



**COTTON
ASSOCIATION
OF INDIA**

Established 1921

ISO 9001:2015



News Relating to
**Cotton and
Textile Sector**

Date-23-10-2026

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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)	Rs. per Quintal	Rs. per Candy	Variation + (Plus) - (Minus)
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Gravimetric Trash %	Strength / GPT	2026-27	2026-27		2025-26	2025-26	
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	4%	15	15438	54900	(+500)	N.A.	N.A.	
2	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	15%	20	N.A.	N.A.		13779	49000	(N.C.)
3	P / H / R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	18137	64500	(+100)	N.A.	N.A.	
4	M/M(P) /SA/TL/GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
5	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
6	P/ H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	18194	64700	(+100)	N.A.	N.A.	
7	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	N.A.	N.A.		18700	66500	(+100)
8	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	N.A.	N.A.		18390	65400	(+100)
9	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
10	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	4.0%	27	18194	64700	(N.C.)	N.A.	N.A.	
11	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	19150	68100	(+200)	N.A.	N.A.	
12	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19178	68200	(+100)	19093	67900	(N.C.)
13	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	18981	67500	(+100)	18362	65300	(N.C.)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	19234	68400	(+100)	N.A.	N.A.	
15	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	19403	69000	(+100)	N.A.	N.A.	
16	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	19234	68400	(+100)	N.A.	N.A.	
17	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
18	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
19	SA/TL/K/TN/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5 – 4.9	3%	31	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
20	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	33	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
21	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	26714	95000	(N.C.)	N.A.	N.A.	
22	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	N.A.	N.A.		N.A.	N.A.	
23	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	35	26995	96000	(N.C.)	N.A.	N.A.	
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							Secretary					
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 (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												

ICE Cotton Futures: 22-10-2026

ICE COTTON CLOSE						22 Oct 2026
CONTRACT MONTH	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHANGE	Op. Int.
Cotton (CT) - Quote: Cents/Pound - Contract Size: 50,000 Pounds.						
Dec-26	81.85	81.90	80.71	80.79	▼1.04	1,64,464
Mar-27	85.30	85.30	84.36	84.48	▼0.72	1,02,775
May-27	86.84	86.89	86.00	86.15	▼0.69	62,122
Jul-27	87.25	87.31	86.48	86.61	▼0.65	35,905
Oct-27	0.00	79.84	79.84	79.84	▼0.39	24
Dec-27	79.65	79.67	79.21	79.37	▼0.13	33,948
Mar-28	80.15	80.15	79.89	79.89	▼0.12	2,521

Cotlook Index: 22-10-2026

92.75 (+0.01)

Andhra Cotton Prices May Reach ₹10,000

Friday, 23rd Oct 2026, by Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Anticipated Decline in Cotton Production in Andhra Pradesh; Farmers Expect Prices to Reach Up to ₹10,000 per Quintal

Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh: Adverse weather conditions in Andhra Pradesh are expected to impact cotton yields. Anticipating a potential shortfall in production, private traders have begun reaching out to farmers in cotton-growing villages. Consequently, farmers are hopeful that cotton prices could reach between ₹9,000 and ₹10,000 per quintal during the current season.

Expectations of Better Prices Amidst Anticipated Low Yield

Cotton yields are expected to decline due to weather-related risks. Farmers believe that if market arrivals remain low and competition among traders to procure the produce intensifies, prices could see a significant surge.

According to a female farmer from the Karampudi area in Palnadu district, many farmers suffered financial losses last season due to low prices. This year, they are hopeful for better returns—enough to cover cultivation costs and generate some profit.

Last Season, Cotton Had to Be Sold Below MSP

Farmers reported that during the previous season, some were forced to sell their cotton at prices ranging from ₹4,000 to ₹5,000 per quintal. Technical issues—such as difficulties with registration, slot booking, and online record-keeping within the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) procurement process—prevented some farmers from selling their produce at the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Driven by urgent financial needs, many farmers were compelled to sell their cotton to private traders at lower prices.

MSP for Cotton for the 2026-27 Season

According to available reports, the central government has set the MSP for medium-staple cotton at ₹8,267 per quintal and for long-staple cotton at ₹8,667 per quintal for the 2026-27 season.

Meanwhile, the CCI is currently preparing for the procurement process. Farmers want the technical issues from the previous season to be resolved so that there are no hurdles in the registration and procurement process this time around.

In the coming months, weather conditions, cotton yields, and the trend of market arrivals could influence prices.

Ex-Gin Cotton Prices Jump ₹4,000 per Candy, Worry Tamil Nadu Mills

Friday, 23rd Oct 2026, by Yash Chouhan, (Source: www.smartinfoindia.com)

Ex-gin cotton prices surge by ₹4,000 per candy; concerns rise among over 1,500 textile mills in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu: Cotton prices have seen a sharp rise following the commencement of the 2026-27 cotton marketing season in the country. Over the last 10 days, ex-gin cotton prices have climbed from

₹64,000 to ₹68,000 per candy. This increase of approximately 6.25 percent has sparked concerns regarding rising production costs for more than 1,500 textile mills in Tamil Nadu.

Market surge driven by limited cotton arrivals

According to Nishant Asher, Secretary of the Indian Cotton Federation, the arrival of new-season cotton in the market has fallen short of expectations. Such a steep rise in prices during October is considered unusual.

He noted that several factors are likely contributing to this price surge, including a potential decline in production, some farmers withholding their stock in anticipation of better prices, and the expected reinstatement of import duties effective November 1.

Production projected to fall short of demand

Durai Palaniswami, Chairman of the Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA), stated that domestic cotton consumption for the 2025-26 season—which ended on September 30, 2026—stood at 33.6 million (336 lakh) bales. During that period, 6.7 million (67 lakh) bales were imported, with a closing stock of approximately 4 million (40 lakh) bales remaining at the end of the season.

He projected that for the current season, cotton demand is expected to reach 36 million (360 lakh) bales, while production is estimated at around 26 million (260 lakh) bales. This gap between demand and production is likely to provide support to prices.

Concerns over rising costs for the textile industry due to import duties

According to Palaniswami, while higher cotton prices may offer better returns to farmers, they also raise concerns regarding increased costs for the textile industry. However, the reintroduction of import duties could increase raw material costs for textile mills. This raises concerns that the competitiveness of the Indian textile industry in the international market might be affected.

They emphasized the need for the government to adopt a balanced policy that takes into account the interests of both farmers and the textile industry.

Could India's Technical Textile Industry Reduce Dependence on Imported Medical Products?

Friday, 23rd Oct 2026, (Source: <https://textilevaluechain.in>)

Overview

India's technical textile industry has an opportunity to strengthen domestic healthcare manufacturing. From surgical gowns and medical dressings to filtration materials and specialized medical-device

components, engineered textiles support many healthcare applications. Investment in advanced materials, testing and specialized production could reduce dependence on selected imports and strengthen domestic supply chains.

India's Medical Manufacturing Opportunity

India has established capabilities in fibre production, fabric processing and garment manufacturing. However, specialized medical products require additional expertise in material engineering, quality testing and regulatory compliance.

In FY 2024–25, India imported medical devices worth ₹1,37,088 crore, while exports totaled ₹42,360 crore. These figures cover the wider medical-device sector, not medical textiles alone, but highlight the opportunity to strengthen domestic healthcare manufacturing.

Where Technical Textiles Can Make a Difference

Medical clothing and protective wear: Manufacturers can expand production of surgical gowns, drapes and protective garments using specialized nonwovens and fluid-resistant materials.

Advanced wound-care materials: Engineered fibers and absorbent textile structures offer opportunities beyond conventional gauze and bandages, provided products meet relevant safety and performance requirements.

Medical filtration and disposables: Specialized nonwovens used in masks, filtration layers and hospital supplies could support local manufacturing.

