COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015

News Relating to Cotton and Textile Sector

Date-31-07-2026

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

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COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
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ISO 9001:2015

Mumbai, Friday 31st July 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	14904	53000	(+500)
2	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	15%	20	12963	46100	(+300)
3	M/M(P)	ICS-104	Fine	23mm	4.5 - 7.0	4%	22	15185	54000	(-500)
4	P / H / R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	17153	61000	(+500)
5	M/M(P) /SA/TL/GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	15550	55300	(+300)
6	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	17125	60900	(+200)
7	P/ H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	17828	63400	(+400)
8	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18559	66000	(+200)
9	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18447	65600	(+200)
10	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	18503	65800	(+200)
11	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	4.0%	27	17856	63500	(+500)
12	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	18559	66000	(+500)
13	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18840	67000	(+200)
14	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18672	66400	(+200)
15	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18756	66700	(+100)
16	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	19065	67800	(+200)
17	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	19009	67600	(+300)
18	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	N.A.	N.A.	
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	24408	86800	(+500)
22	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	24605	87500	(+500)
23	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	25167	89500	(+500)
24	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	35	25308	90000	(+500)

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: 30-07-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE					30 Jul 2026	
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Oct-26	79.34	80.01	79.25	79.41	▲1.39	141
Dec-26	79.67	81.40	79.46	80.67	▲1.14	1,96,422
Mar-27	81.25	82.95	81.08	82.25	▲1.11	64,624
May-27	82.40	83.94	82.17	83.31	▲1.03	24,060
Jul-27	82.26	83.59	82.03	82.96	▲0.81	14,372
Oct-27	0.00	78.90	78.90	78.90	▼0.23	8
Dec-27	76.98	77.50	76.77	76.86	▲0.03	22,810

Cotlook Index: 30-07-2026

88.75 (-1.00)

ICE cotton recovers on weaker dollar, stronger export sales
Fri. 31st July 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
ICE cotton futures rebounded above 80 cents per pound as a weaker US dollar, the strongest USDA export sales in 17 weeks and weather concerns lifted sentiment.
The December 2026 contract settled 1.43 per cent higher at 80.67 cents.
Support also came from tight certified stocks and strong Chinese reserve buying.
The contract traded higher at 81.11 cents in early Friday trading (IST).

ICE cotton futures recovered from their recent decline and closed yesterday back above the important psychological level of 80 cents per pound. Market sentiment strengthened, supported by a weaker US dollar, stronger-than-expected USDA export sales and ongoing weather concerns in key US cotton-growing regions.

The most-active December 2026 contract settled at 80.67 cents, up 1.14 cents, or 1.43 per cent. The contract recovered all of Wednesday's losses and finished the week with gains of 69 points.

Prices remained firm throughout the session, with the largest intraday pullback limited to just 12 points, reflecting steady buying interest rather than a volatile short-covering rally.

Trading volume increased sharply to 38,535 contracts from 27,393 contracts on Wednesday, indicating traders returned after the lightest trading session of 2026.

The US dollar weakened after the Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged, making US cotton more competitive for overseas buyers and providing a strong tailwind for prices.

Market analysts said cotton had already been moving higher before the export report was released, suggesting the strong sales data confirmed an improving demand outlook rather than triggering the rally itself.

The USDA Weekly Export Sales report for the week ended July 23, delivered the strongest weekly sales in 17 weeks, with total net sales of 395,973 bales, including 387,798 Upland and 8,175 Pima bales. The exceptionally strong export report reinforced the view that global mill demand remains healthy, with buyers booking aggressively despite higher prices.

China's state reserve auctions continued to record 100 per cent sellouts, while ICE-certified stocks remained at a six-month low of 90,699 bales, reinforcing the tight nearby supply outlook.

Weather conditions remained supportive, with traders closely monitoring dry conditions in Xinjiang and persistent heat across West Texas, both of which could affect production prospects.

Outside markets also turned more supportive. Crude oil stabilised above $80 per barrel after the previous session's sharp rebound, helping agricultural commodities maintain inflation-hedge buying. Broader financial markets also steadied following the Federal Reserve announcement, easing the previous day's risk-off pressure.

Technically, December futures reclaimed the 80-cent level and closed back above the 10-day moving average, producing a bullish reversal after Wednesday's breakdown. Immediate support is now seen at 80.00 cents, followed by 79.50 cents and 78.68 cents, while resistance stands at 80.88 cents (Monday's high), followed by the 82.00-cent psychological level and then the recent high of 82.96 cents.

Overall, cotton quickly recovered from Wednesday's Fed-driven weakness as a softer US dollar, the strongest export sales in 17 weeks, continued Chinese buying, tight certified stocks and weather concerns restored bullish sentiment. Momentum has shifted back in favour of the bulls, with the market now watching whether strong export demand, weather conditions in West Texas and stable crude oil prices can sustain the rally.

This morning (Indian Standard Time), ICE cotton for December 2026 traded at 81.11 cents per pound (up 0.44 cent), cash cotton at 75.66 cents (up 1.39 cents), the October 2026 contract at 79.86 cents (up 0.45 cent), the March 2027 contract at 82.68 cents (up 0.43 cent), the May 2027 contract at 83.74 cents (up 0.43 cent), and the July 2027 contract at 83.40 cents (up 0.44 cent). A few contracts remained at their previous closing levels, with no trading recorded so far today.

Maharashtra Receives ₹167.51 Crore Investment from 24 Firms Under Textile PLI Scheme

Fri. 31st July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Maharashtra Attracts ₹167.51 Crore Investment from 24 Companies Under Textile PLI Scheme

According to the Ministry of Textiles, investments worth ₹167.51 crore (approximately ₹17.49 million) have been received in Maharashtra from 24 approved companies by March 31 under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles—an initiative launched to boost the production of MMF (Man-Made Fiber) garments, MMF fabrics, and technical textiles.

Nationwide, 170 companies have been approved under this scheme, with 24 of them based in Maharashtra.

The Ministry stated that it continuously monitors the scheme's implementation through periodic reviews, weekly open-house sessions, monthly workshops, and outreach programs to address challenges and enhance stakeholder participation.

