COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015

News Relating to
Cotton and Textile Sector

Date-24-07-2026

Sr. No.	Topics	Page No.
News Relating to Cotton and Textile Sector		

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

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

Mumbai, Friday 24th 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	12879	45800	(+300)
3	M/M(P)	ICS-104	Fine	23mm	4.5 - 7.0	4%	22	15522	55200	(+500)
4	P / H / R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	17125	60900	(+500)
5	M/M(P) /SA/TL/GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	15410	54800	(+100)
6	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	17041	60600	(+200)
7	P/ H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	17772	63200	(+500)
8	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18503	65800	(+500)
9	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18390	65400	(+400)
10	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18390	65400	(+500)
11	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	4.0%	27	17828	63400	(+500)
12	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	18587	66100	(+100)
13	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18784	66800	(+500)
14	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18587	66100	(+400)
15	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18672	66400	(+500)
16	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	18953	67400	(+200)
17	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	18925	67300	(+400)
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	24267	86300	(-200)
22	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	24464	87000	(+500)
23	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	24858	88400	(N.C.)
24	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	35	25027	89000	(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: 23-07-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE					23 Jul 2026	
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Oct-26	79.60	80.54	79.60	79.84	▼0.03	136
Dec-26	81.00	82.05	80.77	81.21	▲0.10	1,98,922
Mar-27	82.34	83.45	82.14	82.83	▲0.38	63,349
May-27	83.11	84.29	83.00	83.98	▲0.65	22,540
Jul-27	82.65	83.75	82.54	83.61	▲0.74	14,292
Oct-27	0.00	79.03	79.03	79.03	▲0.39	6
Dec-27	76.63	77.18	76.55	76.97	▲0.33	22,049

Cotlook Index: 23-07-2026

90.35 (0.75)

ICE cotton gains modestly, weak export demand limits rally

Fri. 24th July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
ICE cotton futures extended gains for a fourth straight session, supported by stronger crude oil prices and broader strength in agricultural commodities.
However, weak US export sales, a firmer US dollar and light trading capped gains.
Traders continue to monitor weather, export demand, Brazil's larger crop outlook and China's reserve auctions.

ICE cotton futures posted slight gains for the fourth consecutive session yesterday, supported by stronger crude oil prices and gains across agricultural commodity markets. However, the upside remained limited due to weaker US export sales and a firmer US dollar.

The most-active December 2026 contract settled at 81.21 cents per pound, up 0.10 cent. Although the market recorded another higher close, the advance remained modest as weak US export sales and a stronger US dollar capped gain. Other nearby contracts also ended slightly higher.

Cotton continued to draw support from higher crude oil prices and strength across agricultural commodity markets. CBOT wheat futures climbed to fresh highs, supported by concerns over Black Sea exports and dry weather in key producing regions, while corn and soybean futures also advanced.

Crude oil traded above $100 per barrel, reaching its highest level in several months amid persistent geopolitical tensions and concerns over potential supply disruptions in the Middle East. Higher crude oil prices increase the production cost of polyester fibre, thereby improving cotton's competitiveness against synthetic fibres.

Market analysts said the strength in grain and energy markets continued to support cotton prices, adding that weather-related concerns remain an important underlying factor across agricultural commodities.

Trading volumes remained light, indicating cautious buying interest despite the fourth consecutive daily gain, as traders awaited stronger confirmation of demand.

The USDA Weekly Export Sales Report for the week ended July 16 continued to weigh on market sentiment. Current-crop Upland cotton export sales totalled 51,287 bales, down 49 per cent from the previous week and 12 per cent below the four-week average. The total included 15,475 bales sold to China.

Traders also remained focused on global production prospects. China's reserve auctions continued to support nearby demand, while market attention stayed on weather-related production risks in major exporting countries.

AgRural estimated Brazil's 2025-26 cotton crop at approximately 4.20 million tonnes, around 1.5 per cent higher than its previous estimate, reflecting expectations of another large harvest.

Brazil has already exported more than 2.06 million tonnes of cotton this season and continues to increase shipments, reinforcing its position as one of the world's leading cotton exporters and a major competitor to US cotton in global markets.

ICE certified cotton stocks declined further to 94,235 bales as of July 22, continuing the steady reduction in deliverable supplies.

Overall, cotton recorded a fourth consecutive daily gain, supported by strength in crude oil and agricultural commodity markets. However, weak export sales and light trading activity continued to limit bullish momentum. Traders remain focused on weather developments, export demand, and global supply conditions for cues on the market's next direction.

This morning (Indian Standard Time), the December 2026 ICE cotton contract traded at 81.38 cents per pound, up 0.17 cent. The cash cotton contract was at 76.09 cents, down 0.03 cent, while the October 2026 contract traded at 79.84 cents, also down 0.03 cent. The March 2027 contract rose 0.15 cent to 82.98 cents, the May 2027 contract gained 0.07 cent to 84.05 cents, and the July 2027 contract edged down 0.02 cent to 83.59 cents. A few contracts remained unchanged, with no trading recorded so far today.

India's Trident Group Q1 profit rises 55% QoQ to $1.58 mn

Fri. 24th July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
Indian home textiles company Trident Group reported a strong Q1FY27 performance, with consolidated income rising 9.3 per cent QoQ to ₹1,803 crore (~$18.03 million) and net profit increasing 55 per cent to ₹158 crore (~$1.58 million). Improved yarn prices, cost discipline, and operational efficiencies supported margin expansion. The company remains optimistic about export growth.

Indian home textiles company Trident Group has reported a strong financial performance for the first quarter (Q1) of fiscal 2027 (FY27), with consolidated total income rising 9.3 per cent quarter on quarter (QoQ) to ₹1,803 crore (~$18.03 million). The company's EBITDA increased 27.4 per cent sequentially to ₹316 crore, while net profit grew 55 per cent QoQ and 13 per cent year on year (YoY) to ₹158 crore (~$1.58 million).

For the quarter ended June 30, 2026, Trident recorded a 4.4 per cent YoY growth in consolidated income compared with ₹1,727 crore in the same quarter last year. EBITDA remained largely stable YoY, increasing 1.5 per cent from ₹312 crore in Q1FY26. EBITDA margin stood at 17.55 per cent, compared with 15.05 per cent in the previous quarter and 18.06 per cent a year earlier.