Medical-device components: Textile structures used in surgical meshes and vascular grafts offer higher-value opportunities that require specialized research, testing and collaboration with medical-device companies.

Challenges Holding Manufacturers Back

- **Imported raw materials:** Some manufacturers depend on overseas suppliers for specialized fibers, polymers, coatings and chemicals.
- **Machinery limitations:** Advanced production equipment can increase investment costs and dependence on foreign technology.
- **Testing requirements:** Medical-grade products need appropriate performance validation, quality controls and, where applicable, biocompatibility testing.
- **Technical expertise:** Moving from conventional fabrics to specialised medical products requires material science knowledge and healthcare-sector partnerships.
- **Commercialization barriers:** Companies must secure buyer confidence, meet regulatory requirements and manufacture consistently at competitive costs. Opportunities for Companies in the Industry
- **Medical consumables:** India's exports of medical-device consumables and disposables increased from US\$1.29 billion in FY 2020–21 to US\$1.863 billion in FY 2024–25. This wider category includes products beyond textiles, but signals an established export channel for relevant medical supplies.

- Research and product development: The National Technical Textiles Mission reported 168 supported research projects worth ₹509 crore in March 2025, creating a policy-backed pathway for innovation.
- Specialised nonwovens: Companies can explore filtration materials, surgical barriers and selected disposable medical products where their manufacturing capabilities match buyer requirements.
- Healthcare partnerships: Textile manufacturers can collaborate with hospitals, medical-device producers and laboratories to develop and validate materials for specific applications.
- Export expansion: Manufacturers that meet target-market standards can assess opportunities to supply international healthcare buyers and distributors.

How India Can Strengthen Domestic Production

The National Technical Textiles Mission supports research, innovation, market development and skill development. Further progress depends on connecting research with commercial manufacturing, improving testing access and strengthening domestic supply of specialised inputs.

What Comes Next for India's Medical Textile Industry?

India can reduce import dependence in selected categories, but progress requires investment beyond conventional fabric manufacturing. Specialised materials, reliable quality and competitive costs will determine which products succeed.

Towards Healthcare supports healthcare businesses through market intelligence, competitive analysis and strategic consulting to assess product opportunities, supplier landscapes and growth areas across medical textiles and related healthcare sectors.

About Towards Healthcare Research and Consulting

Towards Healthcare Research & Consulting is a global strategy consulting firm with a presence in both Canada and India. We provide innovative solutions customized to the healthcare sector, helping business leaders overcome challenges and accelerate growth. We specialize in delivering advanced technological solutions, clinical research services, and powerful data analytics. Our focus is on building meaningful partnerships that foster innovation and deliver actionable insights to drive success in healthcare.

5th edition of Sustainable Textiles Summit 2026 successfully organized by PHDCCI

Friday, 23rd Oct 2026, (Source: www.apparelviews.com)

The Textiles Committee of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry PHDCCI successfully organized the milestone 5th Edition of the Sustainable Textiles Summit 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi. The high-profile event was centered on the pivotal theme, “Advancing Textile Circularity: Scaling Innovation, Green Finance, and Inclusive Growth.”

The summit brought together key industry stalwarts, policymakers, financial institutions, and global experts to establish a strategic roadmap for deep decarbonization, advanced recycling ecosystems, and robust ESG standards across the industry. The summit’s prominent line of deliberations featured



Madhu Sudhan Bhageria, Chair, PHDCCI Textiles Committee & CMD, Filatex India Ltd.; Murugan Thenkondar, President-Cellulose Fibres, Grasim Industries Limited, Aditya Birla Group; Archana Dutta, Programme Management Officer, United Nations Environment Program UNEP; Anil Jadhav, Regional Director South Asia and Middle East, ECOCERT India; and Gopal, Director, Ministry of Textiles, alongside R. K. Vij, Co-Chair, PHDCCI Textiles Committee & SG, Polyester Textiles Apparel Industries Association. Technical and institutional frameworks were further driven by Dr. Pankaj Kumar, National

Project Coordinator, UNIDO; Shivendra Parmar, Assistant General Manager, TÜV Rheinland India Pvt. Ltd.; Dr. Arpan B. Kharva, Head Research & Development, Capital Maharaja Group, Sri Lanka; Tanmeet Thukral, Private Sector Specialist, The World Bank; Himanshu Shukla, Scientist – C/Deputy Director, Textile Department, Bureau of Indian Standards BIS; Rohan A Gaikwad, Growth Director, Without; Bansari Nag, National Project Coordinator, International Labour Organization ILO Country Office for India; and Dr. Swapna Mishra, CEO, Textile Sector Skill Council.

Delivering the welcome address, Madhu Sudhan Bhageria highlighted that sustainability in textiles must embrace a comprehensive lifecycle approach encompassing fibre production, manufacturing, processing, and consumption. He strongly advocated that the financial cost of sustainability must be shared equitably across the global value chain rather than falling solely on manufacturing units in producing countries. Shri Murugan Thenkondar added that economic viability rests firmly on resource efficiency, urging businesses to reduce water and energy consumption through modern recycling technologies.

Addressing the regulatory shift from intent to proof, Anil Jadhav noted that impending European mandates, including the Digital Product Passport and the Green Claims Directive, are swiftly reshaping global supply chains. He remarked that consumers today demand credible evidence, independent audits, and complete traceability over mere voluntary labeling. Acknowledging this global shift, Chief Guest Gopal stated that while the ecological challenge is real, India possesses a highly capable recycling ecosystem, expanding startups, and technical depth to capture the global green market. He called for supportive policy frameworks that align clean technologies with decent work conditions and structural empowerment for workers, particularly women.

The subsequent technical sessions focused heavily on technological, standard-driven, and financial outcomes. Key discussions highlighted UNIDO's green manufacturing pathways, TÜV Rheinland's independent verification structures, and Capital Maharaja Group's R&D into alternative next-gen

materials. Furthermore, the financial and operational mechanics were charted out via green infrastructure financing models from The World Bank, quality assurance markers from the Bureau of Indian Standards BIS, and commercial upcycling of post-consumer waste by industry innovators.

The high-impact summit witnessed active participation from a broad spectrum of industry stakeholders, including MSMEs, academic researchers, global apparel brands, standard-setting agencies, and green energy professionals. The close strategic involvement of leading international institutions, namely UNEP, UNIDO, ILO, and The World Bank, reflected the international seriousness and global consensus driving the industry's transition toward highly resilient, eco-conscious supply chains. The summit collectively concluded that achieving scalable textile circularity requires technology, finance, statutory standards, and workforce upskilling to operate in absolute synchronicity.

Finished fabrics, yarn imports rise in Bangladesh

Friday, 23rd Oct 2026, (Source: www.apparelvIEWS.com)

Imports of finished fabrics and yarn have risen for apparel exporters' liking of foreign intermediate inputs as local spinning and textile millers lose out on the swap, sources say.

Over 13-percent increase in the intermediate raw-material imports in September 2026 stands out as an explainer of the change.

The trend suggests export-oriented garment makers are increasingly sourcing intermediate inputs from abroad instead of relying on local spinning and textile mills, even as the government seeks to promote local backward-linkage industries through policy support.

According to National Board of Revenue (NBR) data, combined imports of fabrics and yarn rose 12.33 per cent to 221,324 tonnes in September from 197,026 tonnes in August. The import bill stood at about \$1.08 billion.

Over the same period, raw-cotton imports fell to 107,824 tonnes, worth about \$228 million. Fabrics and yarn imports by volume were thus more than double those of cotton, and their combined bill was nearly five times the cotton bill.

Combined imports of woven and knit fabrics stood at 115,407 tonnes in September, up 19.70 per cent from 96,417 tonnes in August. This was an increase of nearly 19,000 tonnes in a single month. The import bill for fabrics stood at about Tk 8.69billion or roughly \$703 million, according to the NBR data.

