COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015

News Relating to Cotton and Textile Sector

Date-31-08-2026

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

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

COTTON ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
Established 1921
ISO 9001:2015

Mumbai, Saturday 29th August 2026 at 3.00 P.M.

UPCOUNTRY SPOT RATES

Standard Descriptions with Basic Grade & Staple in Millimetres based on Upper Half Mean Length As per CAI By-laws								Rs. per Quintal	Rs. per Candy	Variation + (Plus) - (Minus)
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Gravimetric Trash %	Strength / GPT	2025-26	2025-26	
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	4%	15	15044	53500	(+300)
2	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	15%	20	13863	49300	(+700)
3	P / H / R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	18165	64600	(+1000)
4	M/M(P) /SA/TL/GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	16000	56900	(+900)
5	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	18306	65100	(+800)
6	P/ H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	18728	66600	(+800)
7	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	19375	68900	(+600)
8	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	19065	67800	(+300)
9	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	19318	68700	(+700)
10	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	4.0%	27	18615	66200	(+100)
11	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	19206	68300	(+100)
12	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19712	70100	(+600)
13	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19346	68800	(+300)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19600	69700	(+700)
15	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	19993	71100	(+500)
16	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	19712	70100	(+600)
17	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	20218	71900	(+400)
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	25786	91700	(N.C.)
21	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	25870	92000	(N.C.)
22	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	26376	93800	(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

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6	P/ H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	18756	66700	(+100)
7	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	19431	69100	(+200)
8	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	19150	68100	(+300)
9	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	19375	68900	(+200)
10	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	4.0%	27	18615	66200	(N.C.)
11	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	19262	68500	(+200)
12	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19768	70300	(+200)
13	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19346	68800	(N.C.)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19656	69900	(+200)
15	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	20078	71400	(+300)
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Secretary

ICE Cotton Futures: 28-08-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE						28 Aug 2026
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Oct-26	91.31	91.38	89.81	89.92	▼1.14	167
Dec-26	92.18	92.75	91.05	91.38	▼1.03	1,99,730
Mar-27	94.40	94.66	93.04	93.34	▼1.06	89,196
May-27	95.35	95.75	94.17	94.48	▼1.02	38,660
Jul-27	94.72	94.77	93.43	93.67	▼0.85	22,845
Oct-27	84.46	84.70	84.18	84.18	▼0.39	20
Dec-27	80.20	80.95	79.81	79.90	▼0.24	28,879

Cotlook Index: 28-08-2026

101.30 (3.00)

India's real GDP growth to slow to 6.6% in 2026: S&P Global Ratings
Monday 31st Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
S&P Global Ratings recently forecast that India's real GDP growth will slow slightly to 6.6 per cent in 2026 due to high energy prices and challenging agricultural conditions.
Public investment and consumer momentum will underpin solid growth prospects in the next two to three years.
The rural economy will be affected by lower rainfall from El Nino and volatile input costs driven by the Middle East war.

S&P Global Ratings recently forecast that India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth will slow slightly to 6.6 per cent this year due to high energy prices and challenging agricultural conditions. This still compares favourably with emerging market peers amid a broad global slowdown.

Public investment and consumer momentum will underpin solid growth prospects in the next two to three years in the country, it said.

It expects policy continuity, which would support further economic reforms and fiscal consolidation. It also expects economic fundamentals in the country to remain sound and support robust growth over the next two to three years.

While the union fiscal deficit may exceed its current budget target, it believes India remains committed to fiscal consolidation, even as it maintains its strong infrastructure drive.

The rating agency recently affirmed its 'BBB' long-term and 'A-2' short-term sovereign credit ratings on India.

The stable outlook on the long-term rating reflects its expectation that policy stability and high infrastructure investment will support India's growth prospects.

The stable outlook reflects its view that continued policy stability and high infrastructure investment will support India's long-term growth prospects.

That, along with stable fiscal and monetary policies that moderate the government's elevated debt and interest burden, will underpin the rating over the next 24 months.

S&P Global Ratings may lower the ratings if it observes an erosion of political commitment to consolidate public finances. In addition, downward pressure could also come from India's economic growth slowing materially on a structural basis such that it undermines fiscal sustainability.

It may, however, raise the ratings if fiscal deficits narrow meaningfully such that the net change in general government debt falls below 6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) on a structural basis. The protracted rise in public investment in infrastructure will lift economic growth dynamism that, combined with fiscal adjustments, would alleviate India's weak public finances.

But India remains among the best performing economies in the world, the ratings agency said. The country's rural economy will be affected by lower rainfall from El Nino and volatile input costs driven by the Middle East war.

India's fiscal settings have been the weakest part of its sovereign ratings profile, S&P Global Ratings said in a release. With economic recovery now on track, the government can depict a more concrete—albeit gradual—path to fiscal consolidation.

IIP for India's textile manufacturing in Jul grows 3.9% to 135.5

Sunday 30th Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
The growth rate of India's index of industrial production (IIP) for July was 6.7 per cent, quick official estimates show.
For the manufacturing sector, it was 7.3 per cent in July.
The IIP for textile manufacturing in July grew by 3.9 per cent to 135.5, while the same for apparel manufacturing fell by 0.6 per cent to 95.9.
The IIP for leather sector manufacturing in July grew by 0.8 per cent to 113.2.

The growth rate of India's index of industrial production (IIP) for July 2026 was 6.7 per cent, according to quick estimates released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.
The rate was 7.3 per cent in June.
The IIP growth rate of the manufacturing sector was 7.3 per cent in July.

The quick estimate of IIP stood at 124.8 in July against 117 in the same month last year.
The index for manufacturing was 127.4, a release from the ministry said.

Within the manufacturing sector, 19 out of 23 industry groups recorded a positive growth in July compared to the same month last year.

The indices stood at 115.9 for primary goods, 141.8 for capital goods, 130.9 for intermediate goods and 136.2 for infrastructure/construction goods in July 2026.

The indices for consumer durables and consumer non-durables stood at 129.9 and 113.7 respectively. The IIP for textile manufacturing in July grew by 3.9 per cent to 135.5, while the same for apparel manufacturing fell by 0.6 per cent to 95.9.

The IIP for manufacturing of leather and related products in July grew by 0.8 per cent to 113.2.

Apparel exporters urge commerce minister Piyush Goyal to regulate cotton yarn exports

Saturday 29th Aug 2026, (Source: www.economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/garments-/-textiles)

Synopsis

Apparel exporters requested government intervention to regulate cotton yarn exports. Rising yarn prices are significantly hurting the industry's global competitiveness. Limited stock and increased demand from countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam contribute. Higher manufacturing costs affect opportunities in new free trade agreement markets. Value addition through finished garments offers greater economic benefits than raw materials.

New Delhi: Apparel exporters on Saturday urged Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal to consider steps to regulate cotton yarn exports to contain rising prices of the yarn as it is hurting competitiveness of the industry.

Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Chairman A Sakthivel in a communication to the minister said rising prices of raw cotton and cotton yarn are increasing due to supply-side constraints.

The limited stock availability with ginners and reduced arrivals have resulted in mills relying increasingly on CCI (Cotton Corporation of India) auctions.

He said substantial quantity of cotton has moved from farmers to traders, contributing to hoarding and speculative practices in the market.

"AEPC has urged the minister to consider suitable measures to regulate the export of cotton yarn, particularly 20s count and above, in view of the sharp increase in yarn prices and the growing pressure on the competitiveness of India's apparel export industry," Sakthivel said.