Profitability improves on operational efficiency

The profit before tax (PBT) rose to ₹216 crore (~$2.16 million), up 47.7 per cent from the previous quarter and 15.2 per cent year on year. PBT margin improved to 11.99 per cent, supported by better operational efficiencies, cost management and improved yarn prices. Cash profit stood at ₹228 crore during the quarter.

Trident's net debt stood at ₹1,025 crore, with net debt-to-EBITDA at 0.83 times and net debt-to-equity at 0.22 times, reflecting a stable balance sheet position.

The company's yarn business generated consolidated revenue of ₹954 crore during the quarter, while the home textile segment, including bath and bed linen, reported revenue of ₹941 crore. The paper and chemicals business contributed ₹297 crore to consolidated revenue.

Trident remains optimistic on export opportunities

Commenting on the results, *Deepak Nanda, managing director, Trident Limited,* said the company delivered a strong performance in Q1FY27, supported by improved yarn prices, disciplined cost control and enhanced operational efficiencies. He added that better asset utilisation and productivity improvements helped expand margins despite a challenging global operating environment.

Nanda said Trident remains optimistic about export opportunities as global supply chains continue to diversify and customers increasingly seek reliable sourcing partners. He added that the company's integrated manufacturing capabilities, diversified product portfolio and international presence position it to capture emerging global growth opportunities.

Mixed trend in US cotton exports; average sales decline: USDA

Fri. 24th July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights US cotton export bookings recovered in the week ended July 16, with Upland cotton sales rising 49 per cent from the previous week, led by China, Vietnam, and India. Export shipments also increased 29 per cent, though sales remained below the four-week average. Pima cotton demand remained stable, with India the largest buyer and key importer.

US cotton export sale showed a recovery in US cotton export bookings for the week ended July 16, after the sharp slowdown recorded in the previous week. According to the USDA Weekly Export Sales Report, sales of Upland cotton of current season improved from the previous week, while shipments also gained momentum, although demand remained below recent averages.

Net sales of Upland cotton for the 2025-26 marketing year totalled 51,300 RB (running bales, each weighing 226.8 kg), up 49 per cent from the previous week, but down 12 per cent from the prior four-week average. China was the largest buyer with purchases of 15,500 RB, including 1,000 RB switched from Hong Kong. Vietnam followed with 12,300 RB, including 1,600 RB switched from South Korea and reductions of 1,900 RB. India purchased 7,100 RB, while Bangladesh and Mexico booked 4,400 RB and 3,700 RB, respectively. These gains were partly offset by reductions from South Korea, Hong Kong, Pakistan, and Türkiye.

New-crop Upland cotton sales for the 2026-27 marketing year increased to 16,100 RB, compared with 4,100 RB in the previous week. Vietnam led purchases with 7,100 RB, followed by India with 4,700 RB, Pakistan with 2,200 RB, Peru with 1,500 RB and Mexico with 1,200 RB. These gains were partly offset by reductions from South Korea, Nicaragua, and Guatemala.

Upland cotton export shipments increased to 276,300 RB, rising 29 per cent from the previous week and 15 per cent above the prior four-week average. Vietnam was the largest destination with shipments of 96,300 RB, followed by Pakistan with 42,700 RB, Türkiye with 31,800 RB, India with 20,400 RB and Bangladesh with 16,400 RB. The increase marked a recovery from the previous week when Upland shipments declined to 214,900 RB.

Pima cotton demand remained relatively stable during the week. Net sales for the 2025-26 marketing year totalled 3,200 RB, down 11 per cent from the previous week, but 15 per cent above the prior four-week average. India was the largest buyer with 2,400 RB, followed by Pakistan and Türkiye with 400 RB each and Thailand with 200 RB. New-crop Pima sales for the 2026-27 marketing year stood at 1,500 RB, with Peru accounting for 1,100 RB and India for 400 RB.

Pima cotton export shipment rose slightly to 8,000 RB, up 3 per cent from the previous week, but down 37 per cent from the prior four-week average. Vietnam was the leading destination with shipments of 2,200 RB, followed by India with 2,100 RB, Costa Rica, and Egypt with 900 RB each, and Pakistan with 800 RB.

The latest USDA data indicate that US cotton export demand regained some momentum, after the previous week’s slowdown. Upland cotton bookings improved, supported by stronger buying from major Asian markets including China, Vietnam, and India, while export shipments recovered across key destinations. However, sales remained below the recent four-week average, suggesting that demand conditions continue to be measured. Pima cotton demand stayed comparatively steady, with India remaining an important market for both sales and shipments.

US imposes forced labour tariffs on 60 economies
Fri. 24th July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
USTR is imposing Section 301 tariffs on 60 economies over forced-labour import bans, with rates set at 10 per cent, 10 or 12.5 per cent net of MFN, or 12.5 per cent.
Apparel and textile importers face duty exposure across affected sourcing markets.
Product exemptions cover some raw materials and goods tied to domestic supply or economy-wide disruption risks.

The US is imposing Section 301 tariffs on goods from economies found to have failed to impose and effectively enforce prohibitions on imports made with forced labour, adding a compliance-linked duty issue for textile and apparel supply chains shipping into the US.
The measure is relevant for sourcing, manufacturing and import teams using covered origins because duties vary by economy and product, while some product exemptions have been deemed appropriate.

The United States Trade Representative (USTR) said the final action follows investigations covering 60 economies, two rounds of public hearings, more than 2,100 public comments and consultations with more than 45 governments of economies subject to the investigations.

According to USTR, a 10 per cent Section 301 duty applies to investigated economies that impose a forced labour import prohibition, have committed to impose and enforce such a prohibition through an Agreement on Reciprocal Trade, or have a partial regime preventing imports of certain forced-labour goods.

These economies are Argentina, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom. USTR said 10 per cent or 12.5 per cent, net of Most-Favoured-Nation rate, applies to certain non-exempt products of the European Union, Taiwan, Japan, Korea and Switzerland, while 12.5 per cent applies to all other investigated economies.

The White House memorandum listed the investigated economies as Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, the People's Republic of China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, the European Union, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hong Kong, China, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkiye, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela and Vietnam.

USTR said the investigations were initiated on March 12, 2026, at the direction of President Trump. Public hearings were held on April 28 and April 29, and on June 2, 2026, the US Trade Representative determined that the acts, policies and practices of the 60 investigated economies were unreasonable and burdened or restricted US commerce.

