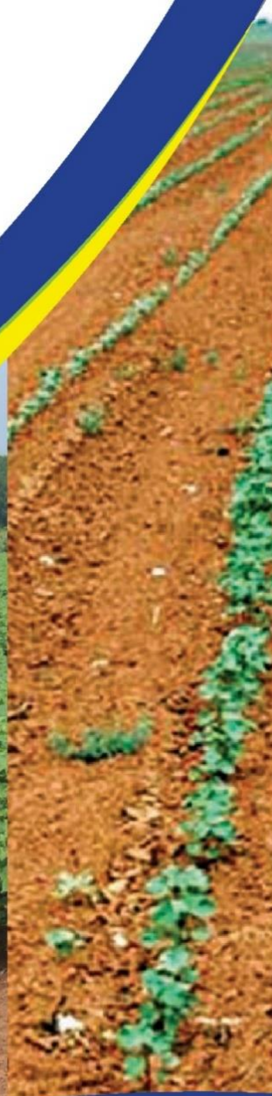
COTTON
ASSOCIATION
OF INDIA

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015



News Relating to
Cotton and Textile Sector

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Date-23-07-2026

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

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Mumbai, Thursday 23rd 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	12795	45500	(+100)
3	M/M(P)	ICS-104	Fine	23mm	4.5 - 7.0	4%	22	15382	54700	(+300)
4	P / H / R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	16984	60400	(+200)
5	M/M(P) /SA/TL/GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	15382	54700	(+300)
6	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	16984	60400	(+500)
7	P/ H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	17631	62700	(+200)
8	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18362	65300	(+500)
9	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18278	65000	(+300)
10	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18250	64900	(+300)
11	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	4.0%	27	17687	62900	(+200)
12	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	18559	66000	(+200)
13	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18643	66300	(+100)
14	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18475	65700	(+200)
15	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18531	65900	(+300)
16	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	18897	67200	(+200)
17	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	18812	66900	(+200)
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	24324	86500	(+2800)
22	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	24324	86500	(+1500)
23	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	24858	88400	(+1100)
24	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	35	25027	89000	(+1500)

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: 22-07-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE						22 Jul 2026
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Oct-26	78.78	79.96	78.76	79.87	▲0.91	135
Dec-26	80.42	81.39	79.90	81.11	▲0.69	1,96,366
Mar-27	81.69	82.75	81.25	82.45	▲0.71	62,540
May-27	82.56	83.54	82.16	83.33	▲0.70	22,328
Jul-27	82.26	83.01	81.83	82.87	▲0.61	14,045
Oct-27	0.00	78.64	78.64	78.64	▲0.45	6
Dec-27	76.15	76.71	75.93	76.64	▲0.44	21,954

Cotlook Index: 22-07-2026

89.60 (+1.60)

ICE cotton continues to rise on third day on positive factors
Thu. 23rd July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
ICE cotton futures rose for a third straight session, led by front-month demand and supported by firm crude oil, stronger agri commodities and India weather risks.
December 2026 settled at 81.11 cents.
Gains were driven largely by external markets, while light volumes signalled short covering.
Strong China reserve sales and a weaker US dollar added support.

ICE cotton futures further increased on the third consecutive day yesterday. The front month contracts continued to lead the advance reflecting stronger nearby demand. US cotton continued to draw support from higher crude oil prices, strength across agricultural commodities, and persistent weather concerns in India. This marks the first three-session rally since the run that ended on July 1, reinforcing the recent technical recovery.

The most active December 2026 contract settled at 81.11 cents, up 0.69 cent or 0.86 per cent. The contract recovered 248 points over the past three trading sessions. While other nearby contracts gained 102 to 280 points.

Market analysts said cotton's strength was driven primarily by outside markets, noting that corn reached new highs, soybeans strengthened, and crude oil continued to rally, while cotton itself had little fresh fundamental news.

CBOT (Chicago Board of Trade) wheat futures extended their rally for a third consecutive session, supported by concerns over Black Sea export supplies and lower production estimates for North Dakota. Corn and soybean futures also advanced as hot and dry weather threatened crop development across parts of the US Midwest.

Crude oil prices rose for a third straight day, supported by continuing geopolitical tensions involving the United States and Iran and renewed security concerns over Red Sea shipping routes. Higher crude prices increase the production cost of polyester fibre, improving cotton's competitiveness relative to synthetic fibres.

The US dollar weakened for a third consecutive session, making US cotton more competitive in export markets and providing additional support to prices.

Trading volume totalled 29,987 contracts, compared with 28,096 contracts in the previous session. Although slightly higher, it remained the fourth-lightest trading session of 2026, indicating that the rally continues to be driven largely by short covering and existing long positions rather than aggressive new buying.

China's third state cotton reserve auction again recorded 100 per cent sales, with 8,013 tonnes sold. Over the first three auction days, a total of 24,064 tonnes were sold, with approximately 85 per cent consisting of imported US and Brazilian cotton and 15 per cent Xinjiang cotton.

The continued sell-outs indicate steady mill demand and remain supportive for global cotton consumption.

The largest weather risk for the global cotton market currently lies in India, where the country is experiencing its driest June in decades. Continued monsoon irregularities could delay crop development and reduce production potential, providing underlying support to world cotton prices.

Despite the improving technical picture, light trading volume remains the key cautionary signal. Traders will be watching whether futures volume can recover above 35,000 contracts to confirm stronger buying interest, while the 81.50–81.80 cents area remains the next important resistance zone after the recent recovery.

This morning (Indian Standard Time), ICE cotton for December 2026 was traded at 81.10 cents per pound (down 0.01 cent), cash cotton at 76.12 cents (up 0.91 cent), the October 2026 contract at 79.75 cents (down 0.12 cent), the March 2027 contract at 82.46 cents (up 0.01 cent), the May 2027 contract at 83.34 cents (up 0.01 cent), and the July 2027 contract at 82.87 cents (unchanged). A few contracts remained at their previous closing levels, with no trading recorded so far today.

