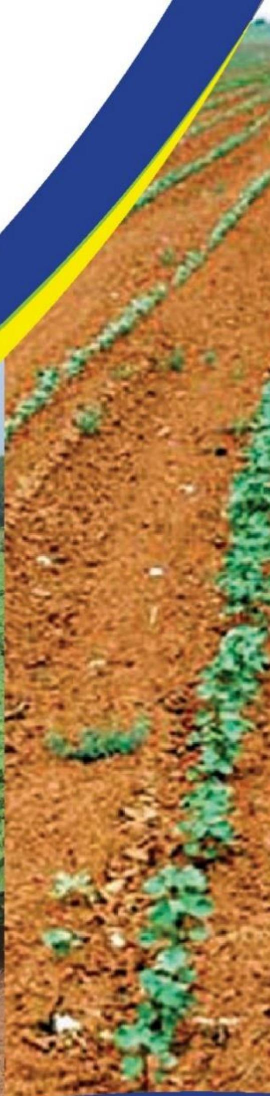
COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015



News Relating to Cotton and Textile Sector

Date-22-09-2026

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

(Regd. Office : Cotton Exchange Building, 2nd Floor, Cotton Green (E), Mumbai 400 033)
Tel. No. 022-20830685 / 8657442944-48 Email: cai@caionline.in Website: www.caionline.in

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
Established 1921
ISO 9001:2015

Mumbai, Tuesday 22nd September 2026 at 3.00 P.M.

UPCOUNTRY SPOT RATES

Standard Descriptions with Basic Grade & Staple in Millimetres based on Upper Half Mean Length As per CAI By-laws								Rs. per Quintal	Rs. per Candy	Variation + (Plus) - (Minus)
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Gravimetric Trash %	Strength / GPT	2025-26	2025-26	
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	4%	15	14875	52900	(N.C.)
2	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	15%	20	13582	48300	(-100)
3	P / H / R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	18025	64100	(N.C.)
4	M/M(P) /SA/TL/GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	16113	57300	(N.C.)
5	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	17800	63300	(N.C.)
6	P/ H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	18278	65000	(+800)
7	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18531	65900	(N.C.)
8	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18194	64700	(N.C.)
9	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18728	66600	(N.C.)
10	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	4.0%	27	18362	65300	(+800)
11	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	18700	66500	(+300)
12	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18784	66800	(N.C.)
13	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18615	66200	(N.C.)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18868	67100	(N.C.)
15	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	19093	67900	(N.C.)
16	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	19093	67900	(N.C.)
17	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	19403	69000	(+200)
18	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	N.A.	N.A.	
19	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5 – 4.9	3%	31	N.A.	N.A.	
20	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	33	25870	92000	(+200)
21	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	26152	93000	(N.C.)
22	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	26152	93000	(N.C.)
23	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	35	26573	94500	(-200)

Note:1	Official spot rates are fixed and registered by CAI on the basis of average price inclusive of spot brokerage as per respective State Dharas, and for 15 days credit from the date of passing and cash discount @ 15% per annum, except for Northern area (excluding Lower Rajasthan), in which case spot rates fixed and registered are for payment terms: 7 days from the date of pressing at Upcountry Spot Markets ex-gin, excluding Tax. These rates are for domestic transaction only
2	P/H/R(U) ICS-202 (SG) rate is lower by Rs. 1000/ pc than Sr. no. 3
3	Strength:Grams per tex (HVI Mode) (Prorate basis)
	a) 1 gpt pts lower Rs 500/pc
	b) 2 gpt pts lower Rs 1,000/pc
	c) 3 gpt pts lower Rs 2,000/pc
	d) 4 gpt pts lower Rs 3,000/pc
4	Staple length : Upper Half Mean Length
5	Gravimetric Trash Percentage
6	Moisture by probe method maximum 9%
7	Base Grade 'Fine' of bulk of the cotton of the staple length range of 29mm to 32mm consists of –
	(i) Colour grade 31/3 (ii) RD 75
8	In Rates acceptable up to a maximum 5.50 Micronaire with proportionate discount @ Rs.150/- per point per candy over 4.9 Micronaire
9	For M/M(P)/SA/TL/GUJ-Sr No. 4 are for 67 Rd
10	For Northern Zone (P/H/R(U)-Sr. Nos. 3 and 6 are for 70 Rd
11	For M/M(P)/SA/TL-Sr Nos. 5, 7, 8, and GUJ-Sr No.9 are for 74 Rd
12	For R(L)-Sr. No. 10 is for 72 Rd and 11 is for 73 Rd
13	For M/M(P) and K/TN-Sr Nos. 20 to 23 are for 70-72 Rd

Secretary

ICE Cotton Futures: 21-09-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE					21 Sep 2026	
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Oct-26	77.56	80.51	77.56	79.85	▲2.47	72
Dec-26	81.39	83.96	81.39	83.42	▲2.27	1,81,045
Mar-27	84.02	86.58	84.02	86.08	▲2.29	92,057
May-27	85.56	88.01	85.55	87.63	▲2.27	49,373
Jul-27	85.63	87.94	85.62	87.66	▲2.20	26,901
Oct-27	0.00	79.83	79.83	79.83	▲1.35	36
Dec-27	77.92	79.32	77.90	79.30	▲1.38	30,517

Cotlook Index: 21-09-2026

91.35 (-0.95)

PAU Bt 5 Cotton Yield Reaches 25.72 Quintals

Tuesday, 22nd Sep 2026, Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

A new public-sector Bt cotton variety has recorded a yield of 25.72 quintals/hectare in North India.

