

# India set to regain dominant share in global rice markets

SANDIP DAS

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**INDIA'S DOMINANCE IN** global rice trade is expected to be restored with a spike in shipment, especially to Africa and south-east Asian countries, after the government announced several measures such as removal of ban on white rice exports while imposing a minimum export price (MEP) of \$490/tonne and reduced exports tax on par-boiled rice to only 10%, exporters said.

BVKrishna Rao, president of the Rice Exporters' Association, said that prior to the restriction on shipment imposed last year, India was exporting around 17 million tonne (MT) of non-basmati rice annually and exports of high value white rice varieties would get a boost now.

"Lifting ban on white rice exports would boost premium and high-value non-basmati rice although instead of MEP, an



export tax of white rice could have been imposed," Rao told *FE*, adding that often MEP regime is compromised. Over the weekend, the government lifted a ban on non-basmati white rice exports and imposed an MEP of \$490/tonne on it.

In addition the government had cut the export duty on par-boiled rice to 10% to 20%. Only ban on broken rice shipment continues. To curb rise in prices and improve domestic supplies, the government in September last year banned exports of white rice and sub-

sequently imposed a 20% export duty on parboiled rice.

However, India had allowed white rice exports to meet the food security needs of many countries and on the basis of requests from their governments. In terms of volume, overall rice exports including basmati (5.24 MT) and non-basmati (11.1 MT) had declined by 27% to 16.34 MT in 2023-24 against a record shipment of 22.34 MT in FY23.

"Global rice prices will surely be impacted and will see a fall in prices as the world's biggest exporter of rice comes back in the market quite strongly and this will further enable us to explore sale of branded regional rice products outside India," Akshay Gupta of KRBL, which exports Basmati rice under 'India Gate' brand, said. India has been the world's biggest exporter of rice since 2012 and had around 40% share in the global trade in 2022-23.