

12/06/2026 Daily Current News

1. Horticultural Crop Area and Production:

Context: Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Releases Second Advance Estimates of Horticultural Crop Area and Production for 2025–26.

Details:

Total Horticulture	2024-25 (Final)	2025-26 (First Advance Estimates)	2025-26 (Second Advance Estimates)
Area (in Lakh Ha)	301.36	301.31	301.51
Production (in Lakh Tonne)	3707.38	3708.46	3777.76

- ❖ The horticulture area in the country is expected to be about 301.51 Lakh Ha in 2025-26, an increase of 0.14 Lakh Ha (0.05%) over 2024-25 (Final).
- ❖ The horticulture production in the country is expected to be about 3777.76 LakhTonne in 2025-26, an increase of 70.39 Lakh Tonne (1.90%) over 2024-25 (Final).
- ❖ An increase in production is envisaged in Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers and Aromatic & Medicinal crops.
- ❖ The production of Fruits is expected to increase from 1176.49 Lakh Tonne in 2024-25 by 3.25% (38.26 Lakh Tonne) to 1214.75 Lakh Tonne in 2025-26 due to increased production of Banana, Mango, Papaya, Apple and Guava.
- ❖ The area under Vegetable cultivation is expected to increase from 117.91 Lakh Ha in 2024-25 by 0.75% (0.88 Lakh Ha) to 118.79 Lakh Ha in 2025-26 where as the production of Vegetables is expected to increase from 2177.97 Lakh Tonne in 2024-25 by 1.47% (32.04 Lakh Tonne) to 2210.00 Lakh Tonne in 2025-26.
- ❖ Increase is expected in production of Potato, Tomato, Okra/Ladyfinger, Peas, Cauliflower and Bottlegourd.
- ❖ The area under Onion cultivation is expected to increase by 2.31% (0.46 Lakh Ha) over 2024-25 i.e. to 20.14 Lakh Ha in 2025-26 from 19.68 Lakh Ha in 2024-25. The production of Onion is expected to be 307.37 Lakh Tonne in 2025-26 as compared to 307.67 Lakh Tonne in 2024-25.
- ❖ The production of Potato is expected to be 598.89 Lakh Tonne, which is higher by 13.18 Lakh Tonne (2.25%) as compared to 585.71 Lakh Tonne in 2024-25.
- ❖ The production of Tomato is expected to be 214.61 Lakh Tonne, which is higher by 8.62 Lakh Tonne (4.19%) as compared to 205.99 Lakh Tonne in 2024-25.
- ❖ The production of Aromatics & Medicinal Plants is expected to increase from 9.01 Lakh Tonne in 2024-25 to 9.76 Lakh Tonne in 2025-26.
- ❖ The area under Plantation crops is expected to be about 46.56 Lakh Ha and production is expected to be about 169.34 Lakh Tonne during 2025-26.

- ❖ The area of Flowers is expected to increase by 0.66% over 2024-25 i.e. to 4.00 Lakh Ha in 2025-26 from 3.97 Lakh Ha in 2024-25 whereas, around 7.47% increase in the production of Flowers is envisaged. The production of Flowers is expected to be 45.84 Lakh Tonne in 2025-26 compared to 42.65 Lakh Tonne in 2024-25.
- ❖ The area under Spices is expected to increase to 50.00 Lakh Ha in 2025-26 whereas production of Spices is expected to increase to 126.55 Lakh Tonne in 2025-26. An increase in production is envisaged in Garlic, Turmeric, Curry Leaf and Fenugreek.

2. **Indian Standard — IS 20201:2026:**

Context: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, has recently published a new Indian Standard — IS 20201:2026 Community Seed Bank Management - Requirements.

About Indian Standard — IS 20201:2026:

- ❖ Formulated by the Biodiversity Sectional Committee (EED 06) under the Environment and Ecology Department (EED) of BIS, this standard introduces a comprehensive, structured management framework for Community Seed Banks (CSBs) across the country.
- ❖ By offering a standardised operating protocol for decentralised, community-led seed banks, IS 20201:2026 aims to promote conservation of these indigenous varieties, thereby enhancing agricultural resilience and securing long-term food safety.
- ❖ It reinforces central initiatives, such as the National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) which provides a one-time assistance of ₹50 lakh for establishing community seed banks and statutory protections under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 and the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- ❖ The standard outlines requirements relating to organisational arrangements, seed collection and acquisition, seed processing and storage. This protects the livelihoods of smallholders, builds grass-roots resilience, and ensures access to resilient, traditional crop varieties.

