

National Fish Farmers Day

Every year on July 10th, National Fish Farmers Day is observed to show support for all fishermen, fish farmers, and other stakeholders across the country. This year in 2022, the 22nd National Fish Farmer's Day is being observed nationwide. With significant potential for sustainably collecting a variety of inland and marine fisheries resources in the nation, fishing and aquaculture are significant economic activities.

The topic has a very high chance of being asked as a UPSC Prelims Economy Question or as a Current Affairs Question.

About National Fish Farmers Day

To honour the memories of scientists Dr. K. H. Alikunhi and Dr. H. L. Chaudhury, National Fish Farmers Day is observed. On July 10, 1957, they both demonstrated Hypophysation, a technique for inducing reproduction in Indian Major Carps, a term used to refer to a number of fish species. The goal is to recognise the contributions made by fish farmers, aquapreneurs (businesspeople in the water sector), and fishermen to the development of the nation's fisheries industry and to raise awareness of the need to alter the way the nation manages its fisheries resources in order to ensure sustainable fisheries stocks and robust ecosystems.

National Fish Farmers Day 2022

The 22nd National Fish Farmers Day was observed at the National Fisheries Development Board in Hyderabad by the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairy.

History of National Fish Farmers Day

In 2001, the Indian government designated July 10th as National Fish Farming Day. The purpose of the day was to express support for those involved in aquaculture, such as fishermen, fish farmers, fisheries experts, and other stakeholders. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) oversaw the 2001 National Fish Farmers Day celebration, which was the first one. At this important ceremony, the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, a pioneering institution in the field of fisheries education, also participated.

Significance of National Fish Farmers Day

The nation's economy and general development are greatly influenced by the fisheries industry. The fisheries industry, sometimes known as the "sunrise sector", is positioned to generate enormous potential through growth that is both equitable and inclusive. One of the key producing sectors with the quickest growth is fishing. More than 2.8 crore individuals in the nation are being supported by this sector. Nevertheless, there is unrealized potential in this industry. According to the Economic Survey of India, 2019 - 20, barely 58 per cent of the inland potential of the nation has been utilised thus far. The fisheries sector's untapped potential presents a variety of chances to implement scalable business solutions and increase the advantages for fishermen and fish producers. Technological advancements

are necessary to increase production, productivity, and efficiency along the whole value chain of the fishing industry in order to fully fulfil the capabilities of the fisheries sector.

Key Facts about India's Fisheries Sector

- India is the third largest producer of fish in the world.
- India is ranked second in the world for aquaculture.
- According to a recent estimate by the National Fisheries Development Board, the fishing industry alone has generated export revenues of Rs 334.41 billion, employing 145 million people, and contributed to 7% of the GDP.
- Over 2.8 crore fishermen, farmers, employees, vendors, and others involved in the value chain directly depend on the fishing industry for their living.
- Between 2014 and 2020, the fishing sector maintained a yearly growth rate of above 10% despite the general economic slump.
- The COVID-19 pandemic did not have any negative impact on India's fisheries export.
- India's share in global Fisheries export was 8.0 % in 2019-2020.

National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)

To increase fish production and productivity in the country and also to coordinate fishery advancement in an integrated and comprehensive way, the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) was founded in 2006 as an autonomous organisation under the administrative jurisdiction of the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Government of India.

Functions of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)

- Giving special consideration to fisheries and aquaculture (Production, Processing, Storage, Transport and Marketing).
- Obtaining sustainable management of and protecting aquatic natural resources.
- Utilising cutting-edge research and development methods to maximise fisheries productivity and output.
- Establishing contemporary infrastructure mechanisms for optimal usage and effective management of fisheries.
- Training and empowering women in the fishing industry, as well as creating a significant amount of jobs.
- Increasing fish's contribution to food and nutrition security.

Objectives of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)

- To bring fisheries and aquaculture-related operations under professional supervision and focused attention.
- To manage fisheries-related activities carried out by various Central Government Ministries and Departments, as well as to coordinate with the State and Union Territory Governments.
- To enhance the catch and culture fisheries' output in terms of processing, marketing, and storage.
- To develop fish stocks and sustainable management and conservation of natural aquatic resources.
- Applying contemporary research and development technologies, such as biotechnology, to increase fisheries productivity and output.

- To enable the optimal management and best use of fisheries by providing modern infrastructure systems.
- To significantly increase employment
- To educate and advance women in the fishing industry.
- To increase fish's contribution to food and nutritional security.

