



**COTTON
ASSOCIATION
OF INDIA**

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015



News Relating to
**Cotton and
Textile Sector**

Date-16-10-2026

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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	15016	53400	(+400)	N.A.	N.A.	
2	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	15%	20	N.A.	N.A.		13779	49000	(+500)
3	P / H / R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	17969	63900	(+100)	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	18081	64300	(+200)	N.A.	N.A.	
7	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	N.A.	N.A.		18278	65000	(N.C.)
8	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	N.A.	N.A.		18278	65000	(+500)
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	18053	64200	(+500)	N.A.	N.A.	
11	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	19065	67800	(+100)	N.A.	N.A.	
12	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19122	68000	(+500)	18925	67300	(+300)
13	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18953	67400	(+300)	18419	65500	(N.C.)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19206	68300	(+300)	N.A.	N.A.	
15	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	19262	68500	(+500)	N.A.	N.A.	
16	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	19122	68000	(+300)	N.A.	N.A.	
17	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	N.A.	N.A.		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	(+500)	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							Secretary					
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												

ICE Cotton Futures: 15-10-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE						15 Oct 2026
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Dec-26	80.66	80.77	79.70	80.06	▼0.60	1,69,899
Mar-27	83.98	84.13	83.00	83.42	▼0.58	98,144
May-27	85.73	85.83	84.65	85.12	▼0.57	57,444
Jul-27	85.96	85.97	85.12	85.56	▼0.57	35,066
Oct-27	0.00	79.43	79.43	79.43	▼0.31	26
Dec-27	78.82	78.99	78.50	78.79	▼0.25	32,562
Mar-28	79.40	79.55	79.36	79.36	▼0.28	2,452

Cotlook Index: 15-10-2026

91.45 (+0.20)

US cotton futures fall as harvest pressure weighs on ICE

Friday, 16th Oct 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights

US cotton futures fell on Thursday as better harvest conditions and expectations of increased supplies weighed on sentiment, with the ICE December 2026 contract settling 0.74 per cent lower at 80.06 cents.

Trading volume dropped 18.6 per cent to 44,369 contracts, while the contract closed below its 10-day moving average.

Indian textile mills are watching ICE moves for imported cotton costs.



US cotton futures extended their decline on Thursday as improving harvest conditions and expectations of increased supplies weighed on market sentiment. The most active December 2026 contract settled 0.74 per cent lower per pound, retreating further from a more than two-week high touched in the previous session. Weakness in soybean futures added pressure, while technical indicators suggested fading bullish momentum.

The ICE cotton December 2026 contract settled 60 points lower at 80.06 cents per pound, compared with 80.66 cents in the previous session. The contract has lost 48 points so far this week. Cotton futures remained near the lower end of their eight-session trading range of 79.23–82.25 cents, after touching a more than two-week high of 82.25 cents on Wednesday. Other contracts declined by 24–61 points during the session.

Trading activity slowed as total volume fell to 44,369 contracts from 54,476 in the previous session, a decline of 18.6 per cent. The December contract traded within a relatively narrow range of 79.70–80.77 cents, recording a lower high and a lower low than on Wednesday. The session's high was 148 points below the previous day's peak, indicating weakening buying interest.

Technical indicators also turned less favourable. The December contract closed below its 10-day moving average after remaining above the level for four consecutive sessions. Open interest in the December contract declined by 360 contracts to 169,899 at the beginning of Thursday's session. ICE certificated cotton stocks remained unchanged at 17,756 bales. The contract's first notice day is scheduled for November 23.

According to market analysts, cotton prices remained under pressure from the ongoing US harvest. Improving weather conditions in Texas, following earlier rainfall, were expected to support harvesting operations and increase the availability of cotton in the physical market. The easing of weather-related concerns reduced a factor that had previously supported futures prices.

Cotton also faced pressure from weakness in the broader agricultural commodities market. Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) soybean futures dropped to a seven-week low on Thursday.

