COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015

News Relating to Cotton and Textile Sector

Date-21-07-2026

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

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Mumbai, Tuesday 21st 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	14819	52700	(N.C.)
2	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	15%	20	12626	44900	(N.C.)
3	M/M(P)	ICS-104	Fine	23mm	4.5 - 7.0	4%	22	15213	54100	(N.C.)
4	P / H / R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	16759	59600	(N.C.)
5	M/M(P) /SA/TL/GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	15213	54100	(N.C.)
6	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	16759	59600	(N.C.)
7	P/ H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	17406	61900	(N.C.)
8	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18109	64400	(N.C.)
9	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18081	64300	(N.C.)
10	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	27	18081	64300	(N.C.)
11	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	4.0%	27	17434	62000	(N.C.)
12	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	18306	65100	(N.C.)
13	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	18503	65800	(N.C.)
14	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18306	65100	(N.C.)
15	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18362	65300	(N.C.)
16	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	18728	66600	(N.C.)
17	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	18643	66300	(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	23536	83700	(N.C.)
22	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	23902	85000	(N.C.)
23	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	24549	87300	(N.C.)
24	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	35	24605	87500	(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: 20-07-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE					20 Jul 2026	
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Oct-26	77.45	78.38	77.36	77.37	▲0.30	138
Dec-26	78.94	80.23	78.68	78.92	▲0.29	1,98,101
Mar-27	80.30	81.56	80.10	80.29	▲0.28	62,548
May-27	81.19	82.37	80.98	81.22	▲0.33	21,762
Jul-27	80.92	82.00	80.72	80.98	▲0.37	14,128
Oct-27	0.00	77.63	77.63	77.63	▲0.04	6
Dec-27	75.60	76.45	75.60	75.69	▲0.09	21,531

Cotlook Index: 20-07-2026

86.75 (-0.75)

India's RSWM wins CITI sustainability award at Bharat Tex 2026
Tue. 21st July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights

RSWM reinforced its sustainability leadership at Bharat Tex 2026 by winning CITI's Data-Driven Sustainability Excellence award and showcasing innovations including Milkweed Fibre and technical textiles.

The company powers 70 per cent of its operations with renewable energy, advances circularity through recycled PET fibres, and targets Net Zero by 2070.

RSWM Limited, the flagship company of the LNJ Bhilwara Group, concluded a successful participation at Bharat Tex 2026, India's largest textile trade fair, reinforcing its leadership in sustainable textile manufacturing through product innovation, industry engagement and national recognition. The company won the 'Data-Driven Sustainability Excellence in Textile Manufacturing' award at the CITI Textile Sustainability Awards & CITI-Birla Awards 2025-26, recognising its commitment to integrating data-driven monitoring and sustainability practices across its manufacturing operations.

Throughout the four-day exhibition, RSWM showcased its latest innovations and sustainability-led product portfolio under its master brand concept, SUTRADHAAR – The Thread That Connects Tradition to Tomorrow. The company's innovative Milkweed Fibre, a sustainable natural fibre offering enhanced comfort and performance, received an encouraging response from domestic and international buyers and customers for its unique value proposition and eco-friendly attributes.
RSWM also showcased its Protective Wear collection, reinforcing its growing focus on Technical Textiles through advanced solutions designed to address evolving industry requirements. Together, these innovations, backed by the company's sustainable manufacturing processes and product development capabilities, received strong appreciation from industry stakeholders. The Ministry of Textiles also appreciated the SUTRADHAAR concept for its compelling representation of RSWM's vision of seamlessly blending India's rich textile heritage with future-focused innovation and sustainability.

The RSWM pavilion hosted prominent government dignitaries, including Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles; Ms. Arti Kanwar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; Ms. Padmini Singla, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; Mr. Rohit Kansal, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India; and Mr. Anil Kumar, Director, Ministry of Textiles. The dignitaries visited the pavilion and interacted with RSWM's leadership team and gained firsthand insight into the company's latest sustainable innovations and operational practices.

RSWM has implemented a robust environmental monitoring framework to strengthen its sustainability and operational excellence agenda. The Company continuously monitors key environmental parameters through real-time utility tracking, department-wise and process-specific water consumption assessment, and regular performance evaluation of its Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs). To ensure compliance with environmental standards, periodic stack and ambient air quality monitoring is carried out through NABL-accredited laboratories, while IoT-enabled sensors provide continuous operational oversight, enabling data-driven environmental management and enhanced resource efficiency. Sustainability initiatives are driven through cross-functional teams under an approved sustainability policy, with regular employee awareness and operational training programmes.

Commenting on the successful conclusion of Bharat Tex 2026, *Mr. Riju Jhunjhunwala, Chairman & Managing Director and CEO*, RSWM Limited, said, "Bharat Tex 2026 has been an enriching experience for RSWM. The overwhelming response from customers, buyers and industry stakeholders reaffirmed the growing demand for innovative, sustainable and value-added textile solutions. We are delighted that our SUTRADHAAR concept resonated with visitors and received appreciation from the Ministry of Textiles. The platform provided us with an excellent opportunity to showcase our latest innovations, engage with partners from across the global textile value chain and reinforce our commitment to shaping the future of sustainable textiles."

