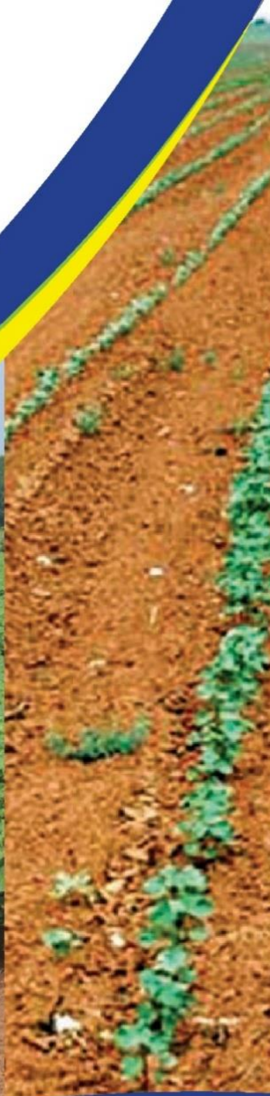
COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015



News Relating to Cotton and Textile Sector

Date-15-07-2026

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COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

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COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
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ISO 9001:2015

Mumbai, Wednessday 15th 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	14904	53000	(+500)
2	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	15%	20	12738	45300	(+300)
3	M/M(P)	ICS-104	Fine	23mm	4.5 - 7.0	4%	22	15044	53500	(+500)
4	P / H / R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	16872	60000	(+400)
5	M/M(P) /SA/TL/GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	15185	54000	(N.C.)
6	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	16731	59500	(+500)
7	P/ H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	17519	62300	(+400)
8	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18137	64500	(+300)
9	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18053	64200	(+500)
10	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	27	18137	64500	(+500)
11	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	4.0%	27	17266	61400	(+400)
12	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	18278	65000	(+500)
13	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	18503	65800	(+300)
14	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18278	65000	(+500)
15	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18419	65500	(+500)
16	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	18784	66800	(+300)
17	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	18559	66000	(+500)
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	(N.C.)
22	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	23621	84000	(N.C.)
23	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	24043	85500	(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: 14-07-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE						14 Jul 2026
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Oct-26	80.28	80.97	78.98	79.60	▼0.23	168
Dec-26	81.51	82.29	80.75	80.87	▼0.64	2,02,455
Mar-27	82.87	83.66	82.15	82.23	▼0.70	61,470
May-27	83.66	84.42	82.90	83.00	▼0.74	21,075
Jul-27	83.08	83.75	82.39	82.46	▼0.70	13,815
Oct-27	0.00	78.68	78.68	78.68	▼0.38	5
Dec-27	76.95	77.20	76.60	76.74	▼0.36	20,887

Cotlook Index: 14-07-2026

90.70 (UC)

ICE cotton falls further on weak demand outlook, China reserve sale

Wed. 15th July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights

ICE cotton futures fell for a second straight session as weaker demand prospects following the USDA's July WASDE report and China's planned state cotton reserve auctions weighed on sentiment.

The December 2026 contract settled at 80.87 cents, down 0.64 cent, while lower certified stocks and continued trading above the 80-cent level suggested underlying market support.

ICE cotton futures declined for a second consecutive session yesterday. The market remained under pressure as traders focused on weaker demand prospects following the USDA's July WASDE report. China's announcement of state cotton reserve auctions also weighed on ICE cotton prices.

The most active December 2026 contract settled at 80.87 cents, down 0.64 cent. The contract has lost 67 points over the past two sessions but continues to hold on to most of last week's 442-point rally. Other nearby contracts settled 23 to 74 points lower.

The China National Cotton Reserves Corporation announced that it will begin selling state cotton reserves from July 20, 2026, in line with government policy to better meet the raw material needs of textile mills. Auctions will be held on every official working day, with daily sales volumes adjusted according to market conditions.

The reserve auction announcement produced mixed market reactions. Some traders viewed the auctions as bearish because additional cotton will become available to Chinese mills, while others considered them bullish over the longer term, as reserve sales could eventually require replenishment through new purchases, including imports.

Trading volume declined to 47,826 contracts, compared with 59,297 contracts in the previous session, reflecting reduced participation as the market consolidated after last week's strong advance.

Market analysts said the market's weakness was mainly driven by concerns over softer demand following the USDA report, which increased 2026-27 US cotton production by 400,000 bales to 13.70 million bales and projected global ending stocks to rise by 300,000 bales. Much of the report had already been priced into the market, with profit-taking accelerating after last week's rally.

CBOT soybean futures declined after better-than-expected US crop condition ratings and reduced concerns about weather stress across the Midwest triggered profit-taking. Corn futures also edged lower, adding pressure across agricultural markets.

Brazil's crop agency, Conab, estimated 2025-26 cotton production at 4.0598 million tonnes, down 0.5 per cent from 4.0815 million tonnes in 2024-25. Conab also estimated Brazil's 2025-26 cotton planted area at 2.0186 million hectares, down 3.2 per cent from 2.0856 million hectares in the previous season.

ICE-certified cotton stocks continued to decline, falling to 121,285 bales as of July 13, compared with 127,127 bales previously, reflecting another reduction in deliverable supplies.

Despite the two-day pullback, December futures continue to trade above the key 80-cent level, suggesting the broader technical structure remains constructive while traders monitor demand, weather developments, and China's reserve auctions for the next directional move.

This morning (Indian Standard Time), ICE December 2026 cotton traded at 80.57 cents per pound (down 0.30 cent), cash cotton at 76.35 cents (up 0.52 cent), the October 2026 contract at 79.33 cents (down 0.27 cent), the March 2027 contract at 81.99 cents (down 0.24 cent), the May 2027 contract at 82.79 cents (down 0.24 cent), and the July 2027 contract at 82.19 cents (down 0.37 cent). A few contracts remained at their previous closing levels, with no trading recorded so far today.

CITI, EURATEX launch India-EU textile dialogue for FTA

Wed. 15th July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
CITI and EURATEX have launched the EU-India Textile and Apparel Dialogue (TAD) to support the proposed India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
Announced at Bharat Tex 2026, the platform will promote market access, resilient value chains, sustainability and industrial co-operation while addressing trade and regulatory challenges for the textile and apparel sector.

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) and the European Apparel and Textile Confederation (EURATEX) have come together to establish a bilateral industry platform to support the effective and balanced implementation of the India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) for the textile and apparel sector.

The CITI-EURATEX initiative – the EU-India Textile and Apparel Dialogue (TAD) – will provide a structured forum for dialogue between industry representatives to promote reciprocal market access, resilient value chains, industrial competitiveness and sustainable growth.

The formal signing of the TAD mandate between CITI and EURATEX, along with the first meeting of the joint CITI-EURATEX monitoring committee established under the TAD framework, took place at Bharat Tex 2026 in New Delhi on July 14.

"The establishment of the TAD assumes importance in the backdrop of India and the EU concluding negotiations on the FTA in January 2026, and the India-EU trade deal expected to be signed later this year. It can serve as an effective platform for putting forward the textile and apparel industry view on how the free trade agreement can benefit businesses both in India and the 27-nation bloc," CITI Chairman Ashwin Chandran said.

The European Union has long been a key export destination for India's textile and apparel industry. In 2025, the European Union was the 2nd largest market for India's textile and apparel exports. Textile and apparel exports from India to the EU stood at $7.6 billion in 2025.

However, Indian textile and apparel exporters have historically operated at a tariff disadvantage compared to several competing countries that enjoy preferential access to the EU. This equation is expected to change once the India–EU FTA becomes operational.

The TAD has the following mandate:

- Monitor the implementation of the EU–India FTA and its impact on the textile and apparel sectors.
- Exchange information on trade flows, investment, preferential rules of origin and FTA utilisation.
- Identify implementation challenges, including customs procedures, market access barriers and regulatory issues, and propose practical solutions.
- Promote a level playing field through dialogue on enforcement, market surveillance and fair competition.
- Exchange best practices on sustainability, circularity, traceability and responsible business conduct.
- Encourage industrial co-operation, investment and stronger EU–India value chains.
- Raise awareness among companies of the opportunities created by the FTA.
- Develop, where appropriate, joint recommendations and communicate common industry priorities to the European Commission and the Government of India.

The TAD will comprise an equal number of representatives appointed by CITI and EURATEX, with the Chair rotating annually between CITI and EURATEX.

Global cotton benchmarks edge higher; NY futures lead gains

Wed. 15th July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights

Most cotton benchmarks rose over the past month, led by the December NY/ICE contract moving from 75 to 82 cents/lb.

The A Index, China and India also gained, while Pakistan prices eased after holding earlier increases longer than other markets.

USDA revisions lifted 2026/27 global production and mill-use, with spinners and sourcing teams watching China weather, reserves and import demand.

Cotton benchmarks mostly moved higher over the past month, tightening the near-term price backdrop for textile mills, apparel manufacturers and fibre sourcing teams. The strongest tracked move was in New York futures, while physical and country-market indicators showed more limited gains, except in Pakistan, where prices moved lower after earlier strength.

The December NY/ICE futures contract increased from 75 cents/lb to 82 cents/lb over the past month, with gains arriving in two phases around mid-June and during the week of July 6, according to the July 13 Monthly Economic Letter. The letter said the A Index rose from 86 cents/lb to 90 cents/lb, the CC Index 3128B moved from 117 cents/lb to 119 cents/lb, and Indian prices advanced from 82 cents/lb to 86 cents/lb.

Cotton Incorporated said in the letter that official Karachi Cotton Association price publication had faced issues since December and resumed on June 6. It reported Pakistani prices were near 94 cents/lb, or 21,500 PKR/maund, through the first half of June, before falling to about 78 cents/lb, or 17,800 PKR/maund.

The letter also cited the July US Department of Agriculture (USDA) report, which raised 2026/27 global cotton production by 1.2 million bales to 117.3 million and mill-use by 190,000 bales to 122.0 million. It said the 2026/27 global trade projection was unchanged at 43.3 million bales, with no import or export revisions above 100,000 bales for that season.

For the price outlook, Cotton Incorporated attributed the latest market movement to several China-related factors, including reports of progress in US-China discussions on tariff reductions and agricultural trade. It also cited extreme heat in Xinjiang, concerns over boll drop, and forecasts from the USDA and the China Cotton Association indicating that Chinese cotton planting is down by about 4 per cent. However, the organisation noted that releases from China's cotton reserves could help moderate the country's import demand. Meanwhile, improved monsoon coverage has eased drought concerns in India, while weather conditions in West Texas have become increasingly dry.

Trident Group powers its next phase of growth at Bharat Tex 2026

Tue. 14th July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
Trident invested ₹100+ crore in advanced R&D and environmental performance, reinforcing its innovation-led growth model.
The company deepens focus on manufacturing excellence, digitalisation and sustainable, high-performance product innovation to drive its next wave of growth.
myTrident unveils its upcoming festive collections and new home décor ranges, and introduces Torani for myTrident.

Giriraj Singh, India's Minister of Textiles, with Dr. Rajinder Gupta, Member of Parliament and Chairman Emeritus, Trident Group, and Ms. Neha Gupta Bector, Chairperson, myTrident. Pic: Trident Group

Trident Group, a global conglomerate and a leading name in the home textiles industry, today outlined its next phase of growth at Bharat Tex 2026, anchored on an innovation-led strategy, manufacturing excellence and sustainable value creation. This year's theme, 'The Expression of Living,' reflected the company's vision for the future of home textiles, highlighting textile innovation, contemporary design and evolving consumer lifestyles.