₹8,118 Crore Invested Under Textile PLI Scheme; Gujarat Leads States
Thu. 23rd July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com

₹8,118 Crore Invested Under Textile PLI Scheme; Gujarat Emerges as Top State

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, launched to strengthen the country's textile sector and enhance its global competitiveness, is now yielding rapid results. According to the Ministry of Textiles, actual investment worth ₹8,117.64 crore has been recorded under the scheme so far. Additionally, the scheme has generated 33,427 new employment opportunities.

The government has approved a total of 170 companies under the textile PLI scheme. These projects are expected to bring in a proposed investment of approximately ₹41,533 crore, generate an estimated turnover of ₹2.75 lakh crore, and create 367,427 jobs. The scheme aims to boost domestic production, attract foreign investment, and establish India as a major hub for textile manufacturing.

The technical textiles segment has witnessed the highest level of interest from companies. Approvals have been granted to 89 companies in this sector, with a projected investment of

₹27,832 crore. These projects are likely to generate a turnover of ₹1.69 lakh crore and create around 120,205 employment opportunities.

In the Man-Made Fiber (MMF) apparel segment, 43 companies have received approval. This sector anticipates a committed investment of ₹7,613 crore and an estimated turnover of ₹64,435 crore. Meanwhile, 38 companies have been approved in the MMF fabric segment, with projected investments of ₹6,087 crore and the creation of 32,557 jobs.

In terms of state-wise performance, Gujarat has taken the lead. The state secured approvals for 46 companies—the highest number in the country—and attracted investments worth ₹1,903.38 crore through various companies. Subsequently, states such as Karnataka, Goa, Tamil Nadu, and Madhya Pradesh have also demonstrated remarkable performance.

However, actual investment has not yet been recorded in Punjab, West Bengal, and Odisha. The pace of investment in Uttar Pradesh has also remained limited. Despite this, the textile PLI scheme is proving to be a significant initiative for boosting manufacturing capacity, creating jobs, and steering the industry in a new direction.

Tamil Nadu Showcases Textile Strength at Bharat Tex 2026, Eyes New Investment and Export Opportunities

Thu. 23rd July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com

Tamil Nadu's Strong Presence at Bharat Tex 2026: Focus on Textile Investment and Innovation

Tamil Nadu effectively showcased its strong position as a leading textile hub of the country at Bharat Tex 2026, held in New Delhi. On this global platform, the state highlighted its vast textile industry, export potential, investment opportunities, and future prospects in the technical textiles sector.

Over 30 textile and apparel manufacturers from Tamil Nadu participated in this international event. Numerous significant meetings took place with industry representatives, investors, and foreign buyers during the fair. Bharat Tex 2026 saw a large turnout of domestic visitors alongside approximately 6,000 foreign buyers, opening up new business opportunities for the Indian textile industry in the global market.

K.M. Subramanian, President of the Tirupur Exporters Association, stated that Bharat Tex is poised to evolve into a major international trade platform. He noted that textile manufacturers from Tirupur received positive feedback from foreign buyers, raising hopes for securing new export orders in the future.

During the event, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Southern India Textile Research Association (SITRA) and The Woolmark Company. The objective is to promote research and the development of new types of fabrics using wool-cotton blends. This initiative will assist Tamil Nadu's textile industry in expanding into new fibers and modern product segments.

State Industries Minister P. Keerthana and Textiles and Handlooms Minister M. Vijay Balaji participated in the fair and held discussions with investors. According to the government, investors have been identified for approximately 300 acres of land at the PM MITRA Textile Park in Virudhunagar, and several major proposals are likely to be finalized soon.

The Tamil Nadu government is implementing special schemes to boost the technical textiles sector. Plans are in place to provide capital subsidies of up to approximately 50 percent to industries investing in this sector. The state currently holds a share of approximately 8 percent in technical textiles, and a target has been set to increase this figure.

More than 400 visitors visited the Tamil Nadu pavilion. Departmental officials delivered presentations on the state's textile value chain and investment opportunities. Tamil Nadu's participation in Bharat Tex 2026 further strengthened the state's global profile and paved the way for new partnerships in the textile, handloom, and technical textile sectors.

Pre-Season Cotton Crop Thrives in Khandesh, Rainfall Deficit Raises Concerns
Thu. 23rd July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com

Pre-season cotton crop thriving in Khandesh; rainfall deficit raises concerns

The pre-season (early-sown) cotton crop in Maharashtra's Khandesh region, planted during the last week of May and early June, is growing rapidly. Farmers have timely completed initial agricultural tasks such as weed control, intercropping, and fertilizer management. However, the lack of rainfall is affecting the cotton crop in rain-fed (dryland) areas.

While the total area under cotton cultivation in Khandesh has decreased this year compared to previous years, many farmers have continued to cultivate the crop as per tradition. Farmers have observed that under low-rainfall conditions, irrigated cotton crops perform better in the fertile black soil found along rivers like the Tapi, Girna, Aner, and Panjra.

The absence of heavy downpours and the lack of continuous light rain during June and July gave farmers ample time for crop management. Tasks such as intercropping, herbicide spraying, and fertilizer application were completed on schedule. Consequently, the cotton crop is showing good growth in many areas; in some places, the plants have already reached a height of about two feet. Even in areas with light to medium soil, the condition of the irrigated cotton crop remains satisfactory. Many farmers have also completed two rounds of spraying to prevent pest infestations.

Focus on intercropping and fertilizer management

Many farmers have completed two rounds of intercropping in their cotton fields. These agricultural activities were accelerated in anticipation of potential rainfall. Additionally, the first dose of chemical fertilizers has been applied to the fields. In some black-soil areas, the cotton plants are likely to flower early, while soil moisture levels remain adequate.