Woven fabrics imports grew 20.02 per cent to 63,174 tonnes from 52,638 tonnes, worth about \$388 million.

Knit fabrics imports rose 19.31 per cent to 52,233 tonnes from 43,779 tonnes, worth about \$316 million.

Fabrics imports alone exceeded raw-cotton imports in volume during the month, and the fabrics-import bill was more than three times the cotton bill.

Yarn imports rose 5.28 per cent to 105,917 tonnes from 100,609 tonnes, at a cost of about \$374 million.

Cotton-yarn imports grew 5.28 per cent to 64,120 tonnes from 60,902 tonnes, worth about \$229 million.

Synthetic filament yarn imports rose 6.37 per cent to 32,485 tonnes from 30,539 tonnes, worth about \$103 million.

Imports of yarn made from synthetic staple fibre edged up 1.57 per cent to 9,312 tonnes from 9,168 tonnes, worth about \$42 million.

Raw cotton, the main raw material for local spinning mills, saw an import fall of 13.38 per cent to 107,824 tonnes from 124,476 tonnes in August, in a drop of 16,652 tonnes.

Polyester staple fibre imports fell 7.12 per cent to 7,553 tonnes from 8,132 tonnes, worth about \$10.6 million.

Viscose staple fibre was the only raw material to post growth. Its imports more than doubled, rising 102.62 per cent to 3,633 tonnes from 1,793 tonnes, worth about \$10.1 million.

Overall, imports of the three raw materials fell 11.45 per cent to 119,010 tonnes from 134,401 tonnes. The shift is reflected in falling supplies from local primary textile mills. According to NBR data, fabrics exports by local mills, mostly deemed exports to export-oriented garment factories, dropped 38.67 per cent to 14.69 million metres in September from 23.96 million metres in August, valued at about \$38 million.

Yarn exports by member mills declined 22.19 per cent to 25,791 tonnes from 33,146 tonnes, fetching about \$86 million.

BKMEA President Mohammad Hatem has said exporters are trying to reduce production costs to remain competitive in export markets.

“The import trend indicates that locally sourced raw materials are more expensive than imported ones. How can we source materials from local mills when their prices are much higher?” he asks. He has further said if the government continues to restrict the import of certain categories of yarn under the duty-free bond facility, it would also affect the local knitting and weaving industries. He also fears that considering the local prices in the coming days, buyers’ nomination for fabrics and yarn could increase.

BTMA President Showkat Aziz Russell says the rising imports of finished fabrics and yarn indicate declining value addition to ready-made garments (RMG).

“On the other hand, local textile mills are gradually weakening. Such product mixing is not good for the country,” he said.

He warns that greater reliance on imported raw materials by the RMG sector could also undermine Bangladesh’s preparation for graduation from the least- developed-country (LDC) status.

After LDC graduation, Bangladesh’s RMG exporters will need to maintain local value addition of 40 per cent to 60 per cent, depending on the destination market, he reminds.

Russell also has alleged that some imported goods brought in under the bonded- warehouse facility are diverted to the domestic market, causing the government to lose substantial revenue.

“We have also observed that law-enforcement agencies, including customs and police, have seized such goods during recent drives.”

He adds that such illicit practices could continue unless the government corrects the relevant policies.

“India Will Be Our No. 1 Market” DOSO Strengthens its India Presence with DEBMAC Thursday, 22nd Oct 2026, (Source: www.apparelviews.com)

DOSO, a Chinese manufacturer of sewing machines and automation solutions, is strengthening its presence in the Indian market through its collaboration with DEBMAC. With a manufacturing history dating back to 1999, the company is expanding its Indian network, strengthening technical support and focusing on automation as a key driver for the future of garment manufacturing. In an exclusive conversation with Arvind Kumar, Editor, Apparel Views, YE Xianchong, Chairman, DOSO discusses DOSO’s journey, its partnership with DEBMAC and the company’s plans for the Indian market.

Could you tell us about DOSO and its collaboration with DEBMAC?

YE Xianchong Chairman, DOSO



DOSO started in 1999, so it is a very established company. In the beginning, we focused on basic machines. After many years of development, we expanded our portfolio to include automation solutions.

Previously, DOSO undertook a significant amount of OEM manufacturing for other suppliers and customers. Although the DOSO brand was present in India earlier, our sales were not very large. This year, we believe the Indian market has very strong potential, so we want to focus strongly on India. Going forward, we also plan to invest more in the Indian market.

A very good opportunity came when Mr. Alok Desai from DEBMAC visited our factory last year. We had a very good meeting, understood each other well and decided to begin our collaboration in the Indian market.

Going forward, we will work with DEBMAC as partners and invest more in the Indian market through exhibitions, promotions, road shows and private shows. We will also organise important conferences and promotional activities with our dealers.

What are your plans for expanding your presence across India?

We already have four offices in Bangalore, Delhi, Tirupur and Ahmedabad. In the future, we plan to establish more offices in major cities such as Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Chennai.

Our objective is to strengthen our presence across India and serve our endusers and customers better. We also plan to develop more agents and dealers throughout the Indian market. Our focus is to provide fast service and quick responses to our customers.

What is DOSO's position in the Chinese sewing machine industry?

We can say DOSO is among the top 10 manufacturers in the sewing machine industry in China. It is a very established company, and we have many experienced technicians and R&D engineers. Our technology is very good, and our service team is also strong.

However, our overseas sales have been comparatively weak, which is why we need the support of DEBMAC as a strong partner. Going forward, we want to focus more on overseas markets.

The Chinese market is not strong this year, and manufacturing costs are increasing year by year. The number of garment factories is also declining. Therefore, we will focus more on overseas markets and invest particularly in India.

India has a very large population and significant potential demand for sewing machines and garments. In our strategy, we will regard India as our No. 1 market. That is why we wanted to find a strong company like DEBMAC to cooperate with us in India.

What kind of technical and sales support will DOSO provide to its Indian partners?

Our plan is to first invite the DEBMAC team to China for training on all our machines. Later, we can also send our Chinese technicians to India.

I think every office should have at least one sales and technician person to provide support. If there is any problem, we want to respond very quickly.

At the same time, we will provide training to our agents, dealers and technicians. If factories are interested, they can also send their technicians to our offices, where we will provide training. Our objective is to provide a quick response and the best possible service in the Indian market.

What is your plan regarding spare-parts availability in India?

We have a dedicated spare-parts department and already maintain all kinds of spare parts in our warehouse in China. With every order and every container, we can send spare parts for backup.

Normal spare parts are easily available in the Indian market. For special parts, we will maintain sufficient backup at each office.

If a customer requires a part, we can provide it immediately. Usually, we will provide spare parts free of charge. If there is a major problem, we will charge only the cost. We will not make money from spare parts. Our focus is on providing service.

What is the range of machines available from DOSO?

DOSO has a complete range of sewing machines across different categories. We have lockstitch, overlock, interlock, buttonhole, buttonstitch, bartacking and heavyduty sewing machines. These are our basic machines.

We are also very strong in automation. The pocket-welting machine is one of our star products. We also have template machines and intelligent cutting machines. We can provide complete solutions for shirts, denim and other applications, including shoes and bags. We can provide solutions across all these categories.

What is the manufacturing capacity at your facility in China?

For automation machines, we can produce at least 20 machines every day. For basic machines, thousands of machines are produced every month. The actual production depends on market requirements, so capacity is not a problem.

Our company has seven buildings, with a total building space of more than 30,000 square metres. The factory is located in Taizhou. We have our own land and our own industrial park.

How has the market responded so far? What is your plan and target for the Indian market?

Alok Desai Reddy, Director, DEBMAC India Pvt. Ltd. with YE Xianchong, Chairman, DOSO



The response has been very good. We have had only three months of cooperation, and we have already sold more than 3,000 machines. Customers have responded very positively and like our machines very much.