Punjab Agricultural University's (PAU) 'PAU Bt 5' (also known as PBH Bt 21) is emerging as a significant new public-sector Bt cotton variety for irrigated cultivation across Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan. Released in 2023, this variety was developed through 'pedigree selection' from the cross LH 2298 × PAU Bt 1.

According to AICRP cotton trials conducted at five locations in the Northern Zone between 2019 and 2022, PAU Bt 5 recorded an average seed cotton yield of 2,572 kg/ha (i.e., 25.72 quintals/hectare). Its yield was 20.1% higher than PAU Bt 1 and 21.8% higher than PAU Bt 2, while it outperformed local check varieties by 8.18%.

The variety has a maturity period of 160–165 days and a ginning outturn of 35.8%. Fiber testing recorded an Upper Half Mean Length of 26.2 mm, a Micronaire value of 4.9, and a fiber strength of 26.4 g/tex, indicating good spinning quality.

Disease resistance is another key attribute. PAU Bt 5 is moderately resistant to the cotton leaf curl virus and resistant to fungal foliar leaf spot and bacterial leaf blight.

This variety is also notable for originating from India's public breeding system. With a seed cotton yield of approximately 2.6 tonnes per hectare in coordinated trials and specific adaptability to irrigated conditions in the northern region, PAU Bt 5 adds another public-sector-developed option to the region's Bt cotton portfolio.

Dry Spell Stresses Soygaon Cotton, Soybean

Tuesday, 22nd Sep 2026, Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Dry Spell Puts Soygaon's Cotton and Soybean Crops Under Stress as Farmers Await Rain

A prolonged dry spell during August and September is affecting Kharif crops in Soygaon taluka, despite cumulative rainfall reaching 109% of the average so far. The shortage of timely rain during critical flowering and crop-development stages has raised concerns over crop yields.

Farmers are reporting shedding of cotton squares (flower buds), poor development of maize cobs and problems with soybean pod formation.

This year, Kharif sowing in the taluka covered 42,485 hectares, including 28,206 hectares of cotton, 6,693 hectares of maize and 4,258 hectares of soybean.

Rainfall distribution has been highly uneven. June received 100% of normal rainfall and July recorded 197%, but rainfall fell to 55% of normal in August and only 34% in September. Among revenue circles, Jarandi received 139% and Soygaon 134% of normal rainfall, while Banoti recorded 88% and Savaldbara 81%.

Under the guidance of Taluka Agriculture Officer Bharat Kasar, agriculture officials are visiting farms to assess crop conditions and provide farmers with on-site advice on protecting crops from further damage.

With the crops at sensitive growth stages, farmers are now waiting for timely rainfall to support crop development and protect yields.

CCI Cotton Prices Fall, Sales Reach 94.29 Lakh Bales

Tuesday, 22nd Sep 2026, Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

State-wise CCI Cotton Sales Details – 2025-26 Season

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) decreased its cotton candy prices by upto ₹1,600-₹2,000 per candy during this week . CCI has sold approximately 94,29,700 cotton bales for the 2025-26 season. Sales are highly concentrated in a few major cotton-producing states, Maharashtra, Telangana and Gujarat emerging as the leading contributors.

STATEWISE BALES SOLD BY CCI IN SEASON 2025-26

(Till 18/09/2026)

STATE	NO. OF BALES
MAHARASHTRA	28,36,100
TELANGANA	24,28,800
GUJARAT	17,76,100
KARNATAKA	7,10,800
MADHYA PRADESH	5,66,500
RAJASTHAN	3,28,700
ANDHRA PRADESH	2,82,200
ODISHA	2,69,500
HARYANA	1,85,500
PUNJAB	45,200
WEST BENGAL	300
TOTAL (+/- Incomplete lot's quantity):	94,29,700 Bales

(This is based on tentative data)

India's jute sales seen rising 15% this fiscal as fibre costs ease
Tuesday, 22nd Sep 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights
India's jute sales volumes are seen rising about 15 per cent this fiscal after two weak years, helped by softer raw jute prices and a demand rebound.
Domestic market contributes nearly 85 per cent of industry revenue and demand is projected to rise about 20 per cent.
Crisil Ratings expects margins near 9 per cent and credit metrics to improve.

India’s jute industry is poised for a turnaround this fiscal, with sales volumes expected to rise about 15 per cent after declining at an annualised about 10 per cent over the previous two fiscals, as domestic demand revives, export prospects improve and raw jute prices soften, according to the Crisil Ratings. The recovery follows two difficult years marked by weak demand, elevated raw material costs and pressure on profitability. For manufacturers and buyers, moderation in fibre costs is expected to ease product prices, helping demand recover after customers shifted towards lower-cost alternative packaging materials when higher raw jute prices were passed on.

Crisil Ratings in a press release said its analysis of jute manufacturers it rates, which account for about 40 per cent of industry revenue, shows the domestic market remains central to the rebound. Domestic demand, which contributes nearly 85 per cent of industry revenue, is projected to increase about 20 per cent this fiscal, reversing a similar cumulative decline over the preceding two years.

Export demand is also showing signs of improvement. Growth in downstream sectors such as home textiles, lifestyle products and other value-added jute applications is expected to support exports, while rationalisation of US tariffs from elevated levels seen last fiscal could improve the competitiveness of Indian jute products in global markets.

Rahul Guha, senior director, Crisil Ratings said: "While improving demand will support revenue growth, profitability is likely to receive an even larger boost from easing raw material costs." The agency said better crop output has improved domestic raw jute availability and softened prices despite subdued imports. Raw jute accounts for 60-65 per cent of the industry’s operating expenses, and lower fibre costs plus better capacity utilisation are expected to lift operating margins by about 130 basis points to nearly 9 per cent this fiscal.

