

# Sugar shipment surges to 21 lakh tn so far this year

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PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, May 13

**THE COUNTRY'S SUGAR** exports surged to 21.29 lakh tonne so far in the current marketing year ending September, as against about five lakh tonne shipped in the entire 2017-18, industry data showed on Monday.

Out of the 21.29 lakh tonne exported between October 1 and April 6, raw sugar accounted for 9.76 lakh tonne, the All India Sugar Trade Association (AISTA) said in a statement.

Another 7.24 lakh tonne of sugar is in the export pipeline, it added.

"Total sugar export contract so far is around 30 lakh tonne, out of which 28.53 lakh tonne has been dispatched from mills," AISTA CEO RP Bhargia told PTI.

India had exported around five lakh tonne of the sweetener in the last marketing year amid lower prices in the global markets, which made Indian ship-



ments uncompetitive.

Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Afghanistan and Iran are the major export destinations, AISTA added.

The Centre has asked mills to export 50 lakh tonne of sugar in 2018-19 marketing year (October-September) to liquidate the surplus stock.

The government is providing various incentives to boost sugar exports.

India's sugar production is estimated to rise at record 330 lakh tonne in 2018-19 marketing year from 325 lakh tonne in the previous year.

## Mills contract to export three million tonne of sugar, says AISTA

INDIAN SUGAR MILLS have contracted to export 3 million tonne of sugar since the current marketing season began on October 1, a leading trade body said on Monday. Mills have already shipped out 2.1 million tonne of the sweetener, Praful Vithalani, president of the All India Sugar Trade Association, told Reuters. Mills have exported almost an equal amount of raw and white sugar for which the top four destinations are Bangladesh, Iran, Sri Lanka and Somalia, Vithalani said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet late last year approved incentives to encourage money-losing mills to export at least 5 million tonne of sugar in the 2018-19 season to help prop up local prices by trimming bulging stocks. — REUTERS

The country has surplus stock as annual domestic demand is around 260 lakh tonne and mills are carrying a huge stock from the previous year as well.

