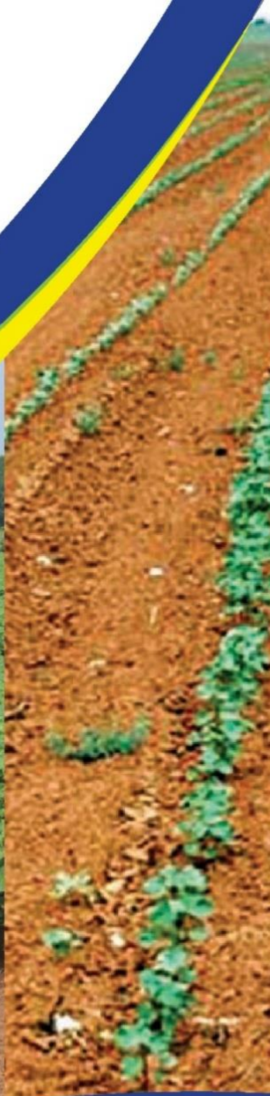
COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015



News Relating to Cotton and Textile Sector

Date-25-08-2026

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

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

Mumbai, Tuesday 25th August 2026 at 3.00 P.M.

UPCOUNTRY SPOT RATES

Standard Descriptions with Basic Grade & Staple in Millimetres based on Upper Half Mean Length As per CAI By-laws								Rs. per Quintal	Rs. per Candy	Variation + (Plus) - (Minus)
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Gravimetric Trash %	Strength / GPT	2025-26	2025-26	
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	4%	15	14960	53200	(N.C.)
2	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	15%	20	13807	49100	(-100)
3	M/M(P)	ICS-104	Fine	23mm	4.5 - 7.0	4%	22	15325	54500	(N.C.)
4	P / H / R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	18025	64100	(-200)
5	M/M(P) /SA/TL/GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	15494	55100	(N.C.)
6	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	17800	63300	(N.C.)
7	P/ H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	18672	66400	(-200)
8	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	19206	68300	(N.C.)
9	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18981	67500	(+100)
10	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	19178	68200	(N.C.)
11	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	4.0%	27	18643	66300	(-200)
12	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	19234	68400	(-100)
13	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19543	69500	(N.C.)
14	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19262	68500	(+100)
15	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19459	69200	(N.C.)
16	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	19853	70600	(+100)
17	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	19543	69500	(+100)
18	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	20106	71500	(N.C.)
19	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	N.A.	N.A.	
20	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5 – 4.9	3%	31	N.A.	N.A.	
21	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	33	25786	91700	(N.C.)
22	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	25870	92000	(N.C.)
23	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	26376	93800	(+600)
24	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	35	26489	94200	(+600)

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

Secretary

ICE Cotton Futures: 24-08-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE					24 Aug 2026	
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Oct-26	87.06	87.90	86.29	87.48	▲0.41	184
Dec-26	88.35	89.40	87.29	88.83	▲0.48	1,97,846
Mar-27	90.15	91.23	89.13	90.69	▲0.54	87,025
May-27	91.18	92.24	90.20	91.73	▲0.54	36,090
Jul-27	90.38	91.30	89.44	90.83	▲0.45	20,548
Oct-27	84.74	84.74	84.55	84.55	▲0.30	26
Dec-27	80.00	80.46	79.52	80.43	▲0.17	28,474

Cotlook Index: 24-08-2026

98.20 (UC)

ICE cotton continues to rise amid bullish factors

Tue. 25th Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
ICE cotton futures hit fresh highs as weaker US crop conditions, Texas and Xinjiang heat and dryness, and rising crude oil supported prices.
China's State Reserve auction saw a 26th consecutive sell-out, taking cumulative sales to 208,545 tonnes.
Open interest rose for a 16th session; further gains depend on textile mills accepting higher cotton prices and building orders.

ICE cotton futures continued to see new highs yesterday amid sustained buying and supportive bullish factors. US weather conditions and cotton auction by the Chinese reserves supported cotton futures. Rising crude oil also provided support to US cotton as it makes polyester fibre more expensive. It is manmade fibre and good substitute of cotton.

The most active December 2026 contract settled at 88.83 cents up 0.48 cent. The contract reached new high of 88.83 cents per pound. March, May, July and December 2027 contracts also posted their second consecutive contract high settlements. Cotton futures remained broadly firm.

Volume increased to 51,575 contracts from 40,456 Friday, compared with last week's average of 50,820. The bigger story remains open interest: OI increased for the 16th consecutive session, with a cumulative rise of 49,343 contracts.

Weather continues to provide fundamental support. US cotton conditions have been deteriorating, while hot and dry weather in Texas is putting further pressure on the crop. China is also facing heat and dryness in Xinjiang, which has supported Chinese cotton prices. The market is increasingly concerned that adverse weather could reduce final production and tighten global supply.

China's State Reserve auction remained exceptionally strong, with the 26th consecutive sold-out auction. Around 8,003 tonnes were sold on Monday. The 26-day cumulative total has reached 208,545 tonnes, The continued 100 per cent sell-through is an important indication of firm Chinese mill demand, although mills elsewhere remain cautious at current price levels.

The key issue now is demand. Cotton has risen sharply, and for the rally to continue, downstream textile mills need to accept higher prices and continue building orders. Chinese authorities could also provide another source of demand if they decide to replenish the reserves being released through the auctions.

Higher energy prices are another potential headwind. Rising energy costs are contributing to global inflation and could put pressure on consumer spending on finished textile products, eventually affecting textile demand.

Overall, the market remains strongly bullish, supported by falling US crop conditions, adverse weather in the US and China, strong Chinese reserve auction participation, a weaker supply outlook and exceptionally strong open-interest growth. However, prices have now moved significantly higher, so sustained demand will become increasingly important. The biggest question is whether mills will chase cotton at these levels or wait for a correction.

This morning (Indian Standard Time), ICE cotton for December 2026 was traded at 87.59 cents per pound (down 1.24 cent), cash cotton at 83.73 cents (up 0.41 cent), the October 2026 contract at 87.48

cents (up 0.41 cent), the March 2027 contract at 89.51 cents (down 1.18 cent), the May 2027 contract at 90.60 cents (down 1.13 cent), and the July 2027 contract at 89.81 cents (down 1.02 cent). A few contracts remained at their previous closing levels, with no trading recorded so far today.

