

PRESS RELEASE

National Workshop on Seafood Exports held on 5-6 June in Vishakhapatnam

The Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries, and Ministry of Food Processing & Industries (MoFPI), organized the National Workshop on Seafood Exports on **5th and 6th June 2026** in **Vishakhapatnam**. The workshop witnessed the presence of several distinguished dignitaries, including **Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh; **Shri Piyush Goyal**, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, **Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh**, Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Panchayati Raj; **Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu**, Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation, and **Shri Chirag Paswan**, Hon'ble Minister of Food Processing Industries, Government of India.



The workshop brought together senior officials from the Central Government, States and Union Territories, representatives of key institutions including Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Export Inspection Council (EIC), National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), NABARD, NCDC, NCEL, SFAC as well as seafood exporters, industry associations, processors, startups, researchers, aquaculture farmers and other stakeholders from across the seafood value chain. The wide-ranging participation facilitated discussions on measures to enhance seafood exports, strengthen market access, promote value addition and sustainability, and improve India's competitiveness in global seafood markets.

Addressing the inaugural session, **Shri Piyush Goyal**, the Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister, Government of India, emphasized the Government's "Whole-of-Government" approach towards promoting seafood exports and highlighted that India's marine products exports have increased by nearly **70 per cent in value terms (USD billion)** over the last decade. The Minister noted that India currently accounts for about **4 per cent** of global seafood trade and called upon stakeholders to work collectively towards achieving seafood exports of **USD 30 billion within the**

next five years through value addition, branding, quality enhancement, sustainability, and diversification of export markets.

The Minister emphasised the need to move up the value chain by increasing the share of value-added seafood products, including ready-to-eat and ready-to-cook offerings. He highlighted the opportunities arising from India's recently concluded Free Trade Agreements covering 38 countries and encouraged exporters to leverage these expanded market access avenues. The Minister also underscored the Government's vision of establishing India as a globally trusted brand for high-quality, sustainable seafood products.

Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh highlighted the State's leadership in fisheries and aquaculture, noting that Andhra Pradesh contributes significantly to India's fish production and seafood exports. He also requested GoI for setting up regional offices in Vizag (NFDB, MPEDA). He reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to making Andhra Pradesh a global hub for sustainable aquaculture and seafood exports through innovation, infrastructure development, branding, and enhanced stakeholder collaboration.

Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Panchayati Raj, GoI, highlighted India's remarkable progress in fisheries and aquaculture, with fish production increasing from **95.8 lakh tonnes in 2012-13 to about 198 lakh tonnes in 2024-25**. Despite global challenges, India's seafood exports reached approximately **₹73,890 crore (USD 8.46 billion)**, with frozen shrimp continuing to remain the major export item. The Department underscored ongoing initiatives under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojan (PMMSY) and Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-yojana (PMKSSY 2.0), including a provision of ₹21,000 crore aimed at promoting export-oriented fisheries infrastructure, traceability, value addition, and sustainable aquaculture. He also underscored the Government's focus on sustainability through initiatives such as TEDs, marine mammal compliance measures, and EEZ and High Seas regulations, while emphasising the export potential of island regions and offshore fisheries resources.

Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Hon'ble Minister for Civil Aviation, GoI emphasized the critical role of efficient logistics and air cargo infrastructure in supporting high-value seafood exports. The Minister highlighted measures to strengthen air cargo infrastructure, improve multimodal logistics and streamline cargo movement processes. He noted that initiatives such as dedicated cargo hubs and the "One Airport, One Product" programme would help reduce logistics costs, improve market access and enhance India's export competitiveness.

Shri Chirag Paswan, Hon'ble Minister of Food Processing Industries, GoI highlighted the immense potential for value addition in the seafood sector and underscored the importance of processing, branding and technology in enhancing India's export competitiveness. Emphasising the need to move from "volume to value" and "produce to product", he called for greater focus on value-added seafood products, market diversification and improved shelf life through technological interventions. The Minister also reaffirmed the Government's commitment to supporting investments in seafood processing and strengthening India's position as a trusted global food supplier.

Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, Secretary, Department of Fisheries, set the context of the workshop and highlighted the importance of a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to strengthening India's seafood export ecosystem. He noted that sustained policy support and stakeholder engagement have enabled India to achieve record seafood exports despite global challenges. Emphasising the need to further enhance competitiveness, he stressed the importance of

infrastructure development, certification, market access, value addition and innovation, while highlighting opportunities under PMMSY 2.0 to drive export growth.

The event also witnessed the distribution of benefits to eligible beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PMMKSSY), Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) and other government schemes

During the interactive session, stakeholders highlighted key challenges across the fisheries value chain, including disease management, rising input costs, fishmeal availability and prices, limited access to quality seed and broodstock, and inadequate quarantine facilities. Discussions also focused on strengthening logistics and export infrastructure through improved transportation, cold chain networks and air cargo support. Concerns relating to certification requirements, antibiotic compliance, traceability, sustainability standards and market access were also raised. Participants emphasised the need to promote value addition, diversify export markets, support startups and MSMEs, and encourage sustainable fisheries practices to enhance India's global competitiveness.

The **second day** of the national workshop comprised of technical sessions on advancing seafood exports- Leveraging value addition, certification and traceability and fishing and aquaculture startups, MSMEs in advancing seafood exports. Panel of Speakers included representatives from the whole seafood ecosystem including Hatchery/farmer/Exporter/Fishers Association, Dept. of Fisheries, CAA, MPEDA, ICAR-CMFRI, State Fisheries Departments, Exporters, Start-ups founders, etc.

The technical Session on **Traceability system to support catch certification for EU and other markets** focused on strengthening traceability systems to support catch certification requirements for the European Union and other major international markets like USA. Discussions covered digital traceability mechanisms, vessel-to-market documentation, compliance with importing country regulations, data integration, and institutional coordination to enhance transparency, market access, and the credibility of seafood exports.

The Session on **Sustainable Certification in Aquaculture and Capture Fisheries** focused on promoting responsible production practices, strengthening sustainability standards and enhancing market access for Indian seafood exports. Discussions covered certification requirements, current practices, traceability, environmental stewardship, regulatory compliance and industry-led initiatives to improve the credibility, competitiveness and long-term sustainability of India's fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

The Session on **Exploring a PLI Framework for the Seafood Sector** emphasized promoting value-added seafood exports, enhancing processing capacity and improving global competitiveness. Discussions examined the potential role of Production Linked Incentives in attracting investments, supporting MSMEs and startups, encouraging innovation, strengthening supply chains, and facilitating the transition from volume-based to value-driven exports.

The Session on **Value Addition and Export Promotion** focused on enhancing value realization and export competitiveness through processing, branding and diversification of seafood products. Discussions covered measures to increase the share of value-added products in India's export basket, strengthen processing infrastructure, reduce post-harvest losses, and promote cooperative and cluster-based models, and support start-ups and MSMEs. The session also highlighted opportunities in fishmeal certification, utilisation of fishery by-products, premium aquaculture products and innovative processing technologies to improve market access and export earnings.

The Session on **Harnessing of High-Value Deep-Sea Resources** focused on the significant untapped potential within India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), particularly in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. Discussions covered sustainable development of tuna fisheries, enhancement of vessel capacity, cold chain and processing infrastructure, post-harvest handling, value addition, skill development and market linkages. The session also examined policy and regulatory measures, institutional support mechanisms and infrastructure requirements to promote deep-sea fishing, improve product quality and enhance exports of high-value marine products.

The final Session focused on **Diversification of Export Opportunities**, with deliberations on seaweed, ornamental fisheries, cold-water fisheries, trout farming and other emerging sectors. Stakeholders highlighted the need for dedicated policy support, branding initiatives, research and development, improved broodstock availability, and cluster-based approaches to scale up production and exports. Particular emphasis was placed on promoting high-value and niche products, strengthening healthcare and biosecurity systems in aquaculture, and encouraging innovative alternatives to fishmeal and other inputs.

The deliberations reflected a collective commitment among all stakeholders to strengthen sustainability, traceability, value addition, export infrastructure, and market access, while fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and diversification of India's seafood export basket. The recommendations emerging from the workshop are expected to contribute to the development of a comprehensive roadmap for enhancing India's global competitiveness in seafood exports and supporting the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.