The Ministry also noted that investor interest has increased following modifications made to the scheme in October 2025. These changes include the inclusion of 17 new HSN codes under the MMF garment and fabric categories, a 50% reduction in the minimum investment threshold, relaxation of the requirement to form a new company to avail benefits, and a reduction in the incremental turnover requirement for incentives from 25% to 10%.

Andhra Pradesh Cotton Sowing Rises 13%; Kurnool Tops as Planting Outpaces Normal

Fri. 31st July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Cotton Sowing in Andhra Pradesh Up by 13%; Progress Faster Than Normal; Kurnool Leads the Way

Cotton sowing in Andhra Pradesh during the Kharif 2026 season has recorded a significant increase compared to the previous year. According to the latest data from the State Agriculture Department, cotton has been sown across 3,36,354 hectares in the state as of July 29, 2026, whereas the figure stood at 2,97,848 hectares during the same period last year. Thus, an additional 38,506 hectares (approximately 13%) have been brought under cotton cultivation this year.

So far, 65% of the normal seasonal area has been sown, compared to 56% last year. Meanwhile, sowing progress relative to the normal schedule stands at 125%, a marked improvement over the 101% recorded last year. This clearly indicates that sowing has proceeded at a faster-than-normal pace in most regions this year.

In terms of district-wise data, Kurnool led the state with 2,19,767 hectares of cotton sowing. It was followed by Palnadu (34,489 hectares), NTR (21,671 hectares), Ananthapuramu (20,915 hectares), and YSR Kadapa (6,105 hectares). Conversely, sowing lagged behind the normal pace in districts such as Prakasam, Bapatla, Kakinada, Guntur, and Sri Sathya Sai.

Agricultural experts believe that this increase in sowing area could lay the foundation for better cotton production in the upcoming season. However, final output will depend on weather conditions during August and September, rainfall distribution, and the overall health of the crop.

Potential Market Impact:
The increase in sowing is a positive sign for farmers. If weather conditions remain favorable, cotton availability in the coming season is likely to improve. This raises the prospect of better supplies of the new crop for ginners, traders, and spinning mills. For now, market attention will remain focused on weather patterns and crop development.

Monsoon Boosts Kharif Sowing in Telangana & Maharashtra; Cotton Sowing Nears Completion

Fri. 31st July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Monsoon Accelerates Kharif Sowing in Telangana and Maharashtra; Cotton Sowing Nears Completion

New Delhi: Recent monsoon rains have given fresh momentum to Kharif season sowing in Telangana and Maharashtra. Continuous rainfall following a prolonged dry spell has boosted soil moisture and filled reservoirs and farm ponds, prompting farmers to accelerate sowing and paddy transplantation activities. Significant progress in Kharif crop cultivation has been observed in both states, with cotton sowing nearing its final stage.

In Telangana, following more than 48 hours of continuous drizzle, Kharif crop sowing and paddy transplantation have been completed across 82.65 lakh acres so far. This figure exceeds the 82.15 lakh acres recorded during the same period last year. According to agricultural officials, recent rains have ensured adequate soil moisture, and improved irrigation water availability has accelerated paddy transplantation. The state's rainfall deficit, which stood at 30 percent a week ago, has now narrowed to 19 percent.

Regarding crop-wise progress, paddy transplantation has been completed on 25.46 lakh acres, representing approximately 31 percent of the 65.97 lakh-acre target. Cotton sowing has reached 46.33 lakh acres against a target of 47.41 lakh acres, meaning nearly 98 percent of the target has been achieved. Additionally, sowing has been completed for maize (4.69 lakh acres), *arhar* (red gram) (4.42 lakh acres), and soybean (3.66 lakh acres).

Kharif sowing has also picked up pace in Maharashtra due to good monsoon rains over the past two weeks. According to the state's Agriculture Department, as of July 30, sowing has been completed on approximately 1.23 crore hectares out of the state's average Kharif acreage of 1.44 crore hectares (excluding sugarcane), marking the achievement of 86 percent of the total target. Sowing across an additional area of approximately 2.3 million hectares was recorded between July 16 and July 30.

According to crop-wise data, soybean sowing in Maharashtra has covered 4.72 million hectares and cotton sowing 3.73 million hectares, representing about 88 percent of the estimated target. Meanwhile, paddy transplantation has been completed across 0.78 million hectares. The state recorded 466.8 mm of rainfall between June 1 and July 27, which is 94.15 percent of the normal rainfall.

Agricultural experts state that recent rainfall has improved the condition of Kharif crops in both states. If the monsoon remains normal in the coming weeks, the growth of cotton, paddy, soybean, and other Kharif crops will improve, further strengthening production prospects for the year.

India’s Textile & Apparel Exports Cross ₹3.25 Lakh Crore in FY26, Government Expands Export Support

Fri. 31st July 2026, Jayesh Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

India's Te xtile and Apparel Exports (Including Handicrafts) Cross ₹3.25 Lakh Crore in 2025-26

New Delhi. India's exports of textiles and apparel (including handicrafts) stood at ₹3,25,339 crore in the 2025-26 fiscal year, marking a 1.8 percent increase compared to the ₹3,19,573.2 crore recorded in 2024-25. During this period, growth was registered in exports to over 100 countries. The government states that this growth signals the Indian textile sector's rising global competitiveness and export potential.

The government has implemented several schemes to enhance the global competitiveness of the textile and apparel sector. These include the PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park scheme, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, the National Technical Textiles Mission, the SAMARTH scheme, and measures such as market access support and interest subsidies under the Export Promotion Mission.

In recent months, the government has also launched several new initiatives. These include extending the 'Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products' (RoDTEP) scheme until September 30, 2026; providing temporary customs duty relief on key raw materials for the cotton and man-made fiber (MMF) value chains; rationalizing GST rates to address the inverted duty structure in the MMF sector; and launching the 'Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation' (RELIEF) initiative to assist exporters affected by geopolitical conditions in West Asia.

