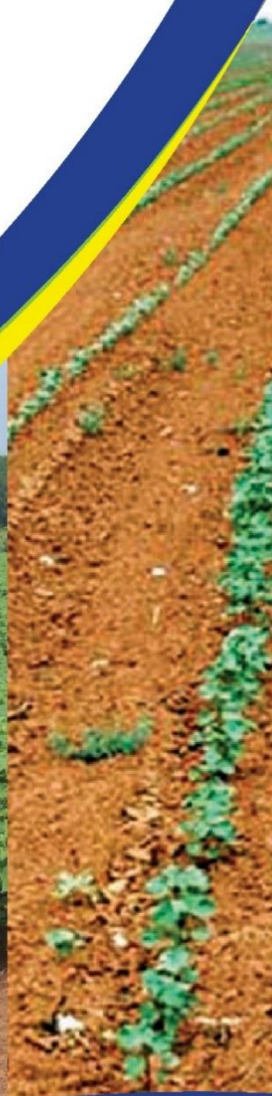
COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015



News Relating to Cotton and Textile Sector

Date-20-08-2026

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

(Regd. Office : Cotton Exchange Building, 2nd Floor, Cotton Green (E), Mumbai 400 033)
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COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
Established 1921
ISO 9001:2015

Mumbai, Thursday 20th August 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	15044	53500	(+500)
2	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	15%	20	13779	49000	(+800)
3	M/M(P)	ICS-104	Fine	23mm	4.5 - 7.0	4%	22	15325	54500	(+500)
4	P / H / R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	18025	64100	(+900)
5	M/M(P) /SA/TL/GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	15494	55100	(N.C.)
6	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	17800	63300	(+500)
7	P/ H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	18700	66500	(+900)
8	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	19206	68300	(+500)
9	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18953	67400	(+500)
10	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	19178	68200	(+500)
11	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	4.0%	27	18615	66200	(+700)
12	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	19206	68300	(+700)
13	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19543	69500	(+500)
14	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19234	68400	(+500)
15	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19459	69200	(+500)
16	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	19825	70500	(+500)
17	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	19515	69400	(+500)
18	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	20106	71500	(+500)
19	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	N.A.	N.A.	
20	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5 – 4.9	3%	31	N.A.	N.A.	
21	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	33	25786	91700	(+500)
22	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	25870	92000	(+400)
23	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	26208	93200	(+500)
24	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	35	26320	93600	(N.C.)

Note:		
1	Official spot rates are fixed and registered by CAI on the basis of average price inclusive of spot brokerage as per respective State Dharas, and for 15 days credit from the date of passing and cash discount @ 15% per annum, except for Northern area (excluding Lower Rajasthan), in which case spot rates fixed and registered are for payment terms: 7 days from the date of pressing at Upcountry Spot Markets ex-gin, excluding Tax. These rates are for domestic transaction only	
2	P/H/R(U) ICS-202 (SG) rate is lower by Rs. 1000/ pc than Sr. no. 4	
3	Strength:Grams per tex (HVI Mode) (Prorate basis)	
	a) 1 gpt pts lower Rs 500/pc	
	b) 2 gpt pts lower Rs 1,000/pc	
	c) 3 gpt pts lower Rs 2,000/pc	
	d) 4 gpt pts lower Rs 3,000/pc	
4	Staple length : Upper Half Mean Length	
5	Gravimetric Trash Percentage	
6	Moisture by probe method maximum 9%	
7	Base Grade 'Fine' of bulk of the cotton of the staple length range of 29mm to 32mm consists of –	
	(i) Colour grade 31/3	(ii) RD 75
8	In Rates acceptable up to a maximum 5.50 Micronaire with proportionate discount @ Rs.150/- per point per candy over 4.9 Micronaire	
9	For M/M(P)/SA/TL/GUJ-Sr No. 5 are for 67 Rd	
10	For Northern Zone (P/H/R(U)-Sr. Nos. 4 and 7 are for 70 Rd	
11	For M/M(P)/SA/TL-Sr Nos. 6, 8, 9, and GUJ-Sr No.10 are for 74 Rd	
12	For R(L)-Sr. No. 11 is for 72 Rd and 12 is for 73 Rd	
13	For M/M(P) and K/TN-Sr Nos. 21 to 24 are for 70-72 Rd	

Secretary

ICE Cotton Futures: 19-08-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE					19 Aug 2026	
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Oct-26	84.92	87.00	84.92	87.00	▲2.88	184
Dec-26	85.50	88.59	85.26	88.35	▲2.94	1,99,644
Mar-27	87.31	90.36	87.07	90.14	▲2.93	82,540
May-27	88.47	91.32	88.24	91.15	▲2.76	33,573
Jul-27	87.88	90.38	87.66	90.24	▲2.43	18,728
Oct-27	84.11	84.11	83.92	83.92	▲1.10	24
Dec-27	79.17	80.31	78.91	79.73	▲0.54	26,436

Cotlook Index: 19-08-2026

95.90 (-0.10)

ICE cotton jumps amid tight stocks, weaker dollar

Thu. 20th Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights

ICE cotton's December 2026 contract settled at 88.35 cents, up 2.94 cents, after breaking above the May high and setting a fresh contract high.

Volume rose to 71,522 contracts and open interest hit 361,871, signalling new participation behind the rally.

Tight world stocks, Texas weather risks, strong Chinese reserve buying and a weaker US dollar supported momentum.

ICE cotton futures jumped yesterday due to tight global stocks, weather concerns in the US, strong Chinese reserve sales and weaker US dollar. Higher trading volume and strong surge in cotton prices confirmed strength across the board. External factors also supported the natural fibre to gain in the market.

The most active December 2026 contract settled at 88.35 cents up 2.94 cent. The contract ranged between 85.54 and 88.59 cents and broke above the previous high of 88.08 cents on May 13. The contract established a fresh contract high. Other contracts gained between 53 to 288 points.

Volume jumped to 71,522 contracts, the highest in about six weeks, compared with only 36,827 Tuesday. Open Interest increased another 3,594 contracts to 361,871, marking the 13th consecutive increase and taking cumulative OI growth to 40,143 contracts. There are indications of new participation, supporting the rally rather than simply shorts covering.

China's State Reserve auction remained fully sold out for the 23rd consecutive session. Today's sale was 8,058 tonnes, taking the 23-day total to 184,646 tonnes Continued strong buying from Chinese spinners and the prospect of replacement purchases remain supportive, although the auction alone does not explain Wednesday's nearly 300-point rally.

The outside-market environment also helped. The US dollar declined for the 4th time in 5 sessions, improving the competitiveness of US cotton and providing a broad commodity tailwind. Lower Treasury yields following increased long-term bond buybacks also pressured the dollar. Gold and silver gained around 2.8 per cent, while corn and soybeans rallied on disappointing Pro Farmer Tour results and wheat gained on Black Sea concerns. The overall risk-on commodity environment therefore added momentum to cotton.

The fundamental backdrop remains bullish. Persistent hot and dry conditions in Texas continue to threaten dryland cotton, while US cotton condition has fallen to only 38 per cent Good, compared with 40 per cent the previous week and 55 per cent last year.