Increased use of herbicides for weed control

There is a continued demand for farm labor for weed control in many villages across Jalgaon district, with daily wages reaching around ₹200 in some areas. However, the weed problem has diminished in several regions due to the reduced cotton acreage this year and the increased use of herbicides. The growth of fresh grass and vegetation in the fields has also been limited due to the lack of rainfall.

Rise in Urea Demand

The demand for urea has surged as the application of fertilizers to the crops has commenced. Urea requirements remain high in irrigated areas due to the robust growth of the cotton crop, yet its availability is limited in many places. Consequently, farmers are planning to apply the second basal dose after approximately 60 days. Farmers believe that if weather conditions remain favorable, the cotton crop could continue to thrive.

Brazilian Cotton Prices Decline in Mid-July Amid Weak Domestic Demand
Thu. 23rd July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com

Brazilian Cotton Prices Decline in Mid-July Despite Improved Export Parity

Cotton prices in the Brazilian market saw a decline in mid-July. Although export parity improved during this period—narrowing the gap between domestic and export prices—

sluggish buying by the domestic textile industry and concerns regarding the quality of available cotton stocks kept the spot market under pressure. Consequently, prices softened.

According to the Center for Advanced Studies on Applied Economics (CEPEA) at the University of São Paulo, buyers faced difficulties accepting the quality of certain cotton batches. Meanwhile, weak sales of finished textile products led mills to adopt a cautious approach toward new purchases. Due to subdued demand, some buyers offered lower prices, placing additional pressure on the spot market.

In the meantime, cotton producers focused on harvesting and fulfilling previously agreed-upon forward contracts. Some producers were keen to sell remaining stocks from the 2024/25 season, while others held firm on their asking prices. This dynamic maintained a balance between market availability and buying interest, resulting in limited spot trading activity.

Brazil's National Supply Company (Conab) has raised its cotton production forecast for the 2025/26 season to 4.06 million tonnes. This represents a 2.05 percent increase over the previous estimate, though it is 0.5 percent lower than the production forecast for the 2024/25 season. The average yield is projected at 2,011 kilograms per hectare, with the cotton cultivation area expected to be 2.02 million hectares—a year-on-year decline of 3.2 percent.

Separately, according to the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) July report, global cotton production for the 2026/27 season is projected at 25.53 million tonnes. This is 1 percent higher than the previous estimate but 3.8 percent lower compared to the 2025/26 season. The report raises production estimates for both Brazil and the US by approximately 3 percent. However, production in both countries is projected to remain below the levels seen in the previous season.

China’s Cotton Imports Surge Nearly Threefold in June 2026

Thu. 23rd July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com

China’s Cotton Imports Surge Nearly Threefold in June 2026

China’s cotton imports recorded an exceptional rebound in June 2026, with shipments rising almost three times compared with the same month last year. According to the General Administration of Customs, China imported around 110,000 tonnes of cotton in June, marking a 294.9% year-on-year increase. For the first half of 2026, cumulative imports reached 940,000 tonnes, up 102.2% from a year earlier.

Import values also climbed sharply. June imports were worth RMB 1.36 billion, a 244.7% increase, while January–June imports totaled RMB 10.97 billion, up 75.8% year-on-year. Brazilian and U.S. cotton remained the dominant sources of supply.

Industry participants said the strong June performance was largely expected. Part of the increase reflects a very low base in June 2025, when China imported only 27,400 tonnes, an 82.3% decline from the previous year.

However, three additional factors drove the surge. First, ICE cotton futures fell sharply twice in June, pushing imported cotton prices below those of Xinjiang cotton held in inland warehouses and making foreign supplies more attractive to Chinese mills and traders.

Second, disruptions linked to the Middle East conflict affected textile and garment production in parts of Southeast Asia, prompting some export orders for Europe, the United States, Japan, and South Korea to shift to China's coastal manufacturing hubs, including Guangdong, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian, and Shandong.

Third, concerns over possible changes in U.S. Section 301 tariffs and the risk of a broader China–EU trade dispute encouraged Chinese exporters to accelerate shipments during May and June. The timing also coincided with major Western retailers building inventories for the second half of the year, supporting continued growth in China's imports of cotton and cotton yarn.

Bayer Launches Trance Insecticide for Cotton Farmers to Control Sap-Sucking Pests
Thu. 23rd July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com

Bayer Launches New Insecticide 'Trance' for Cotton Farmers; Offers Effective Protection Against Sap-Sucking Pests

Bayer has announced the launch of 'Trance,' a new insecticide designed for cotton farmers. The company claims the product has been developed to effectively control major sap-sucking pests such as aphids, jassids, and whitefly nymphs. Based on two distinct and complementary modes of action, this insecticide offers comprehensive crop protection while helping to improve crop health, increase yields, and boost farmers' income.

According to the company, cotton farmers in India face significant challenges due to simultaneous attacks by multiple sap-sucking pests, increasing pest resistance to insecticides, and a lack of effective yet affordable solutions. These issues hinder crop growth, reduce production, and drive up cultivation costs. 'Trance' has been developed specifically to address these challenges.

Bayer states that the product operates on a dual-action mechanism. It spreads within the plant through systemic movement while also exerting an effect across the leaf surface via translaminar action. This ensures protection for both existing foliage and new plant growth. The company notes that the formulation remains effective even after rainfall and begins to show results within approximately two hours of application. Additionally, it can be easily integrated into Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs.