Building on a resilient FY26 performance, the Group is sharpening its focus on unlocking the full potential of its existing assets, embedding digitalization across operations and scaling a robust research and development engine to power its next wave of growth. On growth, Trident delivered a resilient performance in FY26 despite global headwinds, maintaining a stable revenue base.

Strengthening its innovation architecture, the company has established a dedicated Innovation Cell and invested over ₹100 crore towards advanced R&D and environmental performance. Backed by 17+ patents and 147 trademarks, this innovation engine is driving next-generation advances in advanced fibre blends, functional finishes and high-performance yarns tailored to premium and niche markets.

Padma Shri Dr. Rajinder Gupta, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Chairman Emeritus Trident Group, sharing his vision, said, "As the global textile industry converges at Bharat Tex 2026, India is no longer simply participating in the conversation. It is helping shape the future of global textiles. In just three editions, Bharat Tex has emerged as one of the world's most significant textile platforms. By bringing together the entire textile value chain, it has created unparalleled opportunities for global brands, buyers, innovators and manufacturers to connect, collaborate and build the future together. At Trident, we believe that the future of the industry lies at the intersection of innovation, design and craftsmanship. Through ‘The Expression of Living,' we are proud to showcase how purposeful innovation and world-class design can redefine modern living while carrying India's rich creative heritage to the world. Our partnership with NIFT is central to this vision; together, we are nurturing India's design talent, strengthening the country's design ecosystem, and taking Indian creations to global markets.”

As part of this larger vision, myTrident, the flagship home décor brand from the Trident Group, unveiled its upcoming festive collections and new home décor ranges, while also introducing Torani for myTrident, Karan Torani's first home décor collaboration, alongside the second edition of Shivan & Narresh for myTrident. Together, these launches reflected myTrident's growing focus on design-led collaborations that bring together contemporary creativity, Indian craftsmanship and cultural storytelling to shape the future of premium home décor.

Commenting on the launch of the new collections and working with the designers, Neha Gupta Bector, Chairperson, myTrident, said “The theme, 'The Expression of Living', reflected our belief that the home is an extension of who we are, and every space should tell a story. Through this showcase, we brought together thoughtful design, craftsmanship and creativity to demonstrate how home décor is evolving beyond functionality into a form of personal expression. Our collaborations with Karan Torani and Shivan & Narresh, alongside our latest festive collections, reflected our vision of creating spaces that celebrate individuality while remaining rooted in Indian design and craftsmanship."

Rajneesh Bhatia, CEO of myTrident “Bharat Tex 2026 signals India’s growing textile footprint, with this year’s exhibition being comparable to others across the world that’ve been around far longer. “We are increasing our retail touch points from the current 7,000 to 10,000. This expansion will solidify our position as a leading home furnishings brand in India and broaden our footprint across domestic market. To drive further growth, we're focusing on key opportunities in HORECA & institutions, where we aim to capture the largest market share, and also focus on expanding our gifting solutions portfolio.”

With 'The Expression of Living,' Trident Group brought together innovation, design and craftsmanship under one vision at Bharat Tex 2026, reinforcing its position as one of India's leading home textile players and its commitment to shaping the future of modern living. As it enters its next phase of growth, Trident remains focused on purposeful innovation, world-class design and sustainable value creation, carrying India's rich creative heritage to homes and markets across the world.

GHCL Textiles showcases premium yarns and fabrics at Bharat Tex 2026

Tue. 14th July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
GHCL Textiles is showcasing its premium yarns and advanced knitting capabilities at Bharat Tex 2026 in New Delhi.
With nearly a century of experience, 98 per cent capacity utilisation, 75 per cent renewable energy use and a 47,000 TPA production capacity, the company aims to strengthen its position in domestic and global textile markets through innovation and sustainability.

GHCL Textiles, a leading manufacturer of premium yarns and fabrics, is showcasing its diverse portfolio of premium yarns and advanced knitting capabilities for shirting and knitted fabrics at Bharat Tex 2026. The event, which commenced today and runs until July 17, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, is one of the most anticipated gatherings of the global textile industry, serving as a powerful platform for engagement among buyers, manufacturers, policymakers, and industry leaders from around the world.

With a legacy spanning 99 years, GHCL Textiles has built a strong reputation for quality, innovation and sustainability to position itself as the preferred supplier to premium customers both at domestic and international level. The company's state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in Tamil Nadu consistently achieves over 98% capacity utilisation and are powered by 75% renewable energy. Backed by a workforce that is 80% women, the company has a production capacity of 47000 TPA and is well placed to serves all major markets within India and overseas.

Marshal Sonavane, CEO – GHCL Textiles Limited said, "We are delighted to be a part of Bharat Tex 2026 and look forward to a productive exchange of ideas and valuable insights into the emerging trends, technologies and opportunities shaping the future of the textile industry. Our investments towards vertical integration, specialized yarn and premium fabrics, enhancement of green energy and operational excellence will further strengthen our capabilities and support our long-term growth ambitions."

Inspired by the Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji's 5F Vision - Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign, Bharat Tex is now in its third edition. The event is expected to attract over 1.3 lakh trade visitors. With nearly 3,500+ Business Exhibitors, over 7000 International Buyers and the signing of over 20 MoUs across trade, investment, technology, sustainability, market access and institutional collaboration, the event reflects India's growing confidence, capability and commitment to leading the future of the global textile industry.

Bharat Tex Trade Federation and Première Vision Paris Forge Strategic Partnership to Deepen India–EU Textile Collaboration

Tue. 14th July 2026 (Source: www.pib.gov.in)

Collaboration to strengthen bilateral trade, promote innovation, sustainability, design excellence and position India as a global textile sourcing destination

Posted On: 15 JUL 2026 4:34PM by PIB Delhi

The Bharat Tex Trade Federation (BTTF) and Première Vision are forging closer ties to strengthen textile and apparel trade between India and the European Union, creating new opportunities for Indian manufacturers, exporters and designers to expand their presence, globally. At the same time, it will enable global brands, buyers and fashion houses to engage more deeply with India's diverse and competitive textile ecosystem. The partnership will also promote innovation, sustainability, design excellence, trend intelligence and global sourcing across the textile value chain.

The Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed by Ms Florence Rousson, Chief Executive Officer, Fashion Division, Première Vision SA, and Shri Naren Goenka, Chairman, Bharat Tex Trade Federation (BTTF). This LoI has been exchanged in the presence of Shri Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of Textiles, who graced the inaugural session of Bharat Tex 2026. The LoI marks an important milestone in strengthening institutional collaboration between India and France across the textile and apparel value chain. The collaboration also comes at an opportune time, following the successful conclusion of negotiations on the India–European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which is expected to enhance market access and competitiveness for Indian textile and apparel exporters.

Speaking on the occasion, **Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh** said, "*This partnership is another significant step in positioning Bharat Tex as a truly global platform. It will help Indian MSMEs, first-time exporters and manufacturers connect with leading European buyers, while showcasing India's strengths as a reliable, innovative and sustainable sourcing destination. It also reinforces India's growing role as a trusted partner in the global textile value chain."*

The signing ceremony was also witnessed by senior officials of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, representatives of the Bharat Tex Trade Federation, exporters, international buyers, buying houses, sourcing consultants, industry leaders, and other key stakeholders from across the textile value chain.

Première Vision’s PV Paris is globally recognised as one of the world's foremost textile and fashion sourcing exhibitions and an influential international platform for trend forecasting, innovation and design excellence. Held biannually in Paris, it convenes leading manufacturers, brands, designers, buyers and sourcing professionals from across the global fashion and textile industry, facilitating high-value business engagement, knowledge exchange, sustainable sourcing and the presentation of cutting-edge materials, technologies and creative developments.

The collaboration will provide Indian manufacturers, MSMEs, exporters and emerging brands with access to a globally recognised platform to showcase premium textiles, apparel, accessories, technical textiles, sustainable materials and fashion innovations before leading international buyers, designers and fashion houses. It will also provide Première Vision and its global network with enhanced access to India's integrated textile value chain through Bharat Tex, creating new opportunities for sourcing, business partnerships and long-term collaboration. In addition, the partnership will facilitate reciprocal participation at Bharat Tex and Première Vision Paris, strengthen buyer-seller engagement, and foster the exchange of trend and design intelligence.

Smt Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, said the collaboration reflects India's evolving position in the global textile industry:

"*The world is choosing to partner with India. Bharat Tex collaborating with Première Vision is creating a structured platform to connect Indian enterprise with international markets, design leadership and emerging global trends. It also advances the Prime Minister's 5F Vision by strengthening India's position as a sourcing and innovation partner for the global textile and apparel industry*."

Bharat Tex 2026 is being held from **14–17 July 2026** *at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.*

Karnataka BJP Seeks Farmer Relief

Tue. 14th July 2026, Yash Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Demand for ₹50,000 per acre compensation for drought-hit farmers; B.Y. Vijayendra targets Karnataka government

Karnataka BJP President B.Y. Vijayendra has launched a scathing attack on the state's Congress government regarding the drought situation in the North Karnataka and Kalyana Karnataka regions. He alleged that the government is not taking the plight of drought-stricken farmers seriously and has failed to provide immediate financial assistance to those affected.

During a press briefing held at the airport on July 13, Vijayendra highlighted the dire situation of farmers in several districts, including Bidar, Kalaburagi, and Yadgir. He stated that agricultural activities have been severely impacted due to a significant rainfall deficit in these areas. According to him, rainfall has been far below normal in many regions, preventing farmers from even undertaking sowing operations.

Vijayendra claimed that cultivation could not take place on over 30 lakh hectares of agricultural land due to the lack of rain. He noted that major crops such as pigeon pea (tur), sunflower, and cotton have been affected, directly impacting farmers' incomes and leaving many families facing a financial crisis.
He demanded that the state government provide compensation of at least ₹50,000 per acre to the drought-affected farmers. Dismissing Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's recent visit to

Basavakalyan as "merely a photo op," Vijayendra asserted that the government must take concrete steps to assist farmers at the grassroots level.

The BJP leader also referred to the initiatives undertaken by the previous BJP government led by former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa. He mentioned that projects worth approximately ₹500 crore were launched for the region's development at that time, with funds of ₹100 crore and ₹200 crore released in phases. Vijayendra alleged that the current Congress government has been neglecting these schemes for the past three years.

He urged the Chief Minister to immediately release the pending funds and prioritize development works. Addressing questions about alleged internal rifts within the Bidar district BJP, Vijayendra stated that the party would resolve all local issues through dialogue and mutual consensus. He dismissed allegations of any "adjustment politics" between BJP MLAs and the Congress, asserting that the BJP is playing the role of a strong opposition dedicated to the interests of the public and the farming community.

In view of the upcoming Zilla Panchayat and local body elections, Vijayendra emphasized the need to further energize the organization. He stated that strategies regarding election preparations and issues concerning farmers would be formulated through consultations with district leaders, MLAs, and senior office-bearers.