USDA's latest WASDE also showed 2026-27 world ending stocks at 69.685 million bales, the lowest since 2011-12, with consumption running substantially above production. Tight global stocks, weather concerns, strong Chinese reserve buying and a weaker dollar are all providing underlying support.

Technically, the move above 88.08 cents is important because it removes the previous May high as resistance. The first support is now 88.08 cents, followed by 86.33 cents and then the 84.00–85.00 cent zone. On the upside, 90.00 cents is the next major psychological level.

Overall, Wednesday was a genuine momentum breakout rather than simply another recovery session. The combination of a new contract high, 71,522 contracts of volume, rising Open Interest, strength across deferred months and a close near the day's highs confirms strong participation behind the move. The key test now is whether December can hold above 88.08 cents. If it does, the market can reasonably target 90 cents and potentially higher. A quick failure back below 88 cents would instead indicate profit-taking after the sharp advance.

This morning (Indian Standard Time), ICE cotton for December 2026 was traded at 88.18 cents per pound (down 0.17 cent), cash cotton at 83.25 cents (up 2.88 cent), the October 2026 at 86.38 cents (down 0.62 cent), the March 2027 contract at 89.93 cents (down 0.21 cent), the May 2027 contract at 90.97 cents (down 0.18 cent), and the July 2027 contract at 90.09 cents (down 0.15 cent). A few contracts remained at their previous closing levels, with no trading recorded so far today.

India's UP seeks to cut logistics costs through freight corridors

Wed. 19th Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
Invest UP and DFCCIL have signed a three-year MoU to strengthen multimodal freight connectivity across Uttar Pradesh's dedicated freight corridor network. The pact targets lower logistics costs and new manufacturing, assembly and logistics investments for cargo-intensive supply chains. Joint action plans, PM Gati Shakti integration and regular industry meetings are planned.

Invest UP and the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd (DFCCIL) have signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at strengthening multimodal freight connectivity in Uttar Pradesh, a move relevant for cargo-heavy manufacturing and sourcing supply chains evaluating logistics locations in the state.
The agreement is designed to help Uttar Pradesh use its dedicated freight corridor network to reduce logistics costs and attract manufacturing, assembly and logistics investments.

The three-year pact was signed by Sandesh Srivastava, executive director (projects), DFCCIL and Vijay Kiran Anand, chief executive officer, Invest UP in the presence of Deepak Kumar, infrastructure and industrial development commissioner.

Under the MoU, DFCCIL will engage with industrial sectors and businesses to promote the use of the dedicated freight corridor (DFC) for cargo movement. Invest UP will present the rail network and its connectivity advantages while pitching Uttar Pradesh to companies seeking to establish manufacturing units, assembly facilities and logistics hubs.

The two organisations will nominate nodal officers and prepare joint action plans. Invest UP will also share information on regulatory provisions and infrastructure available under the UP Industrial Investment and Employment Promotion Policy 2022, UP Warehousing and Logistics Policy 2022, and Gati Shakti Multimodal Cargo Terminal Policy.

For data-led planning, industrial plot indices, geographic information system mapping and upcoming industrial corridor master plans will be integrated with the PM Gati Shakti portal. Regular meetings with industry stakeholders will be held to identify and address investor concerns and ease-of-doing-business issues.

US Cotton Industry Seeks New Demand

Thu. 20th Aug 2026, Yash Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

New Demand Boosts US Cotton Industry

The US cotton industry is striving to boost demand and create new opportunities for farmers, processors, and manufacturers. Demand for US cotton has seen limited growth over the past two decades. During this period, synthetic fibers like polyester and nylon have expanded their market share, as they are often cheaper and easier to process. Simultaneously, rising cotton production in countries like Brazil has intensified competition for US farmers.

This shift has also impacted the number of cotton gins; the decline in ginning facilities across the US reflects sluggish demand and changing market conditions.

Amidst these challenges, the industry is backing the 'Buying American Cotton Act.' The proposed legislation aims to provide tax credits to manufacturers who use certified US cotton. Companies that manufacture cotton-based products in the US and sell them in the domestic market are expected to receive additional incentives.

Leaders at the National Cotton Council believe that this measure could not only boost the use of US cotton but also encourage domestic value addition and investment. It is likely to drive increased investment in cotton production and processing facilities.

Concurrently, the 'Plant Not Plastic' campaign is highlighting the environmental benefits of natural fibers. Amid growing concerns regarding microplastics associated with synthetic fabrics, emphasis is being placed on the biodegradable nature of cotton. The industry hopes that rising consumer awareness and domestic demand will revitalize the US cotton sector.

Maharashtra Cotton Targets Global Markets

Thu. 20th Aug 2026, Yash Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Maharashtra's Cotton to Reach Global Markets via 'Farm to Foreign' Initiative

The state government is promoting the 'Farm to Foreign' initiative to take cotton produced in Maharashtra—and products made from it—directly to overseas markets. The government aims to develop Maharashtra into a global export hub. Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde stated that under the 'Farm to Foreign' concept, the entire supply chain—from cotton production to the global fashion market—will be strengthened.

Speaking at the 'Farm to Foreign Conclave 2026' organized by ASSOCHAM at the Jio World Centre, Shinde said that the state government is working on the '5F' concept to advance Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047' (Developed India 2047). Under this framework, the agriculture and textile sectors will be linked to the global market through stages such as 'Farm to Fibre,' 'Fibre to Factory,' 'Factory to Fashion,' and 'Fashion to Foreign.'

The initiative aims to gain global recognition for Maharashtra's cotton, silk, jute, and fruits, and to establish them as international brands.

The PM MITRA Park in Nagpur and the Amravati Textile Cluster will play a pivotal role in developing Maharashtra into a leading textile hub for the country. Additionally, readymade garment clusters are being established in major textile centers like Ichalkaranji, Solapur, and Bhiwandi.

Shinde emphasized that the government's focus is not merely on increasing production but also on making the industry 'green, digital, and transparent.' Through this approach, efforts are underway to integrate production, processing, manufacturing, and exports, thereby taking Maharashtra's agricultural and textile products to global markets.

What factors are lifting cotton prices in Brazil?

