COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015

News Relating to Cotton and Textile Sector

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Date-13-07-2026

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

(Regd. Office : Cotton Exchange Building, 2nd Floor, Cotton Green (E), Mumbai 400 033)
Tel. No. 022-20830685 / 8657442944-48 Email: cai@caionline.in Website: www.caionline.in

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
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Mumbai, Monday 13th 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	14763	52500	(+500)
2	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	15%	20	12513	44500	(+500)
3	M/M(P)	ICS-104	Fine	23mm	4.5 - 7.0	4%	22	14904	53000	(+600)
4	P / H / R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	16675	59300	(+400)
5	M/M(P) /SA/TL/GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	15185	54000	(+500)
6	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	16450	58500	(+300)
7	P/ H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	17322	61600	(+500)
8	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	17912	63700	(+500)
9	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	17772	63200	(N.C.)
10	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	27	17856	63500	(+500)
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	18278	65000	(+500)
14	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	17997	64000	(+500)
15	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18165	64600	(+200)
16	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	18559	66000	(+500)
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	23199	82500	(-500)
22	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	23621	84000	(+500)
23	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	24043	85500	(-500)
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: 10-07-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE					10 Jul 2026	
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Oct-26	79.24	79.92	78.68	79.92	▲0.99	171
Dec-26	80.50	81.60	79.64	81.54	▲0.91	2,06,227
Mar-27	81.85	82.96	81.08	82.91	▲0.94	60,575
May-27	82.66	83.69	81.95	83.64	▲0.87	19,549
Jul-27	82.23	83.21	81.65	83.12	▲0.78	13,216
Oct-27	0.00	79.13	79.13	79.13	▲0.51	5
Dec-27	76.61	77.25	76.50	77.15	▲0.45	20,289

Cotlook Index: 09-07-2026

89.75 (UC)

Bangladesh eyes CEPA with India to tackle trade gap, parliament told

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

Insights

Bangladesh has taken the initiative to launch a comprehensive economic partnership agreement with India to reduce import dependence, boost exports and address trade imbalance, the former's parliament was told.

The country is pursuing policies to develop domestic industries, expand the production of import-substitute goods and encourage the import of essential raw materials and capital machinery.

Bangladesh has taken the initiative to launch a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) with India to reduce import dependence, boost exports and address trade imbalance, according to the former's Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir.

The country is pursuing policies to develop domestic industries, expand the production of import-substitute goods, discourage imports of products that can be manufactured locally and encourage the import of essential raw materials and capital machinery to reduce import dependence.

This was revealed by State Minister for Commerce Shariful Alam while replying to questions in parliament meant for Muktadir, who was absent.

Bilateral trade between the two nations stood at $11.39 billion in fiscal 2024-25 (FY25), of which Bangladesh's exports were worth $1.76 billion.

The proposed Import Policy Order 2026-2029 stresses on enhancing the competitiveness of domestic industries, ensuring the efficient use of foreign currency, and making import management more transparent, modern and business-friendly, Alam noted.

Bangladesh now has trade agreements with two countries—Bhutan, signed on December 6, 2020, and Japan, signed on February 6, 2026, the parliament was informed.

The country exported 812 products to 202 destinations worldwide in FY25. These exports generated $44.17 billion, accounting for 91.48 per cent of the total export earnings, domestic media outlets reported.

India QCI-NSIC pact to boost MSME market access

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

Insights

- QCI and NSIC have signed a five-year MoU to improve quality adoption, competitiveness and market access for India's MSMEs.
- The pact links ZED Certification, MSME Global Mart, TEAM Initiative and SPRS into a unified support framework.
- ZED-certified firms will get digital commerce, ONDC onboarding, AI product cataloguing and export promotion support.

The Quality Council of India (QCI) and the National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to build a joint support framework for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), with a focus on quality adoption, competitiveness and market access across India.

The MoU was signed at the QCI Office, World Trade Centre, New Delhi, in the presence of senior officials from NSIC, QCI, NABL and NABET, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a press release.

The collaboration combines QCI's work in quality, accreditation and certification with NSIC's MSME support network. It seeks to align national initiatives including the MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification Scheme, MSME Global Mart, the TEAM Initiative and the Single Point Registration Scheme (SPRS), giving enterprises a more integrated route to certification, digital market access, testing support and capacity building.

The partnership will offer ZED-certified MSMEs more digital commerce opportunities through MSME Global Mart, onboarding on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) under the TEAM Initiative, AI-enabled product cataloguing and export promotion through dedicated digital platforms.

The agreement will also strengthen convergence between ZED Certification and SPRS, support National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accreditation for NSIC testing facilities, and enable National Accreditation Board for Education and Training (NABET)-led assessment, accreditation and customised capacity-building programmes for NSIC training centres and laboratories, added the release.

QCI and NSIC will form a Joint Coordination Committee with representatives from both organisations. The committee will meet every quarter to identify further areas of collaboration, track progress and guide joint initiatives during the five-year MoU tenure.

The partnership is aimed at strengthening quality infrastructure and institutional capabilities while improving market access for MSMEs seeking to compete in domestic and global markets.

Strong Monsoon Boosts Kharif Sowing in Maharashtra; Coverage Reaches 45% in One Week

Sat. 11th July 2026, Yash Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Strong Monsoon Accelerates Kharif Sowing in Maharashtra; Coverage Jumps from 20% to 45% in a Week

Nashik: An active monsoon and consistent, good rainfall across Maharashtra have accelerated the sowing of Kharif crops. According to the latest data from the State Agriculture Department, Kharif sowing coverage rose from 20% of the total acreage on July 1 to 45% by July 7. Officials state that if the current rainfall pattern continues, sowing operations will gain further momentum.

Sowing has been completed on approximately 6.5 million (65 lakh) hectares out of the state's average Kharif area of 14.4 million (144 lakh) hectares (excluding sugarcane). Division-wise, Amravati leads the state with 58% of its area sown. This is followed by Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar at 53% and the Nashik division at 50%.

The Nashik division—comprising Nashik, Dhule, Jalgaon, and Nandurbar districts—has witnessed a significant surge in sowing following recent rains. Here, sowing has been completed on approximately 1.02 million (10.24 lakh) hectares out of an average Kharif area of 2.03 million (20.33

lakh) hectares. Conversely, the pace of sowing remains slow in the Konkan region, with only 4% coverage recorded against an average area of 0.39 million (3.92 lakh) hectares. Sowing completion stands at 28% in the Pune division and 22% in the Kolhapur division.

Soybean, cotton, maize, paddy, sorghum (jowar), pearl millet (bajra), green gram (moong), and black gram (urad) are the major Kharif crops in Maharashtra. Soybean and cotton dominate the landscape, together accounting for over 62% of the state's total Kharif acreage. Soybean sowing has been completed on 2.36 million (23.58 lakh) hectares—approximately 50%—of the estimated 4.72 million (47.21 lakh) hectare area. Meanwhile, cotton sowing has been completed across 25.38 lakh hectares—approximately 60% of the target area of 42.47 lakh hectares.

