Hazaribag India's First Pearl Farming Cluster

Why in News?

Under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, Hazaribag in Jharkhand has been officially notified as India's 1st Pearl farming Cluster.

- **Notified by** – Department of Fisheries (GOI)
- **Significands** – It marks a crucial shift for the Freshwater pearl culture in India to a structured Commercial- scale ecosystem from a pilot projects.

Hazaribag Pearl cluster is part of Blue economy 2.0 initiative.

- **Key highlights**

Traditionally - while pearls are associated with, coastal areas.

Uniqueness - But this cluster are located in a landlocked state that is Hazaribag, Jharkhand.

Central Government & State of Jharkhand has jointly developed with an investment of 22 rs Crore.

Production capacity - The district has recorded a production of over 1.02 Lakh as of early 2026.

Primary Species - Freshwater Mussels has been utilized. For a Brood bank specifically for Hyriopsis Cumingii (A high quality Vietnamese Mussel Species) a proposal has been moved.

Hyriopsis Cumingii is a species of freshwater mussel known for producing high-quality pearls; often referred to as the "Triangle Sail Mussel."

Process - Pearl farming involves surgical transplantation into the mussels, followed by a maturation period where the mussel secretes nacre (mother-of-pearl) over a nucleus.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABCONS) a NABARD Consultancy Services is conducting a gap analysis for infrastructure.

Technical support - For value addition & Market linkage is provided by National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology and Training (NIFPHATT) & National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)

Skill Development - For Creating skilled workforce Purty Agrotech Training Centre

(Ranchi) & St. Xavier's College, Ranchi (via certificate courses) are working together.

Across Jharkhand around 800 trained pearl growers are active.

Livelihood – It offers alternative source of income for inland farmers, by utilizing existing water bodies like ponds and tanks.

Quick Facts
PMMSY is the flagship scheme of the GOI. • **Launched in** - 2020. • **Aims to** - modernize fisheries infrastructure, enhance fish production, increase fishermen's income, ensure sustainable utilization of aquatic resources & to bring a blue revolution in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. • **Implemented by** - The Department of Fisheries ---------- **National Fisheries Development Board** • **Statutory body** - established in 2006 • Under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying. ---------- • **NIFPHATT**: Aim on processing and value-addition of fish products in India. • **Pearl Composition** – It has crystalline structure, and consists of 80-92% calcium carbonate ($CaCO_3$) in its primary form, known as aragonite. • Calcium carbonate is present in secondary form as calcite, and there is also a small amount of water present.

[The Times of India | IAS Parliament]

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