Thu. 20th Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

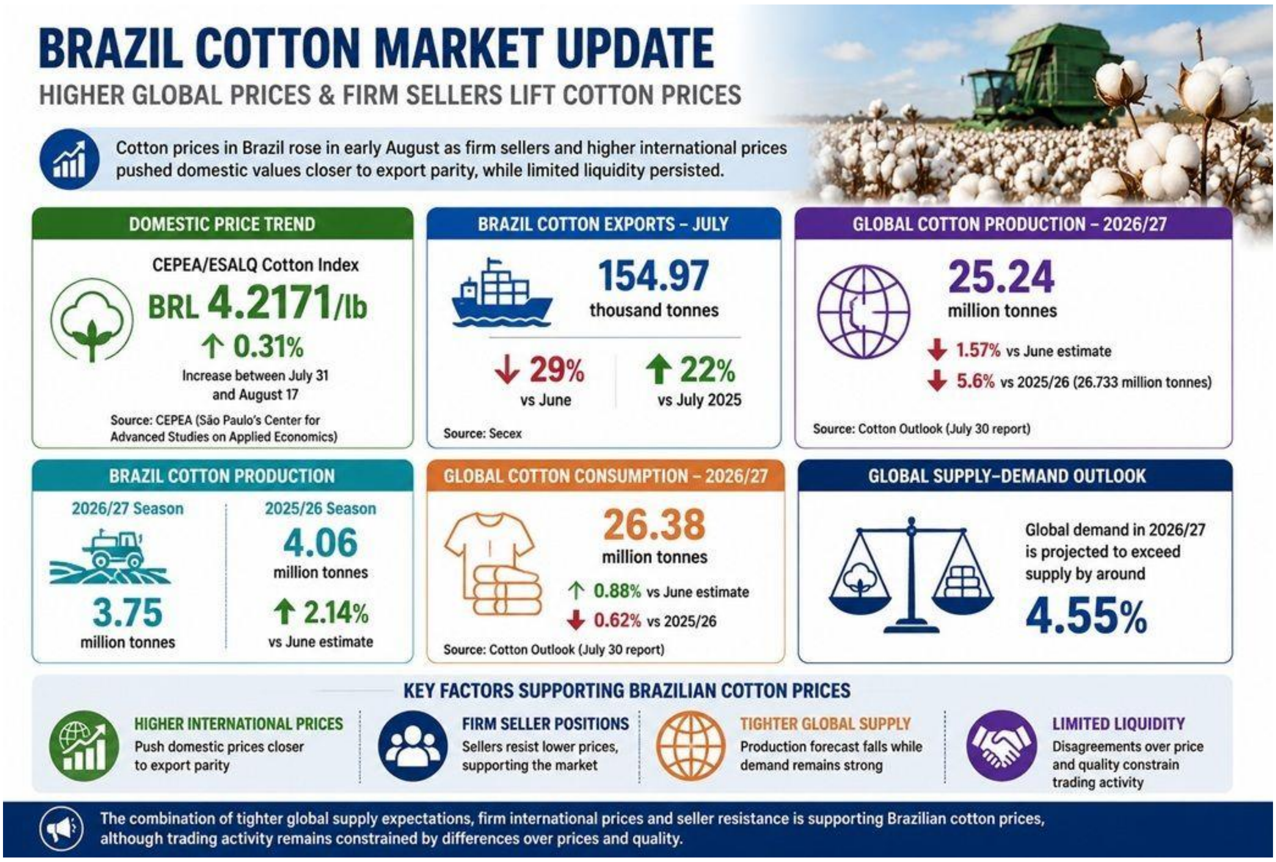
Insights
Brazilian cotton prices rose in early August as higher international prices and firm sellers pushed domestic values closer to export parity.
The CEPEA/ESALQ Index increased 0.31 per cent to BRL 4.2171 per pound on August 17.
Brazil's July exports fell 29 per cent month on month but rose 22 per cent year on year, while global 2026/27 demand is forecast to exceed supply by 4.55 per cent.

Cotton prices in Brazil rose in early August as firm seller positions and higher international prices pushed domestic values closer to export parity, while limited liquidity persisted amid difficulties for buyers and sellers to agree on prices and quality.

The CEPEA/ESALQ Cotton Index increased 0.31 per cent between July 31 and August 17, reaching BRL 4.2171 per pound on August 17, according to the Sau Paulo's Center for Advanced Studies on Applied Economics (CEPEA).

Brazil exported 154.97 thousand tonnes of cotton in July, down 29 per cent from June but 22 per cent higher than in July 2025, according to data from Secex.

Global cotton production is projected at 25.24 million tonnes in the 2026/27 season, according to a July 30 report by Cotton Outlook. The estimate is 1.57 per cent lower than the June forecast and 5.6 per cent below projected output for the 2025/26 season of 26.733 million tonnes.



Brazil's cotton production for 2026/27 was maintained at 3.75 million tonnes. For the 2025/26 season, output was revised 2.14 per cent higher between June and July to 4.06 million tonnes.

Global cotton consumption in 2026/27 is forecast at 26.38 million tonnes, up 0.88 per cent from the June estimate but 0.62 per cent below the previous season. Based on the projections, global demand could exceed supply by around 4.55 per cent.

The combination of tighter global supply expectations, firm international prices and seller resistance is supporting Brazilian cotton prices, although trading activity remains constrained by differences over prices and quality.

Indonesia's textile industry eyes stronger growth amid recovery

Thu. 20th Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
Indonesia's textile and garment industry is showing signs of recovery, supported by rising investment, exports and improving industrial confidence.
The sector exported $4.85 billion in the first half of 2026 and employs more than 3.8 million workers.
The government is backing investment, restructuring, export financing, trade safeguards and green manufacturing to strengthen global competitiveness.

Indonesia's textile and textile products industry is showing signs of recovery, with the government seeing further scope for growth as new investment, expanding exports and improving industrial activity support the sector, Industry Minister Agus Gumiwang Kartasasmita said, according to local media reports.

The textile and garment sector recorded exports of $4.85 billion in the first half of 2026 and employs more than 3.8 million workers, highlighting its importance to Indonesia's economy. The Industry Confidence Index also remained in the expansion zone at 53.10 in July, indicating improving industrial activity.

The recovery is also being supported by investment. Indonesia's textile and apparel industry attracted IDR 11.40 trillion in investment in the first half of 2026, up 11.85 per cent from a year earlier, while sector output grew 6.36 per cent year on year in the second quarter, according to industry reports.

Kartasasmita said the government would continue working with industry associations, businesses, regional governments and other agencies to strengthen competitiveness and support expansion in global markets.

Policy measures include investment incentives, restructuring programmes, labour-intensive industry credit, export financing through the Indonesian Export Financing Agency (LPEI), stronger trade safeguards and faster implementation of the Making Indonesia 4.0 programme. The government is also promoting Green Industry Standards as sustainability becomes increasingly important to international buyers.

The government has identified textile manufacturing as an important sector for broader industrial transformation, with efforts also focused on strengthening the midstream segment, including yarn, fabric, dyeing, printing and finishing, to improve supply-chain integration and competitiveness.

Cambodia rolls out skills framework for textile, apparel industries

Thu. 20th Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Cambodia has launched the first sector-specific component of its Cambodia Skills Framework (CSF) for the textile and apparel industries, with formal endorsement from the Textile, Apparel, Footwear and Travel Goods Association in Cambodia (TAFTAC), aiming to align workforce skills with industry requirements and strengthen the sector's competitiveness.

Insights
Cambodia has launched the first sector-specific component of its Cambodia Skills Framework for the textile and apparel industries.
Developed by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the framework maps skills, competencies and career pathways, helping align education and training with industry needs while supporting workforce planning, productivity and competitiveness.

Developed by the Ministry of Economy and Finance through the Skills Development Fund (SDF), the framework and its new digital dashboard establish a common reference for skills, competency levels and career pathways across the textile and apparel industries.

The framework is designed to support workforce planning by providing policymakers with evidence-based information on industry skill requirements. It is also intended to help government and businesses develop more effective skills strategies.

For training providers and educational institutions, the CSF provides a basis for aligning curricula and training programmes with industry needs. Employers and industry associations can use it to establish competency standards and identify employee development requirements to improve productivity and competitiveness.