Cotton yarn prices have increased around 60 per cent, from about Rs 250 per kg in early 2026 to around Rs 400 per kg currently, and it is increasing pressure on the apparel manufacturing value chain.

Rising costs of other raw materials and fuel are also aggravating the situation, he said.

The letter further highlights the increase in exports of Indian cotton and cotton yarn to apparel-producing countries such as Bangladesh and Vietnam, following restrictions by the US on the use of ..

The letter further highlights the increase in exports of Indian cotton and cotton yarn to apparel-producing countries such as Bangladesh and Vietnam, following restrictions by the US on the use of Chinese cotton under the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA).

"This has added to the pressure on raw material prices across the garment value chain," he said, adding that higher apparel manufacturing costs are affecting the competitiveness of Indian apparel exporters at a time when opportunities are expanding in international markets, particularly in new FTA markets, such as the UK and New Zealand.

Sakthivel highlighted the substantially higher value realisation and employment potential associated with exports of finished garments compared with raw cotton and yarn.

The letter notes that raw cotton fetches about Rs 275 per kg, while cotton converted into yarn fetches around Rs 325 per kg. In comparison, a kilogram of garments, after value addition, can fetch between Rs 800 and Rs 1,200.

The rupee opened 10 paise weaker against the dollar at 95.48.

Thu. 31st Aug 2026, Yash Chouhan (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

The rupee had closed at 95.38 per dollar on Friday, whereas today it opened at 95.48 per dollar, down by 10 paise.

Indian equity benchmarks opened with gains on Monday. The NSE Nifty 50 rose 0.6% to reach 24,038.40, while the BSE Sensex fell 0.5% (or 368 points) to 76,896.

China plans to further develop logistics network by 2030

Monday 31st Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights

To further develop its logistics network by 2030, China is planning to improve connectivity and better support the real economy, according to a government plan.

The plan aims at bringing total social logistics costs to 13.1 per cent of GDP by 2030—down by 0.8 pp from the end of 2025.

This will help improve the efficiency and performance of the real economy and support smoother economic circulation.

To further develop its logistics network by 2030, China is planning to improve connectivity and better support the real economy, according to a plan released by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the Ministry of Transport.

The plan aims at bringing total social logistics costs to 13.1 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030—down by 0.8 percentage point (pp) from the end of 2025.

The plan outlines 17 key tasks in seven areas. These include advancing the development and connectivity of logistics hubs; enhancing the capacity of logistics corridors; addressing shortcomings in urban and rural logistics facilities; and promoting digitalisation, smart development and green transformation of logistics facilities and equipment.

This will help improve the efficiency and performance of the real economy and support smoother economic circulation and high-quality development, said the document.

The country expects to make notable progress in developing its logistics network by 2030, with closer coordination between logistics hubs and industries, enhanced internal and external connectivity, greener and smarter facilities and equipment, and greater interoperability of rules and information, a state-controlled media outlet reported citing the plan document.

The logistics network is one of the six networks prioritised during the country's 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030), alongside water networks, new-type power grids, computing power networks, next-generation communication networks and urban underground pipeline networks.

Higher LNG prices, supply shortages compound Bangladesh gas crisis

Friday 28th Aug 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com/news)

Insights
The deepening gas and electricity crises in Bangladesh have been compounded by a sharp rise in global LNG prices and supply shortages coinciding with high power demand. Industrial production has been severely hit, with 70 per cent of the production capacity of gas-dependent factories staying unutilised, pressuring the export sector. The energy crunch is no longer confined to power-intensive industries.

The deepening gas and electricity crises in Bangladesh have been compounded by a sharp rise in international liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices amid the Middle East conflict and supply shortages coinciding with high power demand.

Disruptions in gas production and supply continue to affect power generation, industries, compressed natural gas (CNG) stations and households.

LNG prices have nearly doubled, while supplies have remained difficult to secure even after the government relaxed procurement rules and offered higher prices.

Industrial production has been severely affected, with around 70 per cent of the production capacity of gas-dependent factories remaining unutilised, pressuring the export sector, according to a domestic media outlet.

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) feels the gas supply situation has somewhat improved, but remains inadequate for industrial production. Production in the readymade garments (RMG) sector had fallen by 30-35 per cent because of insufficient gas supply, with backward-linkage industries suffering the most, it said.

BGMEA has requested the government to resume heavy fuel oil-based power plants instead of relying on inefficient gas-fired power plants.

It also called for diverting gas supplied to inefficient gas-fired power plants to industries to ease the shortage.

Gas shortage is delaying industrial projects, raising manufacturing costs and creating risks across industrial, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) president Taskeen Ahmed told a recent seminar.

The energy crunch is no longer confined to power-intensive industries, he cautioned.

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11th September 2026

VENUE:
Cotton Association of India, 2nd Floor, Cotton Exchange Building,
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businessline – 30.08.2026

GST Council to meet on September 12

Shishir Sinha
New Delhi

More than a year since its last edition, the GST Council will hold its 57th meeting on September 12. An GST Council office memorandum, signed by Revenue Secretary and Ex- Officio Secretary to the Council, Arvind Srivastava gave notice of the meeting to be held in Delhi.

Although the agenda of the meeting is yet to be finalised and circulated, this time the focus is more likely to be on compliance and ease of doing business. Although the agenda of the meeting is yet to be finalised, this time the focus is more likely to be on compliance and ease of doing business.

Details p12

GST Council to meet on Sept 12; to focus on ease of doing biz, compliance

STANDARDISATION. The 57th meeting may look at uniformity of documents for faster GST registration

Shishir Sinha
New Delhi

More than a year since its last edition, the GST Council will hold its 57th meeting on September 12.

An GST Council office memorandum, signed by Revenue Secretary and Ex-Officio Secretary to the Council, Arvind Srivastava gave notice of the meeting to be held in Delhi.

The Council is chaired by Finance Minister while Minister of State in the Finance Ministry and representative Minister of all the 28 States and 3 Union Territories with Legislature are members.

Although the agenda of the meeting is yet to be finalised and circulated, this time the focus is more likely to be on compliance and ease of doing business. For example, one likely proposal is finalising the guidelines to bring uniformity in documents that are to be submitted for faster processing of GST registration application of businesses that pass on tax credit of over ₹2.5 lakh a month. The guidelines are also expected to prescribe norms for cancellation. This will be a major reform after simplified registration process was initiated last year based on a recommendation of the GST Council on September 3 last year and rolled out from November 1.

REFORMS PUSH. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to chair the upcoming GST Council meeting (file photo) PTI

It was mainly for small and low-risk business. Small and low-risk businesses applicants that the GST system identifies based on data analysis, or those applicants who self-assess that their output tax liability does not exceed ₹2.5 lakh per month (inclusive of CGST, SGST/ UTGST and IGST) can opt for the scheme. Nearly 65 per cent of the GST registrations are happening through this route, now the effort is to bring a simplified mechanism for the remaining 35 per cent that are basically big businesses.

COMPENSATION CESS

There is a big issue is about accumulated compensation cess. The matter is now pending in the Supreme Court. A petition filed by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) challenged the Centre's notifications on transition or refund of accumulated GST compensation cess credit that the industry associations have repeatedly estimated to be around ₹2,500 crore in value. Since the announcement of the GST 2.0, auto retailers requested the government to hold significant, validly availed compensation cess balances in their electronic credit ledgers before even the new GST regime kicked off on September 22, 2025.

