'Bharat Rice' launched for Army troops

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News

'Bharat Rice' for Indian Army troops was launched in New Delhi on 12 Oct 2026 in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Food Minister Pralhad Joshi. High-quality ration rice, milled to defence specifications with minimal broken grains, will be supplied by NAFED from 2026–27 directly to Army Supply Depots, including in Ladakh and the North East (10 kg and 30 kg bags). An Army–FCI MoU was also signed letting the Army use FCI warehouses in emergencies.

Key facts

Launch	12 Oct 2026, New Delhi – Rajnath Singh, Pralhad Joshi
Supplier	NAFED – from 2026–27, directly to Army Supply Depots
Nature	High-quality ration rice to defence specs; 10/30 kg bags (not reported as fortified or sold via canteens)
MoU	Army–FCI MoU – 5 years; use of FCI warehouses, labour and equipment
Led by	Army's Directorate General of Supplies & Transport (ASC)

Background

- The 'Bharat' brand: Bharat Rice was launched for the public in Feb 2024 at ₹29/kg through NAFED, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar; Bharat Atta (wheat flour) and Bharat Dal (chana) also aim to check

prices.

- The Food Corporation of India (FCI) was set up in 1965 under the Food Corporations Act 1964. National Food Security Act (NFSA) – 2013. 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' – Lal Bahadur Shastri (1965).
- NAFED – National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (1958); NCCF – National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (1965).

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu runs a universal Public Distribution System; the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC, 1972) procures paddy. The Cauvery delta (Thanjavur) is the 'rice bowl of Tamil Nadu'.

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