



**COTTON
ASSOCIATION
OF INDIA**

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015



News Relating to **Cotton and Textile Sector**

Date-26-10-2026

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ICE Cotton Futures: 23-10-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE						23 Oct 2026
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Dec-26	80.68	81.00	80.07	80.20	▼ 0.59	1,62,689
Mar-27	84.24	84.68	83.82	83.94	▼ 0.54	1,04,679
May-27	86.08	86.35	85.50	85.61	▼ 0.54	61,508
Jul-27	86.55	86.76	85.98	86.09	▼ 0.52	36,011
Oct-27	0.00	79.56	79.56	79.56	▼ 0.28	24
Dec-27	79.27	79.64	79.08	79.22	▼ 0.15	34,166
Mar-28	0.00	79.73	79.73	79.73	▼ 0.16	2,522

Cotlook Index: 23-10-2026

91.95 (-0.80)

India & Germany discuss trade & technology ties in Berlin

Sunday, 25th Oct 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights

India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has concluded a two-day Germany visit, with Berlin talks focused on trade, investment, advanced manufacturing, research and emerging technologies.

He met German Federal Chancellery adviser Levin Holle and leaders from Siemens Healthineers, Bertelsmann and Volkswagen.

Indian delegates joined sectoral roundtables with German industry.



India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has concluded a two-day official visit to Germany, with engagements in Berlin focused on strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, advanced manufacturing, research and emerging technologies, according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Berlin programme on October 23, 2026, included meetings with senior German government officials, business leaders, research institutions and members of the Indian diaspora. The ministry said the engagements were aimed at expanding India-Germany economic and industrial cooperation.

Goyal held a bilateral meeting with Levin Holle, economic and financial policy advisor and G7/G20 Sherpa at the German Federal Chancellery. Their discussions covered bilateral economic cooperation and opportunities to deepen economic and investment ties between India and Germany, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a press release.

The Indian Minister also met Bernd Montag, chief executive officer of Siemens Healthineers AG; Carsten Coesfeld, member of the executive board of Bertelsmann and chief executive officer of Bertelsmann Investments; and Holger Peters, chief financial officer of Volkswagen AG and chief executive officer of Škoda Auto. The meetings examined scope for expanding business partnerships, investment and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Goyal participated in a roundtable with leaders of prominent German industrial research institutions to discuss cooperation in advanced industrial technologies and innovation. Separately, members of the accompanying Indian business delegation joined sectoral roundtables with German industry representatives and sectoral associations to explore bilateral business collaboration.

The visit also included interaction with Indian science and technology researchers and students based in Germany. Goyal held a roundtable with heads of selected Fraunhofer Institutes covering microelectronics, power electronics, logistics, smart manufacturing, industrial innovation and battery technologies, with discussions centred on strengthening research collaboration and industry-academia partnerships.

Goyal also interacted with members of the Indian diaspora in Berlin and addressed the media. The ministry said the engagements reflected the growing scope of the India-Germany Strategic Partnership across trade, investment, advanced manufacturing, science and technology, research and industrial cooperation.

CCI Cotton Price Hike Supports Indian Market Amid Slow Arrivals

Saturday, 24th Oct 2026, by Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)



Cotton Market Analysis: CCI Price Hikes Provide Market Support

India: The Indian cotton market is receiving support from an increase in the Cotton Corporation of India's (CCI) sale prices and a slow arrival of the new crop. Amidst purchasing activity by spinning mills and traders, the market is closely monitoring the pace of arrivals in the mandis (agricultural markets), crop conditions, and future demand.

Increase in CCI Prices

Market sentiment has strengthened following the CCI's decision on October 22 to raise the sale prices for the 2025-26 season's cotton by approximately USD 3.17 per candy. Additionally, reports indicate an increase of about ₹800 per candy in auction prices during mid-October. It is necessary to verify the specific basis for these figures.

In the mandis of major producing states, cotton prices are reportedly around ₹9,000 per quintal. However, actual prices may vary based on cotton quality, local demand, and specific market conditions. The latest official data is required to compare these prices against the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the respective categories.

While the international ICE cotton futures market has shown limited gains, domestic supply and demand remain the primary drivers for the Indian market. The trajectory of MCX cotton futures may also be influenced by developments in the spot market and global trends.

Impact of Slow Arrivals and Demand

The arrival of the new crop is reportedly slow in some regions. Factors such as delayed harvesting, weather-related concerns, and farmers withholding sales in anticipation of better prices may affect availability in the mandis. Furthermore, uncertainty regarding crop conditions in parts of Andhra Pradesh is a significant factor for the market.

Meanwhile, spinning mills and traders are making purchases based on their requirements. The rise in cotton prices could increase production costs for mills; if the prices of yarn and fabric do not rise proportionately, there is a risk of pressure on their profit margins. Focus on Weather and Production

Concerns persist regarding weather conditions and potential crop losses in South India. However, an assessment of official weather forecasts and crop data is necessary to confirm the impact of El Niño and its potential effect on cotton production.

Final production figures will depend on the progress of the harvest, crop quality, and the incidence of pest infestations. If market arrivals remain limited while demand from mills stays strong, domestic prices could find support.