India urges Bangladesh to lift ban on yarn imports through land ports

Tue. 25th Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
India has urged Bangladesh to lift restrictions on yarn imports through land ports. The request was made by Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi to Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir.
Trivedi discussed reopening closed border haats and fully operationalising land ports.
India can back Bangladesh's RMG sector by supplying zippers, machinery and other inputs, Trivedi said.

India recently urged Bangladesh to lift restrictions on yarn imports through land ports to strengthen bilateral trade ties.

The request was made by Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi to Bangladesh Commerce Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir in Dhaka.

Trivedi discussed reopening closed border haats (markets) and fully operationalising land ports, a statement from the Bangladesh Commerce Ministry said.

Both discussed ways to identify obstacles to trade and make trade relations easier and more effective, according to domestic media outlets.

The minister said the two sides proposed forming a joint task force and developing digital infrastructure to foster cooperation between businesses, create new investment opportunities and accelerate trade.

India can support Bangladesh's garment sector by supplying zippers, machinery, buttons and other inputs to increase mutual interdependence, the ambassador added.

India, Cambodia discuss market access as bilateral trade grows

Tue. 25th Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

India and Cambodia held the third meeting of the India-Cambodia Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment (JWGTI) in Phnom Penh yesterday, covering trade diversification, customs cooperation, investment and market access issues relevant to exporters and manufacturers.

The meeting was co-chaired by Amit Verma, joint secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India, and Long Kemvichet, director general of international trade, Ministry of Commerce, Cambodia.

Both sides noted that bilateral trade grew by over 36 per cent to $406.78 million in 2025-26 from $299 million in the previous financial year, while the April-June 2026 quarter recorded a further 63.25 per cent year-on-year growth (YoY).

Cambodia was described as India's 8th largest trading partner in ASEAN, accounting for 0.31 per cent of India's total trade with the bloc.

The meeting discussed ways to diversify and deepen trade, including cooperation and collaboration in traditional medicine, e-governance modules, recognition of Indian pharmacopeia, trade statistics reconciliation, and sharing information on flagship trade fairs and business delegations, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a press release.

Both sides welcomed the successful launch of UPI acceptance at KHQR-enabled merchants in Phnom Penh on June 2, 2026. They also discussed the next phase of enabling Cambodian payment applications to scan UPI QR codes in India, allowing Cambodian travellers to use UPI-enabled terminals in India seamlessly.

The two sides welcomed agreement on the MoU on Custom Cooperation and discussed its early signing, which is expected to bring uniformity in customs procedure. They also discussed cooperation in agriculture and market access issues, expanding trade in dyes and pigments, and cooperation in the banking and insurance sectors.

The meeting welcomed discussions for completing the Bilateral Investment Treaty between India and Cambodia, with both sides agreeing on early signature. The JWGTI meeting also reaffirmed the depth and growing potential of the India-Cambodia trade and economic partnership.

On the sidelines of the JWGTI meeting, Amit Verma held talks with Tith Rithipol, Under Secretary of State, Cambodia, covering stronger bilateral trade and investment, cooperation in pharmaceuticals, and the UPI-KHQR digital payments linkage. Both sides reiterated their shared commitment to deepening the partnership between the two countries.

Verma also met members of the Indian Business Chamber in Cambodia (IBCC). Discussions focused on accelerating bilateral trade agreement talks, facilitating Indian investment in Cambodia, and identifying 5-7 priority sectors.

The meeting also discussed an 'Invest in Cambodia' roadshow in India, positioning Cambodia as a production base for Indian companies seeking access to ASEAN markets, and establishing a mechanism for IBCC/FICCI/JBC to provide private-sector feedback to the JWGTI, added the release.

India's Textiles Committee urges zero-defect manufacturing

Mon. 24th Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
India's Textiles Committee marked its 62nd Foundation Day in Mumbai, highlighting work in quality standardisation, export facilitation and artisan support.
The textiles minister tied competitiveness to zero-defect manufacturing, traceability and environmental conformity.
MSMEs, exporters and sourcing teams face closer focus on testing, certification, FTA use and green compliance.

India's Textiles Committee has marked its 62nd Foundation Day in Mumbai with a policy and compliance message for textile exporters, manufacturers and sourcing teams: zero-defect manufacturing, traceability and environmental conformity will be central to global competitiveness, the Ministry of Textiles said.

India's Minister of Textiles Giriraj Singh, who attended as chief guest, commended the Committee for its shift from a conventional pre-shipment inspection agency in the 1960s to an enabler for modern trade, research and quality compliance. He also reiterated the Prime Minister's 5F Vision—Farm to Fibre, Fibre to Factory, Factory to Fashion and Fashion to Foreign—and highlighted the expansion of Textile Export Facilitation Centres to simplify free trade agreement utilisation and export clearances for MSMEs, and urged the Committee to bring Indian textile certification in line with the highest international accreditation benchmarks.

Established on August 22, 1964 under the Textiles Committee Act, 1963, the Textiles Committee is a statutory body under the Ministry of Textiles, and has completed 62 years of work towards quality standards in textiles and textile machinery for domestic consumption and international markets.

The event was attended by Minister of Textiles, Government of Maharashtra Sanjay Savkare as guest of honour; textile commissioner and vice chairperson, Textiles Committee Vrunda Manohar Desai; joint secretary, Ministry of Textiles Manisha Chatterjee; development commissioner for handlooms, Ministry of Textiles Dr. M. Beena; secretary, Textiles Committee Kartikay Dhanda; senior government officials; heads of export promotion councils; industry representatives; ginners; and other stakeholders.

Savkare lauded Marashtra's industrial powerloom hubs, including Bhiwandi, Ichalkaranji and Solapur, and the Committee's testing infrastructure in Mumbai. He also pointed to scope for collaborative work in skill development, cluster-level testing clinics and sustainable waste recovery.

Beena emphasised the Committee's role in protecting authentic weaver craftsmanship through the India Handloom Brand and Handloom Mark, along with protection of handloom products under the Geographical Indications Act, 1999. Desai highlighted value-chain interventions including GI tagging, post-GI handholding and the establishment of India's first municipal-scale Textile Recovery Facility in collaboration with the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation.

Chatterjee highlighted the Committee's work in green chemistry through the UNIDO-GEF Project—Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from the Textile and Fashion Supply Chain. She also referred to the Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector, SAMARTH, which was launched to convert unskilled manpower into a skilled workforce across various parts of the textile industry. Dhanda outlined the Committee's evolution in response to changing sector requirements and thanked the Government of India, trade and industry for continued support.