You can also see the saffron colour on our machines, which we call the Indian colour. We designed it for India. The design was developed in India. In the future, we also want to have more machines designed in India.

We will invest more in the Indian market through exhibitions, online promotions, road shows and private shows. We will also organise important conferences with all our dealers in the future.

We also have plans to establish more offices in India. We currently have four offices in Bangalore, Delhi, Tirupur and Ahmedabad. In the future, we plan to have more offices in Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Chennai, covering all the major cities.

Our target for the first year is at least US\$10 million. Over the next three years, I think we will be among the top three sewing machine brands in India.

Which other international markets are important for DOSO?

Vietnam is a very big market for us and for our brand. Brazil is also a very important market. We are also focusing on markets such as Egypt, South Africa, Cambodia and Indonesia, particularly across Southeast Asia.

What trends do you see, particularly in India? Where should garment manufacturers invest?

In my opinion, automation is the future. Automation is good for workers because they can do less manual work, while factories can reduce labour costs. It is also easier for workers to operate automated machines.

Previously, workers had to sit in front of machines for eight or ten hours, with their hands and feet continuously moving. With our automation, they only need to press the buttons. Automation can also help factory owners reduce costs because production becomes more efficient and delivers consistent quality, which can lead to fewer rejections.

Telangana Expands Cotton Procurement Network to Protect MSP Returns

Friday, 23rd Oct 2026, (Source: <https://urbanacres.in/>)

Telangana has ordered the opening of cotton procurement centres for the 2026-27 Kharif marketing season, with the State government directing officials to ensure purchases at the minimum support price, faster payments and adequate logistics for farmers.

Agriculture and Marketing Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao reviewed the arrangements at the Secretariat on Thursday and instructed the Marketing Department to coordinate with the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). Officials have also been asked to monitor market prices, procurement progress, quality testing, transportation and storage.

The Centre has fixed the cotton MSP at Rs 8,667 a quintal for the current season. Telangana's prevailing model market price is around Rs 9,000 a quintal, supported by high demand and reduced production, according to the report. Farmers can sell through the open market when prices are above the MSP and approach CCI procurement centres if market rates fall below it.

Telangana cultivated cotton on 48.20 lakh acres this season, with production estimated at 29.43 lakh metric tonnes. To handle the procurement season, the CCI has increased its centres in the State from 122 to 133. Separately, 335 of Telangana's 356 ginning mills have been notified as purchase centres across 30 districts.

The arrangement places the procurement burden on a distributed network of market yards, ginning facilities and transport links rather than on a small number of central facilities. The centres have been instructed to maintain adequate infrastructure for receiving cotton, testing quality, arranging transportation and storing produce. The State and district-level committees will monitor both market prices and procurement progress.

The government is also using digital systems to track farmers and payments. These include the Kapas Kisan app, online payments and farmer verification mechanisms. As of October 21, details relating to 12.75 lakh farmers had been linked to the app, according to the report.

The digital layer is intended to improve visibility over who is eligible to sell, how much produce has been procured and when payments are released. Farmers can seek procurement and payment information through the Marketing Department's toll-free helpline, 1800-599-5779, and WhatsApp service at 8897281111. Help desks are to be established at market yards to address grievances.

The State has also called for proposals to expand cotton processing, spinning and oil industries. The proposed expansion is aimed at strengthening local demand and improving returns to farmers by linking procurement with processing capacity within Telangana.

Farmers have been advised to check cotton moisture levels and quality before bringing their produce to procurement centres, in accordance with CCI standards. The immediate procurement arrangements

will therefore depend not only on the number of centres notified, but also on their ability to test, move, store and pay for cotton within the season's operating schedule.

ICE cotton futures retreat as US harvest conditions improve

Friday, 23rd Oct 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights

ICE cotton futures closed lower on Thursday, ending a three-session rally as profit-taking and favourable US harvesting weather weighed on sentiment; December 2026 fell 1.27 per cent to 80.79 cents.

US export sales rose 36 per cent to 199,629 bales and the harvest reached 41 per cent, above the five-year average, while open interest hit a record 402,264 contracts.



ICE cotton futures closed lower across all contracts on Thursday, ending a three-session winning streak as traders booked profits amid favourable harvesting conditions in the US. The most active December 2026 contract settled 104 points, or 1.27 per cent, lower at 80.79 cents per pound, compared with 81.83 cents in the previous session. Other contracts declined by 12–72 points.

The December contract remained within its 13-session trading range of 79.23–82.25 cents, closing just 5 points above the midpoint of 80.74 cents. Trading volume declined by 14.4

per cent to 49,165 contracts from 57,445 contracts.

Meanwhile, open interest increased by 971 contracts to a record 402,264 on Wednesday, marking the eighth consecutive record high and the 27th record high of 2026. Open interest had risen by 20,034 contracts over ten consecutive sessions since October 6.

Expectations of improved weekly export sales had lifted cotton prices from around 80 cents to nearly 82 cents. However, traders appeared to be booking profits following the rally. Favourable harvesting weather also allowed farmers to accelerate cotton picking, adding pressure on prices.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported net upland cotton export sales of 199,629 bales for the week ended October 15, up 36 per cent from the previous week and 7 per cent above the four-week average.

The USDA's crop progress report showed that the US cotton harvest reached 41 per cent as of October 18, compared with 31 per cent a week earlier and the five-year average of 37 per cent. The crop's good-to-excellent rating improved marginally to 35 per cent from 34 per cent.

Despite stronger export sales and shipments, profit-taking and accelerating harvesting activity weighed on market sentiment. The December contract slipped below the 80.86–81.00-cent resistance zone, with immediate support at 79.80–80.00 cents, followed by 79.23 cents. The 82.25-cent range high remained the key upside resistance.

Market participants will closely monitor the upcoming US Federal Reserve meeting, dollar movements, harvesting progress and weekly export sales for further direction.

This morning (Indian Standard Time), December 2026 cotton was traded at 80.89 cents per pound (up 0.10 cent). Cash cotton was traded at 78.54 cents (down 1.04 cent), while the March 2027 contract traded at 84.60 cents (up 0.12 cent). The May 2027 contract traded at 86.13 cents (down 0.02 cent), the July 2027 contract at 86.62 cents (up 0.01 cent), and the October 2027 contract at 79.84 cents (down 0.39 cent). A few contracts remained at their previous closing levels, with no trading recorded so far today.

US cotton export sales surge 36%, Vietnam leads buying

Friday, 23rd Oct 2026, (Source: www.fibre2fashion.com)

Insights

US Upland cotton export sales rose 36 per cent to 199,600 RB in the week ended October 15, with shipments up 40 per cent to 196,400 RB, USDA data showed.

Vietnam led purchases at 94,500 RB, followed by Bangladesh, Turkiye, Pakistan and India, as Asian textile-producing markets drove the rebound.

Pima cotton demand weakened, with sales down 81 per cent and exports down 28 per cent.



US cotton export sales rebounded strongly during the week ended October 15, 2026, driven by increased purchases by Vietnam, Bangladesh, Turkiye and Pakistan. Net sales of Upland cotton for the 2026–27 marketing year rose by 36 per cent to 199,600 RB (running bales, each weighing approximately 226.8 kg), compared with 146,900 RB in the previous week. Sales were also 7 per cent above the previous four-week average, according to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Vietnam emerged as the largest buyer with 94,500 RB, followed by Bangladesh (34,200 RB), Turkiye (33,700 RB), Pakistan (15,300 RB) and India (7,800 RB). These increases were partially offset by reductions for China (3,500 RB), Thailand (400 RB), Guatemala (400 RB) and Malaysia (200 RB).