Speaking on the recognition, *Mr. Rajeev Gupta, Joint Managing Director, RSWM Limited*, said, "At RSWM, we believe that sustainability is strengthened through consistent monitoring, continuous improvement and responsible action. Data-driven practices enable us to better manage our resources, enhance operational efficiency and support our long-term sustainability journey. This recognition at the CITI Textile Sustainability Awards & CITI-Birla Awards 2025-26 serves as an encouragement for us to continue advancing our sustainability initiatives and contribute towards building a more responsible and future-ready textile industry."
RSWM continues to strengthen its environmental performance through renewable energy adoption and innovative sustainability initiatives. Currently, 70% of the company's total energy consumption is met through renewable sources, with a target to further increase green energy adoption. The company has proposed 2070 as its Net Zero target year, a timeline currently undergoing formal operational review. Its key sustainability initiatives include biofuel conversion of boilers, renewable energy integration, water recycling and Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) initiatives, as well as the recycling of post-consumer PET bottles into green fibre, supporting circularity within the textile value chain.

In addition to its environmental initiatives, RSWM continues to promote sustainable sourcing, employee engagement and community development programmes focused on food security, healthcare, sanitation, safe drinking water, education, vocational skill development and livelihood enhancement. The company also continues to expand its portfolio of green products through the production of textile fibres made by recycling post-consumer PET bottles.

ICE cotton edges higher on weather concerns, stronger crude oil

Tue. 21st July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights

ICE cotton futures edged higher after a two-day decline, supported by weather concerns, stronger crude oil prices and positive sentiment from China's state cotton reserve auction.

However, profit booking limited gains, while light trading volume signalled cautious market sentiment.

Traders continue to watch US weather, export demand, and Chinese reserve purchases for clearer direction.

ICE cotton futures edged higher after a two-day decline. Although the market closed higher yesterday due to weather concerns, profit booking persisted. ICE cotton recorded significant intraday gains but ended the session with only modest gains. Higher crude oil prices also provided support to the natural fibre.

The most active December 2026 contract settled at 78.92 cents per pound, up 0.29 cent. The contract recorded intraday gains of 160 points before coming under selling pressure. The modest gain indicated that early buying interest faded, and the market finished with a relatively weak technical close despite ending in positive territory.

Weather remained the market's primary supportive factor. The latest USDA Crop Progress Report showed 45 per cent of the US cotton crop rated good-to-excellent, up from 44 per cent the previous week, although still below 57 per cent recorded at the same time last year. Analysts continued to monitor hot and dry conditions across key US cotton-growing regions, particularly in West Texas, where moisture concerns persist.

Market analysts said weather continues to dominate market sentiment, noting that forecasts still indicate high temperatures and dry conditions across key production regions, preventing traders from turning aggressively bearish despite the recent correction.

Trading volume totalled just 32,026 contracts, compared with 40,829 contracts on Friday, making it the lightest trading session since July 2 and well below last week's average of 49,225 contracts. This suggested limited market conviction behind the rebound.

China's first state cotton reserve auction was completed, with 8,006 tonnes (approximately 35,200 statistical bales) sold. The cotton offered consisted mainly of US and Brazilian origin, with only a small quantity from Xinjiang. While the auction was considered too small to materially influence the market, it confirmed that Chinese mills continued purchasing US cotton.

China's Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange (ZCE) cotton futures posted their largest daily gain since June 30, reflecting improved sentiment among Chinese mills and traders, possibly driven by short covering and optimism surrounding reserve purchases.

Broader agricultural markets also supported cotton. CBOT soybean and corn futures moved higher as traders continued to monitor adverse weather across parts of the US Midwest, while concerns over global grain supplies remained supportive.

Crude oil prices strengthened amid ongoing geopolitical tensions involving Russia and Ukraine and continued security concerns over shipping through the Red Sea. Higher crude oil prices increased the production cost of polyester fibre, thereby improving cotton's competitiveness against synthetic fibres.

There was little additional US cotton-specific news, with no weekly export sales report or major crop progress surprises to influence trading. The session was largely driven by weather, outside markets, and China's reserve auction.

Overall, Monday's recovery reflected weather-related support and improved sentiment from China, but the weak finish and very light trading volume suggest the market is still waiting for stronger confirmation through improved export demand, larger Chinese reserve auctions, and continued weather risks before establishing a sustained uptrend.

This morning (Indian Standard Time), ICE cotton for December 2026 traded at 79.41 cents per pound (up 0.49 cent), cash cotton at 73.62 cents (up 0.55 cent), the October 2026 contract at 77.37 cents (up 0.30 cent), the March 2027 contract at 80.78 cents (up 0.49 cent), the May 2027 contract at 81.69 cents (up 0.47 cent), and the July 2027 contract at 81.48 cents (up 0.50 cent). A few contracts remained unchanged from their previous closing levels, with no trading recorded in them so far today.

Deloitte sees India's FY2026-27 growth at 6.5-6.8%

Tue. 21st July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights

Deloitte expects India's economy to grow 6.5-6.8 per cent in FY26-27 as geopolitical tension and global trade uncertainties weigh on the outlook.

The consultancy said free trade agreements with key partners, supported by industrial reforms, domestic value addition and stronger supply chains, will be critical to sustaining long-term growth, boosting exports and reducing dependence.

India's economic resilience will increasingly depend on the successful implementation of free trade agreements (FTAs) and complementary industrial reforms as geopolitical tensions, trade disruptions and inflationary pressures reshape the global economy, according to Deloitte's latest India Economic Outlook.