Since its inception in 1964, the Committee has widened its technical and developmental role in line with domestic and global textile industry requirements. It operates a nationwide network of NABL-accredited eco-testing and physical testing laboratories, offering specialised restricted substance analysis and other testing services at accessible costs, particularly for MSMEs, according to the Committee.

The Committee also highlighted national branding and authenticity frameworks across the textile value chain. It said Handloom Mark gives India's handloom products a premium identity in domestic and international markets and serves as a symbol of authenticity for handwoven products. India Handloom Brand applies zero-defect quality benchmarks and chemical safety standards for certified, eco-friendly products while supporting fair returns to handloom weavers. Jute Mark India gives India's golden fibre a standardised identity for biodegradable packaging and diversified lifestyle products, while Bharat Wool Mark creates objective grading and quality standards for indigenous wool and supports pastoral communities across Rajasthan, Gujarat, Himachal and Uttarakhand.

India textile minister pushes circularity at Navi Mumbai recovery hub

Mon. 24th Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
Giriraj Singh reviewed Navi Mumbai's recovery hub, inspecting sorting, fibre identification, shredding and material recovery.
The facility diverts pre- and post-consumer textile waste from landfills via collection, segregation, upcycling and recycling.
A Textiles Committee-Refibre Letter of Intent will develop a digital platform for post-consumer collection, traceability and impact measurement.

India’s Union Minister of Textiles Giriraj Singh has called for stronger textile recycling and circularity systems after reviewing operations at the Textile Recovery Facility (TRF) in Navi Mumbai.

Singh visited the facility coinciding with the Foundation Day of the Textiles Committee. During the visit, he inspected the processing chain, including automated sorting, fibre identification, shredding and recovery of secondary materials.

The TRF has been developed to divert post-consumer and pre-consumer textile waste away from municipal landfills through collection, segregation, upcycling and recycling. The minister said stronger recovery frameworks would help reduce dependence on natural resources while supporting India's climate commitments and sustainable textile manufacturing ambitions, the ministery of textile said in a press release.

He also suggested that the initiative be expanded beyond the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) area to increase its reach and impact.

During the programme, the Textiles Committee and Refibre signed a Letter of Intent to develop a digital circular textile infrastructure platform covering post-consumer textile collection, traceability and impact measurement.

Singh also reviewed the use of technology developed by Kosha for segregating discarded clothing according to fibre groups. He appreciated the collaborative role of the Textiles Committee, NMMC, SBI Foundation and Tisser Artisan Trust in building an integrated system for textile waste collection, sorting, recycling and upcycling.

The minister further said wider adoption of such recovery and recycling systems could help position India as a global centre for sustainable textile manufacturing.

Amreli Faces Rain Deficit

Tue. 25th Aug 2026, Yash Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

No Rain in Amreli for a Month; Groundnut and Cotton Crops Affected

Farmers in Gujarat's Amreli district are increasingly concerned due to the lack of rainfall over the past month. Initially, good rains at the start of the monsoon had raised hopes for a bountiful harvest of cotton and groundnut, and many farmers had completed sowing on time.

While some areas of the district received heavy rainfall initially, others recorded only light showers. This maintained adequate soil moisture, leading farmers to anticipate a successful crop. However, the absence of rain for the last month has now caused the impact of water scarcity to become visible on the crops.

Farmers with access to irrigation facilities are managing to save their crops somehow. In contrast, the cotton and groundnut crops of farmers lacking irrigation facilities have begun to wither; in some areas, groundnut plants have started turning yellow.

Erratic rainfall had previously forced some farmers to undertake re-sowing. After incurring significant expenses on seeds, fertilizers, and labor, they now face the looming fear of crop failure. Farmers state that if there is no rainfall in the coming days, their crops could be completely destroyed.

Distressed by the lack of rain, farmers are demanding relief and financial assistance from the government. They remain hopeful that rainfall will occur soon, allowing their crops to be saved.

Pest Attacks on Soybean and Cotton Crops Raise Farmer Concerns

Mon. 24th Aug 2026, Ashish Wagh (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Pest attacks on soybean and cotton crops, along with cloudy weather, have heightened farmers' concerns.

Farmers in the district are worried due to an increasing pest infestation affecting soybean and cotton crops. Crop growth is also being hampered by persistent cloud cover and a lack of rainfall. Infestations of various pests have been observed in both major Kharif crops, which have now reached a critical stage of development.

During this Kharif season, various crops have been sown across an area of 4.18 lakh hectares in the district. This includes 1,19,626 hectares dedicated to soybean and 2,31,961 hectares to cotton. The district has recorded 446.4 mm of rainfall since June; while sowing was initially delayed due to a late start to the rains, farmers completed the process once the rainfall arrived.

Currently, the soybean crop has reached a height of 1 to 1.5 feet in most areas and is at the flowering stage. Mild infestations of leafhoppers, stem borers, and tobacco caterpillars have been observed on the crop.

Meanwhile, the cotton crop has grown to a height of 1.5 to 2 feet, with leaf and flower development underway in some areas. Mild infestations of aphids, leafhoppers, and whiteflies have been reported in the cotton crop.

District Agriculture Superintendent Arvind Uparikar has advised farmers to regularly monitor their crops and—should any pest infestation be detected—seek guidance from Agriculture Department experts to implement appropriate management measures.

India Eyes Global Cotton Price Influence

Mon. 24th Aug 2026, Yash Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Indian Cotton Should Become a Global Price Influencer: CCI Chief

India should aim to become a price influencer in the global cotton market by improving productivity, quality, transparency and price discovery, said Lalit Kumar Gupta, Chairman and Managing Director of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), in Coimbatore on Friday.

Inaugurating a biannual cotton conference organised jointly by the Indian Cotton Federation and the Indian Cotton Association, Gupta said India had the scale to become a globally competitive cotton producer, but its output currently does not meet domestic consumption needs.

Under the Mission on Cotton, about five lakh hectares will be targeted in the first year to raise productivity. High-density planting trials across 25,000 hectares have recorded yields of 15 quintals of seed cotton per acre, he said.

Gupta stressed that Indian cotton must meet global requirements for consistent and contamination-free fibre. The industry must work collectively to reduce contamination, he said.

He also called for greater transparency and reliable data for better price discovery. “We need actual data, and this information should be integrated with the entire system,” he said.

The CCI procured 105 lakh bales during the current cotton season and sold 94 lakh bales. It currently holds around 17 lakh bales.