USTR added that it later received, reviewed and analysed over 1,600 written comments on proposed responsive action and held public hearings from July 7 to July 9, at which over 100 witnesses provided testimony.

Jamieson Greer, US Trade Representative said,"President Trump recognises that decades of moral suasion have not eradicated forced labour from global supply chains. US has had a forced labour import ban for nearly a century, and rigorously enforces it; it is well past time for our trading partners to do the same."

USTR also said product exemptions are appropriate for raw materials that could lead to unavailability of domestic supply if tariffed, products that could cause economy-wide disruptions if subject to the tariffs, and products that cannot be grown or produced in sufficient quantities or at reasonable prices in the US or obtained from other sources.

The White House memorandum said USTR had proposed a textile mechanism that would allow a certain volume of apparel and textile imports to enter the US at a zero Section 301 tariff rate.

USTR said further details for certain products and exemptions are set out in the Federal Register Notice.

US tariff decision puts Indian T&A exporters at disadvantage: CITI
Fri. 24th July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
CITI says a 10 per cent US tariff on Indian goods linked to forced-labour import enforcement could hit textile and apparel exporters.
TRQ windows for Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and Malaysia may divert US sourcing away from India.
CITI wants Indian government engagement with the US, citing reputational risk and possible effects on intermediate textile exports.

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) has expressed grave concern over the US imposing a 10 per cent tariff on Indian goods following investigations conducted under Section 301 by the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR). The investigations relate to the enforcement of prohibitions on imports of goods produced with forced labour.

"The tariff imposition on the issue of forced labour is deeply unfortunate as it does not indicate an expiry date, causes reputational risks, and CITI looks forward to the Indian government taking up this issue with the US given the detrimental impact it could have on textile and apparel exports from India," Ashwin Chandran, chairman, CITI said in a press release.

"What could raise a serious challenge for Indian textile and apparel exporters is the fact that although many key competitors of ours have also been subject to the same tariff rate, a window has been opened for textile and apparel exports from these countries to enter the United States free of the Section 301 tariffs. This differential treatment risks diverting sourcing orders for textile and apparel items away from India," Chandran pointed out.

The US Federal Register Notice mentions:

"As soon as the Trade Representative determines that it is feasible, the Trade Representative shall: (i) establish TRQs for Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Malaysia, with an initial duration of 3 years, to encourage the importation by each of these economies of US textile goods, in order to reduce reliance on inputs from other sources that are more likely to contain forced labour inputs; and

(ii) structure the TRQs for Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Malaysia to allow for a certain volume of specific textiles and apparel, based on that economy's importation of US inputs, to enter the United States free of the section 301 tariffs provided for in section 1(a) of this memorandum."

TRQs refer to Tariff-Rate Quotas.

Chandran said India's textile and apparel industry operates under a robust national legal and institutional framework that prohibits forced labour. He added that the industry maintains a zero-tolerance approach, backed by active enforcement measures and compliance mechanisms.

On July 13, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) had issued a notification inserting new paragraphs into the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) regarding the prohibition on the import of goods produced using forced labour. India has also implemented four Labour Codes to protect workers' rights.

Chandran added that the US tariff imposed on the issue of "forced labour" could also affect exports of intermediate textile items from India to other nations.

The US is the single-largest market for India's textile and apparel items. Exports of textile and apparel products from India to the US are usually close to $11 billion.

US reduces forced labour duty on India from 12.5% to 10%
Fri. 24th July 2026 (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
India will face a new 10-per cent US tariff after Washington reduced the 12.5-per cent duty proposed initially under its forced labour investigation.
The final tariff on India was reduced after New Delhi introduced measures to prohibit imports produced wholly or partly using forced labour.
Nations like China, the UK and Japan that lack laws barring the import of such goods will face 12.5-per cent tariffs.

India will face a new 10-per cent US tariff after Washington reduced the 12.5-per cent duty proposed initially under its forced labour investigation.

The final tariff on India was reduced after New Delhi introduced measures to prohibit imports produced wholly or partly using forced labour.

The announcement was part of US President Donald Trump’s latest decision to impose new double-digit tariffs on at least 60 US trading partners, claiming that they have inadequately enforced bans on goods produced by forced labour.

The US government will impose taxes ranging from 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent on imports from these nations.

Countries like China, the United Kingdom and Japan that lack laws barring the import of goods produced with forced labour will face tariffs of 12.5 per cent, the White House said in its order.

Certain economies like Cambodia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Sri Lanka, and Trinidad and Tobago and the European Union have imposed forced labour import prohibitions or undertaken commitments regarding forced labour import prohibitions. Hence goods from these economies should be tariffed at the 10-per cent rate, the White House noted.

Some US imports, like products governed by the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement and oil and gas, are exempt from the new tariffs.

The latest tariffs take effect today, the moment the temporary 10-per cent import tax earlier enforced by Trump expired. That measure was introduced after a February Supreme Court judgement that invalidated Trump's so-called ‘Liberation Day’ tariffs introduced in April last year.

New Subsidy Scheme for Cotton Farmers in Maharashtra: Up to ₹75,000 Assistance
Thu. 24th July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com

New Subsidy Scheme for Cotton Farmers in Maharashtra

Jalgaon: The Agriculture Department has launched a significant scheme for cotton farmers under the 'Cotton Productivity Mission 2026-27'. The initiative aims to minimize post-harvest losses, ensure better utilization of cotton stalks, and promote modern technology and mechanization in farming. Under the scheme, eligible farmers will receive attractive subsidies for purchasing biochar units and cotton shredders. District Superintendent Agriculture Officer Kurban Tadvi has urged farmers to apply online promptly via the MahaDBT portal.

The scheme places special emphasis on producing biochar from cotton residues to increase soil carbon content and improve fertility. Farmers will receive a subsidy covering 50% of the total cost or a maximum of ₹10,000 (whichever is lower) for purchasing a biochar unit. This will not only ensure better management of agricultural waste but also help reduce production costs and promote sustainable farming.

Additionally, financial assistance will be provided for purchasing cotton shredder machines, which cut cotton stalks into small pieces. Farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) will receive a subsidy of 50% of the machine's cost, up to a maximum of ₹75,000. Meanwhile, farmers from the general category will receive assistance of 40%, up to a maximum of ₹60,000. The scheme applies to individual farmers as well as farmer groups, Farmer Producer Companies (FPOs), and agricultural cooperative societies.