Market Outlook for the Next Three Days

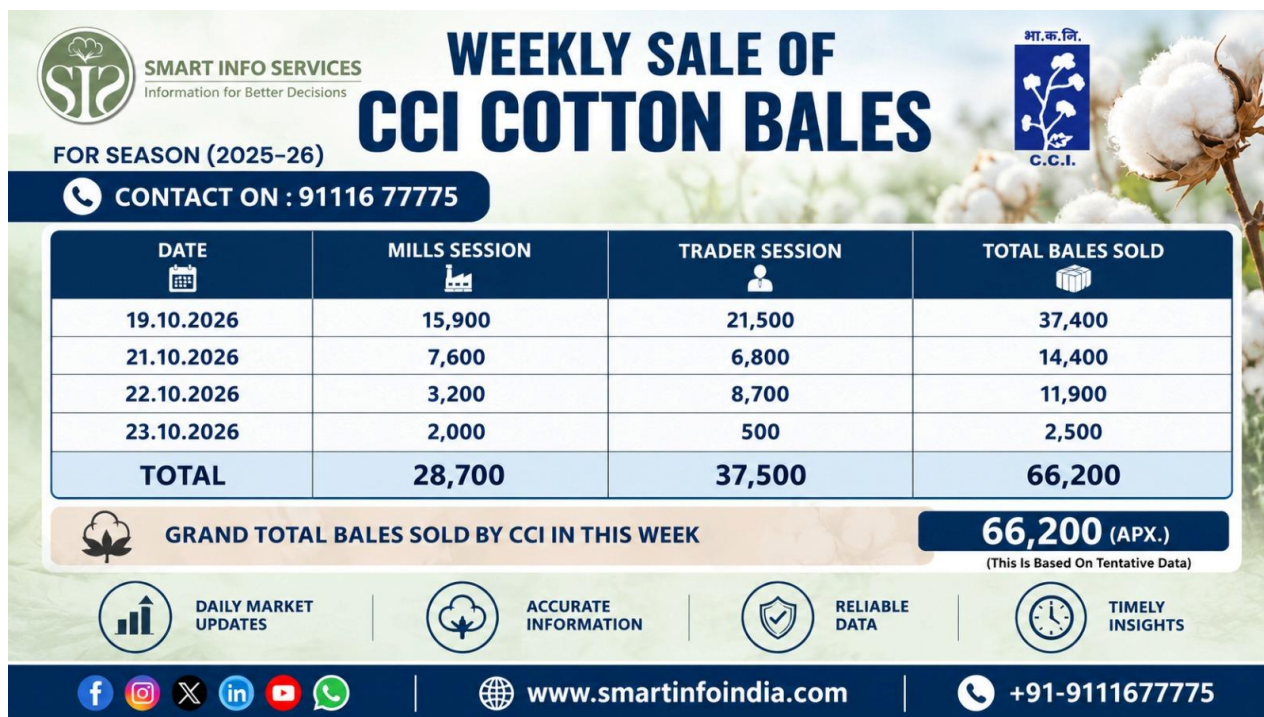
Spot Market: Prices may remain stable or see a slight upward trend, provided that market arrivals stay limited and buying activity continues.

CCI Sales: Prices in upcoming auctions and the response from buyers will serve as key indicators for the market's direction.

ICE and MCX: Price fluctuations are possible, driven by domestic demand, international trends, and the arrival of the new crop.

Conclusion: The direction of the Indian cotton market will primarily depend on the arrival of the new crop and demand from mills. Mills should focus on phased procurement and stock management, while farmers should base their selling decisions on local price levels, crop quality, and their own cash flow requirements.

CCI Raises Cotton Prices by ₹600 per Candy; Weekly Sales Reach 66,200 Bales
Saturday, 24th Oct 2026, by Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)



CCI Raises Cotton Candy Prices by ₹600 per Candy; Weekly Auction Sales Reach 66,200 Bales

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) raised its cotton selling prices by ₹600 per candy during the week ended 23 October 2026. During the week, the corporation sold approximately 66,200 bales of cotton from the 2025–26 crop through its auction sales.

Day-Wise CCI Auction Performance

October 19, 2026 (Monday)

CCI recorded its highest daily sales of the week at 37,400 bales. Mills purchased 15,900 bales, while traders accounted for the remaining 21,500 bales.

October 21, 2026 (Wednesday)

CCI sold 14,400 bales, including 7,600 bales purchased by mills and 6,800 bales by traders.

October 22, 2026 (Thursday)

Total sales stood at 11,900 bales, with mills purchasing 3,200 bales and traders buying 8,700 bales.

October 23, 2026 (Friday)

The week concluded with sales of 2,500 bales. Mills purchased 2,000 bales, while traders bought the remaining 500 bales.

Cumulative Cotton Sales

Following the latest auction activity, CCI's cumulative cotton sales for the 2025–26 season reached approximately 99.29 lakh bales, reflecting continued auction activity in the domestic cotton market.

