

Weekly Publication of



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Cotton Exchange Building, 2nd Floor, Cotton Green, Mumbai - 400 033
Telephone: 8657442944/45/46/47/48 Email: cai@caionline.in
www.caionline.in

Cotton Association of India (CAI) Organised a Two-Day Training Programme on April 11 and 12, 2025 (Kisan Prashikshan Shivir) under the Aegis of CAI's Farmer Training Initiative

Empowering Farmers for a Sustainable Future

Farmers Training Programme by Cotton Association of India

11th-12th April 2025 | Survey Room, Cotton Exchange Building, Cotton Green, Mumbai

The Cotton Association of India (CAI) successfully conducted a two-day Kisan Prashikshan Shivir (Farmer's Training Programme) on April 11 and 12, 2025, aimed at empowering cotton farmers with essential knowledge and practical strategies. Held under CAI's Farmer Training Initiative, the event brought together agricultural experts, progressive farmers, and industry stakeholders from cotton-growing regions across the country. The focus was on enhancing seed selection, promoting improved cultivation techniques, improving quality at the farm level, forming and running Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and preparing farmers to better engage with markets.



The 124 participating farmers including 7 women farmers were provided with well-coordinated travel arrangements and warm hospitality, ensuring their comfort throughout the event. Upon arrival, all delegates were welcomed with registration, followed by fellowship tea.





The inaugural session on April 11 commenced in a traditional and dignified manner. After a formal welcome, the guests were invited onto the dais, followed by the National Anthem and a ceremonial lighting of the lamp—symbolizing the pursuit of knowledge and growth. Shri Atul Ganatra, President of CAI, welcomed the gathering with heartfelt greetings and addressed the audience with a powerful message on the importance of farmer training for the sustainable and holistic development of the cotton value chain.

Following his address, Shri P. D. Mepani, Director of CAI, shared insights into the Association’s ongoing initiatives to support cotton farmers and strengthen the sector. Shri Manish Daga further elaborated on CAI’s outreach programs, emphasizing collaborative efforts and education as key to farmer empowerment. Dr Sharad Kumar Saraf, Chairman Technocraft Industries, Mumbai took the discussion forward by underscoring the importance of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), stressing that quality begins at the farm and is crucial for India’s position in the global cotton market.

Smt. Roop Rashi (IA & AS), Textile Commissioner, Ministry of Textiles, delivered a powerful keynote, emphasizing the need to preserve India’s cotton legacy while boosting productivity through collaboration. She highlighted the government’s active partnership with farmers to enhance productivity, reduce input costs, and elevate Indian cotton to a globally recognized premium brand through the Kasturi Cotton initiative. Her heartfelt message to the farmers resonated deeply: “Do not leave cotton. It is our identity, our strength, and a source of pride. Let us nurture it, strengthen it, and grow together.”



Ms. Padmini Singla, IAS, Joint Secretary (Fibre), Ministry of Textiles, provided an insightful overview of Mini Mission I under the National Cotton Mission. She stressed that productivity enhancement is not solely the responsibility of farmers but a collective effort involving the entire ecosystem – government bodies, research institutes, industry, and the farming community. Her focus on clean, contamination-free cotton and the importance of aligning with international standards reflected the mission's long-term vision.

Shri L. K. Gupta, CMD of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), commended CAI's initiative and outlined CCI's digitization drive. Over 20 lakh direct payments have been made to farmers under the MSP scheme within five months, showcasing a new level of trust, transparency, and farmer empowerment. He encouraged farmers to maximize the benefits of training programmes and to adopt modern techniques in the field.

Shri Vikas Chandra Rastogi, IAS, Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Maharashtra, discussed the importance of technology-driven farming. He highlighted the challenges of labour scarcity and the increasing cost of manual harvesting. Sharing a pioneering initiative from Amravati, he introduced robotic cotton picking as a sustainable and scalable solution.

