

### COTTON CORPORATION OF INDIA



Cotton  
Corporation  
of India

- It was established in 1970.
- It is a **Public Sector Undertaking under the Companies Act 1956.**
- **Nodal Ministry:** It works under the administrative control of **Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.**
- **Function:**
  - The major role of the CCI is to **undertake price support operations**, whenever the market prices of kapas fall below the **minimum support prices (MSP)** announced by Govt. of India, without any quantitative limit.
  - Besides MSP operations, to fulfil the **raw material requirement** of the domestic textile industry particularly for lean season, CCI undertakes commercial purchase operations.
- It is having PAN India presence through **headquarters at Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra)**, 19 branches in all major cotton growing States.

### **Cotton cultivation:**

- Cotton is a **tropical and subtropical crop** that requires warm conditions.
- **Cotton Cultivation Growing Requirements**
- **Temperature:** The ideal temperature ranges in between 21°C to 30°C. It needs 210 frost-free days annually, as frost is highly damaging.
- **Rainfall:** The crop requires 50–100 cm of rainfall, ideally well-distributed.
- **Soil:** Cotton grows best in **deep black soils (regur)** of the Deccan Plateau, Malwa Plateau, and Gujarat. It also grows well in the alluvial soils of North India and red and lateritic soils in the South.
- **Major Cotton Growing states:** Gujarat is the leading producer **Telangana ranks second**, followed by **Maharashtra.**



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### AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCIL



- The Autonomous District Councils being autonomous bodies under the **Sixth Schedule** to the Constitution of India.
- The Sixth Schedule of the Indian constitution provides a list of **ten tribal areas** in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and and Mizoram.
  - Each of these tribal areas constitutes an autonomous district. Each autonomous district has an Autonomous District Council (ADC).
- **Membership of Autonomous District Council**
  - Up to **30 members** with a term of **five years**. Out of 30, **four are nominated** by the governor and the remaining 26 are elected on the basis of adult franchise.
  - **Tenure of Autonomous District Council:** Five years from the date of their constitution.
- **Functions of Autonomous District Council:**
  - They makes **laws on land, management of forests, except reserved forests**, appointment of traditional chiefs and headmen,
  - They make rules **regulating the inheritance of property**, marriage, divorce, the constitution of village courts,
  - It can **establish, construct or manage primary schools**, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries, roads and so on in the district.
  - It can also make regulations for the control of money lending and trading by non-tribals. But such regulations require the assent of the governor.
- **Revenue source of Autonomous District Council:**
  - **Taxes on professions**, trades, callings and employment; taxes on animals, vehicles and boats;
  - **Taxes on the entry of goods into a market and sale** therein, and tolls on passenger and goods carried on ferries; and taxes for the maintenance of school, dispensaries or roads.



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### BHARAT AUDYOGIK VIKAS YOJNA



- It aims to **develop world-class industrial infrastructure**, unlocking manufacturing potential and driving India's growth story.
- **Target:** Developing **100 plug-and-play industrial parks** across the country.
- **Implementation:** BHAVYA will be implemented in **partnership with states and private sector players**.

#### Features of Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna

- **Plug-and-Play Ecosystem:** Provides ready-built factory sheds, testing labs, and underground utilities to enable industries to move from "intent to production" with speed.
- **Infrastructure Scope:** Covers core utilities, value-added facilities (warehousing), and social infrastructure such as worker housing.
- **Connectivity & Logistics:** Aligned with PM GatiShakti principles for seamless multimodal connectivity; external infrastructure support **is provided up to 25% of the project cost**.
- **Sustainability Focus:** Features green energy integration and a "no-dig" environment through integrated underground utility corridors for uninterrupted operations.
- **Selection Process:** Projects are selected **via a challenge mode**, prioritizing states that implement investor-friendly reforms and effective single-window systems.

#### What is "Plug-and-Play" Industrial Infrastructure?

- Plug-and-play infrastructure refers to **industrial parks that are fully equipped** with all **necessary utilities** and regulatory clearances before an investor arrives.

