



22nd National Fish Farmers Day

For Prelims: National Fish Farmers Day, NFDB, Initiatives to Promote Fisheries

For Mains: Significance of Fisheries

Why in News?

National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying celebrated the 22nd **National Fish Farmers Day (10th July 2022)** to demonstrate solidarity with all fisher folk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders throughout the country.

What is National Fisheries Development Board?

- It was established in **2006** as an **autonomous organization** under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
 - Now, it works under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- It aims to enhance fish production and productivity in the country and to coordinate fishery development in an integrated and holistic manner.

What are the Key Points?

- **About:**
 - National Fish Farmers Day is celebrated in the **memory of scientists Dr K. H. Alikunhi and Dr H. L. Chaudhury**.
 - Both of them successfully demonstrated Hypophysation (technology of induced breeding) in Indian Major Carps (common name for several species of fish) on 10th July 1957.
- **Aim:**
 - To **recognise the accomplishments and contribution of fish farmers, aquapreneurs (entrepreneurs in the water sector) and fisherfolks** in the growth of the fisheries sector in the country.
 - To draw attention **to changing the way the country manages fisheries resources** to ensure sustainable stocks and healthy ecosystems.

What is the Significance of the Fisheries Sector?

- **Sunrise Sector:**
 - The fisheries sector plays a vital role in economic and overall development of the country. Referred to as the "**sunrise sector**", the fisheries sector is poised to bring in immense potential through equitable and inclusive growth.
 - Fisheries is one of the fastest growing sectors amongst the primary producing sectors.

▪ Second Major Producer:

- 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.

▪ Employment Generation:

- Currently, this sector provides livelihood to more than 2.8 crore people within the country. Nevertheless, this is a sector with untapped potential.
 - The **Economic Survey of India, 2019-20** estimated that, only 58% of the country's inland potential has been tapped so far.

▪ Opportunities for Fishermen and Fish Farmers:

- The unrealised potential of the fisheries sector offers varied opportunities for bringing in scalable business solutions and maximizing the benefits for the fishermen and fish farmers.
 - In order to realize the true potential of the fisheries sector, technological breakthroughs are required for enhancing production, productivity and efficiency of the fisheries' value chain.

What are the Related Initiatives?

▪ Blue Revolution:

- Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Blue Revolution" - Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries was launched in 2016.

▪ Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana:

- It strives to create direct employment to 15 lakh fishers, fish farmers, etc. and about thrice this number as indirect employment opportunities.
- It also aims to double the incomes of fishers, fish farmers and fish workers by 2024.

▪ Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund:

- FIDF is created to attract private investment in creation and management of fisheries infrastructure facilities.

▪ Marine Products Export Development Authority:

- MPEDA is a nodal coordinating, state-owned agency engaged in fishery production and allied activities.
- It was established in 1972 under the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act (MPEDA), 1972.

▪ Seaweed Park:

- Multipurpose seaweed park in Tamil Nadu would be the center of production for quality seaweed-based products, developed on a hub and spoke model.

▪ Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge:

- The challenge has been launched with an objective to provide a platform to start-ups within the country to showcase their innovative solutions within the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector.

Source: PIB