The report projects India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 6.5-6.8 per cent in FY2026-27, lower than the strong momentum seen in the previous fiscal, as rising external risks weigh on economic activity. While India entered 2026 from a position of macroeconomic strength, Deloitte said prolonged geopolitical uncertainty, particularly in the Middle East, has exposed structural vulnerabilities that could influence inflation, trade and investment flows, it said in an article from Dr. Rumki Majumdar and Debdatta Ghatak.

The firm stated that India's economic outlook has become considerably more uncertain following geopolitical developments and disruptions to global trade routes.

The outlook identifies seven key risks facing the economy, including capital-flow volatility, currency depreciation, inflationary pressures, fiscal constraints, delays in the proposed India-US trade agreement, elevated global interest rates and the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) policy trade-offs.
Foreign portfolio investment outflows reached approximately $18 billion during FY2025-26 and accelerated to $21.6 billion during March-April 2026 amid global uncertainty. Meanwhile, the Indian rupee weakened nearly 10 per cent against the US dollar during the previous fiscal before recovering partially to above ₹94 per dollar.

Inflation is expected to rise to 5.5 per cent in FY2026-27, driven by higher crude oil prices, imported input costs, currency weakness and possible weather-related food inflation linked to El Nino, before easing to 4.2 per cent in the following fiscal.
Despite higher subsidy spending and lower customs revenue affecting public finances, the consultancy firm expects government capital expenditure to remain largely intact.

The report expects economic growth to remain moderate during the first half of FY2026-27 before strengthening during the October-December festive season as domestic demand improves and geopolitical uncertainties gradually ease.

India's expanding network of FTAs will play a significantly larger role in sustaining long-term economic resilience than simply improving export access, as per the outlook.

India has signed 22 FTAs, including eight over the past six years, reflecting a more strategic trade policy aimed at diversifying export markets, strengthening supply-chain resilience and securing access to critical imports.

The report noted that agreements with the United Arab Emirates, Mauritius and Australia have already improved India's market presence, while recently concluded or ongoing negotiations with the

United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union could create new opportunities across electronics, engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, textiles and auto components.

Deloitte said modern FTAs should also be viewed as instruments for strengthening manufacturing competitiveness by ensuring diversified access to intermediate inputs required by sectors such as electronics, machinery and chemicals.

The consultancy cautioned that trade agreements alone will not be sufficient to strengthen India's long-term competitiveness.
It said industrial policies, including production-linked incentive schemes, infrastructure development and domestic capability building, must complement FTAs by increasing local value addition and gradually reducing dependence on imported intermediate goods.
At the same time, improving the ease of doing business, simplifying compliance procedures, increasing awareness of FTA provisions and strengthening logistics infrastructure will be essential to maximise the benefits of India's expanding trade network.

Deloitte concluded that India's preferential trade access across 38 countries provides an opportunity to deepen integration with global value chains, provided trade liberalisation is supported by sustained industrial reforms and effective implementation.

CCI Cotton Sales Reach 85.04 Lakh Bales in 2025-26 Season

Tue. 21st July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com

STATE	NO. OF BALES
MAHARASHTRA	27,98,000
TELANGANA	19,28,400
GUJARAT	15,25,900
MADHYA PRADESH	5,56,800
KARNATAKA	6,87,700
RAJASTHAN	3,20,800
ODISHA	2,66,200
ANDHRA PRADESH	2,07,600
HARYANA	1,69,400
PUNJAB	44,000
TOTAL	85,04,800

State-wise CCI Cotton Sales Details – 2025-26 Season

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) Increased its cotton candy prices by upto ₹800 per candy during this week . CCI has sold approximately 85,04,800 cotton bales for the 2025-26 season. Sales are highly concentrated in a few major cotton-producing states, Maharashtra, Telangana and Gujarat emerging as the leading contributors.

Kharif Crops in Pachod-Paithan at Risk Due to Rainfall Deficit

Tue. 21st July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com

Kharif Crops in Pachod-Paithan at Risk Due to Lack of Rain

Pachod (Maharashtra): Kharif crops in the Pachod and Paithan *talukas* are facing a severe crisis due to the absence of rainfall over the past three weeks. Crops are on the verge of withering due to the lack of adequate rain. Young plants are scorching under the intense heat and sunlight, creating a situation where farmers may be forced to undertake re-sowing.

After a long gap of nearly ten years, the monsoon arrived with a delay of about a month this year, resulting in Kharif sowing being completed on only half of the cultivable land. Farmers arranged for seeds by borrowing money or using their limited savings and completed sowing across approximately 63,000 hectares in the ten revenue circles of Paithan *taluka*. Initially, seed germination was good, and crop growth was satisfactory following the early rains. However, just as farmers finished agricultural tasks like weeding and hoeing, the rainfall suddenly ceased.

Soil moisture is depleting rapidly due to the lack of continuous rain. The impact is clearly visible on Kharif crops such as cotton, pearl millet (*bajra*), and green gram (*moong*). The lack of moisture has also led to increased pest infestations, and plants in the fields have started to wilt.

Farmers are making every possible effort to save their crops. Some are manually watering plants using small vessels, while others are utilizing the limited water remaining in their wells through drip irrigation systems. If good rainfall does not occur soon, farmers may face the prospect of re-sowing, which threatens to impose an additional financial burden on them.

El Nino Impact: Karimnagar Farmers Advised to Choose Low-Water Crops
Tue. 21st July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com

El Nino effect: Advice to farmers in Karimnagar to adopt low water crops except paddy

KARIMNAGAR: Due to weak monsoon and El Nino impact in Telangana's Karimnagar district, the agriculture department has advised farmers to switch to low water intensive crops like paddy in Kharif season. In view of the shortage of water for irrigation, the district administration has implemented a contingency plan, so that the loss of the farmers can be reduced.

