



Black Sea Grain Initiative

Why in News?

Recently, Russia re-joined the **Black Sea Grain Initiative**.

What is the Black Sea Grain Initiative?

▪ About:

- The Black Sea Grain initiative **endeavours to tackle escalating food prices emanating from supply chain disruptions** because of Russian actions in the world's 'breadbasket'.
- The deal brokered by the [United Nations \(UN\)](#) and Turkey, was signed in Istanbul in July, 2022.

▪ Objective:

- **Initially stipulated for a period of 120 days, the deal was to provide for a safe maritime humanitarian corridor for Ukrainian exports (particularly for food grains).**
- The **central idea was to calm markets** by ensuring an adequate supply of grains, thereby limiting food price inflation.

▪ Role of Joint Coordination Centre (JCC):

- The deal put in place a **Joint Coordination Centre (JCC)**, comprising senior representatives from Russia, Turkey, Ukraine and the UN for oversight and coordination.
- **All commercial ships are required to register directly with the JCC** to ensure appropriate monitoring, inspection and safe passage. Inbound and outbound ships (to the designated corridor) transit as per a schedule accorded by the JCC post-inspection.
 - This is done so as to **ensure there is no unauthorised cargo or personnel onboard.**
 - Following this, **they are allowed to sail onwards to Ukrainian ports** for loading through the designated corridor.

Why is the Black Sea Grain Initiative Important?

- **Ukraine is among the largest exporters of wheat, maize, rapeseed, sunflower seeds and sunflower oil, globally.**
 - Its **access to the deep-sea ports in the Black Sea enables it to directly approach Russia and Europe** along with grain importers from the Middle East and North Africa.
- The **initiative has also been credited for having made a huge difference** to the global cost of living crisis.
 - **Approximately 9.8 million tonnes of grains have been shipped** since the initiative commenced.
 - **People hoarding the grain in the hope of selling it for a sizable profit** owing to the supply crunch were now obligated to sell.
- Although the initiative alone cannot address global hunger, it can **avert the chances of the global food crisis spiralling further**, especially when the region is yet to scale prior year levels.

[**Source: TH**](#)

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