COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015



News Relating to Cotton and Textile Sector

Date-09-11-2026

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COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

(Regd. Office : Cotton Exchange Building, 2nd Floor, Cotton Green (E), Mumbai 400 033)
Tel. No. 8657442944/45/46/47/48 Email: cai@caionline.in Website: www.caionline.in

Mumbai, Saturday 7th November 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)	Rs. per Quintal	Rs. per Candy	Variation + (Plus) - (Minus)
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Gravimetric Trash %	Strength / GPT	2026-27	2026-27		2025-26	2025-26	
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	4%	15	15410	54800	(+400)	N.A.	N.A.	
2	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	15%	20	N.A.	N.A.		13807	49100	(+200)
3	P / H / R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	17744	63100	(+300)	N.A.	N.A.	
4	M/M(P) /SA/TL/GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
5	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
6	P/ H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	17828	63400	(+300)	N.A.	N.A.	
7	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
8	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
9	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
10	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	4.0%	27	17716	63000	(+200)	N.A.	N.A.	
11	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	18587	66100	(N.C.)	N.A.	N.A.	
12	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18503	65800	(N.C.)	N.A.	N.A.	
13	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18419	65500	(N.C.)	N.A.	N.A.	
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18559	66000	(+100)	N.A.	N.A.	
15	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	18700	66500	(+100)	N.A.	N.A.	
16	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	18700	66500	(N.C.)	N.A.	N.A.	
17	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	18897	67200	(N.C.)	N.A.	N.A.	
18	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
19	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5 – 4.9	3%	31	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
20	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	33	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
21	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	26573	94500	(N.C.)	N.A.	N.A.	
22	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
23	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	35	26995	96000	(N.C.)	N.A.	N.A.	

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. 3

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
(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. 4 are for 67 Rd

10 For Northern Zone (P/H/R(U)-Sr. Nos. 3 and 6 are for 70 Rd

11 For M/M(P)/SA/TL-Sr Nos. 5, 7, 8, and GUJ-Sr No.9 are for 74 Rd

12 For R(L)-Sr. No. 10 is for 72 Rd and 11 is for 73 Rd

13 For M/M(P) and K/TN-Sr Nos. 20 to 23 are for 70-72 Rd

Secretary

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Secretary

ICE Cotton Futures: 06-11-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE					06 Nov 2026	
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Dec-26	78.73	79.43	78.13	79.11	▲0.40	1,20,187
Mar-27	82.55	83.11	81.95	82.79	▲0.24	1,22,419
May-27	83.99	84.61	83.50	84.35	▲0.29	63,150
Jul-27	84.42	85.00	83.96	84.75	▲0.26	37,348
Oct-27	0.00	78.44	78.44	78.44	▼0.04	24
Dec-27	77.41	77.79	77.21	77.73	▲0.11	36,424
Mar-28	78.13	78.54	78.13	78.54	▲0.07	2,639

Cotlook Index: 06-11-2026

90.40 (+0.50)

US-India Trade Deal Faces Fresh Uncertainty Amid Political Shifts in Washington
Friday, 6th Nov. 2026, (Source: www.textilevaluechain.in/)

Democratic gains in the US Congress could complicate the proposed FTA's progress, while tariff disputes, agricultural sensitivities and competition with Asian exporters remain key issues in negotiations.
The proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the United States could face further delays amid political developments in Washington and continuing differences over trade policies. Although negotiations have shown signs of progress, disagreements over tariffs, market access and sensitive agricultural sectors remain significant challenges to finalising the agreement.



Political Developments Add Uncertainty to India-US FTA

The Democratic Party is now convincingly holding sway in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, a development that could influence US domestic and foreign policy decisions. However, trade agreements, including the proposed India-US FTA, remain within the US President's domain without requiring congressional approval.

This raises the possibility that there may be limited changes to the broad direction of the trade agreement already under discussion. Despite considerable opposition among US consumers, who believe higher tariffs have contributed to increased living costs, the Trump administration's approach to tariffs may continue to receive support in Congress.

The forthcoming trade agreement could therefore remain largely unaffected by the political developments in Washington.

India-US trade relations have also experienced uncertainty under previous administrations. The Biden administration showed limited interest in negotiating an FTA with India, while Section 301 of the US Trade Act was invoked against the country under both the Clinton and Obama administrations.

The political upheavals in Washington have nevertheless added uncertainty to the announcement of the FTA's first phase, which has already been under discussion for a considerable period. Talks began in February 2025 and were initially expected to be among the first agreements completed after Donald Trump returned to the White House. However, negotiations have encountered several obstacles.

Tariff Disputes Continue to Complicate Negotiations

The tariff situation has added another layer of complexity to the discussions.

In August, tariffs on Indian exports to the US increased to 50%, including a 25% penalty duty linked to India's imports of Russian oil. This followed the imposition of additional duties under the Trump administration's tariff framework.
The situation became more complicated after US courts ruled against Trump's reciprocal tariff regime. An interim framework agreement for the proposed trade deal was subsequently unveiled in February this year.

The negotiations appeared to be approaching a conclusion before encountering further uncertainty. The Lindsey Graham law, which allowed Donald Trump to impose tariffs of up to 10% on countries importing oil from Russia, was expected to remain a potential obstacle. However, the US President later granted a temporary waiver under the law.

At present, Indian merchandise exports face tariffs under the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) most-favoured-nation (MFN) system, along with a 10% tariff under the US Trade Act.

Recent statements from both sides have indicated that the trade agreement is moving closer to completion. These assurances were intended to address concerns about prolonged delays, particularly as the US has concluded trade arrangements more quickly with several other Asian economies, including Indonesia, Bangladesh and South Korea.

