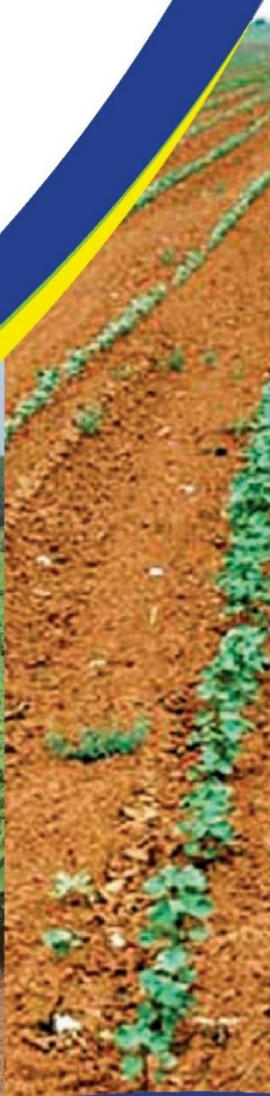
COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015



News Relating to Cotton and Textile Sector

Date-07-08-2026

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

(Regd. Office : Cotton Exchange Building, 2nd Floor, Cotton Green (E), Mumbai 400 033)
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COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
Established 1921
ISO 9001:2015

Mumbai, Friday 7th August 2026 at 3.00 P.M.

UPCOUNTRY SPOT RATES

Standard Descriptions with Basic Grade & Staple in Millimetres based on Upper Half Mean Length As per CAI By-laws								Rs. per Quintal	Rs. per Candy	Variation + (Plus) - (Minus)
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Gravimetric Trash %	Strength / GPT	2025-26	2025-26	
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	4%	15	15044	53500	(N.C.)
2	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	15%	20	13216	47000	(+100)
3	M/M(P)	ICS-104	Fine	23mm	4.5 - 7.0	4%	22	15185	54000	(N.C.)
4	P / H / R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	17462	62100	(+300)
5	M/M(P) /SA/TL/GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	15747	56000	(N.C.)
6	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	17434	62000	(N.C.)
7	P/ H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	18109	64400	(N.C.)
8	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18868	67100	(N.C.)
9	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18672	66400	(N.C.)
10	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18756	66700	(+200)
11	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	4.0%	27	18278	65000	(+200)
12	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	18897	67200	(+200)
13	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19122	68000	(+100)
14	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18868	67100	(N.C.)
15	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19037	67700	(+200)
16	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	19403	69000	(+200)
17	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	19234	68400	(+100)
18	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	19543	69500	(+300)
19	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	N.A.	N.A.	
20	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5 – 4.9	3%	31	N.A.	N.A.	
21	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	33	25027	89000	(+800)
22	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	25308	90000	(+1000)
23	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	25533	90800	(+800)
24	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	35	25870	92000	(+800)

Note		
Note:1	Official spot rates are fixed and registered by CAI on the basis of average price inclusive of spot brokerage as per respective State Dharas, and for 15 days credit from the date of passing and cash discount @ 15% per annum, except for Northern area (excluding Lower Rajasthan), in which case spot rates fixed and registered are for payment terms: 7 days from the date of pressing at Upcountry Spot Markets ex-gin, excluding Tax. These rates are for domestic transaction only	
2	P/H/R(U) ICS-202 (SG) rate is lower by Rs. 1000/ pc than Sr. no. 4	
3	Strength:Grams per tex (HVI Mode) (Prorate basis)	
	a) 1 gpt pts lower Rs 500/pc	
	b) 2 gpt pts lower Rs 1,000/pc	
	c) 3 gpt pts lower Rs 2,000/pc	
	d) 4 gpt pts lower Rs 3,000/pc	
4	Staple length : Upper Half Mean Length	
5	Gravimetric Trash Percentage	
6	Moisture by probe method maximum 9%	
7	Base Grade 'Fine' of bulk of the cotton of the staple length range of 29mm to 32mm consists of –	
	(i) Colour grade 31/3	(ii) RD 75
8	In Rates acceptable up to a maximum 5.50 Micronaire with proportionate discount @ Rs.150/- per point per candy over 4.9 Micronaire	
9	For M/M(P)/SA/TL/GUJ-Sr No. 5 are for 67 Rd	
10	For Northern Zone (P/H/R(U)-Sr. Nos. 4 and 7 are for 70 Rd	
11	For M/M(P)/SA/TL-Sr Nos. 6, 8, 9, and GUJ-Sr No.10 are for 74 Rd	
12	For R(L)-Sr. No. 11 is for 72 Rd and 12 is for 73 Rd	
13	For M/M(P) and K/TN-Sr Nos. 21 to 24 are for 70-72 Rd	

Secretary

ICE Cotton Futures: 06-08-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE						06 Aug 2026
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Oct-26	81.79	81.98	81.79	81.96	▲0.12	155
Dec-26	83.00	83.49	82.62	83.16	▲0.14	1,98,411
Mar-27	84.72	85.19	84.36	84.89	▲0.18	69,400
May-27	85.88	86.36	85.55	86.06	▲0.20	27,570
Jul-27	85.54	86.06	85.27	85.75	▲0.24	16,221
Oct-27	0.00	80.88	80.88	80.88	▲0.40	15
Dec-27	78.36	78.74	78.02	78.68	▲0.23	24,444

Cotlook Index: 06-08-2026

93.50 (0.50)

ICE cotton rises further on high temperatures

Fri. 7th Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
ICE cotton futures rose for the fifth time in six sessions, supported by persistent heat and dry conditions in major cotton producing regions, tight certified stocks, strong Chinese reserve demand, and supportive new crop export bookings.
The December 2026 contract settled at 83.16 cents, while longer dated contracts reached fresh contract highs, reinforcing the bullish market outlook.

ICE cotton futures continued to rise yesterday, marking the fifth gain in the last six trading sessions. US cotton was supported by higher temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere, which caused concerns over the cotton crop in the US and China. The US weekly export sales report was also considered neutral to slightly supportive for the natural fibre.

The most active December 2026 contract settled at 83.16 cents, up 0.14 cent. The contract has gained 363 points in the last six sessions. Other active contracts advanced 12 to 40 points, with cumulative six-session gains ranging from 175 points to 394 points.