Workers, learners and job seekers are expected to benefit from clearer information on career pathways, required skills and opportunities for upskilling and career progression.

The CSF organises industry roles through career maps, tracks and individual job positions, with each role linked to key tasks and required competencies. Skills are classified across basic, intermediate and advanced proficiency levels, allowing users to identify their current capabilities and areas for development.

The textile and apparel sector is the first industry to be integrated into the framework, with the government planning to extend the CSF to other priority sectors.

The initiative comes as Cambodia seeks to strengthen workforce capabilities amid export diversification and increasing foreign investment, while maintaining its participation in regional and global value chains.

China's Shengtai secures approval for $246 mn textile park in Morocco

Thu. 20th Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
Chinese textile manufacturer Shengtai Intelligent Manufacturing Group has secured approvals for a MAD 2.29 billion (~$229 million) green textile industrial park in Morocco.
The project will produce cotton yarn, fabrics and clothing, boosting Shengtai's overseas supply capacity.
The investment adds to Morocco's appeal as a textile manufacturing and export hub linking African and European markets.

Chinese textile manufacturer Shengtai Intelligent Manufacturing Group has secured key Chinese regulatory approvals for a planned MAD 2.29 billion (~$246 million) green textile industrial park in Morocco, marking another major Chinese investment aimed at expanding textile production and overseas supply capacity.

The Shengtai (Morocco) Green Textile Industrial Park Project has received an Enterprise Overseas Investment Certificate from the Department of Commerce of Hunan Province, along with a filing notice from the Hunan Provincial Development and Reform Commission.

The project is planned to manufacture high-grade cotton yarn, fabrics and clothing, creating an integrated production base in Morocco.

Shengtai said the investment will support the group’s global business expansion, strengthen overseas supply capacity and improve its ability to respond to changes in international trade and industrial policies, as per media reports.

The investment comes as Morocco attracts increasing interest from Chinese manufacturers seeking production bases and access to international markets. The country’s proximity to Europe, trade agreements, industrial infrastructure and established manufacturing ecosystem are supporting its appeal as an export-oriented production location.

Morocco is also seeking to expand beyond traditional automotive manufacturing into higher-value industries, including textiles and technical textiles. Manufacturing sectors such as automotive, aerospace, electronics, chemicals, technical textiles and electric-battery production have continued to expand in 2026.

The Shengtai project therefore adds to a broader trend of Chinese industrial investment in Morocco and could strengthen the country’s position as a textile manufacturing and export hub linking African and European markets.

Textile Commissioner Visits WRA, Reviews Research & Sportech Initiatives

Thu. 20th Aug 2026, (Source: www.textilevaluechain.in)

The Wool Research Association (WRA) hosted Ms. Vrunda Manohar Desai, IRS, Hon’ble Textile Commissioner, along with her team members. During the visit, she toured WRA’s state-of-the-art infrastructure, including its advanced testing laboratories, R&D facilities, and the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Sportech.

Director General Shri Harish K. Chatterjee provided a comprehensive briefing on WRA’s ongoing and completed research projects. The discussion covered updates on sustainable wool processing and Sportech initiatives under the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), as well as the latest

testing and incubation activities. He also outlined WRA's strategic roadmap for advancing sports textiles and scaling the broader technical textiles industry in India.

Throughout the tour, the Hon'ble Textile Commissioner interacted with WRA's scientists and team members, showing keen interest in the ground-level efforts contributing to the organisation's success. Her visit and words of encouragement have greatly motivated the WRA team.

Intex-InMac Sri Lanka 2026 Concludes with Stronger Global Textile Sourcing and Technology Connections

Thu. 20th Aug 2026, (Source: www.textilevaluechain.in)

Three-Day Exhibition Attracted 7,889 Trade Visitors from 18+ Countries and Regions

Intex Sri Lanka 2026, South Asia's Premier International Textile Sourcing Platform, and InMac Sri Lanka 2026, The Strategic International Garment Machinery & Smart Manufacturing Show, concluded successfully at BMICH, Colombo.

The combined three-day exhibition featured 276 exhibitors across 440 booths from 14+ exhibiting countries and regions and welcomed 7,889 trade visitors from 18+ countries and regions. The event recorded a stronger visitor response and greater footfall compared with the previous edition.

Opening Ceremony Brings Together Government and Industry Representatives

The Opening Ceremony of Intex–InMac Sri Lanka 2026 was inaugurated by Chief Guest Hon. Sunil Handunnetti, Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development, Government of Sri Lanka.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Mangala Wijesinghe, Chairman and Chief Executive, EDB; Mr. Yasas Hewage, Chairman, IDB; Mr. Felix Fernando, Chairman, JAAF; Mr. Yohan Lawrence, Secretary General, JAAF; Mr. Fazal M. Fausz, Chairman, SLABA; Mr. Husni Salieh, Chairman, FAAMA; Mr. Dhammika Fernando, Chairman, FTZMA; Mr. Fiki Oktanio, Deputy Ambassador and Minister Counsellor (Economic Section), Embassy of Indonesia in Colombo; Mr. Olivier Praz, Deputy Head of Mission (Deputy Ambassador), Embassy of Switzerland to Sri Lanka; Mr. Tang Rui, Economic & Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of China to Sri Lanka; Mr. Indika Salgado, President, SLCBCC; Mr. Rajesh Satam, Joint Director, TEXPROCIL; Mrs. Prachi Bhogle, Assistant Director, MATEXIL; Mr. Bharatkumar M. Chhajer, Export Panel Convenor & Past Chairman, PDEXCIL; and Mr. Akshay H. Shah, Assistant Director, FIEO, along with other senior government officials, diplomats, industry leaders, trade associations and international trade representatives.

The opening ceremony was followed by a VIP tour of both Intex and InMac.

Incredible Textiles of India Pavilion Highlights Indian Participation

The Incredible Textiles of India Pavilion was inaugurated by H.E. Santosh Jha, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, in the presence of Indian councils TEXPROCIL, MATEXIL, PDEXCIL and FIEO, along with other Indian textile companies.

The pavilion highlighted India's participation at the exhibition and brought Indian textile companies and industry organisations together at the event.

International Suppliers Connect with Sri Lankan Textile Industry
Intex-InMac brought together international suppliers from India, China, Sri Lanka, Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, Netherlands, Australia, Germany, Korea, USA, Thailand and other key markets.
These exhibitors connected with garment manufacturers, exporters, sourcing professionals, technical and engineering teams, buyers and other industry stakeholders from Sri Lanka and beyond.

India-Sri Lanka Textile Trade Forum 2026

A key initiative during the event was the India - Sri Lanka Textile Trade Forum 2026, jointly organised with the High Commission of India to Sri Lanka.

The forum brought together Indian and Sri Lankan manufacturers, suppliers, industry representatives and trade stakeholders for focused business discussions.

The discussions provided opportunities to explore bilateral sourcing, strengthen supplier-buyer relationships, identify new areas of cooperation and develop stronger connections between the textile and apparel ecosystems of India and Sri Lanka.

Interactive Business Forum Addresses Industry Developments

Knowledge exchange and industry dialogue formed an important part of Intex-InMac Sri Lanka 2026 through the Interactive Business Forum (IBF).

