COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015



News Relating to Cotton and Textile Sector

Date-20-11-2026

Sr. No.	Topics	Page No.
News Relating to Cotton and Textile Sector		
1	CAI's Spot Rates- 20th November 2026	3
2	ICE Cotton Futures: 19th November 2026	4
3	Cotlook "A" Index: 19th November 2026	4
4	India and Italy seek closer trade and investment ties at Rome talks	4-6
5	China's Cotton Imports Fall 30%, While Cotton Yarn Imports Rise 36% in October 2026	6-7
6	Parbhani APMC Begins Cotton Auctions for 2026-27	7-8
7	Cotton Prices Rise to ₹9,400 per Quintal in Gangapur; Farmers Hope for ₹10,000	8-9
8	US cotton export sales weaken, Upland shipments hit new low	9-10
9	US cotton futures recover but remain under pressure	10-12
10	Centre Proposes ₹16,000 Crore National Fibre Scheme to Strengthen Domestic Fibre Production	12-13

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

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

Mumbai, Friday 20th November 2026 at 3.00 P.M.

UPCOUNTRY SPOT RATES

Standard Descriptions with Basic Grade & Staple in Millimetres based on Upper Half Mean Length As per CAI By-laws								Rs. per Quintal	Rs. per Candy	Variation + (Plus) - (Minus)	Rs. per Quintal	Rs. per Candy	Variation + (Plus) - (Minus)
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Gravimetric Trash %	Strength / GPT	2026-27	2026-27		2025-26	2025-26	
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	4%	15	15466	55000	(+100)	N.A.	N.A.	
2	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	15%	20	N.A.	N.A.		13723	48800	(-200)
3	P / H / R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	17744	63100	(+100)	N.A.	N.A.	
4	M/M(P) /SA/TL/GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
5	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
6	P/ H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	17856	63500	(+100)	N.A.	N.A.	
7	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
8	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	17772	63200	(N.C.)	N.A.	N.A.	
9	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
10	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	4.0%	27	17772	63200	(+100)	N.A.	N.A.	
11	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	18587	66100	(+100)	N.A.	N.A.	
12	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18559	66000	(N.C.)	N.A.	N.A.	
13	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18503	65800	(N.C.)	N.A.	N.A.	
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18559	66000	(N.C.)	N.A.	N.A.	
15	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	18756	66700	(-100)	N.A.	N.A.	
16	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	18728	66600	(-200)	N.A.	N.A.	
17	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	19009	67600	(-200)	N.A.	N.A.	
18	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
19	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5 – 4.9	3%	31	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
20	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	33	26011	92500	(N.C.)	N.A.	N.A.	
21	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	26573	94500	(N.C.)	N.A.	N.A.	
22	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	26855	95500	(N.C.)	N.A.	N.A.	
23	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	35	27108	96400	(N.C.)	N.A.	N.A.	

Note:1 Official spot rates are fixed and registered by CAI on the basis of average price inclusive of spot brokerage as per respective State Dharas, and for 15 days credit from the date of passing and cash discount @ 15% per annum, except for Northern area (excluding Lower Rajasthan), in which case spot rates fixed and registered are for payment terms: 7 days from the date of pressing at Upcountry Spot Markets ex-gin, excluding Tax. These rates are for domestic transaction only

2 P/H/R(U) ICS-202 (SG) rate is lower by Rs. 1000/ pc than Sr. no. 3

3 Strength:Grams per tex (HVI Mode) (Prorate basis)
a) 1 gpt pts lower Rs 500/pc
b) 2 gpt pts lower Rs 1,000/pc
c) 3 gpt pts lower Rs 2,000/pc
d) 4 gpt pts lower Rs 3,000/pc

4 Staple length : Upper Half Mean Length

5 Gravimetric Trash Percentage

6 Moisture by probe method maximum 9%

7 Base Grade 'Fine' of bulk of the cotton of the staple length range of 29mm to
(i) Colour grade 31/3 (ii) RD 75

8 In Rates acceptable up to a maximum 5.50 Micronaire with proportionate discount @ Rs.150/- per point per candy over 4.9 Micronaire

9 For M/M(P)/SA/TL/GUJ-Sr No. 4 are for 67 Rd

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

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

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

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

Secretary

ICE Cotton Futures: 19-11-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE					19 Nov 2026	
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Dec-26	74.85	76.46	74.85	75.95	▲0.98	15,178
Mar-27	79.00	80.48	78.88	79.51	▲0.63	1,50,224
May-27	80.35	81.90	80.35	80.85	▲0.51	77,364
Jul-27	80.98	82.25	80.90	81.29	▲0.48	43,570
Oct-27	0.00	76.47	76.47	76.47	▲0.26	22
Dec-27	75.60	76.44	75.60	75.79	▲0.19	41,300
Mar-28	76.60	76.87	76.50	76.59	▲0.16	2,583

Cotlook Index: 19-11-2026

87.35 (-2.50)

India and Italy seek closer trade and investment ties at Rome talks

Thursday, 19th Nov. 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights
India and Italy reaffirmed a €20 billion (~$22 billion) trade target for 2029 at the 23rd JCEC in Rome, led by Piyush Goyal and Antonio Tajani.
Ministers reviewed trade, investment and industrial cooperation and welcomed concluded India-EU FTA talks to expand market access and strengthen supply chains.
Goyal met Italian firms; a Rome forum drew around 80 Indian delegates and 12 startups.

India and Italy reaffirmed a shared target of achieving €20 billion (~$22 billion) in bilateral trade by 2029 during the 23rd Session of the India–Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC),

co-chaired in Rome on November 18, 2026, by India's Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Antonio Tajani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The ministers reviewed progress in bilateral economic and commercial cooperation and discussed steps to expand trade, investment and industrial partnerships. They also reaffirmed commitment to strengthening the India-Italy Special Strategic Partnership, building on the Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029 and the outcomes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Italy in May 2026.