Both the December 2027 and March 2028 contracts recorded new contract highs, with December 2027 posting a fresh contract high for the fifth consecutive session, highlighting continued confidence in the longer-term cotton outlook.

Trading volume declined to 41,320 contracts, down sharply from 64,544 contracts on Wednesday, suggesting buyers became more cautious after the recent advance while still maintaining bullish positions.

USDA Weekly Export Sales for the week ended July 30 showed total net sales of 194,106 bales, including 186,197 Upland and 7,909 Pima bales. Analysts described the export report as "neutral to slightly supportive", with old-crop cancellations offset by another strong week of new-crop bookings, confirming that international mills continue securing supplies for the 2026-27 season.

China's Zhengzhou Cotton Exchange (ZCE) remained firm, with the lead contract rising in four of the last five sessions and gaining approximately 2.5 per cent, while ICE December has advanced about 4.5 per cent over the past six sessions, showing strength across both major futures markets.

China's State Reserve Auction recorded its 14th consecutive 100 per cent sellout, with 8,012 tonnes sold. Total auction sales have now reached 112,241 tonnes over 14 consecutive trading days.

Weather remained the market's dominant fundamental driver. Extreme heat and dry conditions persisted across West Texas, Xinjiang (China) and several other Northern Hemisphere cotton-growing regions, raising concerns about crop stress and production losses during the critical boll development stage.

The US National Weather Service continued forecasting above-normal temperatures across much of the US cotton belt, while forecasts for India suggest below-normal August rainfall, increasing uncertainty over yield potential. Meteorologists also continue monitoring the possible development of a La Niña weather pattern, which could further disrupt global crop production later this year.

Brazil's July cotton exports reached 154,965.56 tonnes, up 22 per cent year on year, reflecting continued strong export competitiveness.

ICE Certified Stocks remained historically tight at 84,632 bales as of August 5, reinforcing the ongoing story of tightening nearby deliverable supplies.

Technically, the market maintained its strong uptrend despite lighter volume. The inside-day pattern suggests the market may simply be pausing before its next directional move, although it could also indicate temporary resistance after the recent sharp rally.

Overall, cotton posted another higher close as persistent weather concerns, tight ICE certified stocks, strong Chinese reserve demand and continued new-crop export buying outweighed softer trading volume and old-crop export cancellations. The market remains firmly supported by weather-driven supply concerns, with traders now watching whether this consolidation becomes the foundation for another leg higher or develops into a period of sideways trading.

This morning (Indian Standard Time), ICE cotton for December 2026 was traded at 83.48 cents per pound (up 0.32 cent), cash cotton at 78.21 cents (up 0.12 cent), the October 2026 at 82.35 cents (up 0.39 cent), the March 2027 contract at 85.23 cents (up 0.34 cent), the May 2027 contract at 86.38 cents (up 0.32 cent), and the July 2027 contract at 86.06 cents (up 0.31 cent). A few contracts remained at their previous closing levels, with no trading recorded so far today.

Is India's Sutlej Textiles poised for a strong FY27 comeback?

Sat. 6th Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
Sutlej Textiles returned to profitability in Q1 FY27, with total income rising 16.5 per cent YoY to $73.94 million, driven by strong EBITDA growth and higher margins.
The recovery was supported by value-added products, operational efficiency and cost discipline.
The company will continue focusing on sustainability, innovation and expanding its value-added portfolio despite global uncertainties.

Indian textile manufacturer Sutlej Textiles and Industries Limited appears to be on a stronger footing for fiscal 2027 (FY27), having returned to profitability in the first quarter (Q1) after two challenging years.
For the quarter ended June 30, 2026, standalone total income rose 16.5 per cent year on year (YoY) to ₹704 crore (~$73.94 million), compared to ₹604 crore in the corresponding period last year.

Standalone earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) surged more than ninefold to ₹47 crore, up from ₹5 crore a year earlier, while the EBITDA margin expanded by around 585 basis points to 6.7 per cent.

The company also returned to profitability, with profit before tax (PBT) improving to ₹4 crore from a loss of ₹39 crore in Q1 FY26. Profit after tax (PAT) stood at ₹3 crore, reversing a net loss of ₹26 crore recorded in the same quarter last year.

Commenting on the performance, *CS Nopany, executive chairman of Sutlej Textiles and Industries Limited,* said the company had entered FY27 on firmer ground after two years of a demanding operating environment. He attributed the recovery to a stronger value-added product mix, operational excellence, customer-centric innovation and disciplined capital allocation, adding that Sutlej would continue focusing on cost discipline, sustainability and innovation while remaining mindful of global uncertainties.

Margin expansion and operational drivers

The recovery was driven by higher income, stronger margins and earnings, supported by a greater share of value-added products, operational efficiency and sustainability initiatives.

Continued investments in manufacturing excellence, energy efficiency, cost optimisation and customer-centric innovation further strengthened the company's domestic and export business.

Geographic and segmental positioning

Sutlej Textiles in a press release said that it has established a leadership position in dyed yarn and cotton melange yarn, with a spinning capacity exceeding 400,000 spindles. Its diversified portfolio spans value-added yarns, home textiles and green fibre, providing multiple revenue streams and reducing dependence on any single business segment.

The company exports to more than 60 countries, including the United States (US), the United Kingdom (UK), Germany, China and Australia, reinforcing its presence across both developed and emerging markets.

Outlook and strategic focus

Looking ahead, the company plans to deepen its value-added product portfolio while maintaining cost and capital discipline and advancing its sustainability and innovation agenda.

Although it remains cautious about geopolitical shifts, changing trade flows and raw material volatility, the company believes its stronger product portfolio and improved financial position leave it well-placed to create long-term value for stakeholders.

Bangladesh devises 5-year strategic plan to revive ailing jute sector

Sat. 6th Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
A new five-year strategic plan will revive Bangladesh's jute sector by doubling export earnings by 2031 through more value addition, better productivity, enhanced competitiveness and market diversification.
It also aims at raising raw jute production to 11.5-12 million bales and achieving 85-90 per cent self-sufficiency in seed production.
The sector's export earnings fell by 29 per cent in five years.