Despite the bearish trend, cotton futures continued to hold above the 79-cent level. The December contract recovered from its intraday low of 79.70 cents to close above 80 cents, while the eight-session low of 79.23 cents remained intact. However, the retreat from Wednesday's high and the close below the 10-day moving average indicated that upward momentum had weakened.

Market participants were expected to monitor immediate support around 79.00–79.23 cents, followed by the recent major low of 77.05 cents. On the upside, resistance was seen around 80.86–81.00 cents, followed by 82.25 cents. The pace of the US cotton harvest, weather developments, movements in soybean futures and upcoming US export sales data were likely to influence the near-term direction of cotton prices.

For Indian textile mills, movements in ICE cotton futures remained important for assessing imported cotton costs and procurement decisions, particularly amid fluctuations in domestic cotton availability and international prices.

This morning (Indian Standard Time), December 2026 cotton was traded at 80.38 cents per pound (up 0.32 cent). Cash cotton was traded at 77.81 cents (down 0.60 cent), while the March 2027 contract traded at 83.74 cents (up 0.32 cent). The May 2027 contract traded at 85.44 cents (up 0.32 cent), the July 2027 contract at 85.86 cents (up 0.30 cent), and the October 2027 contract at 79.43 cents (down 0.31 cent). A few contracts remained at their previous closing levels, with no trading recorded so far today.

Wire Waste, NIFT-TEA mark World Circular Textile Day 2026

Friday, 16th Oct 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights

Wire Waste and NIFT-TEA College marked World Circular Textile Day 2026 in Tiruppur, promoting reuse, repair, recycling and responsible waste management. Discussions covered traceability, Digital Product Passports and Extended Producer Responsibility. Student competitions explored upcycling, zero-waste fashion and innovation, reinforcing collaboration towards a circular textile ecosystem by 2050.



Wire Waste Pvt. Ltd., in association with NIFT-TEA College of Knitwear Fashion, Tiruppur, successfully celebrated World Circular Textile Day 2026, bringing together students, academicians, sustainability professionals, and industry leaders to promote circular economy principles and responsible textile waste management.

The event, organised under the theme ‘Reimagining the Future of Circular Textiles’, highlighted the urgent need for the global textile industry to transition from traditional linear production models towards more

sustainable, circular and resource-efficient systems.

Balasree PP, circularity lead – India, Wire Waste Private Limited; A. G. Karthikeyan, textile control officer, Department of Textiles, Tiruppur division, Government of Tamil Nadu; and Moses Ponniah, fashion enthusiast and Mr Elite India 2026, 2nd Runner up, participated as chief guests.

The event focused on creating awareness about Circular Textiles, a concept that promotes keeping materials, products and resources in use for as long as possible through reuse, repair, refurbishment and recycling. The circular approach seeks to replace the traditional ‘Take-Make-Dispose’ model with systems that maximise resource efficiency and minimise environmental impact.

A key highlight of the discussions was the increasing importance of global sustainability regulations and market expectations. Industry experts spoke about the emergence of Digital Product Passports (DPPs), which are being introduced to improve transparency, traceability and accountability throughout the textile value chain. The event also addressed the growing relevance of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), a policy framework through which brands and producers are encouraged to take responsibility for products at the end of their useful life.

Speakers further highlighted the strong connection between climate action and textile circularity. The global effort to address climate change under the Paris Agreement requires industries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve resource efficiency and adopt sustainable production and consumption practices. Circular textile systems can significantly reduce environmental impacts by extending product life, recovering materials and reducing dependence on virgin resources.

The event reinforced the collective vision of creating a circular textile ecosystem by 2050, where textile waste is minimised, valuable materials remain in circulation, traceability is embedded throughout supply chains, and businesses operate within environmentally responsible frameworks. Achieving this vision will require collaboration among governments, educational institutions, industry bodies, manufacturers, recyclers, technology providers and consumers.