### IRAN ATTACKS US ASSETS: WHY NATO ISN'T OBLIGATED TO JOIN TRUMP'S WAR

- NATO, established in 1949 after World War II, is an intergovernmental military alliance comprising **32 member countries**, mainly from Europe, along with the US and Canada.
- Its defining feature is **collective defence** under Article 5, which states that an attack on one member is considered an attack on all, ensuring mutual security against external threats.

#### Why NATO Is Not Fighting as an Alliance?

- **Violation of NATO's Peace Principles** - Article 1 requires members to resolve disputes peacefully and avoid force inconsistent with UN principles. The current conflict does not align with these norms, limiting NATO's collective involvement.
- **Article 5 Applies Only to Defensive Situations** - Article 5 mandates action only in case of an armed attack on a member state. Even after 9/11, allies were not obligated to join US military action, choosing voluntary participation instead.
- **Flexibility in Support** - NATO members can choose non-military support, such as financial or humanitarian aid, instead of direct military involvement.
- **Geographical Limitations** - Article 6 restricts NATO's defence obligations to Europe, North America, Turkey, and parts of the North Atlantic. The Iran-related conflict lies outside NATO's operational zone.
- **High Threshold for Collective Action** - NATO maintains a strict threshold for invoking collective defence. Attacks on member assets do not automatically trigger Article 5 unless conditions are clearly met.

#### Current NATO Position in the Iran Conflict

- **Limited Role: "Enabling Support"** - NATO has confined itself to logistics and missile defence support, avoiding direct military involvement. The alliance has not invoked Article 5, maintaining a cautious stance.

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- **Official Stand: No Collective Military Action** - NATO leadership has clarified there are no plans for formal involvement. Any participation is through individual member actions, not as a unified alliance.
- **European Resistance to US Call** - Several European nations, including Germany, have rejected calls for escalation. Preference is for diplomatic solutions, with leaders stressing “this is not our war.”
- **Individual Allies Acting Independently**
  - Some members are supporting operations at their own discretion:
    - **UK:** Allowing use of bases in Cyprus and deploying forces
    - **Greece:** Sending frigates and F-16s
    - **France:** Deploying naval assets
  - NATO forces have also **intercepted Iranian drones and missiles** in key locations.
  - The alliance’s eastern flank is handling conflict spillovers, especially near Turkey.
  - Despite rising tensions, NATO continues to avoid formal entry into the war.

### Trump’s Grievances Against NATO

- **Burden-Sharing Concerns** - Donald Trump has long argued that NATO allies underfund defence, placing a disproportionate burden on the US. Members are expected to spend at least 2% of GDP on defence.
  - **Misleading Claims and Reality** - Trump claimed many countries were “not paying anything,” which is inaccurate. Rising defence spending among allies has been driven largely by **security concerns like the Russia-Ukraine war**.
  - **NATO’s Support to the US** - Article 5 has been invoked **only once**, after the 9/11 attacks, in support of the US. NATO allies actively participated in **Afghanistan and Iraq wars**, contributing troops and resources.
  - **Diverging Perspectives on US Wars** - Some European leaders view interventions like the 2003 Iraq War as costly and misguided. This has shaped reluctance toward future US-led military engagements.
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### INDIA TIGHTENS SOLAR SOURCING NORMS TO CUT CHINESE IMPORTS

The government has expanded its **domestic sourcing mandate** for solar equipment to include **wafers and ingots**, effective from June 2028. This requirement will apply mainly to government-backed, utility-scale, and commercial projects, including schemes like PM Surya Ghar.

However, a separate rule mandating domestic solar cells will come into effect from June this year, indicating a gradual push toward full supply chain localisation.

#### **Reducing Import Dependence in Solar Manufacturing**

- The extension of domestic sourcing norms to wafers and ingots aims to cut import dependence and strengthen local manufacturing in India's solar sector.
- While India has built strong capacity in solar modules (172 GW) and cells (27.2 GW), upstream segments like polysilicon, ingots, and wafers remain underdeveloped, with wafer and ingot capacity at only about 2 GW.
- Wafers are an important step in making solar panels. First, raw material (polysilicon) is turned into ingots, then cut into thin wafers.
- These wafers are used to make solar cells, which are finally assembled into solar panels. That's why producing wafers in India is important for reducing dependence on imports.

