



Sagar Parikrama

For Prelims: Sagar Parikrama, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, Palk Bay Scheme, Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF).

For Mains: Status of the Fisheries Sector in India, Challenges Related to India's Fishery Sector.

Why in News?

The [Sagar Parikrama Phase III](#), a program by the **Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and National Fisheries Development Board**, was started on **19th Feb 2023** from Surat, Gujarat.

What are the Major Highlights of the Program?

- The main objectives of the program are to **disseminate information about various fisheries related schemes and programs**, promoting **responsible fisheries** with a focus on sustainable balance, and protection of marine ecosystems.
- The Phase-I of the program started in **March 2022 from Mandvi and ended on 6th March 2022 at Porbandar, Gujarat.**
- [Kisan Credit Card \(KCC\)](#) cards were distributed to fishers and fish farmers.
- It was also declared that the **Satpati Fish Market** would be inaugurated according to the **state-of-the-art standards.**

What is Sagar Parikrama?

- **About:**
 - It is a **navigation journey** to be conducted in all **coastal states/UTs** through a pre-decided sea route to demonstrate solidarity with all **fisherfolk, fish farmers** and concerned stakeholders.
- **Significance:**
 - It will focus on **sustainable balance between the utilisation of marine fisheries resources for food security** of the nation and livelihoods of coastal fisher communities and protection of marine ecosystems.

What is the Status of the Fisheries Sector in India?

- **About:**
 - 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.
 - **Also, India ranks 1st** in inland capture fish production and **3rd in overall fish production** in the world.
 - Currently, this sector provides livelihood to more than **2.8 crore people within the country.**

- **Initiatives related to Fisheries Sector:**
 - [Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana](#)
 - [Palk Bay Scheme](#)
 - [Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund \(FIDF\)](#)
- **Challenges Related to India's Fishery Sector:**
 - **Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing:** [IUU fishing](#) is a significant problem in India's fishery sector, and it often goes undetected.
 - IUU fishing can lead to a **decline in fish stocks**, and it also puts legitimate fishers at a disadvantage.
 - **Lack of Infrastructure:** The fishery sector in India lacks adequate infrastructure, such as **cold storage, processing facilities, and transportation**, which results in post-harvest losses and limits access to higher-value markets.
 - **Limited Access to Credit:** Small-scale fishers in India often struggle to access credit, which hinders their ability to invest in their businesses and improve their **livelihoods**.
 - **Climate Change:** Climate change is impacting India's fishery sector, causing changes in fish distribution and affecting **fish reproduction rates**.
 - It also leads to increased risks of natural disasters, such as [cyclones and flooding](#), which can destroy fishing boats and infrastructure.

Way Forward

- **Promoting Sustainable Fishing Practices:** The government can encourage sustainable fishing practices such as promoting responsible fishing techniques and setting quotas and restrictions to prevent overfishing. This will ensure the **longevity of fish stocks** and protect the livelihoods of fishers.
- **Strengthening IUU Fishing Regulations:** The government should strengthen regulations to combat **illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing**. This can include measures such as satellite monitoring of fishing boats and penalties for violators.
- **Developing Infrastructure:** Investment in infrastructure such as cold storage facilities, processing plants, and transportation will improve the quality of fish products and reduce **post-harvest losses**.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Under the Kisan Credit Card scheme, short-term credit support is given to farmers for which of the following purposes? (2020)

1. Working capital for maintenance of farm assets
2. Purchase of combine harvesters, tractors and mini trucks
3. Consumption requirements of farm households
4. Post-harvest expenses
5. Construction of family house and setting up of village cold storage facility

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 5 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans: (b)

Mains

Q. Defining blue revolution, explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India. (2018)

Source: PIB

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/sagar-parikrama-1>