'Trance' will be available starting July 2026 across major cotton-producing states, including Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab, Haryana, and West Bengal. It will be launched in pack sizes of 100 ml, 220 ml, and 500 ml. Mohan Babu, Chief Operating Officer of Bayer CropScience (India), stated that farmers are facing an escalating challenge from sap-sucking pests and the issue of increasing pest resistance. In this context, 'Trance' offers two distinct modes of action in a single solution, enabling effective and long-lasting pest control. He added that the product would assist farmers in improving crop quality, boosting yields, and enhancing profitability.

The company states that with the launch of 'Trance', it is further strengthening its crop protection portfolio. This science-based innovation will help farmers achieve higher yields, ensure better resource utilization, and promote sustainable agriculture.

Early Pink Bollworm Activity Detected in Haryana, Cotton Farmers Advised Scientific Monitoring

Thu. 23rd July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com

Early Pink Bollworm Activity in Haryana; Cotton Farmers Advised to Adopt Scientific Monitoring

Following signs of early pink bollworm activity in Haryana's cotton-growing regions, the Agriculture Department has advised farmers to remain vigilant and adopt scientific monitoring systems. Experts state that the cotton crop can be saved from significant damage by timely adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques.

A joint survey team—comprising members from the Faridabad-based Regional Integrated Pest Management Centre (RIPMC) and the Office of the Joint Director of Agriculture

(Cotton) in Sirsa—inspected cotton fields in Sirsa district. During the inspection, signs of an early pink bollworm outbreak were detected in some fields. The team briefed farmers on scientific pest control measures and IPM techniques.

Officials advised farmers to install four to five pheromone traps per acre, equipped with cotton-specific pheromone lures, to continuously monitor pink bollworm activity and implement control measures at an early stage. Additionally, the installation of 20 yellow or blue sticky traps per hectare has been recommended to monitor and control sucking pests.

Pheromone trap-based demonstration plots have been established in major cotton-producing districts, including Sirsa, Fatehabad, Hisar, Hansi, Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri, and Jind. According to the Agriculture Department, farmers utilizing these techniques have achieved better results in monitoring and managing the pink bollworm.

Agricultural officials have urged farmers to use only those pesticides that are registered and approved by the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIB&RC). Furthermore, they advised spraying pesticides only when pest populations exceed the Economic Threshold Level.

The survey team also informed farmers about the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) mobile app. This app assists in identifying pests and diseases, providing crop protection advice, and enabling real-time monitoring, thereby facilitating timely, informed decisions and preventing the unnecessary use of pesticides.

It is worth noting that the cotton crop in Sirsa district suffered significant damage due to pink bollworm infestations during 2023, 2024, and 2025. This year, farmers are facing a serious challenge from excessive rainfall alongside the pink bollworm threat, which has impacted the cotton crop in several areas.

Rain Brings Relief to Kharif Crops in Telangana's Adilabad, Farmers Await More Showers

Thu. 23rd July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com

Recent rainfall brings a lifeline to Kharif crops in Telangana's Adilabad; farmers now await substantial rains

Adilabad (Telangana): Moderate rainfall over the past two days has brought significant relief to farmers in Telangana's Adilabad district. Farmers, who had been grappling with a prolonged dry spell, state that this rain has saved Kharif crops—such as cotton, soybean, and red gram (arhar)—from withering. However, they believe that adequate and consistent rainfall over the next 15 days is crucial for a good harvest.

Cotton is the primary cash crop in Adilabad district, cultivated across approximately 4.30 lakh acres. Additionally, soybean has been sown on about 56,000 acres and red gram on 42,000 acres. While crops belonging to farmers who sowed on time have benefited from the recent rain, those who sowed late are still facing issues such as stunted plant growth and poor seed germination.

Rainfall data indicates that most parts of the erstwhile Adilabad district have still received below-normal rainfall. Between June 1 and July 22, Komaram Bheem Asifabad district recorded 353 mm of rainfall against a normal of 432 mm—a deficit of 18 percent. Mancherial recorded 305.7 mm against 380.4 mm (-20%), Adilabad recorded 279.2 mm against 432.2 mm (-36%), and Nirmal recorded 280.2 mm against 380.8 mm (-26%). These figures clearly show that a rainfall deficit persists across most areas of the district.

Sedmaki Prabhu, a farmer from Chintaguda village in Adilabad Rural Mandal, stated that the rainfall over the last two days has proven to be a lifeline for the crops. He stated that while the cotton and soybean plants have survived, good rainfall in the coming days is essential for their optimal growth. If sufficient rain does not occur soon, production could be adversely affected.

The impact of scanty rainfall is not limited to agriculture alone. Drought-like conditions have led to a shortage of green fodder in the villages, increasing the difficulties faced by livestock rearers. Villagers are compelled to take their goats, sheep, and cows to the fringes of forests for grazing. According to Prabhu, there are around 500 head of cattle in the neighboring village of Kothur, where the crisis regarding drinking water and green fodder is becoming increasingly severe.

Farmers say that while recent rains have certainly raised hopes, the success of the Kharif season will now depend on the rainfall received in the coming days. If there is adequate rainfall, crop growth will improve, bringing relief to both farmers and livestock rearers.

Cotton Crop Wilting in Gujarat’s Aravalli District, Farmers Concerned Over Yield

Thu. 23rd July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com

Cotton crop sown across 13,857 hectares in Gujarat's Aravalli district hit by drying up; farmers concerned

Aravalli (Gujarat): Farmers in Aravalli district have sown cotton over an area approximately 3,000 to 4,000 hectares larger than last year. In the district's irrigated zones, farmers purchased expensive seeds and sowed the crop in May, ahead of the monsoon. Despite good initial growth, symptoms of the cotton plants suddenly drying up and wilting have appeared over the past week, raising concerns among the farmers.

This year, cotton has been cultivated across a total area of 13,857 hectares in the district. The highest sowing coverage was recorded in Sathamba taluka (4,493 hectares) and Bayad taluka (4,335 hectares). Conversely, the lowest cultivation was recorded in Malpur taluka (just 37 hectares) and Bhiloda taluka (179 hectares).