Rajasthan Targets 4x Textile Exports by 2030, Unveils Special Export Action Plan

Wed. 15th July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Target to Quadruple Rajasthan's Textile Exports by 2030; Government Prepares Special Action Plan

The Rajasthan government has launched large-scale initiatives to establish the textile and apparel sector as a key pillar of the state's economy. In line with Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma's vision, the Department of Industries and Commerce has implemented approximately 15 new sector-specific policies. As part of this effort, a dedicated state-level textile cell has been constituted to ensure the effective implementation of the Rajasthan Textile and Apparel Policy-2025 and to boost investment.

For the first time in the state, a textile export action plan has been formulated at both the state level and for 11 specific districts to promote exports. This plan encompasses the seven 'Champion Districts' identified by the Government of India—Ajmer, Bhilwara, Jaipur, Banswara, Chittorgarh, Jodhpur, and Kota—along with four 'Aspirational Districts': Sri Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Nagaur, and Churu.

Industries and Commerce Commissioner Nilabh Saxena stated that the textile cell would work to understand the needs of industries in the state and provide them with necessary support. The cell will conduct regular visits to industrial areas to identify bottlenecks related to production and exports. Additionally, solutions will be devised through consultations with industry experts, entrepreneurs, and exporters.

He mentioned that the cell would study major textile hubs—both domestic and international—and disseminate information regarding the latest technologies to the industries. Efforts will be made to increase Rajasthan's participation in national and international textile exhibitions, alongside the collection and analysis of sector-related data. A proposal is also in place to organize a two-day textile summit in October of this year.

The state government has designated the textile sector as a 'Thrust Sector' under the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS), thereby offering additional incentives to industries in this field.

According to Saxena, the Government of India has set a target to raise textile and apparel exports to US$ 100 billion by the year 2030. With this in mind, Rajasthan has set a target to increase its textile exports three- to four-fold.

In the 2024-25 fiscal year, Rajasthan's total exports exceeded ₹97,171 crore, with the textile and allied sectors contributing approximately ₹13,500 crore. This accounts for more than 13 percent of the state's total exports.

Rajasthan ranks first in the country in wool production, contributing nearly 47 percent, while it holds the fifth position in cotton production. Currently, over 1,800 textile and apparel units are operational in the state. Rajasthan's textile industry enjoys a distinct identity in the international market, driven by hand-block printing, traditional techniques, and a diverse range of textile products. The government is now moving towards further strengthening this sector on a global scale through investments, technology, and the expansion of exports.

Kharif Sowing Gains Momentum, Cotton and Oilseed Acreage Trails Last Year

Wed. 15th July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Kharif sowing picks up pace, but cotton and oilseed acreage remains significantly lower than last year

The activation of the southwest monsoon has accelerated Kharif crop sowing across the country; however, the sowing of cotton and oilseeds continues to lag behind last year's figures. According to the latest data released by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare up to July 10, 2026, while increased rainfall in recent weeks has improved the pace of sowing, the acreage for these two major cash crops has yet to reach last year's levels.

Government data indicates that oilseed sowing has covered 117.83 lakh hectares (11.78 million hectares), compared to 149.18 lakh hectares during the same period last year. This represents a decline of 31.35 lakh hectares, or approximately 21 percent, in total oilseed acreage. Among oilseed crops, soybean accounted for the largest share, with sowing recorded at 90.51 lakh hectares; this is down from 107.72 lakh hectares during the same period last year, marking a reduction of 17.21 lakh hectares. Similarly, groundnut acreage has dropped from 35.45 lakh hectares to 23.40 lakh hectares.

Cotton sowing has been recorded at 79.54 lakh hectares (7.95 million hectares), down from 93.95 lakh hectares during the same period last year—a decrease of 14.41 lakh hectares, or approximately 15.3 percent. Although recent rains have accelerated sowing in major cotton-producing states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana, the total area remains below last year's figures.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), rainfall activity is likely to remain relatively subdued over the next six to seven days across the plains of northwest India, west-central India, and the southern peninsular regions. Consequently, the pace of cotton and oilseed sowing in rain-fed areas could be affected.

On the other hand, the water resource situation has improved. Water storage in the 166 major reservoirs monitored by the government rose to 32.38 percent of their live storage capacity by July 9, up from 26 percent a week earlier. Improved water availability is expected to benefit crops in irrigated areas.

Experts believe that monsoon activity during the second half of July will be crucial for the sowing and potential output of cotton and oilseeds. If rainfall remains normal, the sowing gap could narrow further, whereas a prolonged weak monsoon could put pressure on the production of these two crops.

Gujarat: Farmers Re-sow Cotton Crop in Amreli After Heavy Rain Damage

Wed. 15th July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Gujarat: Cotton Re-sowing in Amreli Following Heavy Rains

Amreli (Gujarat): Heavy rainfall and waterlogging in the fields have caused significant damage to cotton sowing in Amreli district. With a large portion of the initial sowing ruined in several villages—including Keriya Chav—farmers have now set to work on re-sowing. Once the rains subsided, re-sowing operations were rapidly launched using farm laborers and agricultural machinery.

According to farmers, incessant rain led to water accumulation in the fields, causing cotton seeds to get buried in the soil and preventing germination. Approximately 50 to 60 percent of the crop initially sown via tractor has been affected. Consequently, farmers are left with no option but to re-sow.

Although field operations have resumed following the cessation of rain, farmers are grappling with mounting financial concerns. Re-sowing entails purchasing new seeds and incurring additional labor costs, effectively doubling the overall cultivation expenditure. Farmers are now working day and night in a race against time to save the crop.

Farmer Hitendrabhai Malviya stated that the initial sowing yielded only about 40 percent success. Most of the crop was damaged due to heavy rain and waterlogging, necessitating re-sowing. He said, "I had initially sown cotton across 22 *bighas*, but following the losses, I am now re-sowing an area of 30 to 35 *bighas*."

Farmers remain hopeful that if weather conditions stay favorable in the coming days, the re-sown cotton crop might help recoup some of the losses. However, the constantly changing weather and rising cultivation costs continue to weigh heavily on their minds.

Business Standard – 15.07.2026

Export diversification fuels textile sector resilience: Giriraj Singh

India is currently exporting textile products from 550 districts, and the government's export diversification strategy has helped the sector remain resilient despite global uncertainty, Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh said on Tuesday. Inaugurating India's largest global textile event, Bharat Tex 2026, the minister said India's strategy to target 40 key nations for export diversification helped its textiles sector register sustained export growth despite global uncertainty. "Buyers from 130 countries have come. We are in the process of negotiating FTAs with various nations; some are underway while others have been signed. This shows we are ready to compete globally," Singh said. PTI

Business Standard – 15.07.2026

AMID US THREAT OF 12.5% TARIFF UNDER SECTION 301 PROBE

India prohibits import of goods produced using forced labour

KRITY AMBEY
New Delhi, 14 July

Amid the US threatening to impose a 12.5 per cent tariff under Section 301 investigation, India has issued a notification to curb the import of goods manufactured using forced labour.

"The import of goods produced or manufactured, wholly or in part, through the use of forced labour is prohibited," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in the notification dated July 13.

It added, "Forced labour means all work or service which is extracted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily, as defined under the International Labour Organization (ILO) Forced Labour Convention."

This is the first time India has issued a norm to curb imports related to forced labour, a commerce ministry official said, without commenting on the specifics of how the government will determine forced labour links in imports.

In recent years, international probes have linked forced labour in Xinjiang province of China to sectors such as cotton, textiles, apparel and polysilicon used in solar panels. The province is home to Uyghurs, the largest ethnic group in Xinjiang, and under America's Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, goods linked to Xinjiang are presumed to involve forced labour unless proven otherwise.

By adopting the ILO Forced Labour Convention definition verbatim, India aligns itself with the same international benchmark the United States (US) invokes domestically, EY India's trade policy leader Agneshwar Sen said.

A beginning

- According to a senior official, this is the first time India has issued a norm to curb imports related to forced labour
- In earlier probes, Uyghur ethnic group in China's Xinjiang province is presumed to be involved in forced labour

The Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) released the draft investigation report on forced labour in June. Public comments on the proposal closed on July 6, and Washington is yet to take a final decision on the tariffs after considering the submissions.

The final report is expected this month, India's Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal had said on Monday.

The Section 301 investigation proposed a lower tariff of 10 per cent on some economies, including Pakistan, Indonesia, Mexico and Canada, among others, crediting them for imposing a "partial regime" to prevent the import of goods made with forced labour.

The order establishes a legal framework rather than an immediate import ban, Delhi-based think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) founder Ajay Srivastava said.

"Its effectiveness will depend on how the government conducts investigations, the evidence required to establish forced labour, and the products it ultimately targets," Srivastava said.

businessline – 15.07.2026

Centre set to ban Paraquat herbicide, issues draft order

PRESSING AHEAD. Final notification is likely to be issued after August 12 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

Prabhudatta Mishra
New Delhi

The government on Tuesday issued a draft order proposing a blanket ban on Paraquat Dichloride, citing its severe toxicity to humans and animals. The draft notification seeks to halt the manufacture, import, sale and distribution of the widely used herbicide, giving stakeholders 30 days to submit feedback before a final ban is gazetted.

Already outlawed in more than 70 countries, Paraquat Dichloride is linked to fatal poisoning, kidney failure, lung fibrosis and Parkinson's disease. However, the proposed ban faces a massive commercial footprint at home, where a vast agro-chemical market includes more than 1,500 manufacturers holding licences for the chemical.

The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare had constituted an expert committee in January to examine the continued use of Paraquat Dichloride in India. After detailed examination, the panel submitted its report on June 12.

businessline in May reported that the panel unanimously agreed to recommend a nationwide ban on Paraquat.

SEVERAL CONCERNS

Acting on the expert panel's suggestions, the Registration Committee, headed by Agriculture Commissioner PK Singh, on June 29 submitted its views.

SLOW MOVE. The Centre's action comes amid growing pressure from States such as Telangana and Odisha, which have already imposed temporary curbs

The Registration Committee has identified several areas of concern, including documented adverse health effects, continued history of poisoning incidents and reported high fatalities, and the absence of a specific antidote among many others.

The committee recommended a complete prohibition of Paraquat Dichloride in India under the Insecticides Act, 1968.

After duly considering the report of the Registration Committee, the Central government is satisfied that "the use of Paraquat Dichloride insecticide is likely to involve risk to human beings and animals as to render it expedient or necessary to take immediate action."

The draft order said that the ban "shall come into force on the date of its final publication in the official gazette" after which no person shall be allowed to import, manufacture, sell, transport, distribute and use Paraquat Dichloride.

The Registration Committee will also call back the certificate of registrations granted for Paraquat Dichloride from all the manufacturers, and the certificate shall be deemed to be cancelled from the date of final publication of the order.

The Centre's move, though slow, comes amid growing pressure from States such as Telangana and Odisha, which have already imposed temporary restrictions and sought permanent intervention by the Centre.

DOMESTIC SALES UP

On the other hand, the ban could significantly alter weed-management practices across cereals, plantation crops and horticulture, and also increase cultivation costs for farmers dependent on chemical weed control.

Paraquat is extensively used in tea, rubber, coffee, cotton, paddy, wheat, maize, potato, grapes and apple cultivation, besides weed control in canals, ponds and waterways.

Its low cost and rapid action have made it one of the preferred non-selective herbicides in Indian agriculture.

Trade data indicate that dependence on the herbicide continued despite safety concerns. Imports rose from 8,598 tonnes in 2019-20 to 20,786 tonnes in 2022-23. Domestic sales, after declining to 74,490 tonnes in 2020-21 from 1.13 lakh tonnes in 2019-20, recovered to 1.05 lakh tonnes in 2023-24.