Dr Y. G. Prasad, former Director of ICAR, shared vital insights on the role of scientific practices in boosting productivity. Drawing from a recent district-wise survey, he pointed out that a lack of soil testing was contributing to suboptimal yields. He introduced AI-based Smart Traps for pest control and underscored the need for better agronomic practices.

Shri Dnyaneshwar Bhamre, Director, CAI, reminded all stakeholders that the prosperity of

the cotton value chain hinges on the well-being of farmers. He stressed the importance of ensuring that every mission, policy, and intervention remains farmer-centric.

Dr Pradeep Kumar Mandhyan, CEO, Research & Cotton Testing, CAI laid out the goals of the training, which included knowledge sharing on seed selection, organic and residue-free cotton production, FPO formation, post-harvest handling, good agricultural practices (GAPs), and real-life experience sharing.

The inaugural function concluded with a warm vote of thanks by Shri Vinay Kotak, Additional Vice President, CAI. He expressed sincere gratitude to all dignitaries, speakers, sponsors, and especially the farmers, whose enthusiasm and active participation made the event meaningful. The resounding message from the event was clear: by placing the farmer at the centre of every initiative, India's cotton sector can achieve sustainable growth and global prominence.

Post-lunch, the technical sessions resumed with lectures from Dr Samir Wadyalkar, Ankur Seeds, Nagpur and Shri Ravindra Daftari, Daftari Seeds, Wardha who explored the core reasons behind low cotton productivity. They highlighted poor soil health, inappropriate hybrid selection, pest pressure, and high labour costs as key concerns. The speakers advocated for High-Density Planting Systems (HDPS), mechanization, and shorter-duration cotton varieties to reduce labour requirements and enhance profitability.

CA Ayush Agrawal, Partner, Goyal & Agrawal, Chartered Accountants, addressed the importance of Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) in empowering small and marginal farmers. He explained that FPCs help farmers access better markets, reduce input costs, and increase profitability through collective





action. He emphasized the benefits of leveraging government schemes like SFAC and NABARD for financial and technical support. Mr. Agrawal urged farmers to participate in or form FPCs to build strength and sustainability in agriculture.

Shri Rahul Sharma from Ecocert, Mumbai, provided a comprehensive overview of the procedures and requirements for registering under organic cotton farming. He detailed the entire certification process, including documentation, inspection criteria, and compliance protocols essential for farmers seeking to transition to organic cultivation. His session helped clarify the necessary steps and benefits of obtaining organic certification. Following this, Shri Ganesh Kasekar from GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard), Mumbai, delved into the nuances of "in-conversion" farm produce. He explained the significance of this transitional phase, during which conventional farms adopt organic practices but are yet to receive full certification. Mr. Kasekar highlighted the traceability and transaction requirements involved, helping farmers understand how to maintain credibility and market value during this crucial conversion period.

Shri Shailendra Singh from Zydex, Vadodara, addressed the significance of producing residue-free and organic cotton to meet the rising global demand for sustainable textiles. He emphasized the importance of reducing chemical inputs and

adopting eco-friendly practices to ensure soil health and fiber quality. Highlighting innovative solutions offered by Zydex, he encouraged farmers to transition towards clean and compliant cotton production. This shift, he noted, would not only enhance marketability but also ensure long-term sustainability and profitability.

The second day of the training began with another address by CAI President Shri Atul Ganatra, who reiterated the need for advanced seed technologies and urged for greater government support in this regard. He lauded the contributions of Dr C.D. Mayee, a stalwart in Indian agriculture, and unveiled Dr. Mayee's new book titled "The Revival of Cotton in North India," a comprehensive guide to modern cotton farming practices. Shri Bhagirath Choudhary, associate of Dr Mayee, who discussed successful management of pink bollworm through mating disruption technology—a breakthrough in pest control that combines innovation and sustainability. Several expert-led sessions throughout the day emphasized the role of technology in transforming cotton farming. Discussions covered micro-irrigation, nutrient management, integrated pest control, and the power of community-based approaches to farming.

