COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015

News Relating to Cotton and Textile Sector

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Date-17-09-2026

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

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COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
Established 1921
ISO 9001:2015

Mumbai, Thursday 17th September 2026 at 3.00 P.M.

UPCOUNTRY SPOT RATES

Standard Descriptions with Basic Grade & Staple in Millimetres based on Upper Half Mean Length As per CAI By-laws								Rs. per Quintal	Rs. per Candy	Variation + (Plus) - (Minus)
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Gravimetric Trash %	Strength / GPT	2025-26	2025-26	
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	4%	15	15072	53600	(N.C.)
2	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	15%	20	13723	48800	(-200)
3	P / H / R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	18362	65300	(-1000)
4	M/M(P) /SA/TL/GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	16366	58200	(-500)
5	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	18081	64300	(-400)
6	P/ H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	18390	65400	(-1000)
7	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18812	66900	(-400)
8	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18362	65300	(-300)
9	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18981	67500	(-300)
10	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	4.0%	27	18531	65900	(-900)
11	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	18953	67400	(-700)
12	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19065	67800	(-400)
13	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18784	66800	(-300)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19122	68000	(-300)
15	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	19403	69000	(-200)
16	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	19206	68300	(-300)
17	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	19628	69800	(-200)
18	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	N.A.	N.A.	
19	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5 – 4.9	3%	31	N.A.	N.A.	
20	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	33	26011	92500	(N.C.)
21	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	26292	93500	(N.C.)
22	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	26433	94000	(N.C.)
23	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	35	26995	96000	(N.C.)

Note:1	Official spot rates are fixed and registered by CAI on the basis of average price inclusive of spot brokerage as per respective State Dharas, and for 15 days credit from the date of passing and cash discount @ 15% per annum, except for Northern area (excluding Lower Rajasthan), in which case spot rates fixed and registered are for payment terms: 7 days from the date of pressing at Upcountry Spot Markets ex-gin, excluding Tax. These rates are for domestic transaction only
2	P/H/R(U) ICS-202 (SG) rate is lower by Rs. 1000/ pc than Sr. no. 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 32mm consists of –
	(i) Colour grade 31/3 (ii) RD 75
8	In Rates acceptable up to a maximum 5.50 Micronaire with proportionate discount @ Rs.150/- per point per candy over 4.9 Micronaire
9	For M/M(P)/SA/TL/GUJ-Sr No. 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

ICE Cotton Futures: 16-09-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE					16 Sep 2026	
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Oct-26	81.00	81.14	80.42	80.44	▼0.66	88
Dec-26	84.16	85.00	83.97	84.36	▼0.12	1,82,192
Mar-27	86.75	87.48	86.45	86.89	▼0.10	92,094
May-27	88.09	88.84	87.79	88.35	▼0.03	48,490
Jul-27	87.86	88.50	87.41	88.04	unch	25,100
Oct-27	80.02	80.04	79.65	79.65	▼0.06	36
Dec-27	79.01	79.20	78.94	78.97	▼0.18	30,353

Cotlook Index: 16-09-2026

94.60 (-0.05)

ICE cotton weakens further on demand and harvest pressure
Thursday, 17th Sep 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights
ICE December 2026 cotton settles at 84.36 cents per pound, down 386 points over four sessions and 878 points from its August 31 high.
Weak demand, advancing US harvest activity, a stronger dollar and softer crude oil keep prices under pressure.
China's State Reserve auction sell-through eases to about 91.5 per cent, while weather risks and high open interest could raise volatility.

ICE cotton futures closed lower yesterday, extending their decline for a fourth consecutive session as weak demand, a stronger US dollar and advancing harvest pressure continued to weigh on the market. Weather-related crop concerns provided some support but were not enough to reverse the broader bearish trend.

The most active December 2026 contract settled at 84.36 cents per pound, down 0.12 cent. The contract has now fallen by 386 points over the past four sessions. December cotton has closed lower in nine of the past 11 sessions and is down 878 points from its contract-high close of 93.14 cents recorded on August 31.

Trading activity slowed considerably. Total volume stood at 40,922 contracts, the lowest in around three weeks, compared with 62,704 contracts in the previous session. The sharp drop in volume indicated reduced trading activity even as prices continued to weaken.

Open interest (OI), however, remained close to record levels. OI increased by 448 contracts to around 380,206 contracts. Elevated OI despite the steep price correction suggests that a substantial number of positions remain active in the market. Friday's Commitment of Traders (COT) report may provide greater clarity on whether speculative funds have increased short positions or whether long positions are beginning to unwind.

Demand remains one of the principal concerns for cotton. Mills generally become more cautious when futures prices rise sharply, particularly when physical cotton availability is expected to improve with the arrival of the new crop. The recent decline therefore reflects not only technical selling but also weaker buying interest at higher price levels.

Seasonal harvest pressure is also becoming increasingly important. According to the USDA, around 8 per cent of the US cotton crop had been harvested as of September 13. As harvesting advances, additional new-crop cotton will enter the physical market, increasing availability for mills and merchants and reducing the urgency to purchase cotton at elevated futures prices.

The US dollar remained another negative factor. A stronger dollar makes US cotton more expensive for overseas buyers and can weaken the competitiveness of US-origin cotton in international markets. Currency movement therefore remains an important factor for export demand, particularly when global textile demand is already subdued.

Crude oil prices also weakened, removing some of the support cotton had recently received through the polyester-substitution channel. Lower crude oil prices can reduce polyester production costs, making synthetic fibre more competitive against cotton. This can indirectly add pressure to natural fibre prices.

However, weather risks prevented a sharper fall. Extreme heat remains a concern in parts of the US cotton belt, particularly Oklahoma, where high temperatures could affect crop conditions. Weather-related issues in South Texas are also being closely monitored. Any deterioration in crop prospects could provide support to futures despite the ongoing harvest.

China's cotton market remained weak as well. Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange (ZCE) cotton declined for a sixth consecutive session and has closed lower in 10 of the past 11 sessions. The January contract has fallen by around 6.8 per cent over the latest 11-session period, compared with a decline of around 9.4 per cent in ICE December cotton. ICE has therefore remained relatively weaker than the Chinese market during the recent correction.

China's State Reserve auction programme continued on September 16. Around 8,011 tonnes, equivalent to approximately 35,248 bales, were offered in the 43rd auction. Of this, around 7,332 tonnes, or approximately 32,260 bales, were sold, resulting in a sell-through rate of about 91.5 per cent.

This was the second consecutive session in which the State Reserve auction failed to achieve a complete sell-out. Around 343,599 tonnes, equivalent to approximately 1.512 million bales, have now been sold through the programme. After several weeks of strong auction demand, the recent easing in the sell-through rate could become an important indicator of domestic Chinese cotton demand.

Overall, ICE cotton remains under pressure from weak demand, advancing US harvest activity, a stronger dollar and softer crude oil prices. December 2026 cotton settled at 84.36 cents, down 386 points over four sessions and 878 points from its August 31 high. Weather concerns and exceptionally high open interest remain the principal factors that could increase volatility. The market will now closely watch Friday's COT report, the pace of the US harvest, weather developments and demand in China's State Reserve auctions.

This morning (Indian Standard Time), ICE cotton for December 2026 was trading at 84.04 cents per pound (down 0.32 cent). Cash cotton was at 76.69 cents (down 0.66 cent), while the October 2026 contract traded at 80.44 cents (down 0.66 cent). The March 2027 contract was at 86.61 cents (down 0.28 cent), May 2027 at 88.02 cents (down 0.33 cent), and July 2027 at 87.75 cents (down 0.29 cent).