There is also expectation for lowering GST to 5 per cent from 18 per cent on mobile handsets costing up to ₹25,000 as majority of buyers are from this segment. Industry argued that since demand has come down, any rate reduction will boost demand, benefit the industry and also help in higher collection of GST as volumes grow. Another likely proposal is easing restrictions on input tax credit for specified goods and services on which credit is currently not available.

Business Standard – 31.08.2026

India-Uzbekistan trade, defence ties hit high spots

The two nations elevate relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership and announce pact for the supply of uranium, reports **Archis Mohan**

After talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in Tashkent on Sunday afternoon, the delegations of the two countries announced 16 outcomes, including a long-term arrangement for the supply of uranium from Central Asian nation to India.

New Delhi and Tashkent also set a target of almost quadrupling bilateral trade to $5 billion in the next four years, resolved to strengthen defence ties, such as defence co-production, elevate their relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership, and institute a foreign minister-level dialogue. Modi was given the "Oliy Darajali Do'stlik" Order, Uzbekistan's highest honour for foreign leaders, by the Uzbekistan President.

Significantly, at his talks with the Uzbek President, Modi announced that New Delhi would host the India-Central Asia Summit in 2027. According to a joint statement issued after the Modi-Mirziyoyev meeting, the two leaders called for strengthening engagement within the Central Asia-India format at the level of heads of state and other levels.

The inaugural India-Central Asia Summit was held virtually on January 27, 2022, after New Delhi had to cancel plans to host the leaders of the five Central Asian Republics as guests at the Republic Day parade that year because of apprehensions of another Covid-19 spike.

In a pathbreaking visit, and the first by an Indian Prime Minister to do so, Modi travelled to all the five Central Asian Republics during an eight-day trip in July 2015. His visit boosted hopes of improved India-Central Asia connectivity, especially via Iran's Chabahar port and the North-South Trade Corridor, and also provided further momentum to the "Connect Central Asia" policy that the Manmohan Singh government had launched in 2012. Modi then told the gathering at Kazakhstan's Nazarbayev University in Astana: "In an age of globalisation, Asia cannot remain fragmented. And Central Asia cannot remain distant and disconnected from India."

India-Central Asia trade has increased fourfold to $2 billion since, with Uzbekistan as India's largest trading partner in the region. India-Uzbekistan bilateral trade was $1.32 billion last year. But after the cross-border terror attack at an Indian Army brigade headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir's Uri in 2016, New Delhi's relations with Islamabad have plummeted, as have any plans for better connectivity with Afghanistan and Central Asia.

United States sanctions against Iran have affected connectivity via the Chabahar port. In contrast, China's Belt and Road Initiative lifted China-Central Asia trade to $106 billion in 2025.

The Prime Minister's current visit to the Central Asian Republics is expected to strengthen the perception that New Delhi wishes to remain deeply engaged with Central Asia. India has sought to revive the effort in the last couple of years with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar hosting the foreign ministers from the region at the India-Central Asia Dialogue of Foreign Ministers in June 2025, where the Prime Minister met the ministers. Modi landed in Bishkek, the capital of the Kyrgyz Republic, on Sunday evening to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit on Monday and Tuesday, where he will meet the rest of the Central Asian leadership. His announcement that New Delhi will host the India-Central Asia Summit next year is interesting since Islamabad, as chair of the SCO, will host the grouping's summit in 2027. On India's participation in the SCO Summit next year, Indian officials said a decision would be taken "by the appropriate authority at the appropriate time and our appropriate level of participation will be decided accordingly".

In Bishkek, the Prime Minister is slated to have a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and likely to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping. Both Putin and Xi are scheduled to attend the Brics Summit in New Delhi on September 12-13.

Modi could also meet Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, their first meeting after the conflict started in West Asia. Iran is one of the 11 full members of Brics. It is crucial if India is to get all members to reach a consensus on a joint Brics declaration. Verbal disagreements between the Iranians and representatives of the United Arab Emirates have marred preparatory Brics meetings in New Delhi, including the one that the foreign ministers of the Brics members attended in May. The Prime Minister is also likely to flag the issue of maritime trade blockage of maritime trade through the Strait of Hormuz with the Iranian President.

The meeting in Bishkek would also offer Modi an opportunity to meet Tajik President Emomali Rahmon. The meeting would be important not only because Modi is set to invite him for next year's India-Central Asia Summit. Both India and Tajikistan are contenders for the Asia bloc's vote for the non-permanent United Nations Security Council (UNSC) seat for the two-year 2028-29 cycle, with the election slated for June next year. In 2009, New Delhi convinced Kazakhstan to withdraw from elections for the 2011-12 cycle, and later supported Kazakhstan to secure the UNSC seat for the 2017-18 term.

11 agreements signed; five announcements made

India and Uzbekistan on Sunday signed 11 agreements and made five announcements. The agreement on mining will pave the way for a long-term arrangement for the supply of uranium from Uzbekistan to India, Indian officials said. Uzbekistan is one of the world's top five uranium suppliers. The two countries will also increase trade in critical minerals and their exploration.

The two leaders committed to increasing bilateral trade to $5 billion by 2030. During his address to a joint briefing, Modi said India and Uzbekistan would take structured steps to address issues related to market access, connectivity, banking and payment. The two leaders emphasised the need for a comprehensive review of the existing bilateral legal instruments and to modernise the treaty framework in line with present-day realities.

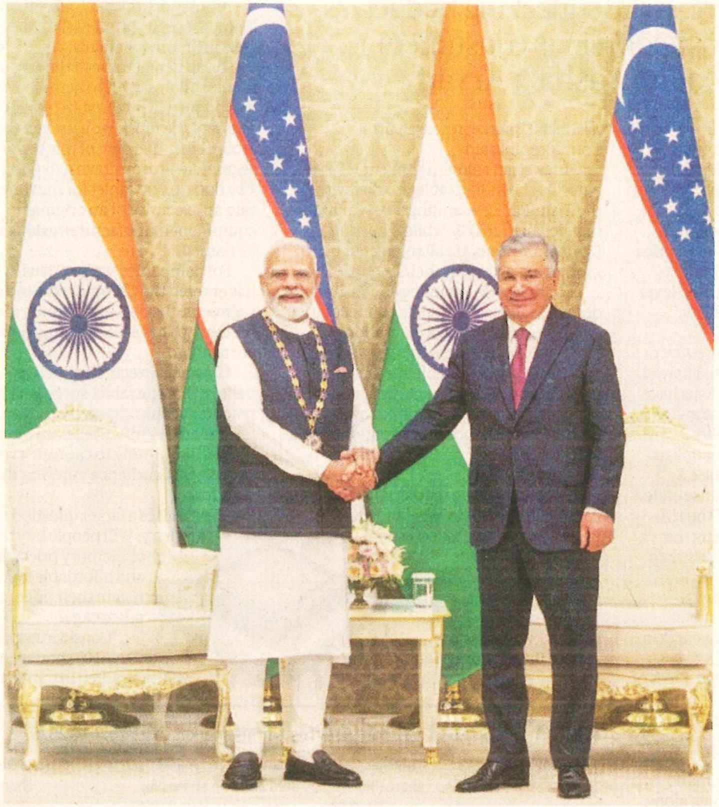
The two sides agreed to undertake joint measures to broaden the range of goods traded between the two countries. They decided to create a Joint Working Group to address non-tariff issues and investment barriers. New Delhi and Tashkent agreed to introduce digital platforms to support small and medium-sized enterprises and facilitate bilateral trade. They will also promote dialogue among regulators and facilitate faster and greater market access in each other's markets.