Dr. Mayee's session provided a holistic perspective on modern agronomy practices—ranging from optimized planting techniques, ridge





and furrow cultivation, to balanced nutrition and pest management strategies. His presentation also included a case study from Vidarbha, which demonstrated effective pink bollworm control through farmer education and pheromone-based methods. A special feature of the training was the celebration of women farmers, who were felicitated with sarees by CAI in recognition of their valuable contributions to cotton cultivation.

Later in the day, Dr. Manoj Kumar Mahawar from ICAR-CIRCOT delivered an informative session on post-harvest management. He discussed best practices in lint and seed processing, reducing contamination during harvesting, transport, and storage, and highlighted opportunities in value addition through cottonseed products such as nanocellulose and oil extraction. His presentation gave farmers a comprehensive view of quality maintenance from field to factory.

Adding another practical dimension to the programme, Dr B. D. Jade, Senior Scientist at Jain Irrigation, advocated for a business-oriented approach to cotton farming. He strongly recommended the adoption of modern technologies such as high-density planting on raised beds, precision farming, and the use of micro-irrigation for improved yields. He stressed the importance of proper spacing, mulching, and addressing soil health, especially soil compaction, to maximize productivity.

Farmers also benefited from first-hand success stories. Shri Dilip Thakre, a progressive farmer from Akola, shared his achievements with the High-Density Planting System (HDPS), while Shri Anil Nivalkar, an entrepreneur cum farmer from Saguna Farm, Karjat, spoke on the adaptation of the Saguna Rice Technique (SRT) for cotton, showcasing how local innovation can lead to sustainable results.

One of the most engaging aspects of the programme was the interactive session, which saw enthusiastic participation from the trainees, particularly women farmers. Many shared their experiences and expressed satisfaction with the



thoughtfully curated content, expert faculty, and well-managed boarding and lodging arrangements. The event was coordinated by a dedicated core committee who ensured every detail contributed to a smooth experience for all participants.

In his closing remarks, Shri Girish Nagsee, Member of the Cotton Association of India, expressed sincere gratitude to CAI President Shri Atul Ganatra for his visionary leadership, and extended thanks to the speakers, committee members, organizing staff, and program coordinator. A special mention was also made of the team behind the Bhajan Sandhya and the M/s. Vaishnavi Food Treat, Mumbai whose efforts made the event memorable.

As a gesture of appreciation and encouragement, participating farmers were presented with practical and thoughtful gifts to support their efforts in the field. Each farmer received a spray pump from CAI for improved crop care, along with sets of napkins, an anga-vastra as a mark of respect along with caps and T-shirts. These tokens not only recognized the farmers' hard work but also aimed to uplift their morale. CAI thanked the generous sponsors—M/s. Welspun living Ltd, M/s. Indo Count Industries Ltd, M/s. All India Cotton Farmer Producer Organisation Association, M/s. Raymonds UCO Denim Private Ltd. and M/s. Technocraft Industries India Ltd. for their valuable contributions.

The Kisan Prashikshan Shivir concluded on a high note, with renewed energy and commitment toward improving Indian cotton farming through continued training, collaboration, and innovation.

The training programme received heartfelt appreciation from farmers, FPOs, and attendees from every nook and corner of the cotton-growing regions. Their positive feedback reflected the programme's meaningful impact at the grassroots level. Sponsors of farmers, including ginners and stakeholders across the cotton value chain, also expressed satisfaction with the initiative. The collective support reaffirmed CAI's commitment to empowering the farming community.