India Needs a Gradual and Balanced Trade Agreement
For India, both dairy and agriculture are politically sensitive sectors, making a gradual and carefully negotiated trade agreement important.

India needs to protect domestic industries from a potential increase in imports while ensuring that the agreement delivers meaningful export opportunities.

The US is India's second-largest trade partner. Bilateral trade was estimated at $141 billion in 2025, compared with $151 billion in India-China trade. More importantly, India maintains a trade surplus with the US.

The agreement is therefore considered important for strengthening India's competitive position against Asian exporters such as Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia and China.

Textiles, Garments and Industrial Goods Among Potential Beneficiaries
One of the key advantages of a trade agreement would be the possibility of lower tariffs in product categories where Indian exporters face strong international competition.

Textiles and garments are among the important sectors in this regard, particularly as competing countries such as Bangladesh currently benefit from lower duties.

Other segments that could gain from improved market access include gems and jewellery, industrial products, chemicals and engineering goods. Exporters in these categories are looking towards the possibility of accessing the US market under zero-duty arrangements.

However, greater access to the Indian market remains a key US negotiating objective, particularly in sectors that have traditionally been subject to restrictions.

Agriculture and Dairy Remain Major Negotiating Challenges

The US is seeking greater access to India's market in areas such as dairy and agriculture, where imports remain tightly controlled.

These sectors represent important political and economic concerns for India because the livelihoods of millions of farmers depend on them. The situation differs considerably from the US, where farming is highly corporatised and economies of scale help reduce per-unit costs.

The interim trade agreement indicated that some areas could be opened to greater imports. These include tree nuts, fruits, spices and non-GM sorghum.

However, staple grains, bulk daily-consumption commodities and soybean remain unresolved areas. India is expected to maintain its red lines in these sensitive segments.

Energy Purchases and Trade Commitments Form Part of the Discussions

Despite the remaining differences, the trade surplus between India and the US is expected to narrow to some extent.

The negotiating process has included India's purchases of US crude oil and petroleum products such as LPG, which are required amid the West Asian crisis.

Under the agreement, India committed to purchasing goods worth $500 billion over a five-year period. These purchases include commodities such as oil and coking coal, along with high-technology equipment.

Export Growth Provides Some Confidence Despite Tariffs

Concerns surrounding the proposed FTA have been partly offset by developments in India's export performance.

The first positive indicator is a 15% increase in Indian exports to the US during the first half of 2026-27, despite the imposition of higher tariffs.

The second is an 18% rise in India's overall exports during the same period. These figures have provided some confidence that export growth can continue despite unfavourable external conditions.

Final Outcome of India-US FTA Remains Uncertain

Whether the proposed trade agreement with the world's largest market will ultimately benefit India cannot be determined conclusively until the details are made public.
The outcome will depend considerably on the comparative advantages available to Indian exporters. In particular, the extent to which Indian goods receive a competitive advantage over similar products supplied by other exporting countries will remain a critical factor.

Despite the recent political developments in the US Congress, several important aspects of the proposed agreement remain unresolved. The final terms of the FTA will determine whether India can strengthen its position in the US market while protecting sensitive domestic sectors.

Will the India-New Zealand FTA deliver on its promise?
Sunday, 8th Nov. 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights
India–New Zealand FTA took effect on October 20, 2026, giving Indian exporters duty-free access across all New Zealand tariff lines. India has offered concessions on about 70 per cent of lines, including wool, while dairy, sugar and edible oils remain excluded. Textiles, apparel, carpets, home, sustainable and technical textiles may gain, but compliance and freight costs remain hurdles.

The India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) entered into force on October 20, 2026, giving Indian exporters duty-free access to the New Zealand market across all tariff lines.

India, in turn, has reportedly extended tariff concessions across about 70 per cent of its tariff lines, covering products such as wool, wood, coal, and wine while dairy, sugar, and edible oils reportedly remain excluded.
Certain other agricultural products also reportedly receive preferential access subject to quotas and safeguards.

Meanwhile, reports citing an analysis suggest that around 58.3 per cent of New Zealand's tariff lines were already duty-free, limiting the additional advantage for some Indian exporters.

Regulatory compliance seems another consideration. Exporters will reportedly need to comply with the FTA's rules of origin and applicable product-specific standards, labelling, and certification requirements. These obligations may add documentation and compliance costs, particularly for businesses unfamiliar with the New Zealand market.

These requirements may pose a greater relative burden for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that lack dedicated export-compliance teams or have limited resources for certification, documentation, and overseas market research.

Some stakeholders have also highlighted the importance of market size and competition. New Zealand's relatively small population limits its overall consumer-market scale compared with larger export destinations. Indian exporters will therefore need to identify commercially attractive product segments and build reliable relationships with local buyers.

Meanwhile, thanks to the distance between the two countries, long shipping distances may increase freight costs and transit times, potentially reducing some of the price advantage created by tariff concessions, feel some experts, and smaller exporters and businesses handling time-sensitive products may be particularly exposed to these costs.

Indian firms will still also need to compete with established suppliers on price, product quality, design, and delivery reliability. Depending on the product and buyer, sustainability credentials may also influence purchasing decisions.

Textiles, apparel, leather, footwear, carpets, ceramics, engineering goods, and automotive components are among the sectors poised to benefit significantly from the deal.

According to the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), the agreement offers an opportunity to diversify export markets, reduce dependence on a handful of destinations and strengthen the long-term competitiveness of India's textile industry.

Higher-value segments, including home textiles, sustainable textiles and technical textiles, offer potential avenues for expansion.