Dr. K. Senthilkumar, director – operations; Dr. V. R. Sampath, dean; and Dr. R. Radhamani, principal, supported and encouraged the initiative. B. Jeyanthi, head of the Department of Apparel Fashion Designing (AFD), along with faculty members and students, contributed to the successful organisation of the programme

Recognising the critical role of youth in building this future, the event provided students with opportunities to demonstrate their creativity, knowledge and innovation through a series of competitions:

- Circular Textile Innovation – Research and Innovation Presentation
- Circular Economy Quiz
- Trash to Craft – Textile Waste Creativity Challenge
- Circular Fashion Story – Short Video Competition
- ReFashion Runway – Circular Fashion Design Showcase featuring upcycled, recycled and zero-waste garments

The competitions encouraged participants to explore practical solutions for textile sustainability, waste reduction and circular business models.

Since, Wire Waste Pvt. Ltd. supporting accurate textile waste tracking and circularity measurement, the platform aligns with global efforts to build more transparent and circular textile supply chains. Speaking on the occasion, organisers emphasised that sustainability cannot be achieved by one stakeholder alone. Governments, industries, educational institutions, innovators and consumers must work together to promote the principles of Reuse, Repair and Recycle, thereby reducing resource consumption, minimising waste generation and supporting long-term environmental and economic resilience.

The successful celebration of World Circular Textile Day 2026 demonstrated Tiruppur's continued commitment to sustainability and reinforced the city's potential to become a global leader in circular textile innovation.

Bangladesh garment sector must go green to retain global markets

Thursday, 15th Oct 2026, (Source: www.apparelviews.com)



Bangladesh's garment industry must invest in cleaner production and transparency to remain competitive in global markets as the country prepares to graduate from least developed country (LDC) status, Steven Collet, Vice Minister for international cooperation of the Netherlands, said.

"Bangladesh's garment industry is an important part of global value chains, and its future depends on factories that combine competitiveness with responsibility," he said during a visit to TEAM Group's outerwear manufacturing facility, 4A Yarn Dyeing Ltd, in Dhaka.

A seven-member Dutch delegation visited the factory to explore cooperation in sustainable apparel manufacturing and trade amid changing global trade rules and emerging sustainability requirements. Afroza Shahin, Managing Director of TEAM Group, and Abdullah Hil Nakib, Deputy Managing Director, welcomed the delegation.

Discussions with TEAM Group's senior management covered Bangladesh's LDC graduation, a proposed Bangladesh-European Union free trade agreement, decarbonisation, responsible sourcing, supply chain traceability and compliance with emerging EU sustainability regulations.

The two sides also explored collaboration with Dutch apparel brands and development partners in clean energy, circularity, digital product passports and workforce development.

Steven praised the factory's investment in clean energy and transparency, saying the Netherlands looked forward to continuing its partnership with Bangladesh to promote a sustainable and inclusive textile sector. "It was inspiring to see how 4A Yarn Dyeing is investing in clean energy and transparency," he said.

Afroza said sustainability investments were essential to maintaining the apparel industry's competitiveness. "The Netherlands has long been a partner in our industry's journey towards safer, fairer and greener production," she said. "Changing trade rules and the energy crisis both point in the same direction: the factories investing in sustainability today are the ones that will keep their markets tomorrow." She said TEAM Group looked forward to strengthening its partnership with the Netherlands.

The delegation observed the factory's rooftop solar power plant, rainwater harvesting system, fair price shop and childcare facilities. Certified LEED Platinum by the US Green Building Council, 4A Yarn Dyeing is also the world's first outerwear manufacturing unit to sign the United Nations Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action.

The delegation included Wampie Libon, Ambassador for Sustainable Development and Director of Inclusive Green Growth at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Joris van Bommel, Dutch Ambassador to Bangladesh; Helal Hussain, Country Director of Swisscontact Bangladesh; Selim Reza Hasan, Country Manager of Solidaridad Network Bangladesh; Bablur Rahman, Bangladesh Country Manager of Fair Wear Foundation; and Muyeed Hasan, Country Manager of AWARE Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Govt moves to form RMG wage board amid Tk 30,000 wage demand

Friday, 16th Oct 2026, (Source: www.apparelviews.com)



The government has asked owners and workers' organisations to nominate their respective representatives aiming to form wage board to review wages for the country's garment sector amid labour protests demanding Tk 30,000 as monthly wages.