District Agriculture Officer J. Bhagyalakshmi said that a serious shortage of irrigation has been revealed in the departmental survey. Farmers have been appealed to sow low water ready crops like groundnut, moong, cowpea and sunflower. According to the Irrigation Department, Lower Manair Dam currently has 5.568 tmcft of water available, while its total capacity is 24.034 tmcft. This water reservoir will be reserved for the next 90 days mainly for drinking water needs.

Despite having around 1.57 lakh acres of agricultural land in Karimnagar, sowing was affected in a large area till July 15 due to shortage of water. District Collector Chitra Mishra has directed officials of the Agriculture and Irrigation Department to promote alternative crops and implement an emergency action plan.

At the same time, the effect of El Nino is clearly visible in Rajanna-Sirsila district. As against the usual 2.45 lakh acres, only 93 thousand acres have been sown so far, affecting about 40 percent of the district's agricultural activities.

Kharif Crop Crisis Deepens as Monsoon Weakens, Sowing Falls in Maharashtra
Tue. 21st July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com

Kharif crop crisis in many states due to lack of rain, sowing reduced in Maharashtra, farmers of Gujarat-Telangana worried

Slow pace of monsoon and long dry spells in many states of the country have created a crisis for Kharif crops. Farmers in Telangana, Maharashtra and Gujarat are worried about loss of cotton, soybean, groundnut and other kharif crops. Due to lack of continuous rains, the moisture in the fields is decreasing rapidly, which is affecting the growth of crops and also increasing the risk of cost increase for the farmers.

Farmers in Telangana's Adilabad district say late arrival of monsoon and prolonged absence of rains in July have stunted the growth of cotton, soybean and red gram crops. Inspite of light rain, the fields have not been sufficiently moistened. Mora Kishtu, a farmer of Ada village in Zainad mandal, said that he had sown cotton in 20 acres after initial rains in late June, but now timely rains are very important for good yield. Around 4.25 lakh acres of cotton has been cultivated in the district this Kharif season, but drought-like conditions have increased farmers' worries.

In Maharashtra too, the pace of kharif sowing has slowed down due to the effects of El Nino and weak monsoon. According to the Agriculture Department, only 86.92 lakh hectares or 60 percent of the state's 144.36 lakh hectare agricultural area has been sown till July 15, 2026, while this figure was 84 percent during the same period last year. Due to the lack of rain in many areas, farmers have to re-sow, which increases the cost of production. Soybean and cotton are the most sown in the state, while Marathwada, Vidarbha and Konkan are among the worst affected regions.

Jessar and nearby villages of Bhavnagar district of Gujarat have also not received enough rain for the last 15 to 20 days. Farmers had completed sowing of cotton and groundnut after initial good rains, but now the plants have started drying up due to lack of moisture in the fields. Farmers who do not have irrigation facilities are the most affected. Farmers say that if there is no good rain in the next four-five days, the cotton and groundnut crops may suffer heavy losses. Farmers of all the three states are now waiting for good rains on time, as the rains in the coming days will decide the status of Kharif crops.

India-UK Trade Pact May Nearly Double Exports by FY31

Tue. 21st July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com

India-UK Trade Pact May Nearly Double Exports By FY31; Textiles, Leather Among Biggest Beneficiaries

India's exports to the UK are projected to rise to $24.2 billion by FY31 from $13.5 billion in FY26, following the implementation of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), according to a Bank of Baroda Research report.

The trade pact, which came into force on July 15, is expected to significantly boost Indian exports by eliminating tariffs on nearly all goods shipped to the UK. The report estimates bilateral trade between the two countries could increase to $41 billion by FY31, up from $25.1 billion in FY26, with India's exports expected to outpace imports, further widening its trade surplus.

Textiles & Apparel To Gain

The agreement removes the around 12% tariff previously levied on Indian textile and apparel exports, placing Indian manufacturers on a level playing field with competitors such as Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Bank of Baroda Research estimates exports from the sector could increase to $3.1 billion by FY31 from $2.1 billion over the next five years. Listed companies with notable UK exposure include Gokaldas Exports, KPR Mill and Welspun Living, according to company disclosures.

Leather, Manufacturing Sectors Also Stand To Benefit

The report noted that around 99% of India's exports by value will now enjoy tariff-free access to the UK. This is expected to improve the competitiveness of labour-intensive sectors such as textiles and leather, as well as manufacturing industries including electronics, pharmaceuticals and engineering goods.

On the import side, India has adopted a phased approach to tariff reductions while continuing to protect sensitive sectors such as dairy, agriculture, smartphones and electric vehicles.

According to Bank of Baroda Research, the agreement is expected to strengthen India's export competitiveness, particularly for MSMEs and labour-intensive industries, while supporting a larger trade surplus with the UK over the next five years.

India Seeks to Reclaim Its Global Textile Leadership

Tue. 21st July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

India Once Dominated the Textile Trade; Now Faces the Challenge of Re-establishing Global Recognition

New Delhi: India was once among the world's leading textile trading hubs. Today, the country possesses the entire textile value chain—spanning from cotton production to spinning, weaving, processing, garment manufacturing, and exports. The sector's greatest strength lies in its capacity to generate employment. However, to strengthen its position amidst global competition, India requires robust institutions, modern technology, and a long-term strategy.