Duty-free access could also help Indian manufacturers broaden their product offerings and establish stronger relationships with the buyers in New Zealand. However, converting improved market access into sustained export growth will also depend on quality, delivery timelines, and other buyer requirements.
Access to New Zealand wool could create opportunities further along the value chain. By combining imported wool with India's established spinning, weaving, processing, and manufacturing capabilities, businesses could develop value-added products for domestic consumption and export markets. This would add a supply-chain dimension to the agreement, complementing the opportunities created by improved access for Indian finished goods.

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) expects duty-free access to improve the price competitiveness of Indian apparel, create opportunities for increased export orders and support employment generation, particularly among MSMEs.

For smaller manufacturers, the agreement offers an opportunity to reach new buyers without the additional cost burden previously imposed by import duties.

Established manufacturing clusters such as Tiruppur, Ludhiana, Surat and Panipat can leverage the agreement to strengthen their presence in the New Zealand market. Their existing manufacturing

capabilities, product specialisation, and export experience provide a foundation for responding to demand across apparel, textiles, and home textiles.

An increase in export orders could generate opportunities across the supply chain, benefiting manufacturers, processors, ancillary units, and workers.

Beyond bilateral trade, the agreement could also provide a potent platform for Indian businesses to explore opportunities across wider Oceania and the Pacific Island regions.

The India–New Zealand FTA, therefore, opens up new opportunities for exporters across sectors, but the extent of its overall benefits, many feel, will also depend on how effectively businesses convert tariff concessions into actual trade gains.

Indian Cotton Prices Strengthen on Mill Buying

Friday, 7th Nov. 2026, by Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Indian Cotton Market: Mill Buying Supports Prices; Weak Yarn Demand Limits Upside In the Indian cotton market, prices have strengthened across key hubs in Gujarat and North India. Following a recent decline, spinning mills have resumed purchasing and are actively replenishing their stocks. However, the scope for any significant price surge remains limited due to weak demand for cotton yarn and the anticipated increase in the arrival of the new crop.

Cotton Prices Strengthen in Gujarat and North India

Spot cotton prices have improved across various markets in Gujarat, including Ahmedabad. Prices have also strengthened in Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan, driven by increased procurement by mills. Mills are building up their raw cotton inventories to meet requirements ahead of the upcoming peak consumption season.

Recent buying activity has eased the pressure for distress sales in the market. Nevertheless, demand for cotton yarn remains sluggish in both domestic and international markets. Yarn prices for November are hovering near the levels seen at the end of October, making it difficult for mills to pass on the rising costs of raw cotton to their customers.

Supply and Demand Dynamics

Procurement by mills has been the primary factor providing short-term support to cotton prices. Taking advantage of lower price levels in recent weeks, spinning mills and textile manufacturers have increased their stock holdings. This has tightened availability in the spot market, leading to an improvement in prices at the ginning and trading levels.

India's cotton production for the 2026-27 season is expected to decline due to adverse weather conditions and lower yields in major producing regions. According to preliminary estimates from the Cotton Association of India (CAI) and other trade bodies, production could hover around 28–29 million bales (of 170 kg each). Some projections indicate a decline of more than 10% compared to the previous season. Market Outlook

The central government has extended the customs duty exemption on raw cotton imports until the end of December 2026. This provides mills with an import option should domestic prices rise. Meanwhile, procurement by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and the Minimum Support Price (MSP) mechanism may offer additional support to the market.

The arrival of the new crop and weather conditions will determine the market's direction. As harvesting and ginning activities gain momentum, arrivals in the mandis (agricultural markets) are likely to increase, which could temper the current upward trend. Overall, cotton prices are expected to remain stable with only modest gains, rather than experiencing a significant surge, in the near term.

CCI Cuts Cotton Prices by ₹400 per Candy; Weekly Auction Sales at 26,000 Bales
Friday, 7th Nov. 2026, by Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

WEEKLY SALE OF CCI COTTON BALES (2025-26) APPROX			
SMART INFO SERVICES CALL: 96300 96370			
DATE	MILLS SESSION	TRADER SESSION	TOTAL BALES SOLD
02.11.2026	18,900	6,700	25,600
03.11.2026	0	0	0
04.11.2026	400	0	400
05.11.2026	0	0	0
06.11.2026	0	0	0
TOTAL (2025-26) (+/- Incomplete lot's quantity)			26,000
GRAND TOTAL BALES SOLD BY CCI IN THIS WEEK			26,000

CCI Decrease Its Cotton Candy Prices by ₹400 per Candy; Weekly Auction Sales Reach 26,000 Bales

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) decreases its cotton selling prices by ₹400 per candy during the week ended 06 November 2026. During the week, the corporation sold approximately 26,000 bales of cotton from the 2025–26 crop through its auction sales.
Day-Wise CCI Auction Sales Performance
November 2, 2026 (Monday)

CCI recorded its highest sales of the week, with approximately 25,600 bales sold in a single day. Mills purchased 18,900 bales, while traders accounted for 6,700 bales.
November 3, 2026 (Tuesday)
No cotton sales were recorded during the day's auction sessions. Both mill and trader purchases remained at zero.
November 4, 2026 (Wednesday)

Auction activity remained subdued, with CCI selling just 400 bales. The entire quantity was purchased by mills, while traders did not participate in purchases.
November 5, 2026 (Thursday)
No sales were recorded through either the mill or trader sessions
November 6, 2026 (Friday)
CCI again recorded zero sales, with no purchases reported from mills or traders.
Cumulative Cotton Sales
Following the latest auction activity, CCI's cumulative cotton sales for the 2025–26 season reached approximately 99.59 lakh bales, reflecting continued auction activity in the domestic cotton market.

