



World Fisheries Day

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Why in News

The World Fisheries Day is observed on the **21st November** every year.

On the occasion of the **World Fisheries Day**, for the first time in the Fisheries Sector, the Government of India will award best performing States.

Key Points

- **World Fisheries Day** is celebrated to demonstrate **solidarity** with all **fisherfolk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders** throughout the world.
 - It was started in the year **1997** when “World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers” met at New Delhi leading to formation of “**World Fisheries Forum**” with representatives from **18 countries** and signed a declaration advocating for a global mandate of sustainable fishing practices and policies.
 - **Aim:** To draw attention to overfishing, habitat destruction and other serious threats to the sustainability of marine and inland resources.
- **Importance of Fisheries Sector:**
 - Around 30 million to over 60 million people in the developing world are involved in inland fisheries; it is thought that about 50% are women.
 - Around **65%** of fish caught from inland fisheries are from low-income food deficit countries.
 - More than **25%** of world dietary protein is provided by the fish.

- **Importance of Fisheries for India:**
 - India is the **second major producer of fish through aquaculture** in the world.
 - India is the **4th largest exporter** of fish in the world as it contributes **7.7%** to the global fish production.
 - Fish constituted about **10%** of total exports from India and almost **20%** of agriculture exports in 2017-18.
 - The fisheries and aquaculture production contribute around **1%** to India's GDP and over **5%** to the agricultural GDP.
 - Around **28 million people** are employed in the fisheries sector in India.
 - The sector has immense potential to more than double the **fishers and fish farmers' incomes**, as envisioned by the government.
- **Challenges for Fisheries sector:**
 - The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** points out that nearly 90% of the global marine fish stocks have either been **fully exploited or overfished or depleted** to the extent that recovery may not be biologically possible.
 - Discharge of **harmful substances** like plastics and other waste into water bodies that cause devastating consequences for aquatic life.
 - **Changing climate**.
- **Indian Government's Effort to Improve Fisheries:**
 - Establishment of **Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)** during 2018-19.
 - **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana**: The programme aims to achieve 22 million tonnes of fish production by 2024-25. Also, it is expected to create employment opportunities for 55 lakh people.
 - **Focus on Blue Revolution**: Focuses on creating an enabling environment for integrated and holistic development and management of fisheries for the socio-economic development of the fishers and fish farmers.
 - Extension of **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** facilities to fishers and fish farmers to help them in meeting their working capital needs.

Source:PIB