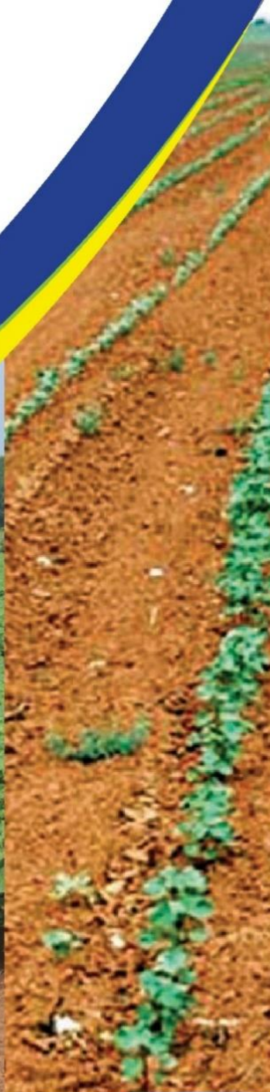
COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015



News Relating to Cotton and Textile Sector

Date-29-09-2026

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
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ISO 9001:2015

Mumbai, Tuesday 29th 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	14763	52500	(N.C.)
2	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	15%	20	13526	48100	(N.C.)
3	P / H / R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	17631	62700	(-300)
4	M/M(P) /SA/TL/GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	16028	57000	(+200)
5	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	17716	63000	(+300)
6	P/ H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	17716	63000	(-300)
7	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18165	64600	(N.C.)
8	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18025	64100	(N.C.)
9	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18475	65700	(-300)
10	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	4.0%	27	17659	62800	(-300)
11	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	18137	64500	(-300)
12	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18559	66000	(-100)
13	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18362	65300	(-200)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18615	66200	(-300)
15	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	18812	66900	(-300)
16	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	18812	66900	(-300)
17	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	19262	68500	(-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	(N.C.)
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	26489	94200	(N.C.)

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

Secretary

ICE Cotton Futures: 28-09-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE					28 Sep 2026	
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Oct-26	0.00	79.06	79.06	79.06	▲0.15	0
Dec-26	82.40	83.90	82.00	82.86	▲0.15	1,82,996
Mar-27	85.18	86.64	84.80	85.75	▲0.26	86,869
May-27	87.06	88.19	86.50	87.43	▲0.26	52,347
Jul-27	87.28	88.36	86.76	87.82	▲0.39	30,148
Oct-27	0.00	80.33	80.33	80.33	▲0.71	36
Dec-27	79.33	79.92	78.93	79.66	▲0.27	32,026

Cotlook Index: 28-09-2026

93.25 (Unch)

India's economy grows 7.8% in Q1 as exports strengthen: RBI
Tuesday, 29th Sep 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights
India's economy grew 7.8 per cent year on year in Q1 2026-27, while merchandise exports rose 26.1 per cent in August and the trade deficit narrowed to $26.9 billion.
However, ready-made garment exports fell 2.7 per cent, with inflation, energy costs and geopolitical tensions continuing to weigh on textile and apparel sourcing, adding to uncertainty for industry players.

India’s economy grew 7.8 per cent year on year (YoY) in the first quarter (Q1) of 2026-27, supported by domestic consumption and investment, while high-frequency indicators remained resilient through August despite renewed geopolitical tensions, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its September 2026 Bulletin.

Merchandise export growth remained strong in August, helping narrow India’s trade deficit to $26.9 billion from $32.0 billion in July. It rose 26.1 per cent YoY, while imports increased 14.1 per cent.

However, exports of ready-made garments (RMG) of all textiles contracted 2.7 per cent YoY in August, indicating continued pressure on India’s apparel export performance. Exports to the US and China increased 21.8 per cent and 52.4 per cent, respectively, while exports to 17 of India’s 20 major destinations expanded. Exports to West Asia continued to contract.

The RBI noted that domestic demand remained firm in August, with consumption and investment supporting overall economic activity. For manufacturers and sourcing businesses, the combination of resilient domestic demand and strong merchandise export growth provides a firmer macroeconomic backdrop, although the decline in RMG exports highlights continued challenges for the textile and apparel sector.

Headline CPI inflation rose to 4.8 per cent in August, driven by the food and beverages group as well as higher fuel and core inflation. The RBI Bulletin also noted that global geopolitical tensions, trade fragmentation, energy supply disruptions and broader cost pressures continued to weigh on financial markets and business confidence.

Renewed conflict in West Asia pushed energy prices higher, raising inflation concerns across advanced and emerging market economies. Financial markets also turned volatile in September amid geopolitical tensions and higher oil prices, adding to concerns over the balance between economic growth and inflation.

India’s external sector remained supported by a moderate current account deficit in Q1 2026-27 and strong foreign direct investment (FDI) flows. Net FDI in July rose to its highest monthly level in five years, while net inflows under non-resident deposits increased sharply.

Foreign exchange reserves reached an all-time high of $765.9 billion as of September 18, providing additional external-sector support.

Iran Chabahar rail link nears launch for India-Central Asia trade
Tuesday, 29th Sep 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights
Iran has completed the 730-km Chabahar-Zahedan railway, which is expected to become operational within three to four months after final safety checks.
The rail link will improve India's access to Afghanistan, Central Asia and eastern Russia through Chabahar, while supporting wider regional connectivity and the International North-South Transport Corridor.

Iran has completed the 730-km Chabahar-Zahedan railway, a project expected to improve India’s access to Afghanistan, Central Asia and eastern Russia through Iran.

The railway is expected to become fully operational in three to four months after final safety checks by Iranian authorities, according to media reports.

The railway connects the southeastern Iranian port of Chabahar with Zahedan and provides landlocked Afghanistan and Central Asian countries with another route to maritime trade through the Indian Ocean.