3. **One Station One Product (OSOP) initiative:**

Context: Marketing of Divyangjan Vishwakarma Products through One Station One Product (OSOP) The OSOP initiative under the PMV scheme aims to provide resources and opportunities to enhance their skills, access markets and improve their livelihoods.

About PM Vishwakarma (PMV) scheme:

- ❖ PM Vishwakarma (PMV) is a flagship scheme of the Government, designed to support traditional artisans and craftspeople through the three pillars of Samman, Samarthya, and Samriddhi.
- ❖ It was launched on September 17, 2023 by the Ministry of MSME.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen the Guru-Shishya Parampara or family-based practice of traditional skills by artisans and craftspeople working with their hands and tools.
- ❖ The scheme also aims at improving the quality as well as the reach of products and services of artisans and craftspeople.



PM Vishwakarma

Central Sector Scheme to support traditional artisans
& crafts people of rural and urban India

Highlights of the Programme:

- Financial outlay of **Rs. 13,000 crore**
- 18 Traditional trades** to be covered in 1st instance
- Artisans and Craftspeople** to be provided recognition with PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID Card
- Credit support upto **Rs. 1 lakh (1st tranche)** and **Rs. 2 lakh (2nd tranche)** with concessional interest rate of 5%
- Will provide **Skill Upgradation, Toolkit Incentive and Incentive for Digital Transactions** and Marketing support

18 Traditional trades to be covered in 1st Instance

1. Carpenter (Suthar)
2. Boat Maker
3. Armourer
4. Blacksmith (Lohar)
5. Hammer and Toolkit Maker
6. Locksmith
7. Goldsmith (Sonar)
8. Potter (Kumhaar)
9. Sculptor (Moortikar, stone carver), Stone breaker
10. Cobbler (Charmkar)/Shoesmith/Footwear artisan
11. Mason (Rajmistri)
12. Basket/Mat/Broom Maker/Coir Weaver
13. Doll & Toy Maker (Traditional)
14. Barber (Naai)
15. Garland maker (Malakar)
16. Washerman (Dhobi)
17. Tailor (Darzi)
18. Fishing Net Maker



Cabinet Decision
16 August, 2023

One Station One Product(OSOP):

- ❖ To promote Samridhi (Prosperity) under the PMV Scheme, Ministry of MSME is implementing the One Station One Product (OSOP) initiative for Divyangjan Vishwakarma artisans.
- ❖ Under this initiative, dedicated retail outlets have been set up at selected high-footfall railway stations to showcase and sell their products.
- ❖ The OSOP is helping artisans to expand their market reach by increasing visibility and creating better sale opportunities and providing sustainable livelihoods.
- ❖ Recognizing the unique challenge being faced by Divyangjan artisans, the OSOP initiative under the PMV scheme aims to provide resources and opportunities to enhance their skills, access markets and improve their livelihoods.

4. *Network Survey Vehicle (NSV):*

Context: To enhance the riding experience of commuters on India's National Highways, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has announced a major leap forward: the deployment of Network Survey Vehicles (NSVs) equipped with advanced 3D laser-based systems across all states and its network.

About Network Survey Vehicle (NSV):

- ❖ Network Survey Vehicle (NSV) — an innovation equipped with laser profilers, GPS and cutting-edge imaging technology.
- ❖ With every pass, it scans the road surface for cracks, potholes and unevenness, turning highways into living digital maps.
- ❖ These high-tech futuristic vehicles deployed at several National Highway corridors are more than survey machines. They are digital guardians of road quality.

- ❖ By scanning every stretch of road, NSVs collect detailed data on road inventory and surface conditions, identifying defects in potholes and patches.

