



**COTTON
ASSOCIATION
OF INDIA**

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015



News Relating to
**Cotton and
Textile Sector**

Date-10-07-2026

Sr. No.	Topics	Page No.
News Relating to Cotton and Textile Sector		
1	CAI's Spot Rates- 10th July 2026	3
2	ICE Cotton Futures: 9th July 2026	4
3	Cotlook "A" Index: 9th July 2026	4
4	ICE cotton weakens as profit booking, lower crude weigh on prices	4-6
5	Telangana Cotton Sowing Rises by 4.85 Lakh Acres During Kharif 2026	6
6	Cotton, Soybean Sowing Gains Pace	6-7
7	India revamps powerloom centres into textile development hubs	7-8
8	US cotton export sales recover but remain below four-week average	8-9
9	Europe's EU Ecolabel links textiles to circular economy	9-10
10	Giriraj Singh Reviews Textile Sector Schemes, Highlights ITADCs' Growing Role	11



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COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

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Mumbai, Friday 10th July 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	14622	52000	(N.C.)
2	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	15%	20	12373	44000	(N.C.)
3	M/M(P)	ICS-104	Fine	23mm	4.5 - 7.0	4%	22	14735	52400	(N.C.)
4	P / H / R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	16563	58900	(N.C.)
5	M/M(P) /SA/TL/GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	15044	53500	(N.C.)
6	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	16366	58200	(N.C.)
7	P/ H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	17181	61100	(N.C.)
8	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	17772	63200	(N.C.)
9	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	17772	63200	(+600)
10	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	27	17716	63000	(+600)
11	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	4.0%	27	17069	60700	(N.C.)
12	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	18025	64100	(N.C.)
13	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	18137	64500	(N.C.)
14	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	17856	63500	(N.C.)
15	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18109	64400	(N.C.)
16	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	18419	65500	(N.C.)
17	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	18250	64900	(N.C.)
18	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	N.A.	N.A.	
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	23340	83000	(N.C.)
22	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	23480	83500	(N.C.)
23	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	24183	86000	(N.C.)
24	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	35	24324	86500	(N.C.)
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: 09-07-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE						09 Jul 2026
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Jul-26	0.00	76.16	76.16	76.16	▼0.05	0
Oct-26	78.85	79.15	77.61	78.93	▼0.05	168
Dec-26	80.50	80.95	79.30	80.63	▼0.04	2,07,437
Mar-27	81.78	82.30	80.75	81.97	▼0.13	59,966
May-27	82.62	83.12	81.69	82.77	▼0.22	19,076
Jul-27	82.16	82.72	81.35	82.34	▼0.24	12,611
Oct-27	0.00	78.62	78.62	78.62	▼0.21	5

Cotlook Index: 09-07-2026

89.75 (-0.50)

ICE cotton weakens as profit booking, lower crude weigh on prices

Fri. 10th July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights

ICE cotton futures fell for a second straight session as profit-taking and lower crude oil prices outweighed weather concerns and export demand.

The December 2026 contract settled at 80.63 cents/lb.

Traders stayed cautious ahead of the USDA's July WASDE report, while weaker US export sales and lower trading volumes added to market pressure.



ICE cotton futures further declined on second consecutive day yesterday. The profit booking continued which offset support from weather concerns and export demand. Traders were reluctant to add fresh long positions ahead of USDA WASDE report. While, falling crude oil further added pressure on cotton prices, while US cotton export sales declined from the previous week.

The most active December 2026 contract settled at 80.63 cents, down 0.04 cent. The contract remained 351 points higher for the week and closed above the 80-cent level for the third consecutive session. Other nearby

contracts settled 5 to 24 points lower.

Prices fell sharply during the first half of the session before recovering most of their losses by the close, reflecting continued buying interest at lower levels. Market analysts attributed the weakness primarily to profit-taking following the recent rally, noting that much of the weather premium had already been priced in. Despite the pullback, the market remained technically constructive after moving above the 40-day moving average, although traders were cautious about adding fresh long positions ahead of the USDA's WASDE report.

Crude oil prices declined further, putting pressure on cotton by lowering polyester production costs and improving the competitiveness of synthetic fibres. Oil prices weakened as the market viewed the risk of significant Middle East supply disruptions as limited despite ongoing regional tensions.

Trading volume fell to 44,291 contracts from 54,192 in the previous session, reflecting cautious participation ahead of the USDA's July World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report.

The USDA's Weekly Export Sales Report for the week ended July 2, showed net Upland cotton export sales of 66,400 bales, down 36 per cent from the previous week but 20 per cent above the four-week average. China purchased 3,294 bales of current-crop cotton, while next-crop sales reached 86,971 bales.

The US Climate Prediction Center continued to project a 97 per cent probability of La Niña developing by late 2026 or early 2027, heightening concerns over hotter and drier conditions across the southern US cotton belt that could affect the next crop.

CBOT corn, soybean, and wheat futures also declined as traders booked profits, ahead of the USDA's supply and demand report.

Market participants remained cautious ahead of the USDA's July WASDE report, which is expected to provide updated estimates for global cotton production, consumption, exports and ending stocks, and could set the next major direction for cotton prices.

This morning (Indian Standard Time), ICE cotton for December 2026 traded at 80.57 cents per pound (down 0.06 cent), cash cotton at 74.93 cents (down 0.05 cent), October 2026 at 78.93 cents (unchanged), March 2027 at 81.97 cents (unchanged), May 2027 at 82.71 cents (down 0.06 cent), and July 2027 at 82.28 cents (down 0.06 cent). A few contracts remained at their previous closing levels, with no trades recorded so far today.