The tenure of the RoSCTL scheme, operational since March 2019, has also been extended until September 30, 2026, ensuring that exporters of garments and made-ups continue to benefit from the reimbursement of state and central taxes and levies. Additionally, the government has adopted an export promotion strategy focused on 40 priority countries. Currently, India has 16 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) in force, while recent trade agreements with the European Union and New Zealand are also expected to open up opportunities for the Indian textile industry in new markets.

The Ministry of Textiles has established six Textile Export Facilitation Centres (TEFCs) and launched the 'India Immersive Experience Program' through NIFT. In the year 2025-26, textile and handicraft products were exported from over 500 districts across the country. The government states that these initiatives have fostered diversification in export markets, strengthened supply chains, improved market access via e-commerce, and boosted competitiveness, particularly for MSMEs.

Genetic Resources Board Charts Roadmap to Strengthen Agrobiodiversity and Sustainable Use

Fri. 31st July 2026 (Source: www.eng.ruralvoice.in)

India's genetic resources board has called for greater use of conserved germplasm, including wild relatives, in crop, livestock and fish breeding to widen genetic diversity and develop climate-resilient varieties and breeds. The Board also recommended stronger pre-breeding, systematic germplasm collection, international collaboration and integrated management of India's agrobiodiversity.

India needs to significantly expand the use of conserved genetic resources, including wild relatives and species, in crop, livestock and fish improvement programmes to broaden the genetic base and accelerate the development of climate-resilient, high-performing varieties and breeds, experts said at the first meeting of the reconstituted National Advisory Board on Management of Genetic Resources (NABMGR).

The meeting was held on July 29, 2026, at the ICAR–National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBPGR), New Delhi, with the Board outlining a roadmap for strengthening the conservation and sustainable utilization of India's rich agrobiodiversity.

Chairman of the NABMGR, Dr R.S. Paroda, underlined that India's plant, animal, fish, microbial and insect genetic resources are a strategic national asset supporting food and nutrition security, environmental sustainability and rural livelihoods. He called for each ICAR National Bureau to strategically prioritise conservation and management activities according to emerging national requirements.

Paroda stressed that conserved germplasm should not remain confined to gene banks but be actively integrated into breeding programmes. Greater use of wild relatives and other genetic resources, he said, could help broaden the genetic base and speed up the development of varieties and breeds capable of withstanding climate-related stresses while delivering higher performance.

He also called for stronger international collaboration, particularly with countries in Central and Southeast Asia, to facilitate access to valuable genetic resources. Strategic germplasm exchanges for crops such as cotton, rambutan, avocado and mangosteen, as well as livestock species such as sheep, were highlighted.

Paroda further advocated a legal framework to protect the rights of breeders and farmers in animal and fish genetic resources, similar to the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act.

ICAR Director General and NABMGR Co-Chair Dr M.L. Jat emphasised the need to link genetic resource management with soil science, digital agriculture and crop improvement. Identifying genetic resources suited to specific soil types and agro-ecological regions, he said, could accelerate location-specific and climate-resilient farming systems.

The Board recommended strengthening pre-breeding programmes, systematic collection of germplasm from unexplored regions and closer coordination among ICAR's six National Bureaux managing genetic resources. It also backed an inter-institutional programme to mainstream traditional and underutilised crops, livestock breeds, fish, microorganisms and insects.

The Board reviewed progress on the National Safety Genebank and suggested its timely completion, with the aim of dedicating it to the nation during ICAR's centenary celebrations in 2028-29.

The recommendations are expected to strengthen India's agrobiodiversity governance and contribute to the Viksit Bharat vision by improving agricultural resilience, food security and sustainable development.

Explained: Why Cotton is India's "White Gold"

Thu. 23rd July 2026 (Source: www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com)

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) recently released a detailed backgrounder titled "White Gold: India's Cotton Story", tracing cotton's journey from cultivation to export and highlighting government schemes aimed at improving productivity, quality and market access. This makes cotton, one of India's oldest commercial crops, a relevant topic for both prelims and mains preparation, covering agriculture, trade and government schemes.

Understanding the basics

Cotton is called "white gold" because of its outsized economic importance in India. It supports the livelihoods of around 6 million cotton farmers and provides employment to another 40-50 million people in processing and trade. It is also a major foreign exchange earner through exports of fibre, yarn, fabric and garments.

India holds a unique position in the global cotton economy:

- First in the world in cotton cultivation area
- Second in production and consumption globally
- The only country that cultivates all four recognised cotton species
- Contributes close to a fifth of global fibre production

How it works

- Species and hybrids: India grows all four cotton species: G. Arboreum and G. Herbaceum (Asian cotton), G. Barbadense (Egyptian cotton), and G. Hirsutum (American upland cotton). G. Hirsutum accounts for nearly 90 percent of India's hybrid cotton, and all Bt cotton hybrids grown in the country belong to this species.
- Bt cotton: Bt refers to Bacillus thuringiensis, a soil bacterium. Bt cotton is genetically modified to carry genes from this bacterium, giving it resistance to bollworms. Introduced commercially in 2002, it cut bollworm damage and reduced dependence on insecticide sprays, which improved farm incomes over time.
- Staple length: Cotton fibre is classified by staple length, which determines quality and use, ranging from short staple (20 mm and below) to extra-long staple (32.5 mm and above). India produces the entire range.
- Cultivation pattern: Around 62 percent of India's cotton is rain-fed, while the remaining 38 percent is irrigated. Production is measured in bales, where one bale equals 170 kg.
- Geographic spread: Cultivation is concentrated in nine major states across three zones:

1. Northern Zone: Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan
2. Central Zone: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh
3. Southern Zone: Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka

Odisha and Tamil Nadu also grow cotton outside these zones.