For India-linked cargo, the line could provide a rail connection from Chabahar into Iran’s wider railway network and onward towards Central Asia, avoiding transit through Pakistan.
The route has 33 stations, 39 tunnels and 201 bridges. Iranian authorities have begun final preparations for operations and are conducting safety checks before the line enters service.
The development comes as New Delhi and Tehran continue discussions over India’s involvement at Chabahar Port.

The port’s status was discussed when Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on September 11 on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit.

India Ports Global Limited and Iran’s Ports and Maritime Organisation signed a 10-year agreement in May 2024 for the development and operation of the Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar. India subsequently completed its $120 million financial commitment under the agreement.

India's involvement at Chabahar remains affected by US sanctions. The US withdrew a sanctions exception covering the project in September 2025 and later granted India a conditional waiver that expired on April 26, 2026. The Indian government has said it remains engaged with stakeholders on the implications.

New Delhi is also discussing an arrangement under which a local Iranian ports authority could manage Chabahar Port, with provisions for India's operational rights to return if US sanctions are lifted.

The Chabahar-Zahedan railway forms part of wider efforts to connect the Indian Ocean gateway with Iran's national rail network and improve access to markets in Afghanistan, Central Asia and beyond. Its development is also relevant to the broader International North-South Transport Corridor, which seeks to connect India with Iran, Central Asia, Russia and Europe.

India's weavers seek six-month duty relief as yarn costs rise
Monday, 28th Sep 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights Indian weaving representatives have urged the finance ministry to remove basic customs duty on MEG, PTA, POY, FDY and DTY for 6 months to ease polyester input costs. The call follows price rises: PTA to ₹106.50 (~$1.11) per kg, polyester melt to ₹120.05 per kg and polyester staple fibre up ₹2 per kg from September 26. Industry comments warned pressure could affect employment but did not quantify job losses.

Indian weaving industry representatives have called for a six-month removal of basic customs duty (BCD) on key polyester inputs as higher material costs squeeze manufacturers and weaken demand.

In a post addressed to the finance ministry on X, Ashish Gujarati, past president of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, asked the government to remove BCD on monoethylene glycol (MEG), purified terephthalic acid (PTA), partially oriented yarn (POY), fully drawn yarn (FDY) and drawn textured yarn (DTY) for six months.
Responding to the post, industry figure Alpesh Kapopara said a temporary review of duties on these materials could ease costs and support the competitiveness of the textile value chain. Rakesh M

Barvaliya said yarn costs had become too high for weavers, while another commenter, Darshan, warned that continued pressure could affect employment.

The request came amid rising domestic polyester prices. PTA increased by ₹1.10 (~$0.01) to ₹106.50 (~$1.11) per kg with effect from September 26, while polyester melt rose by ₹0.95 (~$0.01) to ₹120.05 (~$1.25) per kg. MEG remained at ₹83.70 (~$0.87) per kg. Polyester staple fibre prices increased by ₹2 (~$0.02) per kg on the same date, following a ₹3 (~$0.03) per kg rise earlier in September.

R K Vij, secretary general of the Polyester Textile Apparel Industry Association (PTAIA), said higher PTA and MEG costs had made downstream producers cautious, with many purchasing only to meet immediate requirements. Limited MEG availability had also led some producers to reduce operating rates and purchases, weighing on PTA demand, he said.

Vij attributed a temporary PTA shortage in late August and early September partly to a decline in imports after the removal of a customs duty exemption in mid-July. He also cited constraints on competitively priced paraxylene supplies and elevated freight rates as pressures on production and downstream exports.

Unava Cotton Arrivals Begin

Monday, 28th Sep 2026, Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Cotton Arrivals Begin at Unava APMC; Prices Reach ₹2,525 per Maund

Mehsana, Gujarat: Arrivals of new cotton have commenced at the Unava APMC, located in the Unjha taluka of Mehsana district, Gujarat. Approximately 100 maunds of cotton have been recorded so far in early trading. Prices in the market ranged from ₹1,500 to ₹2,525 per maund, with ₹2,525 marking the highest rate recorded in this initial phase. Currently, cotton is primarily arriving from the Mehsana and Patan districts.

According to APMC Secretary Rajubhai Patel, facilities such as accurate weighing, cash payments, drinking water, and parking are being provided for the convenience of farmers. The cotton market season typically runs from September to April, with peak arrivals usually expected between October and December.

Market insiders anticipate higher cotton arrivals this year compared to the last. However, as the season has just begun and only 100 maunds have arrived, it is premature to estimate the total volume for the entire season. Future arrivals will be influenced by weather conditions, production levels, and farmers' decisions regarding sales.

There is also speculation about a potential rise in cotton prices. Factors such as scanty rainfall, reduced cotton sowing, and overseas demand could impact the market. However, actual prices will ultimately be determined by market arrivals, cotton quality, production, and both domestic and international demand.

Cotton is primarily used in the manufacture of textiles and yarn. Additionally, cotton seeds are processed to produce items such as cottonseed oil. As arrivals increase in the coming days, farmers and traders will closely monitor cotton prices and market conditions at the Unava APMC.

Weather Hits Jalgaon Cotton Crop

Monday, 28th Sep 2026, Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Weather Takes a Toll on Jalgaon Cotton Crop; Season Likely to End Before Diwali

Jalgaon, Maharashtra: Cotton farmers have faced mounting difficulties this year due to fluctuating weather conditions and erratic rainfall since the start of the Kharif season. Heavy rains in June and July hampered cotton growth in some areas, while the sowing of monsoon cotton was also disrupted through late July. Subsequently, a lack of adequate rainfall during the month of Shravan caused crops in many regions to suffer from water scarcity.

According to farmers, the summer cotton crop was affected by diseases such as rot and black rot. Farmers had to incur additional expenses on pesticides and other agricultural inputs to save the crop. Many had sown summer cotton in May using drip irrigation, relying on well water; however, a subsequent drop in well water levels stunted crop growth.