Discussions covered automotive and aerospace, Industry 4.0, agriculture and agri-technology, connectivity and energy, critical minerals, science and innovation, culture and tourism, skills development and entrepreneurship. The two sides highlighted complementarities between India's growing manufacturing capabilities and skilled workforce and Italy's strengths in advanced manufacturing, engineering, machinery and technology, while encouraging greater industry participation, joint ventures, technology partnerships and integration into global value chains.

The ministers welcomed the successful conclusion of negotiations on the India-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and discussed its potential to expand market access, increase trade and investment flows and strengthen supply chains. In that context, they underlined the need to diversify trade and scale up investments, the ministry said in a press release.

During the visit, Goyal addressed the India-Italy Business and Innovation Forum in Rome, which brought together senior government leaders, industry associations and Italian companies, along with around 80 Indian business delegates, including 12 startups. Ahead of the forum, he interacted with the Indian business delegation on opportunities for Indian businesses in Italy and the wider European market, including those arising from the India-EU FTA.

Three sectoral roundtables were organised as part of the forum to explore opportunities arising from the complementary strengths of the two economies. The pharmaceuticals and chemicals roundtable identified partnership opportunities in pharmaceutical manufacturing, active pharmaceutical ingredients, speciality chemicals, biotechnology and joint research and development.

The industrial machinery and agri-food roundtable highlighted opportunities in automation, technology transfer, food-processing machinery, cold-chain infrastructure and packaging, aimed at reducing post-harvest losses and enhancing value addition. The automotive roundtable explored collaboration in electric and next-generation mobility, components, research and innovation, and sustainable manufacturing. Across the roundtables, participants emphasised joint ventures, investment partnerships and technology sharing as ways to translate discussions into business outcomes.

The Innovation Forum was opened by Mauro Battocchi, director general for growth and export promotion, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, and Vani Rao, Ambassador of India to Italy. Goyal participated throughout the forum and interacted with Indian and

Italian delegates, encouraging both sides to explore collaboration and synergy in sustainability and technology and to build on the complementary strengths of the two innovation ecosystems.

At the plenary session, business associations presented the outcomes of the Business Forum, followed by addresses by Tajani and Goyal. The sessions highlighted complementarities between the two economies and the shared commitment of India and Italy to deepen their economic partnership.

In their bilateral meeting, the two ministers reviewed the full range of bilateral economic and commercial relations and discussed ways to further strengthen trade, investment and industrial cooperation. They reaffirmed their commitment to translating the vision of the two Prime Ministers into tangible outcomes through sustained engagement and closer business partnerships, added the release.

China's Cotton Imports Fall 30%, While Cotton Yarn Imports Rise 36% in October 2026

Friday, 20th Nov. 2026, by Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

China's Cotton Imports Drop by 30%, Cotton Yarn Imports Rise by 36%; Understanding the Market Shift

China: A significant shift is being observed in import trends within China's cotton market. In October 2026, imports of raw cotton fell by 30.1 percent compared to the previous year, while imports of cotton yarn increased by 36.2 percent. This trend points to a growing reliance within China's textile industry on imported cotton yarn rather than raw cotton.

According to the latest data from the General Administration of Customs, China imported approximately 60,000 tonnes of cotton in October—a 30.1 percent decline from the same period last year—with a total import value of 784 million yuan. However, for the period from January to October 2026, China's total cotton imports reached approximately 1.22 million tonnes, an increase of 58.1 percent year-on-year.

Conversely, cotton yarn imports in October stood at approximately 190,000 tonnes, up 36.2 percent from the previous year. The value of these imports reached 3.253 billion yuan, marking an increase of 48.6 percent. From January to October, total cotton yarn imports reached approximately 1.8 million tonnes, 52.5 percent higher than the previous year.

Signs of Stabilization in Cotton Imports

While China's cotton imports had seen a month-on-month decline of 32.05 percent in September, they remained relatively stable in October. Industry analysts point to several key reasons for this.

First, by the end of September 2026, China held approximately 200,000 tonnes of unused cotton import quota—comprising both the 1 percent tariff quota and the sliding-scale tariff quota. This may help in meeting import requirements during the October–December period.

Secondly, since mid-October, there has been a decline in ICE cotton futures and the main CF2701 contract on the Zhengzhou Cotton Exchange (ZCE). This has enhanced the cost advantage of importing foreign cotton.

Thirdly, concerns have emerged regarding the quality of cotton from Brazil's 2025/26 crop and the United States' 2026/27 crop. Consequently, traders and textile mills have shown interest in the older-crop cotton currently available at ports.

Furthermore, the Chinese yuan strengthened against the US dollar in October—rising by 0.84 percent in the offshore market and 0.75 percent in the onshore market—which provided support for imports.

Overall, the decline in raw cotton imports into China, coupled with an increase in cotton yarn imports, reflects shifting trends in international cotton trade.

Parbhani APMC Begins Cotton Auctions for 2026-27

Friday, 20th Nov. 2026, by Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Open Auction for Cotton Begins at Parbhani APMC; Guidelines Issued for Farmers

Maharashtra: The open auction for cotton for the 2026-27 Kharif season commenced on Thursday, November 19, at 11:00 AM at the TMC Market Yard of the Parbhani Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC). This season, cotton procurement will be conducted through private traders. In light of this, the Market Committee has issued essential guidelines for farmers.

The APMC administration has urged farmers not to take their cotton produce directly to the ginning mills. Farmers must ensure their vehicles reach the TMC Market Yard by 11:00 AM; arriving late may cause complications in the auction process. Furthermore, farmers are requested to park their vehicles in an orderly queue at the designated locations.

Once the open auction process is complete, farmers must obtain their transaction slip (sauda-patti). Only after receiving this document will they be permitted to transport their produce to the assigned ginning mill.