Officials said the two countries recently held a meeting of their Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation in June and the Uzbekistan-India Business Forums in August. The two sides agreed that there was great potential for bilateral trade in electrical items, engineering products, automobiles and pharmaceuticals.

The two leaders noted that a joint feasibility study on the Uzbekistan-India Preferential Trade Agreement had been concluded, and asked relevant ministries to explore the next steps on a time-bound basis. They stressed the need for cooperation in mining, nuclear energy, industrial cooperation, and critical and strategic minerals, including projects for processing mineral resources, producing value-added products and recycling initiatives. They also expressed an interest in encouraging Indian companies to participate in the development of prospective mineral deposits in Uzbekistan and Uzbek enterprises for joint collaboration in India.

In his speech, Modi said Uzbekistan was at the heart of Central Asia, and at the heart of India's engagement with the region. He noted the convergences between the "Yangi Uzbekistan" and "Viksit Bharat 2047" visions, with the youth, innovation, inclusive growth, and modern technology at their centre. He said that the two countries would work to establish direct linkages between their defence industries, which would lead to co-production and co-development in the years to come. He said the two countries had zero tolerance towards terrorism, extremism and separatism. Modi said India would help Uzbekistan in the conservation of its Buddhist sites.

"A stronger India-Uzbekistan partnership will be a powerful force for peace, progress and prosperity in Central Asia," the Prime Minister said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the Kuksaroy Palace in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Modi was conferred with with Uzbekistan's highest honour for foreign leaders prestigious 'Oliy Darajali Do'stlik' PHOTO: PTI

Enhancing the partnership

- India is among Uzbekistan's top 10 trading partners. Both nations committed to increase trade to $5 bn by 2030 from $1.32 bn now
- Around 400 Indian companies operate in Uzbekistan, with a combined project portfolio exceeding $5 billion
- India's trade surplus with Uzbekistan more than trebled from $ 200 million in FY22 to $ 643 million in FY26
- Uzbekistan imports more than $3 billion of medical products annually. Tashkent has invited the Indian pharma industry to establish joint manufacturing units
- India's imports from Uzbekistan have become increasingly concentrated in natural gums and resins, fertilisers, copper tubes and raw silk
- India is looking to increase fertiliser imports from Uzbekistan
- Uzbekistan has significant reserves of copper, molybdenum, lithium, tungsten, graphite, selenium, and other technology metals
- The central Asian country has planned 120 critical-mineral projects worth $ 4.2 billion during 2026–2030

Business Standard – 31.08.2026

India to sustain 7% growth in FY27 despite global headwinds: FM

KRITY AMBEY
New Delhi, 30 August

India is likely to sustain economic growth of 7 per cent or more in 2026-27 (FY27), continuing the pace recorded in the years since the Covid-19 pandemic, Finance Minister (FM) Nirmala Sitharaman said on Sunday.

"Since then (Covid), we have been sustaining growth at 7 per cent or more. This year too our growth will be in that range," Sitharaman said while addressing the Indian diaspora in Chicago, United States.

India was likely to maintain its growth momentum despite geopolitical uncertainties and supply-chain disruptions following the US-Iran conflict and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the finance minister noted. "Continuously keeping in touch with global uncertainties as much as understanding India's own requirements have kept us floating. Whereas many countries are completely disturbed, their calculations have gone haywire," she said.

The disruption in the Strait of Hormuz initially affected supplies of key commodities such as petroleum products, natural gas and fertilisers to India, but the country managed to reroute supplies, Sitharaman said.

The government has also kept fertiliser prices unchanged for farmers through subsidies despite a sharp rise in international prices, she said. "The forthcoming season will also require fertilisers from November. We are adequately stocked."

Sitharaman said the government would continue with systemic reforms and seek to mobilise more capital, particularly from overseas, as India's economy expands. While private investment has picked up domestically following the government's push on capital expenditure, India also needs to attract international investment to meet its growing capital requirements, the FM said.

"Because of the ambitions that we have, we need capital. Therefore on my trip (to Canada and the US) and other ministers as well as the prime minister himself, all of us are talking to global funds," Sitharaman said. "Showcasing what India has already done and hearing their expectations so that we can go back and provide clarity" is part of the effort, she added.

> "CONTINUOUSLY KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH GLOBAL UNCERTAINTIES AS MUCH AS UNDERSTANDING INDIA'S OWN REQUIREMENTS HAVE KEPT US FLOATING"
>
> Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister

After contracting 5.8 per cent in FY21 amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the Indian economy has grown by more than 7 per cent in each of the last five years. For FY27, the economy is projected to grow 6.8-7.2 per cent, according to the Economic Survey for FY26, while the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has estimated gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 6.7 per cent.

The statistics ministry will release data on GDP growth for the June quarter on Monday.

Last week, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal also visited Japan, where he pushed to mobilise investments worth $60 billion by 2035. "We are also talking with several countries for the bilateral investment treaty along with bilateral trade agreement," Sitharaman said.

The government's push to attract overseas capital comes amid a sharp slowdown in net foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into India over the past four years. Net FDI fell from an annual average of $40 billion between FY20 and FY22 to $6.95 billion in FY26.

Business Standard – 31.08.2026

Centre deploys tool to monitor fertiliser supply

It aligns with iFMS through which 140 mn buyers and 250K retail outlets are linked

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 30 August

The fertiliser ministry has deployed a new analytical tool and a national-to-retail dashboard to track fertiliser dispatches, movement and inventories in real time, to detect localised shortages that can leave farmers facing long queues at retail outlets.

The system enables early detection of sudden shortages and irregular purchasing trends, allowing for quick remedial measures, officials said.

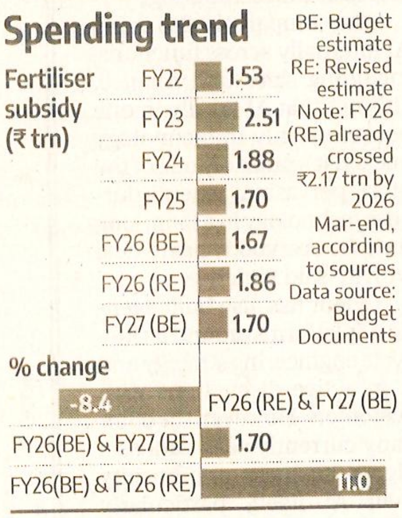
The new tool, monitored at the highest level, has been operationalised to prevent sudden fertiliser shortages like those that have occurred in the past. The tool aligns closely with the central government's Integrated Fertiliser Management System (iFMS), through which more than 140 million Aadhaar-linked fertiliser buyers and over 0.25 million retail outlets process nearly 70 million tonnes of fertiliser transactions each year.

This enables the transparent disbursement of around ₹3 trillion in annual subsidies. The fertiliser ministry's national digital backbone is now fully integrated with Haryana's Meri Fasal Mera Byora (MFMB) portal, loosely translated as "My Crop, My Details," as well as the agriculture ministry's national AgriStack databases.

Creating Farmer IDs— the responsibility of state governments — is part of the central government's ambitious AgriStack programme, which aims to establish a fully operational, dynamic and real-time database of Indian farmers.