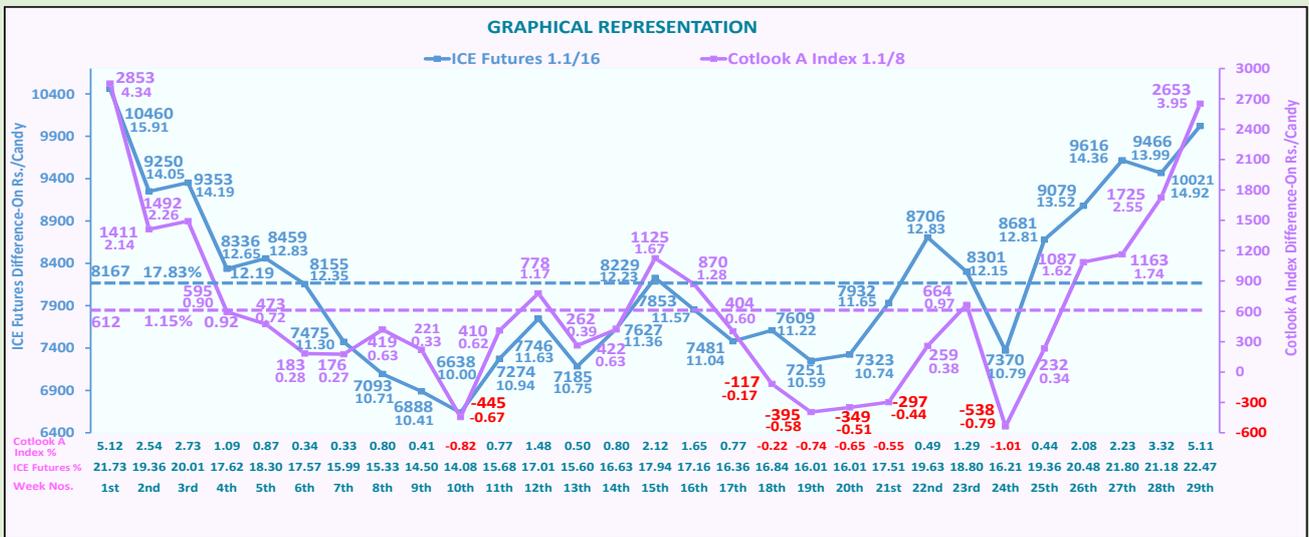
Glimpses of Inauguration of Akhand Harinam Saptah & Maha Aarti during Ram Navami Celebrations

At Shree Ramchandraji Mandir, Cotton Green on 30th March 2025 & 3rd April 2025



Basis Comparison of ICS 105 with ICE Futures and Cotlook A Index – 19th April 2025