Bangladesh's import bill rises 11.5% in Q1 FY27

Monday, 9th Nov. 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights
Bangladesh's import payments rose 11.50 per cent year-on-year to $18.91 billion in Q1 FY27, while new letters of credit climbed nearly 22 per cent to $22.46 billion.
Petroleum imports increased nearly 28 per cent, but industrial raw material imports fell 1.80 per cent and capital machinery was almost unchanged.
Bangladesh Bank officials expect obligations to rise ahead of Ramadan.

Bangladesh's actual imports, measured by the settlement of letters of credit (LCs), rose 11.50 per cent year-on-year to $18.91 billion in July-September of fiscal 2026-27 (FY27), compared with $16.96 billion in the same period of FY26, according to the latest Bangladesh Bank data.

Fresh LCs, which indicate new import orders, increased by nearly 22 per cent to $22.46 billion in the first quarter of FY27 from $18.43 billion a year earlier, the central bank data showed.

Production-linked import categories showed mixed movement. Imports of capital machinery, or industrial equipment used in production, were almost unchanged at $435 million in July-September FY27. Industrial raw material imports fell 1.80 per cent to $5.71 billion from $5.82 billion a year earlier, while intermediate goods imports rose nearly 36 per cent to $1.29 billion from $0.95 billion, according to the data.

Petroleum product imports rose more sharply, increasing nearly 28 per cent to $2.98 billion in Q1 FY27 from $2.33 billion in the corresponding period of FY26. In FY26, fuel oil imports had increased 6.42 per cent to $10.68 billion from $10.03 billion in FY25, the central bank data showed.

Bangladesh Bank officials expect import-payment obligations to rise further in the coming months, particularly before Ramadan, after the country spent an additional $1.0 billion in October 2026 to settle public-sector import bills, mainly for fuel oil, gas and electricity. Higher global prices of essential commodities, especially fuel, have lifted the country's overall import expenses, Bangladeshi media reported, citing the officials.

The World Bank Group has projected a 23 per cent increase in global commodity prices in 2026 as geopolitical and other global shocks intensify, according to its latest *Commodity Markets Outlook*.

The outlook said the Middle East conflict had depleted oil inventories and was expected to push energy prices to a four-year high. Energy prices are projected to rise 32 per cent in 2026, reversing three years of declines, before easing in 2027. Brent crude is forecast by the World Bank to average $91 per barrel in 2026, up from $69 in 2025, before easing to $79 in 2027.

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Sunday Times of India – 08.11.2026

Maha disburses ₹4,300cr+ Diwali relief to 87L farmers

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Pune: The Maharashtra govt has transferred Rs 4,372.83 crore as Diwali advance assistance to 87,45,669 farmers across 304 drought-affected talukas, with the amounts credited to their bank accounts by Nov 5, relief and rehabilitation officials told **TOI** on Saturday.

Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis had assured eligible farmers of Rs 5,000 each before Diwali to provide financial relief amid the drought. On Nov 4, Fadnavis said 73 lakh farmers had already received the assistance and the govt expected to cover 95% of the beneficiaries within the next two days.

"By Saturday, another 10 lakh beneficiaries would have been added," an official said.

Officials and staff from revenue, relief and rehabilitation, and agriculture departments worked on a priority basis to ensure the direct transfer of the assistance into the beneficiaries' bank accounts. The latest figures show that 87,45,669 farmers have received the amount so far, and the govt stated that payments to the remaining eligible farmers are currently underway.

"Some payments were delayed due to technical issues with bank accounts, errors in account details, and other reasons. We are actively addressing these issues to ensure that no eligible farmer is left out," the official added.

The Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar division accounted for the highest disbursement, with Rs 1,668.18 crore transferred to 33.36 lakh farmers. The Nashik division followed with Rs 903.52 crore for 18.07 lakh farmers, while the Pune division received Rs 753.19 crore for 15.06 lakh beneficiaries. Meanwhile, the Amravati division received Rs 641.10 crore for 12.82 lakh farmers, the Nagpur division received Rs 375.02 crore for 7.5 lakh farmers, and the Konkan division received Rs 31.82 crore for 63,647 farmers.

Officials stated that the department is continuously monitoring the disbursement process and that the remaining eligible farmers will receive their assistance once the technical issues are resolved.

Debt trap to landowners again: Two Latur families get back farms on eve of Diwali

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: For two farmer families in Maharashtra's Latur, Diwali arrived early and with something more valuable than festive lights — their land.

In a pre-Diwali gesture, district collector Bharat Bastewad and superintendent of police Amol Tambe handed over ownership records of agricultural land to the two rightful owners on Friday after their prized possession was allegedly grabbed by illegal moneylenders through fraudulent sale deeds as loan security.

One of the beneficiaries, 75-year-old Mandubai Irappa Dawre from Kalkoti village in Chakur taluka, had watched her family's land slip away after a small loan turned into a nightmare. "My husband had taken a loan of Rs 28,000 in the mid-90s. The private moneylender exploited our ignorance and told us the amount had grown to Rs 12 lakh with interest. After my husband died in financial distress, the moneylender grabbed the land," Mandubai said.

Investigators found that the sale deed executed for her nearly 4.5 acres was not a genuine sale but merely a security document linked to the loan transaction. The deed was cancelled, a criminal case was registered at Chakur police station, and the land was returned to her family.