Telangana banned the sale, distribution and use of Paraquat for 60 days from April 1, the maximum period that States are empowered to impose curbs under existing rules. Earlier attempts by Kerala to sustain curbs were struck down by courts on the grounds that States cannot impose an indefinite ban.

businessline – 15.07.2026

Exporters upbeat on UK market as FTA goes live today

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

Indian exporters, especially in labour-intensive sectors such as apparel, leather, footwear and textiles, are reporting a surge in enquiries from British buyers ahead of the implementation of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement on July 15, as brands move to capitalise on duty-free access for Indian products.

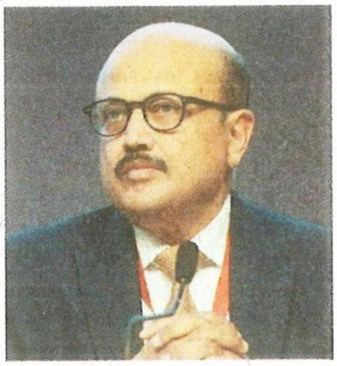
Exporters said the removal of tariffs on most products would boost India's competitiveness in the UK, placing it on a par with rivals such as Bangladesh and Vietnam while giving it an edge over suppliers such as China, which do not enjoy similar preferential access.

"The apparel industry is fully geared to make the most of duty-free access to the UK market," said Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary-General, AEPC.

Details p7

India-UK FTA launches zero-duty access for key exports, boosting competition

Amiti Sen
New Delhi



Rajesh Agrawal, Commerce Secretary

India has completed all domestic processes for implementing the India-UK comprehensive economic and trade agreement (CETA), which takes effect on July 15 and will eliminate import tariffs on most Indian exports to the UK, providing a major competitiveness boost to labour-intensive sectors, the government has said.

The agreement, along with the Double Contribution Convention (DCC), marks one of India's most ambitious trade deals and is expected to provide a fresh impetus to bilateral trade, which the two countries aim to more than double to $100 billion by 2030, up from about $55 billion at present, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said at a media briefing on Tuesday.

The biggest beneficiaries are expected to be sectors such as textiles, garments, leather, footwear, auto parts, chemicals, marine products, agri- processed food and engineering goods, as they currently face relatively high import duties (ranging from 4 per cent to 18 per cent) in the British market, officials said.

"All domestic processes to implement the agreement have been completed and consignments will be flagged off from various parts of the country," Agrawal said. India will continue to protect sensitive sectors including dairy, apples, cereals and most vegetables, he added.

TARIFF ADVANTAGE

"The agreement is expected to reshape competitive dynamics in the UK market by giving Indian exporters a tariff advantage over China and creating a more level playing field with preferential suppliers such as Vietnam, particularly in labour-intensive sectors including apparel, footwear and marine products," an official pointed out. The CETA provides an unprecedented duty-free access to 99 per cent of India's exports to the UK, covering over 99.5 per cent of the trade value, according to figures shared by the Commerce Department.

The UK has also offered deep market access across 137 services sub-sectors and strong commitments in IT/ITeS, business, professional, financial, telecom, and education services. India has opened 89.5 per cent of its tariff lines, covering 91 per cent of the UK's exports while safeguarding sensitive sectors and strategically important products.

businessline – 15.07.2026

Wholesale inflation in June surges to 9.9%

GROWTH DRIVERS. Food articles, metals and chemicals push up prices

Our Bureau
New Delhi

With the rise in fuel and food prices, wholesale inflation based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) rose further to 9.9 per cent in June from 9.7 per cent in May, the government reported on Tuesday. At the same time, the output Producer Price Index (PPI) inflation too rose to 9.6 per cent as against 9.4 per cent in May.

"Across groups, 'mineral oils' (containing petroleum products), 'food articles', 'manufacture of basic metals', and 'manufacture of chemicals and chemical products', have been major drivers of WPI inflation in June," an official statement said.

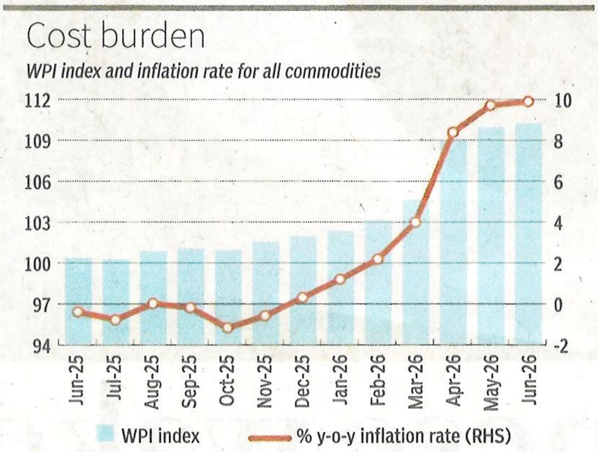
The June print is the second in the new series with the base year of 2022-23. Retail or consumer price index-based inflation, too, had surged to a 17-month high of 4.38 per cent in June, as against 3.93 per cent in the previous month.

"June WPI inflation rose further on account of higher inflation in 'primary articles' (adding 46 bps to headline, led by higher food inflation).

Disinflation in the fuel and power category shaved off 41 bps from headline, partly offsetting the impact of the increase in food inflation," said Aastha Gudwani, India Chief Economist at Barclays.

With the truce between the US and Iran, global commodity prices, in general, and crude oil price, in particular, had taken a breather in June.

"This was reflected in lower fuel and power WPI inflation, but with the peace deal again coming under threat with the re-escalation of tensions in West Asia, we are watchful of incoming WPI and PPI prints. In our view, these inflation prints are closer to peak, and we expect softening over the next few months," added Gudwani.



OIL PRICES

Echoing the same sentiments, Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist with the Bank of Baroda, said crude oil price had come to the low seventies earlier following the peace accord.

Now with the price crossing the $80 mark, it does look like there will be no administered action taken to cool down prices and the status quo on fuel prices will remain for some more time.

Hence, "WPI inflation may be expected to be in the range of 9-10 per cent for the next couple of months, too. A lot will also be dependent on the monsoon and the kharif outcome," he said.

MONSOON EFFECT

Adding to this, Rajni Sinha, Chief Economist with CareEdge, said that on the domestic front, inflation risks stem from below-normal rainfall and the increasing likelihood of El Nino strengthening during the second half of the monsoon season. Food prices, particularly vegetables, pulses and edible oils, remain the most vulnerable to weather-related disruptions and warrant close monitoring. "Taking these factors into account, we project WPI inflation to average around 7 per cent in FY27," she said.

However, she noted that India is relatively better positioned than during previous El Nino episodes, supported by higher reservoir levels and comfortable foodgrain buffer stocks.

Moreover, "historical experience suggests that not all El Nino years have resulted in a sharp rise in food inflation. The extent of any increase will depend on government supply-side interventions as well as the temporal distribution of rainfall," she concluded.

businessline – 15.07.2026

Transform Rural India helps M.P. women earn more

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

Until five years ago, Muliya Kumhare, a smallholder farmer from remote and underdeveloped Pipariya Maal village in Mandla district, Madhya Pradesh, earned a meagre income through subsistence farming.

A training and support initiative from not-for-profit Transform Rural India (TRI) helped her transform agricultural practices, adopt scientific methods and organic inputs, such as *jeevamrit* (a fully natural and fermented organic fertilizer and soil activator), cow dung compost, and neem-based pest management.

What began as a small intervention in vegetable farming has turned into a complete livelihood shift — from uncertainty to empowerment, from subsistence to sustainability, with TRI's help.

LIFTING WOMEN FARMERS. A training and support initiative from TRI helped transform agricultural practices, and adopt scientific methods and organic inputs

AN INSPIRATION

Her transformation, which now earns her more than ₹2 lakh a year, has become an inspiration for other women in the village, who have begun undergoing similar training and cultivation, said a statement from the not-for-profit organisation.

With improved soil health, higher yields and poultry farming as a secondary income source, Kumhare now cultivates over 2.5 acres and earns a stable livelihood. Her journey highlights the direct link between plant health, sustainable farming and rural resilience.

But it came with its own problems. TRI said initially, Muliya had little awareness of scientific cultivation methods, inputs or seasonal crop planning, as she relied on traditional practices.

She was initially hesitant to adopt new methods. Once convinced, she decided to undergo training. The training introduced her to improved techniques such as line sowing, crop rotation and the use of *machaan* (a traditional elevated platform) structures for climbing vegetables.

She was provided with a *machaan* kit by TRI. It became the starting point for her transformation. Gaining confidence, Kumhare began to expand the area under cultivation.

She expressed interest in diversifying her income, and started poultry farming. Today, she maintains 650 chicks and gets an income of ₹75,000 a year.

Kumhare is viewed as a role model by other women in her village, many of whom visit her farm and seek advice on *machaan* building, poultry farming and organic composting.

businessline – 15.07.2026

Rupee's weakness worsens

Akhil Nallamuthu
bl research bureau

The rupee came under strong pressure over the past week. The currency depreciated 1.3 per cent to close at 96.20 against the dollar on Tuesday. Notably, the currency lost about 0.6 per cent on Tuesday alone, highlighting the renewed stress in the market.

WEEKLY RUPEE VIEW.

The primary trigger has been the re-escalation of tensions involving the US and Iran. Concerns over disruptions to global energy supplies resurfaced after reports that the Strait of Hormuz had once again been blocked, reigniting fears in the oil market. As a result, Brent crude futures, currently trading around $86 per barrel, rose over 5 per cent last week and are up 13 per cent so far this week.

The dollar has also strengthened, benefiting from safe-haven demand as geopolitical uncertainty intensified. The stronger greenback has added to the pressure on emerging market currencies, including the rupee.

Domestic macroeconomic indicators are also not offering any relief. India's trade deficit widened to $30.4 billion in June, reflecting elevated import costs. Wholesale inflation also surprised on the upside, with WPI rising to 9.87 per cent in June, compared to market expectations of 9.15 per cent. The wholesale inflation in May was 9.68 per cent.

Foreign flows remained positive, with net FPI inflows amounting to about $1.5 billion over the past week, taking cumulative inflows in July to $2.7 billion. However, the supportive impact of these flows was overshadowed by rising oil prices and renewed risk aversion.

Overall, the fundamental backdrop has turned unfavourable for the rupee. If geopolitical tensions persist and crude prices remain elevated, the pressure on rupee could intensify further.

CHART

The rupee slipped below the crucial support at 95.80 on Tuesday and hit a two-month low of 96.24 before closing at 96.20. The price action suggests that the currency may have resumed its broader downtrend after the corrective recovery seen in recent weeks. From the current level, the rupee is likely to weaken further towards 96.50. A breach of this level can pave the way for a retest of the all-time low at 96.96. On the other hand, if the currency stages a recovery, it can rise to 95.80, which has now turned into a resistance. A breakout above this can lift it further to 95.40. However, given the prevailing bearish momentum, a sustained move above 95.80 appears less likely.

The dollar index, currently hovering around 101, continues to hold above the key support at 100.50. As long as this level remains intact, the broader bias will stay positive. The index also trades above its 21-day and 50-day moving averages, as well as a rising trendline, substantiating the bullish stance.