Bangladesh has devised a five-year strategic plan to revive the ailing jute sector by doubling the sector's export earnings by 2031 through more value addition, improved productivity, enhanced competitiveness and diversification of export markets.
The decision follows a nearly 29-per cent drop in export earnings from jute and jute goods over the past five years despite rising domestic production.

The department of jute's 'Bangladesh Jute Sector Development Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2031)' has set a target of raising annual export earnings from jute and jute products to $1.64 billion by 2031 from about $820 million now.

It also aims at raising raw jute production to 11.5-12 million bales, achieving 85-90 per cent self-sufficiency in jute seed production and raising the share of value-added products in total exports from the current 45 per cent to 70 per cent, a domestic media outlet reported citing an unnamed government official.

The weak export performance has been attributed to inadequate value addition, limited market access, lack of product diversification and declining international competitiveness.

A strategy paper for the plan recommended expanding the production of geotextiles, biodegradable packaging materials, home furnishing products, composite materials, technical textiles, fashion items and automotive components made from jute.

It has also proposed setting up three to four internationally-accredited testing laboratories in the country to reduce exporters' dependence on overseas certification facilities.

It further recommends preparing the industry to comply with the European Union's new environmental regulations and expand the use of digital technologies throughout the jute value chain.

The strategy paper identifies several structural challenges that have weakened the sector over the years. These include India's anti-dumping duties on Bangladeshi jute products imposed since 2017, smuggling of raw jute across the border, rising production costs, weak links between research and industry, limited product diversification and inadequate quality assurance infrastructure.

Around 73 of the country's 266 jute mills are closed now. The department of jute is also operating with a severe manpower shortage.

The strategy paper proposes expanding jute and jute products exports to Africa, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North America through stronger trade promotion, participation in international fairs, buyer-seller matchmaking and partnerships with global brands.

US cotton export sales weaken on lower old crop bookings: USDA

Fri. 7th Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
US cotton export sales weakened in the week ended July 30, with old crop cancellations and lower new crop bookings weighing on the report. Upland sales fell to a marketing year low, while new crop bookings declined 31.3 per cent week on week. However, continued forward buying from key markets including Vietnam, Turkiye, India and Pakistan provided underlying support to sentiment.

US cotton export sales weakened during the week ended July 30, as current season cancellations and lower new crop bookings weighed on the overall report. According to the USDA Weekly Export Sales Report, net reductions in old crop commitments and slower forward sales marked a softer performance than the previous week. However, analysts noted that forward sales for the 2026 27 marketing year remained at a healthy level, reflecting continued buying interest from key importing markets and offering underlying support to ICE cotton futures.

Net sales of Upland cotton for the 2025 26 marketing year recorded net reductions of 55,900 RB (running bales, each weighing 226.8 kg), compared with net sales of 29,700 RB in the previous week, marking a marketing year low. Fresh purchases by China (4,100 RB), Pakistan (2,200 RB), Nicaragua (900 RB) and Mexico (100 RB) were more than offset by cancellations from Turkiye (33,100 RB), India (9,300 RB), South Korea (4,900 RB), Indonesia (4,200 RB) and Vietnam (4,000 RB).

New crop Upland cotton sales for the 2026 27 marketing year totalled 242,100 RB, down 31.3 per cent from the previous week's exceptionally strong level of 352,400 RB. Vietnam remained the leading buyer with 132,400 RB, followed by Turkiye with 41,600 RB, Honduras with 20,500 RB, India with 18,800 RB and Pakistan with 15,100 RB.

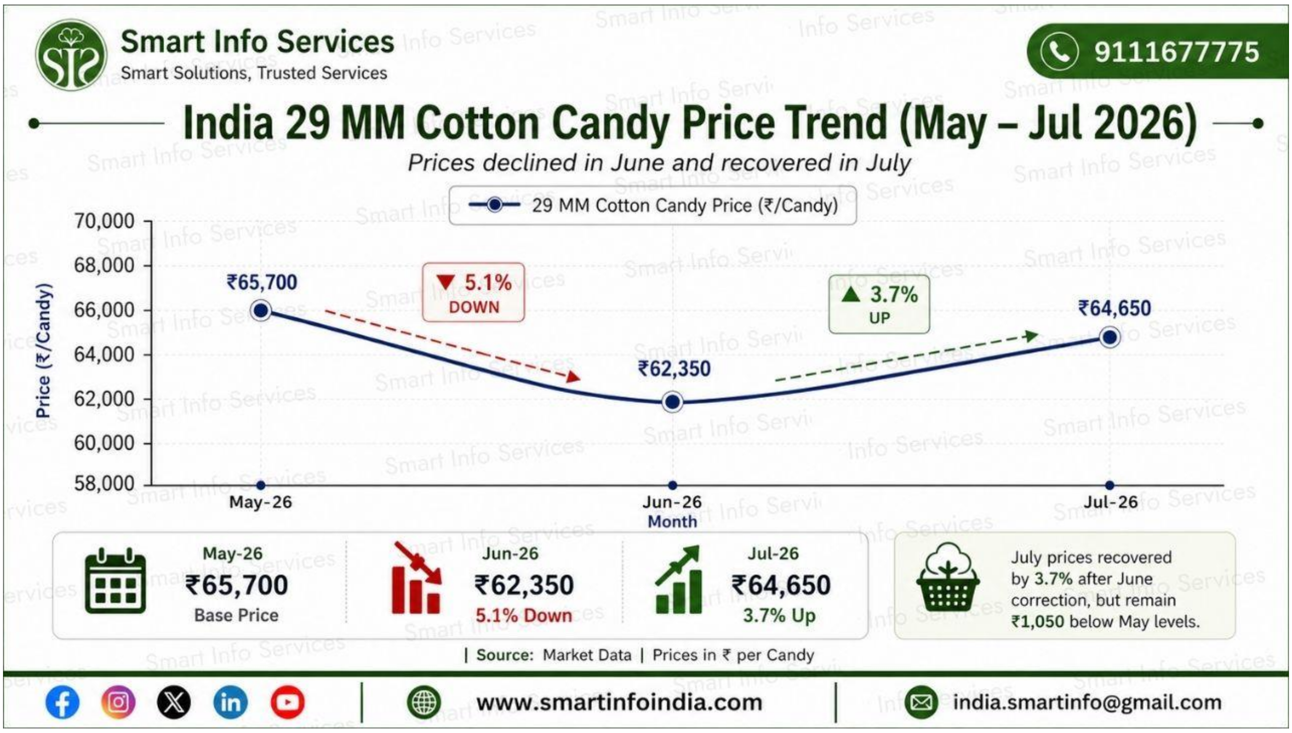
Upland cotton export shipments totalled 222,800 RB, down 5 per cent from the previous week and 7 per cent below the prior four-week average. Vietnam remained the largest destination with 88,900 RB, followed by Pakistan (35,500 RB), Turkiye (19,500 RB), India (18,000 RB) and Bangladesh (12,700 RB).