In another case, 70-year-old Waman Shripati Suryavanshi from Thor Makani village in Nilanga taluka borrowed Rs 2 lakh in 2015 to buy a tractor. "Despite repaying over Rs 6 lakh, the moneylender got my one acre of land written as security. He first transferred it in his own name and later in another person's name," Suryavanshi said, thanking the district administration. An inquiry concluded the transaction amounted to illegal moneylending, leading to the land being returned to him. — **Prasad Joshi**

Sunday Times of India – 08.11.2026

Amid drought, farmers in grip of micro-fin cos

With crops failing amid drought, loan repayments have become difficult for farmers and exposed the strong-arm tactics of micro-finance companies which have aggressively expanded their reach to the most vulnerable segment in rural Maharashtra, reports **Priyanka**

▶ **2 Latur farmers get back land moneylenders took, P 5**

Kakodkar. For instance, whenever Milind Rokade did not meet a deadline, the company from which he had taken Rs 6 lakh to buy a van would keep calling and send its agent to sit outside their house for hours till they borrowed from neighbours to pay them, his family claimed. When his soyabean crop failed, Rokade ended his life. **P5**

The Economic Times – 09.11.2026

TIME OF STRESS Rain deficit raises risks, with gross NPAs at 5.1% against 1.8% system-wide

Agri Loans Grow as Biggest Asset-Quality Risk for Indian Banks

Sangita Mehta

Mumbai: Agricultural loans have emerged as the biggest asset-quality risk for Indian banks, with the segment's bad-loan ratio far exceeding those of industry, services and retail despite a broader improvement in loan books.

The gross non-performing asset ratio for agricultural loans stood at 5.1% in the second quarter of 2026, compared with 1.5% each for industry and services and 1% for retail loans, according to BMI Research, an arm of Fitch Group. The system-wide gross NPA ratio declined to 1.8%, making farm credit the clearest stress point in an otherwise healthier banking system, BMI said.

Agricultural bad loans have declined from more than 10% during 2020-21, but the segment remains a clear outlier. The vulnerability has increased after India's southwest monsoon ended 12.6% below its long-period average, marking the weakest rainfall since 2015.

At Bank of Baroda, agricultural NPAs rose 11.6% year on year to ₹9,128 crore and accounted for 34% of total slippages during the quarter. However, MD and CEO Debadatta Chand told analysts that the bank had not seen any signs of stress so far.

Canara Bank reported agricultural loan slippages of ₹687 crore, accounting for nearly 37% of the total of ₹1,844 crore in second-quarter slippages. Its exposure to drought-prone areas stood at about ₹13,900 crore, MD and CEO Brijesh Kumar told analysts.

Kumar said the entire exposure was unlikely to come under stress as the State Level Bankers' Committees could offer relief to affected agricultural borrowers through measures such as restructuring or a moratorium. "Some kind of dispensation comes every time," he said.

Punjab National Bank said agricultural loans classified as Special Mention Account-2, or SMA-2, declined to ₹89 crore from ₹314 crore a year ago. SMA-2 accounts are those in which repayments are overdue by more than 60 days and up to 90 days.

MD and CEO Ashok Chandra said PNB had not seen stress but remained "mindful" of the drought situation. The bank has put in place a large-scale programme to connect with farmers and monitor conditions on the ground, he said.

"Things are fully under control. There is no alarm button to be pushed now," Chandra said.

Lower farm incomes could weaken borrowers' repayment capacity and add to agricultural loan arrears, particularly as the segment already carries relatively high credit risk. However, the stress may take time to appear in banks' reported numbers because the classification of agricultural loans as non-performing is linked to crop seasons, the BMI report said.

BMI, however, does not expect the weak monsoon to cause a material deterioration in system-wide asset quality.

The principal kharif crop has already been harvested, while the rabi crop is less dependent on southwest monsoon rainfall. Greater irrigation coverage, government food buffers and more diversified rural incomes should also limit the transmission of deficient rainfall into borrower stress, the report said.

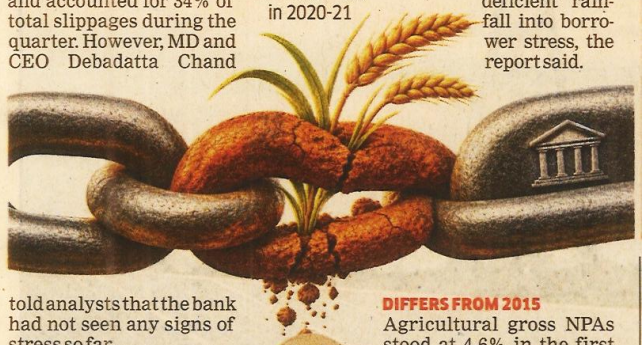
THE WEAK LINK

Agriculture has the highest gross NPA ratio among major loan segments

Agricultural bad loans have declined from over **10%** in 2020-21

Other major lending segments have considerably lower NPA ratios

BMI sees limited risk to overall banking asset quality



DIFFERS FROM 2015

Agricultural gross NPAs stood at 4.6% in the first quarter of 2015 before rising gradually and eventually exceeding 10% during 2019-21. But BMI said similarly weak monsoons in 2015 and 2026 should not be taken to imply a comparable increase in system-wide bad loans.

The previous deterioration was driven primarily by a corporate bad-loan cycle rather than agricultural stress. The gross NPA ratio for industry loans rose from 6.2% in the first quarter of 2015 to 22.5% in the first quarter of 2018, sharply worsening asset quality across the banking system.

