

# UN Bars Indian Rice Exporters from WFP

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**New Delhi:** The United Nations has barred Indian exporters from participating in its rice procurement tender for the World Food Programme (WFP) because India has imposed restrictions on rice exports.

India, the world's largest exporter of rice accounting 40% of the international trade, imposed a ban on export of broken rice in September 2022.

Following this, the government also banned exports of non-basmati white rice in July 2023, imposed a 20% export duty on parboiled rice and set a minimum export price (MEP) of \$1,200 per tonne for basmati rice in August 2023, amid rising prices

of the cereal in the domestic market.

However, it has been shipping rice to friendly and neighbouring nations such as Indonesia, Senegal, Gambia, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Iran on a government-to-government basis. This is being facilitated by the Na-



tional Cooperative Exports Ltd (NCEL), a government export body which was set up under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002.

“Due to the export ban of rice in India, we are not able to accept India origin rice exported from India,” the WFP tender said. The document has been seen by **ET**.

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