



## 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 22<sup>nd</sup> **National Fish Farmers Day (10<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](#)**