Pima cotton also posted weak current season demand. Net sales for the 2025 26 marketing year recorded net reductions of 400 RB due to cancellations from India. However, new crop bookings improved to 8,300 RB, led by India with 7,200 RB, followed by Thailand (700 RB), Indonesia (200 RB), Japan (100 RB) and Mexico (100 RB). Pima export shipments increased 11 per cent from the previous week to 5,000 RB, with India accounting for 3,800 RB, followed by China (700 RB), Thailand (200 RB), Pakistan (100 RB) and Indonesia (100 RB).

The latest USDA data indicated that while current season demand softened as the 2025-26 marketing year ended, overseas mills continued to secure supplies for the new crop. Continued forward buying, particularly from Vietnam, Turkiye, India and Pakistan, suggested sustained confidence in US cotton availability for the 2026-27 season, providing underlying support to market sentiment despite the weaker week on week performance.

India Cotton Market Recovers in July

Fri. 7th Aug 2026, Yash Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)



India Cotton Market Recover in July as Market Rebounds After June Dip

India's 29 MM Cotton Candy prices showed mixed movement over the last three months. Prices stood at ₹65,700 per candy in May 2026 before declining 5.1% to ₹62,350 in June, reflecting improved supply expectations, cautious buying by spinning mills, and softer market sentiment.

The market regained momentum in July, with prices rising 3.7% to ₹64,650 per candy on the back of renewed mill demand and improved buying interest. Despite the recovery, prices remained ₹1,050 per candy below May levels, indicating that the market has not fully recovered from June's correction.

Looking ahead, industry participants expect cotton prices to remain broadly stable in the near term. However, domestic cotton arrivals are gradually weakening as the marketing season progresses, while cotton imports are increasing to bridge the supply gap and meet the requirements of the textile industry. Going forward, market direction is likely to depend on the pace of domestic arrivals, monsoon-driven crop prospects, demand from the textile sector, export orders, the volume of cotton imports, and global cotton price trends. Overall, the July rebound suggests that underlying demand remains supportive despite short-term volatility, although higher imports may help moderate any sharp upward price movement.

Telangana Kharif Sowing Picks Up

Fri. 7th Aug 2026, Yash Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Delayed rains boost Kharif sowing in Telangana, but low water storage raises concerns
Hyderabad: Sowing activity for the Kharif (Vanakalam) season in Telangana has picked up significantly following increased monsoon activity. By August 5, sowing had been completed across 96.74 lakh acres, representing approximately 73 percent of the normal Kharif acreage of 132.38 lakh acres. However, water storage levels in major reservoirs—significantly lower than last year—remain a cause for concern regarding irrigation availability and crop productivity.

As of July 22, sowing had covered only 68.43 lakh acres (51.69 percent) of the state's area. The intensification of the monsoon during the second half of July, coupled with heavy rains in Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Chhattisgarh, increased water inflows into the Krishna and Godavari river basins, enabling farmers to accelerate sowing operations.

Farmers who had previously deferred sowing due to irrigation uncertainties resumed field operations rapidly following the recent rains. A notable increase has been recorded in the sowing of rain-fed crops, including cotton, maize, sorghum (jowar), pearl millet (bajra), finger millet (ragi), pulses, groundnut, and soybean. Meanwhile, paddy nurseries are being prepared in irrigated areas.

Despite this, water availability remains a concern. As of August 5, major reservoirs in the state held 438.90 TMC (thousand million cubic) feet of water, compared to 725.36 TMC during the same period last year. Although water storage has improved from the 321.24 TMC recorded two weeks ago, the significant deficit compared to the previous year is raising concerns about future irrigation availability.

Crop-wise data also presents a mixed picture. Paddy sowing has reached 26.16 lakh acres, against a normal acreage of 65.96 lakh acres. During the same period last year, paddy sowing covered 28.74 lakh acres. In contrast, cotton sowing has reached 46.80 lakh acres—nearly matching the normal acreage of 47.41 lakh acres and exceeding the previous year's 43.56 lakh acres. Meanwhile, pulse sowing has also increased to 5.48 lakh acres compared to the previous year.

According to agricultural scientists at Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, many farmers have prioritized alternative crops over paddy this year. However, if there is insufficient rainfall in the coming weeks and reservoir water levels do not rise as expected, the productivity and yield of Kharif crops could be affected.

Nagaur Cotton Sowing Hits 7-Year Low

Fri. 7th Aug 2026, Yash Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)
Pink Bollworm and Rising Costs Dim the Shine of 'White Gold'; Cotton Sowing in Nagaur Hits a Seven-Year Low

Nagaur: Cotton, once considered the preferred cash crop for farmers in Rajasthan's Nagaur district, is gradually losing its luster. Known as 'White Gold,' this crop is proving to be less profitable for farmers. Due to consistently declining yields, rising cultivation costs, the growing menace of the pink bollworm, and the failure to secure expected market prices, farmers are rapidly shifting towards alternative crops. This trend was clearly evident during the Kharif 2026 sowing season.

The Agriculture Department had set a target to sow cotton across 62,000 hectares in the district for the Kharif 2026 season; however, by the end of the season, sowing was completed on only 32,150 hectares. This figure represents approximately 52 percent of the set target and marks the lowest cotton acreage recorded in the district over the past seven years.

Agricultural experts attribute the decline in soil fertility and productivity to the long-term, continuous cultivation of cotton in Nagaur's sandy loam soil. They note that cotton is primarily a crop suited for black soil; consequently, continuous cultivation in sandy loam areas has led to a steady drop in production. For this reason, farmers prioritized alternative crops like guar (cluster bean) this year. In the Kharif 2026 season, guar sowing was recorded across 124,250 hectares in the district.

