

**Karnataka News Articles**  
*from January 2020 to September 2022*



*From South Asia News Alerts*

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### **Karnataka: Insurance firm asked to compensate for damage to fishing boat**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/insurance-firm-asked-to-compensate-for-damage-to-fishing-boat/article65822167.ece>

"The local district consumer disputes redressal commission has directed National Insurance Company Limited to pay ₹4.96 lakh to Anantha Padmanabha Rao of Derebail for damage to the latter's mechanised fishing boat. The Dakshina Kannada District Consumer Commission on August 23 asked the insurance firm to pay the amount along with interest of 9% per annum. It also directed the firm to pay ₹25,000 as compensation and ₹10,000 towards cost of the litigation.

Mr. Rao's boat "Sea Master" met with an accident near the estuary in Bengre in Mangaluru on August 29, 2017. Following a report by insurance firm's surveyor, the Divisional Office of National Insurance Company based in Udupi agreed to settle the claim for sum of ₹40 lakh plus ₹1.96 lakh towards salvage expenses. Instead of paying ₹41.96 lakh, the divisional office paid ₹37 lakh by deducting ₹4.96 lakh.

Mr. Rao said he received the amount under compelling circumstances on December 20, 2018 and immediately sent a letter to the insurance firm asking basis for arriving at ₹37 lakh. Mr. Rao issued a legal notice to the firm and filed complaint with the commission demanding ₹4.96 lakh.

The National Insurance Company contended before the Commission that ₹3 lakh towards salvage cost was deducted as Mr. Rao wanted to retain the salvage. Mr. Rao has not salvaged the vessel and abandoned it and hence the firm further deducted the sue and labour charges of ₹1.96 lakh. Upholding the claim for ₹4.96 lakh, the three-member commission headed by president K. Prakasha in its judgement referred to observations in Sea Master's Marine Hull preliminary report and in the inspection report by Delta Marine Services.

The two reports said no salvage contractors came forward to salvage the vessel. Though three scrap dealers came forward to purchase the vessel, it has not gone through as insurer did not approve it and there may be nothing available for salvage, the Delta Marine Service's report said. Therefore, the commission noted, insurer's defence that they deducted ₹3 lakh of salvage value as Mr. Rao wanted to retain salvage does not hold water. Denial of ₹3 lakh and further deduction of ₹1.96 lakh amounted to deficiency of service, the commission said."

### **Karnataka: Stonewall to arrest sea erosion hits a wall**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2022/sep/23/stonewall-to-arrest-sea-erosion-hits-a-wall-in-karnataka-2501017.html>

"The construction of stonewalls by the Karnataka government along the state's coastline

in an attempt to stop sea erosion seems to have hit a roadblock. Experts from Kerala and Karnataka have raised objections to the project. Officials from Kerala Fisheries Department have written to their counterparts in Karnataka and to the Port Authority of India (PAI), stating that the stonewall coming up along Someshwara beaches and other areas is leading to heavy sea erosion and high tides on the neighbouring state's coast. They said the construction is also adversely affecting fishermen.

Experts and officials from the Fisheries Department of Karnataka have also raised similar concerns. They say the sea walls are being built in patches. The walls are being built in the sea, instead of land, which according to them is a futile exercise. They, however, say that the stonewall built in Marwanthe between Kundapur and Bhatkal is good and should be replicated in other places too. The PAI and Karnataka Public Works Department (PWD) have jointly spent Rs 5 crore this financial year for the construction of 400 metres of stonewall. A metre of the wall costs Rs 1.25 lakh.

This year, walls have been built in Karwar, Udupi and Mangaluru. Between 2011 and 2022, the PAI has spent Rs271.78 crore on the project. A senior official from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change in Kerala said: "Construction of stonewalls is not the solution. It is a 'stupid' idea. The hydro-static pressure of waves is shifting to other sides aggressively, leading to an increase in sea erosion. Salinity and heat on the sea shores is changing and aqua life is endangered due to human interference. Fishermen have also started raising objections," he said.

M D Subhash Chandran, a noted fisheries and coast expert, said that instead of ensuring coastal regulation zones and buffer zones are maintained, the government is succumbing to pressure from public and tourism industry, and allowing constructions in no-development zones. "There has been no loss of life, but properties damaged. Instead of ensuring flow of sediments from rivers into sea, the government is opting for stonewall construction," MoEF official said. VN Nayak, a coast and marine expert, said maintaining estuaries, mangro-ves and aqua plants like Pandana, are a cheap and viable solution."

### **Karnataka: Violent weather in Arabian Sea – Fishing boats return to anchorage**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=999009>

"The Arabian Sea has turned violent due to the wind aided rain that is lashing since few days. The fishing boats that had been in deep sea, returned back to fishing port of Malpe and are at anchorage as they cannot go till the weather returns to normalcy. Fishermen were upbeat just a month ago as the new fishing season began on August 1. They were getting huge amount of fish also. However, their joy was short lived as the inclement weather has put brakes on their

livelihood. Industry worth crore of daily turnover is hit badly.

Water pressure in the sea also increased due to the heavy winds that are blowing on the sea. More than 70% of boats are docking at Malpe port. Many other boats who were at sea have taken shelter at Karwar and other nearby ports. Due to the high pressure in water it is not possible to immerse net in water.

Nitin of purse seine and trawl boat association said, "Fishing is affected from September 3 under the limits of Mangaluru fishing port. Purse seine boats that leave the port on the early morning are coming back by afternoon due to storm. We are facing losses due to inclement weather." Ganesh K, joint director of fisheries department said, "The sea has turned violent due to the heavy breeze and rain for the past three days. According to the meteorological department heavy wind assisted rain will lash Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat till September 14."

### **Karnataka: Union govt approves new coastal zone management plan**

<https://indiashippingnews.com/union-govt-approves-new-coastal-zone-management-plan-in-karnataka/>

"Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation for various works worth Rs 3,800 crore at Goldfinch city and approved the New Coastal Zone Management Plan for Karnataka. "I thank the PM as the new Coastal Zone Management Plan as per the 2019 CRZ notification has been approved by Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change. Karnataka is the first State in southern India and only the second state in the country to get the Plan prepared and approved as per the new CRZ notification.

This Plan would give boost to the economy and tourism in the coastal region of the State," said CM Basavraj Bommai. He further said, "The double engine governments are in Karnataka and in the Centre. Under Sagarmala Project, 18 projects have been completed and 14 schemes worth Rs 950 crore are approved by Union Ministry of Inland Transport and Ports. By doing this, the Modi government is playing an important role in the development of the coastal region. It is happening mainly due to the blessings of PM Modi."

Thanking the PM, Bommai said, "I thank Modi for giving approval for projects which are helpful in the development of Karnataka. The Modi Government has given approval for the development of Maajali Port in Karwar at a cost of Rs 350 crore. This is the achievement of the double engine governments. Under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada scheme the Central Government has given approval to supply 100 high Sampada scheme, the Central Government has given approval to supply 100 high speed boats to help deep sea fishing.

The coastal areas will witness overall development from all these schemes. ” He said, “The government along with the development of two ports has also taken up the expansion of Mangaluru and Karwar ports. These two ports will help realise the prime minister’s dream of Atmanirbhar to infuse strength into India. The government has implemented Vidyanidhi scheme for the children of fishermen and it will benefit 2 lakh children. Five thousand houses are constructed at a cost of Rs 65 crore.

The Inland and Fishery Institute will be established in Karwar. The double engine governments are not only leading Karnataka but also India. It would help in development of ‘Navabharath’ from ‘Navakarnataka.’ He further said, “Today is a golden day in the development of the coastal areas and it happened due to vision of PM Modi. The handling capacity of the ports have to improve to increase export and import which will help in fetching more foreign exchange.

The project which was pending for many years is now yielding fruit. In the wake of this, a big facility is provided in New Mangalore Port at a cost of Rs 3,800 crore and the eight year old dream became reality today. The New Mangalore Trust is developing fast and its cargo handling has increased by four times. An LPG terminal is coming up so is the oil processing unit. In the coming days, the entire Karnataka will witness an overall development through the progress of coastal areas.”

### **Karnataka: Kisan credit cards to fishermen soon**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/top-karnataka-stories/kisan-credit-cards-to-fishermen-soon-karnataka-cm-bomma-1139037.html>

"The state government has asked banks to distribute Kisan credit cards to fishermen on a priority basis. The scheme was announced by the Centre by identifying pisciculture and animal husbandry as sectors allied to agriculture. Chairing a meeting of the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) on Wednesday, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai asked bank representatives and government officials to distribute the cards to fishermen in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada in the first phase.

The Fisheries department should share the details of fishermen to bankers and the cards should be issued in campaign mode, he directed. Fishermen cooperative banks were also asked to issue these cards. These cards will help in the implementation of various schemes such as Matsya Sampada and others, which are aimed at increasing the income of those involved in fishing. The government will also take up measures to aid self-help groups of fisherwomen to take up revenue generating activities, Bommai said.

On subsidies offered to deep sea fishing boats, Bommai said that the scheme has attracted a

good response. The government has received 185 applications till date, according to officials. Since the scheme is being implemented with assistance from Centre, the CM asked officials to seek approval from the Centre at the earliest."

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### **Karnataka: State's Matsya Siri scheme for fisheries hangs in limbo**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=992615>

"The state government's budget announcement to link Matsya Siri scheme with the Centre's Matsya Sampada scheme to help fishermen in deep sea fishing has been uncertain and caught in confusion. As per the scheme, the state government had announced a financial assistance of Rs 15 lac per boat along with the Centre's contribution under the Matsya Sampada

scheme to build 100 boats. But, the proposal to link both the schemes is awaiting approval from the state finance department.

Under the Centre's Matsya Sampada scheme for deep sea fishing, a budget of Rs 1.2 crore has been allocated for construction of boats while a financial assistance of Rs 72 lac was announced for women and SC/STs and another Rs 48 lac in the general category. This scheme was upgraded by the state government to Rs 1.5 crore with the announcement of the Matsya Siri scheme and Rs 15 lac added to the scheme.

Mangaluru Trawl Boat fishermen leader Nithin Kumar said the schemes announced by the government should reach all the fishermen and be implemented at the earliest. He said apart from the announcement of the Matsya Siri scheme no other details are available. Mohan Bengre, a fisherman leader said all fishermen should get the benefit when the scheme gets implemented."

### **Karnataka: Order issued to shut down 16 polluting fish meal factories**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=990523>

"The state pollution control board has ordered the closure of 16 fish meal factories that are functioning at Ullal and Mukka for violating the water and air conservation and control act.

The president of state pollution control board had ordered the deputy commissioner of Dakshina Kannada to ensure the closure of the 16 fish meal factories. Mescom was also notified to remove their electricity connection.

The local revenue inspector visited all the 16 facilities and got them closed. This order was taken out by the board as the fish meal factories did not filter the waste water before releasing it into the sea through bio filter machine. In some factories, though the bio filter machine is installed, it does not work properly.

On the other hand, owners of fish meal factories have approached the court and are arguing that the pollution control board did not follow the rules and has taken out order all of a sudden. Officials said that the court has stayed the order of the pollution control board."

### **Karnataka: Renovation of Jetty, no space to anchor boats at Gangolli**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=989227>

"The reconstruction work of Jetty at Gangolli fishing port is going on at brisk pace at a cost of Rs 12 crore. As the work is not completed even during this off fishing season, fishing boats are facing inconvenience to anchor their boats.

Around 200 meter workout of the 405 meter long jetty is complete. Work is going at a brisk pace. The quality of work is good. But the fishermen opine that it would have been convenient to carry out fishing this season if the work was completed in the off fishing season.

The jetty which collapsed in August 2018 has been out of use since then. Byndoor MLA Sukumar Shetty had flagged off the reconstruction work in February 2021. But the work is not yet over.

There are more than 300 purse seine boats, 600 trawlers and 500 country boats at Gangolli port. Thousands of fishermen depend on this port for their livelihood. However, now only 200 meter is available to anchor the boats which is creating huge inconvenience. The fishermen have urged to complete the work at least by the end of this fishing season.

Concrete flooring work near the jetty is yet to begin. It is not possible to complete the other works before the fishing season of this year begins. It will be very difficult to anchor the boats. It will also cause difficulty for fisherwomen to carry the fish from the port."

### **Karnataka: Government covers more fishing boats with subsidised kerosene in three coastal districts**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/karnataka-government-covers-more-fishing-boats-with-subsidised-kerosene-in-three-coastal-districts/article65753118.ece>

"In a major relief to fishermen using motorised traditional boats, the Karnataka Government has agreed to enhance the number of boats eligible for subsidised kerosene from the existing 4,514 in three coastal districts to 8,030 from this financial year.

Consequently, all the 8.030 boats would get 300 litres of kerosene a month from August to May at a subsidised price of ₹16.5 a litre as per an August 6, 2022, order of the Food and Civil Supplies Department.

Thousands of fishers are engaged in traditional fishing using outboard motors on traditional boats. Unlike large mechanised boats, including trawlers and purse-sein boats that stay at sea for up to a week, traditional fishermen leave early in the morning and return by evening with the the catch of the day.

In October 2013, the government had enhanced the monthly kerosene quota for 4,514 traditional boats (Uttara Kannada - 990, Udupi - 914 and Dakshina Kannada - 2,610) from 200 litres a month to 300 litres for nine fishing months — September to May. This was in line with the

budget promise of enhancing the quota from 200 litres to 400 litres.

Over the years, with a growth in population, the number of fisherpersons depending on traditional fishing rose exponentially and so did the number of fishing boats. Fisheries Department recently proposed to the government to extend the subsidised kerosene scheme to nearly 8,030 boats for which the department has given licences to operate.

Of these, Dakshina Kannada has 1,345 boats, Udupi has 4,894 and Uttara Kannada has 1,789 boats engaged in traditional fishing. The department said, despite an increase in the number of licenced traditional boats, the monthly quota for the department through Food and Civil Supplies Department had remained 1,355 kilo litres.

The department requires at least 24,090 KL of kerosene per year for 8,030 boats, and urged the government to enhance the quota. The state government buys the required kerosene from central government at market rates and then distributes the same to traditional fishermen at the subsidised rate of Rs. 16.5 a litre."

### **Karnataka: Deep sea fishing faces hurdle in beginning of season**

<https://daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=987411>

"Fishermen, who were eagerly waiting to get down into the sea on August 1, after 61 days of off days, have faced a setback in the beginning of the season itself.

Violent sea due to rain and high winds prevented the fishermen of mechanised boats to venture into sea. As the boats are not getting down to sea, the other related industries like ice plants and transporters are also facing inconvenience. In the last season fishermen encountered issues of fish famine and repeated stoppage of fishing because of violent sea. This year to the delay in getting down to deep sea has put them in concern.

In total, 2,166 boats including trawlers and purse seine, undertake fishing from the ports of Mangaluru, Malpe and Gangolli. As all boats cannot get down to the sea at the same time, the deep sea fishing boats are ready with ice and diesel. Though some boats in which outstation state labourers work, had gone to fishing, they had to return without catching fish due to violent sea.

Ganesh K, joint director of fisheries department said, "The meteorological department has warned of high winds and high pressure of water in sea on the coast of Kerala, Karnataka and Lakshadweep till August 9 and it is not suitable for fishing."

Dayananda K Suvarna, president of Malpe Fishermen association said, "Boats of any kind have

not gone for fishing from Malpe port due to more pressure of water in the sea due to rain and wind. As soon as the sea returns to normal or after Samudra Pooja, the boats will possibly start fishing.””

### **Karnataka: Fishermen body demands release of kerosene to 8,030 licensed boats by Aug end**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=987637>

"The department of food and civil supplies and consumer affairs of the Karnataka government has ordered release of 300 litres of kerosene per boat per month for ten months to 8,030 mechanised traditional boats excepting for the two months of prohibition period. This order should be implemented by the end of August demanded Anand Kharvi, president, Karnataka traditional Nadadoni fishermen federation on Monday, August 8.

Speaking at a press meet held here, he said, “the state distributes 300 litres of kerosene (at a subsidized rate of Rs 16.50 a litre) to all the 4514 motorised fishing boats every month. There are 990 boats in Uttara Kannada, 2610 in Dakshina Kannada, 914 in Udupi. At present, a total of 8030 licensed boats are operating in three districts, out of which 1345 of them are in Dakshina Kannada, 4896 in Udupi and 1789 in Uttara Kannada. But they have not raised the quantity of kerosene supply.”

A total of 24,090 kilo litres of kerosene is required to run traditional boats every year. The federation has urged the state government to increase the quantity of kerosene and the state government has issued a revised order responding to the demand. “This order should not remain only on paper but it should be implemented by the end of this month,” Kharvi said, adding that the quantity will be of great benefit to the fishermen especially during this season.

He said about 64 traditional boats were damaged out of which 10 boats were damaged completely in the district due to heavy rains causing a loss of Rs 3 crore this year, he added. Government of India had allocated 7080 kilo litres of superior kerosene oil (SKO) for fishing boats of Karnataka at non-subsidised rates for 2021-22. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, has allotted additional 3540 kilo litres of kerosene totally amounting to 10,620 kilo litres for 2021-22.

