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Sagar Parikrama

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Why is in news? Shri Parshottam Rupala launches Sagar Parikrama Phase-III from Hazira Port in Gujarat

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, starts the Sagar Parikrama Phase-III from Hazira Port, Gujarat, and proceeds towards the coastal line of Maharashtra at Satpati, Vasai, Versova, and Parikrama will end at Sasson Dock, Mumbai.

Sagar Parikrama program is **celebrated in all coastal States/UTs through a pre-decided sea route** down right from Gujarat, Diu, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar, and Lakshadweep Islands to have interaction program with fishermen, fisher communities and stakeholders in these locations to know the problems of Coastal Fisher folk.

It is envisioned as **a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava'** saluting our great freedom fighters, sailors and fishers.

To **improve the quality of life and economic well-being of fishers and fishermen in rural areas** and to create more livelihood opportunities, a holistic approach has been adopted.

Sagar Parikrama is a program that **reflects the far-reaching policy strategy of the government** leading to the direct interaction with fishers and fish farmers to understand the issues of coastal areas and problems related to fishermen.

Phase I&II have brought **initiation of Artificial Reefs and Sea Ranching**, among many other innumerable benefits.

Phase I Programme of 'Sagar Parikrama' was organized in Gujarat, started on 5th March, 2022 from Mandvi and ended on 6th March 2022 at Porbandar, Gujarat.

Phase II of Sagar Parikrama started on 22nd September 2022 from Mangrol to Veraval and ended at Mul Dwaraka, on 23rd September 2022 from Mul Dwaraka to Madhwad.

Phase III Program of 'Sagar Parikrama' starts from 19th Feb 2023 from Surat, Gujarat, and ends on 21st Feb 2023 at Sasson Dock, Mumbai.

The **main objectives of 'Sagar Parikrama'** are

to facilitate interaction with fishermen, coastal communities and stakeholders so as to disseminate information of various fisheries related schemes and programs being implemented by the Government;

demonstrating solidarity with all fisher folk, fish farmers and concerned stakeholder as a spirit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat;

to promote responsible fisheries with focus on sustainable balance between the utilization of marine fisheries resources for food security of nation and livelihoods of coastal fisher communities and

protection of marine ecosystems.

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Highlighted in the meeting:

- i) Gujarat is the leading state in marine fish production, sharing 16.67 per cent of the country's total marine fish productions.
- ii) Maharashtra state is sixth position in Marine fish production in India which contributes to 4.33 lakh tonnes.
- iii) Marine capture fisheries in India account for 3.71 million tonnes during 2021, and it is well understood that the marine capture fisheries of our country are vulnerable.

The initiation of programs like Sagar Parikrama facilitates the interaction with the fishers along the coast, thus promoting sustainable and responsible fishing with due importance to the small-scale fishers and their interests.

- iv) The Department of Fisheries is making concerted efforts to increase the coverage of a large number of fishers and fish farmers for providing KCC facilities, including organizing special drives from time-to-time, organizing sensitization programmes, mass and individual extension activities such as distribution of pamphlets, conducting of awareness campaign in vernacular languages, newspaper articles, advertisement, etc.