According to farmers, the average cotton yield has currently dropped to just 1.5 to 2 quintals per bigha. While the gross income from cultivating cotton on approximately 10 bighas reaches around ₹1.20 lakh, the net profit remains minimal after deducting expenses for seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation, labor, and other farming costs. Thus, cotton cultivation is no longer as profitable for farmers as it used to be. Data from the past seven years confirms the declining acreage of cotton. Cotton sowing in the district was recorded at 56,143 hectares in 2020, 58,457 hectares in 2021, 74,557 hectares in 2022, 48,500 hectares in 2023, 59,302 hectares in 2024, and 37,250 hectares in 2025; by 2026, it had dropped to just 32,150 hectares—the lowest level in seven years.

In the initial years, Bt cotton had largely kept the pink bollworm infestation under control, but the pest has now begun to affect Bt varieties as well. Consequently, farmers' expenditure on pesticides is steadily rising. Although the government has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for medium-staple cotton at ₹7,710 per quintal for the 2026-27 season, farmers are unable to reap the expected benefits due to low yields and escalating production costs. This is why farmers in Degana and Merta—Nagaur's major cotton-producing regions—are rapidly shifting towards cultivating cluster beans (guar) and other alternative crops. Experts believe that unless effective control over the pink bollworm, cost reductions, and better market prices are ensured, cotton acreage in the district could shrink further in the coming years.

President of India graces 12th National Handloom Day celebrations

Fri. 7th Aug 2026 (Source: www.pib.gov.in)

Presents Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and National Handloom Awards; Releases commemorative postage stamps on Indian handloom weaves

Appropriate use of new technologies is essential for the sustainable development of Handloom sector: President Droupadi Murmu

The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, today presented the Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and National Handloom Awards 2025 at the Handloom Awards Ceremony organised on the occasion of the 12th National Handloom Day at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre (RBCC), New Delhi. The ceremony celebrated India's rich handloom heritage and recognised the outstanding craftsmanship and contributions of the country's handloom weavers towards preserving and promoting its timeless weaving traditions.

The function was attended by Shri Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State for External Affairs & Textiles, Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary (Textiles) and Dr. M. Beena, Development Commissioner (Handlooms). Also present were Sant Kabir Handloom Awardees and National Handloom Awardees, their family members, members of the Awards Selection Committee, eminent personalities associated with the handloom sector, handloom weavers from across the country, senior Government officials, media representatives and other distinguished guests.

The President of India conferred 3 Sant Kabir Handloom Awards and 19 National Handloom Awards for the year 2025 upon outstanding handloom weavers in recognition of their exceptional craftsmanship, innovation and contribution towards preserving and promoting India's rich handloom traditions.

Addressing the gathering, the President said that handloom has been an integral part of the evolutionary journey of India’s civilization for centuries. It reflects the extraordinary diversity of

our nation and has preserved our regional uniqueness. The President emphasised handloom sector fosters employment, women's empowerment, art and culture, and love for nature.

The President said that the appropriate use of new technologies is essential for the sustainable development of this sector. Market access can be made more effective through modern digital solutions.

The President noted that many talented young entrepreneurs, equipped with technology and innovative designs, are entering this sector. She said that there should be proactive hand-holding of the youth through government schemes and institutions so that their enthusiasm and skills can ensure long-term, multifaceted success of this sector. She also underlined the importance of encouraging younger generations to carry forward this invaluable legacy.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of Textiles, reaffirmed the Government's continued commitment to strengthen ing the handloom sector through sustained policy support, technology adoption, design innovation, market promotion, skill development and welfare initiatives. Shri Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State for External Affairs & Textiles, highlighted the importance of innovation, youth participation and expanding global opportunities in strengthening India's handloom sector while preserving its rich traditions.

A major highlight of the ceremony was the release of four commemorative postage

stamps on Indian handloom weaves by the President of India. The President also released “Earth. Root. Thread – Aal Dyed Handloom Textiles of Central India”, a publication of the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, celebrating India's diverse weaving traditions and documenting excellence in the handloom sector.

An exhibition showcasing award-winning handloom products was organised on the sidelines of the function. Visitors also witnessed live demonstrations of traditional Kani weaving and Wall Hanging weaving, providing a glimpse into the diversity, craftsmanship and artistic excellence of India's handloom traditions.

National Handloom Day is observed every year on 7 August to commemorate the launch of the Swadeshi Movement in 1905, which gave renewed impetus to indigenous industries and India's handloom sector. Since the declaration of 7 August as National Handloom Day in 2015, the occasion has served to recognise the invaluable contribution of the handloom sector to India's rich cultural heritage, livelihood generation and sustainable development.

The 12th National Handloom Day celebrations reaffirmed the Ministry of Textiles' commitment to preserving and promoting India's rich handloom heritage while strengthening the handloom ecosystem through continued support for artisans, innovation, design development and market access. The occasion also celebrated the extraordinary skill, creativity and dedication of the country's handloom weavers, whose craftsmanship continues to enrich India's cultural identity and inspire future generations.

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businessline – 07.08.2026

'Govt may rationalise most customs tariff by FY28 Budget'

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said that government may rationalise most customs tariff by the Budget for 2027-28. She also said that becoming a developed nation is destiny for India.

When asked about further tariff rationalised, she said, "There is progress been made. Barring a few items, we have rationalised it and it will come down further. That is continuing and we will keep it up," she said at an event organised by NCAER.

Earlier, while delivering the CD Deshmukh Memorial Lecture at the 23rd India Policy Forum, she said that Viksit Bharat in 2047 is only a milestone in India's larger civilisational arc. "Our destiny is to become a developed civilisation. That civilisation combines prosperity with trusteeship, enterprise with responsibility, innovation with civilisational wisdom, global leadership with cultural rootedness, environmental stewardship with economic progress and individual success with collective welfare," she said.

She further said, "India must completely dismantle the remnants of its colonial mindset."