Telangana Cotton Sowing Rises by 4.85 Lakh Acres During Kharif 2026

Fri. 10th July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Surge in Cotton Sowing in Telangana; Acreage Up by 4.85 Lakh Acres Compared to Last Year

Hyderabad, July 8: A significant increase in cotton sowing has been recorded in Telangana during the Kharif 2026 season. As of July 8, 2026, cotton has been sown across 3,944,271 acres in the state, whereas the figure stood at 3,458,849 acres during the same period last year. This represents an increase of 485,422 acres in the area sown with cotton so far this year.

According to district-wise data, Nalgonda recorded the highest increase at 197,352 acres. This was followed by notable increases in Nagarkurnool (+49,481 acres), Jangaon (+44,904 acres), Suryapet (+40,726 acres), Sangareddy (+40,020 acres), and Khammam (+19,079 acres).

Meanwhile, the cotton sowing area also expanded compared to the previous year in several other districts, including Kamareddy, Karimnagar, Rangareddy, Jogulamba Gadwal, Mahabubabad, Narayanpet, and Yadadri Bhuvanagiri.

On the other hand, a decline in cotton sowing was recorded in some districts. Key among these are Hanamkonda (-15,793 acres), Mancherla (-13,795 acres), Vikarabad (-12,655 acres), Siddipet (-12,382 acres), Warangal (-9,610 acres), and Bhadrachalam (-7,993 acres).

The normal cotton acreage for the state is 4,741,541 acres, while sowing has been completed on 3,944,271 acres as of July 8, 2026.

Cotton, Soybean Sowing Gains Pace

Fri. 10th July 2026, Yash Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Kharif: Cotton and soybean sowing gains momentum with the arrival of the monsoon; total acreage may surpass last year's levels

Sowing of Kharif crops has accelerated as the Southwest monsoon has covered the entire country. Cultivation of cotton and soybean has picked up pace. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and SOPA, good rainfall has boosted farmer interest and strengthened production prospects.

The Southwest monsoon has now reached the entire country. On July 9, it advanced into the remaining parts of Rajasthan, Haryana, and Punjab, as well as the northern Arabian Sea, completing its nationwide coverage. This has raised expectations for an acceleration in Kharif crop sowing.

Driven by good rainfall, cotton sowing—which was lagging 23 percent behind last year's figures—has gained momentum. As of July 5, the total cotton acreage stood at 63.18 lakh hectares, compared to 82 lakh hectares sown during the same period last year. After lagging in previous weeks, cotton sowing has now picked up in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh. In some areas, farmers are shifting from paddy to cotton and pulses, as these crops offer better prospects. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, cotton production for the year 2025-26 stood at 290.91 lakh bales (each bale weighing 170 kg), which is lower than the 297.24 lakh bales produced in 2024-25.

90 percent of soybean area covered

According to the Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA), the soybean acreage for the current Kharif season is estimated at 1.003 crore hectares. Sowing has covered approximately 80 to 90 percent of the total target area across key states.

Government estimates indicate that soybean sowing has been completed on 57 lakh hectares so far.

In Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, soybean sowing has been completed on approximately 90 percent of the area. In Maharashtra, it has reached approximately 80–90 percent of the target area. SOPA believes that the total soybean acreage during the 2026 Kharif season is likely to surpass last year's levels.

India revamps powerloom centres into textile development hubs

Fri. 10th July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights

India's textile ministry is recasting former Powerloom Service Centres as ITADCs to offer skills, testing, design, technology, credit, export and market support.

The hubs target textile entrepreneurs and MSMEs needing faster access to services across the value chain.

ATUFS impact data points to machinery modernisation, investment leverage and direct job creation.

Indian Ministry of Textiles is repositioning erstwhile Powerloom Service Centres as Integrated Textile and Apparel Development Centres (ITADCs), aiming to create one-stop support hubs for

textile entrepreneurs, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and other value-chain stakeholders.

The Minister for Textiles Giriraj Singh reviewed the shift at a high-level meeting on technology upgradation, institutional reforms and industry support. The revamped centres are intended to provide skill development, testing, design support, technology adoption, entrepreneurship development, credit facilitation, export promotion and market linkages.

The centres trained over 1,170 trainees and reached nearly 1,770 textile units through outreach programmes during the reviewed quarter, while also supporting credit access, e-commerce linkages and product-led entrepreneurship around bamboo, hemp, flax, banana and pineapple fibres, the Ministry of Textiles said in a press release.

Citing an independent third-party impact assessment of the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS), the ministry said that 10,061 units had received subsidy assistance of ₹27.76 billion (~\$331 million), mobilising investments of more than ₹531.21 billion (~\$6.32 billion).

The assessment also linked the scheme to nearly 670,000 benchmarked textile machines and about 360,000 direct employment opportunities.

Every ₹10 million (~\$119,000) of subsidy mobilised nearly ₹190 million (~\$2.26 million) of private investment and created around 130 direct jobs. It added that the weaving sector accounted for 46 per cent of total subsidy, while 46 per cent of new employment generated in composite units amounted to nearly 170,000 jobs.

Singh also inaugurated a revamped Office of the Textile Commissioner website and a Key Performance Indicator portal for ITADCs, designed for field-level data capture, benchmarking, dashboards and structured reviews.

The ministry directed field offices to work with the Textile Committee, Export Promotion Councils, Textile Research Associations, state governments and industry associations to improve scheme implementation and outreach to textile enterprises.

US cotton export sales recover but remain below four-week average

Fri. 10th July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights

US Upland cotton export sales rose 36 per cent to 66,400 running bales (RB) in the week ended July 2, led by Vietnam and India, while shipments increased 5 per cent to 230,100 RB.

New-crop sales also strengthened.

Pima cotton sales rebounded, but export shipments declined sharply from the previous week's seasonal peak despite stronger buying interest.

US cotton export sales recovered modestly in the week ended July 2, 2026, as Upland cotton bookings rebounded from the previous week's low, although demand remained below the recent four-week



trend. Export shipments also improved slightly, while Pima cotton sales strengthened from the previous week, despite lower export volumes, according to the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) weekly export sales report.