Appeal to Bring Clean and Dry Cotton

The Market Committee has requested farmers to bring only clean and dry cotton for sale. Farmers are advised against bringing wet or damp cotton. Additionally, they are instructed to keep high-quality

cotton separate from lower-quality stock. This will help prevent disputes regarding quality and market pricing during the auction and ensure that farmers receive a fair price for their produce.

Farmers Advised to Beware of Unlicensed Traders

The APMC administration has noted that some traders are engaging in the purchase and sale of agricultural produce within the jurisdiction of the Parbhani APMC without a valid market license. The Market Committee has urged farmers to report any such traders to the APMC office, so that appropriate legal action can be taken against them under the provisions of the Agricultural Produce Market Act. APMC Chairman Pandharinath Ghule, Vice-Chairman Ajay Chavan, the Board of Directors, and Secretary Sanjay Talnikar have appealed to farmers not to be swayed by unauthorized traders. They have advised farmers to sell their agricultural produce only to traders who hold a valid APMC license. Farmers must ensure they obtain an official receipt and a settlement statement after every transaction.

The Market Committee has urged farmers to bring their cotton produce to the APMC market yard and sell it through an open auction, following the prescribed procedure.

Cotton Prices Rise to ₹9,400 per Quintal in Gangapur; Farmers Hope for ₹10,000

Friday, 20th Nov. 2026, by Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)



Cotton Prices Reach ₹9,400 per Quintal in Gangapur; Farmers Eye the ₹10,000 Mark

Maharashtra | Cotton prices in the Gangapur region are witnessing an upward trend once again. Despite the central government extending the exemption on import duty for cotton, prices in the domestic market have climbed to ₹9,400 per quintal. Before Diwali, cotton prices had dipped by ₹400 to ₹500 per quintal, but the market has rebounded following the festival. Meanwhile, arrivals at the mandis (agricultural markets) have declined due to lower production and the decision by farmers to hold back their produce. Farmers are hopeful that cotton prices could reach ₹10,000 per quintal in the coming days.

To address the demands of the textile industry, the central government had decided to waive the 11 percent import duty on cotton. This exemption, initially valid until October 31, has now been extended until December 31. The import duty waiver had exerted downward pressure on domestic cotton prices, causing them to fall from ₹9,200 per quintal to a range of ₹8,000–₹8,500 per quintal. However, market conditions shifted after Diwali, leading to a recovery in prices.

Expectations of Prices Reaching ₹10,000 per Quintal

Farmers argue that current cotton prices are insufficient given the rising costs of cultivation. Considering the expenses incurred on fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, and labor, farmers are seeking better returns. Consequently, many have chosen to store their produce at home rather than selling it immediately. Farmers remain optimistic that if the current market momentum continues, the price of cotton could climb to ₹10,000 per quintal. Lower Yield Leads to Reduced Cotton Arrivals in the Market

In Gangapur taluka, cotton was cultivated over an area of approximately 45,083 hectares this season. While the crop condition was initially good, it was subsequently affected by a lack of sufficient rainfall after July and an erratic monsoon. Consequently, there has been a decline in cotton yields.

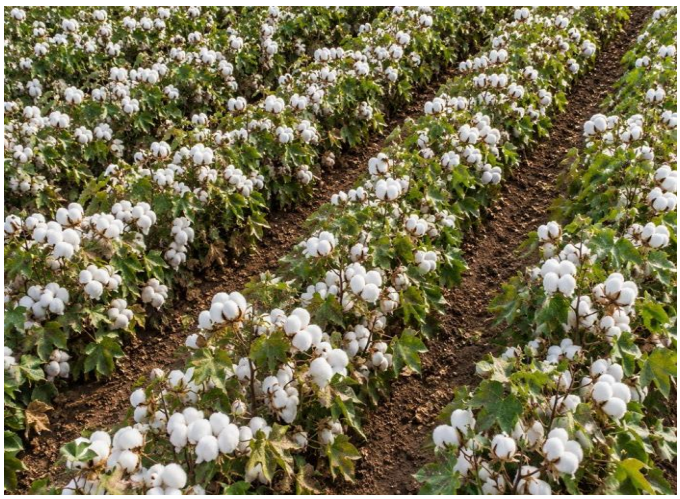
Market arrivals have decreased due to lower production and the decision by farmers to delay the sale of their cotton. As a result, traders are unable to procure sufficient quantities. Under the current circumstances, prices in the domestic market are finding support. If arrivals remain low while demand persists, cotton prices could see further increases in the coming days.

US cotton export sales weaken, Upland shipments hit new low

Friday, 20th Nov. 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights
US cotton export sales weakened in the week ended November 12, 2026, with Upland sales down 25 per cent to 118,700 RB and shipments at a marketing-year low of 117,800 RB.
Turkiye led Upland buying with 45,800 RB, while Vietnam was the top shipment destination at 44,200 RB.
Pima sales were 80 per cent above the four-week average, led by India.

US cotton export sales weakened during the week ended November 12, 2026, as Upland cotton sales declined sharply and export shipments reached a new marketing-year low. Pima cotton sales remained relatively strong compared with the four-week average, supported primarily by demand from India, according to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).



Net sales of Upland cotton for the 2026–27 marketing year totalled 118,700 RB (running bales, each weighing approximately 226.8 kg), down 25 per cent from the previous week and 44 per cent below the prior four-week average. Sales were also significantly lower than the 277,500 RB recorded during the week ended October 29.

Turkiye emerged as the largest buyer with 45,800 RB, followed by Bangladesh (14,500 RB), Indonesia (13,400 RB), Vietnam (9,100 RB) and Peru (7,700 RB). These increases were partly offset by reductions for unknown destinations (2,200 RB) and India (400 RB). Additional sales of 2,100 RB for the 2027-28 marketing year were reported for Mexico.

