

Sauach Sagar, Surakshit Sagar campaign to clean up the coasts and beaches speaks of India's seriousness towards restoring marine health. Explain.

India committed to protect 30% of land and sea areas by 2030 at the UN Ocean Conference. To strengthen this India launched Sauach Sagar Surakshit Sagar to clean up the marine litter.

Sauach Sagar Surakshit Sagar campaign. The clean up drive covers 75 beaches across the country in 75 days and ends on international ocean clean up day. India ranks third in fish production.

This drive can greatly improve the marine health and reduce plastic ingestion by marine fauna.

The single use plastics comprises 50% of marine litter. It is concentrated

in the intertidal zones. The urban beaches have more accumulation than several beaches. The campaign aims to remove 1500 tonnes of plastic waste.

Fisheries and aquaculture constitute 1% of GDP and employ 14 crore people. The campaign aims to remove plastics at the river mouth and major accumulation is on the east coast. Removal can improve the fish catch.

The campaign is strengthened by measures such as Plastic waste management rules which bans import, sale, etc of single use plastics with effect from July 1.

The measures can meet the targets set by UN coastal seas cleanup and SDG-14 life below water.