Net sales of Upland cotton for the 2025-26 marketing year totalled 66,400 RB (running bales, each weighing 226.8 kg), up 36 per cent from the previous week, but 49 per cent below the prior four-week average. Vietnam was the largest buyer with purchases of 23,500 RB, followed closely by India with 23,400 RB, Mexico with

10,400 RB, Bangladesh with 4,000 RB and China with 3,300 RB. These gains were partially offset by net reductions for Pakistan, Switzerland, Hong Kong, and South Korea.

New-crop Upland cotton export sales for the 2026-27 marketing year rose to 87,000 RB, led by Vietnam with 48,700 RB, followed by Türkiye with 30,800 RB, Japan with 2,400 RB, Indonesia with 2,400 RB and Ecuador with 1,600 RB.

Upland export shipments increased to 230,100 RB, up 5 per cent from the previous week, but 14 per cent below the prior four-week average. Vietnam remained the leading destination with shipments of 85,400 RB, followed by Pakistan with 42,800 RB, Türkiye with 23,900 RB, Bangladesh with 21,200 RB and Mexico with 18,400 RB.

Pima cotton also showed stronger buying interest during the week. Net sales for the 2025-26 marketing year totalled 2,600 RB, rising sharply from the previous week, but remaining 42 per cent, below the prior four-week average. Vietnam led purchases with 1,300 RB, followed by India with 700 RB, while Bangladesh, Türkiye, and Indonesia each booked 200 RB. New-crop Pima cotton sales for the 2026-27 marketing year reached 17,500 RB, entirely for India.

Pima export shipments, however, fell to 10,600 RB, down 57 per cent from the previous week and 38 per cent below the prior four-week average. India remained the largest destination with shipments of 8,300 RB, followed by Peru with 700 RB, Pakistan with 400 RB, Thailand with 300 RB and Türkiye with 300 RB.

The latest USDA data indicated a partial recovery in US cotton export demand, after the previous week's weakness. Upland sales and shipments improved modestly, supported by stronger buying from Vietnam and India, while new-crop commitments also accelerated. Pima sales rebounded significantly, driven by India and Vietnam, although export shipments retreated sharply from the previous week's seasonal peak.

Europe's EU Ecolabel links textiles to circular economy

Fri. 10th July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights

Europe's circular economy shift is raising expectations for goods, services and business claims, with the EU Ecolabel positioned as a practical market tool.

For textile suppliers, the label highlights restrictions on hazardous substances, durability and lower production impacts.

Verified criteria can support sourcing decisions and greener procurement in a crowded sustainability market.

Europe's move towards a circular economy is changing the expectations placed on products, services and business claims, with the EU Ecolabel being positioned as a tool for translating environmental policy into market criteria relevant to textile and apparel supply chains, according to the European Commission.

For textile suppliers and sourcing teams, the label's criteria promote restrictions on hazardous substances, durability and reduced environmental impacts during production, said the commission's directorate-general for Environment said in a news announcement.

Across other product groups, the EU Ecolabel also addresses packaging, resource efficiency, material sourcing, repairability, emissions and end-of-life considerations, underlining a life-cycle approach rather than a final-product assessment alone.

The European Commission said the EU Ecolabel supports the EU's work on the Circular Economy Act and the implementation of the Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive. The Commission said the directive refers to the EU Ecolabel as proof of recognised excellent environmental performance, offering companies and buyers a more credible way to identify products assessed against transparent environmental criteria.

Malgorzata Golebiewska, EU Ecolabel team leader at the European Commission said: "The EU Ecolabel works like a circularity sandbox, where businesses test, validate and market sustainable products, de-risking tomorrow's regulatory hurdles. For SMEs and multinational businesses alike, it is a smart way to turn compliance into a competitive advantage."

Melanie Kenway, RESH director for Global Environmental Processes at Essity, noted at the EU Circular Talk:

"The EU Ecolabel certification scheme aligns with Essity's strategy when it comes to lifecycle perspective, because it offers third-party verification that our products offer reduced environmental impacts, without compromising hygiene or functionality. It is a powerful and credible tool."

For exporters, manufacturers and retail buyers serving European markets, the Commission's framing signals that verified environmental criteria may become more important in product design, supplier selection and public procurement.

The Commission also cited recent scientific research finding a positive association between EU Ecolabel diffusion amongst EU countries and circular economy performance.

Giriraj Singh Reviews Textile Sector Schemes, Highlights ITADCs' Growing Role

Fri. 10th July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Giriraj Singh reviewed major schemes of textile sector, laid emphasis on the role of ITADCs

New Delhi, July 9 (PTI): Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh on Thursday assessed the progress of key initiatives aimed at technology upgradation, institutional reforms and better support to the industry at a high-level review meeting. The objective of the meeting was to make India's textile ecosystem more robust and competitive.

The meeting reviewed the progress in converting old Powerloom Service Centers into Integrated Textile and Apparel Development Centers (ITADCs). These centers are being developed as one-stop facilitation centers for the textile industry, where services like skill development, product testing, design assistance, technical support, credit facilities, export promotion and market linkages will be provided to entrepreneurs, MSMEs and other stakeholders.

During the first quarter of FY 2026-27, ITADCs trained more than 1,170 people and reached out to about 1,770 textile units through outreach programmes. Apart from this, institutional credit, e-commerce linkages, product-based entrepreneurship and commercialization of new fibers like bamboo, hemp, flax, banana and pineapple were also promoted.

Giriraj Singh said that ITADCs are no longer just service centres, but are evolving into innovation and enterprise development centres. He expressed confidence that these centers will play an important role in empowering MSMEs, increasing exports, creating sustainable employment and making India's textile sector more competitive globally.

The Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) was also reviewed in the meeting. According to the ministry, subsidy worth Rs 2,776 crore was provided to 10,061 units under the scheme, attracting investment of over Rs 53,121 crore. Through the scheme, about 6.7 lakh modern textile machines were installed and about 3.6 lakh direct employment was created. The study also found that every Rs 1 crore of subsidy resulted in private investment of about Rs 19 crore, indicating the effectiveness of the scheme.



COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Established 1921

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CAI Laboratory locations :

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- **Maharashtra :**
Mumbai; Akola; Aurangabad;
Jalgaon; Nagpur
- **Gujarat :**
Rajkot; Ahmedabad
- **Andhra Pradesh :**
Adoni
- **Madhya Pradesh :**
Khargone
- **Karnataka :**
Hubli
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CAI in Service of Nation



Cotton Testing Laboratories



Maintain Indian Cotton Grade Standards



Indian Cotton Spot Rates



Arbitration Conciliation and Mediation Mechanism



Cotton Research and Development



Issue Certificate of Origin



Indian Cotton Statistics



Publications

Represented on various International Cotton Fora
i.e. ICAC, ICA, CICC, ACSA, ITMF and several
other International Cotton Associations

Iran sanctions rollback unlikely to disrupt India's crude supplies

Rishi Ranjan Kala

New Delhi

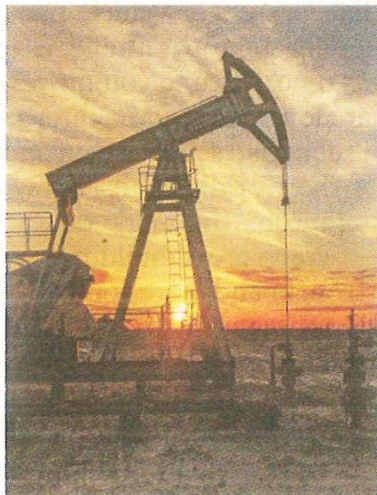
The rollback of the 60-day sanctions reprieve for Iran is unlikely to impact India's crude oil imports in August and September, with Russia, the US, West Africa and South America providing alternatives to the lost barrels from the Gulf.

However, trade sources and refiners indicated that liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) could again become a pain point if renewed hostilities continue for long, which would extend the closure of the Strait of Hormuz (SoH), impacting the supply of the key cooking medium for more than 33.50 crore Indian households.

'CAUTIOUS REVIEW ON'

"Refiners are cautiously reviewing the situation and awaiting clarity from the Foreign Ministry. Crude oil imports from Iran will get stuck after the US pulled back the sanctions waiver. We will see more dark tanker activity. Besides, the plan [import from Iran] is more of long term," said an executive with a domestic refiner.

Kpler said the recent ex-



change of fire in West Asia following President Donald Trump's comments on ceasefire had once again raised concerns over the security of the SoH.

"Crude flows through the Strait had not fully recovered before the latest escalation. For India, however, it has largely been business as usual over the past 100 days, with refiners successfully managing supply through a diversified import portfolio," the global real time data and analytics provider added.

Sumit Ritolia, Kpler's Lead Research Analyst for Refining and Modeling, told *businessline*: "Where I believe the market should pay closer attention is LPG and

LNG. Unlike crude, these markets have fewer short-term substitution options, and remain more exposed to Gulf supply and shipping disruptions. A prolonged period of instability could tighten availability, increase freight costs and add pressure to regional prices again as we have seen over last few months."

RESILIENT PATH

Ritolia emphasised that India's crude import basket today is far more resilient than it was a few years ago. For instance, Russian crude continues to anchor a significant share of imports, while barrels from Saudi Arabia and the UAE are delivered via bypass infrastructure that provides an additional layer of supply security.

"West African and Latin American grades continue to supplement refinery requirements. Cargoes that can safely transit the Strait are still expected to move, although freight rates and insurance costs could rise if tensions persist," he said.

For now, Ritolia explained that India's crude supply story remains one of diversification and resilience, not immediate scarcity.

AUSTRALIA BECKONS



BOLSTERING TIES. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese being welcomed at an Indian community event in Melbourne on Thursday. Modi said he was delighted that the partnership between the countries in the areas of education, skills and innovation is deepening and strengthening **(Reports on Page 3)** PTI

Agri-Next to support 150 start-ups for tech-driven innovations

Our Bureau
Kochi

In a major push for technology-led transformation of agriculture, the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) has launched Agri-Next, a ₹38 crore programme to support 150 agritech start-ups under the World Bank-assisted Kerala Climate Resilient Agri-Value Chain Modernisation (KERA) Project, implemented by the State Agriculture Department.

The initiative seeks to bridge the gap between innovation and farming by enabling start-ups to deploy technologies directly on farms.

FINANCIAL AID

It aims to boost productivity, lower cultivation costs, promote climate-resilient practices, strengthen mar-

ket linkages and enhance farmers' incomes through technology-driven solutions.

Selected start-ups will receive financial assistance of up to ₹25 lakh, along with mentoring, incubation support, access to farmer networks and opportunities for field demonstrations.

The programme is designed to help start-ups validate and scale innovations in collaboration with farmers and agricultural institutions.

FOCUS AREAS

Billed as one of the country's largest collaborative agritech initiatives, Agri-Next is open to start-ups working in areas such as precision farming, drones, artificial intelligence, smart irrigation, farm mechanisation, crop protection, post-harvest management, value addition, agritech-fintech

and climate-smart agriculture. The selected technologies will be deployed through farmer producer organisations (FPOs), agricultural institutions and field-level agencies, which will allow start-ups to validate their solutions under real farm conditions, while demonstrating their commercial viability.

KSUM officials said the programme marks a shift towards demand-driven agricultural innovation by encouraging start-ups to develop solutions tailored to farmers' needs.