Farmers had prepared their fields during the summer, completed early sowing, and provided regular care to the crop. However, in the last week, cotton plants in many fields have begun to wilt suddenly. According to the farmers, the plants are drying up rapidly during the flowering stage, raising fears of an adverse impact on yield. Farmers are seeking a solution to this problem and are calling for immediate guidance from the Agriculture Department.

Utilisation rate of Bangladesh RMG among US firms drops sharply: Study

Thu. 23rd July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
The utilisation rate of Bangladesh's garments among US firms fell sharply in 2026 to 78.9 per cent from 2025's 88.2 per cent as buyers intentionally maintain a diverse sourcing base prioritising capacity, flexibility, inventory agility and regional balancing, a USFIA study said. Slow speed-to-market, limited supply chain flexibility and compliance concerns remain major challenges in Bangladesh.

The utilisation rate of Bangladesh's garments among US fashion companies declined sharply this year to 78.9 per cent from 88.2 per cent last year as buyers intentionally maintain a diverse sourcing base prioritising capacity, flexibility, inventory agility and regional balancing in their sourcing strategy, according to the 2026 USFIA Benchmarking Study released recently.

Despite Bangladesh’s continued position as one of the world's leading apparel sourcing destinations, slow speed-to-market, limited supply chain flexibility and compliance concerns remain major challenges, the report noted.

The country received a score of only 2.3 out of five for speed-to-market, reflecting logistical constraints and its geographical distance from major consumer markets.

Bangladesh achieved a historic milestone by surpassing China in the US apparel market for the first time in decades, according to the survey conducted by the US Fashion Industry Association (USFIA).

During the first five months of 2026, Bangladesh accounted for 11.3 per cent of US apparel imports by value, after Vietnam's 22.2 per cent share, while China's share declined to 9.7 per cent.

Close to 47 per cent of surveyed firms reported that Bangladesh accounted for more than 10 per cent of their total sourcing value or volume, highlighting the country's continued strategic importance to global buyers.

While Bangladesh continued to excel in cost-efficient, large-scale production, its longer lead times have become a competitive disadvantage as international retailers increasingly demanded faster inventory replenishment and shorter fashion cycles.

Despite the lower utilisation rate, the report presented an optimistic outlook for Bangladesh as it ranked the country as the second most popular 'rising star' for future sourcing expansion, with 46.7 per cent of respondents planning to increase sourcing from the country over the next two years, second only to Indonesia.

UK CPI eases in June; textile producer inflation at 3.8%

Thu. 23rd July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights

UK CPI inflation eased to 2.6 per cent YoY in June 2026, while core CPI remained unchanged at 2.6 per cent.

Clothing and footwear prices fell 0.5 per cent YoY and 1.2 per cent MoM amid stronger summer discounting.

Producer input inflation slowed to 7.3 per cent, while textile, apparel and leather factory gate prices rose 3.8 per cent YoY.

UK consumer price inflation moderated in June 2026, with the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rising by 2.6 per cent year on year (YoY), down from 2.8 per cent in May. On a monthly basis, CPI increased by 0.1 per cent, compared with a rise of 0.3 per cent in June 2025, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Clothing and footwear prices fell by 0.5 per cent in the year to June 2026, reversing a rise of 0.2 per cent in May. On a monthly basis, prices declined by 1.2 per cent, compared with a smaller fall of 0.4 per cent in June 2025.

Clothing and footwear prices typically decline in June as the summer sales season begins. The proportion of discounted prices increased more strongly between May and June 2026 than during the corresponding period a year earlier.

Core CPI, which excludes energy and food rose by 2.6 per cent YoY, unchanged from May. The CPI goods annual rate slowed from 2 per cent to 1.7 per cent, while services inflation eased from 3.7 per cent to 3.6 per cent.

Similarly, producer input prices rose by 7.3 per cent in the year to June 2026, moderating from a revised increase of 9.3 per cent in May. Input prices fell by 2 per cent MoM, with crude oil making the largest downward contribution to the change in the annual rate.

Producer output, or factory gate, prices increased by 3.5 per cent YoY in June, down from a revised 3.7 per cent in May, and were unchanged on a monthly basis. Refined petroleum products provided the largest downward contribution to the change in output price inflation.

Within manufacturing, output prices for textiles, wearing apparel and leather products rose by 3.8 per cent YoY in June, easing from 4 per cent in May. Prices in the category increased by 0.1 per cent MoM, following a 1.6 per cent rise in May.

Bangladesh PM forms committee to tackle textile sector issues

Thu. 23rd July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
Bangladesh PM Tarique Rahman recently formed a high-level committee to review and resolve problems being faced by the country's textile sector. This followed a meeting between leaders from the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) and Rahman. BTMA leaders sought the government's continued support for the sector's sustainable development and urged policy support to enhance its global competitiveness.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman recently formed a high-level committee to review and resolve problems being faced by the country’s textile sector.

This followed a meeting between representatives from the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) and Rahman at the Prime Minister's Office.

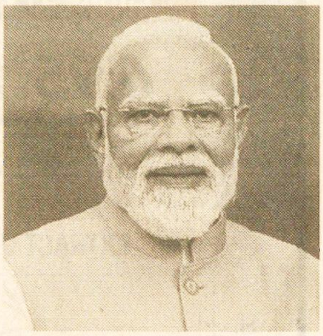
The BTMA leaders sought the government’s continued support for the sector’s sustainable development and urged policy support to enhance its global competitiveness, according to domestic media outlets.

Rahman assured the industry representatives government cooperation for the sector.