India's DGFT sets up Delhi CPD for faceless trade processing
Thursday, 17th Sep 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights
India's DGFT is establishing a Central Processing Department at CLA Delhi to enable faceless, paperless and jurisdiction-free processing of trade applications.
Planned for launch in the second half of October 2026, the system aims to improve transparency, reduce processing time and ease business for exporters and importers, with staff drawn from DGFT headquarters and regional authorities.

India's Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) is establishing a Central Processing Department (CPD) at CLA Delhi to implement a Faceless Trade Facilitation System for trade-related applications, a development relevant to exporters and importers that deal with DGFT approvals and filings.

The initiative is aimed at faceless, paperless and jurisdiction-free processing of trade-related applications, with the stated objectives of improving transparency, reducing processing time and supporting ease of doing business for exporters and importers. The system is proposed to be dedicated to the nation in the second fortnight of October 2026, according to a DGFT office memorandum dated September 14.

CPD will function as a central unit for processing trade-related applications and will comprise officers and staff drawn from DGFT Headquarters and its Regional Authorities. After completing orientation and training, the posted officers will assume charge at CPD, CLA Delhi.

The office memorandum was issued with the approval of the competent authority and digitally signed by Sanjeev Shrivastav, Joint Director General of Foreign Trade.

Global cotton production forecast lowered for 2026-27: WASDE
Thursday, 17th Sep 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights
World cotton production for 2026-27 is cut by over 300,000 bales to 117.32 million bales on smaller US, Turkiye and Pakistan crops.
Global trade rises to 44.22 million bales as Brazil and African Franc Zone exports meet higher imports in Turkiye, Indonesia and Pakistan.
US output falls about 3 per cent to 13.20 million bales, cutting stocks and lifting upland farm price to 78 cents per pound.

World cotton production for 2026-27 has been lowered by more than 300,000 bales in the September estimate to 117.32 million bales of 480 pounds or 220 kg each, from 117.63 million bales projected in August. The reduction reflects smaller crops in the US, Turkiye and Pakistan, which more than offset higher production forecasts for Brazil, the African Franc Zone and Kazakhstan, according to the latest World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Despite the production cut, global cotton supplies for 2026-27 were raised slightly to 192.62 million bales from 192.44 million bales last month, as beginning stocks increased to 75.31 million bales from 74.80 million. Global consumption was unchanged at 122.92 million bales.

International cotton trade is expected to strengthen further. Global trade was raised by around 400,000 bales to 44.22 million bales from 43.82 million in August. Higher exports from Brazil and the African Franc Zone are expected to be absorbed by increased import demand from Turkiye, Indonesia and Pakistan. Brazil's export forecast was raised by 200,000 bales to 15.50 million bales, while its production estimate increased by 250,000 bales to 18.50 million.

With higher beginning stocks more than compensating for part of the production decline, world ending stocks for 2026-27 were raised by around 170,000 bales to 69.86 million bales from 69.69 million in August. The global stocks-to-use ratio therefore edged up to around 56.8 per cent from 56.7 per cent last month.

Amongst major consuming markets, China's 2026-27 outlook was unchanged, with production forecast at 33.50 million bales, imports at 7 million bales and consumption at 42 million bales. India’s production and consumption forecasts also remained unchanged at 24 million and 26.50 million bales, respectively, while imports were maintained at 3 million bales. India’s ending stocks were raised to 10.32 million bales from 10.02 million due to higher beginning stocks.

Turkiye’s production forecast was cut by 300,000 bales to 2.40 million bales, while its import estimate was raised by 200,000 bales to 5 million. Pakistan’s crop was reduced by 100,000 bales to 5 million, with imports increased by an equal amount to 5.10 million. Indonesia’s consumption and imports were each raised by 100,000 bales to 2.10 million. Bangladesh and Vietnam remained unchanged, with imports forecast at 7.40 million and 8.20 million bales, respectively.

The US cotton outlook tightened more substantially. USDA cut 2026-27 production by around 410,000 bales to 13.20 million bales from 13.61 million in August, a decline of about 3 per cent. The national average yield was lowered by 22 pounds to 776 pounds per harvested acre from 798 pounds, while harvested area was reduced marginally to 8.16 million acres from 8.19 million. Planted area was estimated at 10.45 million acres.

US mill use was also cut by 100,000 bales to 1.50 million bales as the country's textile manufacturing base continues to contract. Exports, however, were left unchanged at 12.30 million bales. With beginning stocks lowered to 4.15 million bales and production reduced, total US cotton supply is now forecast at 17.36 million bales, down from 17.81 million in August.

As a result, US ending stocks for 2026-27 were cut by 10 per cent to 3.60 million bales from 4 million, reducing the stocks-to-use ratio to 26.1 per cent from 28.8 per cent last month. The projected season-average farm price for upland cotton was raised by 3 cents to 78 cents per pound. USDA said yields and production were lower in the Delta and Southwest, while forecasts were slightly higher in the Southeast and West.

For the current 2025-26 season, the US export estimate was raised to 12.30 million bales following year-end trade data from the Census Bureau and other sources. Stronger exports lowered estimated ending stocks to 4.15 million bales, while the season-average farm price was increased to 62 cents per pound from 61.5 cents previously.

The global 2025-26 balance sheet was also revised, with USDA raising imports, consumption and ending stocks, primarily on updated trade data. World consumption is now estimated at 121.13 million bales and ending stocks at 75.31 million bales, implying a stocks-to-use ratio of about 62.2 per cent. Global production for the season is estimated at 121.95 million bales.

Global cotton prices firm as major benchmarks rise in August
Wednesday, 16th Sep 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights
Global cotton prices strengthened in August 2026, with the A Index rising from around 90 cents to 95 cents per pound, according to Cotton Incorporated.
The market remains influenced by global production, consumption, export activity and economic conditions.
For textile manufacturers, cotton price movements could affect yarn and fabric costs, while demand trends will remain key to the outlook.

Global cotton prices have strengthened over the past month, with most major benchmarks recording gains, as the market weighs changing supply expectations against still-cautious demand. The A Index increased from around 90 cents per pound to 95 cents/lb, according to Cotton Incorporated's latest Market Fundamentals and Monthly Cotton Price Outlook.

The latest movement comes as cotton markets continue to balance production prospects, consumption expectations and broader economic conditions. Price direction remains closely tied to how global supply develops alongside demand from the textile and apparel industry.

The US market remains an important factor for global cotton trade, with export activity and crop prospects influencing the balance between available supplies and international demand. Cotton prices have also been sensitive to currency movements and developments in major producing and consuming markets.

In Pakistan, cotton prices have recently been around 78 cents/lb, equivalent to roughly PKR 17,800 per maund, according to Cotton Incorporated's July update, highlighting the variation between regional markets.

For textile manufacturers and yarn spinners, movements in raw-cotton prices will remain an important consideration for procurement and cost management. However, the impact on downstream markets will also depend on yarn demand, mill operating rates, apparel orders and the ability of brands and manufacturers to absorb or pass on higher input costs.

Outlook

The cotton market is likely to remain sensitive to developments in both production and consumption. Any changes to crop conditions, export availability or textile demand could influence benchmark prices in the months ahead.

For the wider textile value chain, the key issue will be whether firmer cotton prices translate into higher yarn and fabric costs, particularly if demand improves at the same time that mills face tighter margins.

BIS Upgrades 21 Cotton Testing Labs in Key States

Thursday, 17th Sep 2026, (Source: www.money.rediff.com)

BIS invests ₹38.72 Cr to modernize 21 cotton testing labs across major producing states, enhancing quality and strengthening India's textile and agriculture sectors.