Karnataka State Traditional Nadadoni Fishermen Federation has requested release of an additional quantity of 1575 kilo litres of kerosene as the actual requirement of kerosene for the fishing boats of the state is 12,195 KL. Kharvi said the federation has urged the government to get an another 1575 kilo litres of kerosene released from Union government. “The poor fishermen are dependent on kerosene to carry out fishing activities and are repeatedly requesting

the department to release kerosene for their daily fishing activities,” he said. Gopal R K, general secretary, Karnataka traditional Nadadoni fishermen federation was present at the press meet.”

### **Karnataka: Curbs on coastal zone norms will boost our economy**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/bengaluru-news/curbs-on-coastal-zone-norms-will-boost-our-economy-karnataka-cmbommai-101658774174648.html>

“Approvals by CRZ in Goa and Kerala have made it easy for the growth of hotels and tourism development. In the same way, we also made serious attempts to expand CRZ in the state. We have received approvals from the zonal office in Chennai. By this, the entire 330 km coastline will help in the development of the Karavali region (coastal region), economic growth, tourism, fisheries among others,” Bommai said in Delhi on Monday.

Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday said that the zonal office of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) has given approvals for development along the state’s 330 kms of coastlines, which would make the region conducive to economic growth and tap tourism potential.

“Approvals by CRZ in Goa and Kerala have made it easy for the growth of hotels and tourism development. In the same way, we also made serious attempts to expand CRZ in the state. We have received approvals from the zonal office in Chennai. By this, the entire 330 km coastline will help in the development of the Karavali region (coastal region), economic growth, tourism, fisheries among others,” Bommai said in Delhi on Monday. The statements come at a time when Bommai has been making multiple trips to New Delhi to meet with Union ministers to seek approval for various projects ahead of the 2023 assembly elections.

Karnataka has long tried to get necessary approvals to expand businesses in the coastal areas, which are largely untapped except for a few beaches in three districts. Bommai said that he would meet with Union ministers again to get all necessary approvals to boost development in the coastal districts. Karnataka has made several attempts in the past to get CRZ norms relaxed along the coastline, which restricts commercial activities within 500 metres of the high-tide line.

The region, which gets heavy rainfall, is also a haven for tourists and pilgrims in peak season, accounting for a significant portion of the economy in the coastal belt. There are 319 major tourist destinations in Karnataka, the highest in India, and the fourth most visited destination in the country, according to the government. But like other states with long coastlines, Karnataka has seen unregulated commercial activities in ecologically sensitive zones, adding to the threat of depleting natural resources and pollution.

“It is to be understood that though CRZ regulations were there before the 1990s, it couldn’t control the unauthorized developments along the shoreline, because the High Tidal Lines were not fixed. The districts in the eco-sensitive zones are losing their flora and fauna,” according to the 2021-22 Karnataka economic survey. The state government has also opposed the Union government’s draft rules around the Western Ghats, stating that it would adversely impact the economy of the state.

The Karnataka government last Friday reiterated its stand to oppose the draft rules notified by the Centre on the Western Ghats, stating that implementation of the ecological sensitive zones (ESZ) rules would impact the state’s economic interests. The Western Ghats is one of the 36 biggest biodiversity hotspots on the planet and traverses through six states, from Gujarat to Kerala, covering an area of 160,000 square kms and constituting 5% of India’s geographical extent.

Bomma on Monday submitted a letter to Bhupender Yadav, Union minister for environment, forest & climate change, opposing the draft rules. “The Government of India has now issued the 5th Draft Notification vide S.O.3072(E), dated 6th July 2022. The contents of the Notification are identical to the ones issued earlier. It fails to take into account the ground realities and address the livelihood concerns of the local population. The Notification is also silent on the financial package recommended by Dr Kasturirangan Committee to pay for the ecological services rendered by the Western Ghats,” Bommai said in his letter.

“It may be appreciated that for the State, out of the total area of about 20,668 sq. kms recommended by the Committee, already 16,632 sq. kms is under some form of protection either as Protected Areas, Notified Forests or ESZ. Therefore, imposing more restrictions on these areas would negate the objectives of conservation and could be counter-productive,” he added.

### **Karnataka: Fishermen make a living weaving colourful fishing nets during monsoon**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=981207>

"Fishermen have to often fight high tides to catch fish. During the monsoon, they weave colourful fishing nets which attract the onlookers while this activity gives them independence, a pride of place and a living.

Coastal districts receive copious rainfall during monsoon. Deep sea fishing is prohibited during

the monsoon. Now, fishermen are stationed at the ports and are not engaged in any day-to-day brisk activity. The sight of Mangaluru port is something to behold. There are rows of boats anchored and are resting during the monsoon. But, the fishermen continue to be busy as they are engaged in weaving something colourful. Yes, they are engaged in weaving big colourful fishing nets in Malpe port to catch large fish during the next fishing season. The fishermen community is readying itself with colourful fishing nets being weaved for the ensuing season.

In Malpe port alone there are more than 2,000 boats and each one requires nets measuring lakhs of metres. During the monsoon, fishermen are burning the midnight oil in weaving colourful fishing nets.

Fishermen are engaged in weaving and stitching fishing nets even at their old age and are leading independent lives by getting paid commensurate for their work. They not only weave new nets they also stitch up the old nets and ready them for fishing. The key raw material used for fishing is the net itself which has gained the status of industry as the business of weaving clocks a turnover of crores of rupees."

#### **Karnataka: CDA to study status of fish markets along coast**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/cda-to-study-status-of-fish-markets-along-coast/articleshow/93017308.cms>

"Karnataka Coastal Development Authority (CDA) chairman Mattar Rathnakar Hegde said that the CDA will conduct a study of the status of fish markets in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada.

He told reporters on Wednesday, that the CDA had already constructed several fish markets in the past. The CDA will study the condition of markets, in order to construct additional markets, as many are in a poor condition. Further, the authority will also conduct a study on the damaged footbridges in interior villages in these three coastal districts, so that work can be taken up on a priority, for the benefit of schoolchildren, who cross these small rivulets and streams, he said.

Hegde said that during 2019-20, 229 works were taken up, 151 works have been completed and 78 are in progress. The government had earmarked Rs 35 crore in its budget to the authority, during the year. "The CDA will seek an additional Rs 10 crore from the government for various works. During the year, 207 works worth Rs 2,433.5 lakh will be taken up. This includes 104 roads and 12 footbridges. As many as four hanging bridges will be constructed at Mulki taluk, across the Shambhavi River, at Tenginagundi in Shirali in Bhatkal, at Bettampady in Puttur and at Palthadi, across the Gauri Rivulet," he added.

The Centre has appointed CDA as the nodal agency, for implementing the Pradhan Mantri Mastya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) at Sasihithlu, at an estimated cost of Rs 7.5 crore. The CDA is mulling over setting up a mastya grama in the area, for promoting fishing, sale, storing and other activities associated with the fishing industry. However, the deputy commissioner has earmarked the said land for Jungle Lodges Resorts, and talks are being held with the district administration, for earmarking the land to the CDA. “If we fail to get the land at Sasihithlu, then we will have to look for alternative land at Malpe or Honnavara,” Hegde said.

The CDA is also in talks with CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), for conducting tests on the quality of seawater in the three coastal districts of Karnataka. An action plan for Rs 80.2 lakh has been prepared and sent to the government for approval. Seawater will be collected from 32 locations in the three coastal districts, for testing its quality."

### **Karnataka: Port-development spree ignores coastal communities' concerns**

<https://india.mongabay.com/2022/07/karnatakas-port-development-sprees-ignores-concerns-by-local-coastal-communities/>

"Karnataka is on a port-development spree. The 320-kilometre coastline, spread across three districts – Uttar Kannada, Udupi, and Dakshin Kannada – is dotted with 12 minor ports, and one major port, in different stages of development. A common complaint across this port development activity is that it ignores concerns raised by the coastal communities that live in the vicinity of the action – concerns about the loss of coastal commons, the loss of biodiversity and a loss of livelihood.

While a major port comes under the aegis of the central government, the minor ports are controlled by state governments. A major port has deeper drafts allowing large, capesize vessels, higher investments and higher tariffs. A minor port, in comparison, has lower tariffs.

With the impetus of Sagarmala, a nationwide port-led development initiative of the central government, Karnataka is keen to go all-in to create coastal infrastructure in the form of ports, railways and highways that connect the coast to the hinterland. Kapil Mohan, additional chief secretary of Karnataka Infrastructure Development, Ports and Inland Waterways Department and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Karnataka Maritime Board estimates that “the planned infrastructure development is expected to bring in approximately Rs. 15,000 crore (Rs. 150 billion) of economic value addition.”

This growth is led by both Sagarmala, which is funded largely by the central government, and the state government which is also pumping in and encouraging private investments largely

through a public-private partnership model. In a speech at a business and maritime conclave organised by Karnataka Maritime Board, Federation of Karnataka's Chamber of Commerce, and State Bank of India on May 12, Karnataka's chief minister Basavaraj Bommai said that their government has proposed projects of over Rs 8,000 crore (Rs. 80 billion) to be developed under Sagarmala. Both the central and state government are led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In November this year, the state is organising a global investors' summit to attract international investments.

Waterways are one of the cheapest modes of freight transport. The rate of freight transport via road is almost double in comparison. At the moment, about 87 percent of Indian freight either uses rail or road for transportation of cargo, and waterborne transport accounts for less than six percent. Industry insiders say that better connectivity between ports through inland and coastal waterways is economically efficient. They also say that port development would connect the hinterland industries with the ports via a better road and railway network, leading to the idea of projected growth; infrastructure creating its own demand.

For example, Karnataka's new industrial policy of 2020-2025 focuses on the growth of the cement and steel sectors, and increasing the export of sugar, by building better infrastructure and logistics. The investor pitch document prepared by Karnataka Maritime Board says that the state has a "well-developed industrial hinterland including 40 MTPA (Million Tonnes Per Annum) of cement capacity, 25 MTPA of iron & steel capacity, 10 GW (gigawatts) of installed thermal power plant."

The investor document is seeking investments in captive ports as well. A captive port is constructed and developed by a private sector company for a specific purpose. For instance, the port at Manki, in Honnavar taluk of Uttar Kannada, is to be developed as a captive port by Renuka Sugars. The port at Pavinkurve, another village in Honnavar, is slated to be constructed by the JSW (Jindal South West) Group with an investment of Rs. 2,000 crore (Rs. 20 billion) to carry 15 MTPA cargo to their own steel plant in Vijayanagar which is also being expanded from 12 MT to 18 MT. The port at Kasarkod-Tonka, a third location within the Honnavar taluk of Uttar Kannada, will have a capacity of 5 MTPA once completed.

Port officials also say that amid port expansion efforts, the port at Karwar in Uttar Kannada is projected to have a capacity of 4.5 MTPA from the current 3 MTPA capacity. The port at Old Mangalore is slated to expand from 1 MTPA to 2 MTPA.

What do these ports import and export, and do we really have the need for so many ports? According to data obtained through the Right to Information Act, apart from the port at Karwar, which imports rock phosphate, bitumen, HSD (High Speed Diesel), palm oil, industrial salt and

caustic soda solution, and exports molasses and caustic soda, no other minor port has shown an increase in its exports and imports in the last five years.

In fact, the ports at Tadadi, Honnavar, Manki, Pavinkurve, Bhatkal and Padubidri show no history of cargo handling, indicating that they are not commercial ports, yet. The ports at Belekeri, Kundapura and Hangarkatta show no cargo handling data after 2018. And the ports at Malpe and Old Mangalore show a reduction in business in the last five years.

Karnataka's new industrial policy also aims to make land acquisition easier, removing restrictions on land conversion and exempting industries from the Karnataka Land Reforms Act, 1961 through a series of amendments. It is focused on export-oriented, production-driven growth banking on high investments from private vendors, both national and international. Ports and connecting infrastructure will allow it to export and import from within the state, and not depend on ports outside the state.

In August 2013, the government of Karnataka notified new port limits for all minor ports of Karnataka, indicating the extent of jurisdiction of the state ports department.

The Karnataka Minor Ports Development Policy 2014 aspires to develop commercial ports, increase their capacity for handling more cargo, decongest highway traffic by providing facilities for coastal shipping of passengers and cargo traffic, build more captive ports through a public-private partnership (PPP) model, and create facilities to handle at least 5-10 percent of the country's cargo. It also allows the state government to invest up to 11 percent in all PPP port projects and requires the state government to take up the mantle of acquiring land even for private port projects. In addition, it aims to convert all ports from fair-weather (seasonal) to all-weather ports.

In 2015, the state passed the Karnataka Maritime Board Act, which allowed the formation of the Karnataka Maritime Board. Once established in 2018, the Board became the nodal agency to coordinate and implement the port development policy, a job that initially belonged to the Ports and Inland Water Transport Department. The board, according to the policy, allowed bidding for private investments, a function that is not possible for the state department.

So far, out of the 12 minor ports and one major port, one is being developed under a public-private partnership between the state government and Honnavar Port Private Limited, two are slated to be developed as private captive ports by the JSW Group and Renuka Sugars, and two were coming up under the Sagarmala scheme, at Karwar and Tadadi. Owing to resistance by coastal communities, the port at Karwar has been stalled indefinitely and the port at Tadadi has been denotified. The rest are still in various stages of being finalised or seeking investments.

Coastal Karnataka has a fisher population of 157,989 spread across 162 fishing villages, from Majali in the north to Talapady in the south. It has nine fishing harbours and 115 fish landing centres. The region has a well-developed fisheries sector, and the ecology and livelihoods are tied deeply to the sea.

Does the port-led development model work in sync with the communities on the ground? An RTI response to a question regarding the biggest hurdle the ministry is facing in port expansion efforts was received thus: “environmental issue and rail road connectivity.”

A people’s tribunal on The Blue Economy organised on December 15, 2020, by the National Fishworkers Forum and SNEHA, a non-profit based in Tamil Nadu, struck down the port-led model calling it a violation of human rights. They stated that port constructions have led to a loss of coastal commons used by fishers for parking boats and drying fish. It has led to a loss of biodiversity on which fishers depend for their livelihood. According to them, port construction has led to a direct loss of livelihood. Independent fishers are losing their dignity of work, turning into daily wage contract labourers.

Three port projects, at Kasarkod-Tonka in Honnavar [Honnavar Barge/Vessel Loading Facility], Karwar [second-stage development of Karwar port] and Tadadi [development of sea-port at Tadadi], where construction began recently, have already run into trouble because of resistance from coastal communities living in the vicinity of the proposed projects. Their reasons for protests are similar — loss of livelihood, and damage to biodiversity...”

### **Karnataka: NGT imposes green penalty on two fish processing units in Udyavara**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/ngt-imposes-green-penalty-on-two-fish-processing-units-in-udyavara/article65612343.ece>

"The National Green Tribunal has imposed ₹5,27,500 and ₹29,06,250 as environmental compensation on Hindustan Marine Industries and Yashaswi Fish Meal and Oil Company, respectively in Udyavara village, Udupi district, for violating environment laws.

NGT’s Southern Bench also directed the Karnataka State Coastal Zone Management Authority to take steps for the removal of construction in the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) of Papanashini (Udyavara) River by Yashaswi Fish Meal (11,626 sq mt out of a total of 22,106 sq mt) and by Hindustan Marine (1,445 sq mt out of 8,632 sq mt). The Tribunal also said the authorities were at liberty to initiate suitable proceedings against M/s Ocean Fresh Sea Food, M/s Coastal Sea Food and M/s Suha Sea Food functioning in Pithrody and letting effluents directly into the river. They were not party to the proceedings before the NGT.

Judicial Member K. Ramakrishnan and Expert Member Satyagopal Korlapati passed the order on a batch of original applications filed by Kishore Kumar and Harish Thingalaya of Pithrodi village near Udyavara. The applicants alleged that Hindustan, Yashaswi and M/s Unity Fish Meal and Oil Company, had been functioning in Pithrodi on the bank of Udyavara River, that falls under CRZ-I illegally and causing severe nuisance to residents.

They alleged that the units were violating environmental laws and conducting activity dangerously affecting residents of Udyavara, Anagudde, Kote, Katapady, Manipura, Kuthpady and Kadekar villages. Applicants also claimed that the units were illegally discharging industrial effluent directly into the river that also affected marine life.

The Tribunal constituted a joint committee comprising representatives from the KSCZMA, Central Pollution Control Board, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and the Deputy Commissioner in October 2019 and submit a factual report. The Committee after a two-day inspection submitted the report stating that M/s Unity had closed down its operations in 2014 itself. The other two have set up effluent treatment plants and were using treated water for in-house purposes without letting it to the river.

However, they had encroached upon the CRZ-I land which was against the CRZ Notification, the Committee said. It also said the units were drawing groundwater without obtaining permission from the State Groundwater Authority nor they had installed meters for inward and outward water."

### **Karnataka: Raging sea swallows over 200-m-long beach in Maravanthe**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/raging-sea-swallows-over-200-m-long-beach-in-maravanthe-fishing-village/article65592862.ece>

"More than 200 m long and 10 m wide beach got eroded and over 100 coconut trees were swept away with the raging waves of the Arabian Sea within the incomplete outer fisheries harbour of Maravanthe fishing village in Udupi district on Saturday.