In this connection, the Department of Labour (DoL) has sent separate letters to the Bangladesh Employers' Federation and Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, asking them to nominate three representatives each and submit their photographs and National Identity (NID) card details.

When asked, Abdus Samad Al Azad, director general of DoL, confirmed DoL has asked them to nominate their representatives for the proposed wage board, paving the way for a fresh review of wages in the country's largest export-oriented industrial sector.

The move comes as garment workers have been demanding wage hikes amid rising inflation and living costs. Workers from some of the garment factories on Thursday morning took to the street for the second day in the Azampur and Rajlukkhi areas, bringing traffic to a standstill and causing immense suffering to commuters.

Labour leaders argue that the current minimum wage of Tk 12,500 set in November 2023 and effective December 2023 is insufficient against high inflation and soaring living costs. Recent amendments to the labour law reduced the wage revision cycle from five years to three years, making a review timely as the three-year mark approaches, they noted. The minimum wage for garment workers was Tk 1,662.50 in 2006, revised to Tk 3,000 in 2010, Tk 5,300 in 2013, Tk 8,000 in 2018, and Tk 12,500 in 2023.

Jalgaon Cotton Prices Near ₹10,000 per Quintal

Friday, 16th Oct 2026,, Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Cotton Prices Near ₹10,000; Open Market Surges Amid Fears of Production Decline

Jalgaon, Maharashtra: Cotton prices in the open market are witnessing a surge, driven by concerns over a potential decline in cotton production across the Khandesh region, including Jalgaon, Maharashtra. According to local market reports, private traders are purchasing high-quality cotton at prices ranging from ₹9,000 to ₹9,600 per quintal. Market observers anticipate that if arrivals remain limited while demand stays strong, cotton prices could reach the ₹10,000 per quintal mark.

Cotton Crop Affected by Lack of Rainfall

Reports indicate that the cotton crop has been adversely affected during this year's Kharif season due to a delayed monsoon and insufficient rainfall. A lack of moisture has hindered the development of flowers and bolls on the plants, raising concerns about a drop in regional cotton production.

Local estimates suggest that cotton crops sown on time may yield four to five quintals per acre. Meanwhile, in some rain-fed areas, yields are expected to be significantly lower.

Private Traders Ramp Up Cotton Procurement

Anticipating a potential shortfall in production, private traders have intensified their procurement of cotton directly from villages. With open market prices exceeding ₹9,000 per quintal, farmers are seeing better returns. However, if production volumes fall, the overall income of farmers could still be negatively impacted, despite the higher prices.

Ginning Industry Concerned Over Raw Material Shortage

According to Pradeep Jain, President of the Khandesh Ginning Traders Association, the decline in cotton production is leading to a shortage of raw materials for ginning units. He noted that the price of raw cotton has reached ₹9,000 per quintal, while the price of processed (ginned) cotton has climbed to approximately ₹67,000 per candy. Strong market prices have raised farmers' expectations. However, the future direction of prices will depend on the actual arrival, quality, and demand for cotton in the coming days.

Gujarat Textile Industry Faces Possible Early Diwali Shutdown Amid 45% Yarn Price Rise

Friday, 16th Oct 2026, (Source: www.textilevaluechain.in)

Surat's weaving units are facing mounting pressure from higher raw material costs, weak fabric demand, unsold inventory and delayed payments, with some factories potentially closing up to 15 days earlier than usual.

The textile industry in Gujarat is facing the possibility of an early shutdown ahead of Diwali as yarn prices have increased by 40% to 45% since June, while demand for finished fabrics remains weak.

In Surat, one of India's major textile manufacturing hubs, rising production costs and slow payments are putting pressure on weaving businesses. Industry representatives warn that some factories may shut their looms around 15 days earlier than usual if market conditions do not improve.