Open to agritech start-ups across India, the initiative aims to build a sustainable, technology-driven agricultural ecosystem while strengthening Kerala's rural economy.

Applications and programme details are available on <https://agrinext.startupmission.in>

India, Australia agree on framework to streamline defence trade, services

DEEPENING TIES. Both nations ink reciprocal agreement for 'expanding aircraft deployments'

Dalip Singh
New Delhi

Building upon the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) established in 2020, India and Australia on Thursday agreed for a broader policy framework — an 'MoU for the provision of defence articles and defence services,' designed to streamline and shape ways the two nations will buy, sell, share and maintain military equipment and specialised technical services.

This is part of a string of announcements at the Third India-Australia Annual Summit in Melbourne, led by Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Anthony Albanese, with New Delhi appears to be looking to elevate its defence ties with Australia in some domains to match its engagements with other major developed nations. PM Modi is currently on a two-day official visit to Australia, which began on July 8.

BILATERAL INNOVATION
Both the nations have decided to explore a bilateral innovation framework to connect respective ecosystems and accelerate collab-



STRATEGIC PARTNER. Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Australian PM Anthony Albanese at the India-Australia Annual Summit in Melbourne on Thursday REUTERS

oration among governments, industry, academia, and research institutions for promoting R&D based solutions for advanced capability solutions. The initiative reflects similar arrangements India has had with the US, France and South Korea.

The two Prime Ministers "welcomed the ongoing work to develop a memorandum of understanding for the provision of defence articles and defence services, and efforts to promote connections between Australian

and Indian defence industries, including through Australia's first defence trade mission to India and the Australia-India Defence Industry Roundtable," read a joint statement issued after the Summit.

They have inked reciprocal agreement for 'expanding aircraft deployments from each other's territories' which India has formalised with other countries, like US, Russia, France, and Japan, for mutual support of military logistics to facilitate

parking and refuelling, among others. In their committed to the Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Co-operation and strengthening of the maritime security collaboration roadmap, the two countries aim at establishing a robust blueprint for regional stability and defence modernisation.

Reacting to the developments, Arun Ramchandani, President SIDM, told *businessline* that Modi's current visit to Australia had resulted in one of the most sub-

stantial upgrades in India-Australia strategic ties since the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

"The geopolitical dynamic security and economic uncertainties has steered nations world over to reboot and relook at their security and commercial strategies and policies. While the visit produced 18 agreements and initiatives, the defence and security outcomes are particularly significant from a maritime security and defence industry & start-up perspective," he said.

KEY AREAS

The two, as per the joint statement, have identified four areas for strengthening comprehensive defence co-operation, and deepening strategic dialogue. They are for: (a) undertaking to consult on defence-related developments in the Indo-Pacific that affect shared interests; (b) increasing the complexity of our defence exercises, including with partners; (c) accelerating efforts to build interoperability and information sharing between defence forces; and (d) expanding aircraft deployments from each other's territories.

Australia to send business delegation to India in Dec

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

Australia will send a senior business delegation to India during Australia Week in December and convene a new investment roundtable in Mumbai as part of a renewed push to deepen economic engagement with one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said.

The delegation will be led by the Business Council of Australia, while Austrade and the Australian High Commission in New Delhi will organise the Mumbai investment roundtable to encourage two-way investment.

INVESTMENT IN IINF

"I welcome the announcement we have had this morning from AustralianSuper that they will invest an additional AU\$500 million into India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund. This is about building on and broadening out the four key priorities in our roadmap: clean energy, education and skills, agribusiness, and tourism. In every one of those sectors, new work to deepen our engagement is already underway," Albanese said at the Australia-India economic roadmap business reception on Thursday. AustralianSuper is the pension fund manager of Australia.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on an official visit to

Australia as part of his three-nation tour, attended as the guest of honour. Addressing business leaders, Albanese said the relationship between the two countries had undergone a significant transformation over the past decade.

Calling the Indian diaspora the "living bridge" between the two countries, Albanese said India's emergence as the world's fastest-growing major economy and its trajectory to become the third-largest economy by the end of the decade presented enormous opportunities for Australian businesses.

He said Australia wanted its businesses, technology and expertise to contribute to India's growth.

EDUCATION TIES

Highlighting growing education ties, Albanese said that Australia now has approval for eight university branch campuses in India after Deakin University became the first foreign university to establish a campus in the country. He also welcomed Monash University's announcement of a \$75 million investment to expand co-operation with India.

In agribusiness, Albanese cited Perdaman's Project Ceres urea manufacturing facility in Karratha as an example of successful collaboration. The project is expected to become Australia's largest urea plant with annual production of 2.3 mt.

June ranks world's 2nd hottest on record

Srikrishnan PC
Chennai

Globally, June 2026 was the second warmest June on record, with ocean temperatures reaching an all-time high, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), implemented by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF).

It was also the hottest June on record in Western Europe, with extreme heatwaves, worsening drought, wildfires and warming seas highlighting the increasing risks of a rapidly heating planet, partly driven by the intensifying El Niño conditions.

The monthly average sea surface temperature (SST) for the extra-polar ocean (60°S–60°N) was the highest on record for June and was only 0.01°C above the previous record set in June 2024, in part reflecting the development of strong El Niño conditions in the equatorial Pacific.

EUROPE BAKED

The heatwave that swept across much of Europe in the second half of June followed just weeks after a particularly severe heatwave in May.

The June heatwave shattered monthly and all-time temperature records in several countries in Europe, with significant health impacts, including heat-related deaths.

Widespread dryness across Europe and extreme heat contributed to wildfire activity, especially in the Iberian Peninsula and southern France, and increased the risk of drought in parts of eastern Europe.

The June heatwave followed a period of increasingly dry soils across western and central Europe, intensifying drought conditions that began to form during the May heatwave.