Ever since the outer fishing harbour project began about six years ago, the fisheries village of Maravanthe has been hit by frequent erosion with fishermen blaming unscientifically erected breakwaters of the project as the sole reason. Before they recovered from the washing away of the fishing road last monsoon that was reconstructed later, the erosion has only become intensified, they said.

Fishermen leaders Mohan Kharvi and Karunakar Kharvi said though the erosion started about

four days back with the advancement in monsoon, none bothered to care for the fishermen who were living under constant threat. Neither the elected representatives nor the district administration have bothered to address their woes, they said.

Beach property that got eroded on Saturday belonged to Chandraguptha Kharvi, Nagaraja Kharvi and the Vilayathi Family in the fishing village, who lost over 30 odd yielding coconut trees too. During the week, over 100 trees were swept away, fishermen said.

If no immediate steps were taken by the authorities, fisheries road, the lifeline of the fishing village, was certain to get eroded. Further erosion was bound to affect houses of several fishermen, the Kharvis said."

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### **Karnataka: Fishing ban post oil spill**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/fishing-ban-post-oil-spill/articleshow/92532875.cms>

As a precautionary measure and in the wake of a minor oil spill from the dirty water tanks of the grounded vessel MV Princess Miral, the fisheries department joint director has banned fishing in the waters of Ullal Coast. The department said strict action will be taken for any kind of violation. The vessel with 220 tonnes of fuel, ran aground off Mangaluru near Battampady on June 21. Since then, Indian Coast Guard ships and aircraft are monitoring the vessel for any oil spill.

### **Karnataka: Sea erosion an unending woe in Ullal**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/sea-erosion-an-unending-woe-in-ullal/articleshow/92462027.cms>

"Sea erosion in Ullal, especially at Battampady, Someshwara, and other areas, continues to be an unending woe for fishermen and others living on the coast. With the region receiving rain continuously, massive waves have been hitting the shore, causing panic among residents at Someshwara, Battampady, and nearby areas. A road at Battampady, which was partially damaged due to sea erosion in 2021, has been damaged completely, during the rain in the past few days. Several trees along the shore in the area, were uprooted.

Roopesh Uchil, a resident, said that several houses in and around Battampady, are facing the threat of sea erosion. "More than 10 families on the coast in Battampady, are living in fear of the rough sea damaging their houses. Massive waves have hit the shore, and those houses are just two meters away from the sea. Meanwhile, a road in the area has also been damaged completely, due to the rough sea. Minister Angara has been taking initiatives to find solutions to the issue," he said.

Mangaluru MLA U T Khader said that the issue of sea erosion in Ullal was brought to the notice of the ports minister. "I presented the problems people are facing in the coastal areas, in a meeting of officials held recently. The government has neither reserved sufficient funds for measures against sea erosion, nor made payments for several works. It is the responsibility of the government to take immediate measures to prevent sea erosion," he added.

Minister of fisheries, ports, and inland water transport, S Angara, recently visited the coastal areas, and planned to adopt the Kerala model of sea erosion prevention, to solve the problem. Angara said, "We have prepared a detailed project report to implement, based on the sea erosion prevention method adopted in Nellikunnu at Kasaragod. I will meet chief minister Basavaraj

Bomma on Wednesday, and discuss about the project, which will be implemented at identified locations, where the impact of sea erosion is more.””

### **Karnataka: Fear of oil spill looms as merchant vessel sinks in Mangaluru**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/fear-of-oil-spill-looms-as-merchant-vessel-sinks/article65557760.ece>

“Coast Guard is the nodal agency that handles oil spill and other environmental impact resulting from incidents in deep sea. Hence, we appointed Mr. Venkatesh as Incident Commander,” he said. During the meeting, Dr. Rajendra said that it has been submitted that the agency associated with the merchant vessel has dispatched personnel to the spot to remove furnace and engine oil from the sunken vessel and prevent possible oil spill. “Oil spill is unlikely.

But we are preparing for the worst likely scenario,” he said. Neighbouring Kasaragod district (Kerala) has also been alerted about the incident. The Department of Fisheries has been asked to alert fishermen against undertaking fishing around the area where the vessel has sunk. The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board has been directed to test samples of sea water at regular intervals. NMPA and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) have been told to help KSPCB officials in this connection.

All departments have been asked be on the alert and told of the steps that need to be taken in consultation with the Coast Guard, if any oil spill is seen on the coast and in the river. Meanwhile, the Coast Guard completed questioning the crew members and handed them over to the Coastal Security Police and Mangaluru City Police on June 22. The 15 crew members have been lodged in a guesthouse in the city. They will be sent shortly to the foreigners detection centre in Nelamangala, Bengaluru, from where they will be deported. The 90-m-long and 30-m-wide vessel was carrying 8,000 tonnes of steel coil from Tianjin in China to Beirut in Lebanon. All the crew members are found to be carrying valid travel documents, the police said.”

### **Karnataka: Sagarmala project: Do we really need more ports?**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/specials/insight/sagarmala-project-do-we-really-need-more-ports-1117395.html>

“Standing waist-deep in the waters of the Arabian Sea, Parvathi Tandel (46) offers milk to the Sea God. Parvathi and others from the fishing community of Kasarkod Tonka in Honnavar taluk of Uttara Kannada district have gathered on World Ocean Day to pray for their safety and seek a good harvest of fish.

However, she is well aware that the imminent threat to her village is not from the sea, but from 'development' projects. People of her community have been receiving police summonses, and worse, are being caned for protesting against a port coming up in the region. The port, initially proposed under the Union government's Sagarmala project, is now being developed under private ownership. However, rail connectivity to the private port will be provided by the government under the Sagarmala project.

Experts fear that several projects proposed under the Sagarmala project would prove detrimental to locals and the environment.

Mooted first by the Union government in 2003, the project was launched in 2015. In 2018, the Union government planned to take up 1,537 projects by investing Rs 6.5 lakh crore across 7,500 km of the country's coastline. But later, the numbers were revised to 802 projects worth Rs 5.53 lakh crore.

Consequently, the Karnataka government, under its Minor Ports Development Policy of 2014, sent a proposal to the Union government, stating that the 300-km-long coastline of the state had the potential to house 12 minor ports.

The Union government identified 12 locations---Karwar, Belekeri, Tadadi, Pavinakurve, Honnavar, Manki, Bhatkal (Uttara Kannada district), Kundapur, Hangarkatta, Malpe (Udupi district), Padubidri and Old Mangalore port (in Dakshina Kannada district)---either to set up new minor ports or renovate existing ports under government ownership, private-public partnership, or private ownership.

A total of 81 projects, including those relating to port development and modernisation, inland water transport, and tourism and fisheries were proposed for Karnataka under the Sagarmala project at an estimated cost of Rs 7,799 crore.

The ambitious project, however, was not well-received. A majority of these projects have faced opposition from residents who fear a loss of livelihood. Complications have arisen with regard to land acquisition and legal and environmental clearance.

According to V N Nayak, retired professor of marine biology, there is no logic behind the setting up of 12 ports, with each port being just 40 km from the next.

“Why do we need so many ports in such ecologically sensitive areas, given the current exports and imports and future estimations? There is no point in developing more ports when the current port at Karwar itself is underutilised,” reasons Nayak.

He asserts that the ports at Karwar and Mangaluru if maintained properly, can cater to our import and export needs for the next 100 years.

A look into the data on cargo handling at Karwar port shows its underutilisation over the years.

Officials at the Directorate of Ports and Inland Water Transport, Karwar, say that since 1985, the Karwar port which currently has a capacity to handle 3 million tonnes of cargo annually, has seldom reached 50 per cent of its handling capacity.

“Coal, liquid fuel and iron ore form the bulk of import and export goods from these ports and their stocks are limited. India is also a signatory to the Paris Accord that makes us duty-bound to reduce import and use of coal for power generation,” says Dr Nayak. He was part of an independent group that studied the ecological feasibility of projects under the Sagarmala Programme.

Ecological concerns

The carbon footprints that the ports leave behind are huge. Roads, railway lines and structures created to connect the ports to the hinterlands will ultimately take a toll on the Western Ghats.

“Eroding beaches like Karwar, Honnavar and other such locations are not fit for the construction of ports,” says Vikas Tandel, whose public interest litigation at the Supreme Court and case at the National Green Tribunal have resulted in a stay on the expansion of the Karwar port.

A 2019 report by the National Centre for Coastal Research says the Karwar beach is a Critically Vulnerable Coastal Area (CVCA). Another report by the Coastal Regulatory Zone categorically classifies the Karwar and Honnavar beaches as ecologically sensitive areas where ‘red category’ works like ports and harbours should not be taken up.

People here have seen how ports result in coastal ecology degradation. Sunil Ramachandra Kudalkar, a fisher at Belekeri, recounts how, when iron ore was being transported from the Belekeri port, red soil mixed with sea water and destroyed the breeding sites of blue bivalves.

When mining was at its peak, the Belekeri port would receive 3,000 tippers a day, dumping iron ore in the area. But after illegalities in mining came to the fore, huge piles of seized iron ore remain here.

Nowhere to go

According to the fishing community, more than 4.5 lakh people are dependent on fisheries in the five coastal taluks of Uttara Kannada. If these ports come up, fishers will lose their livelihood as the fishing areas will become restricted. This might eventually lead to their displacement.

“We will resist it if the government goes ahead with the Tadadi port project, just as we protested against the thermal power plant project,” says Vital Kantri Bethalkar, a fisher from Tadadi. He adds that the administration is being opaque about the projects being implemented under the Sagarmala project, causing anxiety among the locals.

Raju Tandel, chairman of Uttara Kannada Fishermen Federation, says the fishing community of Uttara Kannada has learnt a lesson after giving away nearly 11,500 acres of their beaches and fishing grounds to Sea Bird, a Naval base near Karwar.

“Even today, 80 per cent of the land acquired by the Navy remains unutilised. Stating security concerns, Navy officials do not allow local fishers to even fish in non-restricted zones. We may take pride in our contribution to our nation. But at the end of the day, we are left with no fishing grounds,” he says.

At the time of acquisition, the administration had assured jobs for locals at Sea Bird. However, not even 1 per cent of those displaced were given jobs at the naval base, he says.

“We fear that the same will happen at the proposed port sites too,” he told DH.

Similar fears were expressed by fishers at Belekeri, Kasarkod Tonka and Tadadi.

### Engine of growth

Captain C Swamy, in-charge director of Karnataka Ports and Inland Water Transport Department, questions the logic behind environmentalists opposing only minor commercial ports and not fishing harbours.

“These harbours too have unscientifically constructed breakwaters in ecologically sensitive beaches. Then why oppose only ports and miss out on private investments that these ports can attract?” he asks.

According to Swamy, currently, the department is planning to develop Keni port near Belekeri and Pavinakurve Port near Honnavar.

When asked about the ecological impact, he asked which port in India is not located in an ecologically sensitive area.

“Gujarat has 50 such minor ports in ecologically sensitive areas. But they are helping the state grow. Minor ports in Karnataka can similarly help in the establishment of industries and steer economic growth,” he says.

The department would follow all guidelines laid down by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board while handling cargo and ensure minimum damage to the environment, he says.

Defending the need for more ports, Manjunath G Namadhari, junior executive engineer at the Port Sub-division in Karwar, says they would help India trade wheat, rice, food grains, minerals, palm oil and potassium sulphate.

Implementing court orders

While Uttara Kannada Deputy Commissioner Mullai Muhilan agreed that there was opposition to some projects under the Sagarmala programme, he refused to comment on the Karwar port expansion plan, saying the matter was sub judice.

Muhilan says efforts to convince local people about the importance of ports are underway. The port being developed at Honnavar is not directly linked to Sagarmala and the district administration is only implementing court orders related to the port, he told DH.

Railway lines connecting the private port will be taken up with funds allocated for the Sagarmala project.

Soon after the prayers, Parvathi joins her fellow members who are protesting against the port project.

“It is not just for us humans, but also for the survival of flora and fauna in the region. We can’t allow the destruction of the breeding sites of critically endangered olive ridley sea turtles,” she says.”

**Karnataka: Fishing boats to have bio-toilets soon**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/mangaluru/fishing-boats-to-have-bio-toilets-soon-1115915.html>

"The fisheries department is mulling over making bio-toilets mandatory for fishing boats,

keeping in mind the hygiene and safety of the fishermen and labourers on board the deep sea fishing boats. This is a step towards maintaining hygiene as well, fisheries department joint director Harish Kumar told DH. The officials have already issued directions to instal bio-toilets in the newly built boats. The bio-toilets have been made mandatory for boats that are being built using the assistance under Mastya Sampada Yojana.

For the already existing boats, financial assistance is given by the government for installing bio-toilets. The boat owners have been asked to utilise the subsidy facilities. Harish Kumar said that the unit cost has been fixed at Rs 50,000. A subsidy of 40% (Rs 20,000) will be given for those boats owned by fishermen from the general category and a 60% (30,000) subsidy will be given for those from SC/ST category and women owners. There is a need for toilets in the deep sea fishing boats that remain in mid-sea for nearly 10 days.

The purse seine and trawler boats remain in the sea for over 10 days during a fishing expedition, he said. Normally, trawlers will have 10 to 12 members on board while purse seine boats have more than 20 members on board. There are several instances of fishermen meeting accidental deaths while attending nature's call at night while remaining on board the boats. The bio-toilets will be of great help to avoid such deaths, said Harish Kumar.

"We are in the process of identifying the design and fabrication for installing the biotoilets in old boats. The fishermen can also avail the assistance from the government for installing it," added Harish Kumar. There are around 1,405 mechanised boats in Dakshina Kannada and 2,166 in Udupi districts. Some new boats had installed the bio-toilet facility, he said."

### **Karnataka: 61-day fishing ban comes into force**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/karnataka-districts/61-day-fishing-ban-comes-into-force-in-karnataka-1114465.html>

"The annual 61-day fishing ban coinciding with the onset of monsoon, came into effect on Wednesday.

As monsoon is the breeding season for fishes, government had banned fishing till July 31 under the Karnataka Coastal Fishing (Regulation) Act, 1986. The ban is to facilitate breeding of fish in sea. According to the Fisheries department, mechanised boats and traditional boats fitted with inboard or outboard engines of 10 HP and above are banned from fishing during the period.

The ban was enforced following excessive fishing during monsoon having an adverse impact on fish catch during the fishing season. The traditional fishing boats fitted with less than 10 hp engines are permitted to carry out fishing. Those violating the ban will not be eligible for

subsidised diesel for a period of 12 months. Owing to the Asani cyclone in May, a majority of the fishing boats had remained anchored at the Old Port in Mangaluru. Labourers from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand work in boats sailing for deep sea fishing."

### **Karnataka: Stormy sea forces fishermen to take holiday early this time**

<https://www.thehansindia.com/karnataka/stormy-sea-forces-fishermen-to-take-holiday-early-this-time-745313>

"The fishing season 2021-22 (August to June) is over early this time. Thanks to the cyclones and heavy rains and stormy sea conditions the fishermen have already called it a typical fishing year and have begun hauling up their vessels onto the shore. Though the fisheries department has not officially announced the days for monsoon fishing holidays yet, the fishermen say that the condition in the sea is not conducive for fishing.

Though the fishing ban officially comes into effect on 10 June the fishing department has given a warning to them not to venture into the sea and ordered those vessels already on the sea to return. Though the current situation on the Arabian sea is not due to an active southwest monsoon system, in the next three days the monsoon is going to anyway enter Kerala which will definitely keep the sea rough. The local fishermen have already felt that they must get back to the shore, say fishermen leaders.

About 800 boats of different sizes and capacities, including trawlers, Purse-seines, and longliners are already on the high seas and they go up to 50 meters fathom depth. ""We have found the seas calmer at that depth and we can still fish for another ten days without any problems but since our owner has asked us to return we have come back to the shore of course with a good catch of Mackerels and Cuttlefish,"" said Santhosh Bangera, a fishermen leader.

The department traditionally announces the fishing ban period anywhere between the 3rd to the 4th week of May, it has also made the insurance compulsory for the fishing boat that go into the sea for the fishing season. But once the storm alert is given even with the current insurance cover the vessel cannot venture into the sea. In case of loss of life and property the insurance will not be actionable.

Usually, the monsoon calendar States that Karnataka must get the first showers of the southwestern monsoon only by 8 June after entering the Kerala coast on 3 June. According to the deputy directors of the three coastal districts of Karnataka of the fisheries department there were still some 300 fishing boats on the sea and some of them have already begun their return voyage by Thursday night and the remaining will start back only on Friday morning. Thanks to the modern communication gadgetry the fishermen could be contacted even at a distance of 10 nautical miles into the sea upto 50-meter meters fathom depth. Mangalore, Udupi and Karwar

coasts which are distributed between the North Malabar and Konkan coast are generally turbulent during the beginning of the monsoon and dangerous for the fishermen. The last catches during the season will bring larger size oil sardines and giant size mackerels and seers, pomfrets, squids, ribbon fish, pink perches and other types do get depleted by end of April-May. According to the fisheries department statistics, the State generally ends up landing 2.2 lakh metric tons of fish. Overall performance of the fisheries sector for the year has seen a decline by not less than 10 per cent on an average which is nearly Rs 300 crore less in value compared to the watershed year of 1997 when the volume of the catch was to the tune of 2.7 lakh tonnes.