Maize sowing is also progressing well; so far, planting has been completed on 5.71 lakh hectares (61%) out of the estimated 9.33 lakh hectares. However, paddy transplantation is still in its initial stage, with work completed on only 1.40 lakh hectares (9%) out of the estimated 15.02 lakh hectares.

Maharashtra recorded 290.7 mm of rainfall between June 1 and July 7, which is 103% of the normal 282.3 mm. The Agriculture Department believes that if this trend of above-normal rainfall continues, sowing for the Kharif season will be completed on time, and production prospects will be bolstered.

Kharif Sowing Nears Completion in Maharashtra's Kej Taluka, Soybean Covers 64,000 Hectares

Sat. 11th July 2026, Yash Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)
Kharif Sowing Gains Momentum in Maharashtra's Kej Taluka; Cultivation Across 70,000 Hectares, with 64,000 Hectares Dedicated to Soybean

Kej (Beed): Sowing for the Kharif season is nearly complete in Kej Taluka, located in Maharashtra's Beed district, thanks to favorable monsoon rains this year. According to Agriculture Department data, Kharif crops have been sown across an area of 69,813 hectares so far. Soybean accounts for the largest share, covering 64,215 hectares, whereas cotton cultivation is limited to just 1,943 hectares. This clearly indicates that farmers continue to place their greatest trust in soybean crops.

Farmers had begun preparations for the Kharif season—including field ploughing and the procurement of seeds and fertilizers—as early as the last week of May. Following good rainfall over three consecutive days starting June 6, farmers commenced large-scale sowing of soybean and other Kharif crops. While the initial rains facilitated good progress, a subsequent dry spell lasting about 15 days slowed the pace of sowing. Many farmers had paused sowing operations while waiting for the next round of rain.

Once good rainfall resumed after June 20, farmers rapidly accelerated field activities, leading to a swift expansion of the sown area. Consequently, the total area under Kharif crops in the taluka reached 69,813 hectares. In addition to soybean, crops such as green gram (moong), black gram (urad), pigeon pea (arhar), and maize were also sown, though their acreage remains significantly lower compared to soybean. Cotton cultivation also remained confined to a limited area.

Soybean and other crops sown during the first week of June have germinated well. However, the mid-season break in rainfall raised concerns about potential impacts on crop growth. Many farmers attempted to save their crops by irrigating them using available water sources. Soybean crops sown during the last week of June have also sprouted, and the fields are now showing signs of greenery. Farmers are currently pinning their hopes on good rainfall. Although the region has remained cloudy for the past week, there has been no significant rainfall. Farmers state that if there is good rain during the second half of July, the growth of all Kharif crops—including soybeans—will improve, raising the likelihood of higher yields. Agricultural experts also believe that if timely rainfall continues, Kharif production in Kej Taluka is expected to be satisfactory this year.

Cotton Sowing Gains Momentum in July, Still Behind Last Year Despite Better Monsoon

Sat. 11th July 2026, Yash Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)
Cotton Sowing Picks Up Pace in July but Lags Behind Last Year; Momentum Boosted by Improved Monsoon

New Delhi: Cotton sowing across the country has accelerated in July following the revival of the southwest monsoon. However, the total sown area remains lower compared to the previous year. Agriculture Commissioner P.K. Singh stated that improved rainfall has boosted the pace of sowing in major cotton-producing states, and this gap is expected to narrow further in the coming days.

According to the Agriculture Commissioner, cotton had been sown across 63.18 lakh hectares by July 5, whereas the figure stood at 82 lakh hectares during the same period last year. While the season started slowly, farmers have ramped up sowing activities following good rainfall in July.

He noted that cotton sowing in India takes place at different times across various states. It begins in Punjab and Haryana before extending to Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. Under normal circumstances, cotton sowing concludes by July 15; however, due to the delayed monsoon this year, the deadline has been extended to July 30.
An agricultural trader from Ahmedabad reported a significant surge in cotton sowing recently, driven by good rainfall in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka. He mentioned that some farmers are shifting from paddy to cotton and pulses in anticipation of better prices. Meanwhile, in Maharashtra, many farmers have resumed cotton sowing after reporting poor germination of soybean crops.

Gujarat, Maharashtra, and the central region of Madhya Pradesh are the most critical areas among India's major cotton-producing regions. Other key producing states include Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. According to the latest estimates from the Ministry of Agriculture, the country's cotton production for the year 2025-26 is projected at 290.91 lakh bales (170 kg per bale), down from 297.24 lakh bales in the previous year.

P.K. Singh noted that the pace of sowing during the Kharif season is highest in July. While sowing covers an average of approximately 50 lakh hectares per week in June, this figure rises to between 200 and 250 lakh hectares per week in July. He stated that an accurate assessment of production and productivity would only be possible after sowing is completed. The government verifies sowing data through preliminary estimates, remote sensing, and block-level digital crop surveys.

Kharif Sowing Nears Completion in Manawar as Cotton and Soybean Cover 28,000 Hectares
Sat. 11th July 2026, Yash Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)
Kharif sowing nearly complete in Manawar; cotton and soybean cultivated across 28,000 hectares; rainfall benefits crops

Manawar: Sowing for the Kharif season is nearing completion in the Manawar region of Madhya Pradesh. This year, farmers have sown major Kharif crops across an area of approximately 28,000 hectares. This includes about 21,000 hectares dedicated to cotton and over 7,000 hectares to soybean cultivation. Rainfall exceeding one inch over the past 24 hours has ensured adequate soil moisture, significantly benefiting the initial growth of the crops.

According to the Agriculture Department, the timely onset of the monsoon allowed farmers to complete sowing operations within the scheduled timeframe. Recent rains have notably improved soybean germination, and plant growth in the fields appears satisfactory.

Mahesh Barman, Senior Agricultural Development Officer (SADO) of the Agriculture Department, stated that the moisture received during the initial stage is highly beneficial for crop development. He noted that most farmers have now begun spraying necessary chemicals for weed control and the management of pests and diseases. Timely execution of these agricultural activities increases the likelihood of improved crop quality and higher yields.

Local farmer Raju Deora mentioned that the rain, which began on Tuesday evening, continued steadily through Wednesday. With overcast skies persisting throughout the day, farmers are optimistic about receiving good rainfall in the coming days. He stated that if adequate rainfall continues for the remainder of July, both cotton and soybean crops will thrive, potentially leading to increased production.

Agricultural experts believe that sufficient moisture during the early stages of crop growth is crucial for a good harvest. The Agriculture Department has advised farmers to regularly inspect their fields, prevent waterlogging, and immediately implement control measures upon noticing early signs of weeds, pests, or diseases. Officials state that scientific crop management and timely care can help reduce production costs while ensuring better yields. Taking advantage of favorable weather conditions, farmers are also engaged in the regular monitoring of crops and necessary agricultural activities in the coming days.