Governing bodies and schemes

- Cotton Corporation of India (CCI): The nodal agency for Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations. It steps in to procure cotton when market prices fall below MSP. Its procurement network expanded from 508 centres in 2024-25 to 571 in 2025-26, covering 152 districts in 11 states.
- Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP): Recommends the MSP for cotton every cotton year (October to September), covering medium staple and long staple seed cotton (kapas). The goal is to ensure farmers get at least 50 percent return over production cost.
- Mission for Cotton Productivity: A five-year mission launched in 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs. 5,659.22 crore. It focuses on developing climate-resilient and pest-resistant cotton varieties, with special attention to Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton. It follows the "5F" vision: farm, fibre, factory, fashion, foreign. The mission targets raising production from 297 lakh bales to 498 lakh bales by 2031, covering 24 lakh hectares across 140 districts in 14 states, benefiting around 32 lakh farmers.
- Special Project on Cotton (under NFSM): Running since 2023-24 across 8 major cotton states, this project demonstrates technologies like the High-Density Planting System and Closer Spacing Planting System. Field trials recorded yield gains of about 40 percent under HDPS and over 32 percent under closer spacing.
- Kapas Kisan App: A mobile application for MSP procurement that allows farmers to self-register, book procurement slots, receive Aadhaar-linked payments and get real-time SMS updates. Over 41 lakh farmers have registered on it.
- Kasturi Cotton Bharat: A branding and traceability initiative implemented with the Ministry of Textiles, CCI and TEXPROCIL, with a total outlay of Rs. 30 crore. It certifies long staple (28 mm and above) and ELS cotton (35 mm and above) using QR-based, blockchain-backed traceability, positioning Indian cotton globally as a mark of quality.

India's position

- Cotton production stood at 290.91 lakh bales in 2025-26 (provisional), with domestic consumption at 328 lakh bales.
- MSP for 2026-27 stands at Rs. 8,267 per quintal for medium staple and Rs. 8,667 per quintal for long staple cotton, an increase of Rs. 557 over the previous year for both.
- Cotton exports in FY25 were valued at US$ 11.49 billion, with the United States the largest destination (26.35 percent share), followed by Bangladesh (19.81 percent) and Sri Lanka (5.11 percent).
- Beyond textiles, cottonseed yields edible oil (called "heart oil" for its polyunsaturated fat content), animal feed, biomass fuel from stalks, and surgical cotton from short fibres.

Prelims fact box

Item	Detail
Global rank in area	1st
Global rank in production/consumption	2nd
Cotton species grown in India	All 4 (only country to do so)
Bale weight	170 kg
Bt cotton introduced	2002
Cotton species used for Bt hybrids	G. Hirsutum
Nodal MSP procurement agency	Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)
MSP recommending body	CACP
Mission for Cotton Productivity target	498 lakh bales by 2031
Kasturi Cotton certification threshold	Long staple: 28mm+; ELS: 35mm+

Mains question

"Cotton is often called India's white gold, yet productivity remains a challenge compared to global peers." Examine the factors affecting cotton productivity in India and discuss the effectiveness of recent government interventions in addressing them. (250 words)

Test yourself

1. Which of the following cotton species accounts for nearly 90 percent of hybrid cotton production in India?
(a) G. Arboreum (b) G. Herbaceum (c) G. Hirsutum (d) G. Barbadense

Answer: (c)

2. Consider the following statements:

   1. India ranks first in the world in cotton cultivation area.
   2. India ranks first in the world in cotton production. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (a)

3. The Minimum Support Price for cotton is recommended by which of the following bodies?
(a) Cotton Corporation of India (b) Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (c) Ministry of Textiles (d) TEXPROCIL

Answer: (b)

4. The "Kasturi Cotton Bharat" initiative is primarily aimed at:
(a) Providing crop insurance to cotton farmers (b) Traceability, certification and branding of Indian cotton (c) Distributing Bt cotton seeds free of cost (d) Setting MSP for cotton

Answer: (b)

5. Which of the following pairs of state and cotton zone is correctly matched?
(a) Telangana - Northern Zone (b) Gujarat - Southern Zone (c) Punjab - Northern Zone (d) Maharashtra - Southern Zone

Answer: (c)

Five key terms to remember

1. Kapas – Unginned seed cotton, the raw form on which MSP is announced.
2. Bt Cotton – Genetically modified cotton carrying Bacillus thuringiensis genes for bollworm resistance.
3. Staple Length – The average fibre length of cotton, used to classify quality (short to extra-long staple).
4. Bale – The standard trade unit of cotton, equal to 170 kg.
5. ELS Cotton – Extra Long Staple cotton, with fibre length of 32.5 mm and above, prized for premium textiles.

Quick Q&A

Q: Why is cotton called "white gold"?
Because of its major role in employment, farmer livelihoods and foreign exchange earnings through textile exports.

Q: What is the difference between MSP and market price?
MSP is a guaranteed minimum price set by the government, while market price fluctuates based on demand and supply. Procurement agencies like CCI buy at MSP when market prices fall below it.

Q: Why is Bt cotton controversial despite its benefits?
While it reduced pest damage and insecticide use, concerns remain around seed costs, resistance development in pests over time, and regulatory approval processes for new GM traits.

US cotton forward export sales surge, current-season sales fall: USDA

Fri. 31st July 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
US cotton export sales strengthened in the week ended July 23 as robust 2026-27 forward bookings offset weaker current-season demand.
New-crop Upland cotton sales surged to 352,400 running bales (RB), led by Vietnam and India, while current-season sales fell to a marketing-year low of 29,700 RB.
Strong forward demand supported ICE cotton futures.

US cotton export sales delivered a stronger overall performance during the week ended July 23, as exceptionally robust forward bookings for the 2026-27 marketing year outweighed weaker current-season demand. According to the USDA Weekly Export Sales Report, the surge in new-crop commitments reinforced confidence in US cotton demand and supported market sentiment.

Net sales of Upland cotton for the 2025-26 marketing year totalled 29,700 RB (running bales, each weighing 226.8 kg), down 42 per cent from the previous week and 41 per cent below the prior four-week average, marking a marketing-year low. Vietnam remained the largest buyer with purchases of 14,200 RB, followed by Pakistan with 5,300 RB, India with 3,400 RB, China with 3,200 RB and Mexico with 2,500 RB.

In contrast, new-crop Upland cotton sales for the 2026-27 marketing year surged to 352,400 RB, led by Vietnam with 245,500 RB, followed by India with 42,200 RB, Pakistan with 18,400 RB, Honduras with 17,700 RB and El Salvador with 13,800 RB.

Upland cotton export shipments totalled 233,800 RB, down 15 per cent from the previous week and 1 per cent below the prior four-week average. Vietnam was the leading destination with shipments of 78,600 RB, followed by Pakistan, Indonesia, Türkiye and Mexico.

