

# THE HINDU Kochi

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### Bangladesh to send 1,200 tonnes of *hilsa* ahead of Durga Puja

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In a goodwill gesture, Bangladesh's interim government has announced that it will send 1,200 tonnes of *hilsa* fish to India ahead of Durga Puja later this month. An official notification issued on Monday said that a decision had been taken in this regard "in principle", and called for fish exporters to submit applications by September 11.

"*Ilish (hilsa)* is coming! The Bangladesh government just decided to export the quintessential fish to India ahead of the festival season as a mark of enduring friendship," Bangladesh's High Commissioner to India Riaz Hamidullah said.

Bangladesh has determined that the *hilsa*, a prized fish during festivities in eastern Indian States, including West Bengal, Assam, and Tripura, will cost \$12.5, or around ₹1,100, per kg, which is significantly lower than the prevailing market rates for *hilsa* in India at present. Bangladesh has traditionally sent *hilsa* ahead of the Durga Puja season.

The consignment of



The *hilsa* will cost ₹1,100 a kg, which is lower than the present price in India. ISTOCKPHOTO

1,200 tonnes of *hilsa* is expected to reach West Bengal.

Though diplomatic sources said Bangladesh had attempted to send some additional consignments for Assam and Tripura, that initiative did not receive a response from local importers within the given time-frame.

The 1,200 tonnes is less than previous consignments for the season. In 2024, the interim government led by Muhanmad Yunus had sent 3,000 tonnes of *hilsa* ahead of the Durga Puja season. A similar quantity was maintained during the Sheikh Hasina years.