Upland cotton export shipments declined by 31 per cent to a marketing-year low of 117,800 RB, also 29 per cent below the four-week average. Vietnam remained the leading destination with 44,200 RB, followed by Mexico (24,000 RB), Pakistan (13,000 RB), Malaysia (10,400 RB) and Bangladesh (6,300 RB).

Meanwhile, Pima cotton net sales reached 10,600 RB, down 30 per cent from the previous week but 80 per cent above the four-week average. India was the largest buyer with 11,000 RB, while Japan purchased 100 RB. Reductions of 400 RB were reported for Bangladesh.

Pima cotton export shipments fell by 56 per cent to 3,100 RB, a decline of 51 per cent from the four-week average. India remained the leading destination with 1,700 RB, followed by China (900 RB), Bangladesh (200 RB), Thailand (200 RB) and Indonesia (100 RB).

Overall, the latest USDA data indicated subdued demand and weaker export shipment activity for US cotton. While Turkiye led Upland purchases and India dominated Pima buying, the decline in shipments highlighted continued weakness in export movement despite purchasing interest from major textile-producing countries.

US cotton futures recover but remain under pressure

Friday, 20th Nov. 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

US cotton futures recovered modestly on Thursday, November 19, 2026, following the previous session's sharp decline, but prices remained near recent lows amid weak export sales, a strengthening US dollar and continued liquidation. The March 2027 contract gained 63 points, or 0.80 per cent, to settle at 79.51 cents per pound. However, the contract remained 310 points lower for the week, reflecting persistent bearish sentiment.

Insights
US cotton futures recovered modestly on November 19, with March 2027 up 0.80 per cent at 79.51 cents per pound, but still 310 points lower for the week.
USDA data showed current-year Upland net sales fell 25 per cent week on week and 44 per cent below the four-week average.
A stronger US dollar, liquidation and cautious risk appetite kept sentiment bearish.



Other cotton futures contracts advanced by 15–98 points during the session, although they remained 169–351 points lower for the week. March cotton continued to trade near Wednesday's low of 78.83 cents, its weakest level since November 10. Trading volume eased to 92,616 contracts from 105,080 in the previous session, indicating reduced market participation during the modest recovery.

Market positioning continued to weaken. Total futures open interest declined by 9,806 contracts to 330,857, marking the 18th decline in the past 20 sessions and the lowest level since August 3. Open interest has fallen by 71,407 contracts from the October 21 record of 402,264, reflecting substantial liquidation despite historically elevated outstanding positions.

The US Department of Agriculture's weekly export sales report added to market concerns. For the week ended November 12, total net cotton sales across crop years stood at 131,402 bales, comprising 120,775 bales of Upland cotton and 10,627 bales of Pima cotton. Current marketing-year Upland net sales reached 118,660 bales, down 25 per cent from the previous week and 44 per cent below the four-week average.

Turkiye emerged as the largest buyer with 45,755 bales, followed by Bangladesh with 14,038 bales, Indonesia with 13,399 bales and India with 10,531 bales. China purchased only 5,280 bales. Total export commitments for the 2026–27 marketing year stood at 6.46 million bales, while weekly export shipments reached 120,879 bales. Cumulative export shipments for the marketing year totalled approximately 2.55 million bales.

A stronger US dollar continued to weigh on cotton sentiment. The dollar reached another intraday high, its strongest level in approximately 19½ months, making US cotton relatively more expensive for overseas buyers. Weakness in global equities and precious metals further reduced risk appetite, although crude oil recovered marginally following the previous session's sharp decline.

Market analyst Rogers Varner indicated that weak export sales had largely been anticipated, while lower cotton prices could potentially encourage buying interest in the coming weeks. He considered prices in the mid-to-upper 70-cent range relatively inexpensive based on market fundamentals and expected a recovery towards spring, although the timing of a market bottom remained uncertain.

Meanwhile, ICE certificated cotton stocks remained unchanged at 84,978 bales. Attention is now shifting to the December contract's first notice day on November 23, with liquidation expected to remain an important market influence.

The near-term outlook remains cautious, as Thursday's modest recovery failed to reverse the week's substantial losses. Traders will closely monitor upcoming USDA export sales data, movements in the US dollar, Federal Reserve policy expectations and whether the March contract can sustain support near its recent low of 78.83 cents.

This morning (Indian Standard Time), March 2027 cotton traded at 79.08 cents per pound (down 0.43 cent). Cash cotton was quoted at 80.51 cents (up 0.51 cent), while the December 2026 contract traded at 76.68 cents (down 0.27 cent). The May 2027 contract traded at 80.23 cents (down 0.62 cent), the July 2027 contract at 80.75 cents (down 0.54 cent), and the October 2027 contract at 76.47 cents (up 0.26 cent). A few contracts remained at their previous closing levels, with no trading recorded so far today.

Centre Proposes ₹16,000 Crore National Fibre Scheme to Strengthen Domestic Fibre Production

Friday, 20th Nov. 2026, (Source: www.textilevaluechain.in)

Proposed five-year programme offers subsidies covering 25% to 75% of project costs, with assistance planned for cultivation, machinery, marketing infrastructure and research

The Ministry of Textiles has proposed an outlay of around ₹16,000 crore over five years for the National Fibre Scheme (NFS), aimed at strengthening domestic production of natural and new-age fibres and reducing import dependence. The initiative also seeks to position India as a global hub for high-quality fibres.

Announced in the Union Budget for FY27 as part of an integrated programme for the textile sector, the proposed scheme will cover multiple fibre segments, including silk, wool and jute. It is intended to bring greater uniformity to government assistance across these segments.

"The scheme is at the approval stage," an official said.

Under the proposed framework, financial assistance will range from 25% to 75% of project costs, depending on the nature of the intervention, a second official said.

"Most assistance to farmers, artisans and entrepreneurs is proposed at 40-50% of the unit cost, with the balance from the beneficiary, state or institutional credit," the official said, adding that the rates are indicative and subject to the final approval.