Raw jute prices had risen by more than 10 per cent last fiscal because of supply constraints. Higher minimum support prices encouraged farmers to increase acreage under cultivation, leading to better crop output this year.

The credit rating agency said stronger profitability and limited debt-funded capital expenditure should improve credit metrics. Healthy cash accruals are likely to fund maintenance capital expenditure and working capital requirements while maintaining adequate liquidity, while most players have avoided aggressive debt-funded expansion and favoured incremental modernisation and operational efficiency initiatives.

Balance sheets are expected to remain resilient, with gearing projected to improve marginally to about 0.5 time this fiscal from 0.6 time last year, and interest coverage to strengthen to nearly 5 times from about 4 times, added the release. The agency said improved cash generation should support stable sector credit profiles.

Argha Chanda, director, Crisil Ratings said: "Beyond the cyclical recovery, the industry stands to benefit from structural shifts towards sustainable materials." Crisil Ratings said growing environmental awareness, tighter rules on single-use plastics and rising preference for biodegradable alternatives are opening opportunities for jute-based products in geotextiles, agro-textiles, home décor, industrial packaging and other value-added segments. Value-added applications currently account for 12 per cent of revenue, offer better realisations and could become important long-term growth drivers, it said.

The recovery remains exposed to risks from the pace and sustainability of demand revival, particularly in export markets, the trajectory of raw jute prices, crop-related disruptions and changes in government policy support, added the release. Any sharp rise in raw jute prices could again pressure margins.

ICE cotton rebounds strongly after six-session losing streak

Tuesday, 22nd Sep 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights
December 2026 ICE cotton settled 2.80 per cent higher at 83.42 cents per pound after six sessions of losses.
China's State Reserve buying, broader commodity strength and China-US developments supported the rebound.
Weak US export demand, advancing harvest activity and drought-hit crop uncertainty kept expectations of a sustained reversal limited.

ICE cotton futures recovered sharply on Monday after six consecutive sessions of losses, supported by broader commodity-market strength, China–US developments and continued buying through China’s State Reserve auctions. However, weak US export demand and advancing harvest activity limited expectations of an immediate trend reversal.

The most-active December 2026 contract settled 227 points, or 2.80 per cent, higher at 83.42 cents per pound, marking its strongest daily increase since August 27. The contract touched an intraday high of 83.96 cents.

The rebound followed a cumulative decline of 707 points across the preceding six sessions. Although the recovery from Friday's close of 81.15 cents renewed some bullish sentiment, the December contract remained around 9.72 cents below its August 31 closing high of 93.14 cents.

The broader futures board also strengthened, with other active contracts settling 110–247 points higher. The comparatively stronger performance of the front-month contracts indicated renewed buying interest at lower price levels. However, further follow-through would be needed before the move could be considered a sustained trend reversal.

Trading volume stood at 65,634 contracts, close to Friday's 67,983 contracts and above the previous week's daily average of 63,340 contracts. Open interest (OI) increased for the fourth consecutive session. It stood at 382,296 contracts at the beginning of Monday's session, up by 423 contracts from the previous report and representing the fourth-highest level recorded.

China's State Reserve auctions continued to record strong buying. Of the 8,211 tonnes offered on Sunday, 8,171 tonnes were sold. The entire Monday offering of 8,149.44 tonnes was also sold at an average price of 16,635.91 yuan (~$2,479) per tonne.

Brazilian cotton and 20 per cent Xinjiang cotton highlighted the importance of imported fibre in China's physical market. Chinese domestic cotton prices showed slight weakness. The China Cotton Index 3128B declined by 7 yuan (~$1) to 17,381 yuan (~$2,590) per tonne, while the 2129B index eased by 8 yuan (~$1) to 17,731 yuan (~$2,642) per tonne. Meanwhile, the Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange's January cotton contract settled 35 yuan (~$5) higher at 15,870 yuan (~$2,365) per tonne.

The wider recovery in commodity markets and developments involving China and the US also supported cotton futures. Reports that Chinese President Xi Jinping would undertake a state visit to the US on September 23–25 helped strengthen sentiment across equity and commodity markets.

However, the demand outlook remained subdued. US upland cotton export sales totalled 71,231 bales during the week ended September 10, down by 4 per cent from the previous week and approximately 30 per cent below the preceding four-week average. Upland cotton export shipments reached 142,076 bales.

On the supply side, the US harvest was estimated to be 13 per cent complete as of September 20, compared with 8 per cent a week earlier and 12 per cent during the corresponding period last year. The advancing harvest could increase the physical availability of the new crop.

Around 34 per cent of US cotton bolls had opened, compared with 36 per cent in the previous week and 47 per cent a year earlier. Meanwhile, approximately 65 per cent of the US cotton crop was reportedly affected by drought as of September 15, up from 63 per cent a week earlier and 41 per cent last year. Consequently, emerging information on crop yield and fibre quality will remain important for market direction.

Monday's rally provided a significant technical recovery following the previous week's steep losses. The market will now monitor whether buying can sustain the December contract above 83 cents alongside supportive volume and OI.

Cotton continues to face opposing factors. Weak export demand and increasing US harvest supplies remain bearish influences, while strong Chinese Reserve purchases, crop and weather uncertainty, and improved mill interest near 81–82 cents offer support.

This morning (Indian Standard Time), December 2026 cotton was trading at 83.52 cents per pound, up 0.10 per cent. Cash cotton rose 2.27 per cent to 80.92 cents, while the October 2026 contract increased 2.47 per cent to 79.85 cents. March 2027 was at 86.17 cents, up 0.09 per cent; May 2027 was at 87.68 cents, up 0.05 per cent; and July 2027 was at 87.54 cents, down 0.12 per cent.

Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 Campaign: Ministry of Textiles and Its Organisations Undertake Cleanliness and Awareness Activities

Tuesday, 22nd Sep 2026, (Source: www.pib.gov.in)

Ministry of Textiles proudly announces the commencement of the Swachhta Hi Seva- 2026 Campaign, a nationwide initiative aimed at reinforcing the commitment to cleanliness and hygiene in everyday life. The campaign is celebrated across all organisations under the Ministry of Textiles from 17th September to 2nd October-2026.

This year's theme, 'Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat Viksit Bharat', emphasizes celebrating cleanliness as a collective effort and festival of community involvement. Under this theme, the Ministry and its affiliated organizations will be conducting a series of initiatives focused on hygiene, environmental conservation, and civic awareness. Cleanliness drives will be carried out in office premises, campuses of educational institutions, public areas, encouraging active involvement from employees, students, civil society groups, local communities and public at large.

Ministry has carried out following activities with commencement of the campaign.

- Ministry of Textiles has conducted a Thematic Art Poster Making Competition on 18.09.2026 at GPOA-3 Netaji Nagar, New Delhi. All Division heads of the Ministry also visited various sections to review cleanliness and encouraged employees to adopt hygienic practices under Swachhata Hi Seva-2026.

- Banner of Swachhta Hi Seva has been uploaded on the dashboard of the websites of the Ministry and its all organizations.

- Standees have been installed at prominent places in the office building in the Ministry and other organizations.
- Selfie point have been installed at prominent places in the office building in the Ministry and other organizations.

Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd-

Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd. organized a Swachhata awareness session on 17 September 2026 to all make citizen aware of importance of Swachhata in our life.

Posters / Wall Massages relating to Swachhata & Water Conservation displayed in various places within showroom on 18/09/2026.

THE COTTON CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD-

Under the Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) campaign, the Corporation undertook comprehensive site beautification initiatives to transform public spaces into clean, attractive, and welcoming environments. Dedicated selfie points and creative installations were introduced to encourage citizens to interact with the campaign, capture photographs, and share their experiences on social media. The initiative promoted cleanliness awareness, strengthened citizen participation, and enhanced the visibility of the SHS campaign.

Textile Committee-

Awareness Campaign conduced for saying No to single plastic and to all make citizen aware about conservation of natural resources.

ACIMIT brings Italian textile technology expertise to TITAS 2026

Tuesday, 22nd Sep 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights
Italian textile machinery makers will showcase flexible, sustainable and customised technologies at TITAS 2026 in Taipei from October 6 to 8.
Eleven companies will exhibit in the Italian Pavilion as Taiwan's demand for Italian equipment rebounds.
ACIMIT said the technologies could support manufacturers seeking resource efficiency, product quality and high-value production.

The excellence and innovative capabilities of Italian textile machinery technology are coming to Taipei for TITAS 2026 (Taiwan International Textile & Garment Machinery Show), the leading event for the island’s textile industry and the wider Asian region, scheduled to take place from 6 to 8 October 2026. Italy’s presence at this key event reflects its commitment to strengthening a long-standing and strategic relationship with a local manufacturing industry that has always placed great emphasis on quality and technological research.

The Taiwanese market is undergoing a period of profound transformation and evolution. Following a period of global adjustment, the beginning of 2026 saw an extraordinary and vigorous turnaround in exports by Italian machinery manufacturers to the island. This strong sign of renewed momentum confirms that Taiwan’s textile industry is actively seeking reliable technology partners to support its plans for recovery and modernisation.

The strength of Italian technologies lies in their ability to adapt with exceptional flexibility to the most sophisticated requirements. In Taiwan, where production has historically been concentrated in the upstream stages of the textile supply chain, Italian spinning solutions continue to account for by far the largest share of local interest, alongside solid demand for finishing machinery and related accessories. This concentration confirms that the flexibility and high degree of customisation offered by Italian technology are among the differentiating factors most highly valued by Taiwanese manufacturers, who need to diversify their production and develop high value-added market niches.

“The strong increase in Taiwanese demand recorded at the beginning of this year demonstrates the central role played by our technological solutions. In a landscape where operational flexibility and environmental sustainability have become essential requirements for competitiveness, Italian companies are coming to TITAS not merely as machinery suppliers, but as genuine technology partners. We are ready to support Taiwanese manufacturers with highly customized technologies capable of combining maximum resource efficiency with outstanding quality in the final product.” - Marco Salvadè, president, ACIMIT.

The Italian companies exhibiting in the Italian Pavilion are Color Service, Corino, Crosta, Danitech, Fadis, Ferraro, L.A.I.P., Lafer, Pozzi Leopoldo, Reggiani Macchine, Texera.

ACIMIT (Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers) was founded in 1945 with the primary aim of promoting the Italian textile machinery industry and supporting its activities both in

Italy and abroad. ACIMIT represents an industrial sector comprising approximately 300 companies (employing nearly 13,000 people) and producing machinery worth a total of approximately €2.1 billion (~$2.41 billion), around 86 per cent of which is exported. Creativity, sustainable technology, reliability and quality are the characteristics that have made Italian textile machinery a worldwide leader.

Unava Cotton Auction Opens at ₹2,525

Tuesday, 22nd Sep 2026, Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Cotton Auction Begins at Unava Market, Gujarat; Prices Reach ₹2,525

Gujarat: Cotton auctions have commenced at the Unava market yard near Unjha. On the first day, an arrival of 100 maunds of cotton was recorded. During the auction, the maximum price for cotton stood at ₹2,525 per maund, while the minimum price was recorded at ₹1,500 per maund.