Few industries have left as profound an impact on India's civilization, culture, and economy as the textile industry. Long before the modern concept of global value chains emerged, textile manufacturing had already become an integral part of India's economic, cultural, and commercial fabric.

Excavations at Harappa and Mohenjo-daro have yielded evidence of spindles, needles, and artifacts related to textile production and dyeing. These represent some of the earliest traces of textile-related activities in India. The tradition that flourished during the Indus Valley Civilization continued to evolve over subsequent centuries through trade, innovation, and exquisite craftsmanship.

For nearly two thousand years, Indian textiles enjoyed strong demand in markets across Asia and Europe. During the Mughal era, Bengal emerged as a vital hub for cotton textile production. The fine muslin of Dhaka was renowned for its superior quality and was highly sought after in international markets. Meanwhile, Murshidabad rose as a key center for the trade of silk and other high-quality fabrics.

According to estimates by economist Angus Maddison, India accounted for approximately one-quarter of global economic output in the year 1700. Subsequently, the Industrial Revolution transformed the landscape of global competition. Innovations such as James Hargreaves' Spinning Jenny and other weaving machinery fueled mass production. Competitive advantage was no longer solely dependent on the skills of artisans but came to rely on technology, productivity, and economies of scale. Following this shift, India gradually became a major supplier of raw cotton to the mills of Britain's Lancashire region and a vast market for finished garments.

Today, the challenge before India is not merely to replicate its glorious textile past but to forge a new identity as a modern global textile powerhouse. This will require robust institutions, modern technology, innovation, a skilled workforce, and better coordination across the entire value chain.

Cotton blossoms as India's 'white gold'

Tue. 21st July 2026, Source: (www.thehawk.in/news/)
India Emerges as Global Cotton Powerhouse: Production, Exports, and Government Initiatives
New Delhi, July 20 (IANS) India ranks first globally in acreage and second in production and consumption of cotton, with the country's cotton production standing at 290.91 lakh bales in 2025-26 while domestic consumption reached 328 lakh bales during the same period, according to an official factsheet issued on Monday.

History
The sector contributes nearly 19 per cent of global fibre production, according to the government.
Recent interventions by the government to promote the production of cotton focus on productivity, quality, market access and value addition.

MSP operations continue to provide price support during market downturns. The Mission for Cotton Productivity aims to raise output to 498 lakh bales by 2031.

Technology demonstrations, digital procurement and traceability initiatives are strengthening competitiveness. These efforts are enhancing productivity, improving quality and reinforcing India's position in the global cotton economy, the government said.

Due to its economic importance in India, cotton is also termed as 'White-Gold'.

The crop supports the livelihoods of around 6 million cotton farmers with 114.84 lakh hectares devoted to the crop nationwide. It also sustains employment for another 40-50 million people engaged in related activities such as cotton processing and trade.

Beyond clothing, cotton plays a vital role in earning foreign exchange through exports of fibre, yarn, fabrics and garments.

India continues to maintain a strong presence in the global cotton trade.

In 2024-25, the country exported an estimated 18 lakh bales, equivalent to 0.31 million metric tonnes. This accounts for about 3.37 per cent of total world exports, amounting to 541.69 lakh bales (9.21 million metric tonnes), which reflects India's role as a significant exporter in the international cotton market.

Further, India exports cotton to several major global markets, reflecting strong and diversified international demand.

In value terms, cotton exports reached $11.49 billion in FY25.

The United States of America emerged as the largest destination for Indian cotton fabrics and made-ups exports, accounting for 26.35 per cent of cotton exports, following Bangladesh (19.81 per cent) and Sri Lanka (5.11 per cent).

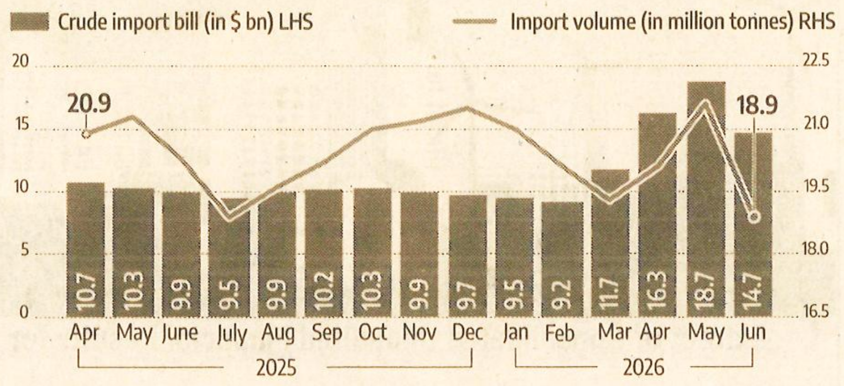
Other important destinations included the United Kingdom, with a share of 2.38 per cent, and the United Arab Emirates, at 2.32 per cent.

These export patterns highlight the diverse global demand for Indian cotton.
Cotton production in India is largely concentrated in 9 major states, grouped into 3 distinct agro-ecological zones: Northern Zone comprising Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan; Central Zone comprising Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh and Southern Zone comprising Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka.
In addition to these states, cotton is also grown in Odisha and Tamil Nadu.

Business Standard – 21.07.2026

Crude import bill rose 48% to $14.7 bn in June

Crisis impact



Source: PPAC

SHUBHANGI MATHUR
New Delhi, 20 July

India's crude oil import bill rose 48 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to $14.7 billion in June despite lower import volumes than a year ago, official data showed. India imported 18.9 million tonnes (mt) of crude in June, down 7.1 per cent from 20.3 mt in the same period last year, according to the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell.

