

PUDUCHERRY ENVIS HUB

(Environmental Information System)

Host Centre : Puducherry Pollution Control Committee
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Government of India, New Delhi

World Fisheries Day

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Fishing in India is a major industry employing 14.5 million people. India ranks second in aquaculture and third in fisheries production. Fisheries contributes to 1.07% of the Total GDP of India. According to the National Fisheries Development Board the Fisheries Industry generates an export earnings of Rs 334.41 billion. Centrally sponsored schemes will increase exports by Rs 1 lakh crore in FY25. 65,000 fishermen have been trained under these schemes since year 2017 to year 2020. Freshwater consists 55% of total fish production. According to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, fish production increased from 7.52 lakh tonnes in year 1950–51 to 125.90 lakh tonnes in year 2018–19, increase in seventeen times.

Economic benefits

Owing to its massive coastline of over 8,000 km and a vast network of rivers, fisheries have always played a significant role in India's economy. Currently, this sector provides livelihood to more than 2.8 crore people within the country.

Despite challenges pertaining to infrastructure, the measures by the Central government in the past six years ensured that fisheries sector continued to register an annual growth rate of more than 10 percent. In 2019-20, with an overall production of 142 lakh tons, India produced 8% of the global share. During the same time period, India's fisheries exports stood at Rs 46,662 crore, constituting about 18% of India's agricultural exports.

The fisheries sector has witnessed three major transformations in the last few years:

- 1 The growth of inland aquaculture, specifically freshwater aquaculture.
- 2 The mechanization of capture fisheries.
- 3 The successful commencement of brackish water shrimp aquaculture.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently launched the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) with an investment of over Rs 20,000 crore for five years towards the sector's development. As compared to last year there has been a 34% increase in the budget for fisheries sector in 2021-22.