K.V. Srinivasan, former president of the International Textile Manufacturers’ Federation, said India needed a technology-led boost in cotton yields to compete with Brazil, the US and China. With India accounting for about 38% of the world’s cotton-growing area, higher yields could help the country emerge as the world’s leading cotton producer, he said.

Cotton Prices Likely to Stay at ₹75-80 per Kg During Harvest: TNAU

Mon. 24th Aug 2026, Anand Lodhi (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Cotton prices likely to hover around ₹75-80 per kg during harvest: TNAU

According to the Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell (DEMIC) of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), the price of good-quality cotton is expected to remain around ₹75-80 per kilogram during the upcoming harvest season.

TNAU has arrived at this estimate based on an analysis of cotton prices at the Mulanur Regulated Market over the past 20 years. The university has advised farmers to consider this projected market price when making decisions regarding cotton sowing.

India ranks first globally in terms of cotton cultivation area and second in production and consumption. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare's second advance estimates for 2025-26, cotton has been cultivated across 114.82 lakh hectares in the country. Production is estimated at 49.455 lakh tonnes, with a productivity of 431 kg per hectare.

Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh are the major cotton-producing states.

In Tamil Nadu, cotton was cultivated on 1.02 lakh hectares during 2024-25. Production stood at 3.80 lakh tonnes, and productivity was 350 kg per hectare. Tiruvarur, Virudhunagar, Mayiladuthurai, Ramanathapuram, Tiruchirappalli, and Salem are the key cotton-producing districts.

Trade sources indicate that the southwest monsoon and the volume of arrivals from major producing states could influence cotton prices. Climatic conditions, such as El Niño, may also impact the monsoon and production levels; therefore, actual market prices could differ from TNAU's estimates.

North India Cotton Acreage Falls 23%

Tue. 25th Aug 2026, Yash Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Cotton Acreage Drops by 23% in North India; Punjab Most Affected

The area under cotton cultivation in North India's three major cotton-producing states—Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan—has declined by approximately 23% this year. Last year, cotton was sown across about 11.83 lakh hectares in these three states; this year, the figure has dropped to around 9.09 lakh hectares, marking a reduction of 2.74 lakh hectares or 23.2%.

Punjab has recorded the steepest decline. The state's cotton acreage has fallen from approximately 1.28 lakh hectares last year to around 80,000 hectares this year—a decrease of about 48,000 hectares or 37.5%. Traditional cotton-growing regions such as Bathinda, Mansa, Muktsar Sahib, Fazilka, Faridkot, and Ferozepur are now gradually shifting towards paddy and other crops.

In Haryana, cotton acreage has decreased from approximately 3.80 lakh hectares to 2.95 lakh hectares. Similarly, in Rajasthan, it has dropped from 6.55 lakh hectares to around 5.34 lakh hectares. Nevertheless, Rajasthan remains the state with the largest area under cotton cultivation among the three.

According to farmers, infestations by whitefly and pink bollworm, declining yields, rising costs, and market uncertainty have made cotton farming a risky proposition. In contrast, paddy cultivation offers farmers greater confidence due to procurement at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), an established network of *mandis* (wholesale markets), and irrigation facilities.

To increase cotton acreage, it is essential to provide farmers with better seeds, effective pest control measures, higher yields, remunerative prices, and reliable market access.

Marathwada Sowing Area Down 7% Amid Rainfall Deficit
Tue. 25th Aug 2026, (Source: www.money.rediff.com)

Marathwada"s cultivation area shrinks by 7% due to a 20.3% rainfall deficit. Cotton & sugarcane acreage drops, while soybean, maize & sunflower rise.

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Aug 25 (PTI) The cultivation area in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra has shrunk by nearly 3.5 lakh hectares this year, with rainfall 20.3 per cent below average, according to agriculture department data.

The sowing area stands at 46.19 lakh hectares - down seven per cent from the fiveâ€ ‘ year average of 49.72 lakh hectares and 2 lakh hectares less than last year, it said.

Marathwada, comprising Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Jalna, Beed, Parbhani, Nanded, Hingoli, Dharashiv and Latur districts, has received 479.1 mm of rain, 20.3 per cent less against the expected 586.1 mm. The deficit is sharper in Parbhani (34.7 per cent) and Latur (40.6 per cent), as per another official report.

The contraction is most visible in cash crops. Cotton acreage has dropped by 2.65 lakh hectares to 12.14 lakh hectares, while sugarcane cultivation has plunged from an average of 3.24 lakh hectares to just 43,821 hectares this season, the agriculture department said.

Farmers have shifted towards soybean, maize and sunflower. Soybean acreage has risen by 12 per cent to 25.74 lakh hectares, maize has expanded by five per cent to?? 2.68 lakh hectares, and sunflower cultivation has grown 39 per cent to 2,289 hectares, it added.

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businessline – 25.08.2026

Uneven monsoon needs early food-supply response

Crop-specific yield assessment should be intensified in rain-fed districts. Tur, soybean and maize deserve particular attention

Saurabh Bandyopadhyay

India's 2026 monsoon is becoming an increasing concern for the economy — not simply because rainfall is deficient, but because the deficit is highly uneven across regions and is concentrated in areas important for rain-fed agriculture.

Recent assessments indicate substantial shortfalls across several regions, with East and North India recording deficits of around 26 per cent below the long-period average, the South Peninsula around 23 per cent and the North-East around 11 per cent. More importantly, large rain-fed areas of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Gujarat are facing significant rainfall stress. The implications for kharif production therefore deserve closer attention than the national rainfall number alone suggests.

The immediate concern is the possibility of crop-specific and region-specific yield losses, particularly in rain-fed crops such as tur, soybean and maize. These crops need close monitoring as the season progresses, with greater emphasis on actual yield prospects rather than simply acreage sown.

A moderate national rainfall deficit need not generate a major price shock if production in vulnerable crops remains adequate or if other regions compensate. But a concentrated production loss in pulses or oilseeds can quickly translate into higher prices because domestic supply is already relatively tight and imports may be required to bridge the gap.

India's recent inflation numbers provide little room for complacency. Retail CPI inflation rose from 4.38 per cent in June to 4.45 per cent in July 2026, while food inflation was considerably higher at 5.52 per cent. Rural CPI inflation was also higher than urban inflation. A further weather-induced supply shock could therefore affect not only food prices but also the real purchasing power of rural households.

The strengthening El Niño adds to the uncertainty. The UK Met Office's latest assessment of August 21 is unusually stark.