#### **Domestic Wafer Rollout Norms in Solar Sector**

- According to a memorandum by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), a list of domestic wafer manufacturers will be announced only when:
  - At least three independent units exist (no common ownership)
  - Combined capacity reaches 15 GW.
- A new Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) i.e. ALMM List-III will be created specifically for wafers.
- Manufacturers must also have matching ingot production capacity to qualify.
- The framework ensures **end-to-end domestic sourcing**, strengthening India's solar manufacturing ecosystem and reducing reliance on imports.

- **ALMM Framework for Solar Supply Chain**
  - MNRE's Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) ensures domestic sourcing:
    - List-I: Solar modules
    - List-II: Solar cells
    - List-III (new): Solar wafers
  - Cascading Requirement
    - Modules must come from List-I manufacturers
    - Cells must come from List-II manufacturers
    - Wafers used in cells must come from List-III manufacturers
- **Transitional Exemptions**
  - Projects are exempt from domestic wafer sourcing if:
    - Bid submission is on or before the cut-off date
    - Cut-off = 7 days after first wafer ALMM list is issued
  - Projects with bids or PPAs before the cut-off remain exempt, even if later procurement occurs.
- **Mandatory Compliance After Cut-Off**
  - Projects with bids after the cut-off date must ensure:
  - Modules, cells, and wafers are sourced strictly from ALMM List-I, II, and III
  - Tender documents must explicitly include these requirements.

### Policy Response and Way Forward

- Government is exploring new capital subsidy schemes for wafers and ingots.
- Aim is to boost domestic capacity and reduce reliance on imports in upstream segments.
- While downstream manufacturing is advancing, upstream bottlenecks remain a key hurdle, requiring targeted policy support and investment for full solar supply chain self-reliance.



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### STOCKHOLM WATER PRIZE



Recently, Kaveh Madani has been named the 2026 recipient of the Stockholm Water Prize.

- It is regarded as the world's most prestigious award for water-related work.
- It has been presented annually since 1991.
- It is awarded by the **Stockholm Water Foundation** in collaboration with the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**.

#### Eligibility for Stockholm Water Prize:

- The Prize is awarded to a **person or organization** who contributes to the conservation and protection of water resources, and to the well-being of the planet and its inhabitants.
- Everyone who has made **extraordinary water-related achievements** is eligible.
- The prize is presented by **M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden**, who is the official patron of the prize, at the awarding ceremony during **World Water Week in August**.
- **Nomination:** Anyone can submit a nomination for the Stockholm Water Prize, however, **self-nominations or nominations by persons with direct professional or family ties to the candidate are not permitted**.

### COCONUT CULTIVATION



Recently the Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare informed the Lok Sabha that India is the world's largest producer of coconuts contributing to 30.37% of the Global coconut production.

- Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) is a large palm of the family *Arecaceae*.
- It grows in the **subtropical coastal regions of Asia** (India, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia) and Oceania.
- It was **originated in Southeast Asia**, and was transported throughout the Pacific either by migrating Indonesians and Polynesians.

### Required Climatic Conditions for Coconut

- **Rainfall:** 1000-3000 mm per year. Prefers evenly distributed rainfall
- **Temperature:** Optimum 27°C with a diurnal variation of 6-7 °C Cold spells are more limiting than high temperatures. Light- Coconut palm requires maximum sunlight.
- **Altitude:** Up to 600 m above mean sea level.
  - If temperature remains favourable, the palm grows well up to an altitude of 800 m.
- **Humidity:** Needs warm and humid conditions
- **Soils:** It is particularly adapted to the **coastal light sandy and sandy loam type soils**. Coconuts also **thrive well in laterite soils**.

**Distribution in India:** It is majorly grown in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Goa, and West Bengal.

**Uses:** Coconuts are used as whole fruits or, conversely, by their parts: mesocarp fibers, milk, kernel (or flesh), husk.