According to the latest assessment by the agriculture ministry, the digital agriculture mission, which is nearly two years old, had linked 61 per cent of the country's sown area to a Farmer ID as of August 15, 2026. Around 17 states, including Bihar, Jharkhand, Punjab, Haryana, Assam, Kerala, Odisha and West Bengal, have less than a third of their sown area linked to a Farmer ID, according to the ministry.

Officials said linking digital



Farmer IDs with fertiliser sales will allow purchases in states to be progressively verified against land ownership and crop patterns, which can then be analysed to determine actual agricultural demand.

"Utilising the AgriStack IDs, farmers can book required quantities via mobile applications, generating QR codes that are validated directly at point-of-sale (PoS) devices to ensure equitable access and transparent sales," an official said.

The linkage can also go a long way in checking pilferage and leakages in fertiliser distribution, which have contributed to consumption of some fertilisers such as urea touching record levels of more than 40 million tonnes in FY26. India's fertiliser subsidy has also regularly surpassed Budget estimates in recent years, largely due to increased consumption, which is sometimes blamed on pilferage and leakages in the system.

More on business-standard.com

The Economic Times – 31.08.2026

Govt Widens Fertiliser Tracking, Links Sales to Farmer, Land, Crop Data

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The Centre is expanding the integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS) to link fertiliser sales with farmer, land and crop data, aiming to improve supply monitoring and transparency, the Department of Fertilizers said in a statement.

The platform covers more than 140 million Aadhaar-linked buyers, 250,000 retailers and around 70 million tonnes of fertiliser sales annually, while supporting nearly ₹2 lakh crore in fertiliser subsidies. iFMS is being integrated with Meri Fasal Mera Byora in Haryana and AgriStack, allowing fertiliser purchases to be matched with farmer and land records, the statement said.

Under the new Framework for Fertilizer Sale, farmers can book fertiliser using their AgriStack ID after verification of land details. A QR-based booking is then matched with the quantity purchased at the retailer's point-of-sale device.

The government is also using vehicle tracking to monitor fertiliser movement and strengthening electronic processing of subsidy claims through PFMS/e-Bill systems.

The broader aim is to turn iFMS from a transaction-recording system into a platform that can track where fertiliser is available, how it moves and whether the purchases align with agricultural requirements.

The Economic Times – 31.08.2026

India Committed to Conclude Trade Pact Talks With Chile Within This Year: Govt

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: India is committed to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement with Chile this year as it would help further strengthen economic ties between the two countries, the commerce ministry said on Sunday. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal was there in Santiago, Chile to review the progress of the talks.

The proposed comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) is expected to open new avenues for greater trade and investment, while fostering cooperation in technology, talent and resilient supply chains. "India remains committed to concluding the CEPA negotiations within this year, with the aim of delivering a balanced and mutually beneficial framework that provides equitable and commercially meaningful outcomes for businesses on both sides," it said.

Agrawal met Paula Estevez Weinstein, Vice-Minister of International Economic Relations, Chile, on August 26 to advance negotiations on the India-Chile CEPA.

businessline – 31.08.2026

Japan opens carbon credit opportunity for Indian green projects

Bilateral deal under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement could fetch lucrative prices for transferable credits

M Ramesh

Developers of renewable energy projects with battery storage, compressed biogas plants and carbon capture projects in India may have a new revenue opportunity: selling carbon credits to Japanese buyers.

This potentially lucrative market is opening up under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement, which provides a framework for countries to cooperate and transfer emission reductions internationally, while ensuring that the same emission reduction is not counted twice.

India has concluded bilateral arrangements with Japan and South Korea, while talks are on with Singapore, Switzerland and Sweden, according to Yashodhan Ramteke, CEO of EcoGuard Global, a Switzerland-headquartered climate-tech company building digitally traceable infrastructure for carbon markets. For Indian firms, Ramteke says Japan could offer an especially attractive opportunity.

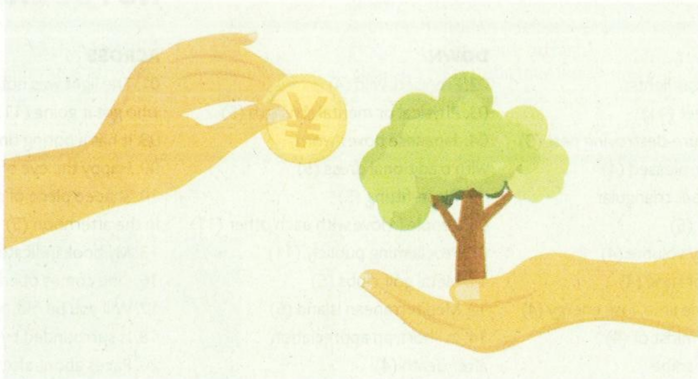
"We are working with some of the biggest Japanese buyers," he says, adding that the areas of immediate interest include carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS); battery energy storage systems (BESS); and compressed biogas (CBG). In the Japanese market, he estimates a floor price of about $11 a credit and a ceiling of $27, with most transactions likely somewhere in the middle of that range.

Japan operates its own Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) — with methodologies, procedures and registry arrangements for tracking projects and credits — rather than functioning as a project under a voluntary carbon credit programme such as Verra or Gold Standard. It has set an ambitious target for the mechanism.

Ramteke says the country aims to secure cumulative emission reductions and removal of around 100 million tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2030.

FOURTEEN OPPORTUNITIES

India has identified 14 activities that can potentially generate internationally transferable credits under Article 6.2. These include renewable energy with storage (the stored component only), solar thermal power, offshore wind, green hydrogen, CBG, emerging mobility solutions such as fuel cells, high-end energy-efficiency technologies, sustainable aviation fuel, and best available technologies for process improvement in hard-to-abate sectors.



ISTOCK

The list also includes tidal and other ocean energy technologies, high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission associated with renewable energy projects, clean cooking based on renewable energy at scale, green ammonia, and CCUS.

The list creates an avenue for projects that are outside India's domestic compliance carbon market.

India has separately prescribed greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for obligated industrial entities. According to Ramteke, around 490 units across seven sectors are currently covered, with iron and steel expected to be added. Companies that overachieve the targets can earn carbon credits, while those that fall short can buy credits to meet their obligations.

Article 6.2 opens a different possibility: eligible projects can potentially access overseas buyers.

Yet, Ramteke says, awareness of the opportunity remains surprisingly limited. He recalls a meeting organised by the International Emissions Trading Association on June 18, attended by representatives of large Indian companies, including Reliance, Jindal, Adani and Indian Oil.

"Believe me, they were not even aware of how Article 6.2 will work," he says.

Japan may not be the only attractive destination. Singapore is also in discussions with India, Ramteke says.

Unlike Japan, Singapore does not operate a conventional carbon credit trading market; it imposes a carbon tax. Companies liable for the tax can partially offset it using eligible international carbon credits.

Singapore's carbon tax, Ramteke notes, has risen from S$25 to S$45 a tonne (EcoGuard works with other countries like Sri Lanka to sell carbon credits in Singapore).

This could translate into attractive prices for eligible international credits, though the final price would depend on negotiations and the discount buyers seek, he says.

There could also be a significant opening in CBG.

During the recent visit of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi to India, there was mention of support for the development of 1,000 CBG plants. Ramteke believes the Article 6.2/ JCM mechanism could provide a possible route for supporting such projects.

For Indian project developers, therefore, the opportunity is worth watching closely.

