

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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#### **National Fisheries Development Board**

- **Statutory body** - established in 2006
- Under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

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- **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 ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) 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.

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