5. *SARTHI — Strategic Advisory and Reforms Taskforce for Holistic ITI Transformation:*

Context: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) will convene the first meeting of the SARTHI — Strategic Advisory and Reforms Taskforce for Holistic ITI Transformation, on 12 June 2026 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

About SARTHI:

- ❖ SARTHI has been established as an apex advisory mechanism under Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) to create a structured platform for strategic dialogue, policy convergence and coordinated action among key stakeholders involved in vocational education and training.
- ❖ The initiative aims to strengthen Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and ensure that vocational training systems remain aligned with evolving industry requirements and future workforce needs.
- ❖ CTS continues to serve as one of India's largest institutional skill development frameworks and currently operates through a network of 13,888 ITIs across the country, including 3,326 Government and 10,562 Private ITIs, delivering training across 169 NSQF-compliant trades.
- ❖ As the skill ecosystem expands and labour market requirements evolve, SARTHI aims to provide long-term strategic guidance for reforms across curriculum, assessment, governance, quality assurance, institutional development and industry engagement.

6. *Shigellosis (bacillary dysentery):*

Context: More cases of shigellosis (bacillary dysentery), a highly contagious bacterial diarrhoeal disease caused by shigella, are being reported across Kerala, with a total of 34 cases reported in June alone.

About Shigellosis (bacillary dysentery):

- ❖ Shigella is a genus of bacteria that causes shigellosis, a major diarrheal disease worldwide.
- ❖ It is the second leading cause of diarrhea globally (after Rotavirus Infection) and the third leading cause of death in children under 5 years.
- ❖ Globally, an estimated 164.7 million cases of shigellosis occur every year.
- ❖ Symptoms include diarrhea, fever, stomach cramps, and dysentery, usually lasting up to 7 days.
- ❖ Transmission occurs through contaminated food or water and through person-to-person contact, especially in areas with poor sanitation.
- ❖ The disease mainly affects crowded communities lacking safe water and sanitation facilities.
- ❖ The incubation period is generally 1–4 days after exposure.
- ❖ Disease severity varies by species: *Shigella dysenteriae* – usually causes severe dysentery, *Shigella flexneri* – may also cause dysentery and *Shigella boydii* and *Shigella sonnei* – generally cause self-limiting watery diarrhea.
- ❖ No vaccine is currently available against shigellosis; rising multidrug resistance has placed *Shigella* on the World Health Organization priority list for antibiotic research.

- ❖ Treatment focuses on oral rehydration and electrolyte replacement; recommended antibiotics include ceftriaxone, cefixime, and azithromycin, while handwashing and public hygiene measures help prevent transmission.

7. ***Sangeet Natak Akademi awards:***

Context: The General Council of Sangeet Natak Akademi, the National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama, New Delhi, elected seven (7) eminent personalities in the field of performing arts as Akademi Fellows (Akademi Ratna). The fellowship of the Akademi is a most prestigious and rare honour, which is restricted to 40 at any given time. The General Council also selected 108 artists from various fields for the years 2024 & 2025. The General Council of the Akademi has also selected 106 young artists for Sangeet Natak Akademi, Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar for the years 2024 and 2025. These awards will be conferred by the Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi in a special ceremony.

About Sangeet Natak Akademi awards:

- ❖ The Akademi Awards have been conferred since 1952.
- ❖ These honours not only symbolize the highest standard of excellence and achievement, but also recognize sustained individual work and contribution.
- ❖ The Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards are the highest national recognition conferred on practising artists.
- ❖ Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards are given to the artists from the field of Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music /Dance/Theatre, Puppetry and Overall contribution/scholarship in the Performing Arts etc.
- ❖ The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship is the highest honour conferred by Sangeet Natak Akademi without distinction of nationality, race, caste, religion, creed, or sex.
- ❖ The honour of Akademi Fellow carries a purse money of Rs.3,00,000/- while the Akademi Award carries a purse money of Rs 1,00,000/- , besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.