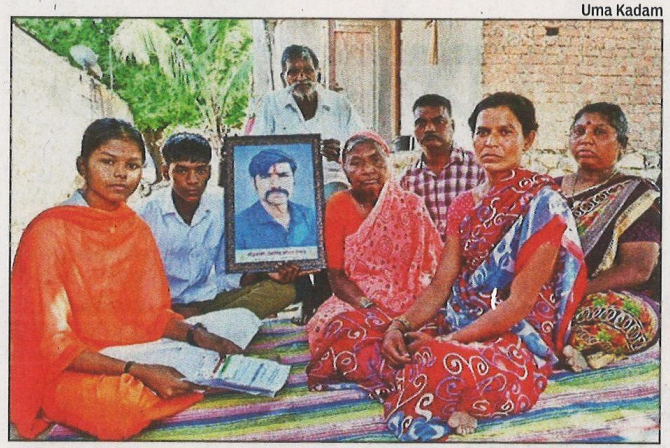
Banks are also entering the current period with stronger capital and earnings buffers. The banking sector's total capital ratio stood at 18% in the first quarter of 2026, while its common equity tier-1 ratio was 15.1% and return on assets reached 2%.

Sunday Times of India – 08.11.2026

Marathwada farmers caught in net of micro-finance cos

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Uma Kadam



Milind Rokade (43), who got insistent calls from a finance company's agents on missing a loan repayment instalment, died by suicide last mth

Dharashiv: When his soyabean crop failed, Milind Rokade lost his lifeline. After injuring his leg in an accident two years ago, the 43-year-old farmer had taken a Rs 6 lakh loan from a finance company to buy a transport van. He used it to ferry farm produce to supplement his income. But after the fierce drought destroyed most of the crops in Dharur village, he was left with nothing to transport, and a barren soyabean field.

He missed the Rs 14,750 monthly instalment on his loan which was due on Oct 15.

"The next day, the agents from the finance company called. They kept calling and were very insistent. The calls continued daily. He was stressed and became totally quiet," said his wife, Rukmini. Four days later, on Oct 19, he spent the day in his unharvested field. After midnight in the early hours of Oct 20, he went home and hung himself with his wife's sari.

Whenever Rokade did not meet a deadline, the finance company would keep calling and send its collection agent to sit outside their house for hours, the family alleges.

"We felt ashamed. The whole village could see. It was very insulting. They would threaten to take away the van," said Rukmini. "They would sit outside the house until we took money from neighbours and paid them," she added.

This case is just one of a string of suicides in Marathwada that are linked to the strong-arm tactics of micro-finance companies which have aggressively expanded their reach to the most vulnerable segment in rural Maharashtra.

On Oct 24, a Nanded-based farmer who had unpaid dues worth Rs 10,000 was found hanging from a ceiling fan in the office of micro-finance company K F Enterprises. The same month, the police registered a case against four micro-finance companies following the suicide of a 26-year-old farmer in Latur. One of these is a finance app.

Loan repayments have become difficult with the state facing one of its most widespread droughts; more than 85% of its talukas have been affected. Marathwada is among the worst-hit, with all 76 talukas affected. Milind Rokade had spent Rs 30,000 to plant his 2-acre soyabean field. He recovered only Rs 4,000.

The suicides have also turned the spotlight on the steep interest rates being charged by the companies to the state's poorest. In Rokade's case, the annual interest rate works out to 29.5%. In the Nanded farmer's case, the family has alleged that he was being charged Rs 70,000 on a loan of Rs 10,000.

"It is difficult to get bank loans because the farmers' CIBIL score is low. So, farmers turn to micro-finance companies even though the interest rate is very high," says Tanaji Gaikwad who is part of the village's conflict resolution committee. There are multiple apps and micro-finance companies operating. Some of these are fronts for other companies, he says.

In the past two years, Rukmini has sold three of the family's goats to meet loan instalments. She has also sold all her jewellery.

Her mangalsutra was sold a month before her husband's suicide. "He needed it to pay the instalment. I felt that as long as I have my husband, I have everything," said Rukmini.

Her daughter Prachi (15) and son Sudarshan (14) both want to join the army, in the footsteps of their grandfather Shrimant Rokade, a retired army sepoy who was in Pakistan, on the China border and in Kashmir.

"My father could not pass the test for the army and it was his dream that I should join. But now I am not sure we will be able to afford the fees," says Prachi, despondently. A 10th standard student, she is among the top three in her class. "My dream was to join the training academy to prepare to enter the army," she says.

What is govt doing to regulate the micro-finance sector? After the Nanded case, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis instructed police officials to book senior officials of the micro-finance companies if they harass farmers to pay back their dues. Fadnavis said he has asked RBI to tell microfinance companies not to take coercive steps.

"We have held a meeting with representatives of finance companies and told them they cannot force farmers to pay instalments, given the drought," said Dharashiv collector Kirti Kiran Pujara.

Yet, the number of farmers desperate for loans is growing. In Dharur village itself, we meet another farmer who has taken a 2.25 lakh loan from a micro-finance company. "The last time I didn't pay on time, the agent refused to leave my house. They told me I should not have taken the loan if I did not have the ability to pay," said a farmer who was too scared to give his name.

The Economic Times – 09.11.2026

Tariff Threat & AI Invest Still Alive



Pulkit Kapoor

Before the US midterms, the central question for India was not who would win Congress, but whether the election would alter the forces shaping global capital, trade and energy markets. After the results, the question has become whether those forces have changed.

Markets appear to be interpreting the outcome as a setback for AI-linked investment, tariffs and executive unilateralism. It isn't. Investors may be overestimating implications of the 'Blue Wave' on geopolitics. The election does little to alter the strategic tensions that define the current equilibrium in West Asia.

Whether the region experiences renewed escalation will depend more on military and diplomatic calculations than congressional arithmetic. For India, consequences would be felt through higher oil prices, imported inflation and pressure on BoP. The more relevant questions for India, therefore, concern trade and capital flows.