During the seminar sessions, industry experts, manufacturers, sustainability leaders, technology professionals and business representatives discussed issues influencing the textile and apparel industry. Topics included green regulations and circularity, digital transformation, AI, automation, supply chain innovation and smart manufacturing.

The sessions provided a platform for practical discussions and knowledge exchange beyond the exhibition floor.

Strong Visitor Response

The response from trade visitors across the three-day exhibition reflected demand for international sourcing and technological solutions, alongside the industry's focus on innovation, diversification and competitiveness.

Intex-InMac Sri Lanka 2026 brought together the global textile and technology community with Sri Lanka through sourcing, business connections, knowledge exchange and international collaboration.

REGISTER Now

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
Established 1921
ISO 9001:2015

Cotton Association of India

cordially invites you to

Cotton India 2026-27

COTTON INDIA 2026-27

STRENGTHENING INDIA'S COTTON

5F VISION

Farm • Fibre • Factory • Fashion • Foreign

on Thursday & Friday

29th & 30th October 2026

VENUE

Hotel Sahara Star,

Sapphire Ballroom,

Opp. Domestic Airport, Vile Parle (East),
Mumbai 400 099

Register Now: https://caionline.in/conference/

Business Standard – 20.08.2026

DATANOMICS

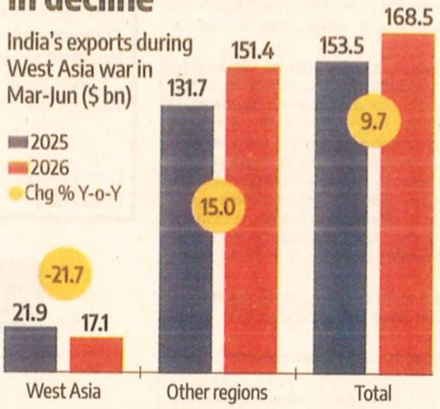
Diversification helps India's exports thrive despite W Asia war

YASH KUMAR SINGHAL

India's diversification efforts have borne fruit. Its total merchandise exports rose by 9.73 per cent despite a 21.74 per cent decline in exports to West Asia during March-June due to the war. Exports to the UAE — India's largest export market after the US and the biggest market in West Asia — suffered the most. During March-June, exports to the UAE declined by 25.54 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y). Exports of chemical products, ready-made garments, agricultural goods, and gems & jewellery to the UAE saw the highest decline, while China and Hong Kong were the top destinations where India diversified its exports. However, exports to the UAE normalised in July, registering 10.15 per cent Y-o-Y growth.

In decline

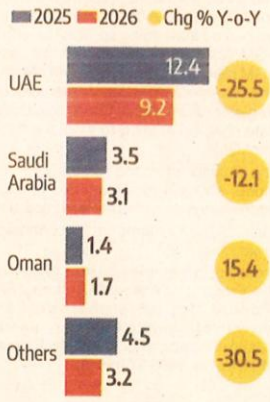
India's exports during West Asia war in Mar-Jun ($ bn)



Note: March-June period is taken to gauge the impact of the West Asia war; disaggregated data is not available for July
Source: Department of Commerce, *BS* calculations

Exports to UAE hit the most

Exports to West Asian countries in Mar-Jun ($ bn)



Diversification pays off

Product-wise growth in exports to the UAE and the world during Mar-Jun period of of 2026 (Y-o-Y %)

Products	UAE	Total exports	Markets with highest rise
Agricultural	-23.69	0.58	Jordan, Vietnam
Telecom*	-6.31	18.59	USA, Hong Kong
Gem & jewellery	-21.81	-2.66	Hong Kong, UK
Ready-made garments	-36.4	-14.2	No major market
Electronic	-4.21	14.86	China, Hong Kong
Chemical	-38.36	2.72	China, The Netherlands
Plastic	-17	9.4	Saudi Arabia, South Africa

*including smartphones
Source: Department of Commerce, CMIE, *BS* calculations

Business Standard – 20.08.2026

OPINION

Trade policy review at WTO: World takes note of India's progress

RAJESH AGRAWAL

Transparency is an institutional function of the World Trade Organization (WTO) with Trade Policy Review (TPR) as one of its mechanisms. It is a periodic peer review mechanism par excellence where the Secretariat undertakes a meticulous review of a member's trade policies and practices including macroeconomic conditions, and the members raise thoughtful, pointed and often critical questions throughout the process. In late July 2026, India concluded its eighth TPR at the WTO, a process that entailed several months of preparation, including a physical visit of the Secretariat staff, delegations asking over 1,100 questions and exchanging views, and, India in turn addressing these questions and clarifications through an extensive inter-departmental and multi-stakeholder engagement. It was an opportunity for India to explain, in the full glare of the membership, its economic and development vision and how it can contribute to greater global wealth and prosperity.

India's previous trade policy review was in 2021, undertaken in the backdrop of the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic. While the health crisis has been contained, economic vulnerabilities and critical shortage of essential supplies, including energy sources, have escalated in recent times. While the world bounced back from pandemic induced crisis, supply chain disruptions have led to fresh and renewed challenges. In this milieu, the eighth review presented a markedly sanguine picture: India has emerged as one of the strongest growth performers among the major economies, expanded its global trade footprint, and is increasingly being considered as an important trading partner. Members at the WTO lauded India's efforts towards *Viksit Bharat*@2047, recognising that India's strong and sustained economic growth, deepening global engagement, and rapid digital transformation together underscore its steady progress toward its vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

The intensity of this year's review itself was revealing. The review drew exceptionally wide and sustained engagement from WTO members concerning all sectors, reflecting the level of their interest in India's trade, regulatory, and macroeconomic policies. Members broadly appreciated India's economic resilience and constructive engagement with the multilateral trading system, while highlighting its achievements in digital innovation, customs and trade facilitation, startups, and the successful foray into free trade agreements (FTAs). The scale of participation is therefore not merely a measure of scrutiny; it is also an indication of the interest that India's economic transformation now commands.

That transformation is reflected in clear numbers. Between 2021-22 and 2025-26, India's economy grew at an average annual rate of nearly 8 per cent. Total exports reached a record $863 billion in 2025-26, comprising $441.8 billion in merchandise exports and $421.3 billion in services exports. Several members highlighted the impressive growth of the digitally delivered service sector in India. The period since the seventh TPR reflected a clear direction in India's path to establish resilience in several sectors of critical importance, while presenting India's trading partners an unprecedented opportunity to be part of India's growth story. During the review period, India regained its momentum and strengthened its position as an important source of both goods and services for global markets.

Perhaps nowhere is this transformation more visible than in India's digital economy. Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) has enabled India to build digital systems at population scale, with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) alone accounting for 85 per cent of India's digital payment transactions and around 49 per cent of global real-time payment volumes in 2025. At the WTO, members specifically highlighted India's achievements in DPI, with India's digital and development-oriented reforms being recognised as offering lessons for developing countries and least developed countries pursuing their own digital transformation. This is an important dimension of India's emerging trade story: Openness is increasingly supported by domestic capabilities that reduce transaction costs and enable businesses, including smaller enterprises, to participate in the formal and digital economy.