Adilabad Cotton Prices Hit ₹9,260 per Quintal Amid Drought Concerns

Saturday, 24th Oct 2026, by Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Maximum Cotton Price in Adilabad Reaches ₹9,260 per Quintal; Drought Threatens Yield
Hyderabad: In the Adilabad district of Telangana, the maximum price for cotton reached ₹9,260 per quintal on October 22, 2026, with a modal price of ₹9,000 per quintal recorded on the same day. This maximum price was ₹593 higher than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of ₹8,667 per quintal set for long-staple cotton. However, a lack of rainfall and the prospect of a prolonged dry spell are causing growing concern among farmers.

Surge in Cotton Prices in October

On October 5, the price of cotton in Adilabad stood at ₹7,450 per quintal. It rose to ₹8,500 per quintal by October 20, followed by a recorded price of ₹8,250 per quintal on October 21. Subsequently, on October 22, the maximum price climbed to ₹9,260 per quintal—an increase of ₹1,810 per quintal compared to the price on October 5.

Fear of Crop Damage Due to Drought

In several parts of the district, reduced soil moisture has led to reports of cotton plants drying up and bolls bursting prematurely. Farmers fear that if there is no rainfall, the yield per acre could decline.

Crops in areas with black soil may fare better than those in regions with red soil, as black soil retains moisture for longer periods. However, the actual extent of the damage can only be assessed following a formal crop survey. Concerns have also been raised regarding the potential impact of El Niño; however, without confirmation of its direct influence, it cannot be definitively cited as the cause for the crop damage. 18 Procurement Centers Identified

According to District Collector Rajarshi Shah, 33 ginning mills and 18 procurement centers have been identified in the district to ensure the smooth procurement of farmers' produce. In Adilabad, cotton has been cultivated over an area of approximately 4.37 lakh acres, and a strong harvest arrival is expected this season.

According to reports, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) did not commence procurement on the first day due to high moisture content in the cotton. However, this information awaits official

confirmation. Private traders are offering prices above the Minimum Support Price (MSP); however, for government procurement, the cotton must meet specified quality standards.

In the coming days, factors such as rainfall, crop quality, and the volume of arrivals at the markets (mandis) will determine the direction of the cotton market. If there is a significant decline in production, the total income of farmers could be adversely affected, even if prices remain high.

Maharashtra Cotton Crop Damage: Production May Fall by 50% Due to Drought and Heat

Monday, 26th Oct 2026, by Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Cotton prices reach ₹9,500 per quintal in Yavatmal, Maharashtra; private trader procurement on the rise

Yavatmal, Maharashtra: Farmers in the Yavatmal district of Maharashtra are feeling optimistic following reports that cotton prices in the private market have reached ₹9,500 per quintal. Traders from Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are also showing interest in purchasing cotton. Attracted by better prices in the private market, farmers are increasingly turning toward private traders.

Cotton procurement is currently underway in various parts of the district, including Ralegaon, Pandharkawada, Maregaon, and Ghatanji. The Ralegaon Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) is one of the district's primary cotton procurement hubs; last season, approximately 1 million (10 lakh) quintals of cotton were purchased there. Private traders remain highly active this year as well.

19 CCI procurement centers proposed for Yavatmal district

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has planned to establish 19 centers in the district to procure cotton at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The proposed locations include Arni, Darwaha, Digras, Ghatanji, Pandharkawada, Kalamb, Mahagaon, Maregaon, Ner, Pusad, Ralegaon, Khairi, Babulgaon, and Wani.

Due to the better prices available in the private market, farmer interest in registering at the CCI procurement centers is reportedly low. However, the actual volume of cotton procured at government centers will depend on how these centers operate and the prevailing market prices.

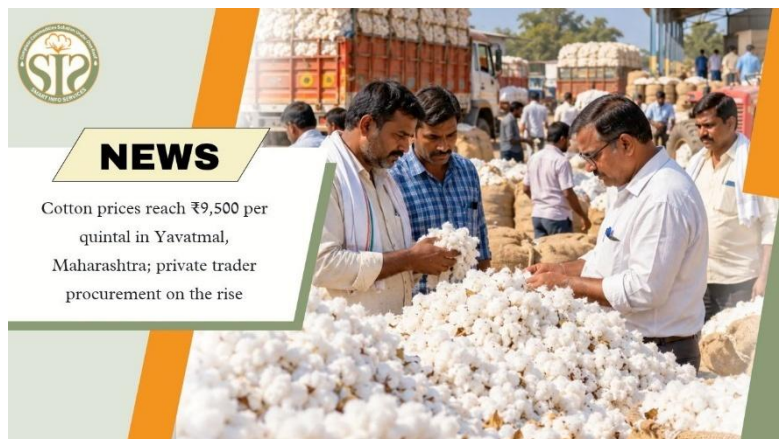
Cotton prices to be determined by market arrivals and demand

In the coming days, cotton prices may be influenced by trader demand, the arrival of the new harvest, and overall production levels. The gap between private market prices and the government's Minimum Support Price (MSP) will also play a key role in shaping farmers' decisions regarding where to sell their produce.

For now, the prospect of receiving up to ₹9,500 per quintal in the private market has raised hopes among farmers for better earnings. However, the actual price may vary depending on the quality of the cotton, its moisture content, and local demand.

