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Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

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Why is in news? Department of Fisheries is promoting Artificial Reef (AR) under PMMSY for rejuvenating coastal fisheries

To **promote sustainable practices**, Department of Fisheries has sanctioned 732 artificial reef units for 10 coastal states with a total investment of Rs 126 crore as a sub-activity **under "Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Villages"** of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

The projects are being implemented with the **technical support of Fishery Survey of India (FSI) and ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)**.

All the states have completed their site selection process and all projects are expected to be completed by January 2024.

As one of the impactful strategies, installation of artificial reefs in coastal waters and undertaking **sea ranching programs** across in all coastal states is expected to **rejuvenate of coastal fisheries and re-build fish stocks**.

Artificial reefs:

Artificial reefs are **engineering technology interventions** used to **rehabilitate and/or improve natural habitats, increase productivity and manage aquatic resources** including habitat enhancement (FAO, 2015).

Advantages of installing artificial reefs:

Similar to natural reefs, ARs used for aggregating fish and provide a home for fish to live and grow, reduce wave damage on coasts, helps regeneration of marine ecosystem and act as a carbon sink.

As per CMFRI, **two to three-fold increase in catch rates and efficiency** can be realized Thus saving fuel and energy costs leading to increased income.

Provide a **firm substrate for marine life** such as corals, algae and plankton to attach to and grow. They provide **favourable conditions for sea ranching** and serve as a **spawning and nursery grounds** for fish.

Enhance **recreational fisheries, snorkeling, eco-tourism**, creating suitable areas for diving and reducing conflicts.

Artificial reef structures **restrict bottom trawling in the near shore areas** thus helping the marine environment to regenerate and small-scale fishers get higher catch

One artificial reef of 300m³ is expected to support 25-30 non-mechanized boats (CMFRI).

Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Villages:

Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Villages will be developed under PMMSY with investment of Rs. 750 crore to **leverage Blue economy/Blue growth** with an aim to **maximize economic and social benefits to coastal fishers** while minimizing environmental impact through sustainable fishing practices.

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Project proposal with total outlay of Rs. 2881.41 crores has been approved under PMMSY during 2020-21 for sustainable development of fisheries and fisheries related infrastructure including fishers' welfare.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana:

The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is designed to **address critical gaps in fish production** and productivity, quality, technology, post-harvest infrastructure and management, modernisation and strengthening of value chain, traceability, establishing a robust fisheries management framework and fishers' welfare.

The PMMSY is an **umbrella scheme** with **two separate Components** namely (a) Central Sector Scheme (CS) and (b) Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).

As of 2023, under PMMSY, projects worth Rs 14,654.67 crore have been approved from 2020-21 to 2022-23

As the 3rd largest fish producer and the **2nd largest aquaculture producer globally**, India recognizes the significance of the fisheries and aquaculture industry.

The fish production reached an all-time high of 16.25 MMT during FY 2021-22 with marine exports touching Rs. 57,586 Crores