For June 2026, the European land average temperature was 19.14°C, 1.78°C above the 1991-2020 average for the month, the second warmest on record for the continent (after June 2019).

Western Europe, the area most impacted by the heatwave, recorded its warmest June on record, with an average temperature of 20.74°C, 3.05°C above the 1991-2020 average for June, beating the previous record set in June 2025.

Samantha Burgess, Strategic Lead for Climate at ECMWF, said: "June 2026 underscored how profoundly the climate is changing.

Western Europe recorded its warmest June on record and continued record warmth in the global ocean. Together, these records reflect a climate system continuing to accumulate heat.

The result is increasingly intense heatwaves, a persistently warm ocean and growing risks for people, ecosystems and infrastructure across Europe and beyond."

RISING MERCURY

June 2026 was the second warmest June on record in the ERA5 dataset, with a global average surface air temperature of 16.54°C, 0.56°C above the 1991-2020 average for the month and second only to June 2024 and 1.39°C warmer than the estimated pre-industrial (1850-1900) average.

The average sea surface temperature (SST) over the extra-polar oceans (60°S-60°N) in June 2026 was a record 20.86°C, slightly above the previous June record of 20.85°C set in 2024.

El Niño conditions continued with SSTs remaining high over much of the tropical Pacific and are expected to develop rapidly over the next few months, the report added.

UP, Tamil Nadu: 2 success stories in agriculture

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE

Tamil Nadu, followed by Uttar Pradesh (UP), is among the most agriculturally important states that have recorded the fastest compound annual growth rate (CAGR) in agriculture and allied activities between 2016-17 and 2024-25, the data sourced from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shows.

Among hilly regions and Northeast India, Assam, Manipur and Tripura recorded the highest CAGR during the same period, though from a smaller base.

Between 2016-17 and 2024-25, Tamil Nadu's gross state value added (GSVA) in agriculture recorded a CAGR of 5.99 per cent at constant prices, while that of UP was 5.28 per cent.

No other big state came close to the growth rates recorded by these two, which speaks volumes about their agriculture performance. So what made farming in these two states do well?

Tamil Nadu: High points and challenges

According to the 2025-26 Economic Survey of Tamil Nadu, though agriculture in the state remains heavily dependent on the monsoons, its gross cropped area increased from 43.31 per cent

of the state's geographical area in 2016-17 to 47.58 per cent in 2023-24.

In 2024-25, the gross cropped area stood at 6.225 million hectares, with a crop intensity of 1.29. In other words, between 2016-17 and 2024-25, the gross cropped area rose by almost 44 per cent. The farm sector contributed ₹1.9 trillion, accounting for 6.6 per cent to the state's GSVA in 2024-25, making it the fifth-largest sector.

Not only that, the state during 2024-25 achieved notable success in agricultural productivity, ranking first in ragi and sugarcane yields, second in oilseeds, and third in groundnut.

The state's success in banana cultivation has been cited by the Economic Survey of India as a region-specific horticultural achievement.

The survey has noted that agricultural credit has played a vital role in supporting farmers in the state.

Credit disbursement more than doubled from ₹2.23 trillion in 2019-20 to ₹4.52 trillion in 2023-24, registering a compound annual growth rate of around 19 per cent.

During 2023-24, nearly 29.9 million farmer-loan accounts were served. Of those, 78 per cent belonged to

small and marginal farmers.

GSVA from the livestock sector in 2024-25 stood at ₹1.47 trillion, contributing 5.1 per cent to the state's GSVA.

Egg production increased significantly from about 3.93 billion in 2001-02 to 22 billion in 2023-24, growing at an annual compound rate of 8.2 per cent. Fishing and aquaculture contributed 0.99 per cent to GSV, with exports of fish products of 134,000 tonnes generating ₹6,854 crore in foreign exchange during 2023-24.

However, farming in Tamil Nadu is not devoid of challenges. According to the Economic Survey of the state, rapid groundwater depletion and climate change are the two biggest challenges the state faces for accelerated growth in agriculture and allied sectors. "The adoption of climate-smart practices, promotion of mechanisation, and greater focus on post-harvest value addition can significantly enhance farm incomes," the Economic Survey noted.

Small farmers the centrepiece in UP

Agriculture in the state is dominated by small and marginal farmers, who own less than 2 hectares. The data sourced from various agencies shows that almost



Change in gross state value added in agriculture (2016-17 to 2024-25)

(Constant prices base 2011-12)

Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.89
Andhra Pradesh	3.31
Arunachal Pradesh	-0.13
Assam	5.45
Bihar	2.13
Chandigarh	0.11
Chhattisgarh	2.15
Delhi	0.63
Goa	-0.61
Gujarat	2.58
Haryana	0.83
Himachal Pradesh	-0.12
Jammu & Kashmir*	3.45
Jharkhand	1.49
Karnataka	3.19
Kerala	0.85
Madhya Pradesh	2.96
Maharashtra	2.73
Manipur	5.59
Meghalaya	0.73
Mizoram	0.62
Nagaland	-1.12
Odisha	3.13
Puducherry	1.42
Punjab	0.86
Rajasthan	2.93
Sikkim	3.24
Tamil Nadu	5.99
Telangana	6.9
Tripura	4.78
Uttar Pradesh	5.28
Uttarakhand	-0.42
West Bengal	0.87

*in %; Source: RBI handbook

93 per cent of the state's farmers are categorised as small and marginal.

This translates into around 21.59 million farmer households while the rest — almost 1.76 million households — are categorised as large or medium farmers.

With such a large section of farmers owning small land parcels, uplifting them will automatically push up gross state domestic product and boost rural recovery.

And the results are there for everyone to see.

