World Fisheries Day 2026 – 21 November

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News

'World Fisheries Day', highlighting the importance of fishers, fish farmers and aquatic resources, is observed on 21 November. PIB notes that the day marks the 1997 meeting in New Delhi where delegates from 18 countries set up the 'World Fisheries Forum'. Its aim is to highlight challenges such as overfishing, pollution, habitat loss and global warming, and to seek solutions for sustainable fish stocks. The 2025 theme was 'India's Blue Transformation: Strengthening Value Addition in Seafood Exports'. India is the world's second-largest fish producer with about 8% of global output; its fish production was 195 lakh tonnes in 2024–25. This year the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) 'SOFIA 2026' report said global fisheries and aquaculture production reached new highs.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Observed	21 November
Origin	1997, New Delhi – 18 countries
2026 theme	Not officially confirmed
2025 theme	India's Blue Transformation: Value Addition in Seafood Exports
India's output	195 lakh tonnes (2024–25)

Point	Details
World rank	2nd (about 8%)
PMMSY	10.9.2020; ₹20,312 crore (2020–26)
FIDF	Budget 2018; ₹7,522.48 crore
Seafood exports	₹62,408 crore (2024–25)
National Fish Farmers' Day	10 July (1957 milestone)

Background

- Global context: FAO's biennial 'The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture' (SOFIA) is the sector's main global report. The 2026 edition said production reached new highs. Overfishing and climate change are major threats to fish stocks.
- Economy: The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the flagship 'Blue Revolution' scheme, was launched on 10 September 2020 with an investment of ₹20,312 crore. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), announced in Budget 2018, gives concessional loans to States. Production rose from 96 lakh tonnes in 2013–14 to 195 lakh tonnes in 2024–25.
- Science: On 10 July 1957 at Angul, Odisha, Prof. Hiralal Chaudhury and K.H. Alikunhi achieved the first successful 'induced breeding' of Indian major carps by injecting carp pituitary extract. 10 July is therefore 'National Fish Farmers' Day'. It revolutionised fish-seed production.
- States: Coastal States and UTs contribute 72% of India's fish output (PIB). Backed by brackish-water shrimp farming, Andhra Pradesh ranks first in fish and shrimp production.

Tamil Nadu link: ICAR's Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA) has been headquartered in Chennai since 1 April 1987; its experimental station is at Muttukadu, about 30 km south of Chennai. The Tamil Nadu Dr J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University is at Nagapattinam. The Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay are key fishing grounds for Tamil Nadu's fishers.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

'World Fisheries Day', highlighting the importance of fishers, fish farmers and aquatic resources, is observed on 21 November. PIB notes that the day marks the 1997 meeting in New Delhi where delegates from 18 countries set up the 'World Fisheries Forum'.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Observed: 21 November; Origin: 1997, New Delhi – 18 countries; 2026 theme: Not officially confirmed; 2025 theme: India's Blue Transformation: Value Addition in Seafood Exports.

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. The 1997 meeting that set up the World Fisheries Forum, origin of World Fisheries Day, was held in which city?

A) New Delhi

B) Rome

C) Bangkok

D) Manila

Answer: A – Explanation: New Delhi – delegates from 18 countries met there in 1997; 21 November is marked as World Fisheries Day.

2. India's National Fish Farmers' Day (10 July) marks the first success of which technique in Indian major carps in 1957?

A) Induced breeding

B) Cage culture

C) Biofloc farming

D) Gene editing

Answer: A – Explanation: Induced breeding using carp pituitary extract – Hiralal Chaudhury and K.H. Alikunhi at Angul, Odisha.

3. Where is ICAR's Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA) headquartered?

A) Kochi

B) Bhubaneswar

C) Chennai

D) Visakhapatnam

Answer: C – Explanation: Chennai – set up on 1.4.1987, with its field station at Muttukadu. Kochi has CMFRI; Bhubaneswar has CIFA.

4. Which State ranks first in India in fish and shrimp production?

A) West Bengal

B) Gujarat

C) Tamil Nadu

D) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: D – Explanation: Andhra Pradesh – shrimp farming in coastal brackish-water ponds is its main strength.

5. Which UN agency publishes 'The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture' (SOFIA) report?

A) UNEP

B) FAO

C) IMO

D) WTO

Answer: B – Explanation: FAO (UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome) – biennial; SOFIA 2026 was released this year.

Sources: PIB backgrounder (Nov 2025); PIB; PIB (National Fish Farmers Day); News On AIR; ICAR-CIBA; WAM (SOFIA 2026); The Hans India (1 Mar 2025). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.