Telangana Kharif Season Faces Crisis as Monsoon Deficit Hits 63% of Mandals
Mon. 13th July 2026, Yash Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Crisis Looms Over Telangana's Kharif Season Due to Deficient Monsoon; 63% of Mandals Affected

Hyderabad: A weak monsoon this year has cast a shadow of uncertainty over Telangana's Kharif season. Despite sowing and transplantation covering a larger area by the end of the first week of July compared to last year, farmers are increasingly concerned due to a severe rainfall deficit across most parts of the state. Agricultural experts believe that a lack of adequate and consistent rainfall in the coming days could severely impact crop growth, yields, and farmers' incomes.

Out of the 605 mandals across the state's 32 rural districts, 382 (approximately 63 percent) have been affected by the monsoon's failure. The Meteorological Department has forecast below-normal rainfall for the remainder of July, further deepening the crisis facing Kharif crop prospects. Persistent rainfall deficiency has resulted in insufficient water inflow into major, medium, and minor irrigation reservoirs located in catchment areas, thereby disrupting irrigation systems.

According to data from the Agriculture Department, the total area under Kharif cultivation has reached 55.32 lakh acres so far this year, compared to 52.04 lakh acres during the same period last year. A breakdown by crop reveals that cotton accounts for the largest share, with sowing completed on 39.44 lakh acres. Additionally, paddy transplantation has covered 4.22 lakh acres, while soybean, red gram (arhar), and maize have been cultivated on 3.35 lakh acres, 3.19 lakh acres, and 2.84 lakh acres, respectively; green gram (moong) and black gram (urad) have been cultivated on approximately 46,000 acres.

Data from the Telangana Development Planning Society indicates that 68 mandals recorded rainfall deficits ranging from 60 to 99 percent below normal, while 327 mandals saw deficits between 20 and 59 percent. Rainfall was recorded in the 'normal' category in only 181 mandals; however, even within these areas, most received up to 19 percent less rainfall than normal. On the other hand, above-normal or excess rainfall was recorded in only 45 mandals. Of these, 11 mandals are located across the districts of Ranga Reddy, Nalgonda, Nagarkurnool, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Suryapet, and Bhadradri-Kothagudem.

Statewide, average rainfall has been 25 percent below normal. The highest deficit was recorded in Hanumakonda district, while 25 districts—including Hyderabad—received less-than-normal rainfall. Nevertheless, groundwater levels remain stable due to good rainfall last year. The average groundwater level in June 2025 stood at 9.46 meters, nearly identical to the 9.47 meters recorded in June of the previous year.

In anticipation of a potential crisis, the Agriculture Department has prepared a contingency plan. Officials state that if adequate rainfall does not occur by the end of the second week of July, farmers will be provided with seeds for alternative crops. Additionally, agricultural scientists are advising farmers to adopt low-water-consuming crops and weather-based farming practices to minimize potential losses.

India, New Zealand elevate ties to 'strategic partnership'

Sun. 12th July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)\

Insights
India and New Zealand have elevated their ties to a 'strategic partnership', strengthening cooperation, as well as coordination on Indo-Pacific priorities and multilateral issues. The 'Roadmap to 2030' will guide its structured implementation for four years. The decision was arrived at during PM Narendra Modi's recent visit to Auckland. Both sides plan to double bilateral trade to ₹350 billion by 2030.

India and New Zealand have elevated their relationship to a ‘strategic partnership’, strengthening cooperation in trade, defence, maritime security, tourism, culture, sports, agri-tech, people-to-people ties, as well as coordination on Indo-Pacific priorities and multilateral issues.

The ‘Roadmap to 2030’ offers a strategic guide for structured implementation of the strategic partnership across relevant ministries and stakeholders for the next four years.

The decision was arrived at during Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi’s official visit to Auckland, New Zealand, on July 10-11.
Both sides set a target to double bilateral trade to NZ$7 billion (₹350 billion) by 2030 to boost economic ties and expand market access, in the context of the recently-signed free trade agreement.

Recognising the shared challenges of climate change and the transition to low-emissions and climate-resilient economies, Modi and New Zealand PM Christopher Luxon agreed to deepen cooperation through the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. Modi welcomed New Zealand joining the Global Biofuels Alliance.

India welcomed New Zealand’s nomination of maritime security as its priority pillar under the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, according to a joint statement issued after the visit. Both sides agreed to explore specific cooperation activities under this pillar.

They also agreed to establish an annual Maritime Security Dialogue to strengthen cooperation, coordination and information exchange.

Vyapar – 11.07.2026

વરસાદની એન્ટ્રીથી બદલાયું ચિત્ર : કપાસના વાવેતરમાં મોટો સુધારો

ગુજરાતમાં પણ ૨૫ જૂન પછી સાર્વત્રિક વરસાદ થવાની પરંપરાગત પેટર્નને કારણે ખેડૂતોએ મગફળીના બદલે મોટા પાયે કપાસને પસંદ કર્યો છે

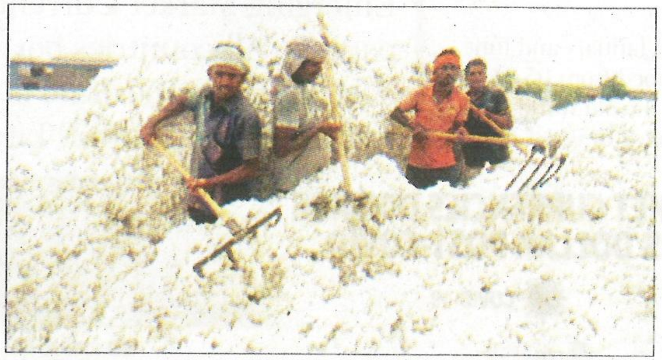
નવી દિલ્હી, તા. ૧૦ જુલાઈ

દેશમાં કપાસની વાવણીની સ્થિતિમાં ખૂબ જ ઝડપથી સુધારો થઈ રહ્યો છે. ખરીફ સિઝનની શરૂઆતમાં ગયા વર્ષની સરખામણીએ વાવેતરમાં જે ૨૫થી ૩૦ ટકાનો મોટો ઘટાડો જોવા મળતો હતો, તે કેન્દ્રીય કૃષિ મંત્રાલય દ્વારા નવમી જુલાઈ સુધી જાહેર કરાયેલા તાજેતરના આંકડા અનુસાર હવે ઘટીને માત્ર ૯ ટકા જ રહી ગયો હોવાનું શ્રી રાધા લક્ષ્મી ગ્રુપના ચેરમેન અને મેનેજિંગ ડિરેક્ટર અને કોટન એસોસિયેશન ઓફ ઇન્ડિયા (સીએઆઇ)ના પૂર્વ પ્રમુખ અતુલ ગણાત્રાએ જણાવ્યું હતું. તેમણે કહ્યું કે હાલમાં દેશભરમાં કુલ ૬૬ લાખ હેક્ટર વિસ્તારમાં કપાસની વાવણી પૂર્ણ થઈ ચૂકી છે, જ્યારે ગયા વર્ષે આ જ સમયગાળા દરમિયાન આ આંકડો ૭૨ લાખ હેક્ટરની સપાટીએ હતો.