About Sangeet natak academy:

- ❖ The Sangeet Natak Akademi is India's national academy for music, dance and drama.
- ❖ It was created by a resolution of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, in 1952 with Dr P.V. Rajamannar as its first Chairman.
- ❖ It is presently an Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and is fully funded by the Government for implementation of its schemes and programmes.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra, the WhatsApp-based AI advisory service developed by ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (ICAR-IIOR), Hyderabad, is emerging as a powerful tool bringing trusted, research-based knowledge about oilseed cultivation directly to farmers' mobile phones, anytime and in their own language. Farmers can save the number +91 4024598180 as 'Oilseeds Kisaan Mitra' on WhatsApp and ask questions in any Indian language about groundnut, mustard, sesame, sunflower, soybean, niger, and other oilseed crops.
- ☐ The Indian Navy successfully completed a complex operation involving the recovery of an unexploded missile warhead from the crude oil tanker MT Olympic Life. The Marshall Islands-flagged tanker, which did not have any Indian nationals onboard, was on passage from Fujairah, UAE, to Kochi reported an explosion in its hull, while off the coast of Oman on 26 May 2026.
- ☐ In a major boost to digital financial connectivity and neighbourhood cooperation, India and Nepal officially launched a peer-to-peer (P2P) cross-border remittance mechanism on June 6, 2026. The newly operationalized system establishes a direct link between India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Nepal's National Payments Interface (NPI). This integration enables citizens of both nations to make seamless, real-time, and secure instant money transfers directly via mobile banking applications and digital wallets.
- ☐ The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, organized a Scientific Conclave and Interactive Session on Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) 2026 "Strengthening Pharmaceutical Manufacturing through Pharmacopoeial Standards and Quality Compliance" at Haridwar yesterday, in collaboration with the Association of Devbhumi Pharma Industries (ADPI) and affiliated pharmaceutical manufacturing associations of Uttarakhand.
- ☐ The 13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum was formally opened by Shri Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, at Sushma Swaraj Bhavan, New Delhi.
- ☐ Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, today virtually inaugurated a 20 kW Akashvani FM Transmitter at Ramgarh in Jaisalmer from the Akashvani Jaipur premises.
- ☐ India has validated Truenat HR-HPV-Plus, an indigenous human papillomavirus test developed by Goa-based Molbio Diagnostics for cervical cancer screening. The validation involved researchers from AIIMS New Delhi, Indian Council of Medical Research institutes, and the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer in France.
- ☐ India announced a 2.5 million contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) on 11 June 2026. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East was established in 1949 by the United Nations General Assembly.
- ☐ India's Gross Domestic Product growth has been projected at 6.6% for fiscal year 2026-27 by the World Bank in its Global Economic Prospects report released on 11 June 2026. The projection follows an estimated 7.7% growth in fiscal year 2025-26, and India is expected to remain the fastest-growing major economy during the period.
- ☐ France identified India as a top strategic priority on 11 June 2026 ahead of the G7 Summit.

- ☐ Mexico's Julian Quinones, scores the first goal of the FIFA World Cup 2026 in the inaugural match against South Africa at the Azteca Stadium in Mexico City.
- ☐ Scientists at CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology have developed an advanced electrospun nanofiber membrane for textile wastewater treatment. Led by S. Sridhar, the membrane combines polyvinylidene fluoride and polyethersulfone with nanomaterials such as graphene oxide, graphene nanoplatelets, and metal-organic frameworks. The technology achieved about 99.1% removal of crystal violet dye, a harmful textile pollutant, while offering high permeability, better adsorption, antifouling properties, and lower energy consumption.
- ☐ An overnight strike has cut off external electricity supply to the Ukraine's Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe's largest, the UN nuclear watchdog said.
- ☐ Aiming to popularise the uptake of biofuels in the country, the Union government late on Wednesday removed central excise duty on petrol blended with higher quantum of ethanol. Following the move, petrol blended with ethanol at 22%, 25%, 27% and 30% would be exempted from central excise duties.
- ☐ The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, (IIT-K) has hired the 19-year-old ethical hacker, Nisarga Adhikary, who exposed 'critical vulnerabilities' in Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)'s IT ecosystem. Mr. Adhikary will work as an 'OSINT and threat intelligence engineer' in C3iHub, a not-for-profit Section 8 company housed in IIT-K. Founded six years ago, C3iHub employs 200 persons of whom 170-180 are engineers.

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