Due to a low number of bolls, the yield for summer cotton is estimated at approximately 3 to 4 quintals per acre. Reports indicate that the monsoon cotton crop has also been affected in several areas. A lack of rainfall and the absence of retreating monsoon showers have impacted soil moisture and well water levels.

Expenditure of ₹40,000 to ₹45,000 per Acre

Farmers state that the cost of cotton cultivation is ranging from ₹40,000 to ₹45,000 per acre. This includes expenses for fertilizers, seeds, labor, weeding, pesticides, harvesting, and other agricultural operations. Costs have further increased due to the use of additional chemicals to combat diseases and protect the crop.

Concerns Regarding the Rabi Season

Farmers anticipate that the cotton season in some areas may conclude earlier than usual—specifically, before Diwali. However, this situation may vary depending on the specific region and the stage of the crop's development. Farmers are also concerned about the availability of sufficient soil moisture and water for the Rabi season due to a lack of rainfall and irrigation water. The situation will become clearer in the coming days based on rainfall patterns, well water levels, and actual crop yields.

ICE cotton edges up on firmer market participation
Tuesday, 29th Sep 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights ICE cotton futures edged higher on Monday, supported by improved US export sales and firmer participation, while rising harvest progress and speculative long liquidation limited gains. December 2026 closed at 82.86 cents per pound, up 15 points; US Upland sales rose to 230,500 bales, the US harvest reached 17 per cent, and China will suspend State Reserve cotton sales from September 30.

ICE cotton futures edged higher on Monday, supported by improved US export sales and firmer market participation, while gains remained limited due to rising US harvest progress and continued speculative long liquidation. Traders balanced improving demand signals against increasing new-crop availability.

The most active December 2026 contract rose 15 points to close at 82.86 cents per pound. Other contracts gained 1–71 points. December 2026 traded between 82.07–83.86 cents, attempting to hold above 83 cents after last week's 156-point recovery, but failed to sustain the level.

Market activity improved, with volume rising to 61,336 contracts from 54,611 on Friday. Open interest (OI) reached a record 386,954 contracts on Friday, highlighting strong positioning in the market. However, CFTC data showed hedge funds reduced bullish exposure, liquidating 17,479 long contracts in the week ended September 22.

US export demand showed improvement, with Upland cotton sales for the week ended September 17 rising to 230,500 bales from 71,231 bales a week earlier. However, shipments remained below the USDA's seasonal pace, keeping demand signals mixed.

Supply pressure is increasing as the US cotton harvest reached 17 per cent completion by September 28, ahead of the five-year average, according to USDA. Crop conditions stood at 35 per cent good-to-excellent and 30 per cent fair. Improved weather outlook in West Texas has also eased concerns over crop stress.

China's cotton market remained firm, with the CC Index 3128B rising to 17,394 yuan (~$2,588) per tonne on September 28. Meanwhile, China announced that State Reserve cotton sales will be suspended from September 30 after auctions began in July. The move removes a recent source of physical demand support, and the market will monitor whether commercial mill buying can offset the impact.

Cotton prices are currently supported by stronger export sales, limited certified stocks and commercial buying interest, while pressure comes from rising US supplies, speculative liquidation and the end of China's reserve auctions.

December 2026 cotton faces immediate support near 82 cents and resistance around 83–84 cents. A sustained move above 84 cents could strengthen recovery, while weakness below 82 cents may renew selling pressure.

This morning (Indian Standard Time), December 2026 cotton was trading at 81.41 cents per pound (down 1.45 cent). Cash cotton was traded at 80.36 cents (up 0.15 cent), while the October 2026 contract traded at 79.06 cents (up 0.15 cent). The March 2027 contract was at 84.46 cents (down 1.29 cent), May 2027 at 86.21 cents (down 1.22 cent), and July 2027 at 86.62 cents (down 1.20 cent).

Weavers Seek Duty Relief on Polyester Inputs

Tuesday, 29th Sep 2026, Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)
Weavers Distressed by Rising Yarn Prices; Demand Six-Month Duty Relief

New Delhi: Amidst rising raw material costs and sluggish demand, India's weaving and textile industry has urged the government to waive the Basic Customs Duty (BCD) for six months on key raw materials used in the polyester industry. Industry representatives state that escalating costs are pressuring downstream manufacturers and undermining the competitiveness of the textile value chain.

Ashish Gujarati, former president of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, took to X (formerly Twitter) to urge the Ministry of Finance to remove the BCD for six months on Monoethylene Glycol (MEG), Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA), Partially Oriented Yarn (POY), Fully Drawn Yarn (FDY), and Drawn Textured Yarn (DTY).

Commenting on this demand, industry stakeholder Alpesh Kapopara noted that temporary duty relief on these materials could help reduce production costs and boost the competitiveness of the textile value chain. Rakesh M. Barvalia also expressed concern over high yarn prices, while Darshan voiced apprehensions that persistent cost pressures could impact employment.

Meanwhile, price hikes have been recorded in the domestic polyester market. On September 26, the price of PTA rose by ₹1.10 to ₹106.50 per kilogram, and the price of polyester melt increased by ₹0.95 to reach ₹120.05 per kilogram. The price of MEG remained stable at ₹83.70 per kilogram. On the same date, the price of polyester staple fiber increased by ₹2 per kilogram; it had previously seen a hike of ₹3 per kilogram earlier in September. According to R.K. Vij, General Secretary of the Polyester Textile Apparel Industry Association (PTAIA), downstream manufacturers are cautious about making purchases due to the rising costs of PTA and MEG. Some producers are buying material only to meet immediate requirements.