The Agriculture Department has clarified that beneficiaries for both schemes will be selected on a 'first-come, first-served' basis; therefore, eligible farmers should not delay their applications. However, availing a bank loan is mandatory to benefit from the scheme, as the subsidy is loan-linked. Furthermore, farmers who have previously received a subsidy for the same equipment under any other government scheme will not be eligible for this scheme. For further information regarding the application process or the scheme, farmers can contact the office of their respective Taluka Agriculture Officer.

COTTON PRODUCTION
Thu. 24th July 2026 (Source: www. pib.gov.in)

Cotton production during the recent cotton seasons has ranged from 352.48 lakh bales in 2020-21 to 290.91 lakh bales (Provisional) in 2025-26. The variation in production is primarily attributable to changes in cotton acreage, as some farmers have diversified to other remunerative crops. Cotton productivity has, however, remained broadly stable in the range of 428-451 kg/hectare during this period. The details of area, production and productivity are given below.

Cotton prices have reflected prevailing domestic and international market conditions. During the recent period, international cotton prices increased by about 19%, while domestic cotton prices (S-6 variety) increased by about 18%. To augment domestic availability, imports of raw cotton and cotton yarn are undertaken whenever required. The details of imports of raw cotton and cotton yarn are given below.

The overall cotton availability in the country, including imports, meets the requirements of the domestic textile industry. The estimated production, carry-over stocks and imports meet the projected consumption and the cotton situation is continuously monitored.

The Government has taken timely measures to support the textile industry, including exemption of the 11% import duty on cotton imports from 01.06.2026 to 31.10.2026 to facilitate adequate availability of raw cotton at competitive prices. The Government has also continued the exemption from import duty on Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton (ITC HS Code 52010025), effective from 20.02.2024, to facilitate the availability of quality cotton for the textile industry. Further, the Government has approved the five-year Mission for Cotton Productivity (Kapas Kanti) (2026–27 to 2030–31), with an outlay of ₹5,659.22 crore to increase productivity & improve the quality of the cotton.

Details of area, production and productivity

Sr. No.	Cotton Year (Oct-Sept)	Area (in lakh Hectares)	Production (in lakh bales of 170 Kg)	Productivity (in Kg/Hectare)
1	2020-21	132.85	352.48	451
2	2021-22	123.71	311.17	428
3	2022-23	129.27	336.60	443
4	2023-24	126.88	325.22	436
5	2024-25	114.84	297.24	440
6	2025-26 (P)	114.82	290.91	431

P-Provisional;

Source: Committee on Cotton Production and Consumption meeting held on 16.04.2026

Details of import of raw cotton and yarn

(Quantity in Tonne)

ITEMS	2024-2025	2025-2026	Percentage Change	APRIL		Percentage Change
				2025-2026	2026-2027	
Cotton Yarn	7564.61	9074.13	19.96	954.51	848.37	-11.12
Raw Cotton	562224.70	1013455.16	80.26	45564.09	38674.34	-15.12

Source: Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India, DGCIS, Kolkata

This information was provided by THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha today.

TRADE PREPAREDNESS AND EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS OF TEXTILE SECTOR

Thu. 24th July 2026 (Source: www. pib.gov.in)

India's exports of textiles and apparel, including handicrafts, stood at ₹3,25,339 crore in 2025–26, registering a growth of 1.8 per cent over ₹3,19,573.2 crore in 2024–25 with export growth recorded in over 100 countries.

The Government has implemented several schemes and undertaken various initiatives to strengthen the global competitiveness and export preparedness of the Textile and Apparel sector. These inter-alia includes the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Parks Scheme (including at Amravati, Maharashtra), the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Textiles, the National Technical Textiles Mission, SAMARTH - Scheme for Capacity Building in the Textile Sector, and the launch of various components including Market Access Support and interest subvention under the Export Promotion Mission etc. In addition, several measures have recently been undertaken to support the Textile and Apparel exports and address emerging global challenges. These include the extension of Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products Scheme up to 30 September 2026; the temporary exemption from customs duty on import of Cotton falling under Customs Tariff Heading 5201 from 1 June to 31 October 2026; the temporary exemption from customs duties on key inputs in the man-made fibre (MMF) value chain, including Purified Terephthalic Acid and Mono-Ethylene Glycol ; rationalisation of GST rates for correcting of the inverted duty structure in the MMF value chain; and the launch of the Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation (RELIEF) initiative to support exporters affected by disruptions arising from the evolving geopolitical situation in West Asia and its continuing impact on maritime logistics across the Gulf and adjoining regions.

The Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) Scheme, operational since March 2019, provides for the rebate of embedded State and Central taxes and levies on the export of garments and made-ups, with a view to enhancing the competitiveness of these sectors. The Scheme has been extended for a further period of six months, up to 30 September 2026, to ensure policy predictability and stability for exporters in these sectors.

The Government has also adopted a focused export-promotion and market-diversification strategy covering 40 priority countries. Sixteen Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including the India–United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), are already in force. In addition, the FTA negotiations with the European Union have been successfully concluded, while India has signed an FTA with New Zealand. These agreements provide an opportunity for Indian textiles and apparel sector to enhance their exports and undertake market diversification.

To further enhance textile sector competitiveness and export preparedness, the Ministry of Textiles has established six Textile Export Facilitation Centres (TEFCs), including at Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra, launched India Immersive Experience Programme through National Institute of Fashion Technology to showcase India's textiles, handicrafts, culture and design ecosystem to international institutions of designs/fashions. The Ministry of Textiles successfully concluded the Textiles Summit in June 2026 which brought together representatives from State Governments/ UTs, industry, and academia to foster collaborative dialogue on the growth of the textile sector and unlock the potential of districts. The products of textiles & handicraft were exported from more than 500 districts in 2025-26. The district led focused approach with 100 champion & 100 aspirational Textiles Districts has been adopted to facilitate better improved planning and implementation support. The third edition of Bharat Tex, a global mega textiles event was held from 14th-17th July, 2026 to showcase India's entire textile value chain, foster global business partnerships, and position India as a leading global sourcing and manufacturing hub for textiles and apparel.

Collectively, these measures have helped diversify export markets, strengthen supply-chain resilience, improve market access including through e-commerce and enhance the competitiveness of Indian exporters, particularly MSMEs including Maharashtra.

This information was provided by THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha today.