ગણાત્રાએ જણાવ્યા મુજબ, શરૂઆતમાં ચોમાસાના વિલંબને કારણે વાવણી પાછળ રહી ગઈ હતી, પરંતુ છેલ્લા આઠ દિવસમાં મધ્ય અને દક્ષિણ ભારતમાં થયેલા ભારે વરસાદે સમગ્ર ચિત્ર બદલી નાખ્યું છે. જોકે, સતત વરસાદને કારણે ખેડૂતો ખેતરોમાં બીજ વાવતા અટકી ગયા હતા, પરંતુ હવામાન વિભાગના જણાવ્યા અનુસાર આગામી દિવસોમાં વરસાદમાં વિરામ આવતાં વાવણીને વધુ વેગ મળશે. આગામી ૨૫ જુલાઈ સુધીમાં જ દેશમાં કપાસનું કુલ વાવેતર ૧૦૦ લાખ હેક્ટરને પાર કરી જવાની પ્રબળ સંભાવના છે.

કપાસની વાવણી માટે આ વર્ષે કેન્દ્ર સરકાર દ્વારા ૧૨૫થી ૧૩૦ લાખ હેક્ટરનો મહત્વાકાંક્ષી લક્ષ્યાંક નક્કી કરવામાં આવ્યો છે, જે ગયા વર્ષના ૧૧૩ લાખ હેક્ટરની સરખામણીએ અંદાજે ૧૦થી ૧૫ ટકા વધુ છે. સરકાર

અતુલ ગણાત્રા



દ્વારા આ વર્ષે સામાન્ય કરતાં ઓછો વરસાદ રહેવાની આગાહી કરવામાં આવી હોવાથી ખેડૂતો માટે કપાસને એક સુરક્ષિત અને પ્રમાણમાં ઓછા પાણીની જરૂરિયાત વાળો પાક માનવામાં આવી રહ્યો છે. આ સાથે સરકારે કપાસના લઘુત્તમ ટેકાના ભાવ (એમએસપી)માં કરેલો અંદાજે ૭ ટકાનો મોટો વધારો પણ મુખ્ય પરિબળ બન્યો છે.

કપાસની એમએસપી હવે વધીને પ્રતિ ક્વિન્ટલ ૮૭૦૦ રૂપિયાની આસપાસ પહોંચી ગઈ છે, જેની સરખામણીએ મગફળી જેવા પાકોની એમએસપીમાં માત્ર ૨થી ૩ ટકાનો જ વધારો થયો છે. આ ઉપરાંત, ચાલુ વર્ષે ખેડૂતોને ખુલ્લા બજારમાં પણ કપાસના પ્રતિ ક્વિન્ટલ ૧૦,૦૦૦ રૂપિયા સુધીના ઊંચા ભાવ મળ્યા છે, જેના કારણે તેમનો ઝુકાવ કપાસ તરફ તેજીથી વધ્યો છે. બિયારણ કંપનીઓ અને વિતરકોના અહેવાલો મુજબ આ વર્ષે કપાસના બિયારણનું વેચાણ રેકોર્ડ સ્તરે રહ્યું છે, જે દર્શાવે છે કે ખેડૂતો હાથમાં બિયારણ લઈને માત્ર વરસાદ રોકાવવાની રાહ જોઈ રહ્યા છે. દક્ષિણ ભારતમાં તો વાવણી અત્યારથી જ ગયા વર્ષ કરતા ૨૦ ટકા આગળ ચાલી રહી છે.

પાકોના આ મોટા પરિવર્તનમાં મહારાષ્ટ્ર અને ગુજરાત જેવાં અગ્રણી રાજ્યો સૌથી મોખરે છે. મહારાષ્ટ્રમાં સોયાબીનના નબળા અંકુરણ અને અન્ય પાકોમાં વધુ પાણીની જરૂરિયાતને કારણે ખેડૂતો શેરડી, મકાઈ કે સોયાબીન છોડીને કપાસ તરફ વળી રહ્યા છે, જેના કારણે એકલા ખાનદેશ વિસ્તારમાં જ કપાસની વાવણીમાં ૨૦થી ૨૫ ટકાનો વધારો નોંધાયો છે. બીજી તરફ ગુજરાતમાં પણ ૨૫ જૂન પછી સાર્વત્રિક વરસાદ થવાના પરંપરાગત પેટર્નને કારણે ખેડૂતોએ મગફળીના બદલે મોટા પાયે કપાસને પસંદ કર્યો છે. સરકારે ચોમાસાના વિલંબને જોતા વાવણીની સમયમર્યાદા ૧૫ ઑગસ્ટ સુધી લંબાવી છે, પરંતુ વર્તમાન ગતિ જોતાં આ લક્ષ્યાંક ૩૦ જુલાઈ સુધીમાં જ આસાનીથી હાંસલ થઈ જશે તેવી આશા છે.

જુલાઈના વરસાદથી ખાધ ઘટી રહી છે

જુલાઈ મહિનામાં કપાસની વાવણીએ જોરદાર ગતિ પકડી છે. શરૂઆતી અછત બાદ વાવેતર દેશભરમાં ઝડપથી આગળ વધી રહ્યું છે. સરકારી આંકડા અનુસાર, ૫ જુલાઈ ૨૦૨૬ સુધીમાં દેશમાં કુલ ૬૩.૧૮ લાખ હેક્ટર વિસ્તારમાં કપાસનું વાવેતર થયું છે, જે ગયા વર્ષના ૮૨ લાખ હેક્ટરની સરખામણીએ હજુ પણ ૨૩ ટકા ઓછું છે. જોકે, જુલાઈના સાર્વત્રિક વરસાદથી આ ખાધ ઝડપથી ઘટી રહી છે. કૃષિ મંત્રાલયના પૂર્વાનુમાન મુજબ, વર્ષ ૨૦૨૫-૨૬ની સિઝન દરમિયાન દેશમાં કુલ ૨૯૦.૯૧ લાખ ગાંસડી કપાસનું ઉત્પાદન થવાનો અંદાજ છે, જે ગયા વર્ષના ૨૯૭.૨૪ લાખ ગાંસડી કરતાં સાધારણ ઓછું છે. હાલ ભારે વરસાદથી કેટલાક વિસ્તારોમાં પાણી ભરાયા છે, પરંતુ પાણી ઉતરતા જ વાવણી ફરી શરૂ થશે અને મંત્રાલય ઉત્કૃષ્ટ ઉત્પાદન માટે સંપૂર્ણ આશાવાદી છે.