Prakashbhai Patel, Chairman of the Unava APMC, was present at the auction alongside other directors.

In addition to cotton, other agricultural commodities were also auctioned at the market yard. A total of 341 bags of castor seeds arrived, with prices ranging between ₹1,500 and ₹1,525 per maund.

Mustard seeds were also auctioned; a total of 12 bags arrived, and the price was recorded at ₹1,480 per maund.

Thus, on the opening day of cotton auctions at the Unava market yard, castor seeds and mustard were auctioned alongside cotton.

The available information does not specify the cotton variety, quality, or the exact date of the auction; therefore, no additional estimates or claims regarding these details have been included in this report.

Maharashtra Sets up Cabinet Panel to Fast-Track Drought Relief, Preliminary Notification Expected by Saturday

Tuesday, 22nd Sep 2026, (Source: www.eng.ruralvoice.in)

Maharashtra has formed a cabinet sub-committee headed by Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule to oversee drought relief, assess crop losses and expedite farmer assistance. The panel will meet weekly, while crop-damage panchnamas are being conducted to determine relief needs and seek central assistance. Drinking water and livestock fodder remain immediate priorities.

The Maharashtra government on Tuesday constituted a cabinet sub-committee headed by Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule to oversee the drought situation, assess crop losses and expedite relief measures for affected farmers.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said the committee has been given cabinet-level powers and will meet every week to review reports from drought-hit areas and take decisions on measures required on the ground. Major policy matters, however, will continue to be placed before the full state cabinet.

The sub-committee includes ministers Girish Mahajan, Gulabrao Patil, Sanjay Rathod, Pankaja Munde, Dattatray Bharne, Jaikumar Gore, Pratap Sarnaik, Makarand Patil and Babasaheb Patil, among others. Chief Secretary Rajesh Aggarwal will be its secretary.

Fadnavis said immediate action was needed as drought-like conditions have affected large parts of Maharashtra. Soybean, maize and cotton crops have suffered significant damage in several areas, while paddy in parts of Konkan and jowar have also been affected.

The government has ordered crop-loss assessments through panchnamas to establish the extent of damage and determine the assistance required by farmers. The assessments will also form the basis for seeking financial assistance from the Centre, where necessary.

“A preliminary notification on drought relief is expected by Saturday,” according to a brief of the cabinet decisions issued by the Chief Minister’s Secretariat. Ministers will visit affected areas to assess conditions directly and help speed up the delivery of relief.

Fadnavis said the sub-committee would examine complaints and issue directions based on ground-level assessments. He also said he, along with the two deputy chief ministers, would review the committee’s reports every week and take decisions at the senior level. The chief minister is also expected to visit some drought-affected areas.

Ensuring drinking water and fodder availability has been identified as an immediate priority. The government said arrangements were being made through local bodies to maintain water supplies in affected areas and address the needs of livestock.

The cabinet also decided to withdraw the revised staffing structure of the agriculture department and temporarily retain the structure approved in 2009.

Before a fresh staffing proposal is prepared, the agriculture department will undertake a comprehensive assessment of its workload, manpower availability, vacant positions, cadre-wise requirements and field-level machinery. The review will also take into account the workload generated by farmer-focused schemes and future administrative requirements.

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

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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/

businessline – 22.09.2026

New Zealand FTA to give Indian goods nil duty access from Oct 20

TRADE BOOST. Pact vital due to geopolitical uncertainties, unpredictable US tariff policy

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

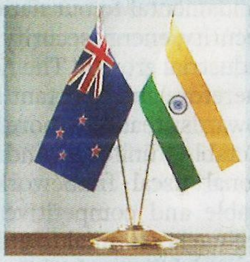
The India-New Zealand FTA will come into force on October 20, allowing duty-free exports of 100 per cent of Indian goods, including labour-intensive products such as textiles, carpets, chemicals, gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, auto components and machinery.

The pact has the potential to double bilateral trade in goods and services to ₹35,000 crore (about $4 billion) in four-five years, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said.

"New Zealand has furthermore committed to investing $20 billion in India as foreign direct investment (FDI) under the FTA. This will provide our manufacturing sectors with both capital and technology, while also attracting New Zealand companies to invest in India," Goyal said at a media briefing on Monday.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- On day 1, 57% of New Zealand exports, including sheep meat, wool, wood products and coal, will be completely tariff-free
- Bilateral trade in goods and services could double to ₹35,000 crore (about $4 billion) in 4-5 years
- New Zealand has committed $20 billion in FDI
- India has protected sensitive sectors such as dairy, and key commodities, including onion, chickpea, maize, almond and sugar
- Indian services get access to 118 sectors, plus 5,000 skilled-worker visas a year



WIDER MARKET ACCESS

The agreement, signed on April 27, assumes significance amid heightened geopolitical uncertainty and US President Donald Trump's unpredictable tariff policy, as New Delhi seeks to diversify its trade partnerships and expand market access for Indian exporters.

For New Zealand, up to 95 per cent of its exports to India, including apples, kiwis, wool and sheep meat, will get greater market access. On the first day of implementation, 57 per cent of New Zealand exports, including sheep meat, wool, several wood products and coal, will become completely tariff-free, with the share eventually rising to 82 per cent.

For India's services sector, the pact opens access to New Zealand across around 118 sectors, including IT, professional services, construction, tourism and audio-visual services, according to a government statement.

It also provides mobility opportunities through 5,000 skilled-worker visas and 1,000 working-holiday visas annually, along with post-study work rights of up to four years for Indian students.

SENSITIVE SECTORS

Goyal said the removal of tariffs, which were as high as 10 per cent for some products, would eliminate the disadvantage faced by Indian exporters against countries that already had a foothold in the New Zealand market. India has not granted market access concessions in sensitive sectors, particularly dairy, Goyal said.