Pima cotton sales remained modest. Net sales for the 2025-26 marketing year totalled 2,700 RB, while new-crop bookings reached 5,500 RB, led by Peru and India. Pima export shipments stood at 4,500 RB, with India accounting for nearly the entire volume.

The latest USDA data indicated that while near-term buying remained subdued, international mills stepped up purchases for the 2026-27 crop, particularly in Asia. The stronger-than-expected overall export sales, driven by exceptionally robust forward bookings, reinforced expectations of sustained demand for US cotton and provided a supportive backdrop for ICE cotton futures.

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businessline – 31.07.2026

India can become world's 'connector economy' as global order shifts, says Anand Mahindra

Amit Vijay Mohile
Mumbai

India should position itself as a global "connector economy," as the world moves away from traditional globalisation towards selective partnerships and regional supply chains, Anand Mahindra, Chairman of Mahindra & Mahindra, said on Thursday.

He added that the group is backing that vision with deeper investments in innovation and manufacturing, including a proposed ₹15,000 crore investment in Nagpur over the next decade and a sharp increase in its patent portfolio.

Addressing shareholders at the company's 80th annual general meeting, Mahindra said countries that combine manufacturing scale, political stability, talent and trust would emerge as preferred partners as businesses diversify supply chains and reduce geopolitical risks.

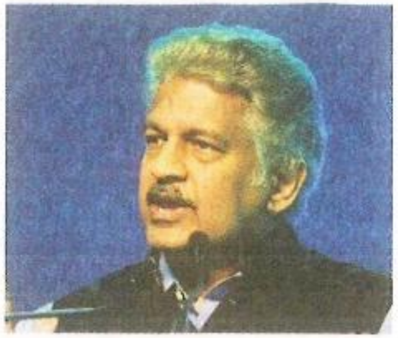
India, he said, is uniquely placed to benefit from that transition.

"The next global order may not be built around very rigid blocks. It may be built around multiple coalitions, around countries that can connect rather than divide. And that creates a major opportunity for India to become what I call a connector economy," he said.

MULTI-ALIGNED INDIA

Mahindra said that India's role was evolving beyond its traditional policy of non-alignment to what he termed as a "multi-aligned" approach, enabling it to deepen economic and strategic partnerships across regions.

"It's not about being non-aligned, but about being multi-aligned, about being a trusted partner across the world," he said, adding that the challenge was no longer whether India would rise, but how effectively it could convert the current geopolitical moment into lasting competitive advantage.



> It's not about being non-aligned, but about being multi-aligned
>
> **ANAND MAHINDRA,**
> Chairman, Mahindra & Mahindra

BUILD CAPABILITIES

As evidence of India's growing role in global manufacturing, Mahindra pointed to the increasing localisation of global production, noting that around one-fourth of all iPhones were now manufactured in India.

That, he said, reflected the country's growing credibility as a manufacturing and investment destination in an uncertain world.

Mahindra briefly referred to the "Samudra Manthan" analogy from last year's shareholder letter, saying that the churn in the global economy had become more structural than cyclical. But he argued that the environment favoured countries and companies prepared to adapt quickly and build long-term capabilities rather than wait for uncertainty to fade.

businessline – 31.07.2026

FTA monitoring panel to review utilisation of 16 pacts in August

TRADE ASSESSMENT. Committee will discuss the impediments faced by industry

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

The Commerce Department's FTA monitoring committee is scheduled to meet in August to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the country's 16 operational trade agreements, including the recently implemented pacts with the UK and Oman, and identify the challenges faced by exporters in using the concessions they offer.

"The government is seeking detailed feedback from industry on the impediments in utilising the different FTAs. Sector-wise inputs are being collected so that the issues can be addressed," a source told *businessline*.

Of the 16 trade pacts implemented so far by the country, 10 were implemented before the BJP government came to power in 2014.

TAKING STOCK. The FTA monitoring committee's review assumes significance as India pursues a strategy of signing comprehensive trade agreements with advanced economies

These include the India-Sri Lanka FTA, the Agreement on Safta, the India Nepal Treaty of Trade, the India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade Commerce and Transit, the India-Thailand FTA - Early Harvest Scheme, the India-Singapore CECA, the India-Asean CECA, the India-Malaysia CECA, the India-South Korea CEPA, and the India-Japan CEPA.

The ones signed by the present government are the India-Mauritius CECPA, the India-UAE CEPA, the India–Oman CEPA, the India-Australia ECTA, the India–EFTA (Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway) TEPA and the India–UK CETA.

FTA UTILISATION

A range of factors was flagged by industry that limit FTA utilisation. "The problems include the complex and stringent rules of origin that determine eligibility for preferential tariffs, especially the product specific rules, the cumbersome documentation and certification requirements, limited awareness among exporters, particularly MSMEs, and increasingly demanding technical regulations, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and quality standards in partner countries," an industry source said.

India's overall FTA utilisation has been historically very low. "Only an estimated 20-30 per cent of India's eligible exports take advantage of FTA preferences. Many small firms prefer to avoid the compliance burden for modest tariff savings," according to a 2026 report on FTA challenges by GTRI.

The FTA monitoring committee's review assumes significance as India pursues an ambitious strategy of signing comprehensive trade pacts with advanced economies.

businessline – 31.07.2026

M.P. suspends e-token system for fertilizer

Prabhudatta Mishra
New Delhi

The Madhya Pradesh government has agreed to suspend the e-token system for fertilizer distribution and has assured the farmers to procure 60 per cent (from the current 25 per cent) of the moong crop.

After this, agitating farmers called off their protest in Bhopal.

However, the protest highlighted policy gaps and the risk of attempting reforms in the farm sector, experts said.

Reacting to a letter from State Agriculture Minister Aidal Singh Kansana, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on July 29 wrote to Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, pointing out that the Centre had already approved the procurement of up to 4.55 lakh tonnes (lt) of summer moong for Madhya Pradesh under the Price Support Scheme, accounting for 87 per cent of the quantity approved nationally under the PM-AASHA scheme whereas the State had bought only 60,000 tonnes.