Vij also attributed the temporary shortage of PTA in late August and early September to a decline in imports following the withdrawal of the customs duty exemption in mid-July. He further highlighted difficulties in sourcing paraxylene at competitive prices and rising freight costs, both of which are exerting pressure on production and downstream exports.

Pink Bollworm Hits Amravati Cotton

Tuesday, 29th Sep 2026, Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)
Pink Bollworm Infestation in Pre-Monsoon Sown Cotton Raises Farmers' Concerns
Amravati, Maharashtra: Farmers in the Amravati region are concerned following the detection of pink bollworms in cotton crops sown before the monsoon. Pink bollworm larvae have been found inside cotton bolls in some fields in Valni Khurd and Valni Budruk. Farmers fear that the infestation could spread to other fields in the coming days.

Naresh Suigot, a farmer from Pathrot, had sown cotton in Valni Budruk during the last week of May, utilizing irrigation facilities. According to the farmer, the crop was in good condition until now, with over 70 bolls per plant, raising hopes for a good yield.

However, during a crop inspection, holes were observed in some cotton bolls. Upon opening the bolls, pink bollworm larvae were found inside. This discovery has heightened anxiety among farmers in the area.

The cotton crop is already grappling with water scarcity due to a lack of rainfall in the region. Consequently, if the pink bollworm infestation escalates, it could adversely affect cotton yields.

How does the pink bollworm damage the cotton crop?
The pink bollworm enters the cotton boll and damages the seeds and fibers. In the early stages, it is difficult to detect the infestation from the outside. Later, holes may become visible on the infected bolls.

According to agricultural experts, early sowing of cotton can increase the risk of pink bollworm infestation. However, the exact cause of the outbreak in this specific instance will only be determined after an investigation.

Farmers have been advised to monitor their fields regularly. If holes in the cotton bolls or signs of the pest are observed, they should seek timely advice from the Agriculture Department or agricultural experts. Additionally, they are urged to adhere to government guidelines regarding cotton sowing and seed procurement.

Virudhunagar Cotton Farmers Get Subsidies

Tuesday, 29th Sep 2026, Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)
Subsidies for Cotton Farmers in Virudhunagar under the 'Mission for Cotton Productivity'

Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu: Cotton farmers in Virudhunagar district will receive subsidies for various activities under the ‘Mission for Cotton Productivity’ to encourage the adoption of modern technology and boost production and productivity. The scheme includes provisions for demonstration plots, drone-based spraying of crop protection chemicals, and technical training for farmers.

District Collector Sharanya Ari stated that the mission aims to expand the area under cotton cultivation, improve crop quality and productivity, and connect farmers with modern agricultural techniques. Emphasis will also be placed on increasing farmers' income by the 2026-27 financial year.

Under the scheme, farmers will receive a subsidy of ₹14,000 for High-Density Planting System (HDPS) demonstration plots. Additionally, assistance of ₹18,500 is provided for demonstration plots utilizing close-spacing planting methods. Farmers will receive a subsidy of ₹9,500 for demonstration plots dedicated to Extra-Long Staple (ELS) cotton cultivation.

A subsidy of ₹7,500 will be provided for Integrated Crop Management (ICM) demonstration plots aimed at enhancing cotton production and productivity.

Furthermore, farmers opting for drone-based spraying of crop protection chemicals will receive a subsidy covering 50 percent of the associated costs. Farmers will also receive training on the use of modern technologies in cotton cultivation.

A total area of 1,600 hectares has been earmarked for various demonstration plots, while 800 hectares have been designated for drone-based spraying of crop protection chemicals under the scheme.

Interested farmers can register via the ‘Uzhavan’ app or by contacting the nearest Assistant Director (Agriculture) office.

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Calls for 'Team Agriculture' to Make India a Global Food Basket

Tuesday, 29th Sep 2026, Source: www.pib.gov.in)

Centre, States Must Rise Above Politics to Put Farmers First: Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan
India's Farm Produce Set to Gain Global Reach Through New Trade Opportunities: Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan
More than ₹1200 Crore PM-RKVY Support Sanctioned to 10 States at National Agriculture Conference
Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Announces Stronger Centre-State Coordination and Nationwide 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan'

Natural Farming, Integrated Agriculture and Crop Diversification Key to a More Sustainable Farm Sector: Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan

On the second day of the National Agriculture Conference – Rabi Campaign 2026, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan chaired a session attended by Agriculture Ministers and senior officials from various states. Addressing the gathering, Shri Chouhan said that under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Centre and states must rise above party politics and work in the spirit of 'Team Agriculture' to ensure the country's food security and improve farmers' livelihoods. "Governments and political parties come and go; parties are formed and dissolved, but the country and its farmers are eternal," he said, stressing that the platform was not about politics but about finding practical ways to improve agriculture and advance the interests of farmers. Shri Chouhan also highlighted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, farmers' interests have been accorded the highest priority in every major policy decision and international agreement. At the conference, Shri Chouhan handed over financial sanction letters worth more than ₹1200 crore to Agriculture Ministers of 10 states under the Prime Minister Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY). Union

Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Ram Nath Thakur and Shri Bhagirath Choudhary, Agriculture Secretary Shri Atish Chandra, ICAR Director General Dr. M. L. Jat, along with senior officials from the Centre and states, scientists and representatives of various agricultural institutions, were present at the conference.

More than ₹ 1200 crore sanctioned to 10 states under PM-RKVY

Under PM-RKVY, sanction letters were distributed to 10 states, including ₹290 crore for West Bengal, ₹198 crore for Haryana, ₹181 crore for Chhattisgarh, ₹154 crore for Arunachal Pradesh, ₹114 crore for Bihar, ₹104 crore for Karnataka, ₹75 crore for Mizoram, ₹64 crore for Himachal Pradesh, ₹58 crore for Jharkhand and ₹43 crore for Punjab.