STATUS OF URBAN HAAT PROGRAMME

Thu. 24th July 2026 (Source: www. pib.gov.in)

The O/o the DC (Handicrafts) and O/o the DC (Handlooms) under Ministry of Textile implement the National Handicrafts Development Programme and National Handloom Development Programme respectively , under which financial assistance is jointly provided by both the offices for setting up of Urban Haats to facilitate direct marketing of handicrafts and handloom products by artisans and weavers.

As on date, 28 Urban Haats are operational in the country, including 03 Urban Haats in the State of Rajasthan.

This information was provided by THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha today.

Tecoya Trend – 23.07.2026

India's next textile leap requires a level playing field for every fibre

By Mr. Murugan Thenkondar, President & Head – Marketing and Business Development (Fibre Marketing), Cellulosic Business – Grasim Industries, Aditya Birla Group

India's textile industry stands at an inflection point. Ambitions of becoming a global manufacturing powerhouse, expanding exports and moving up the value chain are widely shared across the sector. But realizing that potential will require more than investment and capacity creation. It also requires a policy framework aligned with the realities of a rapidly evolving global textile market rather than one designed for a very different industry landscape.

For decades, cotton defined India's textile landscape. It was our natural advantage, the foundation of our manufacturing strength and the catalyst behind the growth of a globally significant textile industry. That advantage remains valuable. However, while India's textile capabilities have matured, global markets have undergone a far more profound transformation.

The world is steadily moving towards man-made fibres as global fibre consumption continues to grow while cotton production remains relatively stagnant. Today, man-made fibres account for nearly 77 per cent of global fibre consumption compared with just 23 per cent for cotton. India, by contrast, maintains a fibre mix of roughly 50 per cent cotton and 50 per cent man-made fibres. Despite India becoming a net importer of cotton, the challenge is not cotton versus MMF, but ensuring that India's fibre basket evolves in line with changing global demand and product requirements

The growth engines of today's textile industry look very different from those of the past. Segments such as sportswear, athleisure, performance apparel, women's fashion, home furnishings and technical textiles are expanding rapidly across global markets. Their success often depends on specific performance attributes—strength, durability, biodegradability, stretch, moisture management, lightweight construction and consistency—that are delivered through a wider range of fibre solutions. As product requirements become more diverse, the ability to choose the right fibre for the right application becomes increasingly important.

The numbers reflect the scale of this transformation. Man-made fibres now account for nearly three-fourths of global fibre production, while cotton's share has moderated as end-use applications have diversified. India, however, remains far more cotton-oriented than most competing textile economies. The implications go beyond fibre consumption. They influence where investments flow, which products are developed and how effectively Indian manufacturers can respond to evolving global demand.

The question, therefore, is not whether cotton remains important—it undoubtedly does. The real question is whether fibre choice should be determined by market requirements or influenced by policy distortions.

In practice, manufacturers do not begin with a preferred fibre. They begin with a product and a customer requirement. The choice of fibre follows from performance, functionality, sustainability, aesthetics and cost considerations. Competitive industries thrive when these decisions are shaped by innovation and market demand. They become less efficient when taxation or duty structures indirectly favour one fibre over another

This is the essence of a fibre-neutral policy.

Fibre neutrality is often misconstrued as support for man-made fibres. In reality, it is about creating a level playing field. Cotton retains its rightful place, and no other fibre receives preferential treatment. The principle is simple: remove policy-induced distortions and allow every fibre to compete on its own merits. Manufacturers remain free to select cotton where it offers the best solution, viscose where cellulosic fibres provide distinct advantages, polyester where functionality is paramount, or blends where they create superior

Continued on Page 4

Tecoya Trend – 23.07.2026

A level playing field required for every fibre

Continued from Page 1 Col 6

products. In a competitive industry, the freedom to make those choices is critical.

Many of India's leading competitors embraced this approach long ago. Taiwan expanded synthetic and cellulosic fibre production alongside cotton as it moved up the textile value chain. China developed one of the world's most diversified fibre ecosystems, while Japan and South Korea invested across multiple fibre technologies to meet evolving consumer and industrial needs. None of these countries moved away from cotton. Instead, they recognised that the future of textiles would be defined by a portfolio of fibres rather than dependence on any single one.

India is equally well positioned to follow this path. Few countries possess such a comprehensive and integrated textile ecosystem, spanning fibre, yarn, fabric, garments and technical textiles. Significant investments have already been made in capacity, technology and skills. The next phase of growth will depend less on building additional manufacturing capability and more on ensuring that policy enables the industry to respond efficiently to market opportunities. Competitiveness is strongest when manufacturers are free to innovate, invest and choose the most appropriate fibre for the product they seek to create.

One area where reform can make an immediate impact is creating parity in duties and taxation across fibres. Bringing import duties on man-made fibres and their key raw materials to levels comparable with cotton, while rationalising GST inversion across the textile value chain, would move India closer to a genuinely fibre-neutral policy framework. Such a step would not confer an advantage on any particular fibre.

It would simply remove a long-standing distortion and ensure that investment decisions are guided by market opportunities rather than tax differentials. Industries grow fastest when entrepreneurs respond to consumer demand and commercial potential, not when policy inadvertently influences fibre choices.

The same principle applies to the economics of fibre manufacturing. Domestic viscose staple fibre producers currently face an estimated structural cost disadvantage of more than `5 per cent of selling price, arising from duties on imported raw materials, energy-related levies and other input costs. Competing manufacturers in several countries do not face comparable burdens. In a global marketplace where buyers continually evaluate sourcing options across multiple destinations, even a modest cost disadvantage can influence competitiveness and purchasing decisions.

Taxation across the textile value chain also deserves attention. While GST has significantly simplified India's indirect tax framework, inverted duty structures continue to affect parts of the sector, particularly at the upstream fibre level. Rationalising these distortions would improve liquidity, lower avoidable costs and encourage investment in technology upgrades, machinery modernisation and capacity expansion. Such reforms would strengthen long-term competitiveness rather than merely deliver short-term relief.

There is another reason why this conversation has become increasingly important. India has long benefited from being one of the world's largest cotton producers. However, evolving production patterns and rising domestic demand underscore the need for a more diversified fibre ecosystem. A broader fibre base enhances resilience, reduces dependence on any single raw material and enables manufacturers to respond more effectively to changing global demand. Diversification should not be interpreted as moving away from cotton; rather, it is about strengthening India's ability to compete across a wider range of products, applications and markets.