The same applies to several agricultural products, including onions, chickpeas, peas, maize, almonds, artificial honey and sugar.

"With the trade agreement coming into force next month, we can certainly target the doubling of engineering exports in the next five years to $280-300 million," Pankaj Chadha, Chairman, EEPC India, said.

The FTA will give fresh momentum to Indian exports through greater market access and diversification in the Indo-Pacific market, said Ajay Sahai of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations.

businessline – 22.09.2026

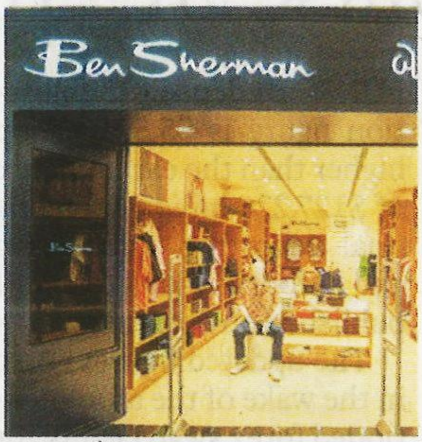
Apparel Group betting big on Ben Sherman as strategic growth driver

Meenakshi Verma Ambwani
New Delhi

Apparel Group India has been focusing on rapidly expanding the retail footprint of British brand Ben Sherman in the country. The fashion and lifestyle brand has brought the iconic menswear brand to India through a multi-brand licensing partnership with Marquee Brands.

Tushar Ved, President, Apparel Group India, said, "Ben Sherman represents a major growth driver for our menswear portfolio, and we are backing it with an aggressive, high-speed rollout strategy across key Indian markets. Our growth strategy focuses on expanding the strong, scalable omnichannel footprint that Apparel Group has built across India. We are strategically tapping into a dynamic mix of established tier-1 metros and high-potential emerging hubs."

As part of the initial store rollout, the company has



The brand is also available across online platforms including Myntra and Nykaa

opened eight stores in Surat, Indore, Greater Noida West, Lucknow, Thane, Delhi, Bengaluru and Dehradun. The brand is also available across online platforms including Myntra and Nykaa.

BIZ POTENTIAL

"We see immense growth potential for Ben Sherman in India, driven by the rapid evolution of the Indian consumer. Today's shoppers are moving away from fast fashion and actively prioritising superior quality, precise fit, and authentic brand heritage, creating a massive white space for iconic international labels," Vaid noted.

He added that Indian men are increasingly seeking "elevated smart-casual menswear" that effortlessly transitions from professional work environments to weekend lifestyles. "This unique intersection of heritage craftsmanship and modern relevance positions Ben Sherman for exceptional success in the market," Vaid added.

Apparel Group's India operations span over 300 stores and over 20 international brands across 50 cities. The company is licensing partner in India for brands including Victoria's Secret, Dolce & Gabbana Beauty, BCBG, Anne Klein, Charles & Keith, Crocs, Aldo, Bath & Body Works, Levis Kids, Tim Hortons and Cotton On.

"By leveraging local market intelligence, supply-chain operations, and a mature omnichannel retail framework, we ensure that every brand in our portfolio scales effectively and sustainably in India," Vaid said.

businessline – 22.09.2026

India to study US' Russia sanctions law, says Goyal

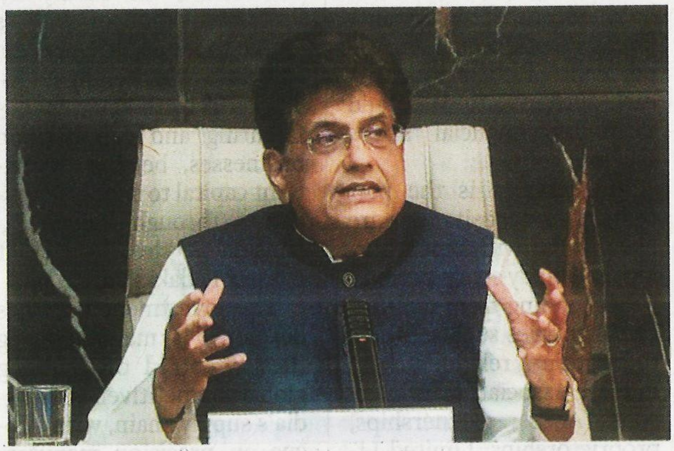
UNDER REVIEW. Govt will discuss the matter at appropriate time: Commerce Minister

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

India will study the details that are emerging after US President Donald Trump signed legislation giving him the authority to impose up to 100 per cent tariffs on major buyers of Russian energy, including India, and will discuss the matter at an appropriate time, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has said.

"The details are now emerging. We will study them and discuss the matter at an appropriate time," Goyal said on Monday.

The legislation, the Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, was signed into law by Trump on September 18. The law provides for secondary import duties of up to 100 per cent on goods from top buyers of Russian crude and gas. The additional tariff is not automatic and would depend on a decision by the US administration. The law does not name any country, and it is unclear how the US will decide which ones qualify.



Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal ANI

UNCERTAINTY PERSISTS

The development adds a fresh layer of uncertainty to India-US trade ties, as the two countries negotiate a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA). The two sides announced in February that they had finalised the framework for the first phase, but changes in the US tariff structure led to further negotiations. Goyal has said India would finalise the pact once Washington offers Indian exporters a competitive tariff rate *vis-a-vis* competing countries.

Goyal is scheduled to visit the US later this month to attend the G20 Trade Ministerial in Milwaukee on September 30-October 1, at the invitation of the USTR Jamieson. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal earlier said the Minister may hold bilateral talks with Greer, with trade pact issues to figure in the discussions.