### **Karnataka: Cyclone gives end of season gift to fishermen, bumper fish yield**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=962344>

"Around 90% of boats were anchored before the end of the season in ports of Mangaluru, Malpe and Gangolli due to increase in diesel prices, fall in yield of fish and shortage of labourers.

However, the remaining 10% of the boats which are still fishing in deep waters are getting bumper fish yield because of the turmoil in the sea arising due to last week's rain and storm.

Around 1.5 tonnes of Octopus fish resembling local Bondas is being caught by every boat. This is getting exported at Rs 200 per kg. Chemman fish is being sold to the fish meal industry at Rs 30 per kg, mackerel at Rs 80 to 150 per kg and king fish at Rs 800 per kg.

According to fish merchant Basha, the last phase of this year's fishing season is giving enormous amount of fish catch.

Most of the boats were anchored in the first week of May itself due to the financial crisis. Labourers of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and North India have left to their native places. Fishing season for this year will end on May 31. The next season will start in August.

There are 1,134 Purseine and Trawl boats in Dakshina Kannada district. Gilnet and traditional boats number about 1,396 and 531 respectively.

In Malpe there are 1723 Pursiene and Trawl boats, while there are 1944 Gilnet boats and 861 traditional boats.

In Gangolli there are 355 Purseine and Trawl boats. Gilnet boats number 2266 and traditional boats are 1124 in number."

### **Karnataka: Fish feast – Coastal fisherman catch sardines in tonnes**

<https://daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=958076>

"More than 30 tonnes of sardine (Buthai) fish was caught by the fishermen of coastal area. This is sold to more than Rs 30 lac. Arabian Sea from Mangaluru to Gangolli is rough since some days due to Asani cyclone in Bay of Bengal. This caused the sardine fish to move to the shore which resulted in the tonnes of fish caught by the net spread in sea by the fishermen.

Mostly purse seine boats get this fish. Many purse seine boats have stopped fishing well before the end of the season this year. However, the few ones which are still out in the sea were able to cash in on the bounty of Sardines.

Sathish Kunder, leader of fishermen community says that as sardines are small in size compared to other big fishes, they swim in groups when attacked by big fishes and reach shore due to atmospheric pressure and end up in nets of purse seine boats. There is also a possibility that the sardines have come towards shore as the water has become too cold in deep sea due to Asani cyclone.

### **Karnataka: Diesel price and climate change put early end to fishing season**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/diesel-price-climate-change-put-early-end-to-fishing-season/articleshow/91453960.cms>

"With diesel price continuing to travel north and the size of the fish catch shrinking, hundreds of deep-sea trawlers and purse-seiners are calling an early end to the season's fishing activity this year.

Sources said at least 25% of the deep-sea trawlers and 50% of the purse seiners are winding up the activity early. The Karnataka government declares a 61-day fishing holiday from June 1 when mechanised vessels are prohibited from undertaking fishing to facilitate fish breeding. These restrictions do not apply to traditional fishermen, who use use motorised (up to 10 HP) or non-motorised small boats. Dakshina Kannada has 3,239 fishing boats.

Fish catch was good up to January, but has dropped since. Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation chairman Nithin Kumar told TOI: "There are many reasons to this situation. Climate change has had an impact on fish catch, which was good from August to January compared to the pandemic years. Since February, at least 70% of the boat owners are finding it hard to carry out business and one of the reasons is the hike in diesel price, despite the state government giving a sales-tax exemption for mechanised fishing."

He explained that when a deep-sea fishing boat goes on a 10-day trip, it needs about 6,000 litres of diesel. The owner must get fish worth Rs 6 lakh to Rs 6.5 lakh a trip to break even. In the past, fish catch used to be low from November to January.

Experts from the fisheries department, College of Fisheries and Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute must study the reasons for the drop in fish catch, he said, adding the government must conduct a study and fix the number of boats to avoid overfishing.

Dr Sushmitha Rao, deputy director, fisheries department, said owners with a larger fleet are managing to send at least one boat for fishing. The sea has been rough for 2-3 days. With the rise in diesel price, getting a good catch is important to sustain the business, she added."

### **Karnataka: Continued industrial effluent flow into Phalguni results in fish kill**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/continued-industrial-effluent-flow-into-phalguni-results-in-fish-kill/article65353871.ece>

"Hundreds of fish were found dead and floating in the Phalguni (Gurupura) downstream the Malavoor vented dam, following the flow of industrial and domestic effluent into the river even as the administration has remained mute to the annual happening. Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) State president Muneer Katipalla said the river water has turned black with industrial effluents starkly exposing the indifferent attitude of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), the district administration, and the Mangaluru City Corporation.

The Thokur Halla (stream) flowing through Baikampady Industrial Area that once had been nurturing agricultural activities in the surrounding villages throughout the year has become a cesspool with the continuous flow of industrial effluents. Mr. Katipalla said despite repeated plea to KSPCB, it has failed to rein in industrial units from letting out effluents into the natural water system.

The problem has aggravated in recent years with many cooking oil refineries opening their units in the Industrial Area, he said. While the stream's origin has gone inside the MRPL campus, encroachment has made the stream look just like a storm water drainage, while the clear water has turned out completely black. Till about two years ago, the district administration and the KSPCB used to issue notices whenever activists raised voice against industrial effluents flowing into the River and the pollution used to come under control. However, they have not acted this time while effluents were flowing into the river since over a month. Because of this, there was fish kill, he said.

Pollution of Thokur Halla has also affected vegetable cultivation and clam farming in and around Thokur village. Mr. Katipalla also chided the residents of the district for their indifference towards the unabated pollution of the Phalguni. As people have remained silent, the administration does not care about the flagrant violation of pollution norms, he alleged. The administration had blamed the remains of the coffer dam built during the construction of the Malavoor vented dam during a similar situation in 2017 summer. Though the coffer dam was removed, fish kill continues to recur as a result of reduced oxygen levels in the river water due to the flow of industrial and domestic effluents."

### **Karnataka: Five workers die in a fish processing factory at Mangaluru SEZ**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/five-workers-die-in-a-fish-processing-factory-at-mangaluru-sez/article65331215.ece>

The Mangaluru Police Commissioner, N Shashi Kumar, said that one labour collapsed while working in the fish waste storage tank in the factory on Sunday evening. Following this, seven other workers in the factory went to help him.

Two of those who went to rescue the labour also died during the rescue efforts. Two others died in the hospital on Monday morning. Three other workers, who are admitted to the hospital, are in the intensive care unit, he said. Bajpe Police station, which comes under the Mangaluru Police Commissionerate, has registered a case in this matter. Police have taken four people into custody for further investigation.

### **Karnataka: On coast, fish in troubled waters**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/top-karnataka-stories/on-karnatakas-coast-fish-in-troubled-waters-1101618.html>

"Unsustainable and illegal fishing practices are having an impact on the total fish catch in coastal Karnataka, with both small fishermen and large trawler operators worried over the trend that could get worse in the age of climate change.

For example, data from the fisheries department shows that the total catch in Udupi district has

come down from 21,276 metric tonnes in November 2021 to 17,994 metric tonnes in March this year. In Uttara Kannada, the figure has reduced from 1.22 lakh metric tonnes in 2019-2020 to 1.17 lakh metric tonnes in 2021-22.

The reduced catch is reflected in the price of fish. In Udupi, mackerel costs Rs 170 to 180 per kg now compared to Rs 100 a few months ago. Another widely consumed fish sardine costs between Rs 120 and 130 per kg, while pomfret costs between Rs 500 and Rs 600 per kg compared to Rs 400 a few months back.

Udupi fisherman Hiriyantha Kidiyur blames the practice of mechanised fishing for the dwindling catch. Earlier, said Hiriyantha, the post-monsoon period brought in substantial income following the 60-day fish ban in June. But that is no longer guaranteed. "Generally, better catch can be expected a few months after the ban is lifted. However, now it begins to fluctuate after November," he said.

There are other problems, too. Fishing illegally during the breeding season, which has increased during the last 4-5 years, also depletes the fish population.

Then there is rampant use of trawlers. "Trawling sweeps the ocean floor, taking everything with it," said Hiriyantha. Some fishermen indulge in 'light fishing', which involves attaching strong LEDs to the ends of nets to attract fish. Though prohibited since 2016, 'light fishing' and bull trawling are extensively practised during the fishing season. Authorities say the ban has had little impact. "We are trying our best to stop them," said Kavitha R K, Uttara Kannada's assistant deputy director of fisheries. There are 1,124 motorised mechanical fishing boats in Udupi district, 7,707 non-motorised boats and 3,822 motorised non-mechanical boats.

But these are just the registered ones. Every year, around 100-125 boats start fishing, of which many are unregistered. All of these exploitative practices as well as rising pollution in turn impact phytoplankton production, which is the main food source for various pelagic species in the ocean, including sardines."

### **Karnataka: Increase in diesel price, non-availability of fish in sea – Fishing stalled**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=947817>

"Increase in the prices of diesel and non-availability of fish in deep sea has caused fishermen not to venture into the sea. Famine of fish has hit the fishing industry in the top season of April and May.

At the end of May, mechanized boating needs to be stopped as it is the breeding time of fishes.

So the fishermen try to catch maximum fish during April and May and earn as much as possible. However, now even if the fishermen get into sea after putting costly diesel to the boat, they are not getting a good catch of fish.

Fishermen of Malpe, Gangolli and Maravanthe have literally stopped fishing. For the past two weeks, the boats that are going into the deep sea are returning without getting sufficient quantities of fish. The fish catch is not enough to even bear the diesel cost of the boat.

The price of meat is already very high. Fish lovers are not able to eat fish due to famine in the deep sea. So far one kg of mackerels used to cost Rs 100. Now it is shot up to Rs 120 to Rs 140. King fish cost has gone up by Rs 700. Pomfret used to cost Rs 900 per kg. Now it has shot up to Rs 1,200. Prawns cost Rs 400 per kg.

Fishermen are in a dilemma how to continue their livelihood as they are hard hit on both ends due to the fuel prices and non-availability of fish in deep sea."

#### **Karnataka: Traditional fishermen against sand extraction in Phalguni, Netravathi rivers**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/traditional-fishermen-against-sand-extraction-in-phalguni-netravathi-rivers/article65315283.ece>

"The Traditional River Fishermen Association has opposed extraction of sand in the Netravathi and Phalguni river beds. Talking to reporters here on Tuesday, the Association's General Secretary Naveen Saliyan said recently a survey of the river beds was carried out by the National Institute of Technology - Karnataka, (NIT-K) Surathkal and approval was granted to undertake extraction of sand from the areas that were identified .

The district sand monitoring committee is likely to issue permits for extraction of sand in these areas which are in the coastal regulatory zone. Mr. Saliyan said the survey findings of NIT-K is disputable and it is contrary to the findings of survey done earlier by the then Dean of College of Fisheries, A. Senthil Vel, who had not found any sand dunes in the river beds.

"We spend all our time in the two rivers and we have not seen any sand dunes," he said The Association will write to the District Sand Monitoring Committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner K.V. Rajendra not to grant licences for extraction of sand in the two river beds.

Abdul Tayyab, president of Traditional Fishermen Association, Kasaba Bengre, said following stoppage of sand extraction in the river beds for the last a few weeks fishermen are getting good catch of fishes, shells and other marine elements, especially near estuary. "If sand extraction is allowed then we will be losing on these marine elements," Mr. Tayyab said."

## **Karnataka: Government to provide high-speed boats to fishermen & scholarships to children of weavers & fishers**

<https://krishijagran.com/news/government-to-provide-high-speed-boats-to-fishermen-scholarships-to-children-of-weavers-fishers/>

"According to Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, the benefits of the Vidya Nidhi scheme would be extended to weavers of the handloom industries and the fishermen communities with the commencement of the next academic year.

On Monday, Bommai spoke at a program that was conducted as part of the Punapratishtha Brahmakalashotsava of Sri Mahalakshmi Temple in Uchila, Kaup taluk, in the district and informed about the reformed strategy to the public.

While addressing the crowd at the program the CM said that the government has already launched, a scholarship named Vidya Nidhi. The initiative was taken for promoting education for the children of farmers in the state. Scholarships will be granted to girl students in the state starting from class 8th to postgraduate levels. This scheme will be granted to the children of fishermen and weavers as well.

The CM also officially confirmed the disbursement of 100 high-speed fishing vessels, each costing Rs 1.5 crore, to fishers at a subsidy of 90%. In addition to this, he also added that the government is intending to improve technologies to boost catch, which will ultimately contribute to making fishing more profitable.

He also said that on a trial basis, high-speed boats for deep-sea fishery will be given to fishermen, residing along the coasts of Dakshina Kannada, Uttar Kannada, and Udupi. Fishermen would only require to pay 10% of the total cost as the high-speed boat scheme will be subsidized by the federal and state governments.

With the high-speed boats, fishermen could go deep-sea fishing for up to ten nautical miles from the shore. This will also encourage fish exports. The process of inviting fishermen to claim this subsidy will begin soon."

## **Karnataka: River fishermen urge govt to ban illegal fishing**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/mangaluru/river-fishermen-urge-govt-to-ban-illegal-fishing-1100238.html>

"The Traditional River Fisheries Association, Dakshina Kannada (DK), urged the government to initiate legal measures against those who carry out illegal fishing in rivers across the district.

Association president Harish Putran told reporters at Patrika Bhavan on Tuesday that the fishermen from outside the district had been fishing in rivers instead of fishing in lakes. In Phalguni and Nethravathi rivers, the inland fishermen have been using chemicals to catch fish, he charged.

He also stressed the need to identify sand blocks in places where fishing is not being carried out. After the sand mining was stopped in the CRZ areas, there are algae that serve as food for fish. The fingerlings and clams are also developing. But, if the permission is given for sand mining again, the fish and clam will be lost, he said.

Harish meanwhile stated that Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana has not been implemented effectively.

Akhila Karnataka Meenugarara Parishat general secretary Vasudeva Bloor, Traditional River Fisheries Association general secretary Navin Salian, Phalguni Fisheries Association president Abdul Thayyub and member Ritesh were present at the press meet."

### **Karnataka: Microplastics found in fish in Cauvery river in south India**

<https://thefederal.com/science/microplastics-found-in-fish-in-cauvery-river-in-south-india-iisc-study/>

"A new study by researchers at the Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has found microplastics in fish, causing growth defects, including skeletal deformities, in the river Cauvery in south India. The study was conducted at the Krishnaraja Sagar dam, located below the confluence of river Cauvery with its tributaries Hemavati and Lakshmana Tirtha, in the Mandya district of Karnataka.

The researchers collected water samples from three different locations with varying water flow speeds – fast-flowing, slow-flowing, and stagnant – since water speed is known to affect the concentration of pollutants.

In the first part of the study, the team analysed the physical and chemical parameters of the water samples. All but one of them fell within the prescribed limits. The exception was dissolved oxygen, which was deficient in samples collected from the slow-flowing and static sites. Water from these sites also had microbes such as cyclops, daphnia, spirogyra, spirochaeta, and e. coli, well-known bio-indicators of water contamination.

The researchers conducted further studies. Using a technique called Raman spectroscopy, they detected microplastics – minute pieces of plastic often invisible to the naked eye – and some toxic chemicals.

In the second part of the study, the team investigated the effect of the pollutants in water on fish. They treated zebrafish embryos, a well-known model organism, with water samples collected from the three sites, and found that those exposed to water from the slow-flowing and stagnant sites experienced skeletal deformities, DNA damage, early cell death, heart damage, and increased mortality. These defects were seen even after the microbes were filtered out, suggesting that microplastics and toxic chemicals were also causing problems on their own.

The findings assume importance in the context of a recent study from the Netherlands, which has shown that microplastics can enter the bloodstream of humans. The researchers noted that the concentrations of the pollutants they have reported in the fish may not be alarming yet for humans. Still, long-term effects can't be ruled out.

However, they also pointed out that they were yet to fully understand how microplastics enter and affect the host to answer the question conclusively. "This is something which we are trying to address now", a press release from the Institute quoted the scientists as saying.

The study which was led by Upendra Nongthomba, professor, department of molecular reproduction, development and genetics in IISc, included other team members such as Abass Toba Anifowoshe, Debasish Roy, and Somit Dutta. They have published a report on their work in the journal *Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety*.

### **Karnataka: Concerns over fishermen's livelihood and questions of misrepresentation persist**

<https://www.news9live.com/state/karnataka/karwar-port-expansion-concerns-over-fishermens-livelihood-and-questions-of-misrepresentation-persist-163388>

"On March 29, the Supreme Court (SC) restrained construction activities aimed at the expansion of Karwar port in Karnataka's Uttara Kannada district. The SC was hearing a petition by a local fishermen's association challenging a previous Karnataka High Court (HC) order. Passed in July, 2021, the HC order set aside challenges to the Environmental Clearance (EC) granted to the expansion project.