Key Points

- BIS is investing ₹38.72 crore to upgrade 21 laboratories across cotton-producing states.
- The project aims to establish high-precision testing facilities to enhance cotton quality.
- This initiative strengthens India's textile and agriculture sectors by bridging infrastructural gaps.
- Modern equipment like HVI Testers and Trash Analysers are being installed in the labs.
- The goal is to ensure standardized quality parameters across the entire cotton-to-textile supply chain.

Mumbai, Sep 17 (PTI) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on Thursday announced a Rs 38.72-crore project to modernise and upgrade 21 laboratories across key cotton-producing states, aimed at strengthening the country's textile and agriculture sectors.

BIS is providing direct financial support to establish high-precision testing facilities in critical regional nodes, according to an official statement.

These laboratories are geographically distributed across the northern, central, southern, and eastern zones.

This ensures comprehensive coverage for major cotton-producing regions spanning Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha.

"Significant progress has already been achieved by BIS this year, resulting in the installation and commissioning of 14 HVI Testers and 28 Trash Analysers across 13 laboratories (comprising 11 laboratories of the Textiles Committee and 2 of the Cotton Corporation of India)," the statement added.

By establishing this technologically advanced testing network, BIS aims to ensure standardised quality parameters across the entire cotton-to-textile supply chain.

The initiative directly bridges critical infrastructural gaps, empowering local producers and positioning Indian cotton for sustained international leadership, it added.

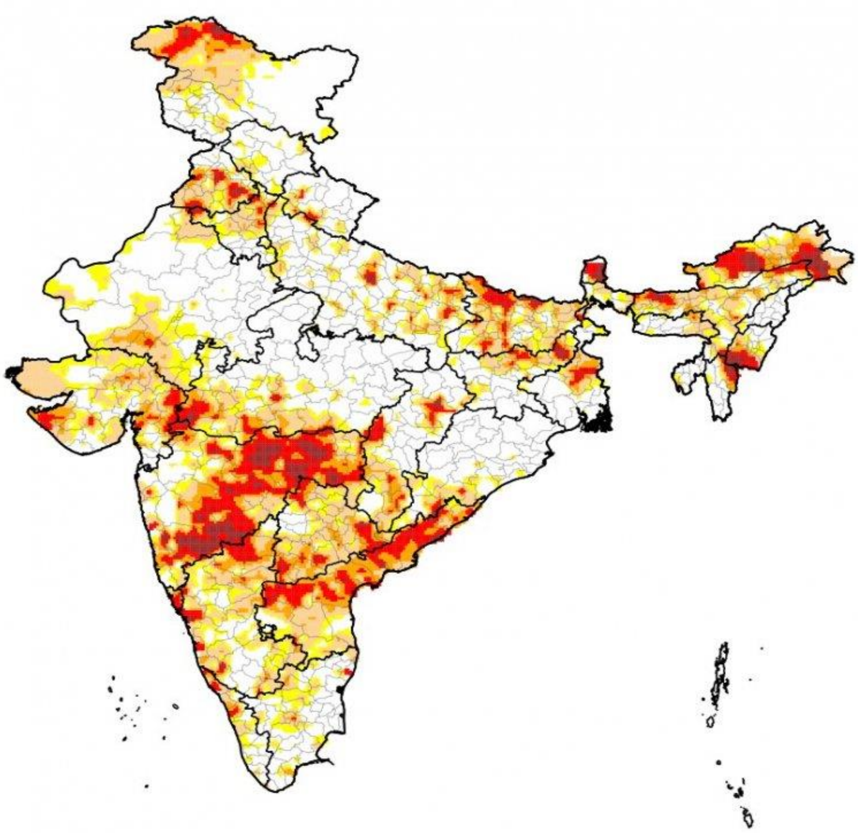
15 Percent Monsoon Deficit Pushes Over Half of India into Drought, Raising Kharif Crop Concerns

Thursday, 17th Sep 2026, (Source: www.eng.ruralvoice.in)

More than 53 percent of India's area has come under drought conditions, with monsoon rainfall 15 percent below normal. The deficit is higher in southern, western and northeastern regions. The acreage under kharif crops, including paddy, soybean, groundnut, sugarcane and cotton, is lower, while the rainfall shortage is also expected to affect crop production.

The impact of El Niño is now becoming increasingly visible, with more than half of the country's area coming under drought conditions. In some areas, the monsoon rainfall deficit has exceeded 50%. Apart from Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Bihar, all states in southern India are facing the impact. In the Northeast, all states except Nagaland, Mizoram and Tripura are affected. The rainfall deficit is affecting kharif crops. Besides paddy, the acreage under oilseeds, sugarcane and cotton is lower than last year. Even crops standing in the fields face the risk of lower production due to inadequate rainfall.

According to the India Drought Monitor of IIT Gandhinagar, 53.2% of the country's area was under drought conditions as of September 9, up from 46% a week earlier. Among major states, the affected area stands at 90% in Andhra Pradesh, 86.2% in Telangana and 85.2% in Maharashtra.

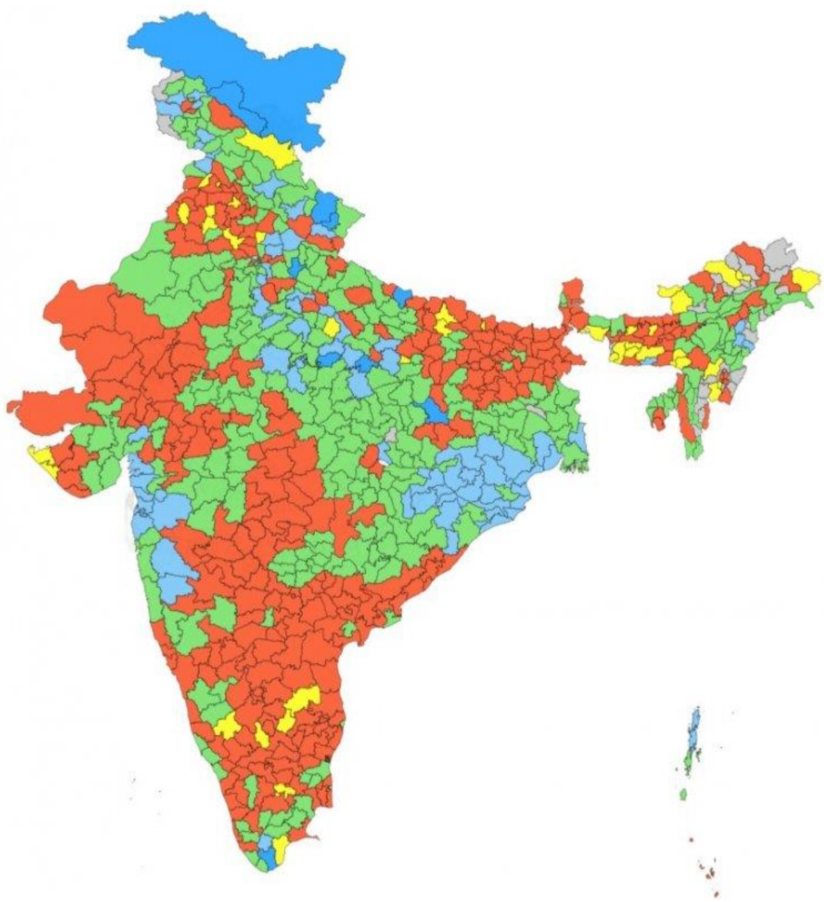


Drought conditions according to the India Drought Monitor.

Region-wise, 40% of northern India and 45% of northwestern India are currently affected by drought. The situation is relatively better in central India, where 39% of the area is under drought conditions. However, 82% of western India and 70% of southern India are affected. In eastern India, 45% of the area is under drought conditions, while the figure is 64% in the Northeast.

