

## 5. 5 Years of Blue Revolution – Economy

The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has significantly advanced the fisheries sector by making it ecologically sustainable, economically viable, and socially inclusive five years since its launch.

### Background and Context

**Blue Revolution (2015)** – Initiated to modernize India's fisheries sector by enhancing fish production, aquaculture infrastructure, and productivity.

**Gaps in Blue Revolution** – While successful in boosting output, it lacked emphasis on post-harvest handling, fishers' welfare, traceability, sustainable practices, and export competitiveness.

**Need for a Next-Phase Programme** – With fisheries emerging as a sunrise sector in India's agri-economy, the government launched PMMSY in September 2020 to provide a holistic, integrated, and sustainable framework.

### Objectives of PMMSY

**Harness Potential** – Unlock India's untapped fisheries and aquaculture potential in a sustainable, responsible, and equitable manner.

**Enhance Production** – Expand, intensify, and diversify fish production using both inland and marine resources.

**Modernize Value Chains** – Strengthen post-harvest infrastructure like cold storage, processing, packaging, and traceability to ensure global competitiveness.

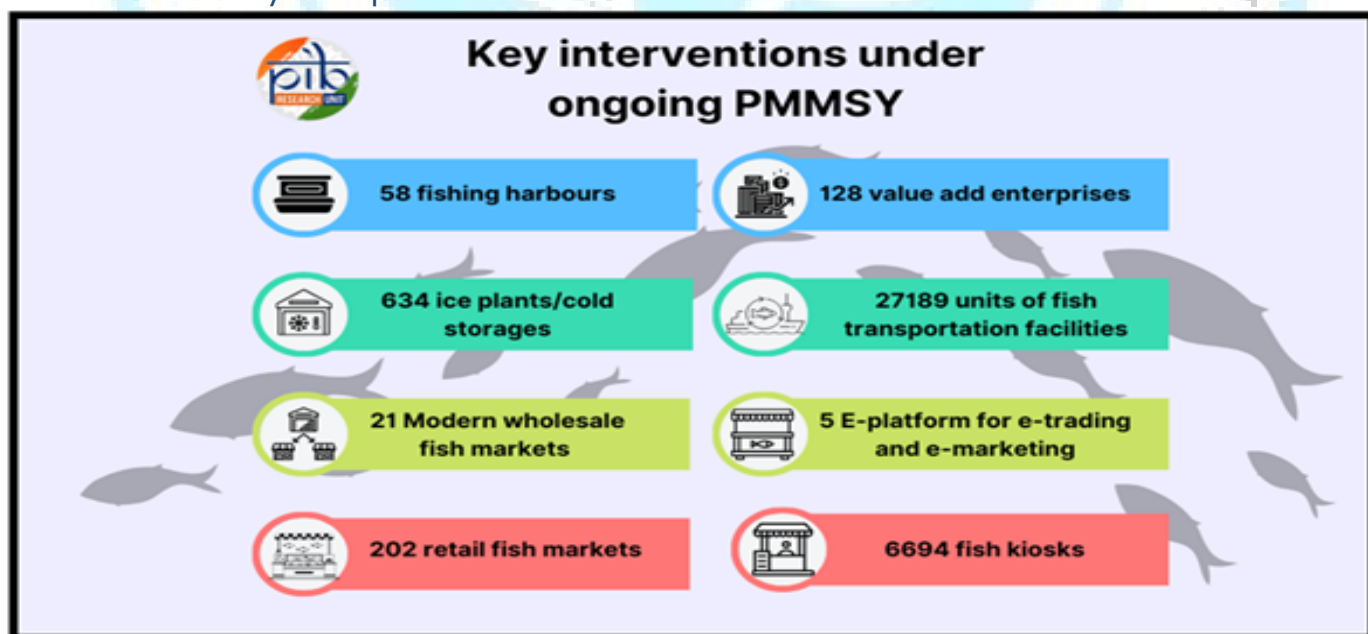
**Double Fishers' Incomes** – Empower fish farmers and fishers by raising productivity, ensuring better market access, and creating supplementary livelihoods.