Chouhan said that under the PM-AASHA scheme guidelines, only 25 per cent of production is permitted to be procured under the MSP whereas any quantity above it will be the sole responsibility of the State.

The State has told farmers it will procure 60% (from the current 25%) of the moong crop

APPROVED AGENCIES

A former State Agriculture Secretary said the gaps have to be corrected if required, and the States cannot be blamed every time.

Under the PM-AASHA scheme, the Centre has decided who should be the "central nodal agencies" to procure the crop, and the agencies are solely responsible for it. "Let the Centre nominate State agencies independently and hold them accountable for any delay or non-procurement," the former official suggested.

Under the PM-AASHA scheme, which facilitates the buying of oilseeds and pulses from farmers at minimum support prices (MSPs), Nafed and NCCF are the agencies approved for procurement.

Due to high level of moong production in the summer (*zaid*) season, Madhya Pradesh is the largest producer in the country, having over 40 per cent share.

In 2025-26, out of 44.92 lt moong produced in the country, 18.39 lt (including 18.18 lt in the summer season) was produced in Madhya Pradesh.

If the State is able to procure 60 per cent of summer moong, it may have to buy nearly 11 lt.

On the decision to suspend the e-token system for distribution of subsidised fertilizers, primarily urea and DAP, industry leaders are divided.

While a manufacturer of micronutrients supported the move, a top official of a leading fertilizer company welcomed the suspension and said "it was supposed to be stopped."

businessline – 31.07.2026

El Nino likely to strengthen further during Oct-Dec: Govt

Our Bureau
Mangaluru

The government has said that El Nino is likely to further strengthen during the October-December period, and may reach a very strong category.

In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, said El Nino events are generally classified as weak, moderate, strong or very strong based on the magnitude of sea surface temperature anomalies over the equatorial central Pacific Ocean.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted the development of El Nino conditions during the 2026 South-West monsoon season. El Nino conditions were weak during June 2026 and intensified to moderate levels in July 2026.

DETERMINING FACTORS

"El Nino is likely to strengthen further during the October-December 2026 season and may reach a very strong category. However, its exact intensity and impact over the Indian region depend on the evolution of coupled ocean-atmosphere conditions, of which El Nino is one factor," he said, adding that the IMD continuously monitors the evolution of oceanic and atmospheric conditions and issues regular seasonal and monthly forecasts and advisories.

IMD, under the Ministry, continuously monitors the evolution of El Nino and other climate drivers and issues regular seasonal/monthly forecasts, extended-range forecasts and weather advisories to the Central and State governments and other stakeholders.

IMD issues impact-based forecasts and risk-based warnings daily, valid for the next seven days through multiple communication channels for use by disaster management authorities, State governments, district administrations, and other stakeholders to support preparedness and response measures, he said.

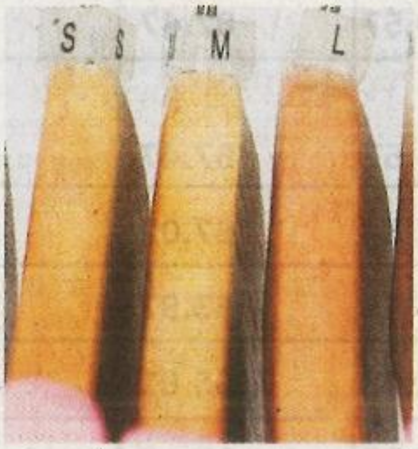
businessline – 31.07.2026

National apparel sizing framework to ease buying decisions, reduce returns

Meenakshi Verma Ambwani
New Delhi

As the Textiles Ministry is gearing up to finalise a framework for standardisation of Indian apparel sizing, industry players said this move is expected to bring more convenience for consumers, simplify purchase decisions and reduce size-related product returns especially during online shopping.

However, players also pointed out that the implementation of the national standardised sizing framework should not stifle innovation around fit and design given India's diverse cultural sensibilities and each brand's unique positioning.



VALUE CHAIN

Nitin Mohan, Co-founder, Blackberrys, told *businessline*, "The Indian apparel industry has evolved significantly over the years, and as the market matures, an industry-wide sizing reference can bring greater consistency across the value chain. A framework developed around Indian body measurements can support product development, strengthen planning efficiencies, and provide consumers with greater confidence while shopping across channels."

UNIQUE APPROACH

"As brands continue to innovate and cater to diverse customer preferences, standardisation should be viewed as an enabling framework that complements, rather than replaces, each brand's unique approach to fit and design," Mohan added.

The Indian apparel market is projected to reach ₹16 lakh crore by FY30 from ₹9.30 lakh crore in FY25, as per estimates released by CareEdge Ratings in January. Nearly 41 per cent of the industry is in the organised segment.

Akhil Jain, CEO & MD, Madame, said, "We have always believed that great fashion starts with a precise fit, which is why we were among the early brands to tailor our styles specifically around Indian body types. Seeing the Ministry of Textiles champion this through the Indian Size System (ISS) initiative is deeply encouraging."

The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), has been closely associated with this initiative working alongside with NIFT and technical experts from leading apparel brands to help shape a sizing framework that reflects India body measurements.

businessline – 31.07.2026

Weather-proofing farms

Localised planning, flexible crop strategies required

A Amarender Reddy
Tulsi Lingareddy

India as well as global economies are witnessing changing rainfall pattern with increasing frequency in the recent decades as rains turn less predictable primarily driven by rising ocean temperatures. While the cumulative rainfall across India remains close to normal or long period average, the disaggregated rainfall indicates diverse variations with large deficit and excess rains at district and tehsil levels. Further, temporal distribution of rainfall is also becoming increasingly erratic with short spells of intense rains and prolonged dry spells.

In this regard, the current progress of monsoon till early this month is a case in point with near normal rainfall at all-India level and significant deficit and excess rainfall at district levels, per the rainfall data released by India Meteorological Department (IMD). Also, the temporal distribution indicates an extended dry spell almost throughout June, a crucial period for kharif sowing, followed by intense and excess rainfall during the first week of July.