The Minister's measured response follows a sharper message from the Ministry of External Affairs last week, after the US House of Representatives approved the bill. The MEA cautioned that targeting India through the legislation could have adverse implications for the bilateral relationship and may affect the global energy market. It also said India's energy procurement and response to trade measures would be guided by its national interests.

TALKS WITH CANADA

PTI adds: The next round of talks for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between India and Canada will be held from October 5, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday.

"The next 90 days should be a very defining period in the Canada-India relationship," he said.

ACCENT REGION

Business Standard – 22.09.2026

UTTAR PRADESH

State's textile, apparel exports rose 10% in FY26

VIRENDRA SINGH RAWAT
Lucknow, 21 September

Uttar Pradesh (UP), which ranks among the leading textile hubs, saw its textile, apparel and handicraft exports jump 10 per cent to nearly ₹35,000 crore in the financial year 2026 (FY26), up from over ₹31,804 crore in FY25.

Uttar Pradesh is the country's third-largest manufacturer of fabrics, accounting for 13 per cent of domestic output. The apparel and textiles industry employs 1.5 million. An estimated 200,000 handloom weavers and 500,000 powerloom weavers.

The state signed memorandа of understanding (MoUs) for investment proposals worth ₹5,196 crore at the recent UP Textile Conclave 2026 in Lucknow. In his address, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced the state now aspires to become a global textile hub. "Our goal is to develop the entire value chain in Uttar Pradesh; from fiber to yarn, yarn to fabric, fabric to garment and garment to brand, and then take it to the global market."

The state accounts for 90 per cent of India's carpet production. The CM invited entrepreneurs, investors, and exporters to partner with Uttar Pradesh in weaving a mutual success story in textiles.

With exports of ₹21,000 crore in FY26, Gautam Buddha Nagar district ranks second among the country's major exporting districts.

Meanwhile, the state's 17 textile products have received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tags.

"Technical textiles are emerging in sectors such as defence, healthcare, agriculture and sports. Therefore, UP will have to strengthen its technical capabilities while moving beyond traditional textiles," Yogi said. The state has identified land for textile projects in Varanasi, Amroha, Bareilly, Sant Kabir Nagar and Bijnor, while a similar process is underway in other places.

businessline – 22.09.2026

IMD extends heavy rain threat to Karnataka, A.P., Telangana

Vinson Kurian
Thiruvananthapuram

The South-West monsoon appears to be making a swift exit from North-West India even as the Bay of Bengal moves in the opposite direction, rapidly intensifying into a stormy zone with the potential to unleash heavy to extremely heavy rain along the East Coast and across the Southern Peninsula.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday that the monsoon had withdrawn from more parts of Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab. The withdrawal line now runs through Jaisalmer, Nagaur, Sikar, Rohtak, Patiala and Gurdaspur. The conditions are favourable for further withdrawal over the next 2-3 days from the remaining parts of Punjab, Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi, more areas of Rajasthan, some parts of Saurashtra and Kutch, Jammu and Kashmir,

Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and west Uttar Pradesh.

WEATHER CONTRAST

This rapid drying-out of the North-West is sharply contrasted by a gathering weather system over the Bay. A low pressure area has already strengthened into a well-marked system, and may intensify further into a depression and possibly a deep depression as it tracks towards the north Andhra Pradesh-south Odisha coast.

The system could generate squally winds of 55-65 km/hr, gusting to 75 km/hr, over west-central and adjoining north-west Bay on Wednesday. Such conditions could persist until Thursday evening. Winds along and off the south Odisha-north Andhra Pradesh coast could reach 55-65 km/hr during this period. The sea conditions could turn rough to very rough over the east-central and adjoining north-east Bay on Monday

RAIN PATTERN

A deep depression is the second-highest intensity category for a low-pressure system, ranking just below a cyclone. The IMD forecast isolated extremely heavy rain over coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam on Wednesday and Thursday, and over coastal Karnataka on Thursday. Very heavy rain is likely over coastal and north Interior Karnataka on Wednesday, and south interior Karnataka on Wednesday and Thursday.

businessline – 22.09.2026

India targets silk production of 60,000 tonnes by 2030-31

Our Bureau
Bengaluru

The Centre is targeting a scale up of the country's silk production to 60,000 tonnes by 2030-31, and a resolve has been made to elevate India to the No 1 rank globally in silk production by 2028-29, said Giriraj Singh, Union Minister for Textiles.

Production of silk in the country had increased to 42,000 tonnes at present, up from 26,000 tonnes in 2014, Singh said.

Participating in the 77th Foundation Day programme of the Central Silk Board (CSB) in Bengaluru on Sunday, Singh said the Centre is committed to the expansion of the country's sericulture sector and the economic progress of silk farmers. With a target of increasing silk production to 60,000 tonnes by 2030-31, by enhancing the yield of mulberry leaves and increasing cocoon rearing cycles, there is an aspiration to raise the annual income of farmers to ₹10 lakh to ₹12 lakh, he said.

Emphasising that innovations from scientists, hybrid varieties and modern machinery must reach farmers directly, Singh said demand for Indian silk is rising in the international market at a time when China's production is declining.

Further, the Minister said that strengthening the entire value chain from sericulture to reeling and weaving would take the country's textile market to $300 billion, according to an official statement.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Padmini Singla, Joint Secretary (Silk), Ministry of Textiles and Vice-Chairperson of the CSB, highlighting the strategic progress of the sericulture sector, said an ambitious target had been set to produce 60,000 metric tonnes of silk by 2030-31.