If the dollar index extends its rally from the current level, it can advance towards 102, which could drag the rupee closer to a record low of 96.96. However, a break below 100.50 can weaken the near-term outlook for the dollar and pull the index down to 100. Such a correction may provide room for the rupee to recover above 95.80.

The fundamental and technical setup remains unfavourable for the rupee. A sustained rise in the dollar index could drag the currency towards 96.50-96.96, while any recovery is likely to face resistance at 95.80.

businessline – 15.07.2026

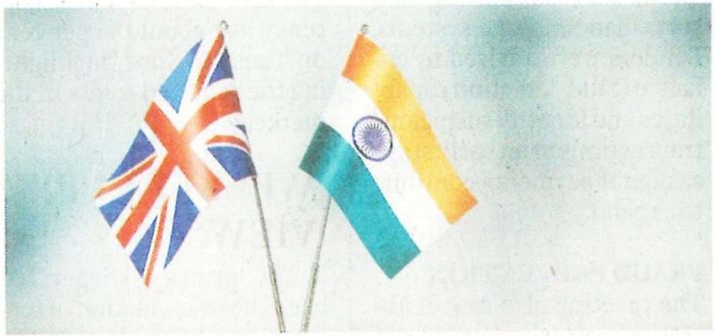
Indian exporters upbeat about competitive edge in UK market

SPARKING INTEREST. Rising enquiries from UK buyers boost confidence, though some exporters await clarity

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

Indian exporters, especially in labour-intensive sectors such as apparel, leather, footwear and textiles, are reporting a surge in enquiries from UK buyers ahead of the implementation of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) on July 15, as brands move to capitalise on duty-free access for a wide range of Indian products.

Exporters said the removal of tariffs on most products from day one would significantly boost India's competitiveness in the UK, placing it on par with rivals such as Bangladesh and Vietnam while giving it an edge over suppliers such as China, which do not enjoy similar preferential access.



TRADE ADVANTAGE. The tariff removal will enhance India's competitiveness in the UK, placing it on par with rivals such as Bangladesh and Vietnam while giving it an edge over China

EXPORT BOOST

"The long wait is over and the apparel industry is fully geared to make the most of duty-free access to the all-important UK market," said Mithileshwar Thakur, Secretary General, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC). He said enquiries from UK buyers had risen sharply as brands began placing spring-season orders and expected India's apparel exports to the UK to double over the next two years.

Thakur, however, noted that lower tariffs improve competitiveness but do not necessarily translate into higher prices for exporters.

Exporters across sectors have aligned operations to leverage preferential market access and expect export momentum to build in the coming months as UK buyers increasingly factor duty savings into sourcing decisions, said Ajay Sahai, Director General, Federation of Indian Export Organisations.

Leather and footwear exporters are equally upbeat. Israr Ahmed, a Chennai-based exporter, said the elimination of import duties — from about 4.5 per cent on some footwear categories to zero — would strengthen India's position in the UK market. "We'll now be on par with countries such as Vietnam and Bangladesh and have an edge over competitors like China," Ahmed said, estimating the agreement could raise India's leather and footwear exports to the UK by around 10 per cent.

CLARITY NEEDED

However, exporters and UK buyers were awaiting clarity on whether consignments already in transit would qualify for preferential tariffs if they arrive after July 15, along with final procedures for online documentation and rules of origin.

On certification, exporters said the government has largely put the framework in place. The Centre has authorised agencies to issue preferential certificates of origin and enabled self-certification.

businessline – 15.07.2026

Fresh 'low' over Bay to revive monsoon

Vinson Kurian
Thiruvananthapuram

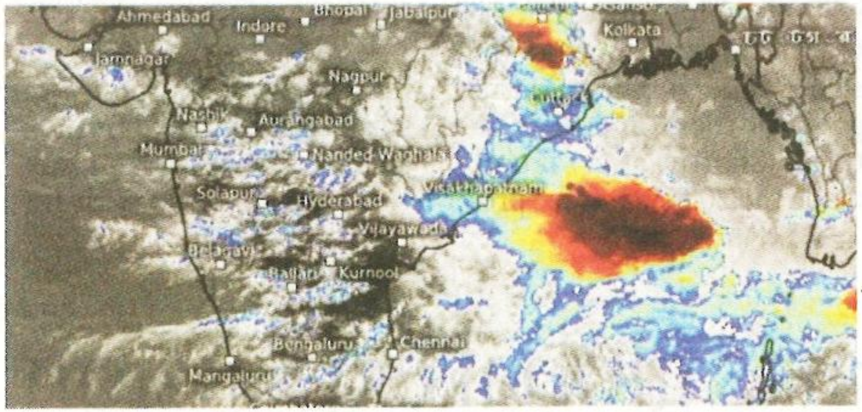
A fresh low-pressure area, only the second of the season, is set to form over the north Bay of Bengal and the adjoining West Bengal-Bangladesh coast by Tuesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday.

The system is expected to revive the monsoon after its current weak phase.

RAINFALL RETREATS

During this weak spell, rainfall has largely retreated from most parts of the country, persisting mainly over East and North-East India and stretches of the East Coast, including Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Ironically, this "break-like" phase is itself nearing an end.

An upper-air cyclonic circulation has already formed over the north Bay and adjoining south Bangladesh, a favourable location for spawning a low-pressure system.



MAKING A COMEBACK. A brewing low-pressure area on Tuesday is bringing back monsoon clouds and heavy rain (in dark red) off the Andhra Pradesh coast

TROUGH BENDS TO SEA

While the circulation has so far channelled rainfall mainly into East and North-East India, the anticipated low is expected to broaden the reach of the monsoon.

Another sign of revival came from the seasonal monsoon trough, the atmospheric spine of the monsoon. On Monday, it extended from Jammu through Dehradun (Uttarakhand), Barabanki (Uttar Pradesh), Patna (Bihar), Bankura and Canning (West Bengal), before dipping into the east-central Bay.

Over the past several days, the eastern end of the trough has remained over the plains and locked against the Himalayan foothills, a classic indicator of a weak monsoon.

WEST PACIFIC CHURN

The monsoon trough's southward shift over the Bay, along with the formation of a low-pressure area, is set to revive monsoon activity across wider regions. The spread of the revival, however, will hinge on the strength, track, intensity and lifespan of the system.

The system traces its origins to weather disturbances over the western Pacific. Typhoon Bavi, after skirting Taiwan and crossing southern China, helped energise the region before moving towards the Korean Peninsula.

Tropical storm Haishen was also active east of the Philippines on Monday, sustaining the chain of disturbances that often spawn Bay low-pressure systems.

businessline – 15.07.2026

Trump drops plan to levy 20% fee for Hormuz Strait cargo

FRESH OFFER. To take up trade and investment deals with the Gulf states

Reuters

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday dropped the idea of charging a 20 per cent fee on all cargo shipped through the Strait of Hormuz, and said he would instead take trade and investment deals with the Gulf states. The change of plan comes a day after Trump proposed charging a 20 per cent fee to guard the waterway.

"Based on highly productive conversations with Middle East leadership, I have decided to replace the 20 per cent United States Reimbursement Fee with Trade and Investment Deals that the various Gulf States will be making into the United States," he said in a post on Truth Social.

Trump did not mention any commitments by Gulf states, saying investments will be massive but, at the same time, extraordinarily good for them, and their future." Shortly after Trump made the 20 per cent fee proposal on Monday, the UN's shipping agency said it opposed fees on ships passing through maritime waterways but added it would await more details of what Trump had in mind.

US President Donald Trump

NEW WAVE OF ATTACKS

In his post on Tuesday, Trump declared the Strait of Hormuz was open to all ship traffic except for Iran.

"We will therefore have a full blockade, but only on ships coming to and from Iranian ports, or carrying anything having to do with Iranian cargo," he said. Iran fired ballistic missiles at a US air base in Jordan on Tuesday, and the US attacked Iranian targets for five hours in a battle for control of the Strait of Hormuz that has pushed up oil prices to four-week highs.

US forces launched waves of attacks for the third successive night after Iran said on Saturday it was closing the Strait, prompting US President Donald Trump to reinstate a blockade of Iranian shipping and propose charging a 20 per cent fee to guard the vital waterway. The strikes have increased doubts that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed last month will lead to a permanent halt in the war, which has disrupted global energy supplies and raised fears of a rise in inflation across the world.

Regional analysts said the hostilities remained within controlled boundaries for now, with both sides seeking leverage for an eventual peace deal, but that there was still a risk of fighting spinning out of control.

"I doubt the two sides will resume a full war, especially as Trump will suffer — though there is also a distinct possibility that the Iranians will overplay their hand. That is true of Trump too, of course," said Yezid Sayigh, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Middle East Centre.

The war has proved unpopular in the US, where gasoline prices have risen since the start of the war and congressional elections are looming in November.

Vyapar – 15.07.2026

મુંબઈમાં ખુલ્લો મુકાયો દેશનો સૌથી મોટો ગારમેન્ટ મેળો

મુંબઈ, તા. ૧૪ જુલાઈ

ક્લોધિંગ મેન્યુફેક્ચરર્સ એસોસિએશન ઓફ ઈન્ડિયા (સીએમએઆઈ) ના 'નેશનલ ગારમેન્ટ ફેર' (એનજીએફ)ની ૮૩મી આવૃત્તિનો આજથી મુંબઈમાં પ્રારંભ થયો છે. આગામી ૧૫ જુલાઈ ૨૦૨૬ સુધી ચાલનારો આ મેળો ભારતના સૌથી મોટા બીટુબી એપેરલ સોર્સિંગ ઈવેન્ટ્સમાંથી એક છે, જે આ વર્ષે મુંબઈમાં બે અલગ-અલગ જગ્યાએ યોજાઈ રહ્યો છે. આ આયોજન હેઠળ વિમેન્સવેર સેગમેન્ટ ગોરેગાંવના બોમ્બે એક્ઝિબિશન સેન્ટર ખાતે અને મેન્સવેર સેગમેન્ટ બાંદ્રા-કુર્લા કોમ્પ્લેક્સના એમએમઆરડીએ ગ્રાઉન્ડ ખાતે રાખવામાં આવ્યું છે.

આ મેળાનું ઉદ્ઘાટન મુખ્ય અતિથિઓ રોહિત કેડિયા (સ્ટાઈલ બજાર, કોલકાતા), પંકજ મિરચંદાની (કલામંદિર, ઈન્દોર) અને દિવેશ માલવે (તરુણી ક્લોધિંગ, હૈદરાબાદ) દ્વારા સીએમએઆઈના હોદ્દેદારો અને દેશભરના અગ્રણી છૂટક વેપારીઓની હાજરીમાં કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. આગામી તહેવારો અને લગ્નની સિઝનને ધ્યાનમાં રાખીને આ મેળો ભારતીય ગારમેન્ટ ઉદ્યોગ માટે એક વ્યૂહાત્મક પ્લેટફોર્મ પૂરું પાડે છે. આશરે ૪૦,૦૦૦ ચોરસ મીટર કરતાં વધુ વિસ્તારમાં ફેલાયેલા આ પ્રદર્શનમાં વિમેન્સવેરની ૬૦૦થી વધુ અને મેન્સવેરની ૩૪૫ બ્રાન્ડ્સ સહિત ૪૫ એક્સેસરીઝ બ્રાન્ડ્સ આકર્ષણનું કેન્દ્ર બની છે. બજારના અગ્રણી ખરીદદારો માટે અહીં ખાસ પ્લેટિનમ સુવિધાઓ પણ ઉપલબ્ધ કરાવાઈ છે.