Such changes in the pattern of spatial and temporal distribution of rains have increased progressively in the last few decades or so, impacting agricultural production. Under such a scenario, suitable strategies must be devised to enable Indian agriculture to adapt to the changing patterns of rainfall and weather. Long period studies of rainfall pattern suggest that there is a significant increase in instances of deviations in rainfall pattern after the 1980s. A major reason for this is ocean temperatures increasing at a faster rate than surface air.

EXTREME VARIATIONS

Further, study of monsoon rainfall from 1982 to 2022 by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) reveals that 64 per cent of tehsils witnessed an increase in the frequency of extreme rainfall. Contrarily, about 11 per cent of tehsils, largely in Indo-Gangetic plains that account for nearly half of agricultural production, witnessed more than 10 per cent reduction in rainfall. Dry spells increased by 27 per cent during 1981-2011 compared to 1951-1980. But the aggregate rainfall of the country recorded deficit only in three years and excess in eight years of the

VITAL. Real-time weather forecasting and crop advisory

40-year study period. Thus, the aggregate rainfall pattern at all-India level is not reflecting the extreme variations.

Research studies predict that the changes in rainfall pattern may accelerate in the coming decades. Under such a scenario, it is imperative to devise requisite strategies to ensure sustainable agricultural production.

Towards this, there is a need to promote agro-climatic zones and sub-zone specific decentralised planning with districts or tehsils as the units for implementation, to address the localised and diverse rainfall patterns. Further, flexible alternative crop production plans with adequate input supplies are essential. There is a need to maintain adequate amounts of quality seeds of suitable crops and inputs in case of crop damage or loss at the early stage of production. In this regard, there is a need to develop and maintain local seed banks at the tehsil or mandal levels.

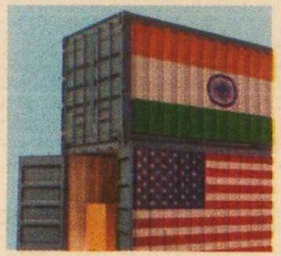
On the farms, there is a need to enable and encourage farmers to manage rainwater as a community resource, by creating small ponds to harvest rainwater that can be used during dry spells. This can not only help in collecting run-off of excess water but also fertile topsoil. Regular de-silting of village tanks and other surface water storage areas needs to be carried for increasing their storage capacity. Towards this, it is essential to strengthen agricultural extension services.

In addition, there is a need to promote local level real-time weather forecasting and requisite crop advisory services for ensuring timely help for farmers. Further, it is essential to promote development of high yielding varieties that are drought resistant and flood tolerant. Technological innovations to develop better cultivation practices must also be promoted.

Reddy is Joint Director, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and Lingareddy is Senior Economist, Sustainable Finance and Agriculture. Views are personal

Business Standard – 31.07.2026

US tariff linked to forced labour imports may not survive court challenge



INDIAN GOODS ARE SUBJECT TO AN ADDITIONAL 10 PER CENT DUTY OVER AND ABOVE THE MOST-FAVOURED NATION TARIFF

KRITY AMBEY
New Delhi, 30 July

Fresh tariffs imposed by the United States (US) under Section 301 of the US Trade Act of 1974 could face the same judicial scrutiny that derailed American President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariffs earlier this year, according to experts.

The Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) last week imposed tariffs of 10-12.5 per cent on various trading partners following its Section 301 investigation related to imports of products using forced labour. Indian goods are subject to an additional 10 per cent duty over and above the most-favoured nation tariff.

The Section 301 tariffs again raise the question of whether the US President has the legal authority to determine and implement US tariff policy — an authority that the US Constitution vests in Congress, according to Washington-based think tank Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE).

"Congress did not delegate authority of such breadth to the President. If they were challenged in court, the Supreme Court would likely overturn them," PIIE Senior Fellow Alan Wm Wolff, who is also former deputy director-general of the World Trade Organization, said in a blog.

A legal battle over Section 301 tariff has begun as two US companies are said to have filed a lawsuit against it in the US Court of International Trade.

Experts also argue that the legal footing of the tariffs is further weakened by the USTR's differential tariff treatment of countries in its forced-labour investigation. While the USTR found the European Union, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and Switzerland to have failed to adequately address forced-labour imports, it granted them preferential treatment, capping the tariff at 10 per cent for the former two and 12.5 per cent for the remaining three, said Ajay Srivastava, founder of the Global Trade Research Initiative, a New Delhi-based think tank. "That departure from the traditional use of Section 301 is likely to face legal challenges," Srivastava said.

Besides forced-labour investigation, the USTR has also initiated a Section 301 probe of India and several other economies over alleged excess capacity, findings of which are awaited.

Experts say tariff action arising from that investigation would also be vulnerable to judicial scrutiny. "Tariff action relating to the excess-capacity investigation will be even more susceptible to judicial overturn," Srivastava said.

If the tariffs are eventually struck down, it would mark the second judicial setback for Trump's tariff strategy. In February, the US Supreme Court invalidated the reciprocal tariffs imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).

"After originally presenting tariff measures as responses to a national emergency and next as remedies for balance-of-payments problems, officials now characterise their latest effort as a tool to press other countries to intensify their efforts against forced labor," Wolff said. "The first two approaches failed to achieve the administration's objective of lasting worldwide US tariffs, and the third will probably fail as well," he added. The legal uncertainty comes even as India and the US continue negotiations on a bilateral trade agreement. Waiting for greater legal clarity may be the more prudent approach at the moment, Srivastava said.

The Indian commerce ministry is waiting for the US to devise a framework that offers India a meaningful competitive advantage over competing nations before concluding the deal.

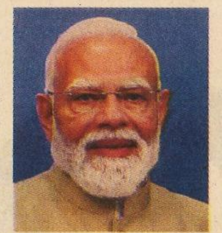
PM reviews W Asia situation, orders steady fertiliser supply

ARCHIS MOHAN
New Delhi, 30 July

At a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) to review challenges posed by the conflict in West Asia, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on Thursday directed government departments to take all measures to ensure uninterrupted supply of fertilisers for the ensuing rabi season.

