Marine Spatial Plan (MSP)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Governance*

Why in News?

Odisha has become the first state in India to implement a Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) in the second phase of India's sustainable ocean planning initiative.

- **Definition** – It is a governance tool for ***sustainable and integrated ocean management.***
- **Aim** – Boost the *blue economy*, strengthen climate resilience, and balance ecological, economic, and social objectives.
- **Scope** – Allocates marine areas for activities like fisheries, aquaculture, ports, ocean energy, tourism, and biodiversity protection.
- **Nodal ministry –** Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- Memorandum of Understanding signed between the *National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.*
- It is a part of the Indo-Norway Integrated Ocean Initiative.

*The **Blue Economy** is the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth and jobs while preserving marine health.*

Institutional Roles
1. **NCCR** – Technical studies, benthic mapping, marine parameters.
2. **Odisha Science & Technology Department** – State implementation.
3. **Norway** – Technical support under Indo-Norway Ocean Initiative.

Context of Odisha

- Odisha is the first state and Second Phase of MSP.
- **Coastline** – 480–550 km, featuring lagoons, mangroves, estuaries.
- NCCR will map the vegetation below the water, which is called benthic mapping.

- The NCCR will study the kind of water, its salinity, temperature, and other aspects, and prepare parameters.
- **Economic Linkages** – Supports livelihoods, hydropower, ports, and pilgrimage routes.
- **Other Initiative** – Odisha Marine Biotechnology Research and Innovation Corridor (OMBRIC, 2025) to promote marine biotech startups and ecological protection.
- It will also strengthen the MSP initiative.

Supports India's Vision 2047 and Odisha's Vision 2036 for sustainable coastal development.

References

1. Indian Express | MSP
2. MSN | MSP

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