The data sourced from the RBI handbook shows that between 2016-17 and 2024-25, wheat production in the state rose by almost 42 per cent from 25.42 million tonnes to 36 million tonnes, while rice production during the same period increased by almost 66 per cent from 12.50 million tonnes to 20.75 million tonnes.

Foodgrain production during the same period rose by almost 50 per cent from 42.55 million tonnes to 63.84 million tonnes.

Not only that, the production of pulses between 2016-17 and 2024-25 jumped by almost 127 per cent from 1.16 million tonnes to 2.63 million tonnes while that of oilseeds rose by 258 per cent from 0.86 million tonnes to 3.08 million tonnes.

The production of sugar-

cane, the cornerstone of UP's farm sector, jumped from 145.38 million tonnes in 2016-16 to 221 million tonnes in 2024-25, up almost 52 per cent.

In UP, the state's backward areas of Bundelkhand are also witnessing rejuvenation in agriculture due to the concerted efforts of the state government.

A special Bundelkhand package for agriculture ensures an 80 per cent subsidy on certified seeds, free minikits for select millets and cotton, and a 50 per cent subsidy on farm ponds for rainwater conservation.

The state's agriculture Budget too has grown manifold from just around ₹1,517 crore in 2016-17 to over ₹10,000 crore in 2026-27.

In the FY27 Budget, the state government said it had paid more than ₹3.04 trillion to sugarcane farmers during its tenure so far. This is ₹90,802 crore higher than the ₹2.14 trillion paid during the preceding 22 years, it said.

For the 2025-26 crushing season (October to September), the state government increased sugarcane prices by ₹30 per quintal. The increase, it said, is expected to result in an additional payout of around ₹3,000 crore to sugarcane growers.

In the Budget it said in the 2025-26 rabi marketing

AMONG 2026-27

season, it procured 1.027 million tonnes of wheat from farmers at ₹2,512 crore.

Similarly, during the 2025-26 kharif marketing season, the state procured 4.296 million tonnes of paddy, paying more than ₹9,710 crore to farmers.

Not only that, the state also procured 0.214 million tonnes of bajra during the 2025-26 kharif marketing season and paid the growers ₹595 crore.

Since April 1, 2023, the state government has been giving farmers free electricity for irrigation through tubewells. Under the short-term crop-loan programme for 2025-26, loans worth ₹10,257 crore had been disbursed up to December 19, 2025, benefiting 1.501 million farmers.

The government has said all the measures aim at strengthening farm incomes, ensuring timely payments to growers, expanding procurement operations, and improving access to credit and irrigation facilities across the state.

A few years ago, the state government had launched a World Bank-funded ₹4,000 crore agriculture business and entrepreneurship project to help rural income. The project was meant to benefit farmers, farm groups, and agro micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs) in 28 districts in eastern UP and the Bundelkhand region. The project is projected to benefit a million farmers, including 30 per cent of the rural women associated with agri self-help groups (SHGs), according to Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh.

Under the project, 100,000 fishing folk will be given financial assistance. Additionally, 500 farmers will be taken on foreign tours for training in advanced farming.

The project is likely to boost per capita income in districts and improve the credit-deposit ratio.

Indian Contingent to Showcase Sustainable Jute Apparel at Commonwealth Games 2026

NEW DELHI, JULY 09—

In a landmark initiative to promote sustainable textiles and showcase India's innovation in natural fibres, the National Jute Board (NJB), under the Ministry of Textiles, has developed jute-viscose blended apparel that will be worn by the Indian athletes and team members participating in the Commonwealth Games 2026, to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, from July 23 to August 2, 2026.

Inspired by the vision of Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi to promote Make in India products, the Ministry of Textiles has been actively promoting value-added applications of jute through the National Jute Board under the leadership of Union

Minister for Textiles Mr. Giriraj Singh.

The initiative highlights the potential of 100 per cent biodegradable jute-viscose blended fabric as a sustainable and innovative textile solution.

The official Kit Unveiling and Send-off Ceremony for the Commonwealth Games 2026 was held in New Delhi today on July 7, 2026. The ceremony was attended by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Textiles Mr. Giriraj Singh, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Smt. Raksha Khadse, President of the Indian Olympic Association Ms. P. T. Usha, and members of the Executive Council of the Indian

Olympic Association.

This marks the first occasion on which jute-based apparel will be showcased at an international multi-sport event. The initiative is expected to provide global visibility to India's jute industry while highlighting the craftsmanship of Indian manufacturers and the contribution of jute farmers.

The National Jute Board facilitated the development of the jute-viscose blended fabric with the support of Gloster Jute Mills, Kolkata. These innovative apparel products were first showcased during the National Jute Board Foundation Day celebrations held in Patna on April 1, 2026, where representatives of the Indian

Olympic Association appreciated the initiative.

Subsequently, the National Jute Board worked closely with the Indian Olympic Association to promote the use of jute-based apparel for the Indian contingent. The apparel was designed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), New Delhi using the specially developed jute-viscose blended fabric.

The Commonwealth Games 2026 will bring together athletes from 72 countries. India will be represented by a contingent of 124 members comprising 78 male and 46 female athletes.

The National Jute Board expresses its sincere gratitude to
Continued on Page 3

Sustainable Jute Apparel at Commonwealth Games 2026

Continued from Page 1 Col 6

the Indian Olympic Association, for permitting the Indian contingent to wear this "Make in India" Jute apparel.

The initiative is expected to strengthen the Jute Diversification Programme of the National Jute Board by creating new market opportunities for sustainable jute products in India and abroad. It also serves as a significant boost to India's efforts to position natural fibres as environmentally responsible alternatives in the global textile sector and stands as a matter of pride and encouragement for the country's jute farmers.

Better Cotton Initiative officially launches 2027 Conference

From Tecoya NewsDesk

MUMBAI, JULY 09—

The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) has opened the registration process for those wanting to attend its 2027 Conference, which will take place on 25-27 January 2027, in Marrakech, Morocco. It will be the first time BCI holds its flagship event in Africa.