The petitioner, 'Baithkol Bandharu Nirashrithara Yanteikrut Dhoni Meenugarara Sahakara Sangha Niyamitha,' argued that the HC has "not at all considered the ecological impact" of the expansion project and has also "not taken into consideration the loss of livelihood of the fisherfolk of the area." Karwar is known for its rich coastal biodiversity, especially including mangroves on the banks of the Kali river. The sea supports highly productive and diverse fisheries. It is also designated as a Critically Vulnerable Coastal Areas (CVCAs) as per Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 and an ecologically sensitive area as per Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006. Being so, the petitioners argued that only the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) can decide whether or not to grant EC. They also noted that the EC granted by the Karnataka State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) in 2019 is "bad in law."

As for the impact on local fishermen, KT Tandel, a member of the fishermen community, told News9, "We want the port to be as it is today. If it is expanded, it will restrict our access to the sea. What should we do then?" Tandel belongs to a community of traditional fishermen who depend completely on fishing for livelihood. "The dredging will also destroy our beach," Tandel added. The expansion is proposed along the Arabian Sea adjoining Rabindranath Tagore Beach that the local community takes pride in because it served as a quiet refuge for the poet. The current petition too notes the historical significance of the beach.

In 2020, fishermen in Karwar staged massive protests against the expansion plan citing livelihood concerns. Even during public hearings for the expansion in 2018, local fishermen opposed the project noting livelihood concerns. This when they are already prohibited from fishing in some sections of the sea owing to the presence of a naval base. Noting the significance of the CRZ Notification in this particular instance, Mahabaleshwar Hegde, researcher based in Uttara Kannada, Centre for Policy Research (CPR) said that it brings together "twin objectives of ensuring livelihood security to the fisher and other communities living in coastal area along with the conservation of the coast." The declaration, planning and management CVCAs must involve local communities. But, Hegde added, this crucial aspect is missing in the case of Karwar port expansion plans.

The expansion is envisioned as part of the Union government's Sagarmala project to construct navigable waterways across India's 7,500 km coastline. Plans are designed and overseen by Karnataka's port and inland waterways department. The department has engaged DVP Infra projects Private Limited for undertaking the construction. Anantkumar Hegde, Member of Parliament, Uttara Kannada, who has publicly spoken in support of port expansion plans despite local opposition, did not respond to messages and phone calls seeking an interview. Mullai Muhilan, deputy commissioner, Karwar also did not reply to requests for an interview.

Before the Karnataka HC, the petitioners argued that the state government has no authority to provide EC because the proposed expansion in capacity will be ""much more"" than 5 million tonnes per annum. But the court did not entertain this plea stating that the application for EC ""was specifically made by disclosing the capacity as 4.5 Million MT/annum. As the Environmental Clearance has been granted for a capacity of 4.5 Million MT/annum, it is obvious that the said capacity can never be exceeded by the Port Authority."" But this line of reasoning fails to take into account a clear case of misrepresentation by the Department of Ports and Inland Waterways. According to the pre-feasibility report prepared by the Karnataka port and inland waterways department in February, 2017, the expansion plan primarily seeks to add 5 more berths, in addition to the present 3, as part of the 2nd stage of development of Karwar port at a cost of Rs 1,993.54 crores.

But while the document initially mentions an increase in capacity from the present 3 million tonnes per annum to 4.5 million tonnes per annum, it later states that with the development of the 2nd Stage of the port, the estimated capacity would be 20 million tonnes. Pays to note also that if the number of berths are increased from the present 3 to 8, it is logical to assume that capacity would at least double from the present 3 million tonnes to 6 million tonnes. The EIA Notification, 2006 states a capacity threshold of 5 million tonnes when laying out powers to grant EC. This means that the SEIAA has the authority to grant clearances only to those projects where capacities are limited to 5 million tonnes. And so, in the case of Karwar port expansion as specified in the pre-feasibility report, only the MoEFCC has the authority to take a decision regarding environmental clearance..."

### **Karnataka: NMPA releases work order for construction of Kulai fishing harbour**

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/in-focus/life-in-the-saltlands/index.html>

"The New Mangalore Port Authority has handed over the work order for the construction of Fishing Harbour at Kulai near here at an estimated cost of ₹147 crore during an event organised by the Ministry of Shipping in New Delhi.

Authority Chairman A.V. Ramana handed over the work order to the lowest bidder — SAPL GCC Joint Venture — in the presence of Shipping Minister Sarbanand Sonowal, Ministers of State Shripad Naik and Shantanu Thakur and MPs from Dakshina Kannada and Kolar Nalin Kumar Kateel and Muniswamy at an event to commemorate the seventh year of Sagarmala Project, said an official release.

Sagarmala was launched in March 2015 with the objectives to achieve port modernisation and new port development, port connectivity enhancement, port-led industrialisation and coastal

community development. As many as 802 projects worth ₹5.48 lakh crore under the Sagarmala programme are targeted to be executed by 2035.

NMPA has initiated three projects, mechanisation of Berth No 14 for handling container and other cargo on DBFOT basis, construction of new Berth No 17 for handling bulk and dry-bulk cargo and construction of Fishing Harbour at Kulai."

### **Karnataka: Supreme Court stalls Karwar port expansion work**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/supreme-court-stalls-karwar-port-expansion-work/articleshow/90527988.cms>

"The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Karnataka government to stop the expansion work of Karwar port, which handles three million tonnes of cargo per annum and services the hinterland of northern Karnataka, Goa and southern Maharashtra. Appearing for the fishermen's association in Baithkol village, where the port is situated, senior advocate Devadatt Kamat argued that entire Karwar has been classified as 'critically vulnerable coastal area' (CVCA) and the expansion project would spell doom for the unique ecology of the area as well as the livelihood of the traditional fisherfolk.

The bench issued notices to the Karnataka government authorities and the Union environment ministry and asked the state government as well as the private contractor to stop any further construction work. The Uttara Kannada District Fishermen Association Forum had been agitating against the port expansion claiming that it would severely impact the Karwar beach, connected drainage system, and the community's traditional fishing activity.

beaches has been an attraction for people across the country. However, the port expansion project would directly and indirectly impact the general public's right to enjoy the beach.</p>"

### **Karnataka: Fisherman booked under Wildlife Act**

<https://www.thehansindia.com/karnataka/udupi-fisherman-booked-under-wildlife-act-733393?infinitescroll=1>

"A boat owner from Bannanje in the Udupi district has been charged under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 for allegedly auctioning and disposing of a critically endangered sawfish, which is protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.

The accused in this case is Anjum Ansar. She was arrested because she failed to prevent her employees from breaking the law. Despite the fact that it was an unintentionally captured sawfish, fishermen did not release it back into the sea, instead auctioned it in the Malpe fishing

port on March 10.

Clifford Lobo, Assistant Conservator of Forests, told that an investigation has been launched into the case, with a JMFC court appointing him as the investigative officer (IO). ""The inquiry will start shortly, and a charge sheet will be filed in court,"" he stated. The 'catch' was auctioned in breach of the law since forest department employees did not attend at the site for proper disposal of the fish because they were not alerted by the Fisheries Department.

The 10-foot-long fish was accidentally caught by a fisherman aboard the 'Sea Captain,' a deep-sea fishing vessel. According to reports, the fish weighed around 250 kilos. Clifford Lobo stated that in the coming days, a fisherman awareness campaign on endangered species in the water will be held."

### **Karnataka: Budget proposes some aid to the fisheries sector**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/budget-proposes-some-aid-to-the-fisheries-sector/article65190482.ece>

"The Budget 2022–23 presented by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday proposed to implement 'Mathsya Siri' scheme to encourage deep-sea fishing along the 300-km coastline of the State. Mr. Bommai said the State Government, in collaboration with the Pradhan Manthri Mathsya Sampada Yojana, would subsidise purchase of 100 deep-sea fishing trawlers.

This, he said, would help increase fishers' income through production of special breeds of fish and mollusks. The Chief Minister also announced dredging of navigation channels of eight fishing harbours and fish landing stations along the coast. They include Mangaluru, Malpe, Gangolli, Bhatkal, Tenginagundi, Honnavar, and Karwar, according to Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation Chairman Nithin Kumar.

This year, the Government would fund the construction of 5,000 houses to houseless fishers on priority through Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation, Mr. Bommai added. . The ₹1,500 crore Khar Land Scheme, under which backwater surge of saltwater into rivers is being prevented in Uttara Kannada district, would be extended to Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts too during the year, he said. Besides extending the Karwar port with Central Government assistance, the Government would get a feasibility report prepared to develop multipurpose harbours at Malpe and Byndoor in Udupi district, Mr. Bommai announced.

A state-of-the-art fishing harbour would be constructed at Majali in Uttara Kannada at an estimated cost of ₹250 crore with assistance from the Centre under the Pradhan Mantri Mathsya Sampada Yojana. Mr. Bommai also proposed to develop Keni-Belekeri greenfield port in Uttara

Kannada district under PPP model to boost economic activities in the region. He also proposed to develop Tadadi port in the district as an integrated eco-tourism centre.

A marine and fisheries training institute too would come up at Karwar, the Chief Minister said. Other than the fisheries sector, Mr. Bommai proposed to establish 'Beyond Bengaluru Cluster Seed Fund for Start-ups' at Mangaluru along with Hubballi and Mysuru and provided ₹12 crore for this year. A Kannada Bhavana at Kasargod in the name of late Kayyara Kinhanna Rai and Sri Narayana Guru Residential School, one each in Dakshina kannada, Udupi, Uttara Kannada, and Shivamogga districts were some other proposals."

### **Karnataka: Fisheries department has plans to create self-employment**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=926021>

"The department of fisheries is holding programmes in order to increase the production, market and quality of fish. It has planned schemes to create self-employment opportunities," said state minister of fisheries, ports and inland transport, S Angara. He was speaking after inaugurating an inland fish farming camp held by the department of fisheries at Oddoor Ganjimath farm. "Farmers should obtain continued income if they should become the backbone of the country. There should be provision to market his produce while maintaining quality. The fisheries department should encourage farmers who indulge in fish farming. We encourage farming of fish that has special medicinal properties. Therefore the breed of Madanje should be stressed. Demand will rise when production rises. We give importance to self-employment to eradicate unemployment with the vision of Atma Nirbhar India," he said. "Technology is being used to make fish reach the doorsteps of people. Cold storage facilities will be arranged in every taluk," he said. Bantwal MLA Rajesh Naik said that there should be a market for the produce grown by farmers. "The department should look into it. There should be support to provide information relating to farming and transport. Only the fishing system here could withstand the ill effects of pandemic. The department should provide the details of fishing to the future generation in order to make profit," he said. Mangaluru north constituency MLA Dr Bharath Shetty who presided over the programme said that the seminar is held as there is scarcity of knowledge about fishing. "Farmers should indulge in fish farming along with cultivation to earn more," he said. Thenka Edapadav gram panchayat president Sukumar, Karnataka fisheries development corporation managing director Dinesh Kumar, Mangaluru fisheries university dean Dr Shivakumar Magada, district fisheries centre senior scientist and head of the department Dr G J Ramesh, farmer's association state secretary Manohar Shetty, honorary president Dhanakeerthi, district president Sridhar Shetty, Ganjimath gram panchayat member Nonayya Kotian and scientist professor Manjappa were present. The minister distributed the letters of approvals for allotment of houses to the beneficiaries under Matsya Ashraya Vasati scheme. Fisheries department additional director M L Doddamani welcomed. Director D Thippeswamy gave a

keynote address. Fisheries joint director Harish Kumar rendered a vote of thanks.

### **Karnataka: River-linking project will disrupt Ghats, fish habitats**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2022/feb/08/river-linking-project-will-disrupt-ghats-fish-habitats-2416647.html>

"The Western Ghats, on Unesco's World Heritage Site list, will be directly impacted if the Karnataka government implements the Centre's ambitious mega river-linking project. The project will not just impact the fisheries sector, but will also affect the food intake pattern of many who depend on aquatic species for proteins. Environmentalists point out that the fragile Western and Eastern Ghats will be impacted when natural river courses are changed. Officials from the fisheries department concur that it will mean a huge disruption in the habitat of the fish, and the resultant food chain and people's eating habits. It will change the level of salinity and oxygen, which will disrupt the natural ecosystem and affect the endemic species. Three species that will be affected are the Mahaseer in the Cauvery, Hilsa and fresh water eels, which are consumed by many. A senior fisheries official, on condition of anonymity, said, "These three species are immediate, but many other migratory species will also be impacted in the food chain."

"It is not just the financial implication, but also the environmental and social implications which need to be assessed. Yettinahole is a classic example of this failure. The cost of the project has escalated from Rs 8,000 crore to Rs 23,000 crore, but the project has not moved much," said Kishore Kumar, president of Malanadu Janapara Horata Samiti. Conservationists say that changing the natural course of a river is not simple, and definitely not practical, like turning the River Sharavati northwards instead of the original Western Ghats. "The government thinks river water flowing into the sea is a waste. But it doesn't realise that it's the natural course and important for estuaries, aquatic life and protection of native and endemic vegetative species. The plan was prepared by the National Water Board in the 1980s, but now the groundwater situation, population, urbanisation and even water level in rivers has changed," points out Prof (retd) MB Kumaraswamy, economist and author. Environmentalists have also raised questions on the ecological impact, when around 300 dams will have to be constructed to link the rivers, and coal energy generated to pump water upstream. The Telugu Ganga project and Kerala's Silent Valley project are classic examples of the failure of such projects. "Linking five man-made rivers in Rajasthan to provide water to a parched state cannot be replicated in Karnataka, where the topography is different. Karnataka has a large section of the Western Ghats, connects to the Eastern Ghats and is also linked to the sea. Each region needs a specific environmental impact assessment and local solutions should be found to meet the water requirement," said Kalgundi Naveen, author and teacher. RTI activists say they have filed applications seeking details of the project, but no state has shared them.

### **Goa: Talpona fishermen seek action against Karnataka counterparts**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/talpona-fishermen-seek-action-against-ktaka-counterparts/articleshow/89125094.cms>

"Talpona fishermen are awaiting action by the state authorities against bull trawling by their counterparts of Mhalpe, Karnataka despite highlighting the issue around 45 days ago. Following reports of bull trawling within 2-3 nautical miles of Goa's waters, a meeting was organised last week by Akhil Goa Kshatriya Pagi Community, former Canacona MLA Isidore Fernandes and fisheries department officials. Fernandes pulled up the fisheries department for not acting against Karnataka fishermen who are using bigger trawlers which is affecting the livelihood of local fishermen. This incident first occurred on November 25 last year. "When our poor Pagi community are suffering, how can we sit quiet?" the former MLA said, and assured the fishermen that their problems will be redressed within eight days. He said that the fisheries department should have intercepted the Karnataka fishermen trawlers who are violating the 12 nautical miles limit set for them for fishing. He also said that the patrolling boat is non-operational near the Talpona coastal police station for over a year now and assured to get it repaired. Others who spoke and were present were Olencio Simoes, Janardhan Bhandari, Divakar Pagi, Ratnakar Dhuri, Anup Kurtarkar and others. During the incident in November last year, 25 high-speed big fishing boats were found fishing illegally in Goan territory near Talpona, and were intercepted by fisheries department personnel assisted by Coastal police under police Inspector Navlesh Desai. Five fishing nets worth Rs 3 lakh and some fish were attached by the authorities.

### **Karnataka: Centre sanctions more kerosene for fishermen**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/centre-sanctions-more-kerosene-for-fishermen-shobha/articleshow/89144404.cms>

"The Union petroleum ministry has ordered to release 3,540 kl of non-subsidised kerosene to Karnataka, for supplying the same to traditional fishermen in coastal Karnataka, in addition to the already allocated 7,080 kl. Union minister of state for agriculture and farmers' welfare Shobha Karandlaje said the food and civil supplies department of Karnataka had sought for the additional allocation of kerosene for fishermen, on November 6 last year. In all, 10,620 kl kerosene was allocated to Karnataka in 2021-22. "There are more than 10,000 traditional fishing

boats on the state's coast; 60,000 fishermen are directly engaged in traditional fishing. Moreover, they are dependent on the kerosene supplied by the government for traditional fishing. Fishermen's federations from Udupi had complained that they do not get sufficient quantities of kerosene. Hence, I brought the issue to the notice of the Union ministry of petroleum. The ministry has responded to the demand of Karnataka, and sanctioned an additional quantity of kerosene for traditional fishermen in the state," Karandlaje said. In a letter to the commissioner of Karnataka, department of food, civil supplies and consumer affairs, A K Sinha, under secretary to the ministry of petroleum and natural gas, stated that the request of the government of Karnataka for allocation of the additional quantity of non-subsidised kerosene for the special need for the year 2021-22, has been considered. Accordingly, it has been decided to allocate the state of Karnataka 3,540 kl of non-subsidised PDS kerosene, in addition to the earlier allocation of 7,080 kl, Sinha stated.