Upland cotton exports also strengthened significantly, rising by 40 per cent to 196,400 RB from 140,600 RB in the preceding week. Shipments were 27 per cent above the previous four-week average. Vietnam remained the leading destination with 78,900 RB, followed by Pakistan (26,400 RB), Turkiye (18,600 RB), Bangladesh (13,900 RB) and India (11,500 RB).

In contrast, demand for US Pima cotton weakened sharply. Net sales declined by 81 per cent to 1,900 RB from 10,000 RB in the previous week and were 52 per cent below the four-week average. Vietnam purchased 1,300 RB, followed by Peru (500 RB) and Japan (100 RB).

Pima cotton exports also fell by 28 per cent to 7,500 RB from 10,400 RB in the previous week, remaining 12 per cent below the four-week average. India was the largest destination, accounting for 6,400 RB, followed by Bangladesh and Peru with 300 RB each.



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Extended heavy rain alert for TN and Keralam

Vinson Kurian
Thiruvananthapuram

The South Peninsula is in for a prolonged spell of unsettled weather, with rain-bearing systems present in both the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal basins, putting several States on heavy-rain watch.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast isolated to very heavy rainfall of 11-20 cm over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal for four more days, Kerala and Mahe for three days, and Lakshadweep for two days. Coastal Andhra Pradesh, too, is in the firing line on Tuesday and Wednesday.

SWATHE OF STORM CLOUDS

The rain belt on Thursday evening stretched across a broad swathe of the South Peninsula, from north Kerala into adjoining Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Areas under heavier cloud mass included Kozhikode, Kannur and Kalpetta in Kerala; Madikeri, Virajpet,



MONSOON GATHERS PACE. Rain clouds (in green) filled most of the Bay of Bengal and south-east Arabian Sea while thunderstorms (in purple) reared their heads in linear progression

Hunsur, Mysuru, Hassan, Chikkamagaluru, Hosadurga, Tumakuru and Kolar in Karnataka; Madanapalle, Rayachoti, Tirupati, Chittoor, Kadapa and Nellore in Andhra Pradesh; and Vellore and Salem in Tamil Nadu.

Isolated heavy rainfall (7-11 cm) is likely over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal on Tuesday and Wednesday, Kerala and Mahe on Monday, and Lakshadweep on Sunday and Monday.

Coastal Karnataka, coastal

Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Rayalaseema are also likely to receive heavy rainfall on Friday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

'LOW' SHIFTS BEARING

In Kerala, warnings of very heavy rain remain in force until Friday morning for Kottayam, Alappuzha, Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Thiruvananthapuram, spanning the central and southern districts. Across the border, Coimbatore and the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu face a

similar alert over the same period, while heavy rain and thunderstorms are forecast over much of the rest of the State.

The westward shift in the rain belt follows the movement on Thursday of a low-pressure area from the south-west Bay of Bengal and adjoining parts of Tamil Nadu, north Sri Lanka and the Gulf of Mannar to the Comorin area and adjoining parts of south Tamil Nadu and Kerala. A pre-existing cyclonic circulation over the south-east Arabian Sea and adjoining Kerala coast has since merged with the system.

The circulation is expected to move further west-north-west, paving the way for a fresh 'low' over the south-east and adjoining east-central Bay on Friday. The system may track towards the Tamil Nadu-Andhra Pradesh coast and intensify further.

Numerical weather models continue to hold out the possibility of a powerful system, potentially a cyclone. Its eventual strength and trajectory, however, remain to be pinned down.

Rain offers hope

Storage in India's 178 major reservoirs declined further this week, with only the central region recording levels above 80 per cent of capacity, data from the Central Water Commission (CWC) showed.

The reservoirs held 123.228 billion cubic metres (BCM) of water, or 67% of their combined capacity of 184.762 BCM. This was 26.5 percentage points lower than a year ago and 18.5 percentage points below the 10-year average.

Water levels in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh remained a concern, with reservoirs in both States holding less than a third of their capacity. Overall, storage in the southern region stood at 23.659 BCM, or 42% of its capacity of 55.879 BCM.

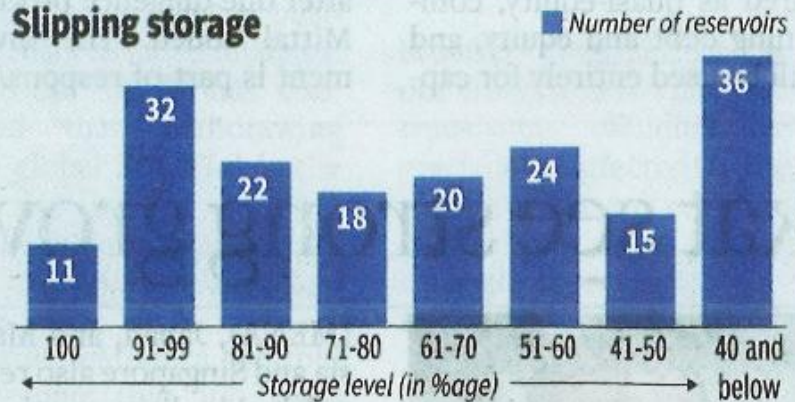
The number of reservoirs filled to capacity fell to 11 this week, four of them in Jharkhand. The Aliyar dam in Tamil Nadu remained empty. Of the State's other eight reservoirs covered by the CWC data, six held less than a quarter of their capacity.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the South-West monsoon ended with a 15% rainfall deficit. The post-monsoon period has also been largely dry, with 75% of the 734 districts recording deficient rainfall between October 1 and 21.

The IMD has forecast rain in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Kerala until early next week.

Eastern parts of the country are also likely to receive rainfall, which could help replenish reservoirs in the South.

Slipping storage

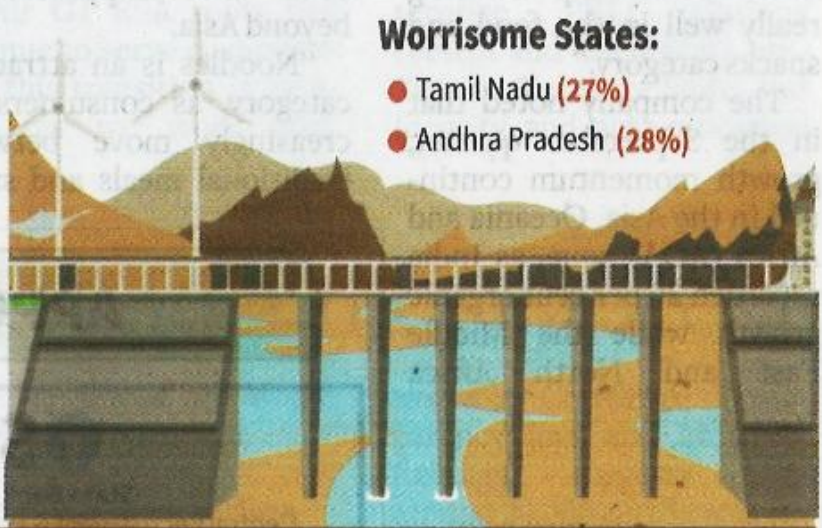


Region-wise storage

Region	Number of reservoirs	Live capacity (in BCM*)	Storage (in BCM)	Storage last year (in BCM)	%age level to capacity
Northern	11	19.836	11.532	17.284	58.14
Eastern	31	21.853	16.799	18.191	76.87
Western	58	38.606	30.537	37.516	79.1
Central	28	48.588	40.701	44.605	83.77
Southern	50	55.879	23.659	49.926	42.34
All-India	178	184.762	123.228	167.522	66.7

Worrisome States:

- Tamil Nadu (27%)
- Andhra Pradesh (28%)



Sapua (Odisha), Maithon, Panchet Hill, Tilaiya and Konar (Jharkhand), Shetrunji (Gujarat), Salaulim (Goa), Upper Tapi, Nira Deoghar (Maharashtra), Rajghat (Madhya Pradesh), and Maudaha (Uttar Pradesh) are full. Aliyar Dam in Tamil Nadu is empty.
*billion cubic metres Source: Central Water Commission

Higher MSP for rabi crops an opportunity to boost mustard production, says SEA

Our Bureau

Mangaluru

The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) has said higher minimum support prices (MSPs) for rabi crops offer an opportunity to boost domestic mustard production.