Subsidies Proposed for Cultivation and Farm Infrastructure

The proposed assistance structure includes a 40% subsidy for cultivation inputs such as seeds, planting material and disinfectants. Farm mechanisation and infrastructure for seeds, plantations and irrigation are proposed to receive 50% support.

Machinery subsidies will vary according to the scale of operations. The proposal provides 50% assistance for small-scale machinery used by artisans and weavers, 30% for medium-scale machinery and 25% for large-scale machinery.

The scheme also proposes 40% assistance for marketing infrastructure and ecommerce initiatives. Innovation and research and development projects could receive assistance of 60%.

Employment, Fibre Quality and Supply Chain Development

The NFS aims to generate employment and develop skills, particularly among women and rural youth. Other objectives include increasing fibre production, improving quality, modernising primary processing and promoting greater value addition.

The programme also seeks to establish an organised supply chain from farm to fibre and encourage research and innovation.

The National Fibre Scheme will succeed Silk Samagra-2, the National Jute Development Programme and the Integrated Wool Development Programme, which ran up to 2025-26.

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015

Cotton Exchange Building, 2nd Floor,
Opp. Cotton Green Railway Station,
Cotton Green (East), Mumbai 400033,
Maharashtra, INDIA

Tel.: +91 8657442944/45/46/47/48
E-mail: cai@caionline.in

www.caionline.in

CAI Laboratory locations :

(Recognised by BIS)

- **Maharashtra :** Mumbai; Akola; Aurangabad; Jalgaon; Nagpur
- **Gujarat :** Rajkot; Ahmedabad
- **Andhra Pradesh :** Adoni
- **Madhya Pradesh :** Khargone
- **Karnataka :** Hubli
- **Punjab :** Bathinda
- **Telangana:** Warangal; Adilabad

ISO17025:2017 (NABL) accredited CAI labs at : Mumbai, Jalgaon, Adoni & Warangal

CAI in Service of Nation



Cotton Testing Laboratories



Maintain Indian Cotton Grade Standards



Indian Cotton Spot Rates



Arbitration Conciliation and Meditation Mechanism



Cotton Research and Development



Issue Certificate of Origin



Indian Cotton Statistics



Publications

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

businessline – 20.11.2026

Cyclone Akvan moves away from south AP coast

Vinson Kurian
Thiruvananthapuram

Severe cyclone Akvan gathered lateral speed, moving at 17 km/hr over the west-central Bay of Bengal and northwards on Thursday, almost 24 hours ahead of its forecast landfall.

It was centred about 390 km east-southeast of Narsapur, 350 km south-southeast of Kalingapatnam, 430 km south of Gopalpur and 490 km south of Puri.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) expects it to move north-northwestward and cross North Andhra Pradesh and Yanam and South Odisha coasts between Narsapur and Puri, close to Gopalpur, by Friday noon, with a maximum sustained wind speed of 90-100 km/hr gusting to 110 km/hr.

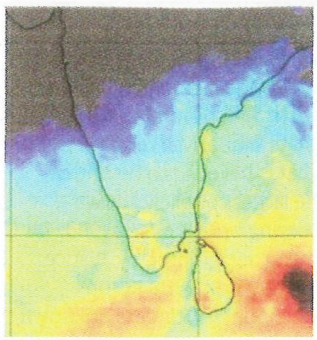
The cyclone appears increasingly inclined to give the southern Andhra Pradesh coast a miss, where it was earlier expected to make landfall, and has instead set its sights further east-northeast. The IMD warned of isolated, extremely heavy rainfall over coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam on Friday as Akvan closes in.

REVISED LANDFALL AREA

Both the cyclone's intensity and its likely landfall corridor have been revised, underscoring the considerable difficulty forecasters faced in pinning down its course. Gopalpur, which was once regarded as an outside possibility, has now moved into the thick of the reckoning for landfall.

There is, however, little unanimity among the models. Google DeepMind flagged the possibility of Akvan weakening in two stages to a deep depression, one rung below cyclone intensity, before eventually crossing the coast. It also sharply pared the probability of landfall anywhere along India's East Coast to 23 per cent.

Some other models suggest that the storm could veer farther east-northeast towards the Bangladesh-Myanmar coast, a scenario that Google DeepMind entertained during the cyclone's formative phase before switching its preference midway to Andhra Pradesh.



The IMD joined global peers in predicting showers over South India from next week

CAUGHT IN CROSSFIRE

Much of the uncertainty stems from Akvan being caught in the crossfire of two large, mutually repelling anticyclones — one over the Arabian Sea and the other straddling Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia, with its influence spilling into the Bay and grazing the cyclone's towering circulation.

Strong winds in the upper levels are helping steer the organised storm system towards Odisha and, potentially, even West Bengal, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

SHOWERS OVER TN

Sea-surface temperatures are much cooler (27°C) towards the north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha coasts, likely decelerating the storm. A fresh circulation could even take shape off Sri Lanka in early December.

The IMD has forecast isolated thunderstorms, lightning and heavy rainfall over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal on Monday and Tuesday, Kerala and Mahe on Tuesday, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam on Saturday, and Telangana on Friday.

businessline – 20.11.2026

Chhattisgarh farmers gain from crop diversification, modernisation reforms

Our Bureau
Mangaluru



Measures undertaken by the Chhattisgarh government, such as diversifying crops, expanding irrigation, subsidising farm machinery and promoting modern technology, have helped farmers increase output and secure better prices for their produce.

A media statement by the government said the benefits of advanced farming were visible across the state, with new technology and modern equipment, along with government schemes and efforts to connect farm products with markets. These had resulted in a significant improvement in prospects for farmers.

Government subsidies for advanced farm machinery had resulted in reducing the time and cost involved for ploughing, sowing, transplanting, weeding, harvesting and cleaning crops. Over the past two years, 8,567 farm machines had been distributed to beneficiaries.

