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Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses — Rs 11,440 Crore for Self-Sufficiency in Tur, Urad and Masoor

9 February 2026

SUBJECTS COVERED

ECONOMY

REPORTS & SCHEMES

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Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses — Rs 11,440 Crore for Self-Sufficiency in Tur, Urad and Masoor

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WHY IN NEWS

The **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses** — announced in Union Budget 2025-26 and formally launched in October 2025 — received focused attention for its progress, with a **Rs 11,440 crore outlay** targeting **350 lakh tonnes** production of Tur, Urad, and Masoor by 2030-31 and establishment of **1,000 pulse mills** across the country.

WHY PULSES MATTER — THE NUTRITIONAL AND ECONOMIC IMPERATIVE

India's paradox: India is simultaneously the **world's largest producer AND consumer of pulses** — contributing approximately **25% of global pulse production** — yet continues to import significant quantities every year. In 2023-24, India imported **47.38 lakh tonnes** of pulses worth thousands of crores of rupees, primarily because domestic production consistently falls short of demand.

Nutritional significance:

Pulses contribute **20–25% of total protein intake** in Indian diets

WHO/ICMR recommended intake: **85 grams per person per day** — India's per capita consumption falls significantly short of this standard

Pulses are critical for **food and nutritional security**, particularly for the large vegetarian population and low-income households that cannot afford animal protein

Pulses are the cheapest source of plant protein; price spikes in Tur (arhar dal) and Urad (black gram) directly impact food inflation and household budgets

Agricultural significance:

Pulses are **nitrogen-fixing crops** (through symbiotic bacteria in root nodules — *Rhizobium*) — they enrich soil fertility and reduce synthetic fertiliser requirements

Climate-resilient: Most pulse varieties require relatively low rainfall (25–60 cm) and can grow in semi-arid conditions — important for rain-fed, dryland farming areas

Short duration crops: Many pulse varieties mature in 60–90 days, fitting into intercropping and multi-cropping systems

INDIA'S PULSE PRODUCTION — A 70-YEAR STORY OF DECLINE AND RECOVERY

India's pulse sector has undergone three distinct phases:

Phase 1 — Post-Independence decline (1950–2000):

Pulses' share in total foodgrain output: fell from **16% in 1950** to approximately **8% by the 2000s**

Green Revolution (1960s–70s) prioritised wheat and rice — large subsidies, minimum support prices, irrigation, and HYV seeds were concentrated on cereals

Pulses received comparatively little policy attention, investment, or water resources

Result: production stagnated while population grew

Phase 2 — Policy correction (2000–2020):

National Food Security Mission (NFSM) launched in 2007 — included a dedicated Pulses component

Minimum Support Price (MSP) increases for Tur, Urad, Masoor, Moong, Chickpea (Chana)

PM-AASHA (PM Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan) — price support and procurement mechanism for oilseeds and pulses

Result: Production recovered to **252.38 lakh tonnes (2024-25)** — a **31% increase** from 192.6 lakh tonnes in 2013-14

Phase 3 — Mission Aatmanirbharta (2025-2031):

Structural mission targeting complete self-sufficiency and elimination of imports by 2030-31

MISSION FOR AATMANIRBHARTA IN PULSES — ARCHITECTURE

Budget: Rs 11,440 crore (2025-26 to 2030-31)

Target crops: Tur (Pigeon Pea/Arhar), Urad (Black Gram), Masoor (Red Lentil) — chosen because these three account for the majority of India's pulse imports and have the highest price volatility

Area expansion target: Expand pulse cultivation by **35 lakh hectares** — from current ~275 lakh hectares to **310 lakh hectares total**

Production target: 350 lakh tonnes by 2030-31 (from current 252.38 lakh tonnes — a ~39% increase)

Procurement:

100% assured procurement of Tur, Urad, Masoor at MSP for **4 years**

Procurement agencies: **NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India)** and **NCCF (National Cooperative Exports Limited)** under the **PM-AASHA** scheme

Price stabilisation: the assured procurement addresses the key farmer concern — even when market prices fall below MSP, the government guarantees purchase

Input support:

