

RELIEF EFFECTIVE JAN 1

Stamp duty waived on farm loans up to ₹2 L in Maharashtra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Mumbai, January 3

THE MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT has waived stamp duty on documents related to agricultural and crop loans of up to ₹2 lakh to reduce the financial burden on farmers and simplify the loan process.

"The decision was taken after it was noticed that farmers were facing an additional financial burden even while availing loans. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis has directed that revenue laws and rules be made more people-friendly, and accordingly, this decision was taken," he said.

The revenue and forest department issued a government gazette notification in this regard on January 1. The waiver has come into effect from that date.

As per the notification, stamp duty will not be levied on legal documents required for loans up to ₹2 lakh, including title deeds, deposits, mort-

REDUCING FINANCIAL BURDEN



The decision will be binding on all banks, cooperative institutions and lending agencies across the state

Earlier, crop loans attracted stamp duty at the rate of 0.3% for every ₹1 lakh

Move by the state government aimed at simplifying revenue laws and rules to make them people-friendly

With the complete waiver, stamp duty at the rate of 0.3% for every ₹1 lakh, forcing farmers to pay around ₹600 as stamp duty for a ₹2 lakh loan. The complete waiver, however, will be directly reduced, the minister said.

The decision will be applicable to documents that will be binding on all banks, cooperative institutions and lending agencies. With the removal of stamp duty on loan-related documents, the crop loan process is expected to become easier for farmers, he said.

agage and pledge papers, guarantee letters, mortgage deeds and loan agreements, according to Banwalkule said. Earlier, crop loans attracted stamp duty at the rate of 0.3% for every ₹1 lakh, forcing farmers to pay around ₹600 as stamp duty for a ₹2 lakh loan. The complete waiver, however, will be directly reduced, the minister said.

Centre will check fertiliser misuse: Nadda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, January 3

UNION FERTILISERS MINISTER J P Nadda on Saturday said the government will address issues relating to balanced fertiliser use and diversion of fertiliser for non-agricultural purposes in coordination with various departments.

Speaking at a day-long Chintan Shiva in the national capital, Nadda said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently placed farmers at the core of governance, and policies must aim to ease their lives.

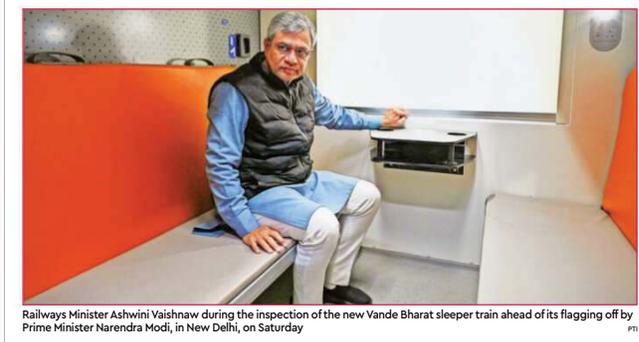
"Despite various challenging circumstances, the department has successfully met the fertiliser requirements of farmers," he said, highlighting record production and necessary imports this year due to farmer-friendly measures.

Minister of State for Fertilizers Anupriya Patel said the brainstorming session will generate ideas to aim at making India a developed nation by 2047, an official statement said.

Fertiliser Secretary Rajat Kumar Mishra said the government, PSUs and the private sector have all placed farmers at the centre of deliberations.

"We have kept this Shivar so interactive that every idea can find a place on the table for deliberation and we expect better outcomes from the collective wisdom," he said.

INSPECTING THE NEW VANDE BHARAT SLEEPER TRAIN



Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw during the inspection of the new Vande Bharat sleeper train ahead of its flagging off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in New Delhi, on Saturday

Centre pushes states to speed up spending on agricultural schemes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, January 3

UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER

Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday urged states to adopt a strategic approach to budget utilisation, warning that delays in spending allocated funds result in losses for states and hamper the timely release of subsequent instalments.

Addressing a review meeting with state agriculture ministers, Chouhan said states must ensure funds earmarked for various schemes are spent before March to avoid administrative bottlenecks that delay

spend their budgets on time, it only results in losses for them," the minister said, adding that budget allocations are often held up due to minor administrative and procedural issues.

The meeting reviewed the progress and budget utilisation of central agriculture schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-KVY) and Krishonnati Yojana (KY).

Chouhan stressed the need for prompt verification of eligible farmers under the PM-KISAN scheme, expanding coverage under the crop insurance scheme, and ensuring

timely settlement of claims. He also emphasised the importance of seed and fertiliser availability, their balanced use, and strengthening central-state coordination.

The meeting was attended by agriculture ministers from Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Mizoram, along with Agriculture Secretary Devesh Chaturvedi, and senior ministry officials.

Chouhan assured states that the Centre will continue to provide support to strengthen the agriculture sector and safeguard farmers' interests, an official statement said.

Tamil Nadu announces new assured pension scheme for govt employees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Chennai, January 3

FULFILLING THE OVER 2-decade-old demand of government employees and teachers seeking a defined pension by restoring the Old Pension Scheme, Chief Minister MK Stalin on Saturday announced a new plan, the "Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme," and said it would provide the benefits of the old scheme.

The chief minister said, 50% of the last drawn salary of government employees would be assured pension. For this



MK STALIN, CHIEF MINISTER, TAMIL NADU

50% of the last drawn salary of government employees would be assured pension

purpose, the state government would provide, alongside the 10% contribution of the employees, the required entire additional funding to the Pension Fund. Pensioners receiving 50% assured pension would be granted Dearness Allowance hike every six months on a par with government employees. In case of the death of pen-

sioners, 60% of the pension amount would be granted as family pension to the nominee of the deceased.

If an employee dies in harness, or in case of death at the time of retirement, upto a maximum of ₹25 lakh (dead gratuity) would be provided in keeping with the length of service. After the implementation of the new Assured Pension Scheme, all who retire without completing the qualifying service period for receiving pension will be provided a minimum pension, the chief minister said in an official release.

INDIA SHELTER FINANCE CORPORATION LTD. Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

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