According to the India Meteorological Department, monsoon rainfall so far this year is 28% below normal in southern states, 25% below normal in eastern and northeastern states, 10% below normal in northwest India and 6% below normal in central India. At the national level, rainfall is 15% below normal. The department has said that the southwest monsoon is likely to begin withdrawing from western Rajasthan from September 19. However, it has forecast good rainfall in Tamil Nadu and Kerala towards the end of this week.

State-wise, rainfall is 40% below normal in Punjab, 23% in Haryana, 25% in Rajasthan, 30% in Karnataka, 20% in Telangana, 42% in Andhra Pradesh, 23% in Tamil Nadu, 27% in Kerala



and 36% in Bihar. In the Northeast, rainfall is 26% below normal in Assam, 42% in Arunachal Pradesh, 43% in Manipur and 59% in Meghalaya.

Rainfall situation according to IMD. Blue indicates rainfall above normal; green indicates rainfall between -19% and 19% of normal; red indicates a 20-59% deficit; and yellow indicates a deficit of more than 60%.

The impact of the rainfall deficit is clearly visible on kharif crops. According to information available on the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare's yield portal, paddy acreage is 3.82% lower than last year. Among pulses, except urad, the acreage under other crops is either broadly at last year's level or lower. The area under coarse cereals is marginally higher than last year, while oilseed acreage has declined. Both major oilseed crops, soybean and groundnut, have recorded a fall in acreage. Soybean acreage is 0.8% lower than last year, while groundnut acreage is down 0.42%.

Sugarcane acreage is also 0.69% lower than in kharif 2025-26, while cotton acreage has declined by 0.88%. Overall, the acreage under all kharif crops is 1.44% lower than last year.

Paddy is expected to be among the crops most affected by the rainfall deficit. Eastern and southern states, where paddy is widely cultivated, have received very little rainfall over the past several weeks. With both acreage and rainfall lower, there are concerns that rice production could also decline this year. Farmers had also faced fertilizer shortages at the beginning of the season.

Besides paddy, other kharif crops are also expected to be affected. In some rain-fed areas of Maharashtra, there have been reports of farmers destroying soybean crops by running tractors over them due to crop stress caused by inadequate rainfall.

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businessline – 17.09.2026

Rain ahead in South Peninsula as Bay braces for stormy weather

Vinson Kurian
Thiruvananthapuram

Isolated heavy rain is forecast for Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe for four days from Thursday

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) confirmed on Wednesday that a fresh low-pressure area may form over the north Andaman Sea in the larger Bay of Bengal basin on Saturday, coinciding with the expected start of the South-West monsoon's withdrawal from parts of West Rajasthan.

The 'low' may intensify and move towards the south Odisha–north Andhra Pradesh coast over the first 3-4 days of next week. Initial indications suggest that it may not intensify into a tropical cyclone.

However, the timing is meteorologically significant. As the monsoon begins to withdraw, the atmosphere over the Bay starts preparing for the North-East Monsoon, or the 'reverse monsoon', over the South Peninsula.

The transition usually opens the door for vigorous weather systems over the Bay, bringing rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds to parts of the South Peninsula, which witnessed a significant rain deficit this season.

businessline had flagged this possibility on Wednesday, pointing to a storm 'pulse' travelling in from the South China Sea.

The IMD has now provided the synoptic sequence: Acyclonic circulation over north Thailand is expected to emerge over the north Andaman Sea on Friday, a day ahead of the projected low pressure area.

FRESH 'LOW' TO FORM

The system could later intensify into the latest, and possibly the last, significant weather system of the South-West monsoon season.

The IMD has forecast isolated heavy rain over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe for four days from Thursday.

South interior Karnataka could receive isolated heavy rain for four days from Saturday, while coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Rayalaseema are expected to see rain for three days from Saturday. Telangana could also receive isolated heavy rain for four days from Saturday.

Strong surface winds are expected over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, north interior Karnataka, Rayalaseema and south interior Karnataka for four days.

businessline – 17.09.2026

CIFT gets patent for antimicrobial booster technology

Our Bureau
Kochi

The ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT), Kochi, has got an Indian patent for an antimicrobial booster technology.

The invention, titled 'A process for preparation of pigment-doped zinc oxide particles', provides a method to coat zinc oxide nanoparticles with the naturally occurring microbial pigment violacein.

LOWER TOXICITY

Bacterial pigments are naturally occurring coloured substances produced by certain bacteria. Violacein, a violet pigment produced particularly by *Chromobacterium violaceum*, is known for its antimicrobial properties. Zinc oxide nanoparticles (ZnO-NPs) also possess antimicrobial properties.

The patented process combines violacein with ZnO nanoparticles through a coating process. Under tested conditions, the violacein-coated ZnO nanoparticles showed enhanced antimicrobial activity and lower toxicity than uncoated ZnO nanoparticles. The material demonstrated about three to four times higher antimicrobial activity than the earlier material under the tested conditions.

The technology has potential applications in antimicrobial medical, biomedical and pharmaceutical formulations, as well as in food preservation. The patented process offers a novel approach to enhance the functional properties of zinc oxide nanoparticles using a natural microbial pigment.

businessline – 17.09.2026

DP World's Sokhna terminal in Egypt could emerge as key gateway

T E Raja Simhan
Recently in Ain Sokhna (Egypt)

With the Red Sea shipping situation showing signs of stabilisation, DP World's Sokhna terminal in Egypt could emerge as a key gateway for growing cargo traffic between India, Egypt and the Mediterranean, as geopolitical disruptions reshape shipping routes and push more cargo onto feeder services.

The strategic location of Sokhna, about 130 km from Cairo and at the southern entrance to the Suez Canal, gives it an advantage in handling cargo moving between India and Mediterranean markets, besides serving trade from China and other Asian markets, said Avnash Iyer, COO, Ports and Terminals, Sokhna, DP World. The composition of traffic at Sokhna has changed sharply following the Red Sea crisis.

CRITICAL LINK

Before the crisis, around 80 per cent of the terminal's container traffic was handled by mainline vessels and 20 per cent were by feeders. The mix has now reversed, with feeders accounting for about 80 per cent and mainline vessels for 20 per cent, he said.

The terminal handles feeders ranging from 1,200 TEUs to 5,000 TEUs, while it can also accommodate mainline vessels of up to 18,000 TEUs. The shift was driven by geopolitical developments, with Chinese operators using the opportunity to establish new trade links, Iyer said.

"The India link is very critical because there is a significant cargo movement that is happening between India and Egypt and India and the Mediterranean," Iyer added.

The terminal played a significant role when vessels diverted cargo from Jeddah amid security threats in the Red Sea. Sokhna handled around 140,000 TEUs a month, with roughly 60 per cent comprising transshipment cargo.

Cargo flows are now recovering after a temporary slowdown between April and June. Sokhna handled more than 80,000 TEUs of volume last month, while shipping-line confidence and cargo demand remain strong, Iyer said.

DP World is also expanding its logistics footprint beyond the terminal. Its bonded facility allows imported cargo to be moved out of the port while remaining under customs control until duties are paid. Ashwani Sharma, President and CEO of Asepto, the aseptic liquid packaging business of the $1.63-billion Noida-based UFlex Ltd, which has set up a plant at Sokhna, said, "Europe can be reached in around 10 days, depending on the destination, while GCC markets such as Saudi Arabia can be reached in two to 10 days. Shipping to markets such as Brazil and major US ports takes around 25-30 days, he said."

STRUCTURAL SHIFT. DP World's Sokhna terminal in Egypt handles feeders ranging from 1,200 TEUs to 5,000 TEUs

CRUCIAL CHANGE

On Tuesday, global shipping majors Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd jointly announced a structural change to four of their services, which will now transit via the trans-Suez route instead of sailing around the Cape of Good Hope.