Vyapar – 11.07.2026

ટેક્સ્ટાઈલ્સ ક્ષેત્રે અર્થતંત્રના અવરોધો ઘટ્યા, પરંતુ માર્જિન રિકવરીમાં વિલંબની શક્યતા

મુંબઈ, તા. ૧૦ જુલાઈ

વૈશ્વિક ફુગાવો અને ઊંચા વેપાર અવરોધોના પડકારજનક તબક્કામાંથી પસાર થયા પછી, ભારતીય ટેક્સટાઈલ સેક્ટર-ખાસ કરીને રેડી-મેડ ગારમેન્ટ્સ સેગમેન્ટ - નાણાં વર્ષ ૨૦૨૬-૨૭માં માળખાકીય આશાવાદ સાથે પ્રવેશી રહ્યું છે. તાજેતરના વૈશ્વિક ટેરિફ ફેરફારો અને મુક્ત વ્યાપાર કરારોને કારણે સેક્ટરની આવકમાં મજબૂત વૃદ્ધિની અપેક્ષા છે, જેની આંશિક અસર એપ્રિલ-જૂન ૨૦૨૬ના પ્રથમ ત્રિમાસિક ગાળામાં જોવા મળી શકે છે. જોકે, પીએલ કેપિટલ (પ્રભુદાસ લીલાધર)ના અહેવાલ અનુસાર, ઉત્પાદકો માટે સંપૂર્ણ માર્જિન રિકવરીમાં હજુ થોડો વિલંબ થશે.

યુનાઈટેડ સ્ટેટ્સમાં ટેરિફમાં થયેલા ઘટાડાને કારણે નિકાસની માંગમાં મોટો ઉછાળો આવવાની ધારણા છે. પરંતુ પશ્ચિમ એશિયા (મિડલ ઈસ્ટ)માં ચાલી રહેલી રાજકીય તણાવપૂર્ણ સ્થિતિને કારણે ઈંધણ, પેકેજિંગ અને પોલિએસ્ટર ટ્રિમ્સ જેવા ઇનપુટ ખર્ચ હજુ પણ ઊંચા સ્તરે રહ્યા છે. આ ઉપરાંત, ચાલુ ત્રિમાસિક ગાળાના મોટાભાગના ઓર્ડર ટેરિફ નાબૂદીના સત્તાવાર અમલ પહેલા જ બુક થઈ ગયા હોવાથી, ચાલુ ક્વાર્ટરમાં કંપનીઓના નફાના માર્જિન પર તત્કાલ મોટો પઝિટિવ ફેરફાર જોવા નહીં મળે. તેમ છતાં, કંપનીઓ કાચા માલના વધેલા ખર્ચનો બોજ ગ્રાહકો પર નાખવામાં સફળ રહી હોવાથી ગ્રોસ માર્જિન સ્થિર રહેશે અને વોલ્યુમ ગ્રોથને કારણે ઓપરેટિંગ નફામાં સામાન્ય સુધારો જોવા મળશે.

આ સ્થિતિ વચ્ચે, યાર્ન (સૂતર) સપ્લાય કરતા અપસ્ટ્રીમ પ્લેયર્સને ચીન સહિતના વૈશ્વિક બજારોમાંથી મજબૂત નિકાસ માંગ અને સાનુકૂળ કોટન-યાર્ન સ્પ્રેડને કારણે નોંધપાત્ર ફાયદો થશે. જે કંપનીઓ કપાસથી લઈને તૈયાર વસ્ત્રો સુધીની સંપૂર્ણ સપ્લાય ચેઈન પર પોતાનું સક્ષમ નિયંત્રણ ધરાવે છે, તેઓ આ બદલાતા પ્રવાહોનો સૌથી વધુ આર્થિક લાભ મેળવવા માટે શ્રેષ્ઠ સ્થિતિમાં છે.

કંપની સ્તરે વાત કરીએ તો, પર્લ ગ્લોબલ ઈન્ડસ્ટ્રીઝ લિમિટેડ (PGIL) ચાલુ ત્રિમાસિક ગાળામાં ગારમેન્ટ વોલ્યુમમાં વાર્ષિક ધોરણે ૧૮ ટકાની મજબૂત વૃદ્ધિ સાથે ૨.૦૩ કરોડ પીસનું ઉત્પાદન નોંધાવે તેવો અંદાજ છે. બાંગ્લાદેશમાં કંપનીની સતત વૃદ્ધિ અને ભારતમાં પરસ્પર ટેરિફ નાબૂદી પછી જોવા મળેલી રિકવરી આ વોલ્યુમ ગ્રોથના મુખ્ય ચાલક બળો છે. જોકે, ત્રિમાસિક ધોરણે કંપનીનું સરેરાશ બ્લેન્ડેડ રિયલાઈઝેશન રૂ. ૬૪૦ પ્રતિ પીસ પર સ્થિર રહેવાની ધારણા છે, જેના આધારે ક્વાર્ટર દરમિયાન કંપનીની કોન્સોલિડેટેડ રેવન્યુ વાર્ષિક ધોરણે ૭.૩ ટકા વધીને રૂ. ૧,૩૧૭.૯ કરોડ નોંધાઈ શકે છે.

યુએસ-ઈન્ડિયા બાયલેટરલ ટ્રેડ એગ્રિમેન્ટ અને ભારત-યુકે વ્યાપાર વાટાઘાટોને કારણે રોકાણકારોમાં આ શેર પ્રત્યે ભારે આશાવાદ જોવા મળી રહ્યો છે. પીએલ કેપિટલના રિસર્ચ એનાલિસ્ટ સાની વિશેના જણાવ્યા અનુસાર, કંપનીના લાંબા ગાળાના ગ્રોથ પ્રોસ્પેક્ટ્સ મજબૂત હોવાને કારણે નાણાં વર્ષ ૨૦૨૭-૨૮ના અનુમાનિત અર્નિંગ પર વેલ્યુએશન મલ્ટિપલ ૨૨ ગણાથી વધારીને ૨૪ ગણું કરવામાં આવ્યું છે. આ સુધારા સાથે સંશોધન સંસ્થાએ શેર દીઠ રૂ. ૨૨૭૪નો ટાર્ગેટ પ્રાઈસ નક્કી કરીને સ્ટોકનું રેટિંગ અપગ્રેડ કરીને 'Accumulate' કર્યું છે.

businessline – 11.07.2026

NOAA sees 81% chance of a very strong El Nino by the year-end

Srikrishnan PC
Chennai

The latest report from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center (CPC) indicates that El Nino is strengthening and is likely to persist through the rest of 2026.