Shobha Karandlaje, Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Labour and Employment, remarked that Karnataka occupied the leading position in the country's silk production and the government is giving special attention to infrastructure development and industrial growth to further strengthen the sector.

Importance is being given to producing silk of global export standards, which will enhance domestic production and significantly reduce the reliance on imports.

A large number of entrepreneurs are registering under the MSME framework, and the government is continuously implementing subsidy and quality improvement schemes to support them.

The Minister said the prime objective is to provide suitable market access to local producers and generate employment opportunities in the sericulture and textile industrial sectors, the statement said.

Business Standard – 22.09.2026

Net GST revenue shows signs of recovery

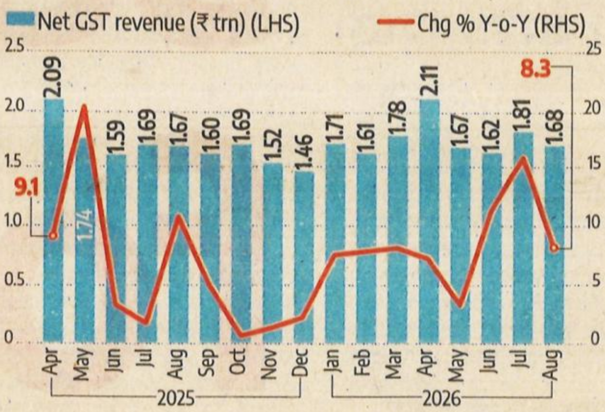
Net goods and services tax (GST) showed signs of recovery from January 2026, after remaining subdued through the end of 2025, following the government's rationalisation of GST rates in September. The September rate rationalisation simplified the structure to two main slabs of 5 per cent and 18 per cent, with a special 40 per cent rate for select goods.

The rate rejig exercise also withdrew compensation cess on most products, while retaining it on tobacco products until the outstanding compensation-cess loan and interest liabilities were discharged. Those remaining liabilities were treated as discharged with effect from February 1.

Vivek Jalan, partner, Tax Connect Advisory Services, said the resilience of collections demonstrates the impact of GST 2.0 despite the reduction in rates and slabs. "Even after a drastic reduction in GST rates and slabs, net GST collections have remained resilient," Jalan said.

MONIKA YADAV

Sharp pickup in July



Source: Govt

Business Standard – 22.09.2026

Tax relief widens insurance coverage

AATHIRA VARIER
Mumbai, 21 September

The removal of goods and services tax (GST) on individual health and life insurance from September 22 last year has led to higher new policy purchases and increased coverage levels though the initial surge has moderated, according to insurers and distributors.

Soon after the GST announcement, term insurance purchases on PolicyBazaar, the largest online insurance distributor, rose nearly 2.5 times, while health insurance demand increased 2.2 times. The sharp growth seen after the announcement has since tapered, but the industry is growing from a higher base, said Amit Chhabra, chief business officer, PolicyBazaar.

"There has also been around 20-25 per cent growth above projections, largely across both life and health over the first seven to eight months. So the growth is broad-based — it is both value growth and volume growth, with more lives being covered as well as higher average coverage," Chhabra said.

The industry has also seen a 10-15 per cent increase in the average ticket size of life and health insurance policies, indicating that customers are opting for higher levels of coverage following the tax cut.

Industry saw 10-15% rise in average ticket size of life and health insurance policies

Life insurers reported stronger demand for term insurance policies with sums insured of more than ₹2 crore in the first quarter. The share of term insurance in the overall product mix also increased during the period. Health insurers, meanwhile, have seen greater demand for high-value policies, with sums insured ranging from ₹20 lakh to more than ₹1 crore, as lower upfront costs have improved affordability amid rising medical expenses.

"Our new health insurance business has doubled year-on-year during this period," said Parthanil Ghosh, MD and CEO of HDFC ERGO General Insurance. "The percentage growth might moderate because of a higher base, particularly from October, but the absolute business numbers should remain higher," he added.

However, the removal of GST came with the withdrawal of input tax credit, increasing insurers' operating costs and putting pressure on margins. Insurers have absorbed part of the additional cost in their profit and loss accounts, while some of the impact has been passed on to distributors or offset through other measures.

The Economic Times – 22.09.2026

MOSPI RELEASES METHODOLOGY, SOURCES REPORT

New GDP Math: GST & Cos' Data in Detail

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India's new gross domestic product series makes greater use of corporate filings, goods and services tax records and labour surveys, the statistics ministry has said in a detailed sources and methodology report for the compilation of GDP.

A key change is the increased use of company-level data to estimate activity in the non-financial private corporate sector, according to the report, 'Sources and Methods for Compilation of National Accounts Statistics', released on Monday.

India introduced the new GDP series in February, shifting the base year to 2022-23 from 2011-12.

The methodology draws on corporate filings and limited liability partnership (LLP) records to improve industry classification, measure economic activity and allocate output among companies operating across multiple segments.

The publication "brings together the recommendations made in the reports (already available in the public domain)" and presents, in a consolidated manner, the statistical framework and processes used to compile major macroeconomic aggregates under the new national accounts series, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) said in a statement.

Earlier this month, former finance secretary Subhash Garg raised concerns over the latest GDP estimates, which showed the economy growing 7.8% in the April-June quarter. He argued that the April-June 2025 nominal GDP was revised down to ₹80 lakh crore from ₹86 lakh crore to make growth in April-June 2026 "look better."

The methodology document, however, noted that estimates are revised as additional and more comprehensive data become available. "As additional and more comprehensive data become available, the estimates are revised to improve their accuracy and consistency," it said.

The revision policy, the ministry said, is systematic and consistent with international practices, including the recommendations of the System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008 and the International Monetary Fund's Quarterly National Accounts Manual.