

## India's Blue Revolution Transforms Fisheries Sector



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India's fisheries sector has witnessed a remarkable transformation under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), launched in 2020. As the scheme completes five years, it has strengthened the sector's ecological sustainability, economic viability, and social inclusiveness. Production has surged, infrastructure has improved, and thousands of livelihoods have been empowered. The government's decision to extend the scheme through 2025–26 signals continued commitment to this vital sector.

### **Fish Production**

Since 2013–14, fish production in India has more than doubled, reaching 195 lakh tonnes in 2024–25. Inland fisheries have grown even faster, by 142%. This growth positions India as the world's second-largest fish producer. The surge reflects improved farming methods, better infrastructure, and effective policy support.

### **Infrastructure and Financial Investment**

The scheme has approved projects worth over ₹21,274 crore. Central government funding accounts for ₹9,189 crore, with ₹5,587 crore already released for implementation. Infrastructure development includes harbours, cold storage, and markets, with ₹17,210 crore allocated. These investments reduce post-harvest losses and improve supply chain efficiency.

### **Empowerment and Digital Integration**

PMMSY has registered over 26 lakh fishers and organisations on the National Fisheries Digital Platform. This digital backbone enhances transparency and access to resources. Nearly 4.76 lakh Kisan Credit Cards have been issued, with ₹3,214 crore disbursed for fisheries activities. These measures improve financial inclusion and support small-scale fishers.

### **Local Success Stories and Social Impact**

At the grassroots, the scheme has empowered communities. For example, Kapil Talwar in Uttarakhand established a large biofloc fish farm with a 40% subsidy and technical aid. This venture created jobs for rural women and revived livelihoods. In Mandya district, 306 lakes were developed, benefiting over 45,000 fishers with more than ₹5 crore in financial aid. Mysuru saw the release of 4 million fingerlings and subsidies to 742 beneficiaries.

### **New Initiatives and Sector Formalisation**

In 2024, the PM Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY) was launched with a ₹6,000 crore budget. It focuses on formalising the sector, expanding insurance coverage, and strengthening value chains. Training, cooperative formation, and modern market systems are key to sustaining long-term growth.

### **Challenges**

Despite progress, challenges remain in technology adoption, climate resilience, and market access. Continued investment in research and innovation is essential. Strengthening community participation and environmental safeguards will ensure sustainable development of fisheries.