Farmer seed kits distributed

Rs 10,000 per hectare for farmers adopting model farming practices

High-Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds developed by ICAR research stations

Processing infrastructure:

1,000 pulse processing mills to be established (55 in Madhya Pradesh alone)

Government subsidy: **Rs 25 lakh per mill** — making processing a viable investment for farmer producer organisations (FPOs) and cooperatives

Purpose: reduce post-harvest losses and add value — currently, most pulses are sold as raw produce with limited processing

Technology:

SATHI Portal (Seed Authentication, Traceability & Holistic Inventory): Automated seed life-cycle management platform — tracks seed from production to distribution, ensuring quality, authenticity, and traceability; prevents sub-standard seed sale to farmers

GEOGRAPHY OF PULSE PRODUCTION

Leading states:

Madhya Pradesh — largest producer; dominant in Tur and Chana

Maharashtra — major Tur producer

Rajasthan — dominant in Moong and Moth Bean

Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka — significant producers

Agroclimatic requirements (key for Prelims):

Temperature: **20–27°C**

Rainfall: **25–60 cm** (rain-fed farming compatible)

Soil: **Sandy-loamy** (well-drained; water-logging kills pulse crops)

Classification: Pulses belong to the **Leguminosae/Fabaceae** (Legume) family

UPSC RELEVANCE

Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses (Rs 11,440 crore, 2025-2031), target crops (Tur/Urad/Masoor), production target (350 lakh tonnes by 2030-31), current production 252.38 lakh tonnes, import 47.38 lakh tonnes (2023-24), SATHI Portal (full form), NAFED, NCCF, PM-AASHA, 1,000 pulse mills (Rs 25 lakh/mill subsidy), Rs 10,000/hectare, India = world's largest pulse producer (25% of global production), share in foodgrain from 16% (1950) to 8% (2022-23), protein intake (20-25% of Indian diet), ICMR recommended 85 g/day, Leguminosae/Fabaceae family.

Food security; agricultural self-sufficiency; nutritional security; crop diversification policy; MSP and procurement systems; pulse price inflation; NFSM-Pulses; soil health (nitrogen fixation).

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

MISSION FOR AATMANIRBHARTA IN PULSES:

Announced: **Union Budget 2025-26**; launched: **October 2025**

Outlay: **Rs 11,440 crore** (2025-26 to 2030-31)

Target crops: **Tur (Arhar), Urad, Masoor**

Area expansion: **+35 lakh hectares** → total **310 lakh hectares**

Production target: **350 lakh tonnes by 2030-31**

Current production (2024-25): **252.38 lakh tonnes** (up from 192.6 MT in 2013-14 — 31% rise)

Imports (2023-24): **47.38 lakh tonnes**

Assured procurement: **100% at MSP for 4 years** via NAFED + NCCF under PM-AASHA

Farmer support: Seed kits + **Rs 10,000/hectare** for model farming

Pulse mills: **1,000** (55 in MP); subsidy: **Rs 25 lakh/mill**

SATHI PORTAL:

Full form: **Seed Authentication, Traceability & Holistic Inventory**

Function: Automated seed life-cycle management; quality traceability

PULSES — KEY AGRICULTURAL DATA:

India's global position: **Largest producer AND consumer** (~25% of global production)

Share in India's foodgrain: fell from **16% (1950)** to **~8% (2022-23)**

Protein contribution: **20–25%** of Indian dietary protein intake

ICMR recommended intake: **85 g/person/day**

Agroclimatic needs: Temp **20–27°C**, rainfall **25–60 cm**, sandy-loamy soil

Botanical family: **Leguminosae/Fabaceae** (Legumes)

Nitrogen fixation: via *Rhizobium* bacteria in root nodules

LEADING PULSE-PRODUCING STATES:

Madhya Pradesh (largest), Maharashtra, Rajasthan, UP, Gujarat, Karnataka

PROCUREMENT AGENCIES UNDER PM-AASHA:

NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India)

NCCF (National Cooperative Exports Limited)

RELATED SCHEMES:

PM-AASHA (PM Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan): Price support for oilseeds and pulses

NFSM-Pulses (National Food Security Mission)

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)

Sources: Drishti IAS, Next IAS

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