India's trade policy has become more outward-looking, with a growing network of FTAs in force or under negotiation across both developed and developing economies. This expansion reflects efforts to diversify partnerships and secure greater market access for Indian goods and services. At the same time, as the TPR discussions underscored, India's engagement in FTAs runs alongside a continued and explicit commitment to the multilateral trading system at the WTO.

Yet, the TPR also demonstrates that greater openness does not mean foregoing India's legitimate public policy interests. India assured Members that its approach to integration with global markets will continue to be balanced with the policy space required to address its own developmental realities. This is particularly evident in agriculture, where India emphasised the need to safeguard the livelihoods of farmers and ensure food security. On issues relating to Quality Control Orders and technical regulations, India reiterated its commitment to transparency, stakeholder consultation and consistency with WTO rules, and provided clarifications to Members in this regard.

This is the more nuanced meaning of *Atmanirbhar Bharat*. Self-reliance need not mean insulation from the world economy. For India, it increasingly means developing domestic capabilities, resilient supply chains and technological capacity so that the country can participate in global trade from a position of greater strength. The record of the last five years suggests that India is pursuing precisely this balance: Greater openness where it creates opportunities while retaining the ability to protect legitimate domestic interests.

This approach assumes particular significance at a time when unilateral measures, supply chain disruptions, and geopolitical tensions have weakened trust in the global trading system. India's commitment to a predictable, rules-based, and development-oriented multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core therefore carries significance beyond its own commercial interests. As the Chairperson of the India's Trade Policy review noted in her concluding remarks, India's delegation has demonstrated the importance it attaches to the TPR mechanism and the multilateral trading system. The eighth TPR thus offers a broader message: India is not a member turning away from the world. It is an economy seeking to embrace progress and integrate more deeply with the global trading system while ensuring that such integration remains compatible with its development priorities, domestic capabilities, and national interests.

The writer is secretary, Department of Commerce. Views are personal

Business Standard – 20.08.2026

Give women farmers a fair field, reap ₹2 trillion more: Report

Study finds that unequal access to land, finance and technology is leaving India's farm potential untapped

HEMLATA SAMANT
New Delhi, 19 August

Women in Indian agriculture earn 20 to 30 per cent less than men for identical tasks, taking home just ₹82 for every ₹100 earned by male workers, according to *Her Harvest 2026: The Hidden Cost of Women's Invisible Work in Indian Agriculture*, a report by grain commerce platform Arya.ag.

The disparity extends beyond wages. Despite performing more than half of farm work, women operate just 11.72 per cent of the farmed area, revealing a fivefold gap between their contribution to agriculture and their control over land. Women-run farms are also 24 per cent less productive, resulting in an estimated 2.5 to 4 per cent output loss for India's ₹48.7 trillion farm economy, the report said. It also pegs the annual loss at ₹1.2-2 trillion — not because women farm less efficiently, but because they farm with fewer resources.

The stakes are rising as more rural women depend on agriculture for work. Nearly 77 per cent of rural working women now work in agriculture, with their share of the agricultural workforce rising from 57 per cent in FY18 to more than 64 per cent in FY24. Yet, women remain largely invisible in the formal agricultural system. Land ownership determines who is recognised as a farmer and who gets access to credit, extension services, and procurement. As men increasingly migrate to cities and non-farm sectors, women are taking on greater responsibility for farm operations. However, nearly 47.7 per cent of women working in agriculture are recorded as unpaid helpers on family farms, compared with 20.2 per cent of men. This creates a cycle of exclusion: women who are not recognised as farmers struggle to access formal credit, which limits their ability to buy inputs or secure storage. This, in turn, can force distress sales at harvest, resulting in lower incomes and leaving women with little capacity to accumulate assets.

MISSING W IN THE workforce

Closing this gap could deliver gains well beyond women's incomes. The report identifies resources, recognition, and returns as key to unlocking that potential. Providing women with equal access to resources could lift yields on women-run farms by 20-30 per cent, while increasing women's harvest incomes could raise overall household incomes by 20-30 per cent. "A rupee earned by a woman farmer does double work. It raises output now and resilience later," the report said. There are already signs of what greater access can deliver.

Under the Namo Drone Didi scheme, about 15,000 women-led self-help groups are being equipped with agricultural drones, enabling trained operators to earn ₹60,000 to ₹80,000 a month.

Building on such initiatives, the report calls for four steps to close the gender gap in agriculture. First, women should be formally recognised as farmers irrespective of land ownership, with gender-disaggregated data published on access to credit, procurement, and farmer producer organisation (FPO) membership. Second, financial access should be expanded by scaling up collateral-light credit, warehouse receipts, and women-held Kisan Credit Card accounts. Third, drones, advisory services and market technology should be routed directly through women-run institutions. Finally, the report recommends building women-led FPOs as permanent market institutions rather than treating them as pilot projects.

The United Nations has declared 2026 the International Year of the Woman Farmer. The report argues that recognising women's role in agriculture and giving them equal access to land, finance, technology, and markets could help unlock a sizeable share of India's untapped farm output.

The Economic Times – 20.08.2026

Kharif Sowing Recovers After Improved July Rains: Agri Secy

Shambhavi Anand

New Delhi: India's kharif planting has staged a strong recovery after improved rainfall in July helped farmers make up much of the ground lost during the driest June in 12 years, raising hopes of easing pressure on food prices if rains remain supportive.

Sowing of most major crops, including pulses, oilseeds and cotton, is progressing well, agriculture secretary Atish Chandra said. While acreage under some crops remains below last year's level, planting of others has increased.

The performance of the crop will now depend heavily on rainfall during August and September, Chandra said, adding that the agriculture ministry is reviewing conditions regularly with state governments.

"There has been significant catch-up in sowing since June," Chandra said in an interview on Monday. States are being encouraged to ensure that available farmland is brought under cultivation even where planting has been delayed, he added.

The southwest monsoon supplies roughly three-fourths of India's annual rainfall and is critical for agriculture as well as replenishing reservoirs and groundwater. Kharif crops planted during the June-September season account for about half of the country's annual foodgrain production.

July rainfall was marginally above normal, helping revive planting after June recorded a rainfall shortfall of about 40%, partly linked to the emergence of El Niño conditions.

Despite the improvement, cumulative monsoon rainfall remained 13% below normal as of August 19, according to the India Meteorological Department. Farmers had planted about 101.7 million hectares under kharif crops by August 14, around 2% less than the corresponding period last year, agriculture ministry data showed.

A sustained recovery in rainfall is important as weaker farm output could tighten supplies and add to food inflation. Signs of supply pressure have already emerged in some commodities, with India considering a reduction in the sugar import duty after nearly a decade without significant overseas purchases.

Rice acreage continues to trail last year's level, although farmers still have time to plant through the end of August and, in some regions, into September, Chandra said.