The sharp rise in the import bill comes as the Indian basket crude price averaged $85.47 per barrel in June, up from $69.77 a barrel a year earlier. Crude remains India's largest import item, accounting for around 20 per cent of the country's merchandise import bill.

India has been sourcing energy at significantly higher costs to ensure domestic availability during the ongoing crisis. Energy prices have surged in recent months due to supply disruptions triggered by the blockage of traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, constraining supplies from West Asia.

Amid constrained supplies from West Asia, India imported around 50 per cent of its crude requirements from Russia in June, while the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Venezuela were among its top suppliers. To ensure fuel availability, Indian refiners have stepped up crude imports from Russia and non-traditional suppliers such as Venezuela, Brazil, and Angola.

India sources around 90 per cent of its crude oil requirements, 50 per cent of its liquefied natural gas, and 60 per cent of its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) needs from global markets.

The country's net oil and gas bill, which reflects spending on imports of petroleum products such as crude, LNG, and LPG, minus earnings from exports of refined products, rose 36.4 per cent Y-o-Y to $13.1 billion in June. This comes as the government has levied excise duty on exports of petrol, diesel, and aviation turbine fuel since the beginning of the West Asia crisis to discourage exports while prioritising domestic demand amid supply constraints.

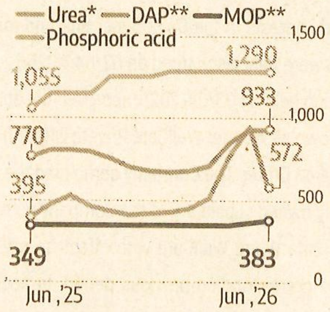
India's crude oil import bill rose 61 per cent to $49.8 billion in the first three months (April-June) of the current financial year (2026-27), while the net oil and gas bill increased 45 per cent to $44.9 billion.

Business Standard – 21.07.2026

Urea, DAP sales defy weak monsoon start

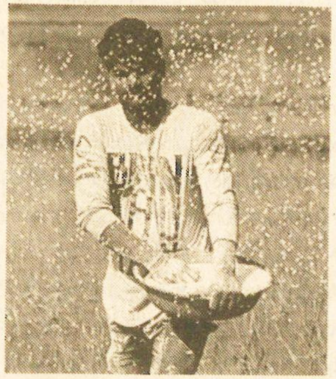
The trend

Average international prices of fertilisers ($ per tonne)



	Y-o-Y chg in %
Urea*	44.8
DAP**	21.2
MOP**	9.7
Phosphoric acid	22.3

*Free on board, **Cost and freight
Source: Government & Trade officials



In the red

Fertiliser sales in million tonnes

Product	Jun-26	Y-o-Y chg in %
Urea	3.33	-2.63
DAP	0.81	-1.22
MOP	0.17	-19.05

Source: Government of India and Trade sources

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 20 July

Sales of major fertilisers — be it urea, diammonium phosphate (DAP) or Muriate of Potash (MOP) — dropped only marginally in June 2026 as compared to same period last year despite a sharp nearly 37 per cent deficit in monsoon rainfall and a more than 21 per cent decline in the area under kharif crops, the latest official data showed.

Several experts believe this also reflects the fact that although the monsoon played truant in June and there was little activity in the fields, farmers remained hopeful that the overall season would remain close to 'normal'. Fertiliser stocks were also adequate, the data showed. The latest official data showed that around 3.33 million tonnes of urea was sold in India in June this year, around 2.63 per cent lower than in the same period last year. Around 810,000 tonnes of DAP was sold, down 1.22 per cent from June 2025.

The data also showed that around 170,000 tonnes of MOP was sold in June, around 19.05 per cent lower than in the corresponding period last year. Urea is consumed mainly during the kharif sowing season as it is used extensively in paddy and maize cultivation. Meanwhile, the official data also showed that, compared with May this year, international prices of major fertilisers, including urea and DAP, had fallen sharply as the crisis surrounding the Strait of Hormuz showed signs of easing. However, prices remained higher than in the same period last year. Between June 2025 and June this year, the average international price of urea rose by almost 45 per cent, while that of DAP increased by around 21.2 per cent.

This suggests that while concerns over soaring global fertiliser prices pushing India's fertiliser subsidy bill for 2026-27 to much higher levels have eased considerably since May, the subsidy burden is still likely to remain above last year's level.

India had estimated the fertiliser subsidy for 2026-27 at around ₹1.7 trillion in the Union Budget presented in February. Meanwhile, according to a recent paper by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, India's fertiliser subsidy could rise to ₹2.42 trillion under an optimistic scenario, which assumes a 2 per cent decline in fertiliser consumption due to the anticipated El Niño conditions in 2026.

Business Standard – 21.07.2026

Core sector growth at 5-month high

Grew 5% in June in first print of revamped series

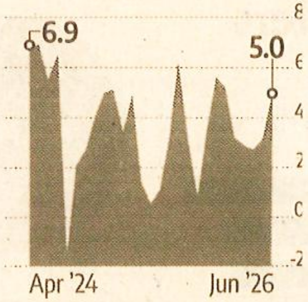
HIMANSHI BHARDWAJ
New Delhi, 20 July

Growth in India's nine core sectors reached a five-month high of 5 per cent in June from 3.2 per cent in May in the first print of a revamped Index of Core Industries with a new base year of 2022-23, as strong output in iron ore, electricity, and coal offset persistent weakness across petroleum-based industries, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday.