The sustainability agenda makes this transition even more relevant. Global brands are no longer evaluating materials solely on the basis of price and performance. Traceability, circularity, renewable feedstocks and environmental impact have become central to sourcing decisions. Responsibly produced man-made cellulosic fibres have witnessed consistent growth because they address many of these requirements while complementing natural fibres across a broad range of applications. India possesses both the manufacturing capability and technical expertise to become a leading supplier in this space, provided the policy environment supports innovation, investment and growth.

In the end, fibre neutrality is not about promoting one fibre over another; it is about giving India's textile industry the freedom to compete, innovate and grow in line with the realities of the global marketplace.

(The opinion, views and perspectives expressed in the above Article are those of author and not of Tecoya Trend.)

Tecoya Trend – 23.07.2026

Cleaner Dyeing Must Become a Policy Priority for India's Textile Ind. - Dr. Baser, Deven Supercriticals

By Our Staff Reporter

MUMBAI, JULY 23—

As India prepares to roll out a new set of initiatives aimed at making its textile industry more sustainable and globally competitive, attention is increasingly turning to one of the most resource intensive stages of textile manufacturing: wet processing. While recycling, circularity and wastewater management have become central themes in the sector's sustainability agenda, many in the industry believe cleaner dyeing technologies must also become a policy priority if India is to significantly reduce the environmental footprint of textile production.

In an exclusive tête-à-tête with Tecoya Trend, Dr. Swapneshu Baser, Founder and Managing Director of Deven Supercriticals, stressed that sustainability efforts should not stop at treating wastewater after it is generated. Instead, he believes the focus must shift towards preventing pollution during the manufacturing process itself. According to him, textile dyeing and finishing remain among the largest consumers of water, energy and processing chemicals across the value chain, making them one of the biggest opportunities for improving sustainability.

The proposed TEEM scheme, he noted, offers an opportunity to encourage advanced dyeing technologies that consume less water and energy, reduce the use of hazardous chemicals and strengthen India's indigenous technology capabilities. Such solutions, he added, are well aligned with the scheme's objectives of improving operational excellence, reducing dependence on imported advanced machinery and strengthening the country's textile manufacturing ecosystem.

Commenting on the proposed Tex Eco initiatives, particularly the Water Stewardship and Decarbonisation component, Dr. Baser observed that while Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) systems have become an important part of wastewater management, they should not be regarded as the only route to sustainability. ZLD is energy intensive and leaves behind concentrated hazardous waste that continues to present long term disposal challenges, he pointed out.

In his view, a more effective approach is to minimise the use of

Continued on Page 4

Cleaner Dyeing Must Become a Policy Priority for India's Textile Industry

Continued from Page 1 Col 2

water, salts and hazardous chemicals during textile processing itself. Doing so would not only reduce the burden on effluent treatment systems but also lower operating costs, making sustainable textile production commercially viable without significantly increasing manufacturing costs.

He also advocated the creation of common sustainable dyeing facilities within PM MITRA Parks and existing textile clusters. These shared facilities, Dr. Baser explained, would allow textile manufacturers, particularly MSMEs, to trial advanced dyeing technologies on their own products before investing in dedicated infrastructure, helping accelerate adoption across the industry.

As an example of indigenous innovation, Dr. Baser highlighted SUPRAUNO, a waterless dyeing technology developed by Deven Supercriticals. The technology, he explained, enables waterless and salt free dyeing of cotton and other cellulosic fibres while significantly reducing water consumption, energy use and the requirement for processing chemicals. Wider adoption of such innovations, he believes, can help India reduce its environmental footprint while strengthening its capabilities in advanced textile processing technologies.

Looking ahead, Dr. Baser believes India's sustainability journey should extend beyond recycling and circularity alone. Cleaner manufacturing technologies, he argued, will be equally important in building a textile value chain that is environmentally responsible, globally competitive and capable of meeting the evolving expectations of international buyers.

CMAI Showcases India's Apparel Excellence and Global Vision at the Successfully Concluded Bharat Tex 2026

NEW DELHI, JULY 23—

The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) concluded a highly successful participation at Bharat Tex 2026, reaffirming its pivotal role in advancing India's position as a globally competitive apparel manufacturing and sourcing destination. Through a comprehensive industry presence spanning brand promotion, sustainability, international collaboration, policy dialogue and thought leadership, CMAI brought together the country's apparel ecosystem on one of the world's largest textile and apparel platforms.

As an integral partner of Bharat Tex since its inception, CMAI facilitated the participation of over 100 exhibitors across multiple halls, representing apparel, textiles, brands and sustainability initiatives. The Association's Brands of India Pavilion showcased more than 70 leading apparel brands, including a first-ever dedicated showcase for India's rapidly growing intimate and innerwear segment at the Innerwear & Sleepwear Pavilion, highlighting the depth, diversity and growing global appeal of the country's branded apparel industry.

Speaking on the successful conclusion of Bharat Tex 2026, Santosh Katariya, President, Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), said, "Bharat Tex has become a defining platform for showcasing the strength, resilience and aspirations of India's apparel industry. CMAI's participation this year reflected our commitment to building an ecosystem that is globally competitive, innovation-driven and sustainability-focused."

Further strengthening India's sustainability agenda, CMAI, in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Textile Sustainability (GATS), curated the Eco-Stitch Sustainability & Circularity Hub, which emerged as a vibrant platform for showcasing India's progress towards circularity, responsible manufacturing and innovation-led growth. Over four days, the pavilion hosted sustainability report launches, product unveilings, technology demonstrations, investor and buyer engagements, industry roundtables and strategic partnerships, bringing together leading manufacturers, brands, recyclers, technology providers, multilateral organisations and sustainability experts from across the value chain.

A major highlight of CMAI's participation was the release of the India Textiles & Apparel CXO Blueprint 2030, jointly developed by CMAI and GATS, by Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles. The report presents a strategic roadmap to strengthen the global competitiveness of India's textile and apparel sector by accelerating sustainability, traceability, innovation and technology-led manufacturing.

Naveen Sainani, Chairman – ESG Committee & Hon. General Secretary, Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), added, "The scale and diversity of participation witnessed across CMAI's initiatives at Bharat Tex 2026 reflect the maturity of India's apparel industry and its readiness for the next phase of global growth. From promoting Indian brands and fostering international partnerships to driving conversations around sustainability and manufacturing excellence, our efforts have been focused on creating long-term value for the industry."