Shri Chouhan said the Union Government was not limiting itself to policy formulation, but was also ensuring timely availability of resources to states so that implementation of schemes could begin on the ground without delay.

Agriculture growth rate rises to 4.5 per cent

Highlighting the country's agricultural performance, Shri Chouhan said that since 2015, the agriculture growth rate has increased from 3 per cent to 4.5 per cent. The average annual increase in foodgrain production has also more than doubled, rising from around 40 lakh tonnes earlier to 84 lakh tonnes per year. He further noted that in just two years, from 2023-24 to 2025-26, rabi foodgrain production recorded an unprecedented increase of 205 lakh tonnes. He attributed this historic growth to the collective efforts of state agriculture departments, scientists and farmers.

Monthly virtual reviews with states to strengthen cooperative federalism

Announcing a new mechanism to further strengthen cooperative federalism, Shri Chouhan said that, on the lines of weekly reviews conducted at the Centre, regular monthly virtual review meetings with states would now be held to continuously assess progress. At the state level, a strong State Agriculture Team will be constituted by bringing together the Agriculture Minister, Agriculture Secretary, state agricultural universities, ICAR institutions, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), ATMA, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), progressive farmers, processors, exporters and nodal officers of the Government of India. At the district level, monthly meetings will be held involving the Collector, Deputy Director of Agriculture (DDA), ATMA, KVKs, ICAR scientists, bankers and farmers.

Annual calendar for pre-season agriculture interface meetings

To ensure advance preparation for agricultural campaigns, Shri Chouhan announced an annual calendar for interface meetings. For the Kharif campaign, district-level meetings will be held on May 10 and state-level meetings on May 17 every year. Similarly, for the Rabi campaign, district-level meetings will be held on September 10 and state-level meetings on September 17 every year. In addition, a one-day special meeting will be organised across the country on a common date, bringing together Agriculture Ministers, officials and agricultural scientists simultaneously to discuss issues concerning farmers.

'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' from October 22 to November 30

Emphasising the need to protect soil health and the environment, Shri Chouhan called for a nationwide 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' from October 22 to November 30 this year. Scientists and all key stakeholders will actively participate in the campaign. Based on Soil Health Cards, the campaign will promote balanced use of fertilisers to protect soil fertility and beneficial insects. He also called for large-scale promotion of pulse cultivation in rice fallow areas of eastern India, particularly in Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal, after the paddy harvest.

Rabi preparations to focus on soil moisture, water availability and crop protection
As part of preparations for the current rabi season, Shri Chouhan stressed that recommendations on crops and improved seeds should be based on soil moisture and water availability. He directed states to put in place effective arrangements to protect crops from diseases and pests, ensure saturation of all eligible farmers with Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) and conduct transparent Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) under the crop insurance scheme. He also emphasised that state ministers should personally undertake regular reviews of the implementation of departmental schemes.

Strict action against spurious inputs, end to forced tagging
Stating that the availability of seeds and fertilisers in the country is adequate, Shri Chouhan directed states to take strict legal action against fake fertilisers, spurious seeds and sub-standard pesticides. He also directed that forced tagging be completely eliminated. Calling for agriculture to become more sustainable and remunerative, he urged states to adopt natural farming, integrated farming systems and crop diversification in mission mode.

Government working on multi-pronged strategy to ensure remunerative prices for farmers

Shri Chouhan said the government is pursuing a multi-dimensional strategy to ensure that farmers receive fair and remunerative prices for their produce. The strategy includes strengthening post-harvest management, scientific warehousing and marketing systems. He said that 100 per cent assured government procurement of tur, urad and masoor at MSP would be undertaken, with arrangements for payment within 48 hours. In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, he said India would also leverage the new market opportunities emerging from international Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to connect Indian agricultural products, fruits, vegetables and foodgrains with global markets. This, he said, would help farmers secure better returns for their produce and enable India to emerge as a major 'food basket' for the world.

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Business Standard – 29.09.2026

US, China to cut tariffs for goods worth $60 billion

REUTERS
28 September

China and the United States (US) have agreed to cut tariffs imposed on $60 billion worth of goods imported from each other, on an array of products ranging from US corn to cosmetics, and from Chinese household appliances to toys.

Under the US-China Board of Trade, both countries have each recommended $30 billion of trade in non-sensitive goods for more favourable tariff treatment, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said in a statement on Sunday.

For the United States, that was "unlocking improved market access" for about 30 per cent of US exports to China, he said.

The reciprocal tariff reduction as well as an extension of a trade truce were among the key takeaways from the second summit this year between President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump, hosted in Washington last week.

One of two lists from the White House showed that China planned to trim duties on a variety of US agricultural goods including corn, wheat, sorghum, meat, dairy, vegetable oils and meals. It did not include soybeans.

Beijing will also look to reduce levies on US fish and seafood, logs and wood products, cosmetics and medical devices. In another list were Washington's reciprocal tariff cuts for Chinese small appliances such as coffee makers and toasters, tableware, blankets and bed linens.

The lists also included toys, fireworks, artificial flowers, Christmas tree lamps and other holiday decorations, and children's car seats.

Duties eased

By China

Agriculture: Corn, wheat, sorghum, meat, dairy, vegetable oils and meals

Other goods: Fish and seafood, logs and wood products, cosmetics and medical devices

By US

Household goods: Small appliances, tableware, blankets and bed linen

Consumer goods: Toys, fireworks, artificial flowers, Christmas decorations and children's car seats

Trump invited Xi to buy US arms

US President Donald Trump has justified the pending US arms sale to Taiwan to Chinese President Xi Jinping by downplaying it as just one of many sales Washington makes around the world — even asking Xi if he'd be in the market for US arms, Trump's ambassador to China said on Sunday.