Rising Yarn Prices Put Pressure on Weaving Units

Yarn is a key raw material for Surat's weaving industry, which supplies fabrics to domestic and export markets. The sharp rise in yarn prices has increased production costs, while manufacturers have struggled to raise fabric selling prices at the same pace.

The widening gap between input costs and selling prices is squeezing manufacturers' already thin margins. According to industry representatives, some small weaving units have begun reducing production and observing weekly holidays to limit losses.

If the situation persists, some factories could remain closed for a month or longer during the Diwali period.

Weak Fabric Demand and Delayed Payments Deepen Concerns

The industry is facing pressure from both higher yarn prices and inadequate returns from grey fabric and finished textiles.

As unsold inventories accumulate, delayed payments from buyers are restricting manufacturers' working capital. This is making it harder for businesses to pay suppliers, workers and other operating expenses.

Smaller weaving units are particularly vulnerable because they have limited financial reserves to absorb prolonged losses. An extended shutdown could also affect workers, traders, transport operators and other businesses connected to Surat's textile supply chain.

Weavers Call for Government Intervention

Textile industry representatives have urged the government to monitor yarn prices and address what they describe as artificial price increases by spinners.

They have also called for domestic weavers to receive yarn at internationally competitive free-on-board (FOB) rates, a pricing arrangement associated with goods supplied for export.

Industry representatives believe that more competitive raw material prices could help reduce production costs and support a return to normal operations.

Outlook for Gujarat's Textile Sector

The potential shutdown highlights the challenges manufacturers face when raw material costs rise faster than selling prices. If these pressures continue, production activity, festive-season fabric supplies and businesses across Surat's textile supply chain could face further disruption.

Stabilising yarn prices, improving cash flow and reviving demand for finished fabrics remain key concerns for the industry ahead of Diwali. The extent of any shutdown will depend on how market conditions develop in the coming weeks.

El Niño Threatens Rabi Crops After Kharif Setback, Agricultural GDP Set to Contract This Year

Friday, 16th Oct 2026, Harvir Singh, (Source: www.eng.ruralvoice.in)

El Niño and deficient monsoon rainfall have damaged kharif prospects and threaten rabi crops, raising the risk of agricultural GDP contraction in 2026-27. Falling output, rising food prices and declining farmers' purchasing power underline rural distress, while the Centre has yet to announce a relief package for affected farmers.

The financial year 2026-27 is shaping up to be an unusually challenging one for Indian agriculture. Growth in the sector depends heavily on the monsoon, and this year the southwest monsoon delivered 13 per cent less rainfall than normal. More concerning, rainfall was 40-60 per cent below normal in several parts of the country. The deficit has affected kharif crop production and is likely to weigh on the forthcoming rabi season as well. Agricultural and allied sector growth slowed to 3.6 per cent in the first quarter of 2026-27, compared with 4.4 per cent in the corresponding quarter of 2025-26. But these preliminary figures do not fully capture the emerging situation. A contraction in the GDP of agricultural and allied sector over the full year appears increasingly likely.

Some economists argue that the Indian economy has become largely insulated from drought, suggesting that it is now virtually “drought-proof.” The Reserve Bank of India has raised its growth forecast for the current financial year from 6.7 per cent to 7.1 per cent. However, this very perception risks widening the divide between the agricultural and allied sectors, the millions of people who depend on them for their livelihoods, and other segments of the economy.

With inflation rising beyond the RBI's tolerance band of 4 per cent (+/- 2%), the central bank has raised policy interest rates after several years. Further increases may follow in upcoming monetary policy reviews. This reinforces the point that the assumption of India's economic growth becoming independent of agricultural performance may be premature. Tractor sales fell by 25.03 per cent month-on-month in August and 12.58 per cent in September, according to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA). The decline signals pressure on farmers' purchasing power and points to a potential slowdown in demand for other goods and services in rural areas.

