

Ques. Discuss the opportunities and challenges presented by the fisheries sector in India, highlighting the key recommendations made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee and mentions the various initiatives taken by govt. for development of this sector.

India is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest fishing producing country, contributing 8% to the global fish production and ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in aquaculture production.

Good data  
Production of fish in 2021-22 is 16.24 million tonnes

Marine fish production is 9.12 million tonnes
12.12 million tonnes from aquaculture.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Employment opportunities - provides job to millions of people across India, supporting their livelihood
- Economic Growth - Fish exports contribute significantly to country's economy, boosting GDP.

Good • Innovation & Technology - Advances in aquaculture techniques improve productivity & sustainability.

• Rural Development - Fisheries development in coastal areas uplifts communities and reduces migrations.

• Food Security - Fish is vital protein source, addressing malnutrition and enhancing health.

- Covered**  
**Wide dimension**
- Export potential - Indian seafood exports show good quality products globally, increasing foreign exchange earnings.
  - Diversification - Offers opportunities for small-scale and large-scale fishing operations, catering to different markets demands.
  - Infrastructural development - Investment in fishing harbors, cold storage facilities and processing units enhance fishing sector.
  - Environmental Conservation - Sustainable fishing practices protect marine ecosystem, ensuring balanced ecosystem for future or long-term viability.

### Challenges

- Overfishing - Catching too many fishes like tuna, depletes marine resources.
- Poor waste management - dumping plastic waste in ocean, endangering marine life.
- Climate change impact - warmer water causes fish to migrate to new areas.
- Illegal fishing - Using nets with small holes, catching young fishes illegally.
- **Good** Lack of infrastructure - Not having proper cold storage for fish, leading to spoilage.
- Quality control issues - Selling fish with too many bones, affecting customer satisfaction.
- Limited credit access - Fishermen are not able to buy new nets or boats due to lack of loans.
- Seasonal catch fluctuations - Catch fewer fish during monsoon season, impacting income.

- Fishing rights disputes - Argument over who can fish in specific areas, causing conflicts.
- Regulatory enforcement challenges - Not punishing those who fish in protected areas, hurting conservation efforts.

### Govt efforts

1. Pradhan mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna for modernizing fisheries.
2. National fisheries development Board protecting aquaculture.
3. Blue Revolution scheme to boost fish production.
4. Matsya Samridhi Yojana for fisher's welfare.
5. Deep-sea fishing project to enhance marine catch.
6. Fisherman Pension scheme for financial security.
7. Fish farmer development agency supporting aquafarming.
8. Fisheries and Aquaculture infrastructure development fund for modernization.
9. National schemes on welfare of fishermen providing social security benefits.
10. PMMSY's Fishermen welfare scheme aiding fishermen families.

### Way forward

1. Protect fish by fishing responsibly.
2. Invest in technology for better fishing.
3. Educate fishermen to improve skills.
4. Strengthen market linkages for better fish distribution.
5. Increase awareness about conservation to ensure long-term sustainability or for future use.

Fishing industry is vital in India for food, jobs, economy and culture. Balancing growth with sustainability crucial for future generation and marine ecosystem.