India’s Wheat Area in 2026/27

Prelims: *Current events of National and International Importance| Indian Economy*

Why in News?

India's wheat acreage is poised for its steepest decline in 26 years as fields are parched by the weakest monsoon rains in more than a decade.

- **Decline in sowing** – Wheat sowing covered 5 million hectares by November 13, a decline of 15.3% compared to the previous year.
- **Industry estimates** suggest wheat acreage for the 2026-27 season could fall by about 6% from last year's record 33.6 million hectares to 31.58 million hectares, the lowest in four years.
- **Reason for decline** – The weakest monsoon rains, a drop in planting due to farmers switching to competing crops in search of better returns, coupled with the risk of lower yields brought by a severe El Niño weather pattern.

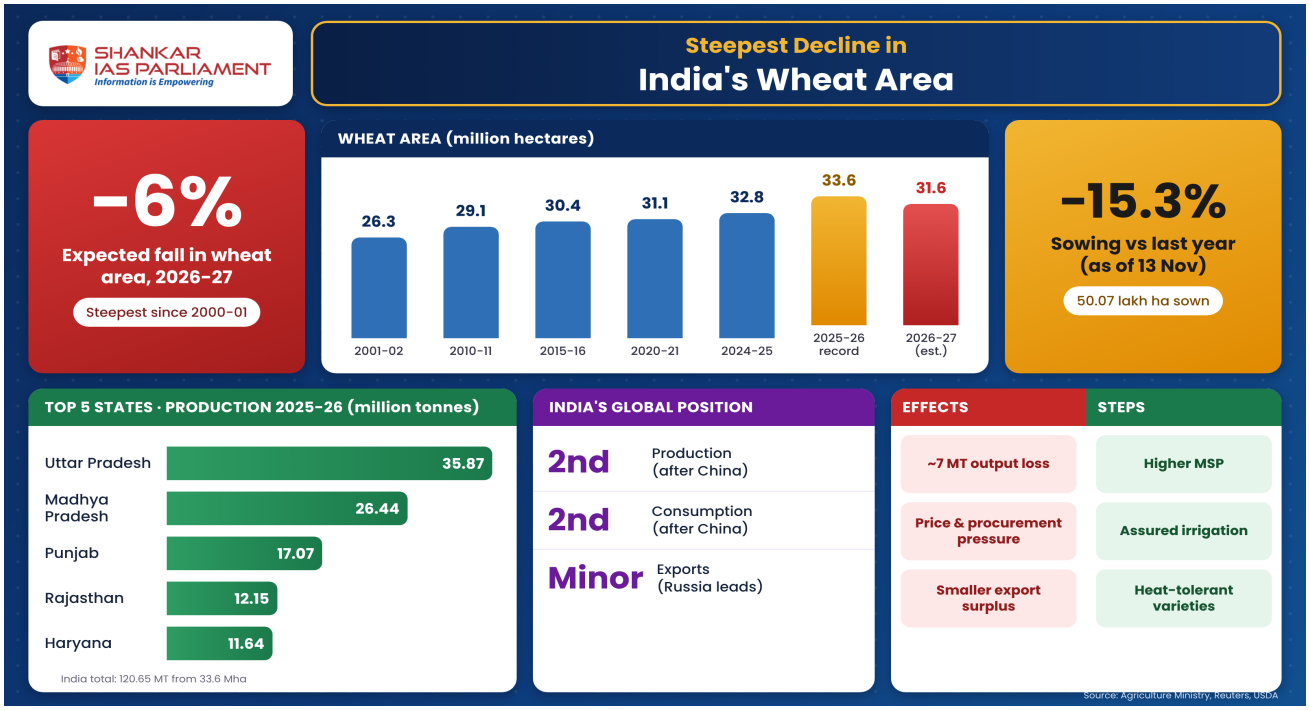
Major Wheat-Producing States (2025-26)

- Punjab and Haryana lead in yield.

State	Area (lakh ha)	Production (MT)
Uttar Pradesh	96.13	35.87
Madhya Pradesh	81.96	26.44
Punjab	34.59	17.07
Rajasthan	33.54	12.15
Haryana	24.47	11.64
India	**336**	**120.65**

India’s Global Position

- **Production** – Second after China (about 14% of world output).
- **Consumption** – Second after China (about 108 MT in 2025/26).
- **Exports** – Minor; ***Russia leads with about 21% of world trade***. India banned exports in May 2022 and lifted the ban on August 24, 2026.



Area Trend

Year	Area (Mha)
2001-02	26.3
2010-11	29.1
2015-16	30.4
2020-21	31.1
2024-25	32.8
2025-26	**33.6**
2026-27 (E)	**31.6**

- *Area rose about 28% in 25 years to a record 33.6 Mha in 2025-26; the expected fall ends this run.*

Quick facts

Wheat
• **Season** – Rabi crop; sown October–December, harvested March–April. • **Climate** – Cool growing season (10–15°C at sowing), warm, bright ripening (21–26°C); 50–75 cm rainfall. • **Soil** – Well-drained fertile loamy and clay loam. • **MSP** – Covered; Rs. 2,610 per quintal for 2026-27. • **Importance** – ***India's second most important cereal after rice***; main zones are the Ganga-Satluj plains and the Deccan black soil region.

Reference

Reuters | India's wheat area set for biggest drop in 26 years as farmers switch crops



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