Though the relationship between El Niño and the Indian monsoon is complex, it does strengthen the case for preparing for rainfall variability during the remainder of the season.

GOVT MEASURES

The government's response should therefore move from monitoring rainfall to monitoring potential food-supply disruptions.

First, crop-specific yield assessment should be intensified in vulnerable

PATCHY MONSOON. Rural impact GN RAO

rain-fed districts. Tur, soybean and maize deserve particular attention. Remote sensing, crop-cutting experiments and field-level agricultural intelligence can help identify emerging yield losses before they become visible in market prices.

Second, procurement, buffer stocks and import decisions should be aligned with these assessments. If a meaningful shortfall in pulses or other essential commodities begins to emerge, imports should be facilitated early rather than after domestic prices have already risen sharply.

Third, global supply chains need to be treated as part of India's food-security infrastructure. Geopolitical tensions, shipping disruptions and bottlenecks can make an otherwise manageable domestic production shortfall more difficult to absorb. Port capacity, shipping availability, warehousing and inland logistics should therefore be monitored alongside crop conditions.

This is particularly important because food security today depends not only on how much India produces, but also on how quickly commodities can move from surplus locations or overseas markets to deficit regions.

The fourth priority should be protecting vulnerable farmers and rural purchasing power. Where rainfall stress threatens standing crops, contingency planning, moisture conservation and irrigation support can help limit losses. Where incomes are nevertheless affected, employment and social-protection measures can prevent a temporary agricultural shock from becoming a wider rural-demand shock.

The broader lesson is that the economic impact of a weak monsoon depends less on the headline rainfall deficit than on how effectively the economy absorbs it. India cannot control the monsoon or El Niño. It can, however, improve crop intelligence, act early on imports and stocks, strengthen logistics and protect vulnerable households.

The objective should be straightforward: identify a potential supply shortfall before it becomes a price shock.

The writer is with NCAER, New Delhi. Views expressed are personal

businessline – 25.08.2026

'India may miss target of achieving $1 trillion exports during 2026-27'

Our Bureau
Kolkata

India may miss its ambitious target of achieving exports worth $1 trillion during 2026-27 due to the global uncertainties, in general, and the tariff war, in particular, according to NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri.

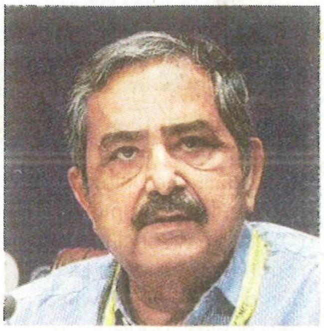
Lahiri pointed out that the country needs to diversify its export basket, "States of origin" and export destinations in order to grow its shipments amid geopolitical uncertainties. "India's exports are heavily concentrated in a small group of product categories, led by engineering goods, refined petroleum, electronics, gems and jewellery and pharmaceuticals. Moreover, just five States, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, account for nearly 70 per cent of the country's total shipments. We need to diversify both our export basket as well as our States of origin and export destinations," Lahiri said during an event of Bandhan Bank in Kolkata on Sunday.

GLOBAL VALUE CHAIN

The NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman said rising exports will help India modernise its technology and product quality, and also help the country in integrating with the global value chain and attract foreign investment.

Notably, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal in May said India had set a target of achieving exports worth $1 trillion this year and $2 trillion over the next five years.

Due to geopolitical risks and uncertainties, Indian exports were affected, and its trade gap widened in July as imports grew faster than exports, with the combined merchandise and services deficit rising 31.5 per cent y-o-y to slightly over $15 billion, Lahiri said.



Ashok Kumar Lahiri, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog

"We need to diversify both our export basket as well as our States of origin and export destinations," Lahiri said

He further said the disruption in world supply of oil, gas and fertilizer had led to significant stiffening of their prices. "Times are hard and not conducive, but the Indian economy has held up well. Reforms have not stopped and neither should they. As the saying goes, every crisis is an opportunity — to mend our ways, improve ourselves as well as the system," he added.

On its 11th anniversary day on Sunday, Bandhan Bank marked a major milestone in its growth journey with the launch of its 2,000th branch in Chennai's Egmore. With this, the private sector lender's total banking outlets across the country touched 6,400.

The bank also unveiled mBandhan Lite, a mobile banking application designed for microfinance customers to make digital banking accessible and inclusive.

businessline – 25.08.2026

'US, India ties continue to grow stronger through innovation'

Our Bureau
Hyderabad

The decades-long economic partnership between the United States and India continues to grow stronger through innovation, shared security interests and economic cooperation, Sergio Gor, US Ambassador to India, said.

Gor visited the Tata Lockheed Martin Aerostructures Ltd (TLMAL) facility on Monday, highlighting the commitment to industrial development and reinforcing the deepening strategic partnership and shared commitment to aerospace and defence industrial cooperation in India.

The Ambassador toured the production line that manufactures empennages for the C-130J Super Hercules. The Hyderabad plant is emblematic of the critical role Indian industry plays in supporting the world's most versatile and proven airlifter.

CRUCIAL PARTNERSHIP. US Ambassador Sergio Gor reviewed advanced aerospace manufacturing during his visit to the Tata-Lockheed Martin facility in Hyderabad on Monday ANI

SHARED COMMITMENT

"The production of critical structures for the C-130J in India, a platform operated by both our nations, is a strong example of the growing industrial and defence cooperation between the US and India. Partnerships like these support high-skilled jobs, strengthen resilient supply chains and advance our shared vision for a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific," he said. The visit highlighted the longstanding collaboration between Lockheed Martin and Tata Advanced Systems Ltd, as well as the companies' shared commitment to expanding advanced aerospace manufacturing capabilities in India to support of the country's defence modernisation and 'Make in India' initiatives.

"Tata Advanced Systems' partnership with Lockheed Martin has proven over time to supply world-class aerostructures for their key programmes, including the C-130J," Sukaran Singh, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, TASL said.

"This partnership has now extended to MRO, which will be operational soon. Additionally, both parties are expanding cooperation on full platforms for Make in India, should we get the opportunity. Both sides will bring their existing world class capabilities to support the MoD," he added.

The Tata Advanced Systems' MRO opening is planned for December of this year with aircraft arrival slated for Spring 2027.