### **Karnataka: Fish vendors will soon get solar-powered e-vehicles**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/fish-vendors-will-soon-get-solar-powered-e-vehicles/articleshow/89066887.cms>

"In an attempt to provide consumers with fresh fish at their doorsteps, and uplift the fishing community, the fisheries department has decided to introduce e-vehicles with cold storage facility and solar panels, for the door-to-door delivery of fish. This is probably the first-of-its-kind initiative introduced by the department, where these electric vehicles will be provided to the vendors, said minister for fisheries, ports and inland water transport S Angara. He told STOI that under the 'Fresh fish to home' programme of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, electric vehicles will be distributed to the beneficiaries in the next 15 days. The department has reserved Rs 4 crore for the project. The cost of each vehicle is about Rs 8 lakh, and is fitted with solar panels and cold storage facility. This is an attempt to generate self-employment, and provide the consumer quality fish. In the first phase, plans are to distribute these unique e-vehicles in all the taluks of Dakshina Kannada district. "We plan to procure more vehicles in the next financial year. The formal launch will be announced after consulting chief minister Basavaraj Bommai," Angara said. The vehicles will be fitted with a solar panel, freezer, swappable lithium batteries, speaker and GPRS, and is connected to an fisheries department app to take orders. Beneficiaries for the purchase of the vehicle will be selected by the fisheries department, and priority will be given to women. Currently, there are several programmes launched for the fishing community, including Matsya Ashraya Yojane, Matsya Mahila Swalambana Yojane, and Matsya Vahini Scheme, among others. If we include the 'Fresh Fish to Home' concept for the fishermen who sell fish on the streets in the coastal areas, they can earn more profits. The sales volume will increase at least 10 times. Generally, women selling fish are found only in coastal areas. If we promote and encourage more beneficiaries, and strengthen the transportation system, so that fresh fish reaches the destination quickly, then the number of

entrepreneurs selling fish can increase by 40% in the state,” said an official working closely on the project. Team officials including Ramacharya, director, fisheries, Mallikharjun, special officer on duty for the fisheries minister and Arun Dhanapal are closely working on the project.

**Karnataka: NABARD projects Karnataka’s credit plan at Rs. 3.32 lakh crore**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/nabard-projects-karnatakas-credit-plan-at-rs-332-lakh-crore/article38263236.ece>

"The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Regional Office, Karnataka, has projected the credit potential for the State at Rs. 3,32,915.81 crore for 2022-23. The credit projection for the agricultural sector was Rs. 1,61,777 crore and for the MSME sector was Rs. 1,28,296 crore, which constituted 49% and 39%, respectively. Speaking at a State credit seminar here on Wednesday, Niraj Kumar Verma, CGM, NABARD, Karnataka, highlighted that Karnataka has been the frontrunner in providing support to banks for credit offtake. The State Government’s initiative in setting up Centre of Excellence for Farmers Produce Organisations and Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System (FRUITS) portal for banks were expected to accelerate lending in the State, he said. Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner Vandita Sharma released the ‘State Focus Paper’ containing total credit projection under priority sector lending for the year 2022-23 in Karnataka. Ms. Sharma emphasised that banks should step up issue of Kisan Credit Cards to PM KISAN scheme beneficiaries and Kisan Credit Cards for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries sectors and Atmanirbhar schemes. She appealed to all banks to effectively utilise FRUITS portal of the State government for faster and hassle-free credit dispensation.

**Karnataka: 20 employees of fish processing unit near Mangaluru hospitalised after ammonia leak**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/20-employees-of-fish-processing-unit-near-mangaluru-hospitalised-after-ammonia-leak/article38234224.ece>

"Twenty employees, including 16 women, of a fish processing unit were admitted to private hospital in Mukka, on the outskirts of Mangaluru, following leakage of ammonia gas. Police said the victims are employees of Everest Fish Processing Plant in Panambur police station limits. District Fire Officer Mohammed Nawaz said it was minor leak of ammonia that

caused eye irritation and other discomfort to employees. The unit in-charge immediately shifted the personnel to the hospital in Mukka. Mr. Nawaz said fire and emergency personnel rushed to the spot around noon along with personnel from Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilisers, and plugged the leak. Police Commissioner N. Shashi Kumar met the employees in the hospital.

**Karnataka: Traditional boat fishermen warn govt of massive protest**

<https://daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=912469>

""The government should resolve the problem of traditional fishermen within a week. If it fails to do so, the State Traditional Boat Fishermen's Federation will hold a massive protest in front of the DC office,"" warned Ananda Kharvi Uppunda, state president of Federation. Addressing the media at the Press Club, Ananda Kharvi said, ""Though the number of traditional boat fishermen is increasing every year, the quantity of kerosene being provided to the fishermen from the year 2008 remains the same. Though there was a good catch this time, the fishermen who were willing to buy traditional boats have backtracked."" In a month, the government is supplying 300 liters of Kerosene without subsidy to each boat. In a month, nearly, 4,514 traditional boats of three districts get only 1.355 kiloliters of Kerosene, he lamented. ""In the coastal region of the state, there are over 10,000 boats using Kerosene. At 300 liters, the boats require 30,300 liters of Kerosene annually. In the state, over 60,600 fishermen rely on traditional fishing boats. In 2021-22, nearly 12, 195 kiloliters of kerosene should have been provided. But, the Union government has released only 7,080 kiloliters of Kerosene and that too without subsidy. This has already been supplied to the fishermen till November 2021.

From the month of December to March 2022, the union government is supposed to release 5, 115 kiloliters of Kerosene but it has not happened. But, in 2021-22, for the Kerala government, Kerosene without subsidy was released in two phases"", Uppunda said. He added that the Director of the Fisheries Department who had urged the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to release of 5,115 kiloliters of kerosene for the state. Though the memorandum was submitted to the minister concerned, it has been of no use, he said. Federation general secretary Gopal Kunder, DK Traditional Boat Fishermen's Association president Vijay Bangera, Uttara Kannada Tradition Boat Fishermen's Association president Krishna Harikantha Gangoli and others were present.

**Karnataka: Fish landing-cum-berthing basin for traditional boats to come up at Bengre**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/fish-landing-cum-berthing-basin-for-traditional-boats-to-come-up-at-bengre/article37988632.ece>

"Mangaluru City South MLA D. Vedavyas Kamath initiated the work for the construction of the first fish landing-cum-berthing basin for traditional fishing boats at Bengre by laying the foundation stone for the project on Saturday. The basin will be constructed at a cost of

Rs.3.37 crore and it will come up on the either sides of the ferry point in Tota Bengre. It will cater to the needs of 150-odd fishermen from the city who use traditional boats. “You (traditional boat fishermen) have been demanding a basin for a long time. It will be ready in another 18 months,” Mr. Kamath said in his address during the function. Assistant Engineer, Fisheries Department, Manohar Acharya, said the basin would be 90-metre-long and 80-metre-wide. The river basin will be dredged by 2 metres to accommodate 150 boats. Two diaphragm walls each of length of 56 and 36 metres, respectively, will be constructed. Mr. Acharya said the project was sanctioned in 2018. It took time in getting clearance from the Coastal Regulatory Zone Authority and subsequently tenders were floated three times. The work order was issued in September 2021.

Hovercraft issue Ajith Bengre, president of the Association of Traditional Boat Fishermen, said the traditional boat operators were facing a problem with frequent operation of Indian Coast Guard’s hovercraft on the river. Mr. Bengre said when hovercraft sails it generates waves of great intensity, which is causing damage to traditional boats which are closely berthed. “We have pointed out at this issue to the Coast Guard authorities and asked them to operate it with less speed. But the Coast Guards said they are helpless,” he said and asked the Fisheries Department to construct a breakwater for the basin that was being constructed. While asking the Fisheries Department to seek clearance for building the breakwater, Mr. Kamath said he would discuss with experts about the problem and arrange funds from the Government for its construction. Mr. Kamath later laid the foundation stone for the construction of a Skill Development Centre at the cost of Rs.2 crore at Kasba Bengre. Women from minority communities would be trained in tailoring and computers at this centre, he said.

### **Karnataka: 5% GST on marine engine and its spare parts supplied for fishing vessel for use as part of fishing vessel**

<https://www.taxscan.in/5-gst-on-marine-engine-and-its-spare-parts-supplied-for-fishing-vessel-for-use-as-part-of-fishing-vessel-aar/145169/>

"The Karnataka Authority of Advance Ruling (AAR) ruled that 5% GST marine engine and its spare parts be supplied for fishing vessels for use as part of the fishing vessel. The Applicant, M/s. South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies is a Charitable Society formed under the Travancore-Cochin Literary Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act, 1955. This Society has been engaged in undertaking various welfare activities for the poor fisherman in

South India for the last forty years. They provide the fishermen necessary fishing requisites at a concessional rate. Fishing boats and Ice Boxes are manufactured by the Applicant while Marine engines for fishing vessels are imported from outside India. The applicant has sought advance ruling in respect of rate of tax on Marine Engines coming under HSN Code 8407 and its spare parts exclusively used as part of fishing vessel of heading 8902. Whether GST leviable on supply of materials and labour charges incurred during the warranty period, free of cost. Rate of tax applicable for collection made towards supply of materials and labour charges towards repair of fishing vessels of heading 8902.

Rate of tax on puff insulated ice boxes used by fishermen in fishing vessels for reducing spoilage and maintaining good hygiene. Rate of tax on marine engine coming under HSN Code 8407 supplied to Defence Department for patrol, flood relief and rescue operations. The coram of Dr. Ravi Prasad and T.Kiran Reddy held that the marine engine and its spare parts supplied for fishing vessel for use as part of the fishing vessel- CTH 8902) shall attract GST at the rate of 5% [2.5% – CGST + 2.5% – KGST) as per entry at Sl.No.252 of Schedule 1 of Notification No.01/2017 Central Tax (Rate) dated 28.06.2017. If it is supplied for use other than as parts of fishing vessels, GST shall be applicable at the rate of tax on such goods under the respective Customs Tariff Heading classified. The provision of material and labour during warranty period without consideration (free of cost) does not come under the purview of supply in terms of Section 7 of the CGST Act, 2017 and no GST is leviable in such free of cost replacements/labour services. “The activity of repair of fishing vessels is a composite supply involving supply of material/ spares which is ancillary to the predominant supply of services. The supply is appropriately classifiable under Heading 9987-998714- Maintenance and repair of transport machinery and equipment and vide Sl.No.25(ii) of the Notification No.11/2017 Central Tax (Rate) dated 28.06.2017 the supply is liable to GST at the rate of 18% (9% -CGST+9 % -KGST). The puff insulated ice boxes are appropriately classifiable under Customs Tariff Heading 3923 10 30- Articles for the conveyance or packing of goods, made of plastics – Boxes, cases, crates and similar articles – Insulated ware. The said articles falling under Customs Tariff Head 3923 are liable to GST at the rate of 18% [9% – CGST +9%-KGST] as per entry at Sl.No.108 of Schedule III of Notification No.01/2017 Central Tax (Rate) dated 28.06.2017. Marine engines supplied for use as part of vessel falling under Customs Tariff Heading 8906, which are used by the Department of Defence and other agencies for patrol, relief and rescue operations, then the marine engine as part of such vessel will only attract GST at the rate of 5% 12.5% -CGST +2.5% – KGST as per the said entry,” the AAR said.

### **Karnataka: 101 Islands in the state face threat of climate change, reveals study**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2021/dec/17/101-islands-in-karnataka-face-threat-of-climate-change-reveals-study-2396414.html>

"As the impact of climate change is already being felt by citizens, with unprecedented

and untimely rains even in December, a recent study by experts and government agencies has shown that 101 offshore islands in Karnataka will face the direct impact of climate change if nothing is done. Interestingly, of the 101 islands listed in the report, 47 are not even named. The report — ‘Rapid Assessment of Blue Economy Potential in Karnataka 2021’, — prepared by the College of Fisheries under a contract to the World Bank, Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Survey of India (SoI), Fisheries Department, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) and experts — is before the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) for immediate action, since November. A portion of this report has also been included in the Karnataka State Action Plan on Climate Change-Version 2, prepared by the Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI), which is also before the MoEFCC for implementation since the last six months.

“While the government, at the COP-26 summit, has joined hands to support and protect island nations from the threat of climate change, little attention is being paid to the islands and coastline in India, especially in Karnataka. As the government is keen on encouraging tourism and activities, it is also eager to relax coastal regulation zone (CRZ) norms, which poses a bigger threat,” said an expert working with MoEFCC. Dr A Senthil Vel, Professor and Dean of College of Fisheries, Mangaluru, told The New Indian Express, “There are 1,238 islands in India, of which 120 are in Karnataka, 31 in Lakshwadeep and 340 in the Andaman and Nicobar islands. Of the 120, 101 have been found to be facing climate change threat.” ‘Several islands not even named’ DR A Senthil Vel added, “Even as some are visited and utilised, like Netrani and St Mary’s Island, many are not even named. Each of the 101 listed islands are measured and mapped by SoI, but not named. Some can be used for fishing and tourism. There is a need for recognition and protection.” He added that the islands are 5-6 miles away from the shoreline and the smallest is 830 sqkm in area. Each island can be utilised for some purpose. Seven unnamed islands of the 101 are yet to be even surveyed. Soil erosion in coastal areas The report prepared by EMPRI also points to the threat of soil erosion in coastal areas. It states that the entire shoreline is slowly eroding.

Citing the example of beaches at Ullal in Dakshin Kannada, the EMPRI report stated that it is losing more than one metre of shoreline annually and Bhavikeri in Uttara Kannada was also seen losing more than 1.3 metres annually. It also stated Yermal and Devbagh shoreline has in fact increased by 3.1 metres annually. The EMPRI, in its report, also listed 94 islands and beaches which face threat, of which 23 are inhabited or frequented by fishing communities, farmers and locals. Researchers point out that the islands have potential for tourism and fisheries and should be protected. Dr Venkatray Nayak, retired Professor of Marine Biology, said many islands have heritage and historic value. They have forts, temples and other places of worship which are frequented by villagers and local folks, but need protection.

**Goa and Karnataka: Traditional fishermen demand ban on bull trawling, LED light**

## **fishing**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Goa-Karnataka-traditional-fishermen-demand-ban-on-bull-trawling-LED-light-fishing/183714>

"Various traditional fishermen associations from Goa and Karnataka have demanded a ban on illegal 'bull trawling' fishing carried out by Karnataka-based Malpe trawlers and also for a ban on 'LED light' fishing being carried out in Goa and Karnataka territorial waters. A warning was also issued to the State government that action would be taken against Goan boats found in Karnataka waters if they fail to stop such activities. The associations handed over a charter of demands to the Goa Fisheries Department on Wednesday and copies were sent to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Union Fisheries Minister Parshottam Rupala. The traditional fishermen associations were accompanied by the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) and Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott (GRE). Addressing media persons, NFF vice chairperson Olencio Simoes explained that from Bhatkal in Karnataka to Arambol in Goa, traditional fishermen have come on a common platform.

"We have demanded strict action against destructive gears like bull or pair trawling and the use of LED lights equipped with or without generators," Simoes said and added that unchecked misuse of such gears has adversely hampered the livelihoods of the traditional fishermen of the two States. Simoes also pointed out that these gears have been banned in the territorial waters and Indian Exclusive Zone (EEZ) since 2016 but violations continue. GRE president Agnelo Rodrigues slammed the State Fisheries Minister and Director for failing to execute the ban on such destructive technology as a result of which, traditional fishermen from the two states have to return home empty handed. Rodrigues pointed out that trawlers from Malpe in Karnataka continuously enter the territorial waters of Goa as well as Karnataka using high speed engines and scoop all the fishing catch using illegal bull trawling methods. "It is an utter shame that even after the local fishermen have caught these illegal boats and brought this to the notice of the Fisheries Department, still these boats are conducting fishing without fear of law," Rodrigues said. Devraj Sail, the President of the Karnataka-based MMSYMNS demanded strict action on Goans who allegedly use boats that have high powered engines that are above 500 HP and operate with alleged illegal gears in the territorial waters of Goa and Karnataka. "If the State of Goa fails to take action then we will be forced to take action against all Goan boats who are doing LED light fishing in Karnataka and also block the Goa-Karnataka border at Polem," Devraj said.

## **Karnataka: Udupi fishermen demand formation of welfare board**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/udupi-fishermen-demand-formation-of-welfare-board/article37875826.ece>

"Udupi District Fishermen and Fish Workers Association recently staged a demonstration in support of their various demands, including payment of minimum wages, social security, formation of welfare board and prohibition on foreign vessels engaging in fishing in Indian waters. The association submitted a memorandum after the protest to the district administration. Leaders K. Shankar, Kaviraj, S. Venkatesh, Koni Mahesh Poojari, Umesh Kundar, Nalini, Anwar, Sangamesh, Vasanth and others were present. Demanding an increase in Central allocation of funds for fisheries sector, the association said that foreign fishing vessels should be prohibited from engaging in fishing activities in the exclusive economic zone. It also urged the government not to harass fishermen living on the coast in the name of Coastal Regulation Zone norms. Subsidised kerosene was not being provided on time to traditional fishers, the Association said urging the government to set right the anomalies. The government should expedite distribution of house sites to fishers and fish workers and provide funding to build houses. It also demanded formation of a welfare board for fishermen and fish workers. This should facilitate payment of compensation in cases of accidents, housing facility and scholarship to their wards. Fishermen and fish workers should be paid pension of at least Rs.6,000 a month once they cross the age of 60, the association said. It also demanded free ration during the monsoon fishing holiday and payment of Rs.10 lakh compensation for accidental deaths.