FY27 SUBSIDIES

For 2026-27, subsidies had been provided for 228 tractors, 10 combine harvesters, 190 paddy transplanters, self-propelled reapers and 409 power-operated implements as of October 16.

The Chhattisgarh government has set up 678 farm machinery banks and six agricultural drone service centres in selected villages. Grants of ₹6 lakh to ₹24 lakh are available to establish a farm machinery bank, while grants of up to ₹5 lakh are available for an agricultural drone service centre. Subsidies of up to ₹16 lakh are being provided for harvesters, helping small farmers access modern equipment at lower cost.

To encourage crop diversification, the State is providing assistance of ₹15,000 per acre under the Krishak Unnati Yojana to farmers who grow pulses, oilseeds, maize, kodo, kutki, ragi or cotton instead of paddy.

It aims to reduce the dependence on paddy, improve soil health, conserve water and create new sources of income for farmers.

businessline – 20.11.2026

Curbs on chemical pesticide can save many lives

Phasing out hazardous pesticides will not only prevent suicides but also ensure agricultural and environmental safety

P Indira Devi

The recent actions by the Centre provides a particularly important policy development in pesticide use in agriculture .

On September 22, the Centre prohibited the registration of paraquat dichloride, a widely used herbicide classified as a Highly Hazardous Pesticide (HHP). The regulation of highly hazardous pesticides has implications that extend beyond agricultural and environmental safety to public health and suicide prevention. There is growing evidence that restricting or phasing out HHPs can contribute to suicide prevention.

More than 70 countries have prohibited paraquat, while others have imposed stringent restrictions. There has been reports of paraquat-related deaths in several States, including Telangana, Odisha and Tamil Nadu. Even small amounts of this chemical can cause fatal poisoning, and there is no specific antidote. Evidence has additionally linked exposure of the chemical to a range of chronic health effects — neurological, liver, kidney, gastrointestinal and respiratory impacts.

The significance of pesticides in this context arises from a distinctive feature of agricultural societies: toxic chemicals are often stored within or close to households and are readily accessible to farmers and agricultural workers. When an HHP is readily available, an act that might otherwise have resulted in a non-fatal poisoning can result in death because of the intrinsic toxicity of the substance.

FARMERS AT RISK

Accidental poisoning due to pesticides occur during the manufacturing, transportation, sale, handling or spraying operations, or due to careless storage and handling at farm households and premises. The exposed populations are workers in production units, supply chain, retail trade, farmers, farm workers and neighbouring population, including children. There were 4,67,857 cases of total accidental deaths, reported in 2024. Of these, the numbers due to accidental poisoning were 21,721 of which one-third was due to chemical pesticide exposure.

Intentional intake of poison is the major method of suicide — one quarter of the victims follow this method. In 63 per cent cases the poison is chemical pesticide. Over a span of 21 years 4,89,992 suicides are reported by pesticide ingestion of which nearly one-third victims are women. Together, accidental and suicidal deaths due to pesticide exposure is estimated at 34,726 in 2024. This issue is particularly severe in rural communities, where HHPs are often stored unsafely in households and the retail sale is poorly regulated, making the access easy.



HHP. Societal threat GIRI KVS

Thus, reducing access to HHPs can constitute an important form of means restriction in suicide prevention. Pesticide regulation alone cannot eliminate suicide. Rather, it can reduce the probability that an impulsive act, occupational exposure or accidental ingestion will result in death.

National bans on HHPs have been linked to reduced suicide rates in Bangladesh, South Korea, and Sri Lanka. Consequently, the prohibition on the registration of paraquat dichloride should be seen as part of a broader strategy of means restriction and safer agricultural chemical management, rather than as a stand-alone suicide-prevention measure.

The long-term objective should therefore be broader than the prohibition of individual chemicals. India needs a cohesive policy for the progressive reduction of highly hazardous pesticides, accompanied by safer crop-protection technologies and stronger monitoring of pesticide-related morbidity and mortality. Reducing access to highly hazardous pesticides is simultaneously an agricultural safety measure, an environmental intervention and a potentially important life-saving public-health measure.

Addressing the link between pesticide use and suicide necessitates a comprehensive strategy. This strategy should encompass stricter regulation of pesticide access, improved data collection, and public health initiatives to mitigate both immediate and long-term health risks. The proposed Pesticide Management Bill 2020 aims to promote sustainable agricultural practices through eco-friendly technologies but has yet to be enacted.

Furthermore, the decision to permit online trade of chemical pesticides via e-commerce platforms warrants reconsideration. Without more stringent regulations and effective oversight in the trade, handling, and management of chemical pesticides, reducing suicide rates will remain a significant challenge.

The writer is ICAR Emeritus Professor, Kerala Agricultural University

The Economic Times – 20.11.2026

EVEN AS DIVERSIFICATION CALLS GAIN GROUND...

Bengal's Jute Sector Faces a Grim 'Gunny Bag Dilemma'

Industry eyes a green future but remains tethered to assured govt packaging orders for survival, growth

Sayantan Sarkar

Kolkata: Even as the world searches for biodegradable alternatives to plastic, West Bengal's jute industry remains financially strapped, churning out low-margin gunny bags for government foodgrains. Once the engine of Bengal's industrial growth, employing nearly half its workforce before Independence, the golden fibre is now trapped in a state of artificial respiration.