According to J Krishnan of Natesa Iyer, a freight forwarder, while risks are always there in the Red Sea, the decision of shipping majors will be based on risk assessment. If the attacks return, they will stop and return to the Cape of Good Hope, he said.

businessline – 17.09.2026

India faces 100% tariff if US House passes sanctions Bill

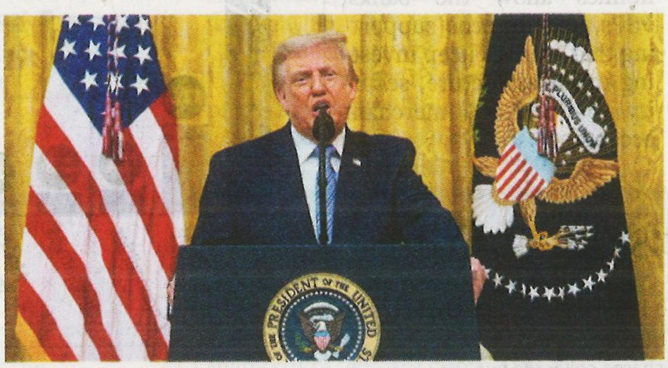
KEY VOTE. Delhi tracking moves; new law will empower Trump to impose or waive levy

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

The US House of Representatives is set to vote on the Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 on Wednesday which, if passed and signed into law by US President Donald Trump, could give him the authority to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on major buyers of Russian energy. India is potentially exposed as it is the second largest buyer of Russian oil.

India's response would also depend on how Trump executes the law, once formulated, as it allows him to decide if and when to slap tariffs of up to 100 per cent on the five top importers of Russian oil and gas (which would include both China and India), a source tracking the matter said.

Trump could also waive the tariffs if he so chooses, by claiming it helps national interest.



PUNITIVE POWERS. If the Bill becomes law, US President Donald Trump can impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on countries buying Russian energy PTI

'NO POLICY SHIFT'

New Delhi has already signalled no shift in its energy-sourcing strategy despite the looming tariff threat. Responding to a question on the Lindsey Graham Bill at Tuesday's media briefing, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said New Delhi's energy sourcing decisions "are based on our national interest", reiterating that this calculus remains unchanged.

CRUDE IMPORTS

Russia supplied 30.3 per cent of India's crude imports in FY26 — worth $40.8 billion out of the total crude imports of $134.7 billion. In July, Moscow accounted for more than half of India's oil imports. On Monday, the Rules Committee voted 7-3 to advance the Bill. The Rules Committee rejected two Democratic amendments that sought to identify the countries that could face the tariffs and remove the broad secondary tariff provision altogether.

The first amendment, moved by Congressman Steny Hoyer, would have explicitly named 10 countries, including India, China, Türkiye, the UAE and Singapore, as eligible for tariffs up to 100 per cent for buying Russian crude or gas or aiding sanctions evasion. It was defeated 3-7.

However, this offers India no relief as a second, more significant, amendment from Congressman Gregory Meeks, seeking to strike the President's broad secondary-tariff authority, was also defeated 3-7.

PRESIDENT'S POWERS

As a result, if the Bill becomes law, President Trump would retain the power to impose tariffs. The Senate-passed Bill names no country; tariffs are triggered based on a country ranking among the five largest importers of Russian oil/gas by volume.

For India, this creates a fresh tariff risk at a time when New Delhi has been negotiating a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) with Washington and has maintained that its Russian oil purchases are driven by energy-security considerations, noted Ajay Srivastava from research body GTRI. "The Bill is a blunt and dangerous attempt to pressurise India to sign the one-sided BTA," he said.

businessline – 17.09.2026

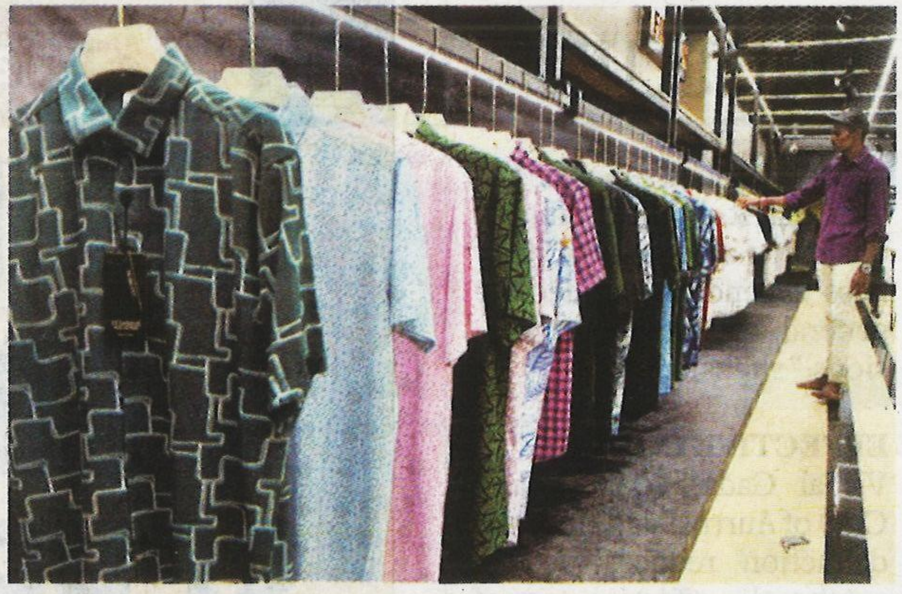
Retailers, clothing manufacturers flag impact on MSMEs

Meenakshi Verma Ambwani
New Delhi

The Retailers Association of India (RAI) and the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) on Wednesday expressed concern over the government's decision to introduce a 0.4 per cent Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI just ahead of the festival season.

In fact, RAI has called for a graded structure that separates debit-linked UPI transactions from credit-linked ones and pairs any merchant charge with incentives to ensure that small retailers remain in the formal payment system. It said it will take up the matter with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and the Ministry of Finance.

The development comes at the start of the festival season, a critical period for merchants, retailers and consumer-facing businesses, many of whom are already working hard to revive demand and improve margins, said Santosh Katariya, President, CMAI. "Adding another cost to digital transactions at this juncture risks putting further pressure on an ecosystem that is still finding its footing."



THE COST. RAI's Rajagopalan said the shift back to cash would hurt the government's own formalisation push

The RAI, meanwhile, has warned that the charge could undo years of progress that small retailers have done in adopting digital payments. The framework keeps consumers outside its ambit, but the burden still lands on merchants, it noted.

"Small merchants will now think twice about whether to accept cash or UPI. During the festival season, a large share of transactions crosses the ₹2,000 mark, and the moment a fee attaches itself to digital payment, cash becomes the path of least resistance," said Kumar Rajagopalan, Chief Executive Officer, RAI.

UPI acceptance should be incentivised, not taxed, he said.

"We don't see the case for charging a bank-to-bank UPI payment the way you'd charge for credit. Where UPI is linked to a credit line, a fee is easier to defend, because the cost structure genuinely resembles a credit product. We urge that the government bear the cost of normal UPI transactions," said Rajagopalan, adding that these traceable transactions make a formal trail that feeds GST reporting. "The NPCI keeps UPI running for the entire country; the RBI or the government should be underwriting that cost, not merchants," Rajagopalan said.

businessline – 17.09.2026

Commerce Dept pitches for 5-year extension of RoDTEP scheme

Our Bureau
New Delhi

In a move that could bring in more policy certainty for exporters, the Commerce Department has sought a five-year extension of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme for exporters, per officials.

The scheme, last extended on April 1, 2026 for six months, is set to lapse on September 30.

"The Commerce Department is in discussions with the Department of Expenditure on a five-year extension of the RoDTEP scheme," an official close to the development said.

The Commerce Department is also looking at making appropriate changes in the rules and components of the ₹25,060-crore Export Promotion Mission (EPM) based on feedback from exporters, the official said.