#### **Goa: Nets worth Rs 3 lakh seized from Karnataka fishermen**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/nets-worth-rs-3l-seized-from-karnataka-fishermen-in-go/articleshow/87918626.cms>

"The fisheries department on Thursday found 25 high speed fishing boats from Karnataka fishing in the territorial waters of Goa within two nautical miles near Talpona in Canacona. Assisted by the coastal police, the fisheries department seized five fishing nets worth Rs 3 lakh and some fish. Goa Kshatriya Pagi Samaj president Ashok Dhuri said for the past eight days, fishermen from Malpe in Karnataka have been fishing in Goan waters violating the distance limit of 12 nautical miles. "We, Pagi Samaj members, who fish in small canoes, have been seeing them and today, along with the fisheries department and coastal police, we went to question them. They were arrogant and on seeing the police in the fishing canoe, they fled in their high speed boats," he said. "The coastal police is handicapped as they do not possess a vigilance working boat as the one allotted to them is non-operational for the last one year. Besides, the police is equipped with two guns, which have no special room to be kept at the coastal police station at Talpona.

The guns are therefore kept at Cutbona, which is many nautical miles away," Dhuri said. He further appealed to the department concerned to make the vigilance boat available to the coastal police in the absence of which they are handicapped. This, he said, can result in fights between small fishermen and the fishermen with bigger boats. Dhuri added that the bigger boats do bull fishing by violating the distance limit, whereby the small fishermen have no space to carry out

fishing. “Whenever these small fishermen go for fishing in their small canoes, the bigger boats can collide with them purposely,” he said.

**Karnataka and Kerala: Low pressure formed over Arabian sea on Karnataka coast; widespread rain likely in Kerala**

<https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/kerala/low-pressure-formed-over-arabian-sea-on-karnataka-coast-widespread-rain-likely-in-kerala-kerala-cyclone-monsoon-indian-meteorological-department-1.6182779>

"A low pressure area has formed over the middleeast Arabian Sea on the coast of Karnataka. It is learned that a cyclone is taking shape in the middleeast-southeast Arabian Sea near Karnataka and Northern Kerala. The cyclone is likely to move in west-northwest direction and intensify in the next 48 hours, the authorities informed. This is the eighth low pressure that formed during the 47 days of monsoon. Meantime, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasted widespread rain in Kerala for Tuesday and Wednesday, and isolated heavy rainfall in several districts in northern Kerala under the impact of the cyclone. However, there is no further threat as the cyclone is moving away from Kerala. At the same time, authorities have banned fishing on the Kerala-Lakshadweep coast and on the Northern Kerala coast till November 16 and the Karnataka coast till November 17. They have forecasted gusty winds with speeds of up to 60 kmph in some areas. Meantime, a low-pressure area formed over the North Andaman Sea is likely to move west-northwest and intensify over the next 24 hours into a well-marked low-pressure depression. It will then head west and reach the Bay of Bengal by November 18 and reach the coast of south Andhra Pradesh and north Tamil Nadu.

**Karnataka: Seven fishermen rescued after boat catches fire**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/karwar-seven-fishermen-rescued-after-boat-catches-fire/articleshow/87548957.cms>

"The timely and swift action by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has saved the lives of seven fishermen in distress due to fire engulfed on a fishing boat IFB Varda Vinayaka-I. A short circuit in the wheelhouse is suspected to be the cause for the fire accident. The fishing boat was at a distance of 10 nautical miles from Karwar lighthouse. On receipt of a message by MRSC New Mangalore at 10pm on Friday from coastal security police, Malpe C-155 from Karwar was sailed immediately for search and rescue mission and for an assessment of the incident and evacuation of fishermen. ICGS C-155 reached the spot and immediately swung into action of dousing the fire after ascertaining all seven crew shifted to nearby fishing boat IFB Vajra. The

operation to completely douse the fire was completed in about three hours. On assessing that there was no further possibility of fire out-break, C-155 provided all assistance to IFB Vajra for towing the ill-fated fishing boat to Karwar fishing harbour. "All the fishermen are in a healthy state," said DIG SB Venkatesh, commander, coast guard, Karnataka.

### **Karnataka: Fishing boat drowns after crashing into rock – Six fishermen rescued**

<https://daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=888002>

"A fishing boat that had left the Malpe seashore for fishing hit a rock near Malpe when returning to the port on Thursday October 28 morning. Six fishermen who were inside the boat were rescued. The boat bearing the name, 'Shree Navashakti' owned by Bharathi Thingalaya from Kallianpur had sailed off from Malpe on October 25. On Thursday, at around 5 am, the boat was on its way back to the port when it went out of control due to strong waves very near the port, and hit the rock with force. The bottom of the boat was completely damaged. As such, water gushed into the boat and it was about to drown. People in some nearby boats rushed to the spot and rescued the fishermen, apart from pulling the boat to Malpe port. The stock of fish caught by the fishermen, fishnet and other equipment inside the boat were washed away in this incident. Loss of about Rs 20 lac has been estimated.

### **Karnataka: Cage fish farming gains popularity – Fishermen apply in large numbers**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=886112>

"The number of people undertaking cage aquaculture has exceeded 1,500 now. The increasing interest of the fishermen to undertake cage fish farming, which initially began ten years with a solitary unit in Uppunda in Byndoor taluk, can be evidenced by the fact that a large number of people have filed applications under the Matsya Sampada scheme. Out of them, over 1,200 applications have come from Kundapur taluk. The officials have a problem on hand in disposing these applications off. The officials have now requested the fisheries college to undertake capacity study to find out whether so many units can be installed. Cage aquaculture is nothing but creating cages inside the river with the help of nets and raising fingerlings there. Fisheries department joint director Ramacharya Puranik, says that an interim report has been received, and further steps will be undertaken after the full report is received. If there are a large number of cages, natural flow of water in the river will get obstructed. If the fishes get washed away due to floods after they grow, the fishermen will lose heavily. The study is undertaken to avoid these things. Under this scheme, women get 60 percent and men get 40 percent subsidy to set up these units which cost about three lac rupees. Babu Kharvi, a cage fish advisor, says that about three lac rupees will have to be spent for fabrication work, fish food etc and out of a thousand fingerlings, even if 500 survive, in nine months, one tonne of fish is produced. If it is sold at Rs 400, the income is four lac rupees and one lac rupees would be the net earning, he

points out.

**Karnataka: Subsidy for setting up fisheries micro units**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/subsidy-for-setting-up-fisheries-micro-units/article37082417.ece>

"The Fisheries Department has said that the Union Government will provide Rs. 10 lakh subsidy to those interested in setting up micro enterprises manufacturing value added products from fish. The subsidy will be provided under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative. Interested entrepreneurs can contact the office of the Deputy Director of the department in the Zilla Panchayat office.

**Karnataka: Cage aquaculture fishes dying under mysterious circumstances**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=884385>

"During the previous season, thousands of fishes raised through cage aquaculture had died under mysterious circumstances in Byndoor and Kundapur areas. Before the bitter memories of these deaths were forgotten, fishes grown through cage fishing have started dying in Panchagangavali river. This development has caught the fish growers unawares. From the last three days, death of a few fishes here and there was witnessed. On Sunday, the deaths saw a quantum jump. The entire cages are getting vacant due to the mass deaths. Hundreds of cages have been installed from Sangam area of Panchagangavali area till Bobbukudru. Several fishes which had reached a weight of one kg have also died. The families which depended on cage fishing for a living are now burying the dead fishes and their financial resources have dried up. Those engaged in cage aquaculture have accused hotels, hospitals and complexes of releasing untreated effluents directly into the river as a result of which they say that the oxygen content in the water falls, resulting in the fishes suffocating to death. The rule that effluents of hotel have to be treated before being released into the river is not being followed. Likewise, hospital waste including chemicals reaches river water which poses risk not only to the cage fishes but also other aqua creatures. The underground drainage project is stranded midway and the problem of polluted water may not get a solution at least for now. Minister, Kota Srinivas Poojary said, that in the past, when he was the fisheries minister, a study had found that polluted water had caused these deaths and therefore the cage aquaculturists were helped to procure fingerlings. He said he will draw the attention of the fisheries minister and the government about these deaths.

**Karnataka: Rs.7.5 crore each for developing villages with large number of fishermen**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/75-crore-each-for-developing-villages-with-large-number-of-fishermen/article37040764.ece>

"Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan said on Sunday that the Union Government will invest Rs.7.5 crore for developing infrastructure in each such village where fishermen lived in large numbers. Speaking at a programme in Malpe, Udupi, the Minister said that such villages will be identified shortly. The funds will also be utilised for education of fishermen and to promote fishing activities in such villages. He said that the Union Government will invest Rs.725 crore for promoting fisheries activities in the State in the next five years. The government has approved a fisheries harbour in Hejmady. The Minister said that the government is developing five ports in the country. Those ports will have infrastructure conducive for fisheries activities, ice plants, hospitals, among others. Minister for Fisheries, Ports, Inland Water Transport S. Angara said that the State Government has sent 16 proposals to the Union Government for developing fisheries sector. Udupi MLA K. Raghupati Bhat said that the government should exempt fishing boats from paying cess and reduce taxes on diesel supplied to boats. Fisherman Raviraj Suvarna said that the government should introduce sea ambulance for fishermen to address their health concerns while they go fishing. Fisherwoman Sumithra demanded allocation of spacious land for selling dry fish in the Malpe Port area.

#### **Goa: Act against bull trawling by Karnataka boats**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/act-against-bull-trawling-by-karnataka-boats/articleshow/87051673.cms>

"President of Goenchea Raponkarancho Ekvott (GRE) Agnelo Rodrigues slammed the fisheries department for not acting against trawlers from Karnataka for bull trawling in the territorial waters of Goa. GRE stated that the fisheries department in 2016 and the central government in 2017, had banned the use of bull trawling in the territorial waters and Indian Exclusive Zone (EEZ). However, over hundred trawlers from Karnataka are using the banned destructive gears without the fear of law or or Goa government, GRE further stated. "If this continues, then there could be law and order situation in the state and only the state government will be responsible for any untoward incident," Rodrigues said adding that two trawlers from Malpe, Karnataka, were caught in South Goa. GRE general secretary Olencio Simoes has also demanded that the illegal boats from Malpe should be impounded. He has appealed to the fisheries minister Filipe Neri Rodrigues to immediately direct the fisheries department to strictly implement the law on bull trawling and other violations. GRE has further warned the department that if the Karnataka boats are let free without taking any strict action, then the next time the traditional fishermen will take the law in their hands.

#### **Karnataka: Fish purchases boycott by one community**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=882748>

"Strong exception to the decision of a particular community deciding to boycott fish purchases from Gangolli fishing port, have decided to extend moral support to the fisherwomen who sell fishes in Gangolli, and who are being targeted. The community has boycotted fish purchases there because of the fact that fisherwomen from Gangolli were among those who took part in a mega Padayatra organized in Gangolli sometime back to register protest against theft and slaughter of cows. Leaders of Kundapur units of these two organizations, and workers of Nandagokula cashew factory extended unequivocal support to the fisherwomen at Gangolli fish market on Tuesday October 12 and instilled confidence in them. They told the fish vending women that in course of time, Hindus from different villages will come to Gangolli to purchase fishes and asked them not to lose heart at any cost. Addressing the gathering, member of the central board of trustees of VHP, Premananda Shetty, condemned those who boycotted fish purchases in Gangolli and forced their community members to do the same. He said that an attempt is being made to dent the self-confidence of these women who sell fish to meet their daily expenses, by staying away from the fish market continuously.

He said that the Hindu organizations were there to bring back confidence in the fisherwomen and expressed the resolve to support the women fish vendors irrespective of who boycotts or attacks the vendors. He also said that the organizations are determined to resist the boycott call and that the organisations will be firmly backing these women irrespective of challenges they might face. ""For thousands of years, boycotts have been used as a weapon by this community all over the country as part of widespread conspiracy. The conspiracy is to separate Hindus from the nation, but this conspiracy will fail. Hindus have woken up now and have ready been giving a fitting reply. If the community faces attack or threat anywhere in India, we are there to support them. This particular community had won our confidence so far by acting as if they were with us, but now suddenly tried to crush the traders here. We are steadfastly behind the fishermen,"" he asserted.

**Goa: The full-fledged cry of traditional Goan fishermen to a fisherman from Karnataka who had crossed over illegally, that there is no fish in Goa's waters**

<https://www.heraldgoa.in/Insight/Hear-my-cry-What-will-we-eat-if-you-take-away-our-fish/181226>

"The full-fledged cry of traditional Goan fishermen to a fisherman from Karnataka who had crossed over illegally, that there is no fish in Goa's waters, is a shame on everyone who claims to be a decision-maker and leader in Goa. These fishermen have been literally fighting for their survival and fighting with big trawlers who have clearly taken away the fish stock from their waters. On Monday when fishing vessels from Karnataka entered Goan waters in Betul they alerted the coastal police, they gave chase to the trawler on speed boats provided by a local

traditional fisherman Pele Fernandes. When the trawlers were brought in, the cry of Goan fishermen was too painful. While congratulating the coastal police, one local fisherman said, “From 3 in the morning I have been out. But have got nothing. We have no money, our stomachs are empty and you people come from outside (to take away Goan fish).” - The sea wealth of Goa is literally pulled away by these monster LED boats. And yet, the government does little to stop them - The LED lobby has been so powerful that the government really hasn’t been able to control them. But who has suffered? Our traditional Goan fishermen. - In May 2016 Goa government banned the use of LED by trawlers - In three months, in August, it lifted the ban and permitted the use of this lighting equipment on boats in areas beyond 12 nautical miles. The then Fisheries Minister Avertano Furtado, who has now joined the Congress, has said that outstation fishermen would have to submit an affidavit stating that they would not fish in State waters.

And, they should install trackers so that the government can verify their location of fishing. None of this has happened and fishermen continue to come close to or into Goans waters to fish making a mockery of all restrictions. The ban on LED fishing inland waters also exists. The head of every Goan should hang when Goans practising our land’s most traditional occupations have such heartbreaking moments. The traditional fishermen decided to even take out their mechanised speed boats and lend them to the coastal police because no interceptor boats of the force are in order and lying at the coastal stations. And they helped in the interception and arrest of the Karnataka fishermen. But the manner in which they lashed out at the Karnataka fishermen reflected both the hurt at them as well, as the disappointment they had with their own government and leaders, for not giving them basic protection and support. At the same time, the inaction of the government has led to the destruction of one of Goa’s most valuable natural resources. Why is infrastructure in coastal police stations being allowed to rot? Doesn’t this make our coasts unsafe and the livelihoods and lives of our fishermen vulnerable? Can one even imagine something like this? Nine interceptor boats, so important to give chase and trap vessels that are suspicious of carrying out illegal activities or moving illegal goods or contraband are not functioning. It is criminal negligence on the part of the government not to keep these boats in full working condition. Apart from the fishing community, others will ask who will be held accountable for the absolutely crippled coastal police which needs to chase down intruders on private speedboats lent by water sports operators. Where is the Fisheries Minister? Where is the local MLA?. Why was there not a single statement from the government or local leader or anyone from the opposition, including the former fisheries minister Avertano Furtado from the neighbouring constituency? The Cutbona jetty, the nerve centre of Goan fishermen of South Goa falls under the Velim constituency represented by the turncoat Fisheries Minister Filipe Nery Rodrigues, who defected to the BJP.

The Betul jetty, an area where many fishermen live falls in the Quepem constituency represented by the Deputy Chief Minister and another defector MLA Babu Kavlekar. The Talpona jetty falls

in the Canacona constituency, again represented by another defector MLA Isidore Fernandes. The question that Goa's traditional fishermen are asking: Where were the people we voted for during our times of need? Goan fishermen are our pride, they are the soul of Goa and they are a key element of what Goan identity is all about. That pride has been badly hurt. On one hand, the polluted waters of our rivers and the sea has killed the treasure of the sea – its fish and other seafood and on the other, big trawlers and other boats fitted with LED lights have been illegally crossing over to our waters and trapping fish sometimes even the smaller ones, along with their babies. These LED boats can even be outside our waters but shine the lights on the water to stun the fish towards the boats. There was a time when the rivers and sea gave Goan fishing families everything Traditional fishing families never had any need.

Each caught fish for themselves and their neighbours. At times the fish they caught was exchanged for rice and vegetables with neighbours and all were well fed and happy. The simple ease of life went on for generations. Many turned this way of life into a good honest business. But the greed of some has led to the Goan waters not having any fish. Sea pollution is at an all-time high. With pollution and construction debris filling into the seas and rivers, the colour of the waters is changing. Many beaches have become black due to coal and other polluting. Extinct shellfish: Our sea is getting empty of its treasures. So much so, even our shellfish is getting extinct. And these days when you cast a net in the sea instead of fish you get plastic. The treasure chest is now dumping. Rampant construction licenses have been given on farms and fields. Ultimately, Goa's soul rests with its fishermen. And Goa has forgotten its soul.

