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1. Rice millers reluctant to register ahead of paddy procurement (Haryana)

Only around 350 of Haryana's nearly 1,400 rice millers have registered for **custom-milled rice (CMR) for the 2026-27 procurement season**, with paddy buying due to start October 1. Millers cite unresolved dues, delayed payments and unclear procurement norms, and want assurance that FCI will accept the **full balance quantity of last season's CMR (~2.5 lakh tonnes)**, clearance of pending milling, holding and transport charges, and a transparent physical verification process. Monday's meeting with senior state officials was termed positive, with registrations expected to pick up soon.

2. Farmers clash with police over early paddy procurement (Punjab/Haryana)

Kurukshetra police used **tear gas and water cannons** on farmers under BKU (Charuni) who tried to block NH-44 near Shahabad on Tuesday, demanding procurement start ahead of schedule. Several farmers were detained and both farmers and police were injured. Talks with the district administration remained inconclusive; farmers have vowed to continue their dharna, while officials say the state has sought Centre approval for **early procurement and moisture-limit relaxation**, with buying expected to begin around September 25 if there is further delay.

3. Archive of 200 rice varieties to debut at Delhi rice conference

A first-of-its-kind **Global Rice Archive showcasing about 200 commercially relevant rice varieties** from India and abroad will be unveiled at the Bharat International Rice Conference (BIRC) in New Delhi, October 23–25. One of nine "Experience Zones," it will display Indian offerings — including Basmati varieties 1121, 1718, 1509, 1401, Pusa Basmati, Sugandha and Sharbati — alongside regional and heritage varieties, positioned as a product-discovery platform for international buyers and exporters.

4. El Niño threatens Asia with drought, food price surge

Forecasters warn this year's El Niño could be the **strongest on record**, threatening severe drought and food-price pressure across Asia. **India, Thailand and Vietnam — the world's top three rice exporters** — are among the nations most likely to be hit hard, alongside risk to Southeast Asia's palm oil supply. The UN's World Food Programme warns the phenomenon could push tens of millions more people into acute food insecurity by end-2027, with impacts already visible in reservoir levels, fisheries and farmer planting decisions.

5. Weak rains leave trail of wilted crop, dry plots

A roughly **15% deficient southwest monsoon** nationally — sharper across southern, eastern and northeastern India — has withered kharif crops and dried up borewells in several states, Maharashtra among the worst-hit. **Paddy acreage is down nationally**, more steeply in southern states, though officials point to higher irrigation coverage and existing rice buffer stocks as reasons the shortfall should not translate into a food shortage, even as individual farmers report crop losses.

6. EU finds GMOs in Chinese rice products; India's shipments also under scrutiny

The EU's food-safety alert system flagged **GMOs in at least five Chinese rice-based consignments** (crackers, noodles, sticks, hydrolysed rice flour) this year, part of a wider pattern of over 125 GMO notifications against Chinese rice products since 2006. The report comes as **China has separately rejected Indian rice shipments since March** over alleged GMO presence — a charge India has faced only once in EU export notifications between 2002 and 2025.

7. Kharif concerns: poor rain and lower acreage may hit rice and water situation

This year's deficient monsoon and lower kharif acreage are already showing up in a sharp jump in **retail prices of fine and superfine rice in southern states**. National paddy acreage is down over 16 lakh hectares — Karnataka and Telangana accounting for over half the fall — and analysts expect **paddy output to drop by at least 10 million tonnes** from last kharif. Existing rice buffer stocks are seen as adequate for food security, with scope flagged to release stocks, revisit the ethanol-blending allocation of broken rice, and push diversification toward less water-intensive crops.

8. Market Trade Insight

Sentiment stayed **range-bound to mildly bearish for the rupee**, helped by softer crude oil prices and central-bank-linked dollar selling, though a firmer dollar — on expectations of further rate tightening and elevated yields abroad — remains the key upside risk. The euro stayed under pressure from a stronger dollar and weak eurozone consumer confidence, with today's PMI data seen as the next trigger. Ongoing Russia-Ukraine tensions and Iran/Hormuz-linked developments continue to drive crude-linked currency moves.