આ પ્રદર્શનમાં જુનિપર, ઝોલા, ડ્રેસલાઈન અને લિવા જેવી પ્રખ્યાત વિમેન્સવેર બ્રાન્ડ્સ તેમજ ટર્ટલ, સ્પેયર્ડ અને રે ચેનલ જેવી જાણીતી મેન્સવેર બ્રાન્ડ્સ પોતાના લેટેસ્ટ કલેક્શન રજૂ કરી રહી છે. આ મેળામાં માત્ર ભારતના જ નહીં પરંતુ યુએઈ, ઓસ્ટ્રેલિયા, બાંગ્લાદેશ, આયર્લેન્ડ અને ઈટાલી જેવા અનેક વિદેશી દેશોના વિતરકો, જથ્થાબંધ વેપારીઓ અને ટ્રેડ બાયર્સ ભાગ લઈ રહ્યા છે.

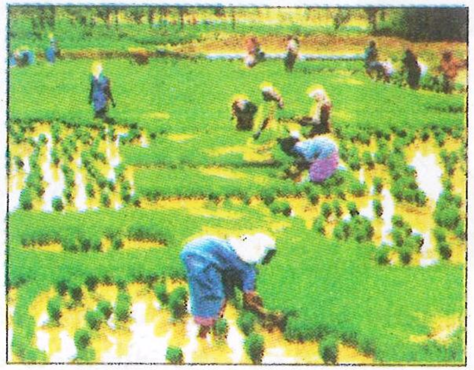
સીએમએઆઈના પ્રમુખ સંતોષ કટારિયાએ જણાવ્યું હતું કે, હાલમાં દેશના ટાયર-૨ અને ટાયર-૩ શહેરોમાં વધી રહેલા વપરાશને કારણે ભારતીય ગારમેન્ટ બજાર મજબૂત ગ્રોથ તરફ આગળ વધી રહ્યું છે, જેમાં આ મેળો વેપારીઓને નવીનતમ કલેક્શન મેળવવામાં અને ઉત્પાદકો સાથે સીધી ભાગીદારી કરવામાં મદદરૂપ બનશે. આ સાથે જ સીએમએઆઈના વાઇસ પ્રેસિડેન્ટ રોહિત મુંજાલે ઉમેર્યું કે આ પ્લેટફોર્મ એમએસએમઈથી લઈને દેશના મોટા ઉત્પાદકો અને બ્રાન્ડ્સ તમામને વેપારના વિસ્તરણ માટે સમાન તકો પૂરી પાડે છે. મુલાકાતીઓની સુવિધા માટે સીએમએઆઈ દ્વારા રેલ્વે સ્ટેશન અને બંને પ્રદર્શન સ્થળો વચ્ચે ખાસ ફ્રી કાર શટલ સર્વિસ અને સમર્પિત બેસ્ટ બસ સેવાની વ્યવસ્થા પણ કરવામાં આવી છે, જેથી ખરીદદારો સરળતાથી અવરજવર કરી શકે.

Vyapar – 15.07.2026

અસમાન ચોમાસું અને ધીમું વાવેતર : ખાદ્ય ફુગાવાનું સંકટ

વ્યાપાર વિશ્વ

જી. ચંદ્રશેખર



૧ જુલાઈથી દેશના પશ્ચિમ અને મધ્ય ભાગોમાં સાત કે આઠ દિવસની નોંધપાત્ર વરસાદી પ્રવૃત્તિ સાથે, એવી આશા જાગી રહી છે કે દેશ કદાચ વ્યાપક દુષ્કાળમાંથી બચી ગયો છે. છતાં, ચિંતાઓ પુષ્કળ છે કારણ કે દેશના મોટા ભાગો હજુ પણ વરસાદની તીવ્ર અછતનો સામનો કરી રહ્યા છે.

૧૨ જુલાઈ સુધીમાં, કેટલાક મુખ્ય હવામાન સબ-ડિવિઝનોએ ૨૫% થી ૫૦% ની અછત નોંધાવી છે. ખાસ કરીને, ગુજરાતમાં સૌરાષ્ટ્ર અને કચ્છ, પંજાબ, પૂર્વ ઉત્તર પ્રદેશ, બિહાર, ઝારખંડ, છત્તીસગઢ, મહારાષ્ટ્રના વિદર્ભ અને મરાઠવાડા તેમજ તેલંગાણા, આંધ્ર પ્રદેશ અને કર્ણાટક પ્રભાવિત થયા છે. બીજા શબ્દોમાં કહીએ તો, વરસાદની ભૌગોલિક વહેંચણી અસમાન રહી છે.

સેન્ટ્રલ વેધર વોચ ગ્રુપનો તાજેતરનો અહેવાલ દર્શાવે છે કે ખરીફ પાકો માટેના વાવેતર વિસ્તારની પ્રગતિ ગયા વર્ષના સ્તર કરતાં પાછળ ચાલી રહી છે, કેટલાક કિસ્સાઓમાં મોટા તફાવતથી. વિવિધ પાકો પર નજર કરીએ તો, ૫ જુલાઈ સુધીમાં વાવેતર વિસ્તારમાં એકંદર ઘટાડો ૯૨ લાખ હેક્ટર છે, જ્યારે તેલીબિયાં અને કપાસમાં અનુક્રમે ૪૩ લાખ હેક્ટર અને ૧૯ લાખ હેક્ટરનો વધુ તીવ્ર ઘટાડો નોંધાયો છે.

નૈઋત્ય ચોમાસાના મોડા આગમન અને ધીમી પ્રગતિ સાથે, વાવેતરની સમયમર્યાદા ઝડપથી બંધ થઈ રહી છે. એક અઠવાડિયા કરતાં પણ ઓછો સમય ઉપલબ્ધ છે અને તે પણ મગ, મકાઈ અને બાજરી જેવા ટૂંકા ગાળાના પાકોના વાવેતર માટે.

કેન્દ્રીય કૃષિ મંત્રાલયનો સાપ્તાહિક વાવેતર અહેવાલ એ રાજ્ય સરકારો દ્વારા સબમિટ કરાયેલા અહેવાલોનું સંકલન છે. સામાન્ય રીતે, ડેટા એકત્રિત કરવામાં અને તેના પ્રસારણમાં સમયનો વિલંબ (હફલ) હોય છે. આ મહિનાના અંત સુધીમાં આપણને વાવેતર વિસ્તાર અને તેના પરથી પાકની સંભાવનાઓ વિશે વાજબી રીતે સારો ખ્યાલ આવી શકે છે.

તે વધુને વધુ સ્પષ્ટ થઈ રહ્યું છે કે જુલાઈના બીજા ભાગમાં અને સમગ્ર ઓગસ્ટ મહિનામાં વરસાદની ભૌગોલિક વહેંચણી નિર્ણાયક રહેશે. તે જોતાં, આપણે આ સમયે લણણીની સંભાવનાઓ વિશે કોઈ પણ ઉતાવળિયા નિષ્કર્ષ પર કૂદી શકીએ નહીં.

ચોમાસા પર નિર્ભર કૃષિ સામાન્ય રીતે મોટા આશ્ચર્યો સર્જતી નથી. આપણે ચોખા, જાડા ધાન્ય, કઠોળ, તેલીબિયાં અને કપાસના નીચા ઉત્પાદન માટે તૈયાર રહેવું પડશે. અછત અને ખાદ્ય ફુગાવાને નકારી શકાય તેમ નથી.

સરકારને વર્તમાન ખાદ્ય સુરક્ષા અને ખાદ્ય ફુગાવાની સ્થિતિની સમીક્ષા કરવાની ફરજ પડી શકે છે. ચોમાસું કેવી રીતે આગળ વધે છે તેના આધારે, ઈથેનોલ માટે શેરડી, મકાઈ અને ચોખા જેવા કાચા માલના ડાયવર્ઝન પર નિયંત્રણો આવી શકે છે. સ્થાનિક ઉપલબ્ધતા સુનિશ્ચિત કરવા માટે બિન-બાસમતી ચોખાની નિકાસ મર્યાદિત થઈ શકે છે. ખાદ્ય તેલ, કઠોળ અને કપાસની મોટા પાયે આયાત તો ચોક્કસપણે પૂર્વ-નિર્ધારિત જ છે.

સદભાગ્યે, દેશ ચોખા અને ઘઉંનો પૂરતો બફર સ્ટોક ધરાવે છે. આ સ્ટોક્સને ખૂબ જ સમજદારીપૂર્વક તૈનાત કરવા પડશે. ખરીફ લણણી પછી, રવિ વાવેતરની સંભાવનાઓ ઓક્ટોબર અને નવેમ્બર દરમિયાન જમીનની અંદરના ભેજની ઉપલબ્ધતા તેમજ ડિસેમ્બર અને જાન્યુઆરીમાં શિયાળાના વરસાદ પર નિર્ભર રહેશે.

Vyapar – 15.07.2026

કપાસ સહિતની જણસોના વાવેતર વધ્યા : વરસાદની ખેંચથી મોટી ખાધ

કપાસની વાવણી ગુજરાતમાં ૧૬.૭૫ લાખ હેક્ટર સુધી થઇ : બધા પાકનું વાવેતર હજુ ૫૦ ટકા નથી થયું

અમારા પ્રતિનિધિ તરફથી

રાજકોટ, તા. ૧૪ જુલાઇ

વરસાદના પહેલા રાઉન્ડ પછી સપ્તાહ કોરુંકટ્ટ ગયું છે. ફરી વરસાદની લાંબી ઈંતેજારી ગુજરાત કરી રહ્યું છે પણ એ વચ્ચે વરાપ નીકળતા ખેડૂતોએ વાવણીકાર્ય ઝડપભેર આગળ વધારી દીધું છે. ગુજરાતમાં છેલ્લાં એક સપ્તાહમાં ૧૧૪ ટકા જેટલો ઉછાળો વાવેતર વિસ્તારમાં આવ્યો છે. આમ છતાં ગયા વર્ષની તુલનાએ મોટી ખાધ વાવણીમાં રહી ગઇ છે.

ગુજરાતભરમાં અત્યાર સુધીમાં ૩૯.૭૨ લાખ હેક્ટરમાં વાવેતર કરવામાં આવ્યું છે. જે ગયા વર્ષમાં આ સમયે ૫૦.૨૭ લાખ હેક્ટરમાં હતુ. વરસાદના વિલંબને લીધે મોટી ખાધ વિસ્તારમાં રહી ગઇ છે. જોકે હવે સમગ્ર ગુજરાતની વાવણી ૫૦ ટકાની નજીક પહોંચવા આવી છે. છતાં હજુ અનેક વિસ્તારો વરસાદ વિહોણા છે અને વાવેતર માટે ખેડૂતો બીજ હાથમાં રાખીને રાહ જોઇ રહ્યા છે. આઠ દસ દિવસમાં વાવણીલાયક વરસાદ થાય તો વાવેતર વિસ્તારમાં વધારો થશે. અન્યથા ફરીથી આંકડો ફરવાનું બંધ થઇ જશે.