Reflecting its leadership beyond exhibitions, CMAI also convened several high-impact knowledge and industry engagements that brought together global industry leaders, policymakers, brands and manufacturers to deliberate on the future of apparel manufacturing, India's evolving consumer landscape, sustainable growth and global competitiveness.

Chaired by Honourable Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh along with Smt. Neelam Shami Rao (IAS), Secretary-Ministry of Textiles, Smt. Alaknanda Dayal, Joint Secretary – Ministry of Textiles, a round-table discussion on 'Indian Brands, Global Ambitions: Redefining Retail Growth Beyond Borders' hosted by Deloitte and supported by CMAI, saw deliberation by Welspun World, PDS Ltd, Arvind Advance Materials, Trent, renowned designers like Vaishali Shandangule and Rahul Mishra, among others sharing their noteworthy global achievements. CMAI also hosted a panel discussion in association with the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) 'Brands of a Billion: The Great Indian Retail Revolution', which was moderated by Harminder Sahani (Wazir Advisors) with participation of industry leaders including P. Venkatesalu (Trent Ltd.), Siddharth Bindra (BIBA Apparels), Rajesh Jain (Lacoste), Nikhil Upadhyay (Benetton India), Gautam Saraogi (Go Colors), Sidhant Keshwani (Libas), Maya Pradeep (Haute Couture) and Shweta Agarwal (Tradyl), amongst others.

CMAI hosted the Board Meeting of the International Apparel Federation (IAF), organised international leadership sessions in partnership with IAF and Gherzi Consulting, and actively contributed to multiple industry discussions featuring leading business leaders, global experts and renowned fashion designers. Furthermore, the Apparel Manufacturing Leadership Session featured global industry leaders including Stefano Festa Marzotto, President, IAF; Giuseppe Gherzi, Managing Partner, Gherzi Textile Organisation; Sanjay Jain, CEO, PDS Group; Edgar Tung, CEO, Tessellation Group; Mahmud Hasan Khan, President, BGMEA and Managing Director, Rising Group; Navdeep Sodhi, Partner, Gherzi Textile Organisation; along with CMAI leadership, reinforcing India's role in shaping the future of global apparel manufacturing.

CMAI's continued participation at Bharat Tex once again reaffirmed its pivotal role in strengthening the Indian apparel industry. Through its initiatives and industry engagements, CMAI continues to create meaningful opportunities that enhance the competitiveness, resilience, innovation, and global growth of India's apparel sector.

businessline – 23.07.2026

South Gujarat deluge shatters records as another 'low' looms over Bay

Vinson Kurian
Thiruvananthapuram

One of the most eventful rainstorms in recent memory pummelled south Gujarat as a rare convergence of Arabian Sea moisture and favourable dynamics unleashed cloudbursts of staggering intensity, with Umergam in Valsad district recording an astonishing 106 cm of rain in just 24 hours ending Thursday morning.

The deluge rewrote rainfall charts across the region. Kaprada (Valsad) measured 79 cm, while neighbouring Silvassa in Dadra and Nagar Haveli received 74 cm. Other phenomenal totals included 66 cm at Khanvel, 63 cm at Daman FMO, 56 cm at Dharampur, 55 cm at Vapi, 54 cm at Daman, 51 cm at Pardi, 46 cm at Nanipalson, 45 cm at Vansda, 39 cm each at Valsad, Khergam and Dolvan, and 36 cm each at Umerpada and Waghai.

MONSOON MENACE. Commuters wade through a waterlogged area after heavy rainfall in Surat on Thursday. PTI

AGGRESSIVE MOOD

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the monsoon will remain in an aggressive mood, forecasting fairly widespread to widespread rainfall over Central, North-West, East and North-East India over the next few days, with occasional widespread showers over South peninsula.

The wet spell could gather fresh momentum by the end of July. Numerical weather prediction models indicate the formation of another low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal, seeded by the remnants of a typhoon crossing the South China Sea.

The system is expected to trigger a renewed surge of rain over East India before spreading inland into the opening days of August.

Meteorologists attributed the south Gujarat cloudburst to a rare atmospheric configuration in which a temporary easing of El Nino-related suppression of clouds allowed an exceptionally moisture-laden south-westerly flow from the north-east Arabian Sea to sweep inland.

The moisture plume interacted with a powerful east-west shear zone stretching from south Gujarat across Madhya Pradesh, north Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and West Bengal to Bangladesh and onward to Manipur, dramatically amplifying rainfall.

OROGRAPHIC DELUGE

The downpour was further intensified by the rugged northern reaches of the Western Ghats around Saputara, Don Hill and Wilson Hill in the forested Dang and Valsad districts.

Moist Arabian Sea winds were forced rapidly up the slopes, squeezing out torrents of rain in a classic orographic deluge rarely witnessed on such a scale.

The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) had flagged the potential for exceptionally heavy rainfall over south Gujarat a day earlier. It now projects the heavy rain belt to shift northward through Friday across Vadodara, Godhra, Ahmedabad, Mehsana and adjoining areas.

The monsoon's seasonal trough, the atmospheric spine driving the rain, extended from Jaisalmer through Kota, Guna, Damoh, Daltonganj and Contai before dipping into the north-east Bay of Bengal.

The weather system was reinforced by a western disturbance over Jammu and cyclonic circulations over north-west Madhya Pradesh and south-east Rajasthan, sustaining vigorous monsoon activity across large parts of the country.

businessline – 23.07.2026

FACT halts ammonium sulphate production amid supply chain disruption, rising raw material costs

V Sajeev Kumar
Kochi

Public sector Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd (FACT) has suspended production of ammonium sulphate following supply chain disruptions and soaring raw material costs triggered by geopolitical developments. However, it will not have any impact on farmers as the Indian government has increased fertilizer import than the suspended output. Expecting a crisis, the Fertilizer Ministry had directed the import ammonium sulphate.

According to company officials, the production of NP fertilizer has been curtailed with limited operations being sustained using available captive phosphoric acid and the restricted quantity of sulphur. The suspended production is 25,000 tonnes a month. Even FACT brought 30,000 tonnes last month. Further import is expected to overcome the sulphur supplies issue.