Yavatmal Cotton Prices Reach ₹9,500 per Quintal as Private Traders Increase Procurement

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CCI Cotton Sales Reach 99.29 Lakh Bales

Monday, 26th Oct 2026, by Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)



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

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) increased its cotton candy prices by upto ₹600 per candy during this week . CCI has sold approximately 99,29,500 cotton bales for the 2025-26 season. Sales are highly concentrated in a few major cotton-producing states, Maharashtra, Telangana and Gujarat emerging as the leading contributors.

Prime Minister inaugurates Arvind's Greenfield Garment Manufacturing Facility in Varanasi

Monday, 26th Oct 2026, (Source: www.indiantextilemagazine.in)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has inaugurated Arvind Limited's state-of-the-art garment



manufacturing facility in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, in the presence of Smt. Anandiben Patel, Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, senior government officials and industry leaders.

Developed with an investment of approximately ₹150 crore, the facility is Arvind's first manufacturing unit in Uttar Pradesh. Spread across a sprawling landscape of 5.5 acres and with a total built up area of approximately 65,000

sq. ft., the plant has a revenue potential of Rs 250 Cr and is expected to generate employment for over 1,000 people, predominantly women, and manufacture essential knitwear products using advanced automated sewing technologies.

It was a proud moment for the Arvind family to welcome our beloved Prime Minister Mr Modi who was received by Mr. Sanjay Lalbhai, Chairman, Arvind Limited, Mr. Punit Lalbhai, Vice Chairman, and Mr. Kulin Lalbhai, Vice Chairman, who accompanied him during the inauguration and toured the facility.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sanjay Lalbhai, Chairman, Arvind Limited, said, " We are deeply



honoured to have the Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurate this facility. The Lalbhai Group's journey of 130 years began in 1897 and has remained closely intertwined with India's industrial progress. Inspired by the institution-building vision of Shri Kasturbhai Lalbhai, we have consistently invested in enterprises that contribute to economic growth, employment generation and nation-building. We are particularly proud that this investment will create large-scale employment opportunities, with women expected to form a significant part

of the workforce, reflecting the transformative power of Nari Shakti in driving India's growth story. We are proud to partner in India's development journey through investment, innovation and job creation."



Mr. Punit Lalbhai, Vice Chairman, Arvind Limited, said, “India is at an inflection point in its apparel manufacturing journey. With a strong textile value chain, a skilled workforce and growing global demand for diversified sourcing, the country is well positioned to emerge as a preferred manufacturing destination for the world. Sustained investments in capacity, productivity, sustainability and workforce development will be critical to realising this opportunity. We are happy that this facility will contribute to local economy with

multiplier impact through local employment generation, local sourcing of goods and services and a secondary impact on the ecosystem of moving workforce back home through reverse migration. At Arvind, we remain committed to contributing to this growth story by building globally competitive manufacturing capabilities that create long-term value and employment.”

Mr. Kulin Lalbhai, Vice Chairman, Arvind Limited, added, “Uttar Pradesh is rapidly establishing itself as one of India’s most attractive manufacturing destinations. The state’s focus on infrastructure development, industrial growth, connectivity and skill creation is enabling businesses to expand with confidence and scale. As the textile and apparel sector continues to grow, Uttar Pradesh is well positioned to play a pivotal role in strengthening India’s manufacturing ecosystem, creating employment opportunities and attracting long-term investment.”



The above green field development augers well for Arvind’s Garmenting business and is a firm step in the strategic direction of vertical integration. The said facility will forward integrate Arvind’s inhouse manufactured Knitted Fabric, which will enhance its share of wallet with existing customers and increase stickiness. The facility adds much needed Garment manufacturing capacity to the country’s large Textile heavy landscape. With the recently signed FTAs, this facility will adequately strengthen the basket of offering to the newly opened European and UK market.

The facility has been developed as a modern manufacturing hub with a focus on efficiency, sustainability and workforce welfare. Equipped with advanced automated production systems, the plant is designed to enhance productivity, ensure consistent quality and support scalable manufacturing operations. Arvind has also established dedicated worker hostels to support employees and plans to further expand residential infrastructure as operations grow.

The project is expected to contribute significantly to the economic development of Varanasi and Uttar Pradesh through employment generation, skill development and the strengthening of the local apparel manufacturing ecosystem. In addition to creating over 1,000 direct jobs, the facility is expected to support ancillary economic activity across supply chains, logistics and local services, further reinforcing Uttar Pradesh's emergence as a preferred destination for textile and apparel manufacturing.