Business Standard – 23.07.2026

Welfare of citizens should be at heart of all reforms: PM

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 22 July



PM Narendra Modi also called for inter-department convergence on initiatives for youth to tackle the issue of drug abuse

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the objective of reforms is not merely to improve functioning of the government, but also to accelerate India's journey towards becoming a developed nation. While stating this, he also emphasised that citizen's welfare should be at the heart of all such measures.

Chairing a high-level meeting of secretaries to review the progress of rural development, agriculture, social welfare and allied sectors, Modi said reforms should be driven by people's needs. They must focus on delivering tangible outcomes rather than merely improving administrative processes, he said.

He said governance systems are witnessing rapid changes and adapting and strengthening them to effectively meet the needs of a dynamic and evolving environment is the need of the hour. He suggested a comprehensive mapping of emerging requirements across various ministries and departments.

The Prime Minister called for developing an institutional mechanism and greater inter-departmental convergence on youth-centric initiatives to tackle the issue of drug abuse.

His comments on drug abuse among rural youth come months ahead of the Punjab polls where drug abuse is a burning issue.

He also directed bureaucrats to place citizens' welfare at the centre of governance reforms and adopt a whole-of-government approach to accelerate India's progress towards becoming a developed nation. Highlighting the need for greater coordination, the Prime Minister urged ministries to break departmental silos and work in convergence to achieve the country's development objectives.

Modi said the vision of a Viksit Bharat should become a mass movement, with India's youth playing a central role in driving the transformation.

The Prime Minister also emphasised an integrated strategy for sports development, saying India should leverage the growing potential of sports tourism and aspire to host international sporting events. He called for greater use of technology and innovation, including support for startups, to build India into a global sports hub.

On agriculture, Modi highlighted the transformative potential of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan scheme, saying wider adoption of the programme by farmers could significantly strengthen the sector.

He also underlined the need for a global mapping of skill requirements to better align India's workforce with emerging international employment opportunities.

Secretaries presented updates on initiatives and challenges across their respective ministries, while the PM shared his vision for improving implementation and accelerating progress.

Business Standard – 23.07.2026

Icra estimates India's Q1 GDP growth at 6.4-6.6%

AKSHAT AYUSH
New Delhi, 22 July

Rating agency Icra on Wednesday said India's economy likely expanded in the range of 6.4 to 6.6 per cent in the first quarter (April-June) of FY27 despite elevated energy prices and limited input availability weighing on the margins of key sectors after economic output exceeded expectations in the corresponding period.

In Q4FY26, real gross domestic product (GDP) grew at 7.8 per cent. Economic activity jumped to a 32-month high year-on-year, according to the Icra Business Activity Monitor, registering 12 per cent growth in June 2026, up from 9.4 per cent in May. The index tracks 16 high-frequency indicators to gauge the economy's health before the release of official GDP data. "The uptick was broad-based, with as many as 13 of the 16 constituent indicators seeing an acceleration in their Y-o-Y growth rates," the agency said.

The temporary US-Iran ceasefire, a 12-year high rainfall deficit of 40 per cent in June that provided an extended period for construction and mining activities, and a low base across indicators were cited as likely reasons for the healthy growth in the economy, the report said.

Despite stronger-than-expected economic activity in Q1FY27, the agency expects GDP growth to ease from the 7.7 per cent recorded in the previous quarter.

In the first quarter of FY27, the Icra Business Activity Monitor grew 10 per cent Y-o-Y, up from 9.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of FY26, as 10 of the 17 non-agri indicators registered Y-o-Y improvement between the two quarters.

Business Standard – 23.07.2026

Trade deal near complete: US after Rubio-Jaishankar meet

EAM calls for fair market access in talks with Wang Yi; conveys to Lavrov concerns over safety of Indian sailors

ARCHIS MOHAN
New Delhi, 22 July

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Manila to discuss the proposed India-US trade deal, tariffs and other key bilateral issues.

The meeting, held on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and Quad foreign ministers' meetings, came hours after US President Donald Trump threatened steep tariffs on generic medicines, raising concerns among Indian drugmakers.

After the meeting, Jaishankar said in a social media post that their discussion "focused on areas which are priority" for the India-US comprehensive global strategic partnership, "including trade and tariffs, energy, defence and security, critical minerals and artificial intelligence." Rubio said on X that they discussed regional security, the Quad, trade and defence agreements. "Our relationship with India is vitally important," he said. US State Department spokesperson Tommy Piggott said Rubio and Jaishankar discussed recent developments in West Asia and the Indo-Pacific. He said they also "discussed finalising key defence agreements in fulfilment of commitments made between President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year". Rubio and Jaishankar agreed on the importance of concluding the interim trade deal, which is almost complete, Piggott said. He did not mention that tariffs were mentioned in the discussions.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on the sidelines of the Asean Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Manila on Wednesday PHOTO: REUTERS

Addressing the India-Asean foreign ministers' meeting in Manila, Jaishankar called for deeper cooperation amid the ongoing global disruptions. He said no single country or grouping could deal with the current volatility alone and stressed that deeper cooperation would help nations "de-risk and diversify".

Jaishankar also held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from China, Russia, Australia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Canada and New Zealand.

During his meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Jaishankar noted the gradual "normalising" of India-China ties since October 2024, citing peace along the border, the resumption of direct flights, changes to the visa regime, the restart of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra and the resumption of border trade.

However, he said other "important dimensions" of the bilateral relationship still needed to be addressed. "Fair market access and trade balance ranks high in that regard," Jaishankar said. He also flagged India's concerns over the predictability of supply chains and called for greater official and people-to-people exchanges. "We also need to agree on the meetings of various mechanisms and platforms as per our mutual priorities," he said.

