



*1. Nurture agriculture to make 'Make in India' a reality, Business Standard, April 04, 2016*

Taking cognisance of the fact that agriculture, and in general rural area, is under distress, the budget 2016-17 allocated Rs 35,984 crore, the highest amount so far, for agriculture and farmers' welfare. With this, the government intends to address issues of optimal utilisation of water resources, create new infrastructure for irrigation, conserve soil fertility with balanced use of fertiliser and provide connectivity from farm to market.

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*2. Domestic, industrial and agriculture sector hit by tariff increase, The Times Of India, April 06, 2016*

Lowest power tariff hike of around 7.2% has been announced for low tension commercial sector. For heavy industries, MPERC has approved an average power tariff hike of around 8%. Officials claim that the new rates will not enable the complete recovery of their annual revenue gap between income and expenditure which is around Rs 4000 crore for 2016-17.

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*3. 'India to adopt Israeli technology in agriculture', The Statesman, April 07, 2016*

Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh on April 06, 2016 said India will utilise Israel's water conservation and agriculture technology to bring down production costs and help the nation manage its water resources well. "Israel's agriculture technology is known to the entire world. Israel, where water scarcity looms large, has emerged as one of the major producers of fruit and vegetables," he said while addressing a function at the Centre for Sub-Tropical Fruit, run here jointly by India and Israel.

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*4. Met prediction: Talk of normal monsoon set to cheer India Inc, The Economic Times, April 04, 2016*

India's latest monsoon forecasting model predicts good rainfall this year, which will end severe water shortage that is threatening power supply and cheer farmers who have been devastated by two consecutive droughts. The Climate Forecast System (CFS) of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) predicts mostly normal and sometimes heavy rainfall across the country barring parts of coastal Gujarat, western Rajasthan, northern Kashmir and parts of the Northeast.

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*5. Marathwada: All govt schemes in place, yet 59 more farmers end life than last year, The Indian Express, April 06, 2016*

As many as 273 farmers have ended their lives in the drought-hit Marathwada region — primarily due to crop failure and mounting debts — in the first three months of this year. Compared to first three months of 2015 when 214 farmers had ended lives, 59 more farmers have died in the corresponding period this year. The Maharashtra Congress has reacted strongly to the soaring farmer suicides in Marathwada, stating that it will grill Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis during the ongoing State Assembly session on its failure to contain them.

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*6. Apex Court Pulls Up Centre for Delayed Drought Relief, The Indian Express, April 07, 2016*

The Supreme Court on April 06, 2016 expressed concern over the drought in 10 states in the country and pulled up the Centre for not releasing adequate funds to states for MGNREGA. It asked the Centre to provide details of expenditure on the scheme in drought-hit states. "If you are not releasing funds, then no one will like to work. States will say they have no funds, so they can't pay anyone for MGNREGA work.

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*7. 'India to adopt Israeli technology in agriculture', The Statesman, April 07, 2016*

Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh on Wednesday said India will utilise Israel's water conservation and agriculture technology to bring down production costs and help the nation manage its water resources well. "Israel's agriculture technology is known to the entire world. Israel, where water scarcity looms large, has emerged as one of the major producers of fruit and vegetables," he said while addressing a function at the Centre for Sub-Tropical Fruit, run here jointly by India and Israel.

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