Farmers are bearing the brunt of the weak monsoon and lower crop output, with falling production directly affecting their incomes. The government has already lowered its foodgrain production estimates for the current year. Rice output is expected to decline, while pulses and oilseeds production is also under pressure. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan - among India's major pulse-producing states - have received inadequate rainfall. The effects are likely to extend into the rabi season, as water shortages are discouraging farmers in several states, including Maharashtra and Karnataka, from planting winter crops.

With El Niño expected to persist until February 2027, winter rainfall is also likely to be deficient, posing a further risk to wheat production. Cotton and sugarcane, two important cash crops, recorded lower output last year and are facing another decline this year. Falling cotton production has turned India into a net importer, while a shortfall in sugar output has prompted the government to permit sugar imports to meet domestic demand.

In the case of sugarcane, the government revised its earlier record-production estimates only after considerable delay, by which time imports had become necessary. In the 2026-27 crushing season, sugarcane acreage has declined in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, the country's two largest sugarcane-producing states. According to the latest assessment by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), sugarcane production is expected to fall below 425 million tonnes this year. There are also doubts about whether domestic sugar production will be sufficient to meet annual consumption of around 28.5 million tonnes.

New sugarcane planting has been slow in Marathwada and western Maharashtra, a trend that could affect output in the 2027-28 crushing season as well. In Uttar Pradesh, flooding in the Terai region has damaged sugarcane crops. Consequently, even though crop conditions in western Uttar Pradesh are relatively normal, the state's overall production is likely to fall below last year's level.

Maharashtra has declared drought in 265 talukas, while Karnataka has classified 226 talukas as drought-affected. Andhra Pradesh is also considering similar measures, adding to the pressure on

state governments to provide relief to farmers facing crop losses and falling incomes. However, the Centre has yet to announce a relief package for farmers hit by deficient rainfall.

In previous episodes of widespread crop stress, governments have introduced relief measures, including restructuring agricultural loans. Such arrangements typically give farmers additional time to repay loans without penalties, helping them manage temporary income shortfalls. The Centre has yet to initiate comparable measures in the current situation.

One reassuring factor for the government is that foodgrain stocks remain comfortable, giving it room to intervene and moderate prices. The more pressing question, however, is why relief for farmers - the very people whose production underpins these reserves - is taking so long.

The effects of lower agricultural output are already becoming visible in the market. Gram (chickpea) prices have risen steadily, with retail prices reaching Rs 90 per kg. Commodity experts expect prices could cross Rs 100 per kg within the next month. Prices of other pulses are also increasing.

The government has used stringent measures to curb the recent rise in sugar prices. However, this intervention may limit the scope for increasing the state-advised price (SAP) of sugarcane in the forthcoming crushing season, despite higher production costs and the need to support farmers' incomes. Uttar Pradesh, one of the key states that determines an SAP for sugarcane, fixed the price at Rs 400 per quintal in the previous season.

With assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh due within the next six months, farmers had hoped for a more substantial increase. But ex-factory sugar prices have fallen to Rs 4,300-4,400 per quintal following government intervention, reducing the scope for a significant increase in the SAP.

Lower maize and soybean production has pushed up the prices of animal feed and poultry feed. Higher prices of these two crops are also contributing to increases in the cost of eggs and other poultry products.

The government has announced minimum support prices (MSPs) for rabi crops, but the increase in the wheat MSP is among the smallest in nearly two decades. It has been raised by just Rs 25 per quintal. The increase in the gram MSP has also been modest, although MSPs for other pulses and oilseeds have been raised.

These decisions suggest that at a time when farmers need stronger price support, the government's priority remains containing inflation. This approach is consistent with the RBI's emphasis on controlling price pressures, but it raises questions about the balance between consumer interests and farm incomes.

Despite government missions aimed at increasing domestic production of pulses and oilseeds, India remains dependent on imports for around 60 per cent of its edible oil requirements, while pulse imports are also rising. This points to shortcomings in the effectiveness of policies intended to strengthen domestic production and reduce import dependence.