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**COTTON
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Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015

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- **Andhra Pradesh :**

Adoni

- **Madhya Pradesh :**

Khargone

- **Karnataka :**

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- **Punjab :**

Bathinda

- **Telangana:**

Warangal; Adilabad

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**Arbitration Conciliation
and Mediation
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**Cotton Research
and Development**



**Issue Certificate
of Origin**



**Indian Cotton
Statistics**



Publications

Represented on various International Cotton Fora
i.e. ICAC, ICA, CICC, ACSA, ITMF and several
other International Cotton Associations

US-India trade deal in slow lane despite Rubio's optimism

FIRM STAND. Delhi unwilling to accept 18% tariff rate envisaged in February framework

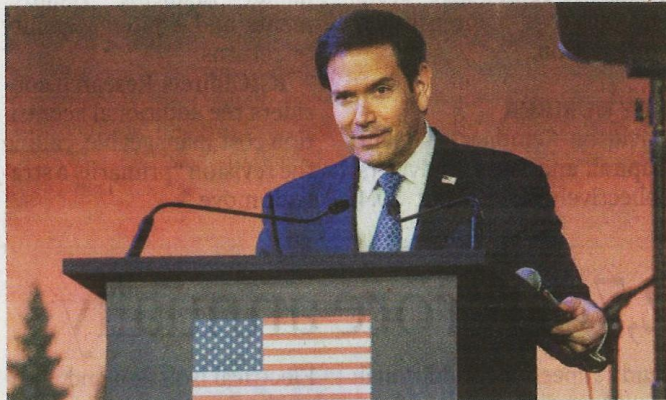
Amiti Sen
New Delhi

Despite US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's optimism that 99 per cent of the deal is complete and an announcement could follow within weeks, the India-US interim trade pact remains stalled over Washington's insistence on higher import tariffs, with New Delhi unwilling to accept anything more than the additional 10 per cent levy Indian exports currently face, sources said.

Beyond the commercial impasse, India is weighing the domestic political implications of agricultural concessions that the Donald Trump administration hopes to showcase to voters in Republican-leaning states ahead of the US mid-term elections, sources said.

NOT FEASIBLE

New Delhi believes an agreement is not feasible under the present tariff scenario and the US asks on agriculture, and is inclined to wait until the mid-term elections are over before deciding how to proceed, a source tracking



FAR FROM DONE. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's hopes of a breakthrough in deal within weeks seems unfounded

the matter told *businessline*.

"At this moment, it is not economically feasible for India to accept tariffs greater than the current 10 per cent imposed on its exports under Section 301 (prohibition against forced labour imports). Also, it makes no sense to sign a deal two weeks before the mid-term elections in the US, telling everybody that we are going to sign an agreement fundamentally including products which come from the red states (ones that support US President Donald Trump). This will not fly politically in India," the source said.

Washington wants to retain the 18 per cent rate envisaged in the February framework, but India sees little reason to accept it when the current additional levy on Indian exporters is 10 per cent, imposed under Section 301 ruling linked to forced labour concern.

TERMS UNACCEPTABLE

The tariff situation changed dramatically after the framework was announced on February 7 with the US Supreme Court invalidating reciprocal tariffs imposed by the Trump administration, making the older terms unacceptable.

"Even if the US decides to be flexible and brings down proposed tariffs on India to below 18 per cent, say to 14 per cent or even 12 per cent, there is no way that India could accept it, given the fact that the current levels are 10 per cent. And one wouldn't expect Washington to go below the existing 10 per cent as it would be totally unpopular with certain vote banks," the source said.

AWAITING A RESPONSE

India is seeking assurances that if additional tariff penalties are imposed on the country, for instance under the Russia sanctions legislation or the Section 301 excess-capacity investigation, these would add up to levies lower than those on competing countries, such as Vietnam, Bangladesh and Indonesia. Washington has yet to respond satisfactorily, the source said.

"For New Delhi, accepting agricultural concessions alongside higher tariffs could be difficult to defend domestically. So, the deal must wait till there is clarity on the political situation in the US," the source said.

● HOT TAKE

El Niño won't wait for COP31. India shouldn't either



AARTI KHOSLA

The world is at a dangerous juncture. As wars continue, the strongest El Niño since 1950 builds over the Pacific, AI disinformation disrupts the world, and the West is living through one of its biggest crises in recent times. Winning back stability will require skills and the mindset to build international institutions that can govern an interdependent world.

Climate change has been both an equaliser and divider.

The Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has played a key role in building global climate action over the last two decades. At the same time, widening vulnerabilities have driven up impacts phenomenally.

El Niño is a weather phenomenon that shifts rainfall patterns and raises global temperatures, and it is worsened by climate change. This year's textbook super El Niño — already in record-breaking territory as COP31 opens in Antalya, Turkey (November 9-20) — is forecast to strengthen further in the first quarter of 2027.

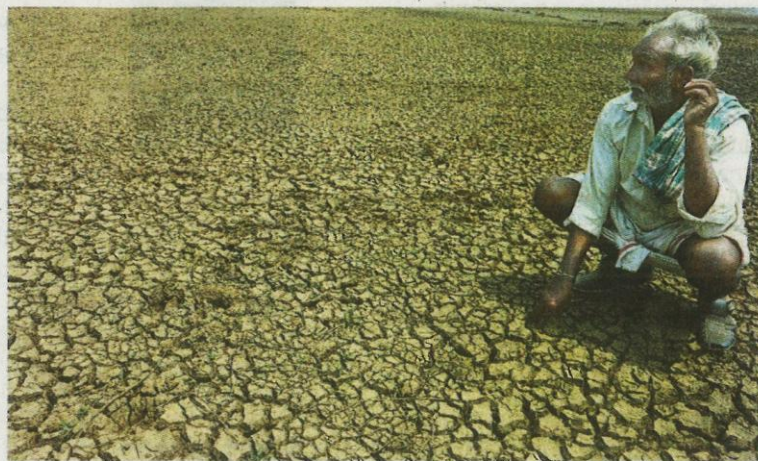
The real question is whether the items on COP31's table — adaptation finance, loss and damage, trade rules for a transitioning economy, and just transition — hold up in a year when extreme weather from Europe to India to Nepal has made their stakes impossible to ignore.