There is an 81 per cent probability of a very strong El Nino emerging during October-December, potentially ranking among the strongest events on record since 1950.

The CPC also estimates a 97 per cent chance that El Nino will persist into early spring 2027.

WARMING SIGNALS

According to the report, El Nino strengthened over the past month, with sea surface temperature anomalies exceeding +1°C across much of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific.

The latest weekly Nino-3.4 index stood at +1.2°C, while the Nino-4 and Nino-1+2 indices were +0.5°C and +2.7°C, respectively.

OCEAN PULSE

The equatorial subsurface temperature index (averaged between 180° and 100°W) increased as a downwelling Kelvin wave deepened the thermocline and warmed the eastern Pacific. A downwelling Kelvin wave — an eastward-moving pulse of warm subsurface water triggered by weakening trade winds or westerly wind bursts — helps reinforce El Nino by deepening the thermocline, the boundary between warm surface waters and cooler deep waters.

With a 97% probability, El Nino is expected to remain active through early 2027, says the US weather body

WIND ANOMALIES

The report recorded low-level westerly wind anomalies and upper-level easterly wind anomalies across the western and central equatorial Pacific.

Convection strengthened over the central and east-central equatorial Pacific but weakened over Indonesia.

The traditional and equatorial Southern Oscillation indices remained negative, indicating that the coupled ocean-atmosphere system continues to reflect a strengthening El Nino.

OUTLOOK

The North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME) forecast suggests that El Nino will continue to intensify through 2026.

Model guidance and the strong coupling between the Pacific Ocean and the atmosphere have increased confidence that the event will persist into early 2027.

Ocean-atmosphere coupling refers to the interaction between sea surface temperatures and atmospheric circulation.

Changes in ocean temperatures influence winds and rainfall patterns, while the atmosphere, in turn, affects ocean conditions, shaping weather patterns across the globe.

Agro-chemicals start-up Atomgrid to launch product for Indian farmers soon

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

Speciality chemicals R&D start-up AtomGrid, which custom manufactures and sources for specialty agri chemicals, plans to launch products for farmers over the next 3-4 months.

"We will launch our end customer brand in India in the next 3-4 months. There are limited brands from India which go to the end farmer globally. So that is the opportunity we are chasing," said the Bengaluru-based company's Co-founder Siddharth Gupta.

Launched in January 2023, Atomgrid helps Indian companies capture value in the downstream value chain. In the B2B segment, it sells under the Atomgrid label, supplying finished goods and raw materials to the end customer.

Atomgrid Co-founder Siddharth Gupta

EXPORT REVENUE

The start-up has manufacturing units in Gujarat and Maharashtra. Nearly 50 per cent of it revenue comes from Vietnam, Latin America, and Africa. It plans to enter the US in 2-3 years. "The initial target for us is Africa, Latin America and South-East Asia, after which we'll look at the US and Europe," said Gupta.

The company is working on pesticides, while biologicals are in the pipeline. It is working with 10-15 manufacturers in India on the active ingredients side, and a similar number on the formulations side.

While most of the business happens in the business-to-business (B2B) segment, Atomgrid plans to enter the business-to-consumer (B2C) segment too. "We are building a company whose brands will go to end farmers globally," he said in an online interview with *businessline*.

In the B2B segment, the customers it works for, especially in developed countries, are looking to diversify; they don't want to depend totally on a Chinese supplier. It is building its own agrochemicals company, which works with manufacturing units.

The company is registering its products globally and launching its brands. "We work with manufacturers in India, take our product registrations globally and export the products," said Gupta.

CHINA +1 OPTION

He said the company was targeting 3X growth this fiscal by entering more geographies. With the firm establishing its R&D centre, it will double the number of products it manufactures. It will invest in joint ventures on the manufacturing side to strengthen supplies.

The idea behind AtomGrid is to capture the China-plus-one opportunity coming to the Indian manufacturing sector. Atomgrid has 40-50 products, comprising herbicides, fungicides and pesticides.

Nabard helps in GI registration of 28 products from Bihar, Assam

Our Bureau
Bengaluru

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) said on Friday that it has facilitated the Geographical Indication registration of 28 products such as traditional handicrafts, handloom textiles and bamboo crafts, among others, across the country. Till date, Nabard has supported 176 products in securing GI registration.

The latest additions span a diverse range of traditional handicrafts, handloom textiles, bamboo crafts, metalwork, pottery, paintings and musical instruments, further strengthening India's portfolio of region-specific products with legal protection and global market potential, the bank said in a statement.

Among the newly registered products are Nalanda Bawanbuti saree and fabrics and Gaya Patharkatti stone craft from Bihar; Kuchai silk saree and fabrics from Jharkhand; Ba Shilp (bamboo craft) and Bihu Pepa from Assam; Himachal wood carving craft; and Khajuraho metal craft from Madhya Pradesh, along with several other traditional products from across the country.

VALUE CHAINS

Shaji Krishnan V, Chairman, Nabard, said, "Geographical Indication registration is a powerful instrument for protecting traditional knowledge, promoting local entrepreneurship, and creating value for rural producers. Nabard remains committed to strengthening GI-based value chains through producer collectivisation, skill development, enterprise promotion, branding, market linkages, and export facilitation, ensuring that India's unique heritage translates into lasting economic opportunities."

Nabard's GI-led interventions have helped connect more than 13,000 artisans and producers to higher-value domestic markets, strengthening rural livelihoods and enhancing the commercial potential of traditional products.

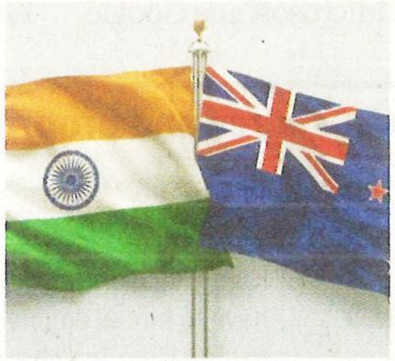
Through Nabard-supported GI value chains and associated enterprises, the initiative has generated more than 50,000 direct jobs.

A total of 14 rural enterprise producer organisations (REPOs) are engaged in the production and promotion of various GI products across Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, and Gujarat.

businessline – 12.07.2026

India, New Zealand to speed implementation of FTA; to double trade to ₹35,000 cr by 2030

Dalip Singh
New Delhi



India and New Zealand have committed to ensuring the early entry into force and effective implementation of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), as outlined in a vision document unveiled in Auckland on Saturday. The two countries also elevated their ties to a strategic partnership, setting a 2030 roadmap to double bilateral trade in goods and services to ₹35,000 crore (NZ$7 billion) over the next four years.

The strategic partnership envisages deeper cooperation in trade, defence, maritime security, tourism, culture, sports, agri-tech, people-to-people exchanges, and coordination on Indo-Pacific priorities and multilateral issues.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his New Zealand counterpart Christopher Luxon announced the roadmap after bilateral talks in Auckland. The FTA was signed on April 27, 2026.