Approved by the government in November last year for implementation over six financial years, the EPM comprises two sub-schemes — Niryat Protsahan, with an outlay of ₹10,401 crore, and Niryat Disha, with ₹14,659 crore.

On the RoDTEP scheme, which refunds embedded taxes and duties that are not otherwise reimbursed, and is seen as a crucial support mechanism for MSME exporters, the official said that the outlook was positive. The rates range between 0.3 per cent to 3.9 per cent of the export value linked to the input taxes paid by exporters.

The Union Budget 2026-27 allocated ₹10,000 crore for the scheme compared to ₹18,232 crore in the previous fiscal.

"Based on last year's expenditure... we are already in discussions with the department of expenditure on that framework, and I am sure the government is examining it, and we will ensure that there is predictability to it," the official said.

Business Standard – 17.09.2026

GST Council to take up process reforms in October: Sitharaman

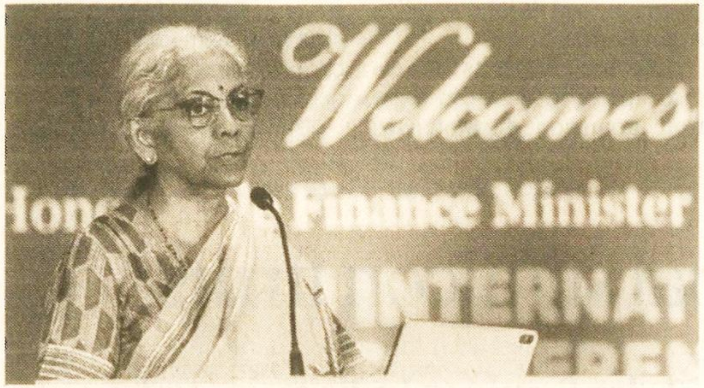
MONIKA YADAV
New Delhi, 16 September

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council's October 7 meeting would take up process reforms under "GST 2.0", focusing on issues related to e-invoicing and input tax credit (ITC) rules.

"Not yet at 3.0. In 2 itself we are doing it," Sitharaman said in response to a question on whether measures such as extending e-invoicing to all taxpayers, including composition scheme dealers, and rationalising ITC provisions could form part of "GST 3.0".

Speaking at an event organised by the International Tax Research and Analysis Foundation (ITRAF) in Bengaluru, Sitharaman said the previous GST Council meeting had focused on rate rationalisation, while process reforms had been deferred to the next meeting.

Several issues raised at the conference, she said, would be considered as part of the process-reform agenda. She also invited industry to submit specific representations on anomalies in the GST framework that the government may not have addressed.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addresses the 8th International Tax Conference on New Age Taxation in Bengaluru on Wednesday PHOTO: PTI

Sitharaman also urged tax professionals, industry bodies, and researchers to move beyond seeking lower tax rates, exemptions, and concessions, and contribute more actively to evidence-based tax policy by identifying provisions that may no longer serve the tax system.

"Consultation must mean more than giving everyone an opportunity to place a representation on record. It should be a genuine exercise of evidence, experience, and ideas," she said.

The finance minister said industry bodies should also be willing to point out provisions that ought to be removed even though they themselves currently benefit from those provisions.

She urged ITRAF, an independent tax research organisation, to make its work more visible and emerge as a leading institution for tax policy research and analysis in India. ITRAF's stated objective is to undertake research and analysis in international taxation and make recommendations to policymakers.

India, she said, needed institutions that could bring together economists, tax lawyers, chartered accountants, academics, and industry practitioners, and give their work greater standing in the public policy process.

On taxation of the digital economy, Sitharaman cautioned against taking decisions without examining their implications for India, other jurisdictions, and future investment.

She said cloud services, digital products, and consumption of digital services raised difficult questions about where and on whom the tax should be imposed.

"The complexity has to be coolly studied, the implications for India and implications for outside, coolly studied, and above all, the implication that it can have in terms of further investments coming into India, coolly studied as well," she said.

Sitharaman also recounted India's experience with the global two-pillar tax negotiations. She said India had withdrawn two taxes on digital companies during the negotiations, partly to build confidence in the emerging global agreement.

More on business-standard.com

Business Standard – 17.09.2026

CommMin seeks 5-year extension to RoDTEP

KRITY AMBEY
New Delhi, 16 September

The commerce ministry has sought a five-year extension of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme, which is set to end on September 30, along with a hike in its outlay for the current financial year, a ministry official said on Wednesday.

The Department of Commerce has asked the finance ministry's Department of Expenditure (DoE) to increase the allocation of funds under the scheme for 2026-27 (FY27) to ₹23,000 crore from the ₹10,000 crore estimated in the FY27 Budget, the official added.

Under RoDTEP, the government reimburses the embedded non-creditable central, state, and local levies paid on inputs to exporters.

It is based on the principle that taxes should not be exported. The scheme ensures zero-rating of exports, which makes them competitive.

The DoE will take a call on the extension of the scheme and allocation under it. The Department of Commerce expects clarity on the matter by September 30, the official added. "We are already in discussion with the expenditure department," the official said. "I am sure the department is examining it and we will ensure there is predictability to it."

The government most likely spent ₹18,233 crore on the scheme in FY26, according to revised estimates in the FY27 Budget.

The government had launched the flagship scheme in January 2021 to substitute the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS). This was to ensure that India's export incentives complied with World Trade Organization (WTO) guidelines.

It was initially launched for a 27-month period ending March 2023 with an allocation of ₹27,018 crore.

Since March 2023, the government has extended the scheme at least five times, for periods ranging from six months to one year.

The government had last extended RoDTEP in April by six months to provide support to exporters amid the conflict in West Asia.

Meanwhile, predictability of the RoDTEP scheme is a long-standing ask of exporters.

"The government has extended the scheme so many times but it has always been only for six months to one year, which leaves some degree of uncertainty," an export association representative said.

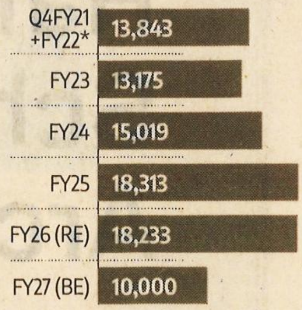
"The government should rather take a long-term view of the RoDTEP scheme and extend it sustainably," the person added.

He said, "There is already enough uncertainty for mitigation; at least we can have a clearer picture here."

ILLUSTRATION: BINAY SINHA

The cost curve

Expenditure on RoDTEP in ₹ cr



*Separate annual allocation for Q4FY21, FY22 not available.

Source: India Budget and PIB

New Zealand Parliament passes FTA with India

The Prime Minister of New Zealand Christopher Luxon on Wednesday said the country's parliament has passed the "landmark" free trade agreement with India.

On April 27, India and New Zealand inked the trade pact, giving duty-free access to 100 per cent of India's exports, including textiles, leather footwear, and gems and jewellery. "People told me a Free Trade Agreement with India wasn't possible. Well, today that deal passed its final vote in Parliament. It's happening...This landmark deal means more jobs, higher incomes for Kiwis," Luxon said. PTI

Tecoya Trend – 17.09.2026

"We Need Winning Innovation": Kerkhof, Prez, Austrian Fibers Institute

By Mohit Sharma and Rakesh Kumar

DORNBIRN, SEPT. 16—

Innovation will have to move faster from promising ideas to commercially viable, industrial-scale solutions if the global fibre industry is to respond to the growing pressures confronting the sector, Mr. Robert van de Kerkhof, President, Austrian Fibers Institute, said at the opening session of the 65th Dornbirn Global Fiber Congress in Dornbirn, Austria, today.