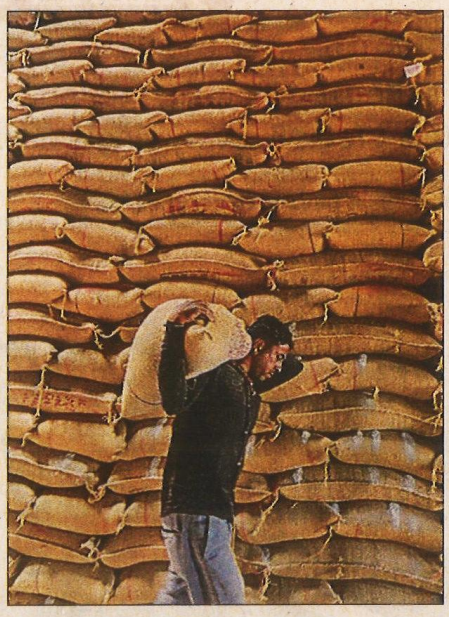
Despite losing most of its fertile jute-growing land to East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) during Partition, Bengal still supplies 80% of India's raw jute. Yet, its survival leans heavily on the Jute Packaging Materials Act (JPMA) of 1987, which mandates jute bags for foodgrains and sugar. While this keeps mills running, an archaic government pricing formula leaves them financially strangled whenever supply shocks or hoarding trigger spikes in raw material prices.

"The fundamental problem is a lack of entrepreneurial development," said Dr. Samir Baran Roy, principal scientist and in-charge of the Technology Transfer Division at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research – National Institute of Natural Fibre Engineering and Technology (ICAR-NINFET), Kolkata. "During the British era, these mills were run by industrial entrepreneurs. Today, the owners are essentially traders. They are content with a guaranteed, cost-plus system where the government bears the raw material and conversion costs. With an assured buyer, they have no motivation to diversify into high-value global markets."

However, Raghavendra Gupta, chairman of the Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA), counters that mills have actively driven tech upgrades. "There is a misrepresentation that the industry is not modernising," Gupta stated. "Most jute mills have spent over ₹5,000 crore over the last decade on modernising infrastructure. Whatever new, viable technology is available, the industry is adopting thick and fast."

This debate unfolds amid a sharp cyclical turnaround. Driven by last season's record prices, Bengal's farmers expanded jute acreage by 20% to 5.82 lakh hectares, pushing harvest projections to 95 lakh bales. This supply influx has cooled spot prices from a July peak of 19,000 rupees per quintal to roughly 12,500 rupees, allowing shuttered Hooghly mills to resume full shifts.

According to a September CRISIL Ratings report, softer fibre costs, which make up 60-65% of operating costs, will drive a 15% bounce-back in sales volumes and expand operating margins by 130 basis points to nearly 9%. "While improving demand will support revenue growth, profitability is likely to receive an even larger boost from easing raw material costs," said Rahul Guha, senior director at CRISIL Ratings.



Yet, researchers argue this breathing room masks a systemic failure to capture premium markets. ICAR-NINFET developed advanced retting technologies that cut biological processing time from 21 days to 12 days, boosting fibre strength and grade. "But the market infrastructure doesn't reward quality," Dr. Roy noted. "Middlemen (farias) buy fibre from smallholders at a flat rate. If a farmer produces a higher grade, he gets the exact same price as a low-grade bale. As long as the JPMA shield exists, true diversification will remain frozen."

For mill owners, the shift away from sacking is stalled by a lack of commercial scale. "Today, about 80% of our market is still gunny bags," said Gupta. "Outside of jute shopping bags, which make up just 2 to 3% of the product basket, we haven't been able to develop anything of substantial volume. Trials are ongoing for jute geotextiles, but no major commercial demand has emerged."

To stimulate demand, millers want a blanket ban on single-use plastic packaging, while retaining the JPMA shield as "the vital backbone for mill capacity utilisation."

Meanwhile, the sector's reliance on government cushioning leaves workers exposed. Trade unions estimate nearly two-thirds of the workforce operates without formal categorisation as temporary or daily-rated workers. Gupta maintains this is purely an operational necessity: "It is our first choice to enroll workers on the company roster. Seasonal production circumstances force the hiring of temporary workers to balance manufacturing. Any temporary worker who wishes to get enrolled on formal rolls is most welcome."

For Bengal's oldest legacy sector, solutions remain starkly divided. While industry bodies seek continued state protection, researchers argue that true innovation requires standing alone.

"If we want this industry to compete globally and truly diversify, the mandatory packaging act needs to be abolished," concludes Dr. Roy. "Without the crutch of assured government orders, competition will finally force mills to seek new markets, upgrade facilities, and minimise production costs."

Bengal's golden fibre stands at a crossroads as its survival is guaranteed by law, but its future depends on transitioning from a protected foodgrain relic into a competitive green-tech powerhouse.

(ET's Bengal Ascends summit in Kolkata on November 24 will bring together policymakers, industrialists and technocrats to deliberate on the agenda for an ascending Bengal.)

THE ECONOMIC TIMES
BENGAL ASCENDS

The Economic Times – 20.11.2026

Goyal Calls for Trusted, Resilient Supply Chains Between India & US

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal Thursday called for building resilient and trusted supply chains between India and the US amid prevailing global uncertainties. He said a huge potential exists between the two countries to enhance economic cooperation as the US offers capital, technology, and innovation while India has skill, talent, manufacturing strength, and competitiveness.

Addressing the Indo-US Economic Summit, the minister said both India and the US are vibrant democracies which shape the global narrative and are important engines for global growth. "...an engine always runs on fuel and that fuel, when it comes to India, is trust," he said. "India offers a trusted partnership. India offers our trust, a partner who will stand by you through thick and thin. In every crisis, India is that one partner which never lets its friends down."