David Perdue said Trump raised the prospect of the arms sales from the US to its ascendant geopolitical rival, an unlikely offer that if consummated would upend generations of United States policy toward China and Taiwan and potentially expose US technology to a potential foe. AP/PTI

businessline – 29.09.2026

'India-UAE trade nearing pre-war levels'

Aneesh Phadnis
Mumbai

"Trade between India and the UAE is coming back to pre-war levels. We are very close to it and in another few months we should get back to normal," Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said on Monday.

Chairing the 14th India-UAE high-level joint task force on investments, he said, India's exports of goods and services rose 15 per cent in the first six months of FY27 despite geopolitical issues, he added.

India and the UAE signed a comprehensive economic partnership agreement in 2022 focusing on bilateral trade and investments. Last year, trade between the two crossed $100 billion, and targeted to double it by 2032.

Goyal said both sides discussed greater cooperation in space technology, shipbuilding, ports, food security, energy and AI. Political relations between the countries remain strong, with four meetings between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan over the past two years. India and the UAE are working to develop strategic petroleum reserves and LPG supplies.

$25 B COMMITMENT

The UAE has invested $25 billion in India so far and has committed to invest another $25 billion. "Trade settlement in local currencies is also slowly increasing as exporters realise the benefits. Currently, it is in double digits and we hope it will grow further," Goyal said.

The UAE delegation at the meeting was led by Minister for Foreign Trade Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi and Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, MD of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

Business Standard – 29.09.2026

RAJASTHAN

Agri dept looks at AI to boost farm productivity

ANIL SHARMA
Jaipur, 28 September

The state's Agriculture Department is looking to integrate modern technology, innovation and data-driven decision-making systems into the agricultural sector, a senior official of the department said.

"As part of this initiative, a one-day workshop was organised recently in Jaipur, where experts from the Wadhwani Institute for Artificial Intelligence (Wadhwani AI) briefed agricultural officers on the uses, potential and practical applications of AI in the sector," the official said.

The state signed a non-financial memorandum of understanding with the Wadhwani Institute for Artificial Intelligence in May to provide technical support without any financial burden on the government. The official said the department's goal is to move beyond treating AI merely as a technical experiment and instead make it an integral part of the agricultural system and farmer service delivery.

Agriculture and allied sectors contribute 27 per cent to the state's GDP. The state government plans to increase this share by launching new agriculture-related schemes, including the use of AI.

Agriculture Commissioner Naresh Kumar Goyal said the utility of AI in agriculture extends beyond departmental operations. The effective transfer of this technology to farmers will play a crucial role in making agriculture smarter, more profitable, sustainable and resilient to risks in the future. He noted that AI-based technologies could prove immensely beneficial across the entire agricultural value chain, from sowing and harvesting to produce marketing.

"AI will play a pivotal role in providing weather-based agricultural advisories, assessing crop conditions, identifying pests and diseases, forecasting yields, optimising irrigation and resource management, and disseminating market-related information," Goyal said.

He said efforts were underway to leverage AI and data analytics to analyse vast amounts of data related to agriculture, weather and crops, thereby enabling the provision of more accurate, localised and timely advice to farmers.

"Weather forecasts and real-time field conditions will enable farmers to make timely decisions regarding critical agricultural activities such as sowing, irrigation, fertiliser management, pest control and harvesting. This will help control production costs, mitigate risks and boost crop productivity," Goyal said. Similarly, AI-based systems can make regular crop monitoring, early detection of pests and diseases, and yield estimation more effective and scientific.

businessline – 29.09.2026

Goyal's meet with Greer likely to focus on India-US BTA, interim trade deal

TRADE MINISTERS' MEET. Talks with USTR to take place amid uncertainty over Lindsey Graham legislation authorising 100% tariffs

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

India and the US are expected to focus on advancing negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) and finalising an interim deal during Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal's proposed meeting with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer on the sidelines of the G20 Trade Ministers' meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this week, according to the Commerce Department.

The meeting comes amid heightened trade tensions between the two countries, including over US legislation authorising higher tariffs on major purchasers of Russian

TO IRON OUT ISSUES. A file photo of Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer

oil and the pending outcome of Section 301 investigations into structural excess capacity.

Goyal will visit the US from September 29 to October 5 and participate in the G20 Trade Ministers' meeting on September 30-October 1, at the invitation of the USTR, according to a statement issued by the Commerce & Industry Ministry on Monday.

"The Minister will also engage bilaterally with his counterpart from the US as part of ongoing efforts to advance a balanced and mutually beneficial India-US BTA and finalise an interim deal in line with the joint statement of February 7, 2026," the release stated.

TARIFF REDUCTIONS

The February 7 joint statement laid out a framework under which India would eliminate or reduce tariffs on all US industrial goods and a wide range of US food and agricultural products, while the US would apply an 18 per cent reciprocal tariff on Indian goods under the proposed interim agreement. At the time, Indian goods were facing tariffs of up to 50 per cent, including a 25 per cent reciprocal tariff and an additional 25 per cent tariff linked to Russian oil purchases. The latter was subsequently rolled back.

However, the US Supreme Court invalidated the earlier IEEPA-based reciprocal tariffs on February 20. The trade negotiations have since had to contend with changes in the US tariff regime, including two Section 301 investigations into structural excess capacity and imports of goods produced with forced labour.

UNCERTAINTY

More recently, the enactment of the Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, signed into law on September 18, has added another layer of uncertainty. "Against this backdrop, Goyal's meeting with Greer is likely to provide an opportunity to take stock of the outstanding issues and work towards an interim arrangement, while discussions on the broader BTA continue," a source tracking the matter said.