The PM also instructed that a mechanism to provide timely information, emergency assistance, and counselling to seafarers and their families be set up. He said that a unified coordinated mechanism be put in place for regular monitoring of all the developments to ensure expeditious implementation of appropriate measures to safeguard the interests of the citizens, the Press Information Bureau said in a press release.

Chaired by the PM, this was the CCS' fourth special meeting on evaluating the challenges that the conflict in West Asia has posed to India's energy security and also to the safety and security of the country's seafarers, several of whom have lost their lives.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked for a mechanism to provide aid to seafarers and their kin

Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan briefed the CCS about the initiatives taken to ensure adequate supply of petroleum products, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and fertilisers. He said that sources for procurement of LPG have already been diversified, and the overall stock and supply position of major petroleum products remain adequate. Somanathan said the availability of adequate crude oil has enabled Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) refineries to operate at utilisation levels exceeding 100 per cent, ensuring continued production of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products, a government press statement said.

Initiatives have also been taken to expand piped natural gas (PNG) connections. The government is also facilitating industrial substitution of LPG through expansion of the National Gas Grid, augmentation of LNG import and regasification infrastructure, expansion of city gas distribution networks, and time-bound pipeline and last-mile connectivity approvals under the Pipeline Infrastructure Order, 2026, Somanathan said.

During the meeting, requirements for fertilisers for the ensuing rabi season was assessed and alternative sources discussed. The PM said that all measures should be taken for ensuring uninterrupted supply of fertilisers.

The situation of seafarers serving on domestic as well as foreign-flagged vessels in conflict zones was deliberated upon. The PM said all efforts must be made to safeguard the citizens as well as the Indian diaspora from the impact of this conflict. He said that in order to ensure energy independence, emphasis should be placed on renewable energy sources, including solar and other non-fossil fuels. He said that the whole-of-government approach should be continued to be adopted to tackle the challenges arising from the crisis.

Tecoya Trend – 31.07.2026

CAI hikes cotton production estimate to 337 lakh bales for 2025-26 season

By Our Staff Reporter

MUMBAI, JULY 30—

Cotton Association of India (CAI) in its latest estimate of India's total cotton pressing numbers for 2025-26 season, which began on 1st October, 2025 has estimated cotton pressing of each state for 2025-26 season and also drawn cotton balance sheets till the end of June 2026 and also till end of ongoing crop year 2025-26 on 30th September 2026, informed Mr. Vinay N. Kotak, President, CAI and Mr. Atul Ganatra, Chairman, CAI Crop Committee, here.

The state-wise break-up of cotton pressing numbers as well as balance sheets drawn by the CAI Crop Committee at the above meeting are published on Page 4.

Mr. Kotak and Mr. Ganatra provided the following are the salient features of the CAI Crop Report:

1. COTTON PRESSING

As per the latest report submitted by upcountry associations and trade sources at the above CAI Crop Committee meeting, CAI's total cotton pressing estimate of the country for 2025-26 season has been increased by 3.00 lakh bales to 337.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each +/- 3% from 334.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each estimated earlier.

The Committee members will have a close watch on the cotton pressing numbers in the subsequent months and if any addition or reduction is required to be made in the pressing estimates, the same will be made in the CAI reports of the subsequent months.

2. CONSUMPTION

Based on the report of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), CAI has increased India's total cotton consumption during 2025-26 i.e. upto 30th September 2026 by 10.00 lakh bales to 348.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each from 338.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each estimated earlier.

Total cotton consumption estimated by the CAI during the ongoing crop year 2025-26 is higher by 29.00 lakh bales than 319.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each estimated during last year.

Upto 30th June 2026, cotton consumption is estimated at 261.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each.

3. IMPORTS

The CAI has increased its estimate of cotton imports into India during 2025-26 season by 13.00 lakh bales to 60.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each from 47.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each estimated earlier.

The cotton imports estimated by the CAI for the ongoing 2025-26 season are higher by 19.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each than 41.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each estimated for the last year.

Upto 30th June 2026, about 51.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each are estimated to have arrived the Indian ports.

Continued on Page 4

CAI hikes cotton production estimate to 337 lakh bales

Continued from Page 1 Col 6

4. EXPORTS

The CAI has reduced its cotton exports estimate for the 2025-26 season by 3.00 lakh bales to 15.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each from 18.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each estimated earlier.

The cotton exports estimated by the CAI for the ongoing 2025-26 season are lower by 3.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each than 18.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each estimated for the last year.

Upto 30th June 2026, about 11.25 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each are estimated to have been shipped by the country.

5. TOTAL COTTON SUPPLY

Total cotton supply till end of the 2025-26 season i.e. upto 30th September 2026 is estimated at 452.59 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each as against the last year's total supply of 392.59 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each.

The total cotton supply estimated for the ongoing 2025-26 crop year consists of the opening stock of 55.59 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each at the beginning of the season on 1st October 2025, cotton pressing numbers for the season estimated at 337.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each and imports for the season estimated at 60.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each.

The opening stock has been revised downward by 5 lakh bales pursuant to the decision of the seven-member Committee constituted to reconcile stock, with a corresponding increase in domestic consumption for the 2024-25 season.

Total cotton availability till end June 2026 is estimated at 434.97 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each and the same consists of the opening stock of 55.59 lakh bales at the beginning of the season on 1st October 2025, cotton pressing estimated at 328.38 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each upto 30th June 2026 and imports of 51.00 lakh bales estimated till end June 2026.

6. AVAILABLE SURPLUS

Total available surplus (i.e. total supply of 452.59 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each less total domestic demand estimated at 348.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each) works out to 104.59 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each at the end of 2025-26 season i.e. upto 30th September 2026 as against the last year's available surplus of 73.59 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each.

7. CLOSING STOCK AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2026

The closing stock at the end of 2025-26 season on 30th September 2026 is increased by 4.00 lakh bales to 89.59 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each from 85.59 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each estimated earlier. It is higher by 34.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each from the closing stock of 55.59 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each for the previous year on 30th September 2025.

The closing stock as on 30th June 2026 is estimated at 162.72 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each, which consists of 94.50 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each with textile mills and 68.22 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each with CCI, Maharashtra Federation, MNCs, Ginners, Traders, etc. including cotton sold but not delivered.