Bay of Bengal Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO)

Why in News?

India Assumes Chairmanship of Bay of Bengal Inter-Governmental Organisation at the 13th Governing Council Meeting in Male, Maldives.

- **Event Hosted by -** Ministry of Fisheries & Ocean Resources of the Maldives government, in collaboration with the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO).

Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO)

- It is a *unique regional fisheries body*, set up in 2003.
- The decision to establish the Inter-Governmental Organisation (IGO) was taken at the 24th Meeting of the Advisory Committee, held in Phuket, Thailand from 13 -16 October 1999.
- **Aim -** To assist the member countries in increasing the livelihood opportunities and improving the quality of life of the ***small-scale/ artisanal fisher folk*** in the Bay of Bengal region.
- **Members -** Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka.
- **Cooperating parties -** Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand.
- **Observers-** FAO and all the relevant regional fisheries and environmental bodies and International Non-Governmental Organisations active in the Bay of Bengal region.
- **Objectives**
  - To increase awareness and knowledge of the needs, benefits and practices of marine fisheries management.
  - Enhance skills through training and education.
  - Transfer appropriate technologies and techniques for development of the small-scale fisheries.
  - Establish regional information networking.
  - Promote women's participation in marine fisheries value chain.
- **Area of competence -** Exclusive Economic Zones under the jurisdiction of the Member States (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka) and contiguous areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- **Structure - Governing Council -** Serves as the ***apex body*** of the intergovernmental organization (IGO) and meets once a year.
- **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** - Considers the technical aspects of the activities proposed to be undertaken and implemented. It meets once a year.
- **Ad-hoc committees** –These are constituted for specific purposes from time to time.
- **Secretariat-** It is the ***implementing organ of the IGO*** and implements the decisions taken by the Governing Council.
- **Evolution -** The Organization evolved from the erstwhile Bay of Bengal Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) founded in 1979.
- It has worked closely with the whole-range of the stakeholders including the R&D Institutions to develop pathways to capacity enhancement for a sustainable future of the region.
- It has set international benchmarks in execution of programs and activities in the field of small-scale fisheries that has translated into measurable benefits for the member countries.

References

1. Business Standard | Bay of Bengal Inter-Governmental Organisation
2. BOBP | About

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