Addressing the congress on "The Innovation Imperative," Mr. Kerkhof said that the industry was navigating a difficult period marked by geopolitical uncertainty, unpredictable global supply chains, changing legislation, persistent cost pressures and weaker demand in parts of the world. Overcapacity was adding to competitive pressures, while financing new technologies and businesses was becoming increasingly difficult.

Yet, he opined, that the level of innovation taking place across the industry remained encouraging. New fibre technologies, recycling solutions, AI-enabled processes and new business models are emerging as companies look for ways to improve competitiveness, reduce waste and respond to changing market requirements.

"Innovation is no longer an option," Mr. Kerkhof said. "Innovation is an imperative. We have to innovate in times of crisis."

The need, however, was not simply for more innovation. The

industry required what he described as "winning innovation" — solutions that address real problems, can compete economically, attract financing and ultimately find customers.

The bigger challenge, he opined, was taking these innovations beyond the development stage and bringing them to industrial scale.

"The hardest part of innovation is not the invention itself; it is getting it to the market, finding the right partners that can help you to scale it, building the right value chain, creating the right business case, and then turning this innovation into impact," he said.

Mr. Kerkhof cited the well-known Betamax-VHS technology battle to underline that the technically superior solution does not necessarily become the commercially successful one. Technology remains important, he said, but economics, timing, financing, market access and the ability to find early adopters can determine whether an innovation succeeds.

This, Mr. Kerkhof exclaimed, made cooperation between different parts of the industry particularly important. Dornbirn GFC brings scientists, start-ups, entrepreneurs and established companies onto the same platform, allowing ideas developed in academia to connect with the businesses capable of developing, financing, manufacturing and scaling them.

Scientists create new possibilities, entrepreneurs turn those possibilities into technologies and businesses, while established industry can provide the manufacturing capabilities, finance and market access needed to take them further, he said.

Mr. Kerkhof also drew attention to the Congress' 65-year history, saying its strength has been its ability to bring together people from different businesses, countries and parts of the fibre value chain.

With companies across the industry facing considerable financial and competitive pressure, he said their continued participation in the Congress was an important indication of the industry's commitment to innovation and collaboration.

"The industry future is going to be all created by you," he told delegates. "We, as a family of Dornbirn, are going to create the future of the fibre industry."

Tecoya Trend – 17.09.2026

Textile Circularity Must Move from Pilot Projects to Industrial Scale: Stausberg, CEO, Barmag

By Mohit Sharma and Rakesh Kumar

DORNBIRN, SEPT. 17—

The textile industry already has many of the technologies needed to reduce emissions and move towards circular production, but the real challenge now is to take these solutions from pilot projects to industrial-scale textile-to-textile recycling, according to Mr. Georg Stausberg, CEO of Barmag, Head of Rieter's Man-Made Fiber Division and Member of the Rieter Group Executive Committee.

Addressing the 65th Dornbirn Global Fiber Congress in Dornbirn, Austria, on "Challenges for Circular Economy & Sustainable Textiles," Mr. Stausberg identified reducing overproduction, improving manufacturing efficiency and building industrial-scale textile-to-textile recycling as three of the most important areas for action.

"The encouraging news is that we already know most of the solutions. What we now need is speed. What we now need is scale, and what we need is collaboration," he emphasised.

The challenge is becoming more pressing as global fibre consumption continues to grow. Figures presented by Mr. Stausberg showed man-made fibres capturing the majority of future demand growth, while cotton growth remains constrained by factors including land and water availability.

Polyester, which accounts for more than 75% of man-made fibre demand according to the presentation, will remain particularly important. Mr. Stausberg argued that the issue is therefore not whether polyester will continue to be used, but how it will be produced and recycled in the future.

"There will be future for polyester because at least on short to mid term, there is no alternative. But the question is, what kind of polyester we are creating in future?" he remarked.

Progress towards preferred and circular production varies considerably between fibre categories. Data presented during the session showed 65% of man-made cellulosic fibres coming from preferred sources, compared with 35% for cotton and only 12% for polyester.

For Mr. Stausberg, this makes polyester both the biggest challenge and one of the largest opportunities for the industry. A meaningful shift will require textile-to-textile recycling rather than relying primarily on polyester made from recycled bottles.

"If we want to have a meaningful climate impact, we must find a way for textile-to-textile recycling, and not just converting polyester bottles into textiles," he stressed.

Pressure is also coming from fashion brands. According to figures presented by Mr. Stausberg, 70% of brands are off track to

Continued on Page 4

Textile Circularity Must Move from Pilot Projects to Industrial Scale: Barmag Chief

Contintued from Page 1 Col 2

meet their 2030 climate targets. With much of their emissions footprint lying within their supply chains, emissions performance is increasingly becoming relevant to sourcing decisions.

"Scope three emission, which maybe a couple of years ago was just something for your ESG report, is now not a reporting topic but becomes a sourcing criterion," he observed.

This has direct implications for textile manufacturers supplying international brands. Price, quality and delivery remain important, but the ability to demonstrate lower emissions and more efficient production could increasingly influence sourcing decisions.

Regulation is reinforcing the same direction. Mr. Stausberg pointed to developments across Europe, the United States, India and China covering sustainability, traceability, circularity and resource efficiency. Sustainability requirements, he noted, are increasingly moving from voluntary commitments towards regulatory obligations, making compliance more closely linked to market access.

The greatest opportunity to reduce emissions lies further upstream in the value chain. Figures presented during the session showed that 92% of emissions arise in Tiers 2 to 4, covering material production, raw material processing and raw material extraction. Material production alone, including processes such as fabric dyeing, accounted for 55%.

"If we want maximum impact, we must focus on fiber and textile manufacturing," Mr. Stausberg stressed.

He identified three areas where the industry can make a significant difference. The first is reducing overproduction and unnecessary inventory. His presentation estimated that between 2.5 billion and 5 billion excess garments are produced annually, representing between $70 billion and $140 billion in excess inventory.

Demand-driven production, artificial intelligence-based forecasting and better inventory management can help reduce waste while allowing manufacturers to align production more closely with actual market requirements.

The second lever is decarbonising manufacturing. Energy-intensive processes including yarn production, dyeing and finishing offer considerable scope for improvements through more efficient machinery, heat recovery, electrification, renewable energy and digital process monitoring.

For manufacturers, Mr. Stausberg pointed out that many efficiency measures can deliver both environmental and economic benefits.

"It's not only lower emissions; it's also lower cost," he observed.

The third and more difficult challenge is circularity. Less than 1% of textiles are currently recycled back into textiles, according to figures presented during the session, while more than 100 million tonnes of textile waste are generated annually.

Recycling technologies are emerging, but Mr. Stausberg argued that successful pilot plants alone will not create a circular textile industry. Collection, sorting, recycling capacity, investment and demand for recycled materials all have to develop together.

Scale also remains a major economic challenge. Virgin polyester is produced in enormous volumes through highly automated plants, giving it a cost advantage that smaller recycling facilities cannot presently match. Mr. Stausberg therefore questioned the assumption that recycled polyester should automatically be cheaper than virgin material.

"As long as we are not able to reach that economy of scale with recycled material, it will be almost impossible to reach a price level which is similar to virgin material," he observed.

Building scale will consequently require commitment across the value chain, including from brands and consumers, together with regulatory frameworks that can support demand for recycled content.

The presentation highlighted a number of initiatives across the Rieter and Barmag ecosystem aimed at different stages and technologies in textile recycling. These include Rieter's work with Recycling Powerhouse on staple fibre recycling and spinning systems, Barmag's industrial recycling activities with Huitong and BB Engineering, and an R&D partnership between Barmag and Evonik aimed at advanced chemical recycling for more complex polyester waste.