The event will be combined, also for the first time, with BCI's Programme Partner Meeting (PPM), which will start on the final day of the conference and continue until 29 January, creating better opportunities for conference attendees to network with field-level organisations and learn about innovative new solutions at an interactive exhibition space.

After the previous edition in Izmir, Türkiye, in 2025, the Better Cotton Initiative Conference will now be held every two years, a move aimed at facilitating more meaningful discussions about the challenges facing the cotton sector and how actors across the supply chain can maximise the opportunities presented by the growth of regenerative agriculture and the emergence of new technologies and approaches.

Lisa Barratt, Senior Manager of Africa Programmes at the Better Cotton Initiative, said: "We are very excited to be bringing our conference to the African continent for the first time. Africa has a

deep-rooted connection with cotton production and trade, and cotton farmers across the continent are at the forefront of the regenerative revolution – demonstrating how cotton can be grown in ways that helps give back to the natural environment rather than depleting it.

"With the changes and innovation we are implementing, we are confident that our flagship event will be even more meaningful to our members, partners and industry representatives, generating more data-driven and consequential discussions and bringing those interactions closer to what happens at farm-level."

The connection with the field will also be reinforced by the adoption of BCI's slogan, "It Starts with Farmers", as the event's underlying theme, repeating the message embraced by the event in 2025, in Türkiye. BCI's 2027 conference will connect farmers with all stages of the supply chain and share stories of transformation and resilience by farmers from different countries and realities.

The event will also offer enhanced networking zones to help innovators connect with existing and future partners – spaces imagined to provide meaningful dialogue and relationship-building that can last long after the event.

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Daakyka Apparels: Elevating Uniform and Linen Standards with Expert Design and Unmatched Quality from Hyderabad

HYDERABAD, JULY 09--

In an era where professionalism, comfort, and durability define institutional success, Daakyka Apparels by Babaji Enterprises has emerged as a premier manufacturer and supplier of high quality uniforms, hospital linens, and corporate apparel across India.

With over nine years of specialized expertise, this Hyderabad based company is redefining the apparel manufacturing landscape by blending global design sensibilities with robust, locally executed production processes.

Founded through the collaborative vision of Kamal Agarwal and Dianeshree Agarwal, Daakyka Apparels specializes in crafting tailored solutions for healthcare facilities, educational institutions, corporate organizations, hotels, and more.

India says US approach to forced labour tariffs inconsistent; exempts 1,600 items it needs

WASHINGTON, JULY 09 (PTI)

India has flagged inconsistencies in the US approach to tariffs at a public hearing on the US Trade Representative's (USTR) proposal to impose levies on goods linked to forced labour.

Testifying before a USTR panel on Wednesday, Brij Mohan Mishra, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, pointed out that the US exempts 1,600 items that cannot be produced or grown within the country from scrutiny of forced labour.

"What we submit is that the exemptions provided by the USTR not only undermine the policy rationale of addressing forced labour impact in the global supply chain but also of preventing such impact caused by circumvention practices," Mishra said, in response to questions from the USTR panel.

He also flagged that the US levies reduced tariff rates on exports of textile products manufactured using US cotton and related items.

"By providing reduced tariff rates on the basis of imports of US-origin textile inputs, the textiles mechanism operates as an arbitrary requirement that influences and constrains the sourcing decisions of foreign manufacturers, without fully addressing the concern of forced labour," Mishra said.

At the same time, he said India remained open to dialogue, and all concerns need to be dealt with in the framework of the India-US bilateral trade negotiations and not in a specific unilateral manner as is being provided in the Section 301 investigations.

Representatives of industry bodies FICCI and CII also presented their views on the US proposal to impose tariffs ranging from 10 to 12.5 per cent on imports from 60 economies that Washington says have failed to prevent goods made with forced labour from entering global supply chains.

"An additional tariff will increase costs not only for Indian exporters, but also for US manufacturers, importers, retailers and ultimately American consumers," Poornima Shenoy, FICCI representative in the US, said in her testimony before the USTR panel.

She said many US industries rely on long-standing sourcing relationships with Indian suppliers because they deliver products of quality, reliability and ensure full compliance.

"Higher tariffs for these established supply chains will raise costs for businesses that already follow compliance standards. It will not help in identifying goods produced with forced labour. It

would simply make trusted supply chains more expensive," Shenoy said.

In its counter to the proposed tariffs, CII representative Suchita Sonalika said India's policy framework does not qualify as 'unreasonable' or 'discriminatory' under Section 301(b) of the Trade Act of 1974.

Sonalika also asserted that India has a robust constitutional and statutory framework that ensures Indian companies cannot practice forced labour.

The USTR launched two separate Section 301 investigations on March 11 and 12, 2026, covering 60 economies over concerns related to forced labour and excess industrial capacity.

On June 3, the USTR issued its findings in the forced labour investigation and proposed additional tariffs on imports from 54 economies.

India has also submitted that the USTR has failed to meet the evidentiary requirements to establish how the absence of bans in these countries conclusively or substantially distorts market conditions and undermines the profitability of compliant firms.

"India submits that a mere absence of a forced labour import prohibition, without meeting the evidentiary basis of other statutory requirements, cannot be construed as "unreasonable" within the meaning of Section 301 of the Act," it added.

The country has stated that the USTR has not undertaken an economy-specific analysis of laws and practices across the 60 investigated economies; instead, it has issued a sweeping determination that all such approaches are inadequate without considering the specific measures being implemented by the economies.

"In relation to India, there is inadequate and insufficient evidence that the lack of a forced labour import ban causes an alleged unfair comparative advantage to the detriment of the US industry. Evidence across sectors of major exports of India to the US does not suggest any linkage with forced labour inputs," it added.