RATIFICATION ON

The announcement is expected to ease concerns over opposition to the pact from sections of New Zealand's ruling coalition and its dairy industry. While the ratification process has begun in New Zealand, with the first of the three mandatory parliamentary readings completed, no timeline has been set for the agreement to come into force.

External Affairs Secretary (East) Rudrendra Tandon said New Zealand had assured India that the agreement enjoys bipartisan political backing and that the ratification process would move ahead swiftly.

Despite differences within the ruling coalition, he said Prime Minister Luxon had conveyed that the FTA enjoys broad political support.

On the implementation timeline, he added: "There is no commitment to a set date, but the ratification process has begun... There is hope that these readings will proceed quickly and the process will be completed sooner rather than later."

Modi and Luxon also interacted with a select group of CEOs and business leaders, urging them to expand investments and commercial partnerships to help achieve the bilateral trade target by 2030.

INVESTMENT PUSH

Describing the FTA as a landmark agreement, Modi said it would deepen economic ties and create new opportunities in market access, investment, services, technology and talent mobility.

On New Zealand's announcement to facilitate up to $20 billion in investments, Tandon said the focus was on building a long-term economic partnership rather than creating binding investment commitments.

The two sides also signed a Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Cooperation between India's Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force.

businessline – 12.07.2026

Kharif sowing drives tractor sales past one lakh units in June; M&M leads

T E Raja Simhan
Chennai

The tractor retail market crossed the one-lakh unit mark in June, with retail sales rising 25.3 per cent year-on-year to 1,00,818 units from 80,456 units in the corresponding month last year, according to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA).

All major players reported y-o-y growth on the onset of the kharif sowing season.

Market leader Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) further consolidated its dominance across both its Mahindra and Swaraj brands.

M&M's tractor division retained the top position with retail sales of 24,327 units, up from 17,518 units in June 2025, increasing its market share to 24.13 per cent from 21.77 per cent.

Its Swaraj division, at No 2, posted strong growth, selling 18,860 units against 14,292 units a year earlier, raising its market share to 18.71 per cent from 17.76 per cent, according to FADA data. Together, Mahindra's two brands accounted for 43,187 tractors, representing a combined market share of 42.84 per cent, reinforcing the group's leadership in the domestic tractor market.

International Tractors that own Sonalika and Solis brands took the No 3 position, selling 13,184 tractors in June (10,432).

Chennai-based TAFE Ltd remained the fourth-largest player and Escorts Kubota's Agri Machinery Group was in the fifth position, according to FADA.

Other manufacturers, John Deere India, and Eicher Tractors registered positive growth.

On a growth path

(in units)

OEM	June 2025	Market share (%)	June 2026	Market share (%)
Mahindra & Mahindra (Tractor)	17,518	21.8	24,327	24.1
Mahindra & Mahindra (Swaraj Division)	14,292	17.8	18,860	18.7
International Tractors	10,432	13.0	13,184	13.1
TAFE	9,816	12.2	12,069	12.0
Escorts Kubota (Agri Machinery Group)	8,449	10.5	10,371	10.3

Source: FADA Research

RURAL SENTIMENT UP

The June retail data indicate sustained momentum in the farm equipment sector, supported by healthy agricultural activity and improving rural sentiment. The strong performance of the leading tractor makers also reflects continued demand from farmers ahead of the peak sowing season.

Escorts Kubota Ltd Agri Machinery Business in its monthly bulletin said growth momentum remained positive in June, supported by improved performance across both wholesale and retail segments.

So far water reservoirs have been able to support agricultural activity and rural sentiment, but the deficient monsoon and emerging impact of El Nino conditions remain key monitorables, it added.

Hemal Thakkar, Senior Director and Senior Practice Leader, Crisil Intelligence, said tractor retail sales witnessed strong growth in June, supported by the commencement of land preparation and sowing activities for the kharif season, which boosted rural demand across key agricultural markets. Improved cash flow among farmers following the rabi harvest further aided the buying sentiment.

Additionally, retail volumes were supported by deliveries under the ongoing State subsidies with release of agro permits in Odisha and start of deliveries under the subsidy portal in Gujarat, Thakkar said.

Business Standard – 13.07.2026

India better prepared to handle Hormuz disruption this time

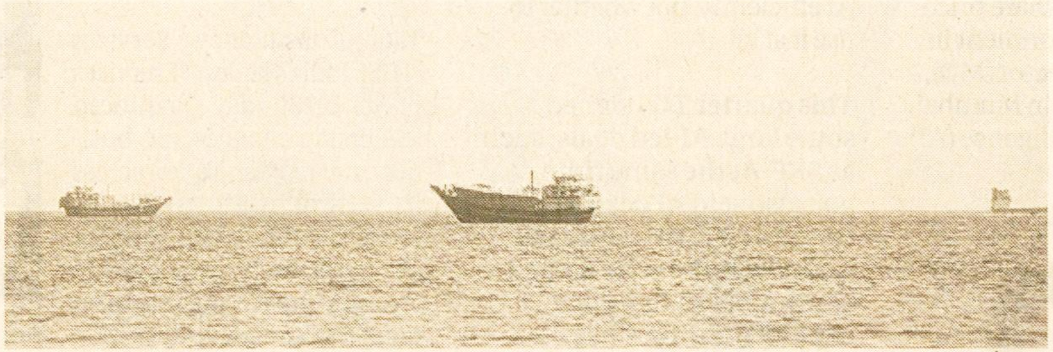
India is well-positioned to meet its near-term energy needs despite supply disruptions triggered by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz on July 11, experts and industry officials said. The US and Iran exchanged fresh strikes early on Sunday after Tehran attacked a vessel transiting the Strait of Hormuz, alleging it had sailed through an unauthorised route, reports

SHUBHANGI MATHUR 4▶

Business Standard – 13.07.2026

India now better prepared for Hormuz disruptions

SHUBHANGI MATHUR & SUDHEER PAL SINGH
New Delhi, 12 July



Vessels at the Strait of Hormuz, off Oman coast, on Sunday PHOTO: REUTERS

India is better prepared to meet its near-term energy needs despite fresh supply disruptions triggered by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran on July 11, experts and industry officials said.

The US and Iran exchanged fresh strikes early Sunday after Tehran attacked a vessel transiting the Strait of Hormuz, alleging it had sailed through an unauthorised route, further clouding prospects for a resolution to the conflict. While the renewed tensions are expected to push up energy prices, India's supply outlook is likely to remain more resilient than during the earlier phase of the conflict.

"Energy prices would shoot up with the closure of Hormuz again. Procurement costs for September and October are likely to rise. However, we are in a comfortable position this time. We have secured crude supplies till August and tied up LPG imports. We might face some issues with LNG, but those should be manageable," a senior refinery executive said.