The objective is to connect access to feedstock with recycling technology, process expertise, industrial production and market demand so that recycling can move beyond isolated projects.

"The future of recycling is not a topic of individual company; it's a topic for an entire ecosystem and for strong partnerships," Mr. Stausberg emphasised.

He maintained that a functioning textile-to-textile loop cannot be created by a single technology. Collection and sorting systems have to supply suitable feedstock, recycling technologies have to operate at industrial scale, manufacturers have to be able to process the resulting materials and brands need to create demand for recycled products.

Growing global fibre demand means sustainability cannot simply be based on reducing fibre consumption. Instead, the industry will have to change the way fibres are produced, processed and returned to the system.

The immediate priorities, Mr. Stausberg maintained, are already clear: reduce overproduction, improve manufacturing efficiency, increase the use of renewable energy and take circularity beyond pilot projects.

"The textile industry future will not be determined by a single breakthrough technology. It will be defined by thousands of decisions across the value chain," Mr. Stausberg concluded. "Because the transition of a truly sustainable textile industry is no longer a question of possibility. It's a question of implementation."

Tecoya Trend – 17.09.2026

Maharashtra State Offers Up to 45% Capital Subsidy to Attract Textile Investments

By Our Special Correspondent

MUMBAI, SEPT 16—

Maharashtra is looking to draw fresh investment into textiles and technical textiles through a combination of capital subsidies, power tariff support, dedicated textile parks and incentives for sustainable manufacturing, Ms. Chandrika Majumder, Manager, Primus Partners, said at the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Technical Textile Association (ITTA).

Speaking on “Maharashtra’s Technical Textiles and Industrial Policy Initiatives”, Ms. Majumder said the State’s Integrated and Sustainable Textile Policy provides capital subsidies ranging from 25% to 45% for eligible textile projects, with higher assistance available to units investing in less developed regions.

“The subsidy support is determined on two factors, the location of your plant and the size of your plant,” she said, adding that eligible MSMEs in the highest supported zones could receive capital subsidy of up to 45%.

Maharashtra’s Integrated and Sustainable Textile Policy 2023 to 2028 targets investment of Rs. 25,000 crore and the creation of five lakh jobs over five years. It also seeks to increase the processing of cotton produced in Maharashtra from around 30% to 80%.

Ms. Majumder said Maharashtra’s position in cotton and yarn production, along with its established textile and apparel industry, provided a strong base for further investment in the sector.

Apart from capital subsidy for private textile units, the State provides assistance for technology upgradation under Maha TUFS, with the extent of support varying according to the category and location of the unit. The policy also has separate provisions for large and ultra mega investments.

Sustainability is another area receiving government support. “Sustainability is the need and the call of the hour,” Ms. Majumder said, referring to the need to manage the large quantities of industrial waste generated by the textile sector.

Incentives are available for effluent treatment plants, zero liquid discharge systems, solar power and recycling facilities. The policy provides up to 50% subsidy for eligible effluent treatment and zero liquid discharge projects, subject to prescribed limits, while separate assistance is available for solar power and recycling projects.

Technical textiles have been given a separate place in the policy, with the State proposing six Technical Textile Parks, one in each revenue division.

Ms. Majumder said the government was also reviewing its textile park framework following feedback from industry. “We are currently revising our textile park policy, given the feedback that we have received, and we are working closely on strengthening it further,” she said.

Under the policy, Technical Textile Parks with investment between Rs. 400 crore and Rs. 1,000 crore can receive financial assistance of 55% of the project cost or Rs. 250 crore, whichever is lower.

The State has also provided for Mini Textile Complexes, with 18 such complexes envisaged across Maharashtra’s six revenue divisions. Financial assistance of 40% of the project cost or Rs. 30 crore, whichever is lower, is available under the scheme.

Power costs continue to be an important issue for textile manufacturers. “The textile sector is a very power intensive sector and a large amount of power is consumed,” Ms. Majumder said, adding that electricity tariff subsidies are available across different parts of the textile value chain.

She also drew attention to incentives available through the State Industries Department in addition to those offered by the Textile Department. “An industry unit can apply for both the incentives given by the Textile Department and also by the Industries Department, and leverage them to their advantage,” she said.

On skill development, Ms. Majumder said the Textile Department was working with industry bodies and institutions, including ITTA and SASMIRA, on training and capacity building for the sector.

She said Maharashtra was also simplifying the process for textile companies to register and access incentives through its e Textile platform and other industrial approval systems.

Inviting the industry to invest in Maharashtra, Ms. Majumder said, “We as a State are inviting textile owners to come and be a part of this ecosystem and help us further strengthen the textile value chain in Maharashtra.”

Tecoya Trend – 17.09.2026

CiCLO Technology Expands Across Home Textiles from Market Week to Climate Week

MUMBAI, SEPT. 16—

Intrinsic Advanced Materials is expanding the commercial reach of CiCLO technology across home and hospitality textiles this September with ADVANSA and HeiQ, followed by its partnership with Lonely Whale's Fashion the Future activation during NYC Climate Week which take place from 20th to 27 September in New York City, US.

ADVANSA is introducing Suprelle fiberfill made with CiCLO fibers, extending CiCLO technology into an established premium fiberfill portfolio designed around comfort and performance. At the same time, a collaboration with HeiQ Materials AG is creating opportunities to pair CiCLO fibers with functional technologies that address specific product needs, including cooling, moisture management, freshness and allergen reduction.

Together, the developments give manufacturers, brands and retailers more ways to create products around specific consumer needs while incorporating CiCLO technology designed to help reduce microplastic fiber persistence.

Microplastic fiber pollution caused by the shedding of synthetic textiles is one of the most prevalent forms of microplastic pollution. CiCLO technology is a patented textile ingredient integrated into polyester and nylon fibers during manufacturing. It creates pathways designed to accelerate biodegradation when microplastic fibers enter end-of-life environments with moisture and microorganisms, reducing their persistence. Third-party laboratories independently test CiCLO fibers using recognized ASTM and ISO methods.

ADVANSA Adds CiCLO Technology to Suprelle Fiberfill Portfolio

ADVANSA is introducing Suprelle fiberfill made with CiCLO fibers for bedding, home and hospitality applications, bringing CiCLO technology into an established premium fiberfill portfolio built around comfort and performance.

The Suprelle portfolio gives product developers a range of fiberfill options designed around specific product needs, including cooling, down-like comfort, adaptable support, lasting loft and resilience, lightweight support, moisture management and recycled fiber options. This allows brands and retailers to select the comfort and performance attributes appropriate for pillows, comforters and other bedding products while incorporating CiCLO fibers.

"Our customers want fiberfill that delivers the comfort and performance consumers expect while helping support broader environmental priorities," said Jean-Christophe Rouyer, head of global business development at ADVANSA. "Adding CiCLO technology gives them another way to differentiate Suprelle products without changing the core benefits of the fiberfill."

HeiQ Collaboration Expands Functional Possibilities

Intrinsic Advanced Materials is also collaborating with Swiss materials innovator HeiQ to explore how CiCLO fibers can be paired with functional technologies across home, hospitality and apparel applications.

The collaboration gives manufacturers and brands access to a range of performance possibilities, including cooling and thermal comfort, allergen reduction, odor control and freshness, moisture management and faster drying.

Combined, the technologies create opportunities across bed linens, pillows, mattress protectors, mattress toppers, mattress ticking and apparel products. Product developers can select functionality based on application needs while incorporating CiCLO fibers designed to help reduce microplastic fiber persistence.

"Brands are looking for ways to build more functionality into products without adding complexity," said Mike Abbott, executive vice president of advanced materials and general manager, HeiQ USA. "Combining HeiQ technologies with CiCLO fibers gives developers more flexibility to create products around the performance benefits their customers value."