India and South Africa discuss trade pact

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday he discussed the signing of terms of reference (ToRs) for the India-SACU (Southern African Customs Union) preferential trade pact and an early conclusion of negotiations with his South African counterpart Parks Tau in a meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS 2026 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Jaipur. Cooperation in critical minerals, pharmaceuticals and manufacturing sectors also featured prominently in the talks.

"We discussed the signing of ToRs for India-SACU PTA and early conclusion of negotiations, strengthening the India-South Africa trade engagement and explored opportunities for cooperation in the critical minerals, pharmaceuticals & manufacturing sectors," Goyal posted on social media platform 'X'.

The five-member SACU includes Botswana, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa. Talks between India and SACU for a PTA began almost two decades ago, back in 2008, but stalled because of disagreement over sensitivities and market access. However, there is renewed interest in the pact from the two sides with special focus on critical minerals and pharmaceuticals.

businessline – 07.08.2026

TN Agri Budget mixes tradition with modernised farming, signals smooth relations with the Centre

Our Bureau
Chennai

The Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government's maiden Agriculture Budget for Tamil Nadu looks to meld traditional farming with modern technology, with various initiatives from natural and organic farming to artificial intelligence (AI).

The Budget attempts to undo what the previous Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government had done by trying to shift the rural population from agriculture to manufacturing.

SIGNALLING CHANGE. Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay (right) with Agriculture Minister R Vinoth ahead of the presentation of the Tamil Nadu Agriculture Budget in Chennai on Thursday PTI

TO USE CENTRAL FUNDS

The Budget makes clear the TVK government's intention to coordinate with the Centre by trying to utilise various Union government agricultural schemes.

It, however, will continue the free power supply scheme to farmers, setting aside ₹7,433 crore to reimburse the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation.

Presenting the Agriculture Budget in the Assembly on Thursday, State Agriculture Minister R Vinoth announced various missions for soil fertility, organic and natural farming, attaining self-sufficiency in pulses and oilseeds, millets, minor millets and an AI scheme.

SOIL HEALTH CARD

For the first time, departing from the earlier DMK and AIADMK government policies, the State will provide soil health cards to farmers.

However, the cards will be given to those with farmer IDs, a way to avoid any controversy as was witnessed in Punjab.

This will be part of the five-year Tamil Nadu Soil Fertility Mission, which will be launched on an estimated outlay of ₹600 crore.

COTTON MISSION

The State government has come up with a 5-year Cotton Renaissance Mission, which will promote high-yielding production technologies such as high-density planting system, ultra high-density planting system, integrated crop management and nipping. It will encourage the cultivation of extra long staple cotton and inter-cropping to enhance farmers' income.

The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) will be implemented in the State in FY27 in 14 clusters comprising 37 districts, covering all the three sowing seasons. For this, ₹649 crore has been allocated.

This will provide insurance cover to 36 lakh acres of cultivated area, benefitting 15 lakh farmers.

businessline – 07.08.2026

India must seek exemption from future US tariffs for key sectors: House panel

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

A parliamentary panel has recommended that India seek complete exemption from any future US tariff actions for key export sectors such as pharmaceuticals, smartphones and critical minerals as it negotiates the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with Washington.

The Rajya Sabha Department-related Standing Committee on Commerce, in its report on India-US trade relations, said the proposed BTA should be concluded at the earliest to provide greater predictability to businesses amid growing tariff uncertainties, while ensuring that India's interests remain fully protected.

"To ensure that the agreement is effective, the committee is of the view that the government negotiate for complete exemption for India's key export products such as generic medicines, critical minerals and smartphones from any future unexpected US tariff increases," it said.

The committee, headed by Trinamool Congress MP Dola Sen, submitted the report to Parliament on Thursday.

DGFT WATCH DESK

The panel recommended setting up a dedicated DGFT watch desk to monitor changes in US customs procedures and provide real-time alerts to exporters amid uncertainty over the trade policy.

The report said the US remains India's largest export destination and one of its most significant strategic economic partners. It called for a time-bound roadmap to achieve the Mission 500 target of expanding bilateral trade to $500 billion by 2030.

The committee expressed concern over the expansion of Section 301 tariffs by the US, saying the move reflected a shift from temporary, broad-based tariffs to more targeted, country-specific measures.

According to the report, the evolving tariff regime has increased uncertainty for Indian exporters, affected their price competitiveness and influenced sourcing decisions of American buyers.

"Stakeholders from the industry apprised the committee that prolonged trade restrictions may weaken investment sentiment and adversely impact MSMEs engaged in value-added steel products," it said.

businessline – 07.08.2026

Tamil Nadu Agri Budget earmarks ₹58,374 cr for farming and allied sectors

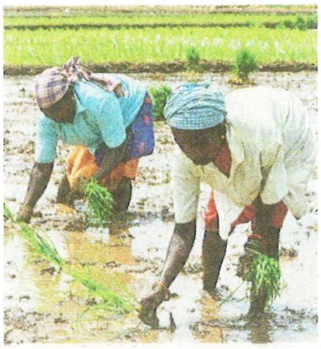
Our Bureau
Chennai

The Tamil Nadu Agriculture Budget has earmarked ₹58,374 crore for agriculture and allied sectors in the Revised Budget Estimates (RBE) for 2026-27. The 2025-26 Agriculture Budget earmarked ₹45,661 crore.

Of the total allocation, capital expenditure stands at ₹8,689 crore, while revenue expenditure accounts for ₹49,685 crore. The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department received the single-largest allocation of ₹18,103 crore.

The State has set a food-grain production target of 131 lakh tonnes in five years, to ensure food security. During 2026-27, the State plans to produce 125 lakh tonnes.

Targets have been set to increase the production of nutritious pulses, vegetables and fruits to achieve self-sufficiency and nutritional security via various schemes.



COTTON MISSION

The Cotton Renaissance Mission will be implemented on 73,360 acres at a total outlay of ₹27.21 crore from Union and State government funds, benefiting 40,000 farmers. Providing a thrust to organic farming, the Budget proposes an incentive of ₹4,000 per acre to farmers. This will cover 20,000 acres, for which ₹8 crore will be allocated. In addition, ₹9 crore will be allocated from Union and State government funds during 2026-27 to form Organic Farming Clusters covering 7,500 acres by mobilising farmers under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) Scheme.