In his monthly letter to members on Wednesday, SEA President Angshu Mallick said the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had approved MSP hikes for all mandated rabi crops for the 2027-28 marketing season. The MSP for rapeseed and mustard was raised by ₹413 per quintal to

₹6,613 and that for safflower by ₹675 to ₹7,215.

"Improved price assurance for mustard can encourage farmers to maintain or expand cultivation and invest in better farm practices. However, the effectiveness of MSP support will also depend on procurement arrangements, market access and the prices farmers actually realise," he said.

KHARIF ACREAGE

Kharif oilseed acreage stood at 196.66 lakh hectares (lh) as of October 2, against 195.55 lh a year earlier. While overall coverage rose marginally, crop-wise trends were mixed.

Soybean acreage edged down to 123.16 lh, while groundnut remained broadly unchanged around 51 lh. Sesame acreage rose to 11.23 lh and sunflower to 1.29 lh, while castor acreage fell to 8.97 lh. In Gujarat, total oilseed acreage declined to 30.28 lh from 31.95 lh a year earlier, with groundnut coverage falling to 20.7 lh, Mallick said.

OILSEED TRADE

India exported 2.64 lakh tonnes (lt) of oilseeds valued at ₹3,324.05 crore during April-July 2026-27, while imports stood at 6.75 lt worth ₹3,733.55 crore. This resulted in a trade deficit of 4.11 lt

by volume and ₹409.5 crore by value.

Groundnut and sesame supported exports, while soybean dominated imports, highlighting the need to improve domestic productivity, seed quality, farm economics and value-chain linkages to reduce import dependence.

Mallick said the vegetable oil and oilseed sector was navigating a changing global environment shaped by bio-fuel policies, shifting trade flows, price volatility and rising demand. This called for proactive policy engagement, diversified sourcing, stronger domestic production and greater value addition in India.

'El Nino may reach unusual strength, raise weather risks'

Gayathri G
Chennai

The ongoing El Nino event could reach unprecedented strength by the end of this year, disrupting global rainfall and temperature patterns and raising the risk of droughts, floods and extreme heat, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has warned.

The UN weather agency's latest Global Seasonal Climate Update forecasts that sea-surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific, where El Nino originates, could rise to 3.8°C above average during November 2026 to January 2027.

The event is expected to peak towards the end of this year, although its effects could persist well into 2027.

"This is literally off the monitoring charts that we have used for the past four decades," WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo said on Wednesday, calling for urgent action to protect vulnerable communities.

El Nino is a natural climate phenomenon characterised by unusually warm sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific. It alters atmospheric circulation, shifting rainfall patterns and influencing temperatures across regions.

The WMO uses a sea surface temperature anomaly of 0.5°C as the threshold for declaring El Nino conditions.

UNEVEN IMPACT

The intensity of the developing event could amplify weather-related risks across several regions, with the effects varying according to local climate conditions.

The WMO outlook points to an increased likelihood of wetter-than-normal conditions in parts of East Africa

Pacific Ocean temperatures could rise 3.8°C above average during

November-January, increasing the risk of drought, floods and extreme heat

during the October-December rainy season, raising concerns about flooding.

Southern Africa faces a higher risk of drier conditions from November, potentially affecting crop production, water availability and livelihoods.

South-East Asia is expected to experience warmer conditions and rainfall deficits, adding to pressure on agriculture and water supplies, while increasing the risk of wildfires and smoke haze.

Parts of the Americas could see heavier rainfall, while drought risks are elevated in parts of Central America, the southern Caribbean and the Amazon basin, according to the outlook.

IMPLICATIONS FOR FARMING, WATER

Changes in rainfall and temperature can have far-reaching consequences for agriculture, energy, water management and public health. Drought can reduce crop yields and tighten water supplies, while intense rainfall can damage crops, infrastructure and livelihoods.

Extreme heat can also increase pressure on power demand and health services.

The WMO has urged governments and humanitarian agencies to use seasonal forecasts and early-warning systems to prepare for the likely impacts.

Modi, Tusk push for doubling Indo-Polish trade by 2030

FOCUS AREAS. Discuss strategic connectivity, including direct flights, port co-operation, maritime security

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Polish counterpart Donald Tusk, on Thursday, called for an early implementation of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and agreed to work towards doubling bilateral trade by 2030, deepening partnership in areas such as manufacturing, defence, critical and emerging tech and AI, semiconductors and green energy..

The two also discussed strategic connectivity, including direct flights, port co-operation, maritime security, and alignment with the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

“On the FTA, the PMs called for its early signing and ratification as well as timely implementation, with a view to unlocking new opportunities for trade and investment, diversifying and strengthening critical value chains, and opening new markets,” per the India-Poland joint statement.



FOSTERING TIES. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Polish counterpart Donald Tusk, during a meeting in New Delhi on Thursday SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Modi said once the agreement came into effect, it would open up new opportunities for India to export machinery, chemicals, plastics, and engineering goods to Poland. “At the same time, we will seek new investments from Poland in

sectors such as railways and mobility, advanced manufacturing, food processing, and biotechnology,” he said in his press statement.

The Prime Minister highlighted that the two countries had reached an understanding to deepen relations

in defence, space, and nuclear energy. “We invite companies from Poland to engage in co-development and co-production with India in all these strategic sectors,” Modi said.

Poland also announced joining the Coalition for Dis-

aster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), a multi-stakeholder global partnership launched by India.

Tusk is on an official three-day visit to India, accompanied by Poland’s Minister of Finance and Economy Andrzej Domanski and a heavy-weight business delegation consisting of leaders from defence, IT, energy, and heavy industries. Following his engagements in the national capital, the Polish PM will travel to Bengaluru to interact with key business stakeholders, tech leaders, and innovators from India’s space and IT ecosystems.

EXPORTS TO POLAND

India’s export of goods to Poland in FY26 was around \$2.8 billion while its imports were valued at \$1.2 billion.

Tusk said India and Poland shared a lot and had no conflicts of interest. “Our discussions are very successful, not only because Poland and India are countries that share a lot, but we are divided by nothing, maybe by geographic distance. And the synergies between Poland and India are quite simple. We have no conflicts of interest.”

NCDEX marks its arrival into equity segment by launching 2 indices: NDEX, FINDEX

Our Bureau

Mumbai

NCDEX, formerly the National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange, on Thursday launched two indices, NDEX and FININDEX, marking its entry into the equity and equity derivatives markets.

NDEX is a benchmark comprising 20 large and liquid equities selected from a universe of the top 60 NSE-listed companies. FININDEX comprises 15 financial sector stocks, excluding insurance companies, drawn from the top 40 eligible companies.

Stocks are ranked on a composite score that gives 30 per cent weightage each to free-float market capitalisation and average daily traded value, and 20 per cent each to beta and volatility. The methodology seeks to combine company size, trading activity and a stock's sensitivity to the market.

INDEX REBALANCING

No single stock will exceed 15 per cent at any rebalancing, a cap the exchange said would improve diversification and reduce single-stock concentration risk. The indices will be reviewed and rebalanced twice a year, in



Vikas Goel, MD and CEO, NCDEX

March and September, with provisions for ad hoc reconstitution under specified circumstances.

"The rollout of NDEX and FININDEX is an important milestone in NCDEX's transition into a multi-segment exchange," said Vikas Goel, Managing Director and

Chief Executive Officer. He said the indices were aimed at supporting informed investment decisions and expanding the range of tools available to market participants.

