



Unprecedented Rise in Jeera Prices

Why in News?

Over the past few months, **Jeera (Cumin)** prices have experienced an unprecedented surge.

- The primary reason for the price surge is the **significant imbalance between the supply of jeera and its demand**. The arrivals of jeera in the market have been considerably **lower than the demand**, leading to a scarcity of the spice.

What are the Key points Related to Jeera?

▪ About:

- Jeera is an **aromatic seed that enhances** the flavor of Indian dishes. It is one of the important **spices & condiments, widely used** for culinary as well as medicinal purposes.
 - Jeera is reported to have originated from the Mediterranean to India. Cumin was known to the Egyptians 5,000 years ago and it was found in the pyramids.

▪ Importance:

- The economically important part of the plant is the dried fruit. It is used as a **condiment in various cuisines of different cultures** either as whole or in powdered form.
- Cumin oil is reported to have **antibacterial activity**. It is used in veterinary medicines and various other industries.



▪ Climate and Cultivation:

- Jeera grows well in both **tropical and sub-tropical climate** and it comes up well in all types of soils, but well drained sandy loam soils are best suited.
- Jeera cultivation is highly **sensitive to weather conditions**. It requires a moderately **cool and dry climate** without humidity, which limits cultivation to **specific regions in Gujarat and Rajasthan**.
 - Unjha, situated in the heart of **India's jeera cultivation belt in Gujarat**, has emerged as the primary market setting the prices for the crop.
 - Gujarat is the largest producer of jeera in the country.
- It is **Rabi Crop**, sown in October to November and **harvested in February and March**.

▪ Major Producers:

- India dominates global jeera production, accounting for **approximately 70% of the**

world's output.

- Other countries such as **Syria, Turkey, UAE, and Iran** make up the remaining 30%.
 - Production disruptions caused by civil war and natural disasters in these countries have further highlighted **India's significance as a major producer.**

Source: IE

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