



AIREA News – 21st October 2026

1. On paddy field conservation in Keralam

Kerala's paddy fields have declined by 80% since 1974–75 despite conservation laws. The article highlights how policy changes and weak implementation have undermined protection, increasing ecological and food-security concerns.

2. India-New Zealand FTA kicks in

The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement has come into effect, providing duty-free access to various Indian goods, including textiles, leather, engineering products and agricultural items. The agreement is expected to boost trade and investment opportunities.

3. Exporters' tax refund schemes set for overhaul

The government plans to revamp the RoDTEP and RoSCTL export tax refund schemes to improve targeting and ensure more effective use of funds. The proposed changes aim to enhance exporters' competitiveness and provide more accurate reimbursement of embedded taxes.

4. Saale yield limits: Charuni raises questions over verification process; seeks 10% relaxation in current procurement limits with a simpler process

The Haryana government has allowed procurement of paddy exceeding prescribed yield limits after verification within 48 hours. Farmer leader Gurnam Singh Charuni has demanded a 10% relaxation and a simpler process to help farmers sell their entire produce at MSP.

5. Govt to ask ryots to shift from paddy to short-duration crops

Following Goa's driest monsoon in five decades and a significant rainfall deficit, the agriculture department plans to advise farmers in water-stressed areas to grow short-duration vegetables and pulses. Paddy cultivation can continue in areas with adequate irrigation.

6. Market Trade Insight – 21st October

USDINR: RBI intervention supports the rupee, while elevated crude oil prices and FII outflows limit gains. Softer US dollar provides some relief.

EURINR: Euro remains under pressure from French political uncertainty and growth concerns, while softer US yields offer some support.