UPSC Mains practice – reference note

GS-III · 20-11-2026 · 15 marks · https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/upsc-mains-practice/2026-11-20-fisheries-blue-economy

21 November is World Fisheries Day. India is now the world's second-largest fish producer, yet most of its fishers remain poor and vulnerable. Discuss the potential of the fisheries sector for India's blue economy and suggest measures to make its growth sustainable and inclusive. (15 marks, 250 words)

1. Why in news (21 November)

- 21 November is World Fisheries Day. It traces its origin to 1997, when delegates from 18 countries met in New Delhi and set up a world forum of fish harvesters and fish workers (PIB, November 2025).
- News On AIR (12 January 2026): fish production reached about 198 lakh tonnes in 2024-25, up from about 95 lakh tonnes in 2013-14 – more than doubled; India has about 8% of world output.
- CMFRI (30 April 2026): India's marine fish landings rose 3% to 35.7 lakh tonnes in 2025; Tamil Nadu came first (6.85 lakh tonnes), overtaking Gujarat; Indian mackerel was the top resource.

2. Key facts to quote

Fact	Detail
Production	About 198 lakh tonnes (2024-25); second-largest producer after China; inland output up about 140% since 2013-14
Exports 2024-25 (MPEDA)	16,98,170 tonnes, ₹62,408.45 crore (US$7.45 billion); frozen shrimp 69.46% of dollar earnings; the USA is the largest market for frozen shrimp, China the largest by quantity
PMMSY	Launched 10 September 2020; about ₹20,312 crore for 2020-21 to 2025-26; 60% assistance for women and SC/ST beneficiaries (general 40%)
FIDF	Announced in the Union Budget 2018; ₹7,522.48 crore; interest subvention up to 3% a year; extended to 31 March 2026
PM-MKSSY	Approved 8 February 2024; ₹6,000 crore for 2023-24 to 2026-27; aquaculture insurance incentive
EEZ rules	Notified 4 November 2025; priority to fishermen co-operatives and FFPOs; ReALCraft access pass for mechanised vessels; traditional fishers exempt
Coast	11,098.81 km revised coastline (2025); about 3,477 coastal fishing villages; coastal States and UTs give 72% of fish output and 76% of seafood exports

3. Tamil Nadu angle

Tamil Nadu fact	Detail

Coastline	1,076 km in the State's count – second-longest among States; 1,068.69 km on the revised national figure (Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, April 2025); 14 coastal districts
Fisherfolk and output	10.48 lakh marine and 2.36 lakh inland fisherfolk; total fish production 8.29 lakh tonnes in 2022-23 (Fisheries Policy Note 2024-25)
Marine landings 2025	First in India with 6.85 lakh tonnes, ahead of Gujarat (second) and Kerala (third); all-India landings 35.7 lakh tonnes (CMFRI, 30 April 2026)
Seaweed	Multipurpose seaweed park in Tamil Nadu under PMMSY, ₹127.71 crore (PIB, January 2024)
Fishing ban	61 days on the east coast, 15 April to 14 June, to protect breeding stocks
Palk Bay	286 fishing villages in the Palk Bay traditional waters (Policy Note); repeated arrests by the Sri Lankan Navy; Katchatheevu was recognised as part of Sri Lanka under the 1974 India–Sri Lanka maritime agreement

4. Static links

- GS-III: agriculture and allied sectors – fisheries, food processing, supply chain, e-technology for farmers and fishers; conservation; disaster (cyclones).
- GS-I: distribution of key natural resources (fishing grounds), ocean resources.
- GS-II: India–Sri Lanka relations (fishers' issue, Katchatheevu); WTO.
- Prelims: National Fish Farmers' Day is 10 July (induced breeding by Hiralal Chaudhuri and K.H. Alikunhi, 1957).

5. Previous-year question (UPSC)

- GS-I 2018 (15 marks): "Defining blue revolution, explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India."

6. Common mistakes

- Calling India the largest fish producer – it is second, after China.
- Mixing up days: World Fisheries Day is 21 November; National Fish Farmers' Day is 10 July; World Oceans Day is 8 June.
- Treating PMMSY as the same as the earlier Blue Revolution scheme – PMMSY (2020) replaced and widened it.
- Writing only about marine fishing – inland fisheries and aquaculture now give most of India's fish.

Official sources

- PIB – World Fisheries Day 2025 backgrounder (November 2025) – https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2025/nov/doc20251120700601.pdf
- News On AIR – Fish production rose to about 198 lakh tonnes in 2024-25 (12 January 2026) – https://www.newsonair.gov.in/govt-says-fish-production-in-country-increased-to-198-lakh-tonnes-in-2024-25-from-95-lakh-tonnes-in-2013-14
- MPEDA – Seafood exports 2024-25 press note – https://mpeda.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Approved_Press-Release_Note_2024-25.pdf
- ICAR-CMFRI – India's marine fish landings 2025 (30 April 2026) – https://cmfri.org.in/news/icar-cmfris-releases-indias-marine-fish-landing-data-in-2025-indias-marine-fish-catch-increases-3

- Government of Tamil Nadu – Fisheries Policy Note 2024-25 – https://cms.tn.gov.in/cms_migrated/document/docfiles/fisheries_e_pn_2024_25.pdf

Shanmugam IAS Academy – your next step

- **Courses:** TNPSC Group 1, 2 / 2A (Prelims + Mains), Group 4, UPSC / IAS, Bank, SSC, SI – Coimbatore · Madurai · Online – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/fees
- **Books (PDF):** TNPSC PYQ books, UPSC books – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/study-materials
- **More free PDFs:** https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/free-pdf-download · This page: https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/upsc-mains-practice/2026-11-20-fisheries-blue-economy

Admissions – call / WhatsApp: 99941 46662 · 99944 27714 · www.shanmugamiasacademy.in