AIREA News– 16th November 2026

1. **Pakistan gets GI tag for its basmati from Turkiye, but India stands to gain too**

   Pakistan has secured a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for its Basmati rice in Turkiye. However, amendments to the geographical area description, including the removal of Azad Kashmir, could strengthen India's position and potentially support Madhya Pradesh's claim for inclusion in the Basmati-growing region.

2. **Online portal for rice stocks launched**

   The government has operationalised an online portal requiring traders, wholesalers, retailers, processors and millers to declare their paddy and rice stocks every Friday under six categories. The initiative aims to prevent hoarding and control prices, with penalties for non-compliance under the Essential Commodities Act.

3. **Paddy procurement in Kalahandi from 5 December**

   Paddy procurement for the 2026–27 Kharif season in Odisha's Kalahandi district will begin on December 5, targeting 1,36,824 farmers. Officials reviewed procurement arrangements, while millers raised concerns over pending FCI stock lifting, shortages of gunny bags and storage-related issues.

4. **Policy support and exporter resilience drive strong trade performance in October: CII**

   India's merchandise and services exports reached an estimated $89.99 billion in October, registering nearly 30% annual growth. CII highlighted the contribution of non-petroleum exports, including engineering goods, electronics, chemicals and textiles, along with government support through FTAs and the Export Promotion Mission.

5. **Bumper harvest: Punjab surpasses 180-LMT paddy procurement target**

   Punjab has recorded paddy arrivals of 185.23 lakh metric tonnes, surpassing its original procurement target of 180 LMT. The state government is approaching the Centre for additional Cash Credit Limit to manage the bumper harvest, while around 34.62 LMT of procured paddy is still awaiting lifting.

6. **Drought & scant soil moisture slow rabi sowing; deficit hits 5.4L hectares**

   Maharashtra's Rabi sowing is significantly behind last year's pace, with a deficit of approximately 5.4 lakh hectares due to drought and inadequate soil moisture. Wheat cultivation has been particularly affected, as farmers are prioritising less water-intensive crops such as jowar and gram.

7. **Paddy piles up in mandis across dist amid lifting delay**

   Large quantities of paddy are accumulating in Ludhiana district mandis due to delays in procurement and lifting operations. Farmers and rice millers have raised concerns over inadequate storage capacity and pending stocks, urging authorities to expedite lifting and ensure timely procurement.

8. **14 FCI officials among 30 found guilty in rice scam**

   A CBI court in Mohali has convicted 14 FCI officials and 16 private individuals, including rice millers, in the 2004–05 Punjab procurement scam. The accused were found guilty of accepting substandard rice as Grade-A quality, resulting in financial losses to FCI, and have been sentenced to one to three years of imprisonment.

9. **Goods exports undergo rapid structural shift**

   India's export markets are witnessing geographical and product diversification, with exports to Asia growing 21% and Africa emerging as the fastest-growing destination with 44% growth during April–September 2026–27. Engineering goods, petroleum products, electronics and pharmaceuticals are driving this expansion, reducing dependence on traditional markets.

10. **Rebalancing India's rice economy**

    The article highlights the need to make India's rice export growth more sustainable by shifting the focus from export volumes to higher value and resource efficiency. It recommends improving water-use efficiency, adopting sustainable cultivation practices such as Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) and Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD), and strengthening quality, branding and traceability.

11. **Market Trade Insight – 16th November 2026**

    USD/INR: Dollar strength, elevated crude prices and inflation concerns are keeping the rupee under pressure, while strong FII inflows and RBI intervention may limit depreciation.

    EUR/INR: Euro remains under pressure from dollar strength and hawkish Fed expectations, while ECB tightening expectations provide some support. Rising crude prices continue to weigh on the rupee.