

Matsya Seva Kendras (MSKs)

Why in News?

The need for strengthening last-mile fisheries and aquaculture extension services is highlighted recently by the Government of India.

- It is a fisheries extension and support services.
- **Launched in - 2020.**
- **Aim** - To provide a one-stop solution for fishers and fish farmers through a range of extension services provided by trained aquaculture professionals.
- **Umbrella Scheme** - Pradhan Mantri Matsya Samapada Yojana (PMMSY).
- **Nodal Ministry** - Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
- **Government assistance** - Upto 60% covers women and weaker sections.
- **Fund dispersal** - Funds have been provided to State governments and Union Territories for operationalising **102 such Kendras**.
- **Functions** - It establishes lab for water, soil, and microbial analysis to conduct request-based disease tests.
- It focuses on capacity building for fishers/fish farmers on varied seed/feed inputs backed with the required technology infusion.
- **Future proposals** - Government advises MSKs to mobilise start-ups, cooperatives, fish farmers' producer organisations, joint liability groups, and self-help groups to share best practices.

Other initiatives of Fisheries Extension Services

- **Sagar Mitras** - They are deployed in coastal States and U.T.s as a vital interface between the government and sea-borne fishers.

Compile Information on	Disseminate Information on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily marine catch • Price fluctuations • Marketing needs at fish landing centres/harbours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local regulations • Weather forecasts • Natural calamities • Hygienic fish handling • Potential fishing zones in the seas.

- **National Fisheries Digital Platform** - It is a platform to formalize the fisheries sector.
- **AquaBazaar** - It is a nationwide virtual learning platform, initiated by National Fisheries Development Board.

- It enables experts to clarify basic concepts and provide practical demonstrations to fishers on breeding/seed production of commercially important fish.

India's Fisheries Sector

- **National Fish Production** - It has witnessed an 83% increase since 2013-14, that stands at a record 175 lakh tons in 2022-23.
- With 75% of this coming from inland fisheries.
- India is the **2nd largest fish and aquaculture producer** globally.

Reference

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