World Cotton Day and World Day for Decent Work (7 October)

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News

Two world days fall on **7 October**. The official **World Cotton Day 2026** event is hosted in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**, by the Government of Uzbekistan and the **International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC)**; theme: **'Cotton for Good: Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation and Partnership'**. The **World Day for Decent Work** is also observed the same day.

Key facts

Started by	**Cotton-4** (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali), **2019 at the WTO**
Recognition	**UN General Assembly, August 2021**
2026	Sixth global observance, Tashkent
Related body	**FAO, ICAC, WTO**
SDG	Poverty reduction, trade

Background

- **India and cotton:** India has the **world's largest cotton area** and vies with China for top producer. Main States: **Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana**. The **Indus Valley Civilisation** (Mohenjo-daro) gives some of the world's oldest evidence of cotton cloth.

- **Growing conditions:** a **kharif** crop on **black (regur) soil**, formed from weathered **Deccan Trap basalt**, which holds moisture. **Bt cotton** is the only GM crop approved in India (2002); the pink bollworm is a problem.
- **Bodies: Cotton Corporation of India (CCI, 1970)** buys at the minimum support price; **'Kasturi Cotton Bharat'** is India's cotton brand (2020).
- **Decent work:** the **ILO** coined the idea in **1999**: jobs, rights, social protection and social dialogue. The ILO won the **1969 Peace Nobel**; India is a founding member. India's **four Labour Codes** (wages, industrial relations, social security, occupational safety) came into force on **21 November 2025**.

Tamil Nadu link: Coimbatore, the 'Manchester of South India' (spinning mills); **Tiruppur, the 'Knitwear Capital' and 'Dollar City'**; **Karur**, home textiles; **Erode**, a major textile market. Tamil Nadu has the most **spinning mills** in India. The black-soil (karisal) lands of **Kovilpatti, Virudhunagar and Thoothukudi** are known for rain-fed cotton. Coimbatore hosts a **regional station of the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR)**.

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