SEASON 2024-2025											
Comparison M/M(P) ICS-105, Grade Fine, Staple 29mm, Mic. 3.7-4.9, Trash 3.5%, Str./GPT 28 with ICE Futures & Cotlook A Index											
Year 2024/2025	1 US \$ = ₹	*CAI Rates ₹/Candy	Indian Cotton in USc/lb.	ICE Settlement Futures 1.1/16" Front Mth. Jul.'25 USc/lb.	Difference- ON/OFF ICE Futures		%	Cotlook A Index M- 1.1/8"	Difference- ON/OFF Cotlook A Index		%
					USc/lb.	₹/Candy			USc/lb.	₹/Candy	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
Cotton Year Week No-29th											
14 th Apr	86.05	54500	80.79	65.35	15.44	10416	23.63	78.10	2.69	1815	3.44
15 th Apr	85.77	54500	81.05	66.12	14.93	10040	22.58	76.40	4.65	3127	6.09
16 th Apr	85.68	54700	81.43	66.37	15.06	10116	22.69	77.25	4.18	2808	5.41
17 th Apr	85.38	54700	81.72	67.13	14.59	9766	21.73	77.60	4.12	2758	5.31
18 th Apr	85.38	54700	81.72	67.13	14.59	9766	21.73	77.60	4.12	2758	5.31
Weekly Avg.	85.65	54620	81.34	66.42	14.92	10021	22.47	77.39	3.95	2653	5.11
Weekly Averages											
Wk No-28th (07.04.25-11.04.25)	86.31	54180	80.07	66.08	13.99	9466	21.18	77.52	2.55	1725	3.32
Wk No-27th (31.03.25-04.04.25)	85.43	53960	80.57	66.21	14.36	9616	21.80	78.83	1.74	1163	2.23
Wk No-26th (24.03.25-28.03.25)	85.68	53440	79.56	66.04	13.52	9079	20.48	77.94	1.62	1087	2.08
Wk No-25th (17.03.25-21.03.25)	86.43	53560	79.04	66.23	12.81	8681	19.36	78.70	0.34	232	0.44
Wk No-24th (10.03.25-14.03.25)	87.16	52860	77.36	66.58	10.79	7370	16.21	78.15	-0.79	-538	-1.01
Wk No-23rd (03.03.25-07.03.25)	87.12	52520	76.89	64.74	12.15	8301	18.80	75.92	0.97	664	1.29
Wk No-22nd (24.02.25-28.02.25)	86.57	53080	78.21	65.38	12.83	8706	19.63	77.83	0.38	259	0.49
Wk No-21st (17.02.25-21.02.25)	86.83	53260	78.23	66.58	11.65	7932	17.51	78.67	-0.44	-297	-0.55
Wk No-20th (10.02.25-14.02.25)	86.99	53060	77.81	67.07	10.74	7323	16.01	78.32	-0.51	-349	-0.65
Wk No-19th (03.02.25-07.02.25)	87.35	52540	76.72	66.14	10.59	7251	16.01	77.30	-0.58	-395	-0.74
Wk No-18th (27.01.25-31.01.25)	86.53	52800	77.83	66.61	11.22	7609	16.84	78.00	-0.17	-117	-0.22
Wk No-17th (20.01.25-24.01.25)	86.43	53220	78.54	67.50	11.04	7481	16.36	77.94	0.60	404	0.77
Wk No-16th (13.01.25-17.01.25)	86.55	53620	79.02	67.45	11.57	7853	17.16	77.74	1.28	870	1.65
Wk No-15th (06.01.25-10.01.25)	85.85	54120	80.41	68.19	12.23	8229	17.94	78.74	1.67	1125	2.12
Wk No-14th (30.12.24-03.01.25)	85.67	53500	79.66	68.30	11.36	7627	16.63	79.03	0.63	422	0.80
Wk No-13th (23.12.24-27.12.24)	85.27	53260	79.67	68.92	10.75	7185	15.60	79.28	0.39	262	0.50
Wk No-12th (16.12.24-20.12.24)	84.96	53280	79.99	68.36	11.63	7746	17.01	78.82	1.17	778	1.48
Wk No-11th (09.12.24-13.12.24)	84.82	53680	80.73	69.79	10.94	7274	15.68	80.11	0.62	410	0.77
Wk No-10th (02.12.24-06.12.24)	84.71	53820	81.04	71.04	10.00	6638	14.08	81.71	-0.67	-445	-0.82
Wk No-09th (25.11.24-29.11.24)	84.41	54380	82.17	71.77	10.41	6888	14.50	81.84	0.33	221	0.41
Wk No-08th (18.11.24-22.11.24)	84.44	53400	80.66	69.95	10.71	7093	15.33	80.03	0.63	419	0.80
Wk No-07th (11.11.24-15.11.24)	84.40	54300	82.07	70.77	11.30	7475	15.99	81.80	0.27	176	0.33
Wk No-06th (04.11.24-08.11.24)	84.24	54600	82.67	70.32	12.35	8155	17.57	82.39	0.28	183	0.34
Wk No-05th (28.10.24-01.11.24)	84.08	54680	82.95	70.12	12.83	8459	18.30	82.23	0.72	473	0.87
Wk No-04th (21.10.24-25.10.24)	84.07	55660	84.44	71.80	12.65	8336	17.62	83.54	0.90	595	1.09
Wk No-03rd (14.10.24-18.10.24)	84.06	56100	85.12	70.93	14.19	9353	20.01	82.86	2.26	1492	2.73
Wk No-02nd (07.10.24-11.10.24)	83.98	57040	86.63	72.58	14.05	9250	19.36	84.49	2.14	1411	2.54
Wk No-01st (30.09.24-04.10.24)	83.86	58600	89.13	73.22	15.91	10460	21.73	84.79	4.34	2853	5.12
Total Avg.	85.51	54039	80.64	68.45	12.19	8167	17.83	79.72	0.92	612	1.15



Note:- Weeks taken as per Cotton Year (October To September).
 *CAI ICS 105 rates are Ex-Gin Mid. 1-5/32"
 Values in BLUE Indicates Previous Close Considered due to HOLIDAY's Resp.
 14th Apr 2025- RBI & Domestic market remain CLOSED due to Ambedkar Jayanti.
 18th Apr 2025 - Domestic & International Futures markets remain CLOSED due to Good Friday.