"Through our collaboration with Indian industry, we have established world-class aerospace manufacturing capabilities that directly support the global network of C-130J operators," said Trish Pagan, Vice-President, Air Mobility and Maritime Missions.

businessline – 25.08.2026

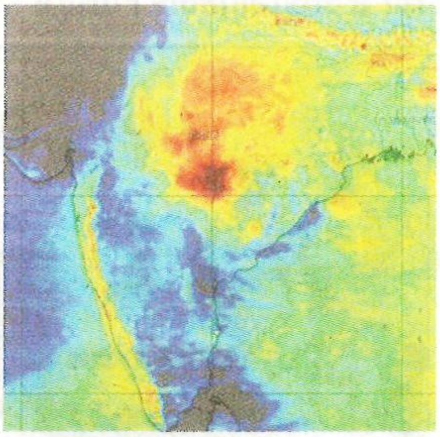
Low-pressure systems continue to line up over Bay, fuelled by warm temperatures

Vinson Kurian
Thiruvananthapuram

The Bay of Bengal is beginning to look like a busy monsoon assembly line, with one low-pressure system after another lining up to keep the basin active into early September.

Warm sea-surface temperatures across the north and central Bay are providing ample fuel. Some systems are forming *in situ*, while others are arriving as remnants of storms that have crossed the West Pacific and South China Sea.

The southern Arabian Sea and the adjoining northern equatorial Indian Ocean have warmed in tandem. That helped sustain moisture-laden westerly to south-westerly winds across the West Coast, feeding into the prevailing low-pressure area over West Bengal and adjoining Jharkhand and north Odisha. The payoff has been a sharp burst of rain along the coast from Mangaluru to Thiruvananthapuram, dampening Onam festivities.



Monsoon gains could extend along the West Coast by the weekend, as fresh Bay circulations develop

MORE RAIN IN STORE

Forecast models suggest that the rainfall footprint over East and North-East India could gradually push westward, bringing central and west Madhya Pradesh and parts of northern Maharashtra, including the Nagpur region, into the developing wet spell. More systems are expected to form over the Bay and move across eastern and Central India.

RAIN DEFICIT

As of Sunday, the rainfall deficit over East and North-East India widened to 27 per cent, while the South Peninsula was running 23 per cent below normal. The North-West was at 11 per cent below normal, and Central India at 3 per cent below normal, both still within the IMD's broad normal range, though weaker than their recent performance. For the country as a whole, the deficit stood at 14 per cent.

businessline – 25.08.2026

Global sea temperature up at record high on El Nino impact

Srikrishnan PC
Chennai

The daily global average Sea surface temperature (SST) has surged to a record, with a temperature of 21.1°C on August 22, exceeding the previous record of 21.09°C set in March 2024, according to a report by the Copernicus Climate Change Service, implemented by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF).

UNUSUALLY LATE

It is an unusually late reading for this time of year, with the long-term warming of the ocean compounded by a strengthening El Nino event.

Normally, the warmest global ocean temperatures occur in March and April, after the austral summer. But this has occurred in August. It also beats the previous highest August value, reached in 2023 at 20.98°C.

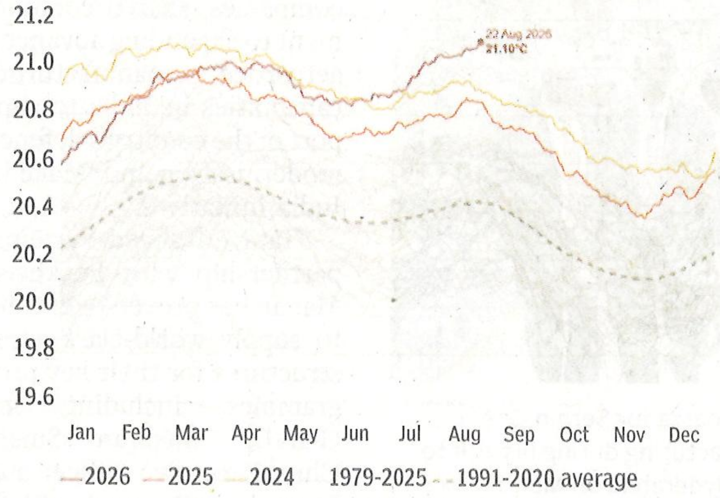
This comes on the heels of a series of monthly SST records and near-records observed across the extra-polar ocean (60°S to 60°N) throughout 2026, highlighting the persistent warmth observed across much of the global ocean.

The tropical Pacific is rapidly warming, and a powerful El Nino is taking shape, adding to the already long-term warming of the ocean due to climate change. The World Meteorological Organization said El Nino is likely to strengthen in the coming months, with the C3S seasonal forecasting system indicating that the event could reach levels not seen for several decades.

Samantha Burgess, Strategic Lead for Climate at ECMWF, said: "This is a clear signal of an ocean under growing stress. El Nino is adding heat to the system, but it is doing so on top of decades of human-driven warming. As ocean temperatures continue to rise, the risks to marine ecosystems and coastal communities also increase. The number of marine heatwave days globally has more than tripled since the early 1990s, putting increasing pressure on marine ecosystems."

Global sea surface temperature at record levels

Daily sea surface temperature (°C) for 60°S-60°N



Source: C3S/ECMWF

businessline – 25.08.2026

As planting window closes, farmers cover 96% of normal kharif area

GAP NARROWS. Sowing deficit shrinks to 0.3% as the coverage picked up last week, reaching 40 lakh hectares

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The sowing area under all kharif crops reached nearly 96 per cent of the season's normal area of 1,104.46 lakh hectares (lh), while the deficit from the year-ago level narrowed to 0.3 per cent as of August 21. The pace of sowing increased during the period from August 15 to 21, as farmers raced to finish as early as possible before the planting window closes.

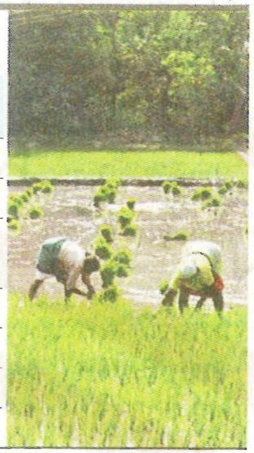
Farmers have planted kharif crops in over 40 lh during August 15-21 as against nearly 35 lh a year ago, helping the country to narrow the deficit in sowing area, which was about 2 per cent until August 7.

The sowing area in the ongoing kharif season reached 1,056.7 lakh hectares as of August 21, compared with 1,072.77 lakh hectares in the same period last year, the Agriculture Ministry said in its weekly update on Monday.