A carbon credit generated by an eligible project may soon have a market beyond India's borders — and Japan, with a stated appetite for large volumes of internationally generated emission reductions, could become one of the most promising buyers.

businessline – 31.08.2026

GDP growth seen at 7-7.5% in Q1; SBI Research estimates 8%

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The Indian economy is likely to have grown between 7 and 7.5 per cent during the April-June quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal, various research reports indicated. SBI Research is an outlier, expecting the growth rate to touch 8 per cent.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation will formally release the data today. The growth rate during the January-March quarter (Q4) of 2025-26 was 7.8 per cent, while it was 6.8 per cent in the April-June quarter (Q1) of FY26. Q1 of FY27 is the first full quarter after the war began in West Asia.

Barclays estimated the growth rate at 7.5 per cent.

Read more on p3

India's GDP growth seen at 7-7.5% in Q1; SBI Research estimates 8%

CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM. Momentum is positive, yet weather and fuel demand pose risks, say economists

Our Bureau
New Delhi

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Barclays estimated the growth rate at 7.5 per cent. High-frequency activity indicators (HFIs) for April-June saw better growth rates versus the January-March quarter. "Out of the 20 HFIs we track, only seven saw y-o-y average growth rates slow in Q1FY27 versus Q4FY26," said Aastha Gudwani, India Chief Economist at Barclays.

Of these seven, indicators such as petrol, diesel, LPG demand and fertilizer production were anticipated to see slower growth, reeling under the stress of the West Asia conflict. Steel production growth slowed, two-wheeler production slowed too but remained quite robust. Though Jahnavi Prabhakar, Economist at Bank of Baroda, shared optimism with Gudwani, her projection is on the lower side.

"India's GDP is estimated to grow by 7 per cent in Q1FY27," Prabhakar said.

The agriculture sector is expected to register a growth of 3.5 per cent compared with a growth of 4.4 per cent in the corresponding period last year.

The slower growth is on account of extreme heat-wave conditions, prevalence of El Nino conditions, delayed onslaught of the south-west monsoon and lower reservoir levels witnessed during this quarter.

STRONG START

- Govt capex, credit growth support momentum ahead
- Agriculture growth seen at 3.5 per cent
- Industrial activity satisfactory barring few pockets
- Consumption demand remains resilient, services support growth

HEALTHY CREDIT

According to Prabhakar, apart from better industrial performance, steady improvement in government capex along with healthy credit and deposit growth will push growth higher. "Going ahead for FY27, growth is projected at 6.6-6.8 per cent, as more clarity emerges on account of conflict resolution in West Asia as well as the final outcome of kharif harvest," she said.

Meanwhile, SBI's economic research report has expected growth to be higher on both sequential and y-o-y basis.

"Our Q1FY27 GDP growth estimate stands at 8 per cent," Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser of SBI, wrote in the report.

He explained that the underlying momentum remains broad-based.

"We track more than 50 leading indicators across consumption and demand, agriculture, industry, services and other sectors, with 86 per cent showing acceleration in Q1 FY27," he said.

Further, consumption and demand remain resilient. "High-frequency demand indicators continue to support growth outlook, while industrial activity remains broadly satisfactory barring a few pockets while services provide further support, other indicators also corroborate our 8 per cent growth estimate," he said.

businessline – 31.08.2026

Govt broadens digital fertilizer network linking farmers, subsidies, supply chains

Press Trust of India
New Delhi

The government on Sunday said it is broadening a nationwide digital platform that tracks fertilizer from production to retail sale, adding tools to link purchases with individual farmers' land records and to monitor subsidy payments more closely.

The Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS), run by the Department of Fertilizers with technical support from the National Informatics Centre, tracks more than 14 crore Aadhaar-linked buyers and over 2,50,000 retailers, and processes about 70 million tonnes of fertilizer sales a year. The system underpins roughly ₹2 lakh crore in annual fertilizer subsidies.

NEW DASHBOARDS

The department has been developing new dashboards that give officials a consolidated view of production, imports, dispatches, stocks and retail sales at the national, state, district and retailer level, an official statement said.

Building on that work, the department has rolled out a framework for fertilizer sale that links a mobile booking app to the existing point-of-sale network. Under the framework, farmers book fertilizer using an AgriStack-based ID after their land and ownership details are verified, generating a QR code that retailers scan to compare requested and purchased quantities.

Officials say the data will allow analysis of fertilizer use per hectare, by landholding size, crop and product, and of gaps between what farmers say they need and what they buy.

Janmabhumi – 31.08.2026

કપાસ : ખેડૂતોની ફરી પરીક્ષા કરશે ?

૨૦૦૦-૨૦૦૧ અને ૨૦૦૧-૨૦૦૨માં ભારતમાં કપાસની વિક્રમી આયાત કરવામાં આવી ત્યારે ખેડૂતોમાં રાડ બોલી ગઇ હતી. એ વખતે ભારતે અનુક્રમે ૨૨.૧૩ લાખ ગાંસડી અને ૨૫.૨૬ લાખ ગાંસડીની આયાત કરી નાંખી હતી. હવે આ વર્ષે આશરે ૬૦ લાખ ગાંસડી આયાત થવાની સંભાવના છે. એ પૈકી ૫૩-૫૪ લાખ ગાંસડી આવી ચૂકી છે!

નિલય ઉપાધ્યાય

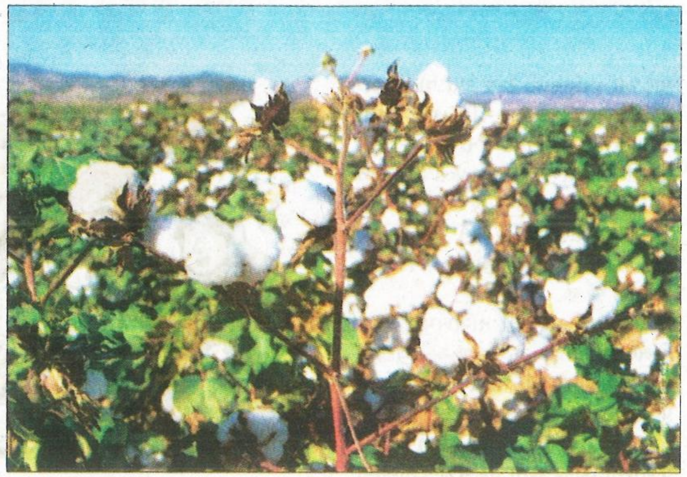
જોકે હવે ચિંતા ૨૦૨૬-૨૭માં કેટલી આયાત થશે તેની છે કારણકે વાવેતર કદાચ ગયા વર્ષની સમાન જેવું છે પણ વરસાદની ખેંચ ગંભીર બનતી જાય છે. એના લીધે ઉત્પાદનની ચિંતા છે.

૨૦૦૦થી ૨૦૦૨ દરમિયાન વૈશ્વિક બજારમાં સસ્તો કપાસ, ભારત સરકારની નીતિ અને ખાસ કરીને આ અરસામાં ભારતના બીટી ટેક્નોલોજીમાં પ્રવેશના જ વર્ષો હતા. એ કારણે ભારતે ખૂબ આયાત તો કરી લીધી પણ એમાં મોટી અસર અમેરિકા અને ચીનની નીતિની રહી હતી. અમેરિકા અને ચીને પોતાના કપાસ ઉત્પાદકોને ખૂબ મોટી સબસિડી આપી હતી. પરિણામે આ બન્ને દેશના કપાસનો ભાવ તળિયે ગયો અને ભારતે વધારે આયાત કરી લીધી: બીજી તરફ ભારતની પરિસ્થિતિ પણ બહુ સારી ન હતી. માંડ ૧૫૦ લાખ ગાંસડી જેટલું સરેરાશ ઉત્પાદન થતું હતું. પુરવઠો મળતો ન હતો એટલે આયાત કરવી પડતી હતી.

