

India to Import Wheat After 6 years

Why in News?

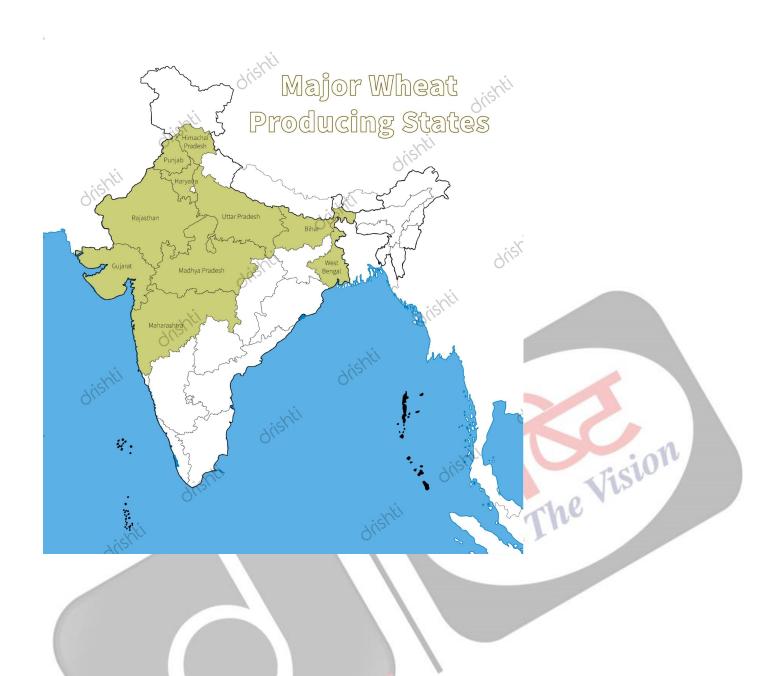
India, the world's second-largest wheat producer, plans to begin wheat imports after a six-year gap to replenish depleted reserves and control rising prices, driven by three consecutive years of disappointing crops.

Key Points

- India's wheat production has declined in the last 3 years due to unfavourable weather conditions, leading to a sharp drop in wheat output.
- The government estimates this year's wheat crop to be 6.25% lower than the previous year's (2023) record production of 112 million metric tons.
- The government's target for wheat procurement the year 2024 was 30-32 million metric tons, but it has managed to buy only 26.2 million tons so far.
- Domestic wheat prices have stayed above the government's minimum support price (MSP) of 2,275 rupees per 100 kg and have been on the rise recently.
 - So, the government decided to remove the 40% import duty on wheat to allow private traders and flour millers to import wheat, primarily from Russia.

Wheat

- This is the second most important cereal crop in India after rice and main food crop, in the north and north-western part of the country.
- Wheat is a <u>rabi crop</u> that requires a cool growing season and bright sunshine at the time of ripening.
 - Success of the <u>Green Revolution</u> contributed to the growth of Rabi crops, especially wheat.
- Top 3 Wheat Producers in World (2021): China, India and Russia.
- Top 3 Wheat Producers in India (in 2021-22): Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab
- Government Initiatives:
 - Macro Management Mode of Agriculture, <u>National Food Security Mission</u> and <u>Rashtriya</u> <u>Krishi Vikas Yojana</u> etc.



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