

Blue Swimmer Crab (*Portunus reticulatus*)

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment

Why in News?

Recently, Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture (ICAR-CIBA), Chennai successfully demonstrated India's first Blue Swimmer Crab farming technology.

- **Common Names** - Blue swimmer crab, blue manna crab, flower crab.
- **Scientific Name** - *Portunus reticulatus*.
- **Family** - Portunidae (brachyuran crabs).
- **Appearance** - Hue of blue colour, Flat, disc-shaped hind legs adapted as paddles for swimming; nine spikes along carapace near eyes.



- **Distribution** - Widely found in Indo-Pacific (Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, China, Japan, Malaysia, Australia, India, Singapore).
- In India, dominant fisheries at Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar.
- **Diet** - Bivalves, fish, and macroalgae during high tide.

Key Characteristics

- Stays in burrows under sand/mud during daytime and winter, has high

tolerance to ammonium/ammonia.

- **Cannibalism** - Lower compared to other brackishwater crabs (suitable for farming).

Aquaculture Technology Package (ICAR-CIBA)

- **Seed Production** - Standardized hatchery protocols, short production cycle comparable to shrimp farming.
- **Feed** - Formulated pelleted feed branded as BSCrabPlus.
- **Farming Practices** - Nursery rearing and grow-out culture at 1 crab/m² stocking density.
- **Outcome** - Marketable crabs harvested in 105 days; revenue handed to beneficiaries under Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan.

Reference

[PIB | Blue swimmer crab](#)