The Budget also proposed to form New Natural Farming Clusters, covering 3,125 acres, besides continuing with the second-year activities on 7,500 acres to produce safe and chemical-free food by improving soil health under the National Mission on Natural Farming.

UZHAVAR AI SCHEME

For ensuring quality of organic produce, certified under the National Programme for Organic Production, a 100 per cent subsidy will be extended for undertaking Pesticide Residue Analysis. The State has set aside ₹25 lakh for this.

The government has come up with an *Uzhavar* Artificial Intelligence Scheme to provide farmers with real-time information on soil health and crop cultivation. For the current fiscal, ₹2 crore has been allocated. A scheme to enhance maize (corn) production will be implemented during 2026-27 on an outlay of ₹36 crore from Union and State government funds.

The State plans to increase the area under pulses, including black matpe, red gram, green gram and cowpea from 15.19 lakh acres to 24.70 lakh acres, and production from 3.88 lakh tonnes to 7.72 lakh tonnes.

The area under oilseeds such as groundnut, sesame, sunflower and castor will be increased from 9.26 lakh acres to 14.89 lakh acres and production from 8.77 lakh tonnes to 16.14 lakh tonnes.

In the 2026-27 fiscal, a Millet Mission will be implemented on a total outlay of ₹63.81 crore from Union and State government funds. The Tamil Nadu Minor Millet Mission will be implemented in 29 districts during 2026-27 on an outlay of ₹7.61 crore allocated from the State's funds.

businessline – 07.08.2026

Kerala braces for renewed monsoon fury as IMD warns of heavy downpour

Vinson Kurian
Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala is set for another spell of intense monsoon weather, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) warning of heavy to very heavy rain over the State, as well as over coastal Karnataka and south interior Karnataka during the next two to three days.

Heavy rain is forecast over Lakshadweep, north interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal on Friday; Kerala and south interior Karnataka on Saturday; and coastal Karnataka through Saturday and Sunday.

Adding to the weather threat, strong surface winds are expected to lash coastal Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep, Rayalaseema and Telangana over the next two days.

North and south interior Karnataka could experience gusty conditions for up to three days.

The renewed spell of wet weather is being shaped by an unusual interaction between the monsoon and a cluster of tropical systems over the West Pacific. Although Typhoon Dolphin and Tropical Storm Kujira have weakened, they have been succeeded by Storm Chan-Hom.

Together, these systems continue to draw a substantial share of monsoon moisture eastward.

TRACK OF 'LOW'

A large part of the monsoon flow is currently being pulled towards these Pacific systems across the Bay of Bengal, while another branch is feeding moisture into North-East and East India through the Myanmar-Bangladesh corridor.

The evolving pattern could trigger the formation of a fresh low-pressure area over the Bay, helping re-anchor monsoon currents and sustain rainfall.

Two upper-air cyclonic circulations are already in place — one over the north-west Bay and adjoining north Odisha-Gangetic West Bengal, and another over south-west Bengal and the adjoining Bangladesh.

The eventual track of any low-pressure area that forms will determine how rainfall is distributed across East and North-East India.

N-W, CENTRAL INDIA

Beyond the southern part of the country, the IMD expects isolated heavy rainfall to continue across parts of North-West, Central, East and North-East India through much of the week.

businessline – 07.08.2026

Monsoon revival eases Telangana's kharif worries, State sticks to crop diversification

KV Kurmanath
Hyderabad

Copious rainfall over the past week across several parts of Telangana has revived hopes for the kharif season. Until a fortnight ago, 23 of the State's 33 districts were in the rainfall-deficit category, prompting the government to draw up a comprehensive action plan to promote pulses and millets as alternatives to paddy.

A few days ago, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, citing the weather forecasts, said that the adverse impact of El Nino was likely to persist through August and advised farmers against taking up paddy cultivation.

He directed the officials to keep adequate stocks of alternative crop seeds ready to support the farmers.

The Minister also warned that the El Nino impact could extend into the rabi season.

POSITIVE OUTLOOK

However, widespread rain over the past few days have significantly improved the outlook.

"We are better off than we were last week. Reports suggest that farmers in several districts are now in a safer position," Jaipal, a farmer from Mahabubabad district, told *businessline*.

Despite the improvement, the State government remains cautious and continues to discourage paddy cultivation. It estimates that the total kharif sowing area could decline by 20-25 per cent from last year's level.

MILLETS, PULSES

"The fact that many farmers had to undertake a second sowing reflects how precarious the situation remains. We are advising farmers, including those with borewell irrigation, to avoid paddy this season," a government source said.

"These late rains are certainly beneficial, particularly for paddy farmers," said Prabhakar Vuppala, a farmer from Nizamabad.

Data available up to July 29 show paddy acreage at about 8.28 lakh hectares, down from 8.9 lakh hectares a year ago.

Maize sowing also declined to 1.9 lakh hectares from 2.19 lakh hectares last year.

In contrast, redgram acreage edged up to 1.79 lakh hectares from 1.75 lakh hectares, while cotton registered a sharp increase to 18.62 lakh hectares from 17.4 lakh hectares in the corresponding period last year.

businessline – 07.08.2026

PM's handloom vision: Weaving heritage into Viksit Bharat

Pabitra Margherita

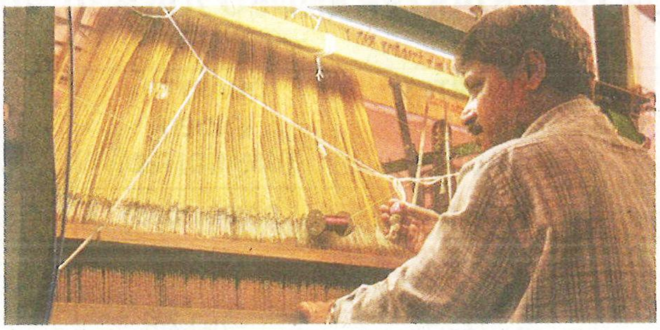
In the vast landscape of Indian heritage, few traditions embody our civilisational identity as intimately as our handlooms, where a single woven thread can trace its origins back to a specific town, family or centuries-old tradition.