પાછલા સપ્તાહે અનેક રાજ્યમાં થયેલા વરસાદ પછી કપાસના વાવેતરની ખાધમાં મોટો ઘટાડો થયો છે. વરસાદ પૂર્વે ૨૫ ટકા ખાધ હતી પણ વરસાદ પછી હવે ખાધ આશરે ૯ ટકા રહી છે. દેશભરમાં કપાસનું વાવેતર ૬૬ લાખ હેક્ટર થઇ ગયું છે, ગયા વર્ષમાં વાવેતર ૭૨ લાખ હેક્ટર હતુ. અલબત્ત ગુજરાતના ખેડૂતો કપાસના વાવેતરથી અલિપ્ત થઇ રહ્યા છે. ગુજરાતમાં વાવણીલાયક વરસાદ અનેક સ્થળે થયો નથી. આગોતરો કપાસ હતો ત્યાં બળી પણ ગયો છે. ગુજરાતમાં કપાસનું વાવેતર ૧૬.૭૫ લાખ હેક્ટરમાં થઇ ગયું છે. જે પાછલા સપ્તાહે ૯.૩૧ લાખ હેક્ટર હતુ. આમ હવે ગયા વર્ષના ૧૮.૫૦ લાખ હેક્ટરની નજીકનો આંકડો થઇ ગયો છે. હજુ દસેક દિવસમાં વરસાદ પડવાની આગાહી છે એટલે ખેડૂતો બાકી છે તે વરસાદ આવી જાય તો વાવેતર કરી લેશે. એ જોતા જુલાઇ દરમિયાન ગુજરાતમાં હજુ વાવણી થવાની શક્યતા વધારે છે.

જોકે બીજા મહત્વના ગણાતા મગફળીના પાકનું વાવેતર ઘણું જ પાછળ રહી ગયું છે. ગયા વર્ષમાં કુલ ૨૨ લાખ હેક્ટર વાવેતર હતુ. તેની તુલનાએ અત્યારે માત્ર ૧૩.૮૫ લાખ હેક્ટરમાં વાવેતર થઇ ગયું છે. પાછલા વર્ષે આ દિવસે ૧૮.૫૦ લાખ હેક્ટર સુધી વાવણી પહોંચી હતી. અત્યારે જાણકારો એવું માને છેકે વાવેતર વિસ્તાર ફક્ત ૧૮-૨૦ લાખ હેક્ટર આસપાસ સમેટાઇ જઇ શકે છે.

ગુજરાતમાં વાવણી

પાક	૨૦૨૫	૨૦૨૬
કપાસ	૧૮.૫૬	૧૬.૭૫
મગફળી	૧૮.૫૦	૧૩.૮૫
તલ	૦.૧૮	૦.૦૪
એરંડા	૦.૧૯	૦.૦૫
સોયાબીન	૧.૯૦	૧.૭૫
તુવેર	૦.૮૧	૦.૫૪
કુલ વાવણી	૫૦.૫૭	૩૯.૭૨

(આંકડા લાખ હેક્ટરમાં, ૧૩ જુલાઇ)

કઠોળનું કુલ વાવેતર ૧.૩૩ લાખ હેક્ટર સામે ૭૦ હજાર હેક્ટરમાં જ થયું છે. જ્યારે અનાજનો વિસ્તાર ૩.૮૪ લાખ સામે ૩.૦૨ લાખ હેક્ટર રહ્યો છે. તેલિબિયાંમાં તલનું વાવેતર ૧૮ હજાર સામે ફક્ત સાડા ચાર હજાર હેક્ટર બતાવાય છે. જ્યારે સોયાબીનનો વિસ્તાર ૧.૯૦ લાખ હેક્ટર સામે ૧.૭૫ લાખ હેક્ટર થયો છે. વરસાદની ખેંચ રહેશે એટલે સોયાબીનનો વિસ્તાર ચોક્કસપણે વધી જાય એમ જણાય છે.

Vyapar – 15.07.2026

પૂર પછી કાપડ માર્કેટ ફરી શરૂ : મિલોમાં ઉત્પાદનને ૫૦ ટકા અસર

અમારા પ્રતિનિધિ તરફથી

સુરત, તા. ૧૪ જુલાઇ

ભારે વરસાદને કારણે ગયા સપ્તાહે કાપડનું ઉત્પાદન ઠપ્પ થયું હતું તો ૩૦થી વધુ કાપડમાર્કેટોમાં પાણીનો ભરાવો થતાં વેપાર બંધ થયો હતો. સપ્તાહના અંત સધી સફાઈનું કામકાજ થયા બાદ સોમવારથી કાપડ માર્કેટોમાં કામકાજ રાબેતા મુજબ થયા છે પણ નુકશાનીનો આંક કરોડોમાં પહોંચ્યો છે. આ તરફ મીલોમાં ઉત્પાદન ૫૦ ટકા પ્રભાવિત થયાનું જાણવા મળ્યું છે.

ભારે વરસાદને કારણે શહેરની ૩૦થી વધુ કાપડમાર્કેટોમાં ભોંયતળિયા અને ગ્રાઉન્ડ ફ્લોર સુધી પાણી ભરાયા હતા. જેના કારણે ગ્રાઉન્ડ ફ્લોરમાં આવેલી વેપારીઓની દુકાન અને શો-રૂમમાં ભારે નુકશાન થયું છે. તેમજ ભોંયતળિયામાં રાખેલા વાહનોને પણ મોટાપાયે નુકશાન થયું છે. પ્રાપ્ત થતી માહિતી મુજબ સારોલી વિસ્તારમાં કાપડમાર્કેટના વેપારીઓનો મોટી સંખ્યામાં ગોડાઉનો આવેલા છે. ગોડાઉનો ગ્રાઉન્ડ ફ્લોર પર હોવાથી પાણીનો ભરાવો થતાં માલ પલળી ગયાનું બહાર આવ્યું છે. તેમજ ટ્રાન્સપોર્ટમાં રવાના થનાર માલને પણ નુકશાન થયું છે. આ નુકશાનીનો આંક હજુ બહાર આવ્યો નથી. પણ નુકશાની કરોડોમાં હોવાનું કહેવાય છે.

કાપડ માર્કેટોના સંગઠન ફોસ્ટાના સેક્રેટરી દિનેશ કટારિયા કહે છે કે, માર્કેટમાં પાણી તો ઉતરી ગયા છે પણ ઘણી જગ્યાએ હજુ સફાઈનું કામકાજ ચાલી રહ્યું છે. જો કે રીંગરોડની બધી માર્કેટો રાબેતામુજબ શરૂ થઈ છે. આ સપ્તાહથી આગાહી તહેવારો માટેના બુકિંગ પણ ચાલુ થયા છે. જો કે કાપડના વેપારીઓને ગોડાઉનોમાં મોટો માલ પલળી ગયાનું અમને જાણમાં આવ્યું છે. અમે ગત સપ્તાહે ઘણી માર્કેટોની મુલાકાત લઈ કેટલું પાણી આવ્યું છે અને નુકશાન થયું છે તેનો અંદાજ કાઢવાનો પ્રયાસ કર્યો હતો. રાજ્યના નાયબ મુખ્યપ્રધાન હર્ષભાઈ સંઘવીએ પણ મુલાકાત લીધી હતી. તે વેળાએ અમે પાણી ભરાવાની સમસ્યાઓ રજૂ કરી હતી.

કાપડઉદ્યોગની બધી ચેનલોને ભારે વરસાદની સમસ્યાઓ આવી છે. મીલોની વાત કરતાં દક્ષિણ ગુજરાત ટેક્સટાઇલ પ્રોસેસર્સ એસોસીએશનના પ્રમુખ જીતેન્દ્ર વખારીયા કહે છે કે, ગત સપ્તાહે વરસાદ શરૂ થયો તે દિવસથી પાંચ દિવસ લગભગ કામકાજ બંધ જેવું જ રહ્યું હતું. જેના કારણે ઉત્પાદને લગભગ ૫૦ ટકા અસર થઈ છે. સીઇટીપીમાં પ્રક્રિયા શરૂ થઈ છે. પરંતુ પાંડેસરામાં એસએમસીના પાણીનો ફોર્સ ઓછો આવતો હોવાથી મીલોને પાણીના જથ્થાની સમસ્યા છે. અમે આ મામલે એસએમસી અધિકારીઓને રજૂઆત કરી છે. પાણીના ફોર્સની સમસ્યા ઉકેલાય તો ઉત્પાદન રાબેતા મુજબ થશે. સચીન વિસ્તારમાં કામકાજ ઉત્પાદન રાબેતામુજબ થયાના અહેવાલ છે. જો કે કામકાજ બંધ રહેવાથી અને પાણી ભરાવાથી કેટલું નુકશાન થયું છે તેનો અંદાજ કાઢવામાં થોડો સમય લાગી શકે છે.

આ ઉપરાંત પાવરલૂમ એકમોના ખાતાઓમાં પણ પાણી ભરાવાથી નુકશાનીના અહેવાલ સાંપડ્યા છે. પાણી નિકાલ અને સફાઈનું કામકાજ ઘણા ખરા ખાતાઓમાં પૂર્ણ થયું છે પણ ઘણા એકમોમાં હજુ સફાઈ ચાલી રહી હોવાનું કહેવાય છે.

સરકાર સહાય પેકેજ જાહેર કરે તેવી શક્યતા

ખાડીપૂરને કારણે થયેલા નુકશાનમાં રાહત માટે રાજ્ય સરકાર સહાય પેકેજ જાહેર કરે તેવી શક્યતા છે. સરકારે ૭૮ કલાકમાં સર્વેની કામગીરી પૂરી થયા બાદ પેકેજ જાહેર કરવાનું કહ્યું છે. રાજ્યના નાયબ મુખ્યપ્રધાને વરાછા બેન્કની ફલડ લોનના લોકાપર્ણ વખતે સરકાર ફૂલ નહીં તો ફૂલની પાંખડી પણ અસરગ્રસ્તોને આપશે તેવું કહ્યું હતું. એકાદ-બે દિવસમાં પેકેજ આવે તેવી સંભાવના છે.

વરાછા બૅન્કે ફ્લડ લોનની યોજના જાહેર કરી

લોકોને ઝડપથી આર્થિક નુકશાનીમાં બહાર લાવવા માટે તમામ સ્તરે પ્રયાસો ચાલી રહ્યા છે. સરકારે ભવિષ્યમાં ખાડીપૂર અટકાવવા માટે રૂા. ૫૦૦ કરોડના ખાડી રીડેવલપેમન્ટ માટે પેકેજ જાહેર કર્યું છે. ઝડપથી સફાઈ અભિયાન હાથ ધરી અસરગ્રસ્તોને કેશડોલ આપવામાં આવી રહી છે. બેન્કો પણ આ લોકોના જીવનધોરણને સામાન્ય બનાવવામાં આગળ આવી છે. વરાછા કો. ઓ. બેન્કે પાંચ લાખ સુધીની મર્યાદામાં ૯ ટકાના વ્યાજવાળી ફલડ લોન યોજના જાહેર કરી છે. આ સાથે જ પૂર અને પાણી ભરાવા સામે રક્ષણ આપતી વિશેષ વીમા યોજના પણ શરૂ કરાઈ છે. ચેરમેન નરેન્દ્રભાઈ કુકડીયાએ કહ્યું હતું કે, મુખ્ય કચેરી ખાતે એક ખાસ ડેડિકેટેડ સ્પેસ પણ તૈયાર કરવામાં આવ્યું છે, નવી વીમા યોજના પણ શરૂ કરાઈ છે. સુરતમાં ખાડી પૂરના કાયમી ઉકેલ માટે રૂ. ૫૦૦ કરોડ મંજૂર કરાયા છે અને વહીવટી તંત્ર દ્વારા અસરગ્રસ્તોને ઘરદીઠ રૂ. ૬,૮૦૦ ની તાકીદની કેશડોલ સહાય ચૂકવવાની કામગીરી પણ ચાલુ છે.