### **Karnataka: KFDC plans to popularise seafood, Matsyadarshini stalls in 11 cities**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=878793>

"Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation Ltd (KFDC) has taken up the work of setting up fish markets at various places within Karnataka. The work is in different stages of completion. The plan is aimed at giving further boost to fish markets all over the state. The work on fish markets is almost complete in Narasimharajapura, Sagar, Yadgir, Indi, Siruguppa and Sindhannur. In Sastan, building construction has been completed. Construction work has begun in Belagavi and Haleangady, KFDC managing director, M L Doddamani, stated. He said that the officials have been advised to look for alternative land in Kundapur for opening a full-fledged fish market there. Proposal has also been sent for identifying land in Halady. In Virajpet, a fish market has been completed, he stated. KFDC plans to open Matsyadarshini fish stalls in 11

locations in Karnataka. These stalls are planned to be designed in the same way. As many as 27 Matsyadarshini stalls have already been opened in Bengaluru. For the seafood mobile van of KFDC in Mangaluru, space had been arranged by the side of Kadri Park in the past. This happened to be a favourite spot for fish food lovers. After the Covid lockdown, the services of the van could not be continued. We are searching for a suitable spot for the van and also new areas to popularise seafood, he stated. Doddamani stated that a fish processing unit is planned to be opened at Kulai in the outskirts of the city. ""The government has approved the plan. We are waiting for the permission from the industries and commerce department. The work on the fish processing centre at Tadadi has been completed and e-tender has been floated for its operations,"" he informed.

### **Karnataka: Cold ocean current kills fish off Karwar coast**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2021/oct/01/cold-ocean-current-kills-fish-off-karwar-coast-2366047.html>

"An unusual climatic phenomenon is believed to be responsible for the largescale deaths of the Silver Croaker fish along the Kasarkod beach in Honnavar taluk of Uttara Kannada district. According to marine experts, cold ocean currents, which can be an early sign of global warming, could have caused the fish deaths. The 5 km-long Kasarkod beach was found strewn with about five tons of dead Silver Croaker fish. Local fishermen initially suspected it to be a case of poisoning or the result of illegal fishing methods. However, the cause was a drastic change in water temperature, pointed out marine expert Prakash Mesta who conducted some checks. "The water was so cold that it felt as if some unimaginably huge block of ice had fallen into the sea. The cold current stretched for up to 2 km," claimed Ganapathi Tandel, a fisherman. Explaining what may have caused so many fish to die, Mesta said, "This particular species of fish, a bottom dweller, cannot tolerate extreme cold temperatures. There are seven ocean currents. One is linked to Canada, which connects with the Indian Ocean. If the water gets cold there due to melting of icebergs, the water here also gets cold. The bottom sea fish are unable to bear this sudden dip in temperature and are washed ashore dead." Tandel said that he had noticed a similar occurrence several years ago, when Silver Croaker fish were found dead on the beach, but only about 5 to 10 kg. "But this time, a lot more fish have died. Our entire community got together and collected about 250 baskets of fish, weighing 5 tons, from the shore," he said. Being edible, the fish was sent to a fish oil factory in Kundapur.

### **Karnataka: Batpady sea erosion: Ports Department to get expert advice from CWPRS**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/ports-department-to-get-expert-advice-from-cwprs-to-prevent-batpady-sea-erosion/article36547542.ece>

"With the Asian Development Bank-funded Someshwara Beach Rejuvenation Project

coming to an end and southern parts of the stretch in Batpady getting completely eroded, the Ports Department has decided to get technical guidance from the Central Water and Power Research Station, Pune, to prevent erosion. The ADB-funded project was active for about four years during which a special unit of the department constructed ten groynes horizontally into the sea between Uchchila and Batpady. It also constructed two offshore reefs on the Uchchila-Batpady stretch. Both these structures were intended to break the velocity of waves and help beach rejuvenation. Close to Rs.240 crore was said to have been spent on this project. While beach erosion has considerably reduced on the Uchchila stretch where the groynes and one offshore reef were constructed, it has aggravated at the Batpady stretch where one reef was constructed. Local residents had been demanding the construction of two or three more groynes towards the Kerala border, which did not happen. Executive Engineer of Udupi Division with Ports Department, Tharakesh Phayde told The Hindu that a team from CWPRS was expected to visit Batpady stretch this month-end or during the first week of October to study the encroachment and determine the reasons.

CWPRS will also be asked to evaluate the impact of the beach rejuvenation project. Once the institute submits its recommendations, the department will take necessary action, he said. Regarding the restoration of the Fisheries Road that has been eroded for about 500 metres towards Batpady endpoint, Mr. Phayde said the road does not fall under the Ports Department. After ascertaining which department owns the road, necessary action will be taken. Admitting that the erosion has severely affected local residents, Mr. Phayde said the beach protection work pursuant to CWPRS report should be able to protect the road once it is newly formed. A senior engineer who worked in the ADB project, said the groynes and reefs should help reclamation of the beach. But the passing of one or two seasons is needed to get the desired results, he said, adding that groynes could prevent erosion at Uchchila stretch.

### **Karnataka: Batpady beach and approach road almost devastated by sea erosion**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/batpady-beach-and-approach-road-almost-devastated-by-sea-erosion/article36544585.ece>

"The verdant Batpady beach, on the southern tip of Karnataka bordering Kerala, and its connecting fisheries road from Someshwara have almost been washed away, with hundreds of crores of rupees spent on the beach rejuvenation project going down the drain. While the fisheries road was completely damaged last monsoon, it was temporarily restored this February. A massive sand wall of about 300 metres length too was built in Batpady to offer protection to the temporary road. Within a month of the monsoon, the sand wall washed away and in another month, the temporary road too. When The Hindu visited the beach on Saturday, even the endpoint, as called by the local people, which is about 500 metres before the State border, too

was almost affected by the sea erosion. About 500 metres long and 300 metres wide beachfront in this region was seen swallowed by the raging waves with a small building structure built by a government department for tourist facilities precariously standing amid the threat of waves. The tall sand dune from Batpady to Kanva Tirtha in Kerala, about three kilometre in length and 300 metres in width, was broken by the waves near the endpoint itself allowing the three rivulets — Uchchila, Talapady and Kunjathur — to join the sea at this point.

Normally, the massive dune prevented these rivulets from joining the sea thereby forming a beautiful backwater lake. Within this backwater lake exists Uchchila Kudru (river island) surrounded by water on three sides and the Mangaluru-Shoranur railway line on the one side. Locals or the local panchayat get the sand dune opened whenever there was threat of flooding due to heavy rains. With the fisheries road being swallowed for a distance of about 300 metres, several houses and coconut gardens are under the threat of getting eroded. The houses have lost connectivity to the external world too. A local resident blamed haphazard implementation of the ADB-funded Someshwara Beach Rejuvenation project. Batpady Abdullah said the authorities did not construct two or three more groynes near the end-point. The beach was not much affected between Uchchila and Batpady where 10 groynes were built; but was completely devastated near the end-point, he pointed out.

### **Karnataka: Coast Guard rescues 11 fishermen**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/coast-guard-rescues-11-fishermen/article36487484.ece>

"The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on Wednesday rescued 11 fishermen stranded at sea 35 nautical miles off the coast due to strong winds and swell from fishing boat IFB "Sagar Samrat" and ensured that the fishing boat as well as the fishermen reached Malpe Fishing Harbour safely. A release from Coast Guard Karnataka here said that the fishing boat lost propulsion owing to engine failure in rough weather conditions and requested transiting merchant ships for help. The merchant ships in turn requested the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), Mumbai, for assistance. ICG ship Rajdoot sailed from New Mangalore for undertaking search and rescue operation and arrived at stranded boat position at 11 p.m. on Tuesday. Considering inclement weather and various complications, including battery draining, depleting ration/ fresh water, ICGS Rajdoot took the fishing boat under tow along with 11 fishermen in good health condition at 12.20 a.m. on Wednesday. The ship handed over the boat at 5.20 p.m. to another fishing boat, Dhanishka-I arranged for by the fisheries authorities about 5 nautical miles off Malpe coast.

### **Karnataka: Floating jetty for Mangaluru coast planned**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/floating-jetty-for-mangaluru-coast-planned-mla/articleshow/85986902.cms>

The fisheries department has planned to develop a floating jetty for the convenience of deep-sea fishing boats on the Mangaluru coast. The government has approved a proposal of Rs 6.5 crore to set up the first floating jetty in coastal Karnataka, said Mangaluru City South MLA D Vedavyas Kamath. He was speaking at the launch of eight insulated cold storage trucks of the Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation (KFDC) here on Monday. The proposed floating jetty will come up near the Old Port where work on the third phase of fisheries harbour is under progress. The state cabinet has approved Rs 22 crore for the completion of the third phase of the fisheries harbour. Meanwhile, a jetty to anchor traditional boats of fishermen will be constructed at Thota Bengre at an estimated cost of Rs 3.5 crore. A proposal to upgrade the Old Port by providing all basic amenities at an estimated cost of nearly Rs 100 crore has been sent to the Central government after it was approved by the state government. Altogether, the government has proposed 16 development projects in the fisheries sector spending nearly Rs 1,100 crore in the coastal districts of the state, the MLA said.

In his inaugural address, minister for fisheries, port and inland water transport S Angara said the government has plans to promote inland fishing along with marine fisheries. Cautioning about the harmful effects of excessive fishing on the marine ecology, the minister said fishermen have the responsibility of protecting the fish species as well. He added that the fisheries department will set up cold storage units at various places to ensure supply of fresh fish. He suggested that arecanut farmers, who have suffered loss due to yellow leaf disease in plantations, may consider pisciculture as an ideal alternative. KFDC chairman Nithin Kumar said the insulated cold storage vehicles have been procured at an estimated cost of Rs 2 crore under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). The corporation has procured three trucks with four-ton capacity, four with two-ton capacity and another one-ton capacity vehicle.

### **Karnataka: Prices nosedive as small fish consignments to Kerala stopped**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=870538>

"As smaller fish are no longer being supplied to Kerala from here, fish prices have gone down. As a result, on Sunday, mackerel was sold at the fishing dock here for as low as Rs 55 per kg. The reason for the fall in prices is that purse seine boats engaged in fishing are getting large catches of smaller fishes including mackerel. At the same time, smaller fishes are not being transported to Kerala and other places. As the sale of big catches are confined to local market, the prices have fallen. Till recently, fresh mackerels were sold for Rs 80 to 90 per kg. The fishermen attribute this to the mackerel catches being high in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. In observance of certain religious austerities in Kerala, people do not consume fish till September 17, it is said. This has also influenced the fish prices. There is good demand for high-quality fishes like pomfret, king fish, etc command good demand in Kerala, Goa, Gujarat etc and they get exported to these markets. However, when a boat full of pomfret and kingfish were caught

here and at Malpe during the last week, the rate had come down to Rs 350 a kg. Still, kingfish, pomfret etc are sold in the local market at prices that are lower as compared to earlier one. Fresh fish are also available in hotels now. Because of this phenomenon, fishermen who get good catches are not able to make good money.

**Karnataka: Fishing port being upgraded to 'A' category**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=870181>

"The central government plans to upgrade the fishing port here into 'A' category by providing all necessary infrastructure, with emphasis on providing a healthy and hygienic environment. Preparations for this have already begun. Under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana - RAFTAAR of the union government, an action plan is under preparation to give preference for high quality fishing by improving infrastructure at the fishing ports. The fishing port here is planned to be upgraded and impetus is also being given to efforts to export fish from here. The fishing port in the city has been chosen for this upgradation. Grants will also be given to develop this port into a healthy and tourist attraction port. A high level team of officials has already visited the port and listed out main needs of the port. After the report reaches the central office of the said scheme, grants will be released by the centre. Important demands are effluents treatment plant for processing water used at the port and using it for other purposes Saline water processing unit is needed for fishing activity. The fishing auction yard needs to be developed into a modern facility. Connecting road development, CCTV cameras, streamlining of parking arrangements, solar lights and modern toilets are other facilities which are needed here. Deputy director of fisheries of Dakshina Kannada, Harish Kumar, said that the team of experts visited the port and undertook scrutiny. He said that the team was provided with all the details and the centre will release grants as per rules and duly taking into consideration the local demands.

**Karnataka and Maharashtra: Rise in sea level to impact Mumbai more than Mangaluru**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/rise-in-sea-level-to-impact-mumbai-more-than-mangaluru/articleshow/85453671.cms>

"Though the impact of sea level rise will be felt across the globe, the coastal city of Mangaluru seems to be better off than Mumbai and Kerala on the West Coast of India. The effect will be more pronounced on the northern part of the West Coast – Mumbai- than southern parts – Mangaluru. This is according to a research paper published by the Department of Marine Geology, Mangalore University, three decades back. It predicts the northern part of the west coast is characterised by extensive tidal flats and mud-flat deposits that indicate submergence, whereas tide gauge data corroborate uplift of the land around Mangaluru relative to Mumbai and

Kochi. Though the research by BR Manjunatha and R Shankar, department of Marine Geology, was on "Factors controlling the sedimentation rate along the western continental shelf of India," it offers a corollary on the impact of sea level rise. R Shankar, member, International Union of Geological Sciences' Commission on Geosciences Education, Training and Technology Transfer (IUGS-COGE), told TOI the uplift of land due to sedimentation may delay the inevitable here. The paper notes suspended particulate matter (SPM) concentrations in the river's southern area are significantly lower than those for the northern area. For example, the SPMs in the Nethravati and Gurpur (53.85 and 52.28mg/l) rivers are about two orders of magnitude lower than those in the Narmada and Tapi rivers.

"Global warming due to harmful emissions not only melts ice caps, but also expands sea water contributing to temperature increase and sea level rise. In this part of the West Coast, the sediment deposition is low in Mangaluru coast (0.72mm/year) as against 2.60 mm/yr off Karwar and 2.50 mm/yr off Mumbai. Over time continuing sedimentation in the water and the additional weight causes subsidence (sinking)," says Shankar. "We have done the damage and results are seen," advocating four R's – Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle; applied to five types of resources: water, fuel, food, power, metals to be judiciously used to delay the inevitable. But the effect of sea rise due to increasing temperatures will have a far reaching effect on the livelihood of fisherfolk and marine resources. The policy brief by E Vivekanandan of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) on "Climate Change and Indian Marine Fisheries," published a decade back, notes that depending on the marine species, the area it occupies may expand, shrink or be relocated. "This will induce increases, decreases and shifts in the distribution of marine fish, with some areas benefiting while others losing," indicating climate change and sea level rise will have a profound impact on fishing community and its resources, apart from impact on mangroves and creating environment, particularly suited to Harmful algal blooms.

### **Karnataka: DC promises to address concerns of Bengre traditional fishermen**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/dc-promises-to-address-concerns-of-bengre-traditional-fishermen/article35915037.ece>

"Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner K.V. Rajendra on Saturday reportedly promised to address the concerns of traditional fishermen being affected by the coastal berth project at Bengre near here, including alternative space for berthing boats and houses for eight fishermen. A statement from Phalguni Sampradayika Meenugarara Sangh, Bengre, here, said Dr. Rajendra directed the Mangaluru Assistant Commissioner and the tahsildar to issue orders handing over land identified for berthing boats from the Ports Department to the Fisheries Department in three days. He also asked both the departments to rehabilitate eight families losing their houses for the project at the same village. Besides asking officials to resolve the problems

of those engaged in drying fish at the place now identified for coastal berth, the DC also directed officials to ensure jobs generated from the coastal berth project were given to project displaced people.

Traditional fishermen had been protesting the project saying it would displace them without any alternative arrangement and had berthed their boats at the project site. The Ports and Fisheries Departments had attempted to evacuate protesting fishermen using police force; however, the protesters did not budge. The district in-charge Minister had held two rounds of meetings with the fishermen and the district administration. Fishermen had agreed to leave the protest if he administration provides alternative place for berthing traditional boats and accommodation to the affected families. Accordingly, Dr. Rajendra scheduled his visit to the project site on Saturday, inspected the alternative place for berthing boats, houses getting affected by the project, and the like. He travelled by boat from Kasba Bengre to Thota Bengre and then to the river mouth to assess the impact of the project, said the release. Assistant Commissioner C. Madan Mohan, Tahsilder Guruprasad, Sangha Honourary President Muneer Katipalla, President Abdul Tayyub Bengre and others were present.

**Karnataka: Boat capsizes near estuary, fishermen survive**

<https://daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=859459>

"At the very beginning of the fishing season, a boat accident was witnessed near the estuary near Gangolli port. Fishermen in the boat however survived the ordeal. A fishing boat named 'Parashakti' owned by G Prakash with four fishermen was moving to undertake fishing when water entered the boat and the boat sank. Later, the boat was dragged to the shore with the help of two mechanized boats. Gangolli Primary Fishermen's Cooperative Society president