'RULES-BASED'

At the G20 meeting, India will advocate a rules-based, open, inclusive, transparent and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organisation at its core, while seeking adequate policy space for developing countries, the Commerce Department said. "On the sidelines of the meeting, Minister Goyal will hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts. The engagements will focus on expanding opportunities for farmers, fishermen, women entrepreneurs, startups, MSMEs and other enterprises," it added.

businessline – 29.09.2026

India-EU FTA opens door to agri-tech: Dutch Minister

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

The India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is unlikely to substantially alter trade in primary agricultural products, but it could create greater scope for cooperation in agricultural equipment, technology and know-how, Netherlands Minister for Food Security, Fisheries and Horticulture Silvio Erkens said in New Delhi on Monday.

"So, primary products, indeed, will not change substantially with the FTA, but if you look, for example, at the industrial equipment that is needed for agriculture, the technological know-how and systems, that does provide a better base for cooperation," Erkens said.

The EU and India concluded negotiations for the FTA in January this year, although the agreement is yet to enter into force. Both India and the European Commission have said the pact will retain protection for sensitive agricultural sectors while giving limited access in some others.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The FTA is unlikely to substantially alter trade in primary agricultural products, but it could create greater scope for cooperation in agricultural equipment: Netherlands Minister for Food Security, Fisheries and Horticulture Silvio Erkens
- Greater technology cooperation could help farmers deal with climate change while creating business opportunities for both countries, he added
- The EU and India concluded negotiations for the FTA in January this year

KEY SECTORS

Erkens, who is on a September 27-October 2 visit to India, said greater technology cooperation could help farmers deal with climate change while creating business opportunities for both countries. "If you look at climate change, without innovation, farmer incomes and productivity might be hit more and more each year," he said, citing soil monitoring, AI-based agricultural applications and climate-resilient seeds as areas for cooperation.

He identified dairy, horticulture and seeds as key sectors discussed with Indian government counterparts. "The Netherlands is also looking to share expertise in dairy farming, while learning from India's more holistic approach to the sector," he said, adding that the Netherlands had reduced antibiotic use in cattle and dairy farming substantially without affecting productivity, which could be an area for knowledge-sharing with India.

The two countries are also working on a Centre of Excellence on dairy at the Centre of Excellence for Animal Husbandry in Bengaluru, where Dutch farmers are expected to train Indian dairy farmers on methods to improve productivity.

The India-Netherlands joint statement in May had welcomed the establishment of the centre.

On seeds, Erkens said cooperation could focus on developing varieties capable of growing with less water and under changing weather conditions. He said the Netherlands' technological expertise and India's large agricultural sector were complementary.

He also said discussions had taken place on Centres of Excellence in seeds and flowers. India and the Netherlands are working towards 22 such centres, with 10 already operational, five under construction and five close to approval, he said.

Erkens will visit Mumbai on Tuesday for meetings with businesses, the Maharashtra government and the seed sector, besides opening the Anuga FoodTec expo. He will then travel to Bengaluru on Wednesday with a delegation of 18 Dutch businesses for a trade visit and meet Karnataka's horticulture minister.

businessline – 29.09.2026

Due to deficient rain, kharif output may be lower; winter crops also at risk

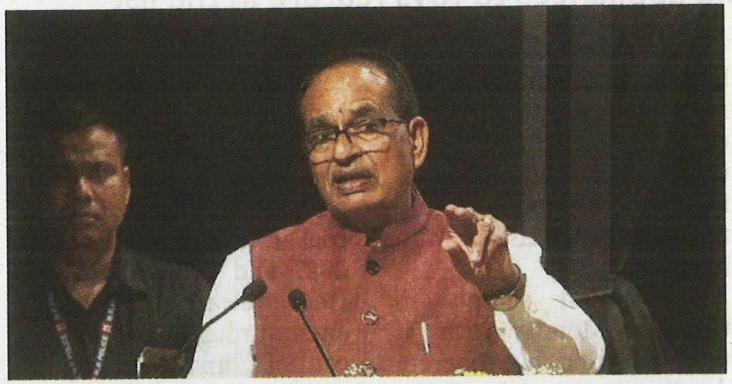
YIELD SETBACK. Agriculture Secretary says estimates point out that production is likely to be affected

Prabhudatta Mishra
New Delhi

The kharif crop production is likely to be affected by deficient rainfall in many parts of the country, besides untimely rainfall in some irrigated areas. The cultivation of rabi crops is also likely to be a challenge in rainfed areas this year due to El Nino, the annual conference for rabi crops preparation was told on Monday.

Despite deficient and excessive rainfall threatening the yields of some kharif crops, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that overall sowing targets had been met despite the risks posed by El Nino.

Addressing the Annual Rabi Conference, held to prepare for the winter crops, Chouhan said: "We were concerned about the impact of El Niño. However, I congratulate all of you, the entire team, on having largely met the kharif sowing targets. Yes, crops have certainly been affected in many places."



TAKING STOCK. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan addressing a two-day national conference on preparedness for the upcoming rabi season

CHALLENGING SEASON

Union Agriculture Secretary Atish Chandra said that the kharif season was challenging, particularly in rainfed areas. Several States struggled first to achieve crop coverage and later to ensure that the crops survived.

Chandra said all estimates pointed to kharif crop production being lower due to deficient rainfall in many parts of the country and also heavy and untimely rain in irrigated areas.

He said the upcoming rabi season, starting in October, would also be a challenge for crops in rainfed areas.

Commenting on the drought situation in Karnataka and Maharashtra, Chouhan said a central team would soon visit the States, with the team scheduled to visit Karnataka on October 3. He would also undertake an on-field assessment.

EXCESS SOIL MOISTURE

Chandra said some States could face the problem of excess soil moisture, while areas with deficient rainfall may see prolonged periods of stress.

Strategies need to be calibrated accordingly for the rabi season, he added.

He also pointed out that India continued to import pulses, edible oils and some horticulture produce, such as fruits, even though it had achieved self-sufficiency in cereals.