The move forms part of the exchange's diversification from an agricultural commodities bourse towards a multi-segment market-infrastructure provider. It recently diversified into a mutual fund transaction platform. The equity segment is expected to receive final approval from SEBI in January, after which the exchange might launch derivatives on the indices.

Big impact of deficient monsoon

MONSOON BLUES. This has been among the worst monsoons in 35 years. Kharif will be hit. Rabi preparation becomes vital



A NARAYANAMOORTHY

The India Meteorological Department's (IMD) prediction for the South-West Monsoon (SWM) this year turned out to be remarkably correct. Since a 15 per cent deficient monsoon compared to the Long Period Average (LPA) was severe (experienced only twice times during the last 35 years) and almost all the leading agricultural States experienced a deficit substantially higher than the national average, there is an urgent need to assess the impact of this deficient monsoon on the agricultural front.

As per the IMD data, the country received a total rainfall of 699.6 mm from SWM as of September 19, which is much less than the normal level of 822 mm. Further, 48 per cent of the total 734 districts across the country received deficient rainfall (less than 20 of normal). This wide geographic coverage indicates that moisture stress is not restricted to a few isolated pockets, but spans major agricultural regions (see Figure 1).

A deficient monsoon has severely affected the storage capacity of major reservoirs. As per the Central Water Commission's (CWC) weekly status of 178 major reservoirs ending October 15, only 39 per cent of them were holding more than 80 per cent of their live storage capacity. The total storage in these major reservoirs stood at 126.7 billion cubic meters (BCM) or 68.6 per cent of the total storage capacity of 184.8 BCM. This is 24 per cent less compared to last year's storage level.

This storage level is relatively better in the Western, Central and Eastern regions. Storage in the Southern region was the worst, at 44.3 per cent of total capacity. The Northern region also has less in live storage (see Table 1). This foretells severe irrigation shortages for the southern States in particular over the coming months.

PAST EPISODES

The impact of a deficient monsoon is expected to be severe, though the full extent will only become clear after the harvest. A similar level of deficient monsoon was experienced only in two of the last 35 years namely 2002 and 2009. The 2002 drought brought down the kharif production of foodgrains by about 22.2 per cent, rice by 21.7 per cent, nutri-cereals 25.4 per cent, pulses 14.2 per cent and oilseeds by 32.1 per cent over its previous year.

CHART 1

State-wise % of districts with deficit (>20% of normal) rainfall by south-west monsoon, as of Sept 19

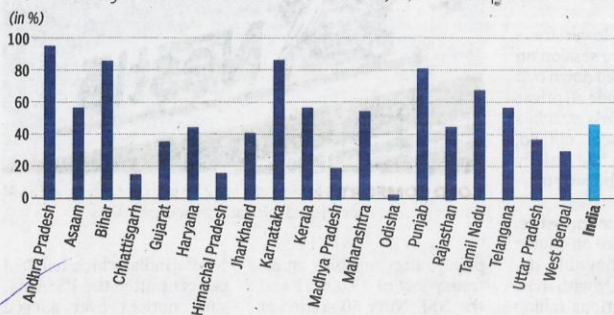


TABLE 1

Region-wise storage level of major reservoirs, as of October 15, 2026

Region	Number of reservoirs	Live Capacity (in BCM)	Storage (in BCM)	Storage last year (in BCM)	% of storage	Major states falling in each region
Northern	11	19.8	11.4	17.3	57.5	Himachal, Punjab, Rajasthan
Eastern	31	21.9	17.5	18	79.9	Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal
Western	58	38.6	31.2	37.6	80.7	Gujarat, Maharashtra
Central	28	48.6	42	44.9	86.4	Chhattisgarh, MP, UP
Southern	50	55.9	24.8	50.1	44.3	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana
All India	178	184.8	126.7	167.9	68.6	

Source: India Meteorological Department, New Delhi; Central Water Commission, New Delhi

In 2009, the decline of these crops was in the range of 10.3 per cent to 16.7 per cent over its previous year. This precedent demonstrates how sensitive India's crop output remains to truant rainfall.

States cultivating paddy intensively have experienced large deficits in monsoon rainfall this season. As per the Ministry of Agriculture data (as of September 4), the overall kharif sowing was 2 per cent lower than last year, but for paddy, this reduction was 3.7 per cent compared to last year. The rainfall

A deficient South-West Monsoon will also have a serious impact on the rabi crop food production target of 178 mt. Reduced storage of water in reservoirs will also impact irrigated crops such as wheat

deficit was in the range of 21-43 per cent in most intensive paddy-growing States such as Assam, Andhra, Punjab, Haryana, Telangana and Tamil Nadu. Therefore, it is highly likely that the production of paddy would drop considerably during the current harvest cycle, exceeding the 10 mt drop projected by the rice industry experts. Along with paddy, the water-intensive sugarcane crop might not meet its production target because of low water storage levels in reservoirs in States where this crop is largely cultivated.

Deficient monsoon means increased moisture stress for crops, which will have a direct adverse impact on crop productivity. Sowing acreage alone does not reflect crop health, as prolonged dry spells during critical growth stages suppress yields. Therefore, what is projected as production now based on sowing area may not turn out to be true after harvesting operations are completed.

RABI PROSPECTS

A deficient SWM will also have a serious impact on the rabi crop food production

target of 178 mt. Reduced soil moisture availability at the end of the SWM season will impact many rainfed rabi crops during seed germination and early growth phases. Furthermore, reduced storage of water in reservoirs will also impact the cultivation of irrigated crops such as wheat, a major crop of the rabi season. One should wait and see how rabi area cultivation will play out across different regions in the coming months.

A deficient monsoon will not only affect agriculture but will also percolate into domestic water supply until June 2027, when the new South-West Monsoon will commence. More irrigation water from reservoirs will be diverted to meet domestic and other purposes, creating further stress for agriculture. Both the State and Central governments must make concerted efforts to tackle the impact of this deficient monsoon.

First, given the limited water storage in major reservoirs, less water-intensive crops and short-duration crops ought to be actively promoted among farming communities with appropriate incentives. Encouraging farmers to shift away from long-duration, water-intensive varieties in water-stressed districts can prevent crop failure in the rabi season and conserve water resources.

Second, water-intensive crops should be cultivated using micro-irrigation systems such as drip and sprinkler technologies, which can save about 50 per cent of water with a significant increase in crop productivity.

Third, the unpredictability of the monsoon has been increasing in recent years because of El Nino and other climatic reasons. Considering this growing rainfall instability, crop varieties that can withstand moisture stress need to be developed on a priority basis.

Fourth, the government should step up the procurement for less water-consuming crops such as oilseeds, pulses and nutri-cereals so that farmers will be attracted towards these environmentally sustainable crops. Providing an assured minimum support price and robust procurement infrastructure for low-water-consuming crops will offer farmers the necessary economic security to shift away from water-guzzling crops. Both Central and State governments must develop long-term strategies to harvest more output from less water, safeguarding the rural livelihoods and ensuring national food security in the years ahead.

The writer is an economist and former full-time Member (Official), CACP, New Delhi. Views expressed are personal

Rupee snaps eight-day rally on rising crude oil prices

ANJALI KUMARI

Mumbai, 22 October

The Indian rupee snapped its eight-session winning streak as rising crude oil prices and dollar buying at lower levels offset inflows linked to the Jio Platforms IPO and recent measures by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), said dealers.

The local currency settled at 94.83 per dollar, against the previous close of 94.47 per dollar. The rupee strengthened to an intraday high of 94.33 per dollar during the early trade, supported by foreign inflows, before surrendering its gains as Brent crude prices rose above \$112 per barrel amid escalating tensions in West Asia.

Market participants said state-owned banks were seen buying dollars around the 94.32 per dollar level, possibly on behalf of oil companies or the RBI to cover its short dollar positions. Dollar demand also



In the red

₹ vs \$ spot (inverted scale)



remained firm amid weakness in domestic equities and a rise in bond yields. The yield on the benchmark 10-year government bond settled at 7.46 per cent, highest since November 3,

2022, against the previous close of 7.44 per cent.

