

# UP beats Maha to become largest sugar producing state

Courtesy  
Inclement  
Weather

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Lucknow:** Adverse weather conditions can change crop and commodity production trends. Uttar Pradesh caught up with one such trend as it surpassed Maharashtra to emerge as the country's biggest cane-crushing and sugar-producing state in the ongoing 2024-25 season.

Cane industry data, updated until April 15, shows that in 2023-24, Maharashtra was the leading producer of sugar, producing 110.20 LMT of sugar last year. This, however, plunged to 80.70 LMT—a dip of more than

## SWEET SUCCESS

► **Maharashtra**, which was the leading **sugar producer** in **2023-24** with **110.2 LMT**, saw a **sharp dip** of **26%** in production, down to **80.7 LMT** in **2024-25** season due to **adverse weather**

► **UP** managed to perform **relatively better** with a decrease of **11.7%** from **103.65 LMT** in **2023-24** to **91.5 LMT** in **2024-25**



Pic for representation

► **Karnataka** also experienced a significant drop of around **21%**, from **53 LMT** in **2023-24** to **42 LMT** in **2024-25**



26%—due to adverse weather in the 2024-25 season.

In contrast, UP saw the decline stop at 91.50 LMT in 2024-25 from 103.65 LMT in 2023-24, suggesting a plunge of 11.7%. Likewise, Karnataka saw its sugar production tumble down from 53 LMT in 2023-24 to 42 LMT, which was a decrease of around 21%. Nationally, su-

gar production registered a decrease from 319 LMT in 2023-24 to 299 LMT this year—a decline of around 19%. The dip has primarily been attributed to adverse weather conditions, including droughts and excessive rainfall, which have negatively impacted sugarcane yields in key producing states.

Data shows that UP mana-

ged to outperform other states by keeping a sizable number of mills in operation. As against only one mill in Maharashtra, UP had 22 sugar mills in operation in mid-April. In fact, only 37 mills were operating nationally. This means that of the total operating mills, around 60% were in UP alone. Tamil Nadu was another state where 10 mills were in operation, even though sugar production in the south Indian state decreased from 10.75 LMT in 2023-24 to 7 LMT this year.

UP, data shows, crushed a maximum of more than 937 LMT of cane in the current season. This was down from last year's 959 LMT of cane crushed. In contrast, Maharashtra saw cane crushing decrease from 1064 LMT in 2023-24 to 848 LMT this year. Likewise, cane crushing in Karnataka also fell from 527 LMT to 475 LMT.