October 30, 2026

CBIC

Cotton import duty exemption extended to December 31, 2026

Notification No. 35/2026-Customs extends the exemption of cotton under heading 5201 from basic customs duty and AIDC, due to end October 31, to December 31, 2026.

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (Department of Revenue) issued Notification No. 35/2026-Customs, G.S.R. 960(E), dated October 30, 2026. It was published the same day in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 859. The Central Government acts under sub-section (1) of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962, read with section 124 of the Finance Act, 2021, stating that it is satisfied this is necessary in the public interest. It is issued under F. No. CBIC-190354/288/2021-TO(TRU-I) and signed by Dheeraj Sharma, Under Secretary.

KEY FACTS

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Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)

DOCUMENT
Notification No. 35/2026-Customs, G.S.R. 960(E)



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The notification makes one amendment, to Notification No. 19/2026-Customs, dated May 30, 2026 (G.S.R. 420(E)). In paragraph 2, it puts "31st day of December, 2026" in place of "31st day of October, 2026". It does not name the goods or the duties, and it gives no date from which it takes effect. It was published one day before the old end date.

Notification No. 19/2026-Customs covers goods under heading 5201 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, which its Table describes as "Cotton". When imported into India, they are exempt from the whole of the duty of customs leviable under the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, and from the whole of the Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) leviable under section 124 of the Finance Act, 2021. The Table has that one entry, and the notification sets no condition or quantity limit. Its paragraph 2 brought it into force from June 1, 2026, to remain in force up to and inclusive of October 31, 2026. CBIC's list of notifications names the two duties "BCD and AIDC"; BCD is basic customs duty.

As amended, Notification No. 19/2026-Customs remains in force up to and inclusive of December 31, 2026. Neither notification says what applies after that date or mentions any other duty or tax on imported cotton. No. 35/2026-Customs carries no note of earlier amendments, and CBIC's list of 2026 customs tariff notifications, read November 1, 2026, shows none before it. That list ends at No. 34/2026-Customs of October 28, 2026 and had not yet posted No. 35/2026-Customs.

Issued by	Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)
Document	Notification No. 35/2026-Customs, G.S.R. 960(E)
Dated	October 30, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 859, October 30, 2026 (CG-DL-E-30102026-277542)
Amends	Paragraph 2 of Notification No. 19/2026-Customs, May 30, 2026 (G.S.R. 420(E))

Applies to	Cotton under heading 5201 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, when imported into India
Exempted	The whole of the duty of customs under the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, and the whole of the Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess under section 124 of the Finance Act, 2021
Conditions	None in No. 19/2026-Customs; no quantity limit
In force since	June 1, 2026
Old end date	October 31, 2026, up to and inclusive of that day
New end date	December 31, 2026, up to and inclusive of that day
Takes effect	Not stated in the notification; published October 30, 2026
Related	Ministry of Textiles press release, PIB Release ID 2330823, October 31, 2026: "Government of India extends Customs Duty Exemption on Cotton imports up to 31st December 2026"
Legal basis	Section 25(1), Customs Act, 1962, read with section 124, Finance Act, 2021
File number	F. No. CBIC-190354/288/2021-TO(TRU-I)
Signed by	Dheeraj Sharma, Under Secretary

The notification (PDF, 566 KB)

Source: Gazette of India, CG-DL-E-30102026-277542.

Checked against the official copy on November 1, 2026.

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