Progress card (lakh hectare)

	2025	2026	% change
Paddy	418.29	405.10	-3.2
Pulses	112.14	113.63	1.3
Shri Anna cum Coarse cereals	179.81	176.36	-1.9
Oilseeds	188.69	188.37	-0.2
Sugarcane	58.87	58.44	-0.3
Cotton	108.73	108.45	-0.7
All Crops	**1,072.77**	**1,056.7**	**-0.3**

As of Aug 21; Source: Agriculture Ministry



PADDY DOWN 3.2%

The main cereal for the kharif season, paddy, is down by 3.2 per cent to 405.10 lakh hectares compared with 418.29 lh a year ago. The deficit was 4.4 per cent until August 7, and narrowing of the gap indicates better progress in transplanting during the past fortnight. The government has set a production target of 123.15 million tonnes (mt) of rice for kharif 2026.

Overall, the decline in rice area is mainly attributed to substantial reductions reported in Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Jharkhand. The major decreases in area have been reported in Karnataka (3.09 lakh hectares), Telangana (2.45 lakh hectares), Jharkhand (1.88 lh), Madhya Pradesh (1.75 lh), Odisha (1.63 lh), Maharashtra (1.50 lh), Andhra Pradesh (1.26 lh), Tamil Nadu (1.18 lh), Uttar Pradesh (0.70 lh) and Gujarat (0.27 lh).

PULSES GAIN

The area under all pulses reached 113.63 lh compared to 112.14 lh, while the area for oilseeds was 188.37 lh compared to 188.69 lh. Oilseeds acreage this season exceeded the year-ago level until August 7, with a higher area under soyabean, groundnut and sesame, but dipped as of August 14 following a drop in soybean acreage. Among the 28.92 mt oilseeds production target set by the government for the current season, soybean is targeted at 14.85 mt and groundnut at 11.35 mt.

In oilseeds, soybean dropped to 121.35 lh from 122.76 lh, but groundnut continued its lead at 48.79 lh, up from 48.22 lh. Among pulses, arhar sowing reached 43.86 lh compared to 43.44 lh a year ago, and urad (black gram) rose to 24.38 lh from 21.72 lh. However, moong (green gram) at 32.68 lh slipped from 33.93 lh.

The coverage of nutri/coarse cereals has been reported as 1.9 per cent lower at 176.36 lh compared with 179.81 lh. The area under jowar reached 13.41 lh, up from 12.61 lh a year ago, while bajra increased to 64.68 lh from 63.33 lh. However, ragi decreased to 4.81 lh, down from 6.60 lh, and maize decreased to 89.51 lh, down from 93.30 lh.

Cotton acreage is now a notch lower at 108.45 lh from 108.73 lh, while jute and mesta coverage was higher at 6.34 lh from 6.23 lh year-ago, data show.

Business Standard – 25.08.2026

Russia offers to increase fertiliser exports to India

ARCHIS MOHAN
New Delhi, 24 August

Moscow is willing to increase its fertiliser supplies to India's agricultural sector, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday during his meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

The Russian President noted that bilateral trade between the two countries increased in the first half of 2026, after a decline in 2025.

Jaishankar began his two-day official visit to Moscow on Sunday. He cochaired the 27th session of the India-Russia Inter-governmental Commission on trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation, with Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov. India is keen to host Putin for the Brics summit on September 12 and 13 in New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also slated to meet the Russian president in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit on August 31 and September 1.

During the meeting, Putin said Manturov and Jaishankar have been working on increasing bilateral trade between the two countries, and must have discussed the key issues during their meeting, which are many.

Russian President Vladimir Putin (*left*), during his meeting with Foreign Minister S Jaishankar, said that Moscow is doing everything it can to resolve the issue for Indian farmers PHOTO: REUTERS

"One of these issues — not just fuel — is the supply of mineralisers (fertilisers). We are doing everything we can to resolve the issue for Indian farmers, for agriculture; we are increasing these exports and are prepared to continue doing so," Putin said, according to Russian news agency *Interfax*. "I am pleased to note that our trade has increased this year. It declined slightly last year," he said.

Russia has emerged as India's biggest supplier of fertilisers, especially urea, in recent years. India's imports of fertilisers from Russia increased by almost 40 per cent in 2025.

During Putin's visit to New Delhi in December 2025, the two sides welcomed "steps to ensure long-term supply of fertilisers to India and discussed the potential establishment of joint ventures in this area."

Jaishankar said the increase in India-Russia bilateral trade from $13 billion in 2021 to $60 billion in 2025 has widened the trade imbalance, which has increased from $6.6 billion to over $50 billion in Russia's favour. "Addressing this imbalance is one of our foremost priorities."

He said progress on market access, removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers, strengthening payment mechanisms and stronger business-to-business engagement would be critical to addressing the imbalance and achieving the shared objective of $100 billion in bilateral trade by 2030.

Manturov said bilateral trade with India would increase after the free trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union takes effect.

India, China to discuss boundary issue today

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval arrived in Beijing on Monday for a two-day visit to take part in the Special Representatives talks on the India-China boundary question with his Chinese counterpart and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. The talks "scheduled to be held on Tuesday" assume significance as they come amid uncertainties over Chinese President Xi Jinping's much-anticipated visit to India for the Brics summit on September 12-13. PTI

Business Standard – 25.08.2026

FM's Canada, US visit begins today

Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will undertake an official visit to Canada and the United States from August 25 to September 2, the Ministry of Finance said on Monday. The visit will focus on boosting bilateral economic and financial partnerships, deepening investment linkages and advancing cooperation on shared global economic priorities.

In Toronto, Sitharaman will participate in the inaugural Economic and Financial Dialogue with Canadian Finance and National Revenue Minister François-Philippe Champagne. The dialogue will provide a platform for both sides to exchange views on macroeconomic developments, financial sector cooperation, bilateral investment opportunities and shared international priorities, and further strengthen the economic and financial pillar of the renewed India-Canada partnership.

Bilateral discussions in recent months have also focused on opportunities in energy, critical minerals, technology, innovation and resilient supply chains, alongside ongoing efforts towards Cepa.

The FM will also participate in an roundtable with CEOs, presidents and representatives from leading energy, AI and critical minerals firms. The interaction aims to facilitate greater business-to-business linkages, identify investment opportunities and promote partnerships, including opportunities in Gujarat's GIFT City-IFSC. MONIKA YADAV

58% of FY27 fertiliser subsidy budget used in less than 5 mths

Govt spent a significant part of the allocation for urea imports

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 24 August

In less than five months of this financial year (FY27), 58.04 per cent of the budgetary allocation for fertiliser subsidies has been exhausted owing to a surge in global prices, particularly of urea, after the war started in West Asia, according to sources.