“The pullback suggests that dollar demand emerged at lower levels, with some market participants also booking profits on the rupee’s recent appreciation,” said Dilip Parmar, research analyst at HDFC Securities. Brent crude was trading 3.3 per cent higher at \$112.40 per barrel, while global equities came under pressure amid concerns over the conflict in West Asia. The MSCI All Country World Index was set for its biggest daily decline in two weeks.

Market participants are also tracking US jobs data ahead of next week’s Federal Reserve policy decision for cues on the dollar’s movement. In the derivatives market, forward premiums eased, with the one-month premium falling to 5.94 per cent and the one-year premium to 4.43 per cent, mainly on account of receiving by the RBI, a market participant said.

BERLIN GLOBAL DIALOGUE

'EU Inviting Disaster through Carbon Tax'

Goyal says excessive safeguards could undermine the advantages that helped European economies develop

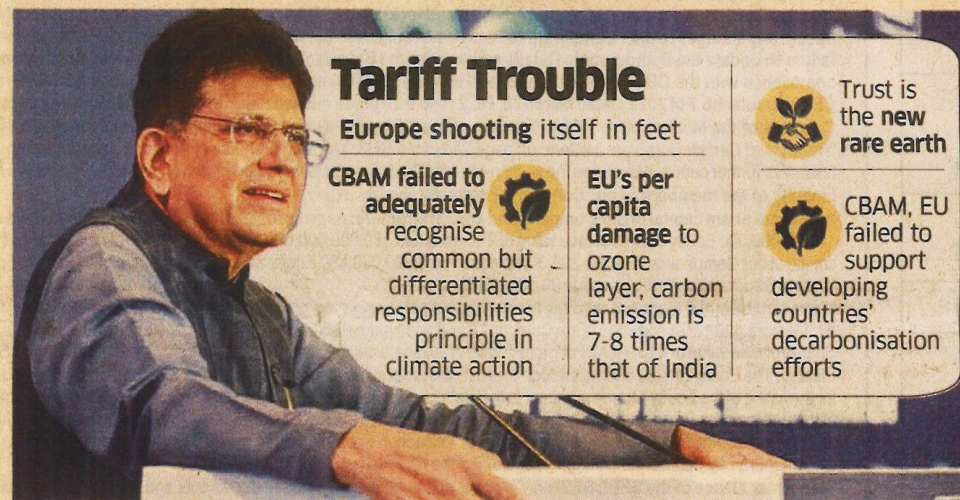
Kirtika Suneja

Berlin: The EU is "inviting disaster" by imposing a carbon tax on its steel products, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said Thursday.

At the Berlin Global Dialogue, he also said the EU is "shooting" itself in the foot by bringing in more and more regulations, restrictions on themselves, and closing their borders, something which actually helped them become a developed set of nations. "You put a CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism) on yourself. You put a 50% import duty to bring steel into your country. You're inviting disaster. Your cost of living will go up," he said.

He stated that through these battery of regulations, the EU is trying to voice an artificial situation onto themselves, trying to create boundaries into Europe, trying to bring in "absolutely ridiculous" at times standards or levels of protection to safeguard certain sectors, steel being one of them, and only hurting their own economy.

"Now, imagine going forward, every infrastructure, whether it's a port or an airport or



your autobahns in Germany or your expressways, your utilities, your water pipelines, you name the infrastructure with costlier steel, costlier aluminium, costlier cement, with all the overlay of CBAM and deforestation rules," he said.

He added that the EU has over 75-77 regulations. "We've lost count. You keep adding to

your regulations, add to the burden of your industry, make yourself uncompetitive. And of course, in some sense, it'll also create non-tariff barriers for others to trade with you," Goyal said.

Cautioning that the world is a reciprocal world now, Goyal said: "And I don't say that. Much bigger leaders are saying that. And in

this reciprocal world, you bring in a regulation and stop some other country from working with you. They'll bring in two regulations, which will hurt your businesses."

We've lost count. You keep adding regulations, add to the burden of your industry, make yourself uncompetitive

I think auto sales are down from Germany by 15-20% in the last decade or so," the minister said adding, "How will you be competitive in the future? You will ultimately outprice your industry".

He added that India would trade with countries such as Singapore, where there is no CBAM and deforestation. "I don't mind all these regulations. The more regulations you put onto yourself, the faster it will become difficult to sustain these kinds of costs," he said.

India-Germany Trade Can Rise 10x: Goyal

Commerce minister sees scope to expand trade through complementary strengths and deeper investment ties

Kirtika Suneja

Berlin: India-Germany bilateral trade can increase to €310 billion from around €31 billion at present if they focused on co-creating and leveraging complementary strengths, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday, while German economic affairs and energy minister Katherina Reiche called for cutting red tape and working on joint projects.

Reiche said the bilateral trade could be doubled. Addressing India-Germany Business Roundtable here, Goyal said the India-EU free trade agreement (FTA) is expected to be signed by the end of this year and should become operational within the next 4-5 months. He did not specify a timeline for achieving a 10-fold jump in bilateral trade, leaving it to businesses to determine the roadmap.

Germany is India's top trading partner in Europe and there are more than 2,000 German companies in India, he noted. German manufacturing, precision engineering, nuclear science and commitment to quality coupled with India's push to upgrade infrastructure, "our digital capabilities and our youthful,



skilled, and talented people can together shape an outstanding future," Goyal said. The two countries can bring resilience to their supply chains and have transformational impact on each other's economies. "We can even help you grow faster than the 1.9% you are expecting this year," he said. The minister also called for cooperation in strengthening economic security without compromising openness, creating industrial opportunities through

the green transition and using emerging technologies to drive growth while maintaining trust.

"Trust is the hardest currency in commerce today," he said, stating India and Germany should move beyond products merely being "Made in India" or "Made in Germany" towards goods and technologies "co-created" by both countries. He called for closer links in trade, investment, manufacturing, research and academia. Goyal also inaugu-

rated the India Centre of German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP). The centre could play a key role in strengthening bilateral understanding and shaping the future of the partnership by providing a platform for Indian perspectives in Berlin and helping Indian stakeholders better understand Germany and Europe, he said.

BILATERAL MEET

Earlier in the day, Goyal held a bilateral meeting with Reiche, where they discussed issues related to AI, semiconductors and energy, among others. "Discussed opportunities in AI, semiconductors, advanced manufacturing, critical minerals, green hydrogen, renewable energy, energy storage, and resilient supply chains, as well as increased investment in India's industrial and digital ecosystems," Goyal said in a social media post.

"We also exchanged views on how the India-EU FTA will prove to be a game-changer that would help businesses in both India and Germany realise their full potential," he said.

FTA PROGRESS

Reiche said it took 20 years to finalise the India-EU FTA, which is touted as the "mother of all deals"

but it is based on rules and common gains. The EU expects up to €4-billion savings in duties on European exports to India. "Our businesses can actually use this FTA... With the FTA, we have a strong foundation," she said, adding that Indian entrepreneurs are "more than welcome" in Germany.

Goyal said the agreement had been finalised after years of negotiations, with the final points concluded in January this year. He expressed confidence that it would move towards signing rapidly following the necessary parliamentary processes. He urged businesses to begin preparations ahead of the agreement's implementation by identifying customers, investors and collaborators, exchanging information on quality requirements and pricing, and preparing to expand trade and investment.

"The agreement really got finalised in the last 13 months," Goyal said. He said there is no dissent from any of the EU countries or India. "Everybody also accepted the language, which would otherwise be quite a constraint to get so many different language translations and the legal benefits. But the sense of urgency, the mutual commitment to make this happen, was remarkable," the minister said.