The heavy drape of *Banarasi* silk, the natural golden sheen of Assam's *Muga*, the geometric symmetry of Patan *Patola* or the temple borders of a Kanchipuram saree, each weave carries centuries of collective memory.

These handlooms serve as living archives to civilisation, safeguarding stories, beliefs, landscapes and communities that have endured across generations.

It is this extraordinary continuity that Bharat honours annually on National Handloom Day. The choice of August 7 is not accidental. On this day in 1905, through the Swadeshi movement, handwoven cloth stopped being just a household commodity and became a tool of economic resistance. Choosing local weave over imported textiles was a direct statement of self-reliance and national identity.

Today, as we advance toward the vision of Aatmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat, that foundational spirit finds expression.



TIMELESS CRAFT. Handlooms showcase that economic progress and environmental consciousness can coexist in this synthetic waste and fast-fashion overproduction era K MURALI KUMAR

SCALE OF CREATIVITY

Beyond its historical importance, handloom is proving to be a practical driver of rural enterprise and local employment. The farsighted vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the handloom sector has brought it renewed policy attention, with a strong emphasis on empowering weavers, strengthening value chains and positioning handlooms as a symbol of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and India's global cultural soft power.

This sector supports nearly 35 lakh weavers and allied artisans, with women comprising over 72 per cent of this workforce.

Under the guidance of Union Minister of Textiles, Giriraj Singh, the Ministry has pursued a strategic vision — ensuring that artisans not only preserve tradition but also achieve tangible prosperity through it. Targeted initiatives, such as the National Handloom Development Programme, Raw Material Supply Scheme, Weavers' Mudra Scheme, and Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata, along with specialised design development programmes and market assistance, have strengthened the value chain. Through financial inclusion, equipment modernisation, robust infrastructure, digital storefronts, product diversification and structured capacity building via SAMARTH training, weavers are being empowered to adapt to contemporary markets with confidence.

LOCAL TO GLOBAL

Long before "sustainable fashion" became a buzzword, Indian handlooms operated on low-carbon principles through manual looms, minimal power consumption, plant-based or low-impact dyes, and localised material sourcing. In an era dominated by synthetic waste and fast-fashion overproduction, handlooms prove that economic progress and environmental consciousness can seamlessly coexist.

Driven by this global shift towards conscious consumption, Indian handlooms are captivating new audiences through participation in international expositions, Geographical Indication (GI) protection, strategic branding, e-commerce integration and high-level designer collaborations.

The future of this sector will be defined not only by seasoned master artisans but also by emerging designers, entrepreneurs, researchers and tech innovators. Their capacity to synthesise heritage craftsman- ship with modern design aesthetics, digital storytelling and global brand positioning will shape the next era of handloom legacy.

The observance of National Handloom Day reminds us that a purchase of a handloom means contributing to the livelihood of India's artisans and preserving hundreds of years of artisanship. Making a decision to use a handloom is more than just putting on a cloth, it is honouring an age-old tradition with pride.

The author is the Minister of State for Textiles and External Affairs

Business Standard – 07.08.2026

House panel on fertiliser calls for plan to ward off West Asia-like crisis

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 6 August

The Centre should institutionalise a strategic fertiliser supply disruption contingency framework with defined response protocols, alternate sourcing arrangements, strategic buffer stocks, coordinated logistics planning, and periodic review of gas allocation to ensure uninterrupted fertiliser production during crises like the one which just happened due to the West Asia war and closure of Strait of Hormuz, a standing committee of the Parliament said.

"The recent geopolitical developments in West Asia exposed India's vulnerability to disruptions in fertiliser and LNG imports and highlighted the absence of a permanent contingency framework. Therefore, the committee recommends a strategic fertiliser supply disruption contingency framework with defined response protocols," the standing committee on chemicals and fertilisers observed.

The committee observation came just as India managed to ward off a grave crisis to its urea, Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) and complex fertiliser supplies due to closure of the Strait of Hormuz on account of the Iran-US war. India gets significant quantum of its urea and LNG imports from the Gulf nations. With the Strait still not totally open, the crisis over supplies still lingers on.

The panel also came down heavily on bundling of non-subsidy fertiliser products such as nano urea bottles with urea bags. It said that as persistent advisories have failed to make any difference, time has now come for a mandatory separate digital billing of non-subsidised products sold with subsidised fertilisers, integration of bundled transaction detection into the e-Point of Sale/integrated Fertiliser Management System (iFMS), maintenance of centralised data on complaints and enforcement action, and suitable amendments to the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 to explicitly prohibit and penalise forced bundling.

The panel also called for a permanent joint fertiliser command and monitoring cell to facilitate real-time coordination, advance planning, buffer stock management, movement monitoring, and timely corrective action during every cropping season, and sought to be apprised of the action taken in the matter.

The Economic Times – 07.08.2026

House Panel Seeks Early India-US Trade Pact

Our Bureau

New Delhi: A parliamentary panel has urged the government to conclude the proposed India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) at the earliest, while seeking safeguards against future US tariff hikes.

"The committee recommends that the government conclude the proposed BTA at the earliest while ensuring that India's interests are adequately protected," the Standing Committee on Commerce said on Thursday.

It also recommended a review of the India-US trade relations in the interest of the country and its citizens, considering the recent US tariffs.

To ensure that the BTA is effective, the government should negotiate for complete exemption for India's key export products such as generic medicines, critical minerals and smartphones from any future unexpected US tariff increases, the panel said.

It suggested the commerce department prepare a time-bound roadmap to achieve the objectives of the Mission 500 initiative – which aims to more than double bilateral trade to $500 billion by 2030 – by promoting trade in goods and services, encouraging investments, enhancing cooperation in critical technologies, improving supply chain and addressing both tariff and non-tariff barriers faced by Indian exporters.

A win-win trade pact would benefit businesses in both countries as it would provide a stable and predictable trade environment, the panel said.

Highlighting that the pact should focus on reducing tariffs on engineering goods, auto components and other products related to the automotive sector as the removal of additional US tariffs on Indian exporters will improve India's competitiveness, it suggested protection to vulnerable small-scale industries from volatile tariff actions and localised financial buffers and export credit assistance programmes.

It also asked for the setting up of a special, fast-acting watch desk to track US customs audits in real time for Indian exporters to get instant warnings about any new import rules.