Rupee Closes at a 3-week Low

Mumbai: The Indian rupee closed at a three week low of 95.75 on Wednesday, marginally weaker from its previous close of 95.68, with traders attributing the modest retreat to substantial central bank interventions that prevented further losses for the local monetary unit.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has consistently intervened for the past nine trading sessions, arresting weakness in the rupee, as oil prices soared. Indian equity indices have also continued to fall through most of last week and this week, reflecting the impact of soaring energy costs.—**Our Bureau**

The Economic Times – 20.08.2026

Sitharaman, Goyal Visit Singapore to Boost Ties

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday began her visit to Singapore to lead a ministerial delegation for the fourth India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR), scheduled for August 19-20.

In a post on X, the finance ministry said the delegation includes external affairs minister S Jaishankar, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and minister of state for electronics and IT Jitin Prasada.

Separately, the government said Goyal is leading a 70-member business delegation to the island nation to strengthen trade and investment ties between the two countries. The ISMR, since its first meeting in September 2022 in New Delhi, has emerged as a key platform to review progress and explore new areas of collaboration between India and Singapore across six pillars—advanced manufacturing, connectivity, digitalisation, healthcare and medicine, skills development and sustainability.

The latest roundtable will build on progress made at earlier meetings and explore fresh avenues to strengthen the India-Singapore economic partnership, the ministry said. Goyal and his team will focus on partnerships, investment, market access, technology collaboration and talent development. "Goyal will also call on Lawrence Wong, Prime Minister of Singapore," read a statement issued by the commerce and industry ministry.

India and Singapore entered into a free trade agreement in 2005 to strengthen bilateral commerce. Singapore was the largest source of FDI into India in FY26, with inflows of $19.8 billion. Cumulative FDI inflows from Singapore were $194.68 billion during April 2000-March 2026, accounting for 24.72% of India's total FDI inflows.

businessline – 20.08.2026

With 'Japan City', UP woos investments in chips, data centres, advanced manufacturing

S Ronendra Singh
New Delhi

Uttar Pradesh is developing a dedicated 'Japan City' to anchor its expanding partnership with Japan and create a new industrial ecosystem spanning semiconductors, data centres, electronics and advanced manufacturing, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the UP-Japan Investment Meet 2026, Adityanath said the partnership was no longer confined to automobiles but was expanding into advanced manufacturing and emerging technology sectors. "We are pushing investments in semiconductors, data centres and electronics manufacturing units in the State," he said.

Adityanath said UP had 36 sectoral policies, including those covering IT/ITeS, green hydrogen, solar power, food processing and defence infrastructure, while the State had more than 75,000 acres of dedicated industrial land bank, and 27 manufacturing and logistics clusters are being developed along the expressway network.

Priority is being given to textiles and apparel, automobiles and electric mobility, chemicals and global capability centres (GCCs), with five dedicated sectoral desks established to facilitate investments. The Japan City initiative is being accompanied by a fresh wave of Japanese manufacturing investments.

Adityanath, with Governor of Nagasaki Ken Hirata and Governor of Yamanashi Kotaro Nagasaki, virtually attended the ground-breaking ceremonies for projects by Escorts Kubota and Minda Corporation.

EXPANDING PARTNERSHIP. Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw (second from left) and Shivraj Singh Chouhan (second from right) with Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath (third from left) during the UP-Japan Investment Meet 2026 PTI

GREENFIELD FACILITY

Escorts Kubota is investing around ₹2,025 crore in a greenfield facility in Sector-10 of the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA).

Shingo Hanada, President and CEO of Kubota Corporation, said India was "no longer only a market for Kubota" but was "becoming a manufacturing and engineering hub for Kubota globally". He said India was one of the world's largest and fastest growing tractor markets and played a significant role in Kubota's growth strategy for 2030.

Minda Corporation has proposed investments of ₹1,166 crore in two projects in Sector 10 and Sector 24 of YEIDA. "Between the new YEIDA units and our upcoming manufacturing facilities, we are creating meaningful employment and pushing our production capacity," said Aakash Minda, Executive Director, Minda Corporation.

businessline – 20.08.2026

CropLife India seeks data protection window

Our Bureau
Mangaluru

India's crop protection companies have urged the government to include a five-year, time-bound Protection of Regulatory Data (PRD) framework in the Draft Pesticides Management Bill, 2025, saying it would incentivise the introduction of newer, safer and lower-dose molecules.

Members of CropLife India — Crystal Crop Protection, Rallis India, Dhanuka Agritech, PI Industries and Godrej Agrovet — said a limited data-protection window would encourage companies to bring new molecules to India faster while eventually widening the pool of products available to generic manufacturers and SMEs.

The industry said the biggest beneficiary would be farmers. As climate change alters pest, weed and disease patterns and resistance builds, the limited availability of chemistries poses growing challenges. Newer molecules are more targeted, work at lower doses and have better safety profiles, potentially reducing handling risks and residues while providing more reliable crop protection.

India loses an estimated 10-35 per cent of its crop output annually to pests, weeds and diseases, amounting to around ₹2 lakh crore, according to the CropLife India-Yes Bank Knowledge Report.

Studies suggest that these losses could rise with every degree of warming.

BOOST TO EXPORTS

A modern crop-protection portfolio would also benefit domestic manufacturers and agricultural exports, the statement said. Expanding India's registered portfolio beyond the 380 molecules currently available, compared with about 1,200 molecules in use globally, could strengthen farm productivity, manufacturing competitiveness and export resilience. Indian agrochemical exporters compete with countries that already offer data protection. PRD, the companies said, would help keep India's portfolio updated with newer chemistries needed to meet tightening residue limits in export markets.

Introducing a new molecule in India costs around ₹40-50 crore and takes six to eight years of local safety, efficacy and residue studies. Without data protection, a subsequent applicant can rely on the same data within a year at a cost of about ₹75 lakh, undermining the incentive to introduce new molecules.

INDIA LAGS PEERS

A limited protection window would restore that incentive, while allowing the molecule to enter the wider market once the period ends. This, in turn, would give generic manufacturers and SMEs access to a larger pool of newer products to manufacture and export.

The industry noted that China provides six years of data protection, while Thailand, Brazil and the US provide up to 10 years. The European Union provides 10 years, extendable to 13 years for certain low-risk and biological products. India currently provides no such protection.

The companies also argued that PRD could help curb excessive competition around individual molecules. When hundreds of identical registrations drive prices sharply lower, it can encourage overuse, misuse and the proliferation of spurious and sub-standard products.

A limited protection period, they said, could reward genuine investment in quality and reduce this "race to the bottom".

India to deepen ties with Taliban govt, but formal recognition still on hold

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

India will officially recognise the Taliban government in Afghanistan "in due time" after greater clarity on security and social issues, but until then it will continue to deepen diplomatic and economic engagement with Kabul, given Afghanistan's strategic importance to the country, sources said.

"New Delhi is keen to build strong economic and diplomatic ties with Kabul, given India's longstanding relationship with Afghanistan as well as its strategic interests, particularly in the context of Afghanistan's growing differences with Pakistan and China's expanding influence in the region. While formal recognition of the Taliban regime is expected in due time, certain issues need to be addressed first, including adequate security assurances and greater clarity on inclusivity and humanitarian and social concerns," a source tracking the matter told *businessline*.

There are historic ties between the people of Afghanistan and the people of India and particularly over the last year, these relations have gained considerable momentum through diplomatic exchanges, humanitarian assistance and development cooperation programs, Minister of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at a briefing this week.