UPCOUNTRY SPOT RATES													(Rs./Qtl)
Standard Descriptions with Basic Grade & Staple in Millimeters based on Upper Half Mean Length As per CAI By-laws								Spot Rate (Upcountry) 2024-25 Crop April 2025					
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Gravimetric Trash	Strength /GPT	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	4%	15	12738 (45300)	12766 (45400)	12766 (45400)	12766 (45400)		12766 (45400)
2	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	13%	20	10404 (37000)	10432 (37100)	10461 (37200)	10461 (37200)	H	10432 (37100)
3	M/M (P)	ICS-104	Fine	23mm	4.5 – 7.0	4%	22	14201 (50500)	14201 (50500)	14285 (50800)	14285 (50800)		14285 (50800)
4	P/H/R (U)	ICS-202 (SG)	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4.5%	26	14707 (52300)	14735 (52400)	14763 (52500)	14819 (52700)		14819 (52700)
5	P/H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	14904 (53000)	14932 (53100)	14960 (53200)	14988 (53300)		14988 (53300)
6	M/M(P)/ SA/TL/G	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	12935 (46000)	12935 (46000)	12991 (46200)	12991 (46200)	O	12991 (46200)
7	M/M(P)/ SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	14341 (51000)	14341 (51000)	14341 (51000)	14341 (51000)		14341 (51000)
8	P/H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	15100 (53700)	15129 (53800)	15157 (53900)	15185 (54000)		15185 (54000)
9	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	14875 (52900)	14875 (52900)	14932 (53100)	14932 (53100)	L	14932 (53100)
10	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	14904 (53000)	14904 (53000)	14960 (53200)	14960 (53200)		14960 (53200)
11	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	27	14819 (52700)	14819 (52700)	14875 (52900)	14875 (52900)		14875 (52900)
12	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	27	15157 (53900)	15157 (53900)	15241 (54200)	15325 (54500)		15325 (54500)
13	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	15241 (54200)	15241 (54200)	15325 (54500)	15410 (54800)	I	15410 (54800)
14	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3.5%	28	15325 (54500)	15325 (54500)	15382 (54700)	15382 (54700)		15382 (54700)
15	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	15325 (54500)	15325 (54500)	15382 (54700)	15382 (54700)		15382 (54700)
16	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	28	15185 (54000)	15185 (54000)	15241 (54200)	15241 (54200)	D	15241 (54200)
17	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	15607 (55500)	15607 (55500)	15663 (55700)	15663 (55700)		15663 (55700)
18	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	29	15663 (55700)	15663 (55700)	15719 (55900)	15719 (55900)		15719 (55900)
19	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	15888 (56500)	15888 (56500)	15916 (56600)	15972 (56800)		15972 (56800)
20	SA/TL/K/ TN/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.9	3%	30	15888 (56500)	15888 (56500)	15916 (56600)	15972 (56800)	A	15972 (56800)
21	SA/TL/K/ TN/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5 – 4.9	3%	31	N.A. N.A.	N.A. N.A.	N.A. N.A.	N.A. N.A.		N.A. N.A.
22	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	33	20668 (73500)	20668 (73500)	20809 (74000)	20809 (74000)		20809 (74000)
23	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	22074 (78500)	22074 (78500)	22074 (78500)	22074 (78500)	Y	22074 (78500)
24	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	21371 (76000)	21371 (76000)	21512 (76500)	21512 (76500)		21512 (76500)
25	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	35	22918 (81500)	23002 (81800)	23002 (81800)	23002 (81800)		23002 (81800)

Note: (Figures in bracket indicate prices in Rs./Candy)