BUFFER STOCK. The move will not impact farmers as the Centre has increased fertilizer imports SURESH ALLEPPEY

S Sakthimani, Chairman and Managing Director, said that FACT is presently experiencing temporary production constraints due to extraordinary global developments. The ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia, coupled with severe climate-related disruptions, have significantly affected the international supply chain of critical fertilizer raw materials.

SUPPLIERS CRY OFF

The sharp increase in global sulphur prices and the resulting shutdown of several phosphoric acid manufacturing facilities overseas have led to an unprecedented shortage of sulphur and phosphoric acid in the international market, he said.

Despite long-term supply agreements, suppliers have been unable to honour their contractual commitments. Besides, recent tenders floated by FACT for sulphur procurement did not receive any offers, while domestic availability remains inadequate, he added.

However, to ensure uninterrupted availability of fertilizers, FACT has initiated large-scale imports of essential fertilizers. Imported consignments of Ammonium Sulphate and DAP have already arrived, while shipments of NPK 15:15:15 and Muriate of Potash (MoP) are expected to reach India by next month. At present, adequate quantities of fertilizers are available to meet the requirements of the kharif 2026 season, he said.

FACT, in close coordination with the Centre , is actively pursuing alternative domestic and international sources of raw materials to restore normal production at the earliest.

Simultaneously, it is working on long-term strategic sourcing arrangements to strengthen supply security and protect against future global commodity disruptions.

UNIONS PROTEST

The company remains fully committed to ensuring uninterrupted fertilizer availability and continues to take all possible measures to resume full-scale production at the earliest, he added.

Meanwhile, the crisis has triggered protests by unions, demanding emergency action plan to resume production and safeguard workers' livelihoods.

businessline – 23.07.2026

To boost exports, govt eases FDI rules for e-comm firms

EXPANDING MARKET. Allows inventory-based models for exporting locally produced goods

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The government on Thursday relaxed foreign direct investment (FDI) rules for the e-commerce sector, allowing foreign-funded e-commerce entities to operate inventory-based models exclusively for exports of goods manufactured or produced in India, in a move aimed at expanding overseas market access for sellers.

"In order to facilitate greater exports through easier and increased access of global markets by Indian sellers, the extant FDI policy has been reviewed and it is decided that the restrictions on inventory-based model of e-commerce shall not apply in case of exports of domestically manufactured and/or produced goods/products," according to Press Note 3 of 2026 notified by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade on Thursday.

The move is expected to enable global e-commerce companies with foreign investment, including Amazon and Flipkart, to procure, stock and export Indian-made products directly to overseas consumers, a practice that was not permitted under the existing policy framework.

NEW NORMS

- The move is expected to enable global e-commerce majors Amazon and Flipkart to procure, stock and export Indian-made products directly to overseas consumers
- The revised policy will come into effect from the date of notification under FEMA

REVISED POLICY

The revised policy will come into effect from the date of notification under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), the note added.

Under India's FDI policy, foreign investment is permitted in business-to-business (B2B) e-commerce and marketplace model of e-commerce.

However, FDI is not permitted in business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce and inventory-based model of e-commerce where inventory of goods and services is owned by e- commerce entity and is sold to the consumers directly.

Through Press Note 3 of 2026, the restrictions on inventory-based e-commerce and business-to-consumer (B2C) sales under the existing FDI policy will not apply when such platforms export domestically manufactured or produced goods, the press note highlighted.

"The inventory-based e-commerce restriction was originally introduced to regulate domestic retail trading. However, questions had arisen on whether the same restrictions should extend to marketplace models facilitating export.

"By clarifying the position, the government has removed uncertainty, reinforced policy predictability for foreign investors, and aligned the FDI framework with India's broader export promotion agenda, while preserving the safeguards applicable to domestic e-commerce," said Sunil Kumar, Partner, Tax and Regulatory Services, EY India.

Amazon welcomes the government's decision permitting inventory-based e-commerce for exporting Indian-manufactured goods.

"This policy clarity strengthens our vision of helping Indian businesses reach global customers. Importantly, this initiative empowers tier-2 and tier-3 manufacturers to go global and establish Brand India on the world stage. We're committed to supporting India's export ambitions, working toward our $80 billion cumulative export target by 2030 — reflecting confidence in India's manufacturing prowess," said Amazon spokesperson.

businessline – 23.07.2026

India faces scrutiny over tariffs, MSP, quality control steps at WTO review

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

India came under sustained scrutiny from several WTO members during its eighth trade policy review (TPR), with countries raising concerns over "abrupt tariff changes", quality control measures, agricultural restrictions, the MSP regime, industrial subsidies and New Delhi's stance on key plurilateral initiatives.

In concluding remarks issued on Thursday after the two-day review, Chairperson Ambassador Nella Pepe Tavita-Levy said transparency and predictability emerged as the foremost concerns raised by members, even as they acknowledged India's growing importance in the global economy and supported its ambition of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

The review attracted significant participation, with India receiving more than 1,090 written questions from 44 WTO members, over 700 of which were answered before the meeting. Representatives of 68 members spoke during the two-day review.

"Foremost among members' concerns, both expressed in prior questions and made in statements in the last two days, were predictability and transparency," Tavita-Levy said.

Members flagged what they described as abrupt tariff changes, unexpected export restrictions, complex licensing procedures, lengthy investment approval processes and an overall lack of regulatory certainty.

QUALITY CONTROL

India's expanding use of Quality Control Orders (QCOs) also drew extensive scrutiny. While countries acknowledged New Delhi's efforts to improve product quality and consumer protection, they sought greater clarity on consultation procedures, delays in factory inspections, implementation timelines, conformity assessment requirements and recognition of foreign testing laboratories "Members highlighted the burden delays placed on their exporters and the importance of transparency, proportionality, and predictability," Tavita Levy said.

In the area of agriculture, concerns were raised on India's minimum support price (MSP) regime, public stockholding programme, input subsidies, tariff administration and recurring export restrictions on commodities such as rice, wheat, sugar and onions. "Questions were directed at the transparency, predictability, WTO consistency and notification of these measures, as well as their potential trade-distorting effects. Members also highlighted concerns about sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, including relating to the availability of underlying risk assessments and related methodologies, food safety standards, pesticide maximum residue limits, and procedures for judging equivalence for SPS measures," she said.

"A large number of members also encouraged India to lift its objections to the incorporation of new plurilateral arrangements into WTO legal texts through Annex 4, in particular as regards the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement," the Chairperson said.