"Afghanistan's growing differences with Pakistan are one of the primary factors driving New Delhi to deepen its engagement with Kabul," the source said. India's need to counter China's expanding influence in the region is another reason.

There have already been several high-profile Afghan ministerial visits to India,

starting with Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, who met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in October 2025.

TRADE TIES

The Afghan Minister of Industry and Commerce Nooruddin Azizi visited next, leading a strong Afghan business delegation to New Delhi focusing on expanding bilateral trade and improving transit and connectivity. He was followed by Afghan Minister of Public Health Noor Jalal Jalali.

Last month, Afghan Minister for Agriculture Mawlawi Ataullah Omari visited the country and explored new avenues for collaboration in agriculture, irrigation, livestock, agricultural research, education, capacity building and agri-trade, according to the MEA.

"Details of the meetings between the Indian and Afghan Ministers were officially shared by the government despite the fact that the Taliban regime is not officially recognised by India," another source noted.

Before India officially recognises the Taliban regime, it would first want a firm assurance that Afghan territory will not be used for anti-India terrorist activities or by groups inimical to India, the source said. There is also considerable international criticism of the Taliban's record on human rights, women's rights and social inclusivity, which remains another factor that India would need to take into account before extending formal recognition.

businessline – 20.08.2026

businessline – 20.08.2026

Depression keeps monsoon active in the North and East

DEFYING FORECAST. Jharkhand 'low' lends a fresh lease of life to the rain belt

Vinson Kurian
Thiruvananthapuram

A depression expected to fade over north Jharkhand refused to weaken overnight on Tuesday, keeping a well-stocked monsoon pipeline flowing across large swathes of Northern, Eastern and North-Eastern India. By Wednesday evening, however, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the system had weakened into a well-marked low-pressure area.

The depression, centred over north Jharkhand and adjoining south-west Bihar and south-east Uttar Pradesh, was sustained by its proximity to the monsoon trough and secondary troughs. Together, they continued to funnel moisture into the system, driving rain over the Himalayan foothills and adjoining plains of North-West India, as well as East and North-East India.

S. KOREAN FORECAST

The system's persistence comes against a fresh seasonal signal from the APEC Climate Centre in Busan, South Korea, which projected an increased probability of below-normal rainfall over India during September-November. The current system, and a likely successor over the Bay of Bengal, may, therefore, offer only limited relief from the broader seasonal outlook.

For the South Peninsula, this could mean normal to below-normal rainfall during the first half of the North-East monsoon in October-November. The APEC outlook pointed to above-normal rainfall over Central India during December-February 2027, while indicating no clear surplus or deficit signal for the South Peninsula during the latter half of the North-East monsoon.

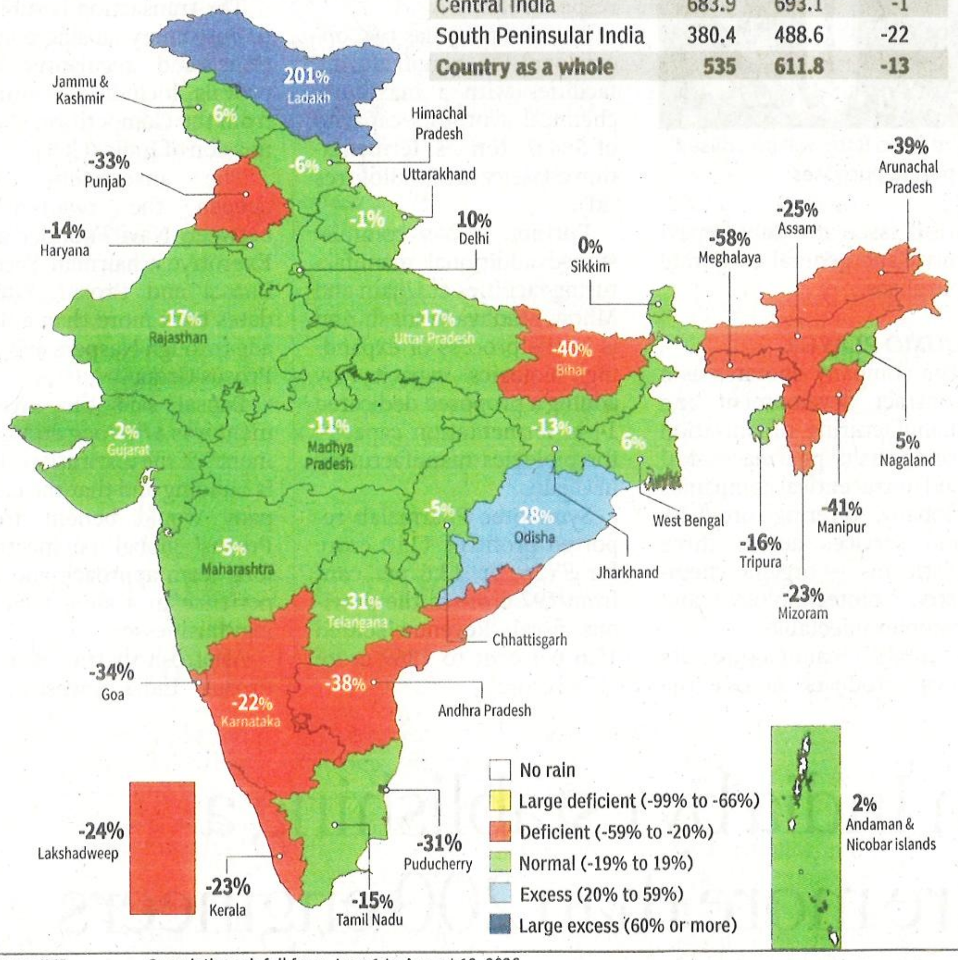
Continuing deficit

Cumulative rainfall in 738 districts, per data received (June 1 to July 15)

Large excess: **3%** | Deficient: **41%**
Excess: **11%** | Large deficient: **5%**
Normal: **39%** | No rain: **1%**

Rainfall (in mm) upto Aug 19

Region	Actual	Normal	% departure from LPA
East & N-E India	715.9	960.1	-25
N-W India	377	420.9	-10
Central India	683.9	693.1	-1
South Peninsular India	380.4	488.6	-22
Country as a whole	**535**	**611.8**	**-13**



Source: IMD Cumulative rainfall from June 1 to August 19, 2026

N-W & CENTRAL INDIA

In the near term, the low is expected to keep the monsoon active along the Himalayan foothills and adjoining plains. Isolated heavy rain is likely over Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Thursday and Friday, east Uttar Pradesh from Thursday for three days, Uttarakhand for six days and west Uttar Pradesh on Thursday. The rain belt will spill into Central India. West Madhya Pradesh is likely to receive isolated heavy rain for two days, with another spell possible on Sunday and Monday, while east Madhya Pradesh could see heavy rain for three days from Sunday. Very heavy rain is likely over east Madhya Pradesh for three days from Thursday, west Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, and Chhattisgarh on Thursday and Friday.

EAST AND N-E

In the North-East, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya could receive isolated heavy rain for six days, while Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura are in line for five days. West Bengal and Sikkim are likely to get isolated heavy rain over the next two days.