The percentage of expenditure comes down to around 56 per cent of Budget Estimates if a re-appropriation of some expenditure is taken into account. The BE then becomes ₹1.77 trillion if those expenses are added, sources said.

According to sources, the data shows that till August 19 the central government spent around ₹99,000 crore, a significant chunk of which is for paying for urea imports.

Sources said as against the Budget allocation of around ₹36,349 crore for subsiding imported urea, almost ₹33,592.41 crore (almost 92.4 per cent) had been spent till August 19.

When it comes to subsidies on the production of urea in the country, sources said as against a reassessed sum of ₹86,635 crore given in the Budget, almost ₹44,279.27 crore (around 51.1 per cent) was spent till August 19.

As regards subsidies on P&K (phosphorus and potassium) fertilisers, for indigenous production and imports, as against the Budget allocation of ₹54,000 crore, around ₹21,256.45 crore (or around 39.3 per cent) was exhausted till the same day.

This also means that the government might need to supplement its expenditure on fertiliser subsidies in the coming months to keep retail prices in control for the rest of the year.

In India, the retail price of urea, and also to some extent diammonium phosphate (DAP), is capped by the government and the difference between the market price and retail price is paid as subsidy to companies to ensure affordable crop nutrients.

Urea is sold at a fixed rate of ₹267 per 45-kg bag to farmers while for DAP it is ₹1,350 per 50-kg bag.

Average urea prices in the international markets had jumped to almost $947 per tonne (free-on-board) around May, up from around $447 at the start of the conflict in February, before coming down to $447 from July onwards.

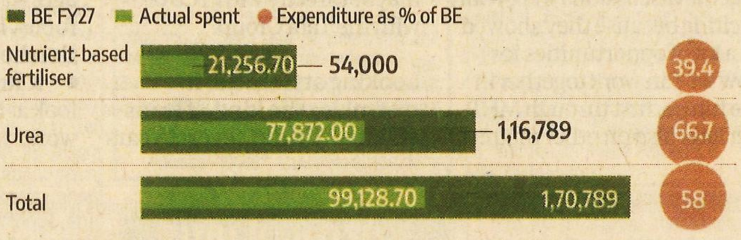
The spike, coupled with the rise in prices of DAP and ingredients such as phosphoric acid, ammonia and sulphur, meant that India had to purchase crucial plant nutrients at a much higher cost ahead of kharif sowing.

The government, through its fertiliser companies and also those in the cooperative sector, started a drive to purchase urea, DAP and other critical ingredients to ensure that farmers got adequate supplies during the season, which started in July. As a result, India had around 20 million tonnes of fertiliser in stock before the sowing season. This was almost 53 per cent of the season's requirement.

Not just the prices of fertilisers and the critical inputs that are used in their manufacture, the prices of liquefied natural gas (LNG), which accounts for almost 80 per cent of the production cost of urea, shot up.

The ledger

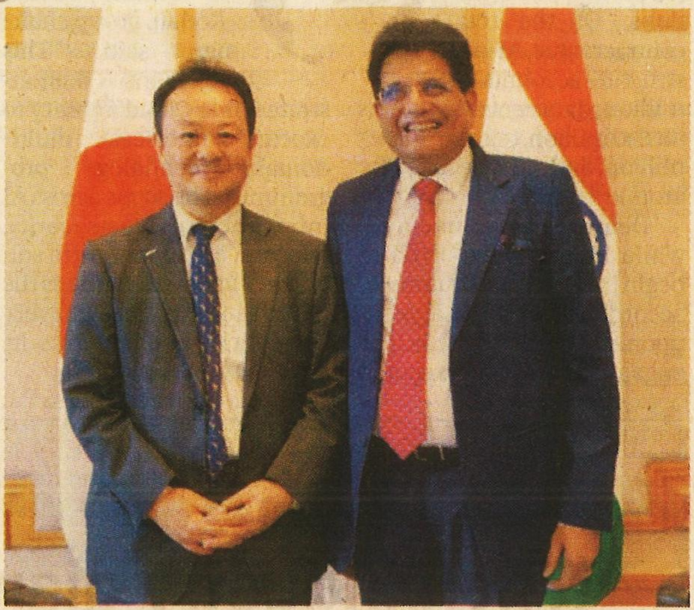
Fertiliser subsidy actual spent until August 19, 2026 (in ₹ crore)



BE: Budget Estimates; Note: Nutrient-based subsidy is for P&K fertilisers, both indigenous and importer and similarly urea subsidy is for both indigenous and imported

Source: Trade, market

Business Standard – 25.08.2026



TOKYO TALKS: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal with the Representative Director of Mitsubishi Corporation Juro Baba (*left*) in Tokyo on Monday. Addressing the representatives of Japanese firms during his visit, Goyal said India is opening doors for engagements via FTAs. He also urged them to invest in India, increase localisation, and set up innovation centres, saying "our doors are open 24X7" PHOTO: PTI

India in FTA talks with 8-9 more blocs, aims to cover 75% of global trade: Goyal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Tokyo, 24 August

India is in negotiations with at least 8-9 more groups of countries and individual nations that together account for another $15 trillion of gross domestic product (GDP), Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday.

He added that the country's free trade agreements (FTAs) would eventually cover about 75 per cent of global trade and help position India as a trusted partner in global value chains.

India has a large domestic market and it opens its doors to the world with nine free trade agreements signed in the last four years, he said while addressing business representatives from India and Japan.

These nine agreements cover economies with a combined GDP of $60 trillion and 38 developed countries.

The earlier trade pacts with countries, including Japan and Korea , and the Asean region have opened another $10 trillion of GDP.

"So today India opens up the doors to preferential market access to $70 trillion of economy. We are in talks with at least 8 or 9 other groups of countries or countries which will add another $15 trillion.

"Basically 75 per cent of global trade will be covered through our free trade agreements, opening India to become a part of the global value chain as a trusted partner," he said in Tokyo.

Goyal is leading a business delegation of over 200 representatives in Japan to boost trade and investment ties between the two countries.

He said that large opportunities for investments in India are there in areas like data centers, manufacturing and artificial intelligence.

Goyal added that the increasing economic ties should lead towards balanced trade between India and Japan.