



AIREA News – 22nd October 2026

1. FTAs will unlock export opportunities for farmers, MSMEs

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said India's free trade agreements will expand export opportunities for farmers, workers, MSMEs and small businesses. The government is organising outreach programmes to help states maximise these benefits.

2. Trade agreement may double bilateral business in 2–2.5 years: BRICS chief

The India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement is expected to boost bilateral trade and create new opportunities for Indian exporters. Traders have welcomed the agreement, viewing it as an opportunity to expand access to global markets.

3. CAIT chief hails India-NZ FTA as PM's Dussehra gift to traders

The Confederation of All India Traders welcomed the India–New Zealand FTA, saying it could help traders, manufacturers and MSMEs access new international markets and increase exports of Indian products.

4. A trade deal mired in uncertainty

Uncertainty surrounding trade negotiations and tariff measures is creating challenges for international commerce. The evolving trade environment is prompting businesses to reassess market access, costs and investment decisions.

5. Farmers get record prices for premium paddy

Premium paddy varieties are fetching prices significantly above the government's minimum support price, benefiting farmers. However, El Niño-related production concerns and rising procurement costs could push rice prices higher for consumers in the coming months.

6. India targets year-end start for five-nation Africa trade talks

India plans to begin trade negotiations with five African countries by the end of the year, aiming to strengthen commercial ties and expand export markets. The proposed talks are expected to create opportunities across goods and other trade sectors.

7. Rabi sowing off to a slow start; acreage down 26% at 3.43 lakh hectares

Rabi sowing coverage stood at 3.43 lakh hectares as of October 16, down 26.23% from the previous year. Wheat sowing has yet to begin, while mustard acreage has also declined compared with the same period last year.

8. Farmers oppose call to avoid paddy farming in Rabi season

Farmers in Telangana have opposed the government's appeal to avoid water-intensive paddy cultivation amid concerns over water scarcity and El Niño conditions. They say viable alternative crops, financial support and solutions to crop damage must be provided before asking them to shift cultivation.

9. Unlocking agri-potential of FRA lands

The article discusses the potential of land recognised under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) to improve agricultural livelihoods. Better access to support, infrastructure and sustainable farming opportunities could help tribal and forest-dwelling communities improve productivity and incomes.

10. 'Paddy procurement may touch 5 lakh tonnes by December'

Tamil Nadu expects paddy procurement to reach five lakh tonnes by December, with around 3.60 lakh tonnes already procured since September. Despite lower samba paddy production, the government says stocks are sufficient and is monitoring rice prices to prevent hoarding and sharp increases.

11. Goyal to Explore Trade, Investment Avenues in Germany & Netherlands

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will visit Germany and the Netherlands with a business delegation to explore trade, investment and technological cooperation. Discussions will focus on the ongoing India–EU FTA negotiations, clean technology, industrial partnerships and expanded market access.

12. Bumper paddy yield a procurement challenge

Punjab's non-basmati paddy production could exceed 220 lakh tonnes this season, against the Centre's procurement quota of 180 lakh tonnes. The state faces the risk of excess stocks and financial pressure if the Centre refuses to procure quantities beyond the approved limit.

13. Market Trade Insight – 22nd October

USDINR Rupee strength, foreign inflows and RBI measures are pressuring the dollar, while elevated crude oil prices may limit further appreciation.

EURINR Strong rupee and foreign inflows are weighing on EURINR, while ECB policy expectations and global bond yields remain key drivers.