A Democrat-loaded Congress may weaken the executive's negotiating position at the margin, giving India additional room in trade negotiations. The experience of February is instructive. Once US Supreme Court invalidated tariffs imposed under IEEPA, India's bargaining position improved. Balance of negotiating leverage shifted even though the underlying disagreements remained unchanged.

The same distinction applies today. Congress may increase oversight of executive action and challenge the broad use of tariffs against allies and trading partners. That may strengthen India's hand in ongoing negotiations. But it would be a mistake to assume that the tariff threat has disappeared.

Principal authorities used to impose tariffs, including Sections 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 and Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, remain within the executive's reach. Beyond those, Congress has granted executive authority that could be used to impose punitive tariffs of up to 100% on countries purchasing Russian crude oil. Whether that authority is deployed will depend on the direction of Washington's strategic priorities.

The election outcome opens two contradictory paths. If congressional Democrats prioritise repairing ties with allies and scrutinising unilateral trade actions, the practical impact on India may be limited. If, however, they prioritise increasing pressure on Russia and enforcing sanctions compliance, tariff risks for India could increase.



India shouldn't abhor a vacuum

History offers another reason for caution. The assumption that one party is inherently less protectionist than the other has proved unreliable. The Biden administration not only retained many of Trump 1.0 tariffs but expanded industrial policy measures, including 100% tariffs on Chinese EVs. Tariffs have increasingly become a bipartisan feature of US industrial and trade policy.

Some investors appear tempted to interpret the result as a voter backlash against AI. Evidence suggests something more nuanced. In several constituencies, voters expressed concerns about rising electricity bills, pressure on local infra, water consumption and potential disruption to jobs.

Yet, AI remains one of the few strategic priorities that enjoys support across the US political spectrum. Competition with China, semiconductor leadership and belief that AI will underpin future economic growth, have created a durable bipartisan consensus in favour of continued investment. Policymakers now confront a different set of incentives from voters. The more likely outcome is adaptation rather than retrenchment.

So, the more important battleground may shift away from Washington and toward the states. Questions about who pays for grid expansion, transmission upgrades, water usage and power generation are increasingly being contested at the sub-national level. But even there, the outcome is more likely to involve a renegotiation of costs than abandonment of projects. That distinction matters for India.

Some investors may hope that regulatory friction in the US will free up capital for EMs. There's little evidence to support that assumption. If data centre projects slow in one state, capital can shift to transmission networks, semiconductor manufacturing, power infrastructure or other parts of the AI value chain. Competition for capital is, therefore, likely to remain predominantly within the US, rather than shift meaningfully towards EMs, India included.

For India, the challenge is not whether the US AI boom slows, but whether it can remain sufficiently attractive to global investors. The Blue Wave may alter political narratives but it does little to change that underlying reality.

The writer is senior vice-president, Business & Economic Research, Axis Bank

Janmabhoomi – 09.11.2026

ભારત ટેક્સ ૨૦૨૭ની તારીખોમાં ફેરફાર

હવે ૧૭થી ૨૦ ફેબ્રુઆરી દરમિયાન નવી દિલ્હીમાં યોજાશે

નવી દિલ્હી, તા. ૮ : ટેક્સટાઇલ ક્ષેત્રના વૈશ્વિક મહાકુંભ સમાન ભારત ટેક્સ ૨૦૨૭ના આયોજનની તારીખોમાં ફેરફાર કરવામાં આવ્યો છે. હવે આ આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય પ્રદર્શન ૧૭થી ૨૦ ફેબ્રુઆરી, ૨૦૨૭ દરમિયાન નવી દિલ્હી સ્થિત 'ભારત મંડપમ' ખાતે યોજાશે. આ સંદર્ભે હિન્દુસ્તાન ચેમ્બર ઓફ કોમર્સ, મુંબઈએ કાપડ ઉદ્યોગના અગ્રણીઓ, નિકાસકારો અને પોતાના સભ્યોને આ મેગા ઇવેન્ટમાં ભાગ લેવા માટે આમંત્રણ પાઠવ્યું છે. ભારત સરકારના કાપડ (વસ્ત્ર) મંત્રાલય, ભારત ટેક્સ ટ્રેડ ફેડરેશન અને વિવિધ એક્સપોર્ટ પ્રમોશન કાઉન્સિલ્સના સહયોગથી યોજાનારો આ આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય મેળો ટેક્સટાઇલ સેક્ટરમાં અદ્યતન ટેક્નોલોજી, ઇનોવેશન, સસ્ટેનેબિલિટી અને ગ્લોબલ એક્સપોર્ટને નવી ઊંચાઈએ લઈ જવા માટેનો મોટો મંચ પૂરું પાડશે. હિન્દુસ્તાન ચેમ્બર ઓફ કોમર્સના પ્રમુખ સુશીલ આર. ગડિયાએ જણાવ્યું હતું કે, ભારત ટેક્સ ૨૦૨૭માં ૨,૦૦૦થી વધુ અગ્રણી દેશી અને વિદેશી પ્રદર્શકો ભાગ લે તેવી સંભાવના છે. આ ચાર દિવસીય આયોજન દરમિયાન ઉદ્યોગમાં નવાં સંશોધનો, સાતત્યપૂર્ણ વિકાસ અને વૈશ્વિક નિકાસને પ્રોત્સાહન આપવાના હેતુથી ગ્લોબલ ટ્રેડ ડાયલોગ (વેપાર સંવાદો), બી૨બી બેઠકો અને જ્ઞાનવર્ધક ટેકનિકલ સત્રો પણ યોજવામાં આવશે. નવી દિલ્હીના ભારત મંડપમ ખાતે યોજાનારા આ પ્રદર્શનમાં ભાગ લેવા, સ્ટોલ બુકિંગ તેમજ વધુ વિગતો માટે કાપડ ઉદ્યોગ સાથે સંકળાયેલા વેપારીઓ અને નિકાસકારો હિન્દુસ્તાન ચેમ્બર ઓફ કોમર્સ, મુંબઈનો સંપર્ક કરી શકે છે.