A SOBERING PREVIEW

India has already had a preview of what a strengthening El Niño means this year. Irrigation, sowing and food prices have all been hit, and the monsoon closed 12.6 per cent below normal — the weakest since 2015. August was India's hottest month on record, and five states — Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Rajasthan — have declared drought.

The World Meteorological Organization expects 2027 to rival 2024 as the hottest year on record. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) own modelling suggests an El Niño layered on a planet already about 1.4 degrees C warmer than pre-industrial levels, could cut global crop yields by close to a quarter by mid-century, with India among the economies most exposed.

That compounding effect is why this year's numbers belong in Antalya's conversation, where the UNFCCC rulebook actually has room for them. Agriculture and food security are formally on the COP31



SCORCHED EARTH. Drought-hit acres in Shivamogga, Karnataka SK DINESH

agenda, through the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work, and food has been named one of the Turkish presidency's priorities. A year like this is not the background to negotiations; it is the reason for them.

Nepal is the clearest example. The ice and rock avalanche in August killed nearly 1,500 people and left more than 5,000 missing. Kathmandu asked the Loss and Damage Fund, created at COP27 in 2022, for \$20 million. Nearly two months later, on October 22, the fund's board agreed to sanction the money, its first allocation ever, but with the insistence that it set no "precedent". The \$20 million is a fraction of what's needed.

Recovery and reconstruction in a

country responsible for barely 0.04 per cent of global emissions is estimated at \$4.8 billion, while the fund itself holds barely \$350 million against \$2.8 billion in pending requests. It is a live test of whether the system can deliver and, so far, it is still finding its footing. India's 50 million Himalayan residents live under the shadow of the same risk, and need the same resilience funding and early-warning systems.

POSITION OF STRENGTH

In a year when conflict has disrupted fuel and fertiliser markets, India arrives at Antalya not as a supplicant but a nation that has met its transition targets ahead of schedule and is investing \$19.3 billion in en-

ergy storage and transmission infrastructure.

India already funds 83 per cent of its own mitigation and 98 per cent of its adaptation domestically, against an adaptation bill that runs to ₹56.7 lakh crore by its own estimate. Backed by the BRICS bloc, which accounts for a quarter of the world economy and 40 per cent of its population, what India brings to Antalya is evidence of delivery alongside the ask. With cropping patterns already shifting on the ground, cheapest renewable power capacity being built at scale, monsoon data mapped to the district level and advancements in early-warning systems, India's credibility is more than a pledge on paper.

COP31 will not stop the next El Niño, and it was never designed to. What it can do, within the limits of its process, is decide whether the machinery is meant to help countries absorb a shock like this one, a credible adaptation finance baseline, a well-funded loss-and-damage facility that delivers money when countries need it most, trade rules that do not punish a transitioning economy, and a just transition mechanism that holds up when it is tested. This year has already supplied the test. Antalya is where the world finds out whether the system can pass it.

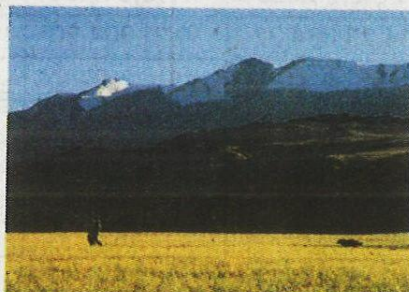
The writer is Director, Climate Trends

Ladakh leads the way as India's first fully organic Union Territory

Gulzar Bhat
Srinagar

Ladakh has become India's first fully organic Union Territory, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena said on Sunday, marking a major step in the region's drive to eliminate chemical fertilisers, protect its fragile Himalayan ecosystem and promote sustainable agriculture.

In a post on X, Saxena credited farmers for the achievement, saying their dedication and hard work had made the milestone possible. He said the transition to organic farming reflected the administration's commitment to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of chemical-free agriculture, environmental conservation and sustainable



livelihoods. He added that the move will strengthen market linkages, improve farmers' incomes and establish Ladakh as a model for sustainable high-altitude agriculture.

The announcement follows a series of measures by the Union Territory administration to expand organic farming. In June, the administration banned the sale and use of chemical fertilisers, reinforcing its push to make agriculture across the region entirely organic.

Before the latest an-

nouncement, 207 revenue villages had been brought under organic certification. Under the Mission Organic Development Initiative (MODI), launched in 2020, Ladakh aims to convert all 666 villages into certified organic hubs.

The ₹500-crore initiative includes support for bio-fertiliser production, seed distribution, protected cultivation and marketing of organic produce.