**Export Competitiveness** – Increase fisheries' share in agricultural Gross Value Added (GVA) and boost foreign exchange earnings through seafood exports.

**Social Security** – Provide welfare measures like insurance, health benefits, and capacity building for small-scale and marginal fishers.

**Regulatory Strengthening** – Establish robust management frameworks to prevent overfishing, ensure biodiversity conservation, and enforce sustainable fishing practices.

### Structure and Key Components



**Central and State Collaboration** – PMMSY operates as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a blend of central, state, and beneficiary funding.

### Target Areas of Investment –

1. Production and productivity enhancement (modern ponds, hatcheries, seed banks).
2. Aquaculture diversification (ornamental fisheries, mariculture, seaweed farming).

3. Infrastructure development (ice plants, cold chain logistics, harbors, fish landing centres).
4. Technology adoption (digital traceability, e-markets, quality certification).
5. Social and institutional strengthening (capacity building, cooperatives, SHGs, FPOs).

### **Milestones and Achievements (2020–2025)**

#### **Record Fish Production –**

1. 2019–20 – 141.64 lakh tonnes.
2. 2024–25 – 195 lakh tonnes (an increase of over **37%**).

**Global Ranking –** India is now the second-largest fish producer in the world, contributing nearly 8% of global fish production.

#### **Export Growth –**

1. 2019–20 – ₹46,662.85 crore.
2. 2023–24 – ₹60,524.89 crore (significant increase in seafood exports, strengthening India's share in global markets).

**Women Empowerment –** Financial assistance of up to 60% of project cost (up to ₹1.5 crore/project) for women entrepreneurs in fisheries. Over 99,000 women empowered in the fisheries value chain.

**Livelihood Creation –** Over 58 lakh direct and indirect livelihoods generated, especially in coastal and rural areas.

**Climate-Smart Approaches –** Promotion of eco-friendly aquaculture systems, seaweed cultivation, and resilient post-harvest infrastructure.

### **Challenges and Gaps Ahead**

**Climate Risks–Rising Sea** temperatures, cyclones, and changing salinity patterns threaten marine ecosystems.

**Infrastructure Deficit –** Remote areas still face gaps in cold storage, transport logistics, and processing units.

**Overfishing –** Unsustainable exploitation of fish resources threatens long-term sectoral growth.

**Inclusion Gaps –** Many small-scale fishers, especially in inland waters, remain excluded from formal schemes and financial access.

**Knowledge Barriers –** Limited awareness and technical know-how among grassroots fishers about modern aquaculture practices.

### **Strategic Way Forward**

**Ecological Stewardship –** Promote responsible aquaculture, strict regulatory frameworks against overfishing, and marine ecosystem restoration.

**Technology Integration –** Wider adoption of digital traceability systems, AI-based monitoring, and e-market platforms to improve transparency and price realization.

**Export Orientation –** Strengthen quality certification, compliance with international sanitary and phytosanitary standards, and branding of Indian seafood.

**Community Empowerment –** Expand cooperatives, SHGs, and FPO models for fisher collectives; ensure greater participation of women and youth.

**Climate Resilience –** Invest in resilient aquaculture practices (e.g., cage culture, recirculating aquaculture systems) and climate-smart infrastructure.

**Inclusive Growth –** Ensure access of small and marginal fishers to credit, insurance, and welfare schemes through easier institutional support.

### **Conclusion**

In just five years, PMMSY has transformed the fisheries sector, delivering record fish production (195 lakh tonnes), generating 58 lakh jobs, empowering women, and strengthening export competitiveness. It successfully built on the Blue Revolution's foundation, but with stronger emphasis on inclusivity, resilience, and sustainability. Going forward, strategic investments, community-driven models, and ecological safeguards will be essential for realizing the full potential of India's fisheries sector as a key driver of the Blue Economy.

Source – <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NotelD=155173&ModuleId=3>