ICC's 62nd Session in Kochi: international deliberations on the sustainable development of the coconut sector



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Why in News

India is hosting the 62nd Session and Ministerial Meeting of the International Coconut Community (ICC) in Kochi (Kerala) from 17 to 20 November 2026. The international event is being organised jointly by the Coconut Development Board (CDB), under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and the ICC (headquarters: Jakarta, Indonesia). The aim is to enhance cooperation among coconut-producing countries and strengthen collective efforts towards the sustainable development of the global coconut industry.

Introduction: what is the ICC

International Coconut Community: An inter-governmental organisation of coconut-producing countries, established in 1969 under the aegis of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP). Its earlier name was the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC). It is headquartered in Jakarta (Indonesia). It provides member countries a common platform to deliberate on the development of the global coconut sector, cooperation and partnerships, and sustainable growth of the industry.

Main Body: the 62nd Session

- **Dates and venue:** 17-20 November 2026; Kochi, Kerala - a four-day session and ministerial meeting.
- **Inauguration:** Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ram Nath Thakur will inaugurate the inaugural programme on 17 November 2026; Agriculture Secretary Atish Chandra will deliver the Presidential Address.
- **Participation:** Ministers and senior government representatives from ICC member countries across the Asia-Pacific region, representatives of international organisations, scientists, researchers and industry stakeholders will take part; ministers from the Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Samoa will deliver special remarks.
- **ICC Plaques of Appreciation:** At the inaugural ceremony, honours in three categories for excellence in the coconut sector - Best National Coconut Farmer, Outstanding Coconut Scientist/Researcher and Best National Coconut Entrepreneur.

- **Agenda:** Key issues of the global coconut industry, exchange of experiences and best practices, international cooperation and collaborative approaches to emerging challenges and opportunities in the sector.

India and the coconut sector

India is among the world's leading coconut-producing countries, with Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka as the major producing states. The Coconut Development Board (CDB) is a statutory body of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, headquartered in Kochi - which is why this ICC session is being held in Kochi.

Exam relevance

For Prelims: The ICC's establishment (1969, UN-ESCAP), headquarters (Jakarta), former name (APCC), the venue (Kochi) and dates (17-20 November 2026) of the 62nd Session, the CDB and its ministry - direct question areas.

For Mains: India's role in regional organisations, agricultural exports and value chains, sustainable agriculture and entrepreneurship - GS-II/GS-III analysis.

Way Forward

Over the four-day session, member countries will deliberate on collective strategies for the industry's emerging challenges - climate pressures, value chains and market access. Hosting the meeting is expected to strengthen India's agricultural diplomacy and its coconut-sector export interests.

Prelims Practice Questions

Q1. With reference to the 62nd Session of the International Coconut Community, consider the following statements:
Statement 1: The 62nd Session is scheduled from 17 to 20 November 2026 in Kochi (Kerala), hosted by the Coconut Development Board (CDB)
Statement 2: The ICC was established in 1969 under the aegis of the UN Economic and Social Commission (UN-ESCAP) and is headquartered in Jakarta
Statement 3: The ICC is headquartered in New Delhi because India is the world's largest coconut producer

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 and 3 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 2 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer and Explanation

Correct answer: (c) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: the 62nd Session is scheduled on 17-20 November 2026 in Kochi, jointly organised by the CDB and the ICC. Statement 2 is correct: the ICC (formerly the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community) was established in 1969 under UN-ESCAP, with its headquarters in Jakarta (Indonesia). Statement 3 is incorrect: the headquarters is in Jakarta, not New Delhi.

Q2. Under which ministry does the Coconut Development Board (CDB) function?

(a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries

(b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

(c) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

(d) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Answer and Explanation

Correct answer: (c) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Explanation: The Coconut Development Board is a statutory body of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, headquartered in Kochi (Kerala).

Mains Practice Question

Why are international organisations and forums for crops like coconut important for Indian agriculture? Comment with reference to India's hosting of the 62nd Session of the ICC. (GS-III; 250 words)

Answer Outline:

Introduction: Introduce the ICC's 62nd Session in Kochi (17-20 November 2026) and the organisation.

Main Body: The importance of such forums - technical cooperation, exchange of best practices, value-chain and export opportunities, collective response to climate challenges; for India - agricultural diplomacy as a leading producer, the role of the CDB, and benefits for farmers and entrepreneurs.

Conclusion: Conclude that the hosting strengthens India's regional agricultural engagement; translating the learnings into domestic policy is essential.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Short answer: The 62nd Session and Ministerial Meeting of the International Coconut Community is being held in Kochi (Kerala) from 17-20 November 2026; the CDB and the ICC are organising it jointly and Union Minister of State for Agriculture Ram Nath Thakur will inaugurate it.

Q: What is the ICC and where is it headquartered?

An inter-governmental organisation of coconut-producing countries (established in 1969 under UN-ESCAP, formerly APCC); headquartered in Jakarta (Indonesia).

Q: Who is taking part in the session?

Ministers and officials of ICC member countries, international organisations, scientists-researchers and industry stakeholders; ministers from the Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Samoa will deliver special remarks.

Q: What are the ICC Plaques of Appreciation?

Honours presented at the inaugural ceremony in three categories (Best National Coconut Farmer, Outstanding Coconut Scientist/Researcher, Best National Coconut Entrepreneur) for excellence in the coconut sector.

Sources

- PIB (Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare) - India to Host 62nd Session and Ministerial Meeting of the International Coconut Community in Kochi from 17 to 20 November 2026 (16 November 2026): https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=2336892&lang=1&reg=3

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