"The real challenge now is to get better prices for our produce. Organic certification will be meaningful for farmers only if it helps us find better markets and increases our income. The short growing season and harsh climatic conditions in Ladakh make cultivation difficult," said Tashi, a local farmer.

Railways Plans Container Transport Overhaul to Attract More Export Cargo

Twesh Mishra

New Delhi: Indian Railways is eyeing a complete revamp of container transport in bid to attract more export traffic, including reducing compliances such as weighing of containers, shorter rakes to carry higher value commodities, relaxed tariff regimes through telescopic benefits under the hub and spoke model, and privatised maintenance of flatbed wagons (used for container transport), among others.

“Containerised export traffic will be exempt from mandatory 100% weightment,” a senior official told ET, adding this relaxation will be for certain commodities but random checks on 5% of rakes will be undertaken. Sector watchers say containers are weighed before (at depots) and after (at ports) their train journeys. The weightment checks by railways are an added compliance. Container operators will now



need to just submit a copy of Verified Gross Mass as per guidelines issued by the Directorate General of Shipping.

In addition to lower compliance, the national transporter also plans introducing ‘mini container rakes’ of at least 25 wagons. There are currently around 750 container rakes (trains) on the Indian Railways of 45 wagons each. “Mini rakes are aimed at encouraging transport of

higher value commodities in containers,” the official said.

The Railways is also ‘actively considering’ industry proposals to allow private sector to maintain wagons, creating a new business opportunity for public-private partnerships (PPP). According to industry estimates, roughly 20% of all wagons are always in maintenance depots. Around 5% of the total freight tariff value is char-

ged by the Indian Railways for maintaining container wagons.

“Multiple manufacturers and container freight train operators have made representations seeking permission to allow private maintenance of railway wagons,” a second official said, deliberations are underway on financial terms to allow this. “Container train operators want a discount on freight value if they maintain wagons,” the official said, adding the industry claims they will be able to offer speedier turnaround times.

Besides these measures, Indian Railways also plans increasing the number of routes where hub and spoke terminals will be present. This will allow freight train operators to consolidate containers from multiple locations and move them on the Indian Railways while retaining the benefit of charges eligible for long distance cargo transport, instead of having to pay higher short distance rates that accrue if cargo were to be re-booked at the hub-points.

India Must Bolster Tech, Economic Resilience: Grandy

Deepshikha Sikarwar

New Delhi: India must accelerate the development of domestic technology capabilities, strengthen economic resilience and build safeguards against dependence on foreign artificial intelligence (AI) systems as geopolitical tensions reshape government priorities worldwide, according to Dean Grandy, KPMG's global head for government and public sector.

"India needs the ability to create its own solutions to address national problems. It needs the economic capacity to invest in solutions and areas that will deliver outcomes in its best interests," Grandy told ET.

He dismissed concerns over the outflow of capital saying the issue was not specific to India.

"This is a global phenomenon driven by many external factors that attract investment and human capital towards different opportunities and operating environments," he said.

Given geopolitical volatility, no country or region can sustain itself entirely without support from allies, he said. Foreign trade arrangements and multilateral agreements are important because they provide a shared platform for understanding, investment and a common vision for the future.

"Collaboration between like-minded governments, including the sharing of experiences, insights and capabilities, as well as funding arrangements, is essential," he said, adding that these partnerships enable India and other countries to co-invest in their futures.

Geopolitical volatility in the last few years has driven fundamental shifts in the way governments need to think about protecting citizens and ensuring societal and economic well-being, he said.

"This represents a shift away from social well-being towards national security considerations. It has broader implications because there is less money available for welfare, healthcare and education," he said. The shift is also reshaping international partnerships; with allied countries collaborating on large defence and security programmes, he said. Governments have begun to ask how they can build do-



EXUDING CONFIDENCE

India's scale, economic growth and young population give it a strong foundation for sustainable growth

mestic capabilities, secure critical infrastructure and retain control over data.

Grandy said India's scale, economic growth, young population and expanding artificial intelligence capabilities give it a strong foundation for sustainable growth.

ON AI

India, he said, must invest in domestic infrastructure, large language models, digital literacy and technical capabilities while maintaining close links with other governments, he said. It must also be able to intervene quickly when problems emerge around AI access, supply or use, he noted.

Grandy said India should develop its own AI regulations rather than wait for a single global framework. He considered this unlikely because of competing national interests.

"Appropriate safeguards must be in place to ensure that the interests of India, its citizens, its business environment and the data flowing through these systems are protected and managed effectively for the future," he said.

He does not see a single global regulatory framework as a possibility with too many competing interests, particularly among countries at the frontier of AI development.

AI Set to Transform Indian Textile and Apparel Value Chain

By Gurudas Aras, Independent Director & Strategic Advisor

Artificial Intelligence is emerging as a transformative force across India's textile and apparel industry, with applications extending from farming, spinning and manufacturing to fashion design, supply-chain management, recycling and retail, according to Dr. Gurudas Aras, Independent Director and Strategic Advisor.