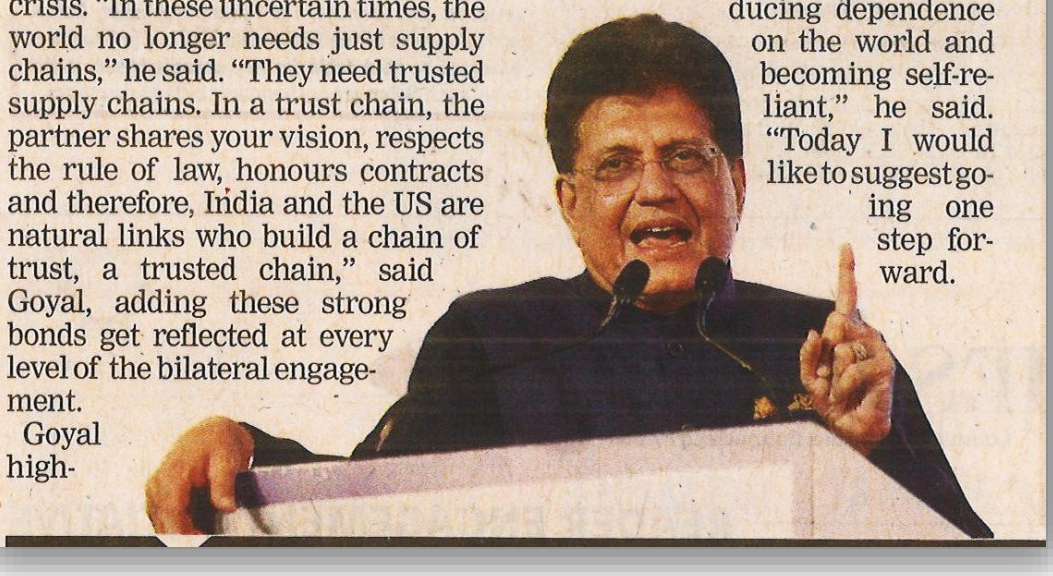
He said countries worldwide are facing many challenges due to two ongoing conflicts and the West Asia crisis. "In these uncertain times, the world no longer needs just supply chains," he said. "They need trusted supply chains. In a trust chain, the partner shares your vision, respects the rule of law, honours contracts and therefore, India and the US are natural links who build a chain of trust, a trusted chain," said Goyal, adding these strong bonds get reflected at every level of the bilateral engagement.

Goyal highlighted five calls to action for India and the US—turning supply chains into resilient and trusted supply chains, building talent jointly with friendly and partner countries, and enhanced collaborations between universities in both countries. "I am working with some of them to bring them to India," said Goyal. "We'd like to invite all US universities and students to look at India as a part of their programme...the time spent by students from the developed world in Indian universities and Indian colleges will help them learn how to deal with us."

EXPORTS TARGET

On India's $1 trillion exports target for this year, Goyal said that would reflect 16% growth in "these very troubled times". "That is the India growth story," he said. "And that is the story we wish to share with our friends like the US."

Separately, at the annual general meeting of industry body FICCI, Goyal said India must move beyond lessening its reliance on the world and instead make the world dependent on India. "Last time I came to your AGM, I spoke about reducing dependence on the world and becoming self-reliant," he said. "Today I would like to suggest going one step forward.



The Economic Times – 20.11.2026

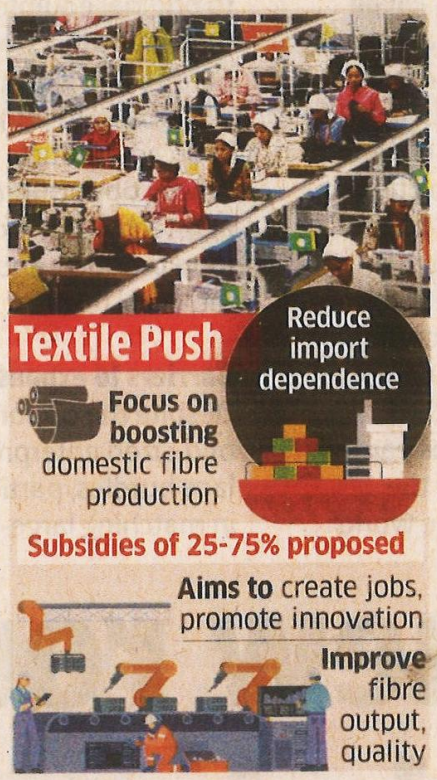
WITH AIM TO REDUCE IMPORT DEPENDENCE...

WEAVING GROWTH

₹16,000 cr Proposed to Boost Fibre Production

Subsidies to cover 25-75% of project costs, depending on intervention

Anoushka Sawhney



New Delhi: The textiles ministry has proposed an outlay of around ₹16,000 crore over five years for the National Fibre Scheme (NFS), aimed at strengthening domestic production of natural and new-age fibres, reducing import dependence and positioning India as a global hub for high-quality fibres.

Announced in the union budget for FY27 as part of an integrated programme for the textile sector, the five-year scheme seeks to bring greater uniformity in government assistance across fibre segments, including silk, wool and jute.

"The scheme is at the approval stage," an official said.

Under the proposed framework, financial assistance will range from 25% to 75% of project costs, depending on the nature of the intervention, a second official said.

"Most assistance to farmers, artisans and entrepreneurs is proposed at 40-50% of the unit cost, with the balance from the beneficiary, state or institutional credit," the official said, adding that the rates are indicative and subject to the final approval.

The proposed assistance structure includes a 40% subsidy for cultivation inputs such as seeds, planting material and disinfectants. Farm mechanisation and infrastructure for seeds, plantations, and irrigation are proposed to receive 50% support.

Subsidies for machinery will vary according to the scale, with 50% assistance proposed for small-scale machinery used by artisans and reelers, 30% for medium-scale machinery, and 25% for large-scale machinery.

The scheme also proposes 40% assistance for marketing infrastructure and ecommerce initiatives, while innovation and research and development projects could receive 60% assistance.

The NFS aims to create employment and skills, particularly among women and rural youth. It also seeks to increase fibre production, improve quality, modernise primary processing and promote greater value addition. Other key objectives include developing an organised supply chain from farm to fibre and encouraging research and innovation.

The NFS succeeds Silk Samagra-2, the National Jute Development Programme and the Integrated Wool Development Programme, which ran up to 2025-26.