Vessel traffic through the strait was virtually at a standstill on Sunday, with only two ships approaching the strategic waterway. On July 8, US President Donald Trump said the ceasefire with Iran was "over" after renewed military strikes, marking the most serious escalation since the two sides agreed to a truce in mid-June.

"The situation is very fluid. We will have to see how durable the closure is. The risk premium on crude is likely to increase by \$10-\$15 a barrel, pushing oil prices to \$80-\$85 a barrel. On the supply side, markets are better prepared this time. Non-Opec production has increased, providing greater flexibility, while India has diversified its sourcing," said Hitesh Jain, lead analyst at Yes Securities.

Brent crude prices rose to \$79 a barrel, its highest level since June 19, as markets reacted to the renewed tensions.

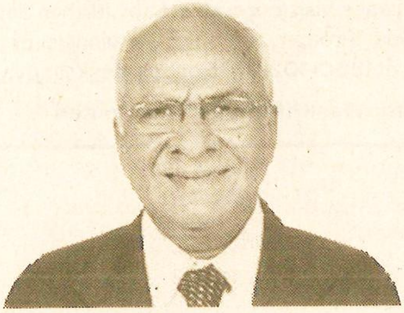
Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on July 2 that India had crude oil stocks sufficient for 60 days, LNG inventories for 60 days and LPG inventories for 45 days. India had also eased restrictions on LPG and natural gas supplies to industrial users after the Strait of Hormuz reopened and peace talks resumed. A government official said there were no immediate plans to reverse those measures despite the latest escalation.

Experts said the renewed disruption underscored the need to further diversify India's energy sources and accelerate electrification of the transport sector to reduce vulnerability to geopolitical shocks.

"In the long term, we have to diversify our energy sources more deeply and strengthen domestic energy security through measures such as greater electrification of transport and wider use of biofuels. However, these measures will take time to meaningfully reduce dependence on fossil fuels," said Santosh Kamath, managing director at Alvarez & Marsal.

Business Standard – 13.07.2026

India-UK origin rules trust exporters; subject to verification later



EXIM MATTERS

T N C RAJAGOPALAN

On July 3, the government notified the Rules of Origin governing claims for duty concessions under the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. The Rules will come into force on July 15, when the agreement itself enters into force. The tariff concessions are relevant, but their availability will depend on compliance with the origin criteria and prescribed documentation.

The first task for exporters is to identify the tariff classification and consult Annexure A for the applicable product-specific rule. Goods may qualify as originating because they are wholly obtained, produced entirely from originating materials, or sufficiently produced using non-originating materials. The product-specific rule may require a change in tariff classification at the chapter, heading or subheading level, a prescribed Qualifying Value Content (QVC), a specified production process, or a combination of these tests.

QVC measures the originating content in the finished product. It may be calculated through the build-down method, which deducts non-originating materials from the value of the product, or the build-up method, which directly measures originating materials. Where Annexure A prescribes Standard QVC, build-down requires at least 40 per cent of the ex-works price or 45 per cent of the FOB value; build-up requires 35 per cent of either value. The calculation must be supported by costing and input records.

The Rules provide flexibility. Under bilateral cumulation, UK-originating materials used in India may be treated as Indian-originating, and vice versa. Some product-specific rules provide alternative, equally valid tests. Tolerance may permit limited use of non-originating materials that would otherwise prevent satisfaction of a tariff-change or wholly obtained requirement. However, non-qualifying operations — such as simple packing, sorting, painting or assembly, affixing labels, and dilution that does not materially alter the goods — cannot, by themselves, confer originating status.

For Indian exports to the UK, preference may be claimed through an origin declaration completed by the exporter or producer, a certificate issued by a designated Indian authority, or the UK importer's knowledge. Indian exporters may self-certify through the prescribed origin declaration, generated after one-time registration on DGFT's Common Digital Platform.

Exporters and producers should preserve bills of materials, supplier declarations, invoices, production and costing records, tariff classifications and transport documents for five years. Goods routed through a third country must remain under customs control and undergo only permitted operations. Self-certification reduces paperwork, but shifts greater responsibility for accuracy to exporters, producers and importers.

For UK exports to India, a claim for preferential treatment must be supported by an origin declaration completed by the exporter or producer. After registering with HMRC, the exporter or producer must complete the prescribed declaration and send it to the Indian importer, copying Indian Customs for authentication. The declaration is valid for 12 months from completion.

Before claiming preference, Indian importers should identify the applicable product-specific rule, obtain confirmation of the origin criterion declared by the exporter and secure sufficient non-confidential origin-related information from the exporter to demonstrate compliance. They must also fulfil their obligations under the Customs (Administration of Rules of Origin under Trade Agreements) Rules, 2020, commonly called CAROTAR. Contracts should allocate liability for duty, interest and penalties if an origin claim fails.

Importers and exporters should therefore align sourcing, production, classification and records before the first preferential consignment. An origin review before shipments begin can prevent disputes, delays, denial of preference and duty exposure.

Email: *tncrajagopalan@gmail.com*

Business Standard – 13.07.2026

India, Canada conclude third round of talks on proposed trade pact

India and Canada concluded the third round of negotiations for the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (Cepa) in Ottawa on July 10, as the two sides look to wind up the talks this year itself. The issues that figured in the five-day talks include trade in goods, services, intellectual property, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and technical barriers to trade, among others. The negotiations are important as the two sides have targeted to increase the bilateral trade to $50 billion by 2030. Key exports from India to Canada include pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, seafood, cotton garments, electronic goods, and chemicals, among others. PTI

Goyal set to visit Spain, Belgium, Finland to boost economic ties

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will undertake from Monday a five-day visit to Spain, Belgium, and Finland to discuss ways to boost trade and investments between India and the three countries, an official statement said on Sunday. The delegation comprises leading Indian companies across sectors like advanced manufacturing, clean energy, digital technologies, healthcare among others the commerce ministry said. "The India-EU Business Roundtable and trade and technology council (TTC) plenary will focus on foreign direct investment opportunities, trade facilitation, sustainable technologies, and resilient supply chains," it added. Goyal will co-chair the third India-EU Trade TTC ministerial meeting in Brussels alongside External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Jitin Prasada. PTI

India-Afghanistan boost agricultural ties as ministers meet

Afghanistan's Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Mawlawi Ataullah Omari, who visited India from July 7-12, held talks with Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and explored new avenues for collaboration, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. This was the fourth ministerial-level visit from Afghanistan to India since October 2025, reflecting the "continued momentum" in bilateral engagement, it said. "The two sides reviewed ongoing cooperation and explored new avenues for collaboration in agriculture, irrigation, livestock, agricultural research, education, capacity building and agri-trade." Food security, seed systems, and enhancement of crop productivity featured prominently in the discussions. PTI