Gujrat Samachar – 09.11.2026

ડબલ આવક તો બાજુએ રહી, બજારભાવમાં પણ ઘટાડો થયો

ખેડૂતોને કપાસનું વાવેતર માથે પડ્યું ચાર વર્ષમાં ભાવ રૂ.૧૫૦૦ ગગડ્યો

અમદાવાદ,તા.૮

ગુજરાતના અર્થતંત્રની કરોડરજ્જુ ગણાતા કૃષિ ક્ષેત્રમાં અત્યારે ચિંતાજનક સ્થિતિ સર્જાઈ છે. રાજ્યમાં 'સફેદ સોનું' કપાસ પકવતા લાખો ખેડૂતોને પાકના પૂરતા અને પોષણક્ષમ ભાવ મળી રહ્યા નથી. મોંઘા બિયારણો, ખાતર અને મજૂરીના વધતા ખર્ચ સામે કપાસના બજારભાવ તળિયે બેસી જતાં ધરતીપુત્રો આર્થિક સંકટમાં મુકાયા છે. કેન્દ્રીય કૃષિ મંત્રાલયના આંકડાએ જ પુરવાર કર્યું છે કે, ખેડૂતોને કપાસની ખેતી માથે પડી છે. ખેડૂતોની આવકમાં બમણો વધારો થશે તેવી સરકાર ડીંગો હાંકી રહી છે પણ કડવી હકીકત એ છે કે, ચાલુ સીઝનમાં કપાસની ખેતી પાછળ ખેડૂતોએ એકર દીઠ હજારો રૂપિયાનો ખર્ચ કર્યો છે. જોકે, જ્યારે પાક બજારમાં વેચવા માટે તૈયાર થયો, ત્યારે સરકારી મણ દીઠ ભાવ અને ખુલ્લા બજારના ભાવો ખેડૂતોની પડતર કિંમત પણ વસૂલ કરી શકતા નથી. ખેડૂતોનો આક્ષેપ છે કે બજારમાં વેપારીઓની મિલીભગત અને અપૂરતી સરકારી ખરીદીના કારણે તેમને નુકસાન વેઠવાનો વારો આવ્યો છે. ડુંગળી અને અન્ય પાકોની જેમ કપાસમાં પણ સરકારી ટેકાના ભાવ વાસ્તવિક ખર્ચની સરખામણીએ ખેડૂતોને પ્રતિ ક્વિન્ટલ સીધું રૂા.૧,૫૦૦થી વધુનું નુકસાન વેઠવું પડી રહ્યું છે.

ધરતીપુત્રોની માઠી દશા : ૨૨-૨૩માં કપાસનો સરેરાશ ભાવ રૂ.૮૮૨૯ હતો તે ઘટીને ૨૫-૨૬માં રૂ.૭૨૪૯એ પહોંચ્યો

સરખામણીએ ઘણા ઓછા સાબિત થઈ રહ્યા છે. સરકારના સત્તાવાર અહેવાલ મુજબ, વર્ષ ૨૦૨૨-૨૩ની સરખામણીએ ત્યારપછીના વર્ષોમાં કપાસના સરેરાશ મોડલ ભાવોમાં સતત ઘટાડો જોવા મળ્યો છે. જે કપાસ એક સમયે ઊંચા ભાવે વેચાતો હતો, તેના ભાવ ગગડી જતાં ખેડૂતો ઘરનું ગુજરાન ચલાવવા અને આગામી પાક માટે ધિરાણ મેળવવા ફાંફા મારી રહ્યા છે. સરકારી આંકડાઓ જ ખેડૂતોની આ લાચારીની સાક્ષી પૂરે છે. વર્ષ ૨૦૨૨-૨૩માં કપાસનો સરેરાશ મોડલ ભાવ રૂપિયા ૮,૮૨૯ પ્રતિ ક્વિન્ટલ હતો. જે વર્ષ ૨૦૨૫-૨૬માં પ્રતિ ક્વિન્ટલ ભાવ ઘટીને રૂા.૭,૨૪૯ થયો હતો. આમ, ૨૦૨૨-૨૩ની પૂરતા ભાવ ન મળવાને કારણે સહકારી મંડળીઓ અને બેંકોમાંથી લીધેલી લોન ભરપાઈ કરવી ખેડૂતો માટે અશક્ય બની ગઈ છે. એક તરફ કુદરતી આપત્તિઓનો માર અને બીજી તરફ બજારમાં મળતા અન્યાયી ભાવ, આ બંને પરિબળોએ ખાસ કરીને સૌરાષ્ટ્ર અને ઉત્તર ગુજરાતના ખેડૂતોને દેવાના ચક્રવ્યૂહમાં ધકેલી દીધા છે.

વાચકોએ નોંધ લેવી કે કોઈપણ જાહેરખબરમાં જણાવેલી માહિતીની સત્યતા બાબતે અમો કોઈ બાંયધરી આપતા નથી. વાચકોએ પોતાની રીતે પૂરતી ચકાસણી કરીને યોગ્ય નિર્ણય લેવાનો રહેશે.
- જાહેરખબર મેનેજર