo-Pacific

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang also vowed to expand bilateral cooperation in several key sectors, including defence, oil and gas, and agriculture.

• Trump’s trade war brings back memories of the Bush era, may lead to 'lose all'

• In March 2002, then president George Bush had come out with as high as 30% steel tariffs.

• RBI gets tough on MNC banks, asks them to create sub-targets to meet PSL norms

• The move, directed at foreign banks with over 20 branches will impact the likes of Standard Chartered, Citi and HSBC, which much higher branch presence, and will come into force from the next financial year.

• The Latest: Mississippi gov won’t appoint self to Senate

• 12:35 p.m. Mississippi’s Republican governor says he will not appoint himself to succeed longtime U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran. Gov.

• Karnataka: Congress govt claims it tackled farmer distress better & party expects rural voters to reward it

• In the 2018-19 budget, the state introduced a scheme whereby dry-land farmers will get a 'buffer' amount of Rs 5,000 for every hectare of crop grown.

• New policy soon on biofuels with Rs 1 lakh crore potential: Dharmendra Pradhan

• Biofuels would be the cost-effective, pollution-free import substitute to fossil fuels. Ground being laid to set up 12 advanced refineries in the coming years.

• Empowerment still a dream for the unorganised sector

• A way for the rest of us to empower these women, says Sreenivasa, is to treat them as human beings first. “Introduce a mindset change where these women and their rights are not seen as dispensable.”

• Krishna Byre Gowda, Karnataka’s Minister of Agriculture, says millets are the next superfood

• Millets are good for health, good for the farmer and good for the planet.

• Success of the rural story helped by a good monsoon could lift consumption sentiment: SK Ghosh, SBI
- "Cement and steel sector continue with a strong show as core sector thrives."
- Melinda Gates believes economic empowerment of women is the key to their development
- Melinda Gates says her foundation will invest $170 m to help women access economic opportunities.
- Government to constitute group for changes in SEZ policy
- The government is in the process of constituting a group to study necessary changes in the SEZ policy, Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.
- Can we save nationalised banks from extinction?
- Only resolute bold measures taken quickly can save PSBs from extinction. It could prove to be game changer, like unprecedented note ban & GST.
- Donald Trump orders stiff trade tariffs, unswayed by grim warnings
- Amidst steel and aluminum workers holding hard hats, Trump cast his action as necessary to protect industries "ravaged by aggressive foreign trade practices."
- Trade war fears could see choppy markets, weak dollar: Peter Cardillo, First Standard Financial
- "The Trump administration may go forward with measures but there might be some loopholes and that could ease concerns."