The reading marked the debut of a new series, which replaced the earlier 2011-12 series and widened the basket to nine sectors from eight with the addition of iron ore. Growth rates under the new base show an improvement compared to prints under the old base, with

Improved index

Overall Index growth (%) (Base year 2022-23)



Sectoral trends in June

Sectors	Y-o-Y chg (%)
Coal	1.4
Natural gas	-7.4
Crude oil	-4.2
Refinery products	-4.7
Fertilisers	-3.3
Steel	4.6
Cement	9.8
Electricity	9.8
Iron ore	43.9

Note: June26 data is provisional
Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

the May reading increasing from just 0.5 per cent to 3.2 per cent under the new series.

"The buoyancy has been added by iron ore," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda.

The overall index stood at 119.6 in June, down from 120.1 in the preceding month.

Iron ore, which carries a weighting of 4.9 per cent in the nine-sector index, surged 43.9 per cent in June over a contracting year-ago base, emerging as the single-biggest driver of headline growth. The growth in this sector increased to its highest level when compared to the April 2024 back series data. The rebasing exercise has substantially redrawn the weighting of the index.

Electricity's share has jumped to 30.9 per cent from 19.85 per cent under the old series, making it the single-largest-weighted sector, while petroleum refinery products — previously the heaviest at 28.04 per cent — have been pared to 22.6 per cent. Electricity rose 9.8 per cent compared to 11.2 per cent in May, a touch slower than the previous month.

The weights of coal, natural gas, and crude oil have been trimmed under the new series and that of steel and fertilisers have remained broadly unchanged.

Data showed that five of the nine sectors registered positive growth during the month, with iron ore, electricity, cement, steel and coal in positive territory, while natural gas, crude oil, refinery products, and fertilisers contracted. Cement output rose to a five-month high of 9.8 per cent and steel grew at a 21-month low of 4.6 per cent, with Sabnavis attributing the strength in the two thrust areas to sustained spending by the private sector and the government.

businessline – 21.07.2026

Mumbai Port ropes in law firms to recover ₹3,500 cr lease dues

Our Bureau
Mumbai

The Mumbai Port Authority (MPA), which seeks to recover over ₹3,500 crore dues in lease rent from lessees and tenants, has engaged top tier law firms to recover the dues.

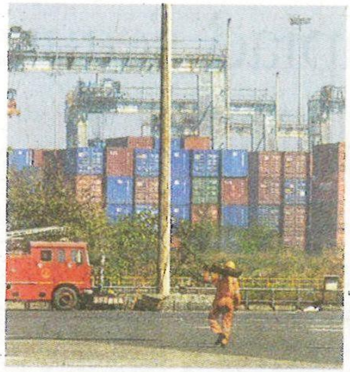
According to a top MPA official, eight lease rent defaulters collectively owe the port around ₹3,500 crore.

The port has several high profile tenants with whom it has rent related disputes including, it claims, with Indian Hotels Co Ltd 's Taj Mahal hotel in Colaba. However, IHCL has disputed the claim.

The dues will help the MPA fund its plans for overhauling the city's eastern waterfront, say officials.

"We have finalised a visionary master plan to overhaul the eastern waterfront. These planned initiatives are designed as heavy economic drivers: an iconic maritime economic growth hub featuring world-class maritime tourism centres (such as the Mumbai Marina), specialised water transport networks, international cruise terminals, and essential central government office complexes dedicated to port operations," the official said.

"Mumbai Port's long-term financial strategy and vision



rely heavily on channelling its own reserves directly into funding these mega-maritime projects. However, non-payment by chronic defaulters has choked this vital revenue pipeline, directly threatening Mumbai Port's

> **The dues will help the MPA fund its plans for overhauling** the city's eastern waterfront, say officials

maritime development timeline," according to the official.

"It is unacceptable that commercial entities are exploiting prime port land to generate enormous corporate profits while willfully defaulting on their lease rental obligations," he alleged.

IHCL'S COUNTER

In a statement IHCL said the company is paying rent in accordance with Bombay High Court Order of October 2018. The port authority's demands are disputed and matter is *subjudice*.

In its latest annual report IHCL said the lessor (MPA) has been raising excessive claims from FY07 aggregating ₹2095 crore. IHCL has recorded port authority's claims as a contingent liability.

The Bombay High Court has stayed MPA's notices in FY 2019 and restrained it from taking coercive action pending disposal of its suit, the report said.

businessline – 21.07.2026

Kharif sowing acreage down 6% despite coverage reaching 60% of normal area

CROP CONCERNS. Sowing of paddy down 1%; planting of pulses, oilseeds and nutri-cereals on the decline too

Our Bureau
New Delhi

As many as 126.94 lakh hectares (lh) of area were covered under kharif sowing during the July 11-17 period, compared to 67.78 lh a year ago. This has led to a remarkable recovery in the area of sowing as the overall deficit has now shrunk to 6 per cent, down from 16 per cent as of July 10 and 21 per cent as of July 5.

The sowing area in the ongoing kharif season has reached 531.25 lh as of July 17 compared with 632.69 lh in the year-ago period, the Agriculture Ministry said in its weekly update. Officials attributed the recovery to rainfall during the first 10 days of this month, when the monsoon was 31 per cent surplus.