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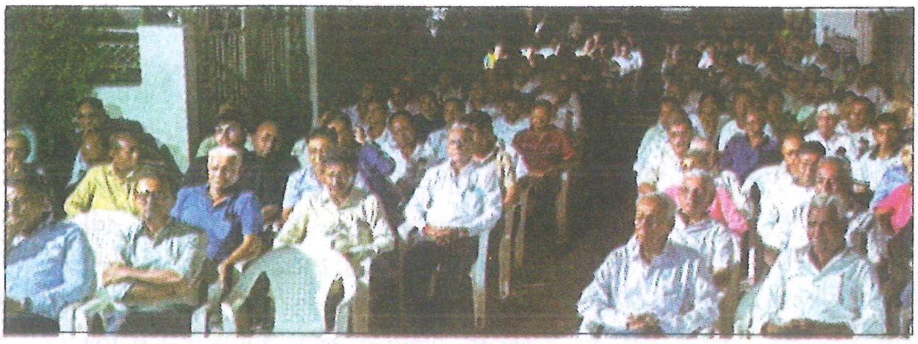
દક્ષિણ ગુજરાતમાં પાવરગ્રીડ લાઇન મુદ્દે ખેડૂતો આકરા પાણીએ

બેઠકમાં થાંભલા ઉખેડી ફેંકી દેવા સુધીનો નિર્ધાર : બજાર કિંમત કરતાં ચાર ગણા ભાવની માગ



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ઘણા સમયથી દક્ષિણ ગુજરાતના જિલ્લાઓમાંથી પસાર થનાર હાઇટેન્શન લાઇનને લઈને ખેડૂતોમાં ગુસ્સો અને આક્રોશ જોવા મળી રહ્યો છે. પાવર ગ્રીડ કોર્પોરેશન લિમિટેડ દ્વારા હાઇટેન્શન લાઇન મામલે ખેડૂતો સાથે કરવામાં આવી રહેલી છેતરપિંડી સામે દક્ષિણ ગુજરાતના જિલ્લાના ખેડૂતો આકરા પાણીએ છે.

તાજેતરમાં ઓલપાડમાં યોજાયેલી અસરગ્રસ્ત ખેડૂતોની એક બેઠકમાં ખેડૂતો આકરા પાણીએ નજરે પડ્યા હતા. બેઠકમાં વિરોધનો એકસૂર કરી પાવરગ્રીડ હાઇટેન્શન લાઇનના થાંભલા ઉખેડી ફેંકી દેવાનો નિર્ધાર ખેડૂતોએ કર્યો હતો.

ખેડૂત આગેવાનોના ખેડૂતોને બજાર કિંમતના ચાર ગણા ભાવ આપવા માટે માગ કરાઈ રહી છે. આ માટે કલેક્ટરને રજૂઆત કરવામાં આવશે. બેઠકમાં સુરત જિલ્લાના કામરેજ, પલસાણા, બારડોલી સહિતના તાલુકાના અસરગ્રસ્ત ખેડૂતો ઉપસ્થિત રહ્યા હતા. સૌ આગેવાનોએ પાવરગ્રીડ અને સરકારની ખેડૂત વિરોધી નીતિને વખોડી કાઢી હતી.

દક્ષિણ ગુજરાત ખેડૂત સમાજના પ્રમુખ રમેશ પટેલે ખેડૂતોના પ્રશ્ને સંગઠિત થઈ લડી લેવાની વાત કરી હતી. ગુજરાત કોંગ્રેસ કિશાન સેલના પ્રમુખ જયેશ પટેલે(પાલ) પાવરગ્રીડ લાઈન મુદ્દે કાયદાકીય વિસ્તૃત ચર્ચા કરતાં કહ્યું હતું કે સરકાર માલેતુજારોની સરકાર છે.

આવનાર દિવસોમાં ઓલપાડ તાલુકામાં કુલ ૮ લાઈનો જનાર છે. જે કોઈ પણ વિસ્તારમાં કોઈ પણ ખેડૂતના ખેતરોમાંથી જઈ શકે એમ છે. સરકારની નીતિ ખેડૂત વિરોધી અને ઉદ્યોગોને લાભ કરનારી છે.

જો ખેડૂત સંગઠિત ન થશે તો આવનાર દિવસોમાં ખૂબ કપરા આવવાના છે. ભૂતકાળમાં અમે સર, એક્સપ્રેસ હાઇવે આંદોલન જેવા અનેક આંદોલનો સરકાર સામે કર્યા છે. ફરી એક વખત સરકાર સામે બાંયો ચઢાવવાનો સમય પાકી ગયો છે.

તેમણે ઉમેર્યું હતું કે, ખેડૂતોની બજાર કિંમતથી ચાર ગણા આપવાની માંગ છે. માગ નહીં સંતોષાય તો થાંભલા તોડી નાખીશું. ભૂતકાળમાં સ્થાનિક ધારાસભ્ય એ પદ ગુમાવવું પડ્યું છે, આવનાર દિવસોમાં ૨૦૨૭માં ધારાસભ્યપદ પણ ગુમાવવું પડે તેવી સ્થિતિનું નિર્માણ કરાશે. એકસમયે દક્ષિણ ગુજરાત સમગ્ર દેશને રાહ ચિંધતો હતો, ફરીથી થાય એ માટે જાગૃત કરવાનો પ્રયાસ કરાશે.

રાજ્યમાં ચાર સ્થળોએ છાવણી સ્થપાશે અને ખેડૂતોને જાગૃત કરાશે. ટૂંક સમયમાં ઉત્તર ગુજરાતનો દક્ષિણમાં અને દક્ષિણનો આગેવાન સૌરાષ્ટ્રમાં જશે અને ખેડૂતોને જાગૃત કરશે.

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આઠ ઇંચ વરસાદ છતાં બનાસકાંઠામાં ખરીફ વાવેતર સંકટમાં

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અલનીનોની અસર વચ્ચે સમગ્ર દેશમાં સામાન્ય કરતા ઓછા વરસાદની શક્યતા છે ત્યારે દક્ષિણ ગુજરાત અને સૌરાષ્ટ્રના અમુક જિલ્લાઓને બાદ કરતા અનેક વિસ્તારો હજુ કોરાધાકોડ છે. સાબરકાંઠા જિલ્લામાં વરસાદ ગાયબ થઇ ગયો છે. ૮ તાલુકામાં અત્યાર સુધીમાં મોસમનો દોઢથી ૮ ઇંચ વરસાદ નોંધાયો હોવા છતાં ૮૯,૭૦૦ હેક્ટરથી વધુ ખરીફ વાવેતર પર વરસાદની અછતના કારણે ગંભીર સંકટ ઘેરાયું છે.

અષાઢ મહિનો શરૂ થવા જઈ રહ્યો છે ત્યારે સવારે વાદળો ગોરંભાય અને બપોરે આકાશ સ્વચ્છ થયા પછી ગરમીનો પારો ઉંચકાતાં ખેડૂતો માટે આગામી વર્ષ કેવું રહેશે તેની ચિંતાઓ શરૂ થઈ છે. જિલ્લાના ૮ તાલુકા પૈકી ઈડર, ખેડબ્રહ્મા, પોશીના અને વડાલી તાલુકામાં ૧૦ ટકાથી પણ ઓછો મોસમનો વરસાદ નોંધાતાં સંકટ વધુ ઘેરાઈ રહ્યું છે.

ઉત્તર ગુજરાતમાં જુલાઈના પ્રથમ સપ્તાહમાં વરસાદ નોંધાયા પછી વરસાદ રીસામણે બેસતાં હવે આગામી દિવસોમાં જ મેઘરાજાને મનાવવા માટે યજ્ઞો અને પ્રાર્થનાઓ શરુ કરાય તેવી સ્થિતિ છે. ગત સપ્તાહે જિલ્લાના હિંમતનગર, પ્રાંતિજ, તલોદ, વડાલી અને વિજયનગરમાં આગોતરા ખરીફ વાવેતરને જીવતદાન આપનારો વરસાદ વરસ્યો હતો.

બીજી બાજુ અનેક વિસ્તારોમાં વાવણી લાયક વરસાદ પછી ખરીફ વાવણીમાં ઉછાળો આવ્યો છે પરંતુ પાછલા સપ્તાહથી વરસાદ અદ્રશ્ય થઈ જતાં અને બપોર થતાં ગરમી અનુભવાય છે જેના કારણે જમીનમાં ધરબેલું બિયારણ ગરમી-બફારાથી નિષ્ફળ જાય તેવો ખેડૂતોને ભય સતાવી રહ્યો છે.

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ભારે તાપ વચ્ચે વરસાદના નવા રાઉન્ડની સંભાવના

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મોન્સૂન ટ્રફ સિસ્ટમ અને વેસ્ટર્ન ડિસ્ટર્બન્સ બંને સક્રિય હોવાથી ગુજરાતમાં વરસાદ માટે અનુકૂળ પરિસ્થિતિ સર્જાઈ છે. સાથે જ દક્ષિણ-પશ્ચિમ દિશાના પવનો ફૂંકાઈ રહ્યા હોવાથી રાજ્યના અનેક વિસ્તારોમાં વરસાદી માહોલ જળવાઈ રહેશે તેમ હવામાન ખાતાએ નોંધ્યું છે.

વાદળછાયા વાતવરણની વચ્ચે અનેક શહેરોમાં મહત્તમ તાપમાન ૩૭ ડિગ્રીની આસપાસ પહોંચી ગયું છે. વરસાદની ગેરહાજરી લંબાશે તો આવનારા દિવસોમાં તાપમાનમાં હજુ પણ વધારો થઇ શકે છે. હવામાન વિભાગના અનુસાર ૧૬થી ૨૦ જુલાઇની વચ્ચે વરસાદ પડવાની આગાહી છે.

હવામાન વૈજ્ઞાનિકો જણાવે છે કે અપર એર સર્ક્યુલેશન ગુજરાતમાં આગામી ૪૮ કલાકમાં સક્રિય થશે. જેના કારણે ભેજ અને વાદળો વધશે. જ્યારે ઓફશોર ટ્રફ અરબી સમુદ્રમાંથી વરસાદી વાદળો ખેંચી લાવશે. જેનાથી ઝરમર કે મધ્યમ વરસાદ પડશે.

મળતી માહિતી અનુસાર સરદાર સરોવર (નર્મદા) ડેમમાં ઉપરવાસમાંથી સતત થઈ રહેલી પાણીની આવકને પગલે ડેમની સપાટી ૧૨૬.૭૯ મીટરને વટાવી ગઈ છે. આ જળસ્તર વધારા સાથે ડેમ તેની કુલ સંગ્રહ ક્ષમતાના આશરે ૫૭ થી ૬૫ ટકા જેટલો ભરાઈ ચૂક્યો છે, જેનાથી પીવાના પાણી અને સિંચાઈની સ્થિતિ મજબૂત બની છે.