In his meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Jaishankar conveyed India's concerns over the safety of seafarers in the Black Sea region after four Indian sailors were killed and another critically injured in a Russian missile strike on a merchant vessel off the coast of Ukraine this week.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had summoned Russian Charge d'Affaires Vladimir Ladanov in New Delhi to convey its "grave concerns" and "unequivocal condemnation" over the Russian attack on the Guinea-Bissau-flagged merchant vessel Golden Leo on Sunday, which killed 10 people, including four Indian crew members. Jaishankar said he "reiterated" India's "strong concern regarding the safety of Indian seafarers in the region" to Lavrov.

Jaishankar also attended the Quad foreign ministers' meeting, where India joined its partners in calling for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific while reaffirming Asean's centrality amid China's growing military assertiveness in the South China Sea. Rubio, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi attended the meeting. The Quad foreign ministers last met in New Delhi in late May.

Jaishankar said on social media that the ministers reviewed "the Indo-Pacific landscape and discussed recent developments".

The Economic Times – 23.07.2026

PEACE AND TRANQUILITY IN BORDER AREAS A PREREQUISITE FOR NORMAL TIES, SAYS EAM TO WANG YI IN MANILA

Jaishankar Raises Supply Chain Concerns, Trade Imbalance in Talks With Chinese FM

MUTUAL RESPECT, MUTUAL INTEREST Stability in India-China relations will help create a 'multi-polar Asia: Minister

Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury

New Delhi: Stability in India-China relations will help create a "multi-polar Asia" and a "multi-polar world", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Manila, even as he raised the issues of fair market access for Indian exporters to create a balanced bilateral trade relationship and called for predictability in supply chains.

In his opening remarks during their meeting in Manila, held nearly a year after their previous talks, Jaishankar said, "We believe that a stable and cooperative relationship can best be developed on the basis of mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity. Such a relationship can make a valuable contribution to a multi-polar Asia and a multi-polar world." The minister said it was natural that, as two large and important nations, and proximate neighbours, India and China would have their own particular interests. In this context, he recalled, "That is why our leaders had agreed that differences should not become disputes." He added that it was therefore the responsibility of diplomacy to properly manage those differences.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Manila – PTI

Referring to the long-standing boundary dispute, Jaishankar said, "Peace and tranquility in the border areas is obviously the prerequisite for normal ties. Since October 2024, both sides have engaged to ensure that important objective. This will continue to need our constant attention. Relevant mechanisms in this domain must be given full support and strong encouragement." It may be recalled that during Wang Yi's visit to India in August 2025, several steps involving official mechanisms were announced to stabilise the Line of Actual Control.

Jaishankar welcomed the resumption of direct flights, updating the visa regime, restarting the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

Jaishankar welcomed the steps taken towards the normalisation of ties, including the resumption of direct flights, updating the visa regime, restarting the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and the resumption of border trade. He also lauded China's support for India's BRICS presidency.

The EAM simultaneously raised the issue of challenges in economic partnership. "...there are also important dimensions of our ties that need to be addressed. Fair market access and a trade balance rank high in that regard. There are also concerns about predictability of supply chains. We also need to agree on the meetings of various mechanisms and platforms as per our mutual priorities."

India's trade deficit with China reached an all-time high of $112.16 billion in the 2025-26 fiscal year. Bilateral trade stood at $91.72 billion in the first half of 2026, with India importing $79.41 billion worth of goods and exporting goods worth $12.31 billion.

The Economic Times – 23.07.2026

US to Unveil Final Action on Sec 301 Investigation Soon: Trade Rep Greer

Washington: The US on Wednesday said it will release the "final responsive action" on **Section 301 investigations on 60 trading partners, including India, on the issue of forced labour** "as soon as tomorrow", before the 10% additional tariffs on all countries expire.

US Trade representative Jamieson Greer told the Senate Finance Committee that it had investigated the top 60 trading partners of the US for their failure to adopt and effectively enforce an import ban on goods produced with forced labour.

"As soon as tomorrow, USTR will release its final responsive action on its Section 301 investigation of our top 60 trading partners' failure to address international trade in forced goods at their borders," Greer told the Committee hearing here.

Last month, the USTR had proposed additional tariffs of 10% and 12.5% on trading partners depending on the strength of their existing measures to address this issue.

Greer said USTR has received over 1,600 comments on the proposed action and also held a second round of public hearings on this investigation, in which 107 witnesses provided testimony.

USTR is also probing structural excess capacity in over a dozen countries and has yet to come up with the preliminary findings. —**PTI**

businessline – 23.07.2026

Rain deficit shrinks to 21% as wet spell intensifies in West, North-West

Vinson Kurian
Thiruvananthapuram

The monsoon sustained fresh momentum across Central, North-West and East India on Wednesday, helping slash the country's cumulative rainfall deficit to 21 per cent, even after the low-pressure area that triggered the latest wet spell weakened over land.

The improvement was most visible over East and North-East India, where the rainfall shortfall narrowed to 32 per cent.

The South Peninsula continued to lag with a 26 per cent deficit, while Central India (13 per cent) and North-West India (18 per cent) emerged as the best-performing regions as widespread rain continued.

NORMAL CATEGORY

Under India Meteorological Department (IMD) norms, seasonal rainfall between 19 per cent below and 19 per cent above the long-period average is classified as normal.

That places both Central and North-West India firmly in the normal category, while the South Peninsula and the East and North-Eastern States still face an uphill task to erase their deficits as the season advances.

The IMD said the active monsoon phase would persist over the next few days. Eastern Gujarat is likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall with isolated extremely heavy falls for the next two days, while Madhya Maharashtra is expected to experience similar conditions for another day.

PREFERRED ALIGNMENT

The forecast of heavy to very heavy rain also remained in force for Konkan and Goa on Wednesday.

The IMD said the active monsoon phase would persist over the next few days

The widespread rainfall is being driven by a favourable alignment of monsoon systems.