The kharif season's main cereal paddy further narrowed the deficit to less than 1 per cent as of July 17 against a shortfall of 13 per cent until July 5.

According to data released by the Agriculture Ministry, paddy has been transplanted on 166.41 lh against 167.83 lh a year ago.

PULSES RECOVER

There has also been a substantial recovery in the acreage of pulses and oilseeds, two critical areas in which India is dependent on imports to meet domestic demand. The area under pulses reached 69.23 lakh hectares (lh) compared to 81.52 lh, while the area for oilseeds was 147.09 lh compared to 155.72 lh. The deficit in pulses has declined to 15 per cent, down from 23 per cent on July 10, and in oilseeds, it has decreased to 6 per cent from 21 per cent in the same period. Among pulses, arhar sowing reached 24.80 lh, down 18 per cent from 30.17 lh; moong (green gram) 23.98 lh from 26.94 lh; and urad (black matpe) 13.51 lh from 14.36 lh.

In oilseeds, soybean is down to 106.02 lh from 111.05 lh, and groundnut to 34.52 lh from 37.69 lh. Cotton acreage is now 6 per cent lower at 92.53 lh from 98.4 lh, while sugarcane sowing has been completed. It was reported at 57.58 lh against 56.72 lh a year ago.

Jute and mesta coverage, too, is over and was at 6.32 lh from 6.19 lh a year ago, data show.

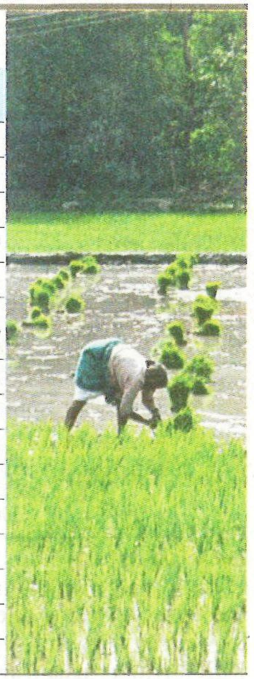
NUTRI-CEREALS DOWN

The coverage of nutri/coarse cereals has been reported as 11 per cent lower at 119.03 lh compared to 134.09 lh last year. The area under jowar reached 8.74 lakh hectares lh compared to 9.99 lakh hectares lh a year ago, while bajra dipped to 39.98 lh from 49.05 lakh hectares lh, ragi declined to 1.06 lh from 1.46 lakh hectares lh, and maize decreased to 67.89 lh from 71.50 lakh hectares (lh).

Kharif sowing* (lakh hectare)

	2025	2026	% Change
Paddy	167.83	166.41	-0.8
Pulses	81.52	69.23	-15.1
Arhar	30.17	24.80	-17.8
Urdbean	14.36	13.51	-5.9
Moongbean	26.94	23.98	-11.0
Shri Anna cum Coarse cereals	134.09	119.03	-11.2
Jowar	9.99	8.74	-12.5
Bajra	49.05	39.98	-18.5
Ragi	1.46	1.06	-27.4
Maize	71.5	67.89	-5.0
Oilseeds	155.72	147.09	-5.5
Groundnut	37.69	34.52	-8.4
Soybean	111.05	106.02	-4.5
Cotton	98.4	92.53	-6.0
All Crops	**700.47**	**658.19**	**-6.0**

*As of July 17; Source: Agriculture Ministry



businessline – 21.07.2026

Monsoon regroups as heavy rain lashes North, East

Vinson Kurian
Thiruvananthapuram

A rare alignment of eight cyclonic circulations straddling northern India, backed by the seasonal monsoon trough, is set to keep the monsoon firing over the North-West, East and North-East India through the week, even as rain-triggered disasters continue to claim lives in the Himalayan region.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned that the threat is far from over, forecasting more heavy to extremely heavy rainfall over the Himalayan States in the coming days.

The IMD has issued alerts for heavy to very heavy rainfall with isolated extremely heavy falls over Jammu & Kashmir during the next three days and Himachal Pradesh for the next two days, raising the spectre of fresh landslides, flash floods and river swelling. The eastern flank of the monsoon is equally active.

BRIMMING THREAT. People watch the swollen Mendhar river flowing above the danger level following heavy rain in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir PTI

REVS UP LOCALLY

The immediate trigger is an unusually favourable synoptic pattern. An upper-air cyclonic circulation over the west-central Bay of Bengal and adjoining coastal Andhra Pradesh has locked into a well-aligned seasonal monsoon trough — the atmospheric spine of the monsoon — stretching from Ganganagar in Rajasthan through Delhi, Lucknow, Ranchi and Digha before dipping into the north-east Bay of Bengal.

Together with a cluster of cyclonic circulations, the system has opened an uninterrupted moisture corridor from the Bay deep into the northern plains and the Himalayan foothills. The setup is also conducive to the birth of another low-pressure area, ensuring that the monsoon remains active over the eastern and north-western parts of the country.

EL NINO EFFECT

Yet, the current burst of activity masks a broader shift emerging in seasonal forecasts. Global weather models indicate that the monsoon may have already reached its peak during the first week of July.

Beyond the present spell, rainfall is expected to revert to normal or even below-normal over large parts of the country.

The moderation is being linked to the strengthening El Nino, whose suppressing influence on the monsoon appears to be becoming firmly established.

Even if fresh low-pressure systems continue to form over the Bay, forecasters do not expect the kind of widespread nationwide revival witnessed during the first week of July.