The normal acreage of rabi crops is about 638 lh, including nearly 315 lh under wheat. The government targets 177.72 million tonnes (mt) of foodgrains production, which includes 121 mt of wheat, 17.2 mt of pulses, 14.3 mt of mustard and 22.3 mt of nutri/coarse cereals in rabi 2026-27.

Chouhan called for cautious and careful planning for the rabi season amid the threat from climate change. "Traditionally, the heat during this month is intense. Yet, currently one feels as if winter has already set in," he said, adding that the effects of climate change were clearly visible.

ENCOURAGING SIGNS

He, however, assured the States that crops weren't damaged everywhere. "In fact, they are excellent in many places," he noted.

Exhorting the States to be prepared for the rabi season, he said timely availability of seeds, fertilizers and marketing support, including government procurement, are key factors for farmers.

businessline – 29.09.2026

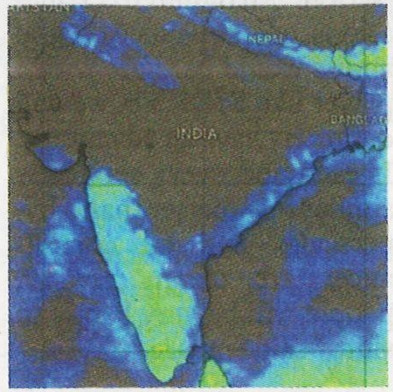
Heavy rain likely in South Peninsula: IMD

Vinson Kurian
Thiruvananthapuram

With just three days left in the South-West monsoon season, the Bay of Bengal has stirred into another bout of activity, with an incoming weather pulse from Thailand intensifying rapidly over the weekend into a depression by Monday morning.

The development was flagged by *businessline* eight days ago, based on the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) numerical model guidance.

The latest depression, however, is unlikely to turn towards the Indian coast. The IMD said it could strengthen into a deep depression by Monday evening and move along and off the Myanmar coast towards north-east and adjoining Bangladesh coast over the next three days. The depression lay over the north Andaman Sea and the adjoining Myanmar coast, about 590 km east-north-east of



The South Peninsula and western parts of peninsular India may benefit

Mayabandar in the Andaman Islands. The system's evolution comes as the South-West monsoon steadily retreats from the mainland, clearing the stage for seasonal transition to the North-East monsoon.

RESIDUAL 'LOW' WEAKENS

The withdrawal line on Monday passed through Gurdaspur, Chandigarh, Muzaffarnagar, Aligarh, Dholpur, Udaipur, Deesa and Naliya, marking further retreat across Punjab, Chandigarh-Haryana-Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

A residual low-pressure area over east Uttar Pradesh, remnant of the preceding deep depression, has weakened as the withdrawal accelerated across northern India. The transition is expected to become evident first over the Arabian Sea, where south-westerly winds may give way to easterlies by around October 7. The Bay could take slightly longer to fall into step, with short-to medium-range guidance pointing to a shift around October 12.

That change in wind regime could open the door to a fresh spell of rain and thunderstorms across larger Peninsular India and the South Peninsula, even as the South-West monsoon formally winds down. The IMD outlook points to a broadening spell of rain and thunderstorms from the middle of the week.

Isolated heavy rain is expected over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal for three days and south interior Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe for four days from Wednesday. Rainfall is likely to be isolated to scattered over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Lakshadweep, north interior Karnataka, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal for the next six days.

DEFICIT NARROWS

The departing monsoon has nevertheless managed to make some late gains in the national rainfall balance. The track of the 'low' from the Bay northwards to east Uttar Pradesh helped narrow the country's cumulative rainfall deficit by about three percentage points from last week to 12 per cent as of Sunday.

The South Peninsula saw its deficit improve to 23 per cent, while the North-East reduced its shortfall to 25 per cent. North-West India, with a 6 per cent deficit, and Central India, at 2 per cent, remained within the normal rainfall category.

businessline – 29.09.2026

Rainfall in September was only 5 per cent below normal

Prabhudatta Mishra
New Delhi

The daily rainfall departure from normal during September ranged from a 59 per cent deficit to a 162 per cent surplus, bringing the overall rainfall for the month within the normal range so far. It also helped to bridge the overall deficit in the season since June 1 to 12 per cent against a 14 per cent shortfall until August 31.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), which predicted below-normal rainfall for September, said on Monday that the monthly rainfall this month so far was 5 per cent below normal at 152.6 mm.

On September 26, when India received 162 per cent surplus rain, which is the highest single-day rainfall in the entire monsoon season, as many as four meteorological subdivisions received over 1,500 per cent above normal rain — west Uttar Pradesh 3,003 per cent, east Madhya Pradesh 1,580 per cent, Chhattisgarh 1,537 per cent and east Uttar Pradesh 1,518 per cent.

56 LIVES LOST

In Uttar Pradesh, a few districts which received over 150 mm of rainfall on September 26 include Kheri (163.9 mm actual vs 2.7 mm normal), Banda (153.1 mm vs 2.2 mm), Bahraich (193.1mm vs 3.9 mm), Shahjahanpur (162.1 mm vs 1.6 mm) and Hamirpur (164.8 mm vs 1.3 mm).

As many as 56 people were killed in rain-and-storm-related incidents in Uttar Pradesh between September 25 and September 27 as several districts grappled with water inundation in both rural and urban areas.

The depression over the State weakened into a well-marked low-pressure area on Sunday, bringing some respite from rainfall.

State government data show that 31,173.5 hectares in 2,415 villages (in 15 districts) were inundated with river floodwater as of September 27.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday pointed out the challenges posed by climate change.

He said while Karnataka, Maharashtra and some other States were struggling to manage drought-induced distress, in other parts heavy rain caused damage to crops as well as human lives.

FATAL DOWNPOUR. As many as 56 people were killed in rain-related incidents in Uttar Pradesh between Sept 25 and 27 ANI