



PRADHAN MANTRI MATSYA SAMPADAYA YOJANA (PMMSY) - ECONOMY

News: Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has completed four years of Implementation.

What's in the news?

About

- It is the flagship scheme of the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, and **was launched in 2020**.
- **Aim:** To give momentum to the 'sunrise' fisheries sector through **consolidated efforts from various schemes and initiatives**.
- The PMMSY is an umbrella scheme with **two separate Components** namely **Central Sector Scheme (CS)** and **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)**.
- The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) Component is further segregated into **Non-beneficiary oriented and beneficiary orientated subcomponents/activities**:
 - Enhancement of Production and Productivity
 - Infrastructure and Post-harvest Management
 - Fisheries Management and Regulatory Framework.

Fisheries Sector of India

- India is the **3rd largest fish producing and 2nd largest aquaculture** producing nation in the world.
- India is the **4th largest exporter** of fish and fisheries products with a growth in exports of **26.73%** in terms of quantity between FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23.
- **Andhra Pradesh** is the largest fish producer in the country followed by West Bengal and Gujarat.
- In terms of employment, the sunrise sector supports the livelihood of over 30 Mn people in India.



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- The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has implemented a flagship scheme “**Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**”- to bring about Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector in India.



Challenges of the Fisheries Sector in India

- **Overfishing:** Overexploitation of fish stocks due to excessive fishing pressure is a significant challenge.
- **Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing:** IUU fishing undermines efforts to manage and conserve fish stocks.
 - It includes activities such as fishing without proper authorization, disregarding catch limits, and using banned fishing gear.



- **Lack of Infrastructure and Technology:** Inadequate infrastructure and outdated fishing technology hinder the efficiency and productivity of the fisheries sector.
 - Poor storage and transportation facilities lead to post-harvest losses, while outdated fishing vessels and gear limit the ability of fishers to catch fish sustainably.
- **Poor Fisheries Management:** Limited enforcement of regulations, lack of comprehensive data on fish stocks, and inadequate monitoring and control measures exacerbate the problem of overfishing and IUU fishing.
- **Pollution and Habitat Destruction:** Pollution from industrial activities, coastal development, and agricultural runoff poses a threat to marine and freshwater habitats.
 - Similarly, habitat destruction through activities such as coastal reclamation, mangrove deforestation, and dredging further exacerbates the loss of valuable fish habitats.
- **Climate Change:** Climate change is altering oceanic and freshwater environments, affecting fish distribution, migration patterns, and reproductive cycles.
 - Rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, and extreme weather events disrupt fish populations and destabilize fisheries ecosystems.
- **Socio-economic Issues:** Poverty, lack of alternative livelihood options, and unequal distribution of resources contribute to the vulnerability of fishing communities.

Government Initiatives for the Growth of the Sector

- **National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB):** Established in 2006, NFDB serves as the apex body for the planning and promotion of fisheries development in India.
 - It implements various schemes and programs aimed at enhancing fish production, improving infrastructure, and providing support to fishers and fish farmers.
- **Blue Revolution:** Launched in 2015, the Blue Revolution aims to promote sustainable development and management of the fisheries sector.
 - It focuses on increasing fish production and productivity through the adoption of modern technologies, enhancing infrastructure facilities, promoting entrepreneurship, and strengthening fisheries governance.
- **Sagarmala Programme:** The Sagarmala Programme, launched in 2015, aims to promote port-led development and unlock the potential of India's maritime sector.
 - It includes initiatives to develop fishing harbors, cold chain infrastructure, and fish processing facilities to support the growth of the fisheries sector.
- **National Fisheries Policy:** The Government of India formulated the National Fisheries Policy in 2020 to provide a comprehensive framework for the sustainable development of the fisheries sector.



- The policy focuses on promoting responsible fisheries management, conserving aquatic biodiversity, enhancing fish production, and improving the socio-economic status of fishers and fish farmers.
- **Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs):** The Government has established FFDAs at the district level to provide technical guidance, training, and extension services to fish farmers.
 - These agencies play a crucial role in disseminating knowledge about modern aquaculture practices, facilitating access to credit and inputs, and promoting entrepreneurship in the fisheries sector.
- In order to address the **infrastructure requirement for fisheries sector**, the union Government during 2018-19 created the **Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)** with a total funds size of Rs 7522.48 crore.
 - In the earlier phase of implementation of FIDF during the period from 2018-19 to 2022-23, a total 121 fisheries infrastructure projects have been approved for creation of various fisheries infrastructures.
- **Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA):** The CAA regulates and promotes coastal aquaculture activities to ensure sustainable development and environmental conservation.
 - It formulates guidelines for shrimp farming, regulates the use of coastal land for aquaculture purposes, and monitors compliance with environmental norms to prevent adverse impacts on coastal ecosystems.

Way Ahead

- The fisheries sector in India holds significant potential for growth and development, given the country's extensive coastline, numerous rivers, and inland water bodies.
- **Measures that can further help the sector:**
 - Strengthening monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities.
 - Providing financial support and incentives for adopting sustainable practices and modern technologies in fisheries.
 - Ensuring the protection and restoration of aquatic habitats such as mangroves, coral reefs, and wetlands, which are crucial for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health.
 - Strengthening supply chain infrastructure and establishing better market linkages to ensure fair prices for fishers and access to domestic and international markets.

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