A cyclonic circulation over central north Madhya Pradesh is drawing moisture-laden south-westerly winds from the north Arabian Sea across south Gujarat, Konkan, Mumbai and western Maharashtra.

At the same time, the seasonal monsoon trough stretches from Bikaner through Banasthali Vidyapeeth (Rajashtan), Guna and Damoh (Madhya Pradesh), Pendra Road (Chhattisgarh) and Midnapore (West Bengal) before dipping into the north-east Bay of Bengal, maintaining an active corridor across northern India.

SHEAR ZONE BACK

Strengthening the system further is an east-west shear zone of monsoon turbulence extending through Porbandar, Bhavnagar, Nandurbar, Nagpur, Raipur, Basna and Bhadrak.

Such shear zones are a classic hallmark of an active monsoon, sustaining widespread convection and intense rainfall.

Adding to the favourable weather pattern, a western disturbance over Jammu, seen as a cyclonic circulation with an upper-air trough, is interacting with the monsoon flow.

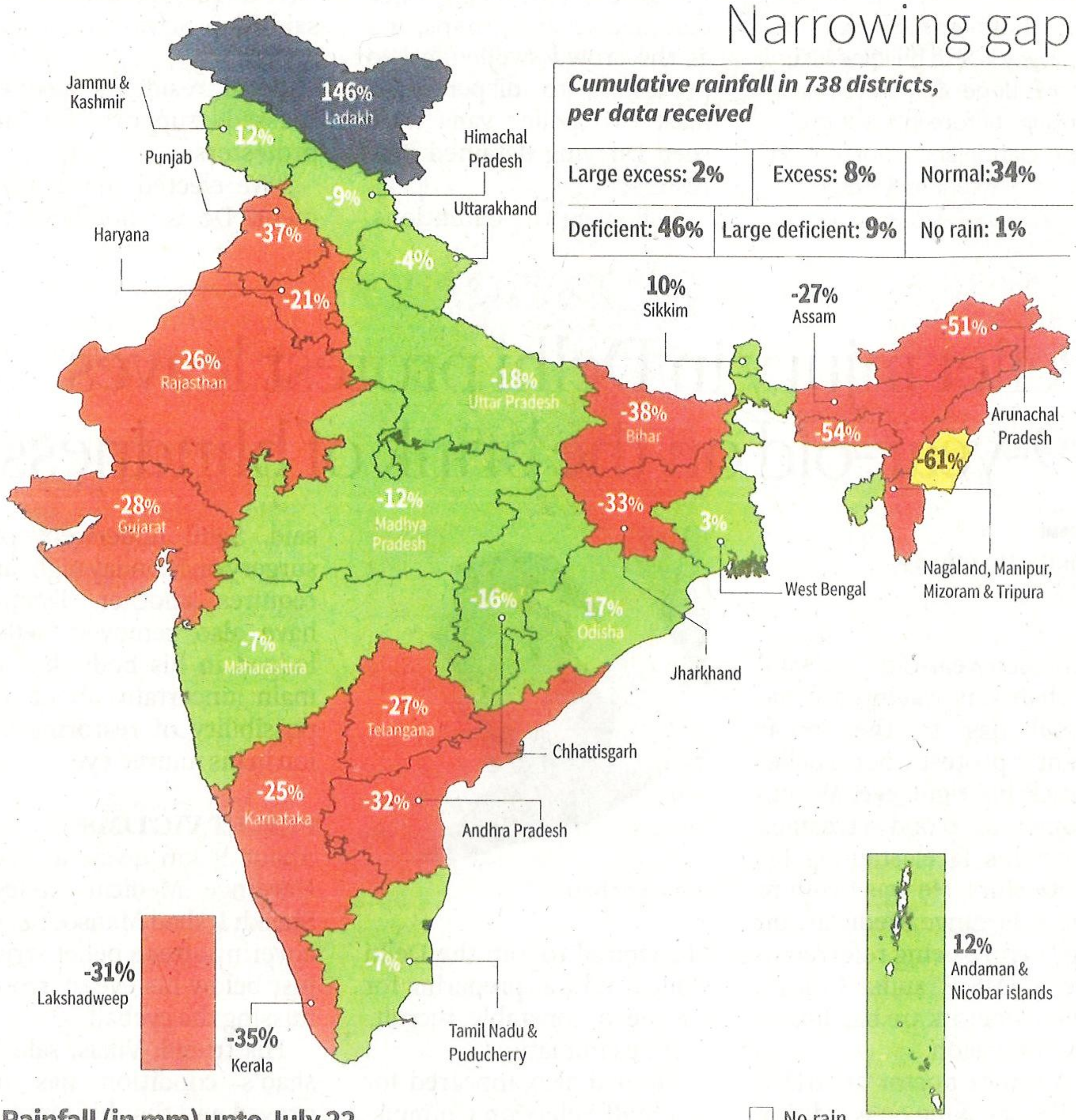
The IMD has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall with isolated extremely heavy falls over Jammu and Kashmir, south-east Rajasthan and south-west Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday.

businessline – 23.07.2026

Narrowing gap

Cumulative rainfall in 738 districts, per data received

Large excess: **2%**	Excess: **8%**	Normal: **34%**
Deficient: **46%**	Large deficient: **9%**	No rain: **1%**



Rainfall (in mm) upto July 22

Region	Actual	Normal	% departure from LPA
East & N-E India	433.6	638.1	-32
N-W India	192.3	220.8	-13
Central India	358.9	392.8	-9
South Peninsular India	225.3	303.9	-26
Country as a whole	293.3	361.5	-19

- No rain
- Large deficient (-99% to -66%)
- Deficient (-59% to -20%)
- Normal (-19% to 19%)
- Excess (20% to 59%)
- Large excess (60% or more)

Source: IMD

Cumulative rainfall from June 1 to July 22