Matsya Seva Kendras (MSKs)

Why in News?

The need for strengthening last-mile fisheries and aquaculture extension services is highlighted recently by the Government of India.

- It is a *fisheries extension and support services*.
- **Launched in** – ***2020.***
- **Aim** – To provide a *one-stop solution for fishers and fish farmers* through a range of extension services provided by trained aquaculture professionals.
- **Umbrella Scheme** – Pradhan Mantri Matsya Samapada Yojana (PMMSY).
- **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
- **Government assistance** – Upto 60% covers women and weaker sections.
- **Fund dispersal** - Funds have been provided *to State governments and Union Territories* for operationalising ***102 such Kendras***.
- Functions – It establishes lab for *water, soil, and microbial analysis* to conduct request-based disease tests.
- It focuses on *capacity building* for fishers/fish farmers on varied seed/feed inputs backed with the required technology infusion.
- **Future proposals** – Government advises MSKs to mobilise start-ups, cooperatives, fish farmers' producer organisations, joint liability groups, and self-help groups to share best practices.

Other initiatives of Fisheries Extension Services

- **Sagar Mitras** – They are deployed in coastal States and U.T.s as a vital *interface between the government and sea-borne fishers*.

Compile Information on	Disemminate Information on
• Daily marine catch • Price fluctuations • Marketing needs at fish landing centres/harbours	• Local regulations • Weather forecasts • Natural calamities • Hygienic fish handling • Potential fishing zones in the seas.

- **National Fisheries Digital Paltform** – It is a platform *to formalize the fisheries sector*.
- **AquaBazaar** – It is a *nationwide virtual learning platform*, initiated by National Fisheries Development Board.

- It enables experts to clarify basic concepts and provide practical demonstrations to fishers on breeding/seed production of commercially important fish.

India's Fisheries Sector
• **National Fish Production** – It has witnessed an 83% since 2013-14, that stands at a record 175 lakh tons in 2022-23. • With 75% of this coming from inland fisheries. • India is the ***2nd largest fish and aquaculture producer*** globally.

Reference

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