Drawing on more than four decades of experience in the textile machinery industry and his association with leading European textile machinery manufacturers, Dr. Aras believes the convergence of AI, robotics,



automation and advanced manufacturing technologies will fundamentally change the way textiles are designed, manufactured and marketed.

"The question is no longer whether AI will transform the textile industry. The transformation has already begun," Dr. Aras said. "The real challenge for Indian textile enterprises is how quickly they can adapt, invest and innovate to thrive in this intelligent future."

AI, he explained, goes beyond conventional automation by enabling machines and computer systems to learn, understand information, solve problems, make decisions and provide recommendations. Its growing capabilities are not only improving existing

manufacturing processes but also changing the way fashion is designed, production is planned and products reach consumers.

For the Indian textile and apparel industry, the opportunity is particularly significant given the breadth of its value chain. AI applications can increasingly connect raw material production with manufacturing, supply chains and consumer demand, enabling companies to make faster and more informed decisions.

Among the important areas where AI is expected to have an

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impact are generative design and pattern making, algorithmic process automation, real-time defect detection, predictive machinery maintenance, supply-chain optimisation, waste mitigation, demand forecasting and AI-driven sorting for textile recycling.

Its applications are also expanding into personalised marketing, enhanced customer experiences, smart textiles and sustainable manufacturing practices.

Dr. Aras said the factory of the future would move well beyond conventional automation. “The future textile factory will not merely be automated. It will be intelligent, connected, predictive and customer-centric.”

This transition could be particularly important as India seeks to strengthen its position as a global textile manufacturing centre and expand the size and competitiveness of the domestic industry. The ability to deploy AI effectively could help manufacturers improve productivity, quality consistency, resource utilisation and responsiveness to rapidly changing markets.

Sustainability is another area where AI can make a significant contribution. Better process control, intelligent waste reduction, predictive maintenance and more efficient use of materials and resources can help manufacturers improve both operating efficiency and environmental performance. AI-assisted sorting could also

support the development of textile-to-textile recycling and a more circular textile economy.

At the consumer end, AI is increasingly influencing demand forecasting, product development, personalisation and the overall retail experience. Better integration of consumer insights with manufacturing and supply-chain decisions could enable companies to respond more quickly to market trends while reducing excess inventory and waste.

According to Dr. Aras, AI should therefore be viewed not merely as an incremental technological upgrade but as a fundamental shift in how textile businesses operate and compete.

“Those who successfully integrate AI into their business models today will become the textile leaders of tomorrow,” he observed.

Dr. Aras said the opportunity is for India to progress from being one of the world’s major textile hubs towards becoming a global leader in smart, sustainable and innovative textiles.

This article marks the beginning of a series by Dr. Gurudas Aras for Tecoya Trend on Artificial Intelligence and its implications for the textile and apparel industry. The forthcoming articles will examine AI applications across farming and raw material production; textile manufacturing from ginning to garmenting; procurement and inventory management; and retail and consumer experience.

ITTA and University of Huddersfield, UK, Sign MoU to Strengthen Collaboration in Technical Textiles

MUMBAI, OCT. 25—

The Indian Technical Textile Association (ITTA) and the University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), marking an important step towards strengthening collaboration between the Indian technical textile industry and UK academia.



The MoU aims to foster cooperation in technical textiles through joint research and development, knowledge exchange, technology collaboration, industry-academia engagement, and skill development. The partnership will seek to connect industry requirements with academic expertise, encourage innovation, and create opportunities for collaborative projects, technical interactions, and capacity building in the technical textiles sector.

The MoU ceremony was attended by Ms. Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire, and Prof. Parik Goswami, Director, Technical Textiles Research Centre, University of Huddersfield, UK, along with Shri Mahesh Kudav, Chairman, ITTA; Dr. Nandan Kumar, Vice-Chairman, ITTA; ITTA members and other distinguished invitees.

Through this partnership, ITTA and the University of Huddersfield look forward to developing meaningful opportunities for research collaboration, industry-oriented innovation, knowledge sharing, and the advancement of technical textiles in India and the United Kingdom with the shared aim of advancing knowledge and capabilities in technical textiles.

Govt to bear 'expensive' certification costs for micro, small exporters under EPM: Piyush Goyal

BERLIN, OCT. 25-(PTI)

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said that the government is willing to bear the entire cost of "expensive" certification for micro and small enterprises under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM), urging existing and new exporters to approach the Directorate General of Foreign Trade for support to access global markets.

In November last year, the government approved the mission with an outlay of Rs 25,060 crore for six financial years. The mission is being implemented through two sub-schemes: Niryat Protsahan (Rs 10,401 crore) and Niryat Disha (Rs 14,659 crore).

"Under the mission, we are willing to support everybody who wants to export anywhere in the world. We will give them support. For micro and small (enterprises), we are willing to literally take care of the entire cost of certification and others also, if there is some very expensive certification or process," he told reporters here.

He urged existing and new exporters across product categories and sectors to approach the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) for certification support, saying the government would cover the entire cost.

He added that the costs of complying with European Union regulations, including the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), would be covered for micro and small enterprises, while support for other businesses would be provided on a graded basis.