Agricultural production is expected to remain subdued this year not only in India but across much of the world. This is one of the reasons the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Food Price Index has been trending upwards month after month. Some argue that growth in India's agricultural and allied sector is increasingly being driven by activities beyond crop farming, including dairy, livestock, fisheries and horticulture. However, this presents only a partial picture, as production data for these subsectors lack adequate transparency.

More than 46 per cent of India's workforce continues to depend on agriculture, even though the sector contributes only around 18 per cent of GDP. This growing disparity is widening the gap between agriculture and other sectors of the economy. The government would do well to announce a timely relief package for the agricultural sector, which is grappling with slowing growth, to help farmers recover at least part of their losses.

Ministry of Textiles Organized Workshops on Cyber Security & Secure Digital Disposal and E-Waste Management Awareness under Special Campaign 6

Friday, 16th Oct 2026, (Source: www.pib.gov.in)

As part of Special Campaign 6, the Ministry of Textiles organised workshops on E-Waste Management Awareness and Cyber Security & Secure Digital Disposal on 15 October 2026, with the participation of over 85 officials, including all Nodal Officers. The workshops aimed to promote responsible e-waste management, strengthen cyber security awareness and encourage safe digital practices in the workplace.

A dedicated Cyber Security Awareness Session was organised to familiarise officials and staff with



emerging cyber threats, including phishing attacks, malware, fraudulent WhatsApp messages and digital arrest scams. The session highlighted the importance of identifying suspicious emails, links, attachments and messages, particularly those impersonating known contacts or seeking money, one-time passwords (OTPs) or personal information.

Participants were advised to exercise caution while handling digital communications, refrain from clicking on unknown links or downloading unverified files, avoid sharing sensitive information, and verify the authenticity of suspicious communications before taking any action. The session also

emphasised the importance of cyber hygiene, vigilance and the timely reporting of cyber incidents to safeguard official and personal information.

The E-Waste Management Awareness session sensitised officials to the adverse environmental impact of improper e-waste disposal, including soil and water contamination and the release of hazardous



substances that may pose risks to human health and ecosystems.

They highlighted the importance of resource conservation through the reuse, refurbishment and recycling of electronic equipment, wherever feasible, to recover valuable materials, reduce the demand for raw materials and minimise the volume of waste sent to landfills. Officials were also made aware of the need for

proper segregation, safe handling and disposal of obsolete electronic and electrical equipment through authorised channels, in accordance with applicable e-waste management rules.

The sessions encouraged the adoption of sustainable office practices, emphasising that responsible e-waste management contributes to environmental protection, efficient resource utilisation and the promotion of a circular economy.

These initiatives reflect the Ministry of Textiles' commitment to promoting a cleaner workplace, ensuring responsible resource management and fostering a secure digital environment. By integrating environmental sustainability with cyber security awareness, the Ministry continues to advance the



objectives of Special Campaign 6 through improved workplace practices, resource conservation and enhanced digital safety.

The Ministry has also undertaken initiatives for the collection and proper management of e-waste generated within its premises, emphasising the

responsible disposal of obsolete and discarded electronic and electrical equipment in accordance with applicable guidelines.

Electronic and electrical equipment that has reached the end of its useful life, including desktop computers, keyboards, photocopiers (Xerox machines), air purifiers and electric hot cases, requires proper handling and disposal in accordance with applicable e-waste management regulations.



The initiative highlights the importance of identifying obsolete electronic and electrical equipment, ensuring its appropriate segregation and facilitating its disposal through authorized channels. Responsible e-waste management helps prevent environmental pollution, supports the recovery of valuable materials and promotes the efficient use of resources.

The Ministry encourages awareness among officials and staff regarding sustainable office practices and the importance of proper e-waste disposal. Such efforts contribute towards a cleaner working environment and the broader national objective of sustainable development.

Through these initiatives, the Ministry of Textiles reiterates its commitment to responsible resource management, environmental sustainability and digital safety. The activities reinforce the objectives of Special Campaign 6 by promoting cleanliness, proper disposal of obsolete equipment, efficient resource utilisation and a secure digital environment across its offices.



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