એ વખતે હજુ બીટી ટેક્નોલોજી આવી ન હતી. બીટી કપાસની શરૂઆત ૨૦૦૨ના અંત કે ૨૦૦૩ના આરંભે થઇ. જોકે આ પૂર્વેના યુગમાં તો ગુલાબી ઇયળોને લીધે કપાસના ઉત્પાદનમાં મોટાં ગાબડાં રહેતા હતા. ઉત્પાદનનો વધારો બીટી કપાસને લીધે થયેલો હતો કારણકે ઉત્પાદનમાં આપણે એક તબક્કે ૩૯૦ લાખ ગાંસડીનો આંકડો હાંસલ કર્યો હતો. લગભગ ૧૬૦ ટકાનો વધારો ઉત્પાદનમાં થયો હતો. ખેડૂતોએ ખૂબ કપાસ લણ્યો અને કમાણી પણ થઇ. જોકે હવે બીટી કપાસના વળતા પાણી છે પણ વિકલ્પ ક્યાં ? બીટી કપાસનો સબળ વિકલ્પ જોઇએ છે પણ મળતો નથી કે ઇચ્છાશક્તિ નથી !

ખેર ૨૦૦૨ની વાત તરફ પાછાં વળીએ.

વરસાદની ખેંચને લીધે ઉત્પાદન નબળું પડવાનો ભય ને બીજી તરફ મબલક આયાત થવાનો ફફડાટ : ભારતમાં આયાતનું ઐતિહાસિક ગણિત



કપાસનો ઉતારો સાવ પાતળો મળતો હતો અને એના કારણે ભાવ ઉંચા રહેતા હતા. જોકે ડબલ્યુ ટીઓ સાથે જોડાણ પછી ક્વોટા સિસ્ટમ હટી અને આત નીતિ ઉદાર થઇ ત્યારે ભારતમાં આયાતના દ્વાર ખૂલ્યા અને પ્રવાહ શરૂ થયો હતો. વળી ટેક્સટાઇલ મિલોને આપણે ત્યાં ઉચ્ચ ક્વોલિટીના કપાસની આવશ્યકતા હતી તે ભારતમાં મુશ્કેલ હતું.

જોકે ૨૦૦૨-૨૦૦૩ પછી આયાત ઘટી કેમ તે પણ રસપ્રદ છે. એ વર્ષમાં આશરે ૧૭.૫૦ લાખ ગાંસડી આયાત થઇ પણ એ પછી છેક ૨૦૨૪ સુધી સરેરાશ ૧૪-૧૫ લાખ ગાંસડી જ આવી હતી. એ બીટી કપાસ અને ભારતની આયાત જકાતને લીધે નીચે ઉતરી હતી. ૨૦૦૩-૪માં બીટી કપાસના વ્યાપક ઉત્પાદનને લીધે ફક્ત ૭.૨૧ લાખ ગાંસડી જ આવી. ૨૦૦૫થી ૨૦૦૭ના બે વર્ષમાં ફક્ત પાંચથી સાડા પાંચ લાખ ગાંસડી આવી. ૨૦૧૦-૧૧માં ફક્ત પોણા ત્રણ લાખ ગાંસડી જ આવી હતી. આમ ઐતિહાસિક નીચી આયાતના વર્ષો આવ્યા પણ અત્યારે ઐતિહાસિક ઉંચી આયાતના વર્ષો શરૂ થઇ ગયા છે. ભારતે પોણા ત્રણ લાખ ગાંસડીથી ૫૪ લાખ ગાંસડીની આયાત સુધીની સફર ખેડી લીધી છે. જોકે ચિંતા હવે નવા વર્ષને લઇને છે કારણકે વરસાદની તંગી અકળાવી રહી છે. એ કારણે ફરીથી આયાત ખૂબ થશે એવો ફફડાટ વ્યાપી ગયો છે.

ગુજરાતનો ક્રમ મહારાષ્ટ્ર પછી ઉત્પાદનમાં બીજો આવે છે, ભૂતકાળમાં ગુજરાત પ્રથમ હતું. બન્ને રાજ્યોમાં વરસાદની ભારે ખેંચ છે. ગુજરાતમાં ૨ ઑગસ્ટ પછી વરસાદ નામપૂરતો પણ માંડ આવ્યો છે. ભલે ખેતરોમાં અત્યારે કપાસનો પાક લીલોછમ છે પણ સપ્ટેમ્બરમાં ય જો વરસાદ નહીં પડે તો ગુજરાતમાં અનેક તાલુકાઓમાં કપાસની તબિયત બગડવા લાગશે.

કપાસના ખેડૂતો નીચાં કે અપૂરતા લાગતા ભાવને લીધે થાકેલા છે. છતાં વૈકલ્પિક પાક ન મળવાને લીધે કે પરંપરાગત પાક તરીકે કપાસ વાવે છે. જોકે એમાં રોગચાળો, ઉતારાના પ્રશ્નો અને છેલ્લે ભાવ મળવાની સમસ્યા થાય છે. ખેડૂતો હેમખેમ બે કે ત્રણ વિણી મેળવી પણ લે તો પણ સરકારી નીતિની અનિશ્ચિતતાને લીધે બજારને સહન કરવાનું આવે છે. ખાસ કરીને આયાત નીતિ સ્થિર નથી. ટેક્સટાઇલ ઉદ્યોગના હિત ખાતર પાછલા એક વર્ષમાં બબ્બે વખત આયાત ખોલવી પડી છે. હવે ઑક્ટોબરથી આયાત જકાત ફરીથી કેટલી લાગે છે તે વિચારણાનો વિષય છે પણ આયાતના દ્વાર ખૂલવા લાગ્યા છે. સરેરાશ ૧૪-૧૫ લાખ ગાંસડીની ક્વોલિટીવાળા કપાસની આયાત થતી હતી તે નડતરરૂપ ન હતી, પરંતુ હવે ૩૦ લાખ કે ૫૦ લાખ ગાંસડી આવવા લાગી છે તે ઉત્પાદકને ડંખે છે.

કપાસની નવી મોસમમાં ૩૦ લાખ ગાંસડીની આયાત કરવાની આગાહી અમેરિકન કૃષિ સંસ્થાએ ઑગસ્ટ મહિનાના રિપોર્ટમાં કરી છે. ખેડૂતો પાસે આવા આંકડાઓ બહુ ઓછાં પહોંચે છે પણ જે જાણે છે તે અંદરથી દુઃખી થાય છે. સરકાર ટેક્સટાઇલ ઉદ્યોગને જીવતો રાખવા માટે આયાત છૂટ આપવા બંધાયેલી હોય તેવો ઘાટ છે. હકીકત પણ છે કારણકે ટેક્સટાઇલ ઉદ્યોગ રોજગારનું મોટું સર્જન કરે છે. જોકે જાણ્યે અજાણ્યે ખેડૂતોનું અહિત થાય છે. ખેડૂતોને લઘુત્તમ ટેકાનો ભાવ વધારીને ખુશ કરવાનો પ્રયાસ થાય છે. જોકે ખેડૂત દુઃખી છે.

કપાસ ઉગાડીને તૈયાર કરવાના ખર્ચા વધતા જાય છે. ઉતારો ઓછો મળે છે. બિયારણ મોંઘા છે. દવાઓના ભાવ આસમાને છે. કપાસ વિણવા મજૂરો મળતા નથી કે અછત વધતી જાય છે. સરકારી ખરીદીમાં વેચાણ અર્થે કપાસ લઇ જવાય તો ભ્રષ્ટાચારની ચર્ચા થાય છે. કપાસનો વિકલ્પ કોઇ કાળે મળતો નથી એટલે દર વર્ષે ગાડું ગબડાવાય છે ને ફરી ફરીને કપાસની ખેતી થાય છે. જોકે હવે સૌથી વધારે જરુર કપાસના ખેડૂતોને હોય તો તે આધુનિક અને રોગપ્રતિકારક શક્તિ ધરાવતા તાકાતવાળા બિયારણની. બીટી કપાસ જેવી ક્રાંતિ કરવી હોય તો કપાસનું નવું બિયારણ આવશ્યક છે જ.

ન્યૂયૉર્ક કોટન વાયદામાં ઐતિહાસિક ઊંચાઇ રચાઇ

૨૦૧૦-૧૧માં આયાત વિક્રમી નીચાં પોણા ત્રણ લાખ ગાંસડીના સ્તરે હતી. બીટી બિયારણની અસર ભારતમાં ચરમસીમાએ પહોંચી. ઉત્પાદન અંદાજે ૩૩૦ લાખ ગાંસડી કરતા વધારે થઇ ગયું. કપાસ ખૂબ જ પાકવાથી ભાવ પાણી પાણી હતા. જોકે વૈશ્વિક બજારમાં ચીન અને પાકિસ્તાનનો પાક નિષ્ફળ જવાથી ભાવમાં ભડકો થઇ ગયો હતો. ન્યૂયોર્કમાં કોટન વાયદો ૨ ડૉલર પ્રતિ પાઉન્ડ (૨૦૦-૨૨૭ સેન્ટ પ્રતિ પાઉન્ડ) થઇ ગયો હતો. અત્યારે તે ૯૨ સેન્ટ ચાલે છે. ભારત એ વખતે નિકાસકાર હતો અને ખૂબ નિકાસ કરતો તે રોકી દેવામાં આવી હતી.

Janmabhumi – 31.08.2026

ભારત-કેનેડા દ્વિપક્ષી વેપાર મંત્રણા આ વર્ષે પૂર્ણ કરશે

વર્ષ ૨૦૩૦ સુધીમાં વેપારનું લક્ષ્ય $ ૭૦ અબજ

નવી દિલ્હી , તા. ૩૦ (પીટીઆઇ) : દ્વિપક્ષીય આર્થિક અને નાણાકીય સહકારને ગહન બનાવવાના પ્રયાસ હેઠળ ભારત અને કેનેડાએ આજે જાહેર કર્યુ હતું કે વર્તમાન વર્ષના અંત સુધીમાં કોમ્પ્રિહેન્સિવ ઇકોનોમિક પાર્ટનરશિપ એગ્રીમેન્ટ (સીઇપીએ)ની વાટાઘાટ પૂર્ણ કરવા માગે છે અને બને એટલી વહેલી તકે દ્વિપક્ષીય રોકાણ સંધિની પ્રક્રિયા બંને દેશો શરૂ કરશે.

ટોરન્ટોમાં આર્થિક અને નાણાકીય સંવાદના ઉદ્‌ઘાટન કાર્યક્રમમાં નાણાપ્રધાન નિર્મલા સીતારામન અને કેનેડાના મહેસૂલપ્રધાન ફ્રાંકોઇસ ફિલિપે સરહદ પારથી રેમિટન્સ અને મર્ચન્ટ પેમેન્ટસ સંબંધે તકોની શક્યતા તપાસવા સંબંધિત અધિકારીઓ અને હિતધારકો વચ્ચે સહભાગિતાને ટેકો આપવા સંમતિ દર્શાવી હતી. પેમેન્ટ સર્વિસ પ્રોવાઇડર્સ સાથે ભાગીદારી મારફત કેનેડામાં યુપીઆઇના ઉપયોગને વ્યાપક બનાવવાની તકોને તેમણે આવકાર આપ્યો હતો.

વડા પ્રધાન નરેન્દ્ર મોદી અને કેનેડાના વડા પ્રધાન માર્ક કાર્નીએ દ્વિપક્ષીય આર્થિક અને નાણાકીય સહકારને મજબૂત બનાવવા આ વર્ષે માર્ચમાં નવી દિલ્હીમાં તેમની બેઠક દરમિયાન દર્શાવેલી વચનબદ્ધતાને પગલે આ મંત્રણા થઇ હતી.

બંને દેશો વચ્ચે નાણાકીય અને વેપારી જોડાણને ટેકો આપવાના ઉદ્દેશથી ચર્ચાવિચારણા કરવામાં આવી છે અને ૨૦૩૦ સુધીમાં દ્વિપક્ષીય વેપાર વધારીને ૭૦ અબજ કેનેડિયન ડૉલરનો અથવા તો રૂા. ૪.૬૫ લાખ કરોડનો કરવાનું લક્ષ્ય પાર પાડવાનો નિર્ધાર બંને નેતાઓએ વ્યક્ત કર્યો હતો.

બને એટલી વહેલી તકે દ્વિપક્ષીય રોકાણ સંધિ વિષયે વાટાઘાટ શરૂ કરવા ભારતે પણ તૈયારી દર્શાવી હોવાનું સંયુક્ત નિવેદનમાં જણાવાયું હતું. પેમેન્ટને આધુનિક બનાવવા, નાણાકીય સ્થિરતા , ફિનટેકમાં સુધારાવધારા, શેરબજારના વિકાસ અને આર્થિક ગુના ઘટાડવા માટેના પ્રયાસોમાં સહકારની તકોની શક્યતા પણ બંને પક્ષોએ ચકાસી હતી.

વૈશ્વિક આર્થિક અને નાણાકીય પ્રશ્નોએ મહત્ત્વના ખનિજો સહિત પરસ્પર હિતના વ્યાપક સહકારના ક્ષેત્રોમાં વધુ શક્યતા તપાસવા બંને પ્રધાનો સંમત થયા હતા.

આ સંવાદને પરિણામે સીતારામન અને નાણાપ્રધાન ફિલિપએ કેનેડાના નાણાકીય સર્વિસીસ, ફિનટેક, ટેક્નોલૉજી, આર્ટિફિશિયલ ઇન્ટેલિજન્સ, ઇન્ફ્રાસ્ટ્રક્ચર, ઊર્જા અને કુદરતી સાધનોનાં ક્ષેત્રના પ્રતિનિધિઓ સાથે સંયુક્ત ચર્ચા વિચારણા કરી હતી. ભારત અને કેનેડા વચ્ચે આર્થિક અને નાણાકીય વિષયે મંત્રણા ૨૦૨૭માં યોજાશે.

બિઝનેસની નવી શક્યતાઓ તપાસવા માટે સીતારામન ભારત અને કેનેડાના પ્રોફેશનલ એલ્યુમની એસોસિયેશનો અને અગ્રણી બિઝનેસ ચેમ્બર્સ સાથે ચર્ચા વિચારણા કરી હતી.