

23/2/24

CHAHAL ACADEMY

QUESTION NO.

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IAS - IPS - UPSC

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6/152

Q:- Discuss the opportunities and challenge presented by the fisheries sector in India, highlighting the key recommendation made by the parliament standing committee and mention the various initiatives taken by the government for development of this sector

Ans: India is the world's second - largest aquaculture nation and the third - largest fish producer after China. Contribution of freshwater and marine fisheries about 75% : 25%.

Good data

Opportunities by fisheries sector

(i) Improving Fishermen's income :- Marine sector fisheries are a promising sector contributing to income with variable production having a ~~very~~ very strong influence on the increase in the income of fishermen.

(ii) Boosting Seafood Exports :- The industry is regarded as a sunrise sector because in 2021-22, the country exported 1.30 Mn MT of Seafood worth US\$ 7.76 bn which is an all time high export by value.

Good Points

(iii) Providing Employment Opportunities :- It provides employment to more than 28 million people in many fields such as capture and cold chain, etc.

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(iv) Ensuring nutritional security:- It has an important role to play in nutrition and food security and an important source of proteins and healthy fats.

Challenges Associated to fisheries sector:-

(i) Infrastructure Gaps:- Inadequate cold chain facilities can lead to post-harvest losses in fisheries sector. Suffer from inadequate infrastructure in landing centers and fishing harbors such as cold storage facilities etc.

(ii) Climate change and Extreme Weather Events:- Due to climate change issues, change in ocean temperatures across the globe is becoming a significant challenge.

(iii) Conflicts b/w India and Neighbouring Countries. This conflict primarily arises from fishermen's violations of national jurisdiction while pursuing fish as they lack navigation devices.

(iv) Vulnerability to External shocks:- External factors such as natural disasters or disease

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Outbreaks can impact livelihoods.

* Key Recommendations by Parliament standing Committee

(i) Betterment in infrastructure :- Encourage participation of private players from all states/UTs in the fisheries and aquaculture infrastructure development fund scheme in fishing harbours and fish landing

(ii) Promote large culture in big reservoirs to utilize full potential.

(iii) Separate Research Council for fishery sector.

(iv) Explore the possibility of providing interest free loans to farmers under Kisan Credit Card

(KCC) initiative

* Initiative by Government :- 1. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.

2. National Genetic Improvement facility.

3. River Ranching Scheme and Artificial Reefs.

4. Establishment of the National fisheries development board (NFDB).

* There is a need to address infrastructural gaps in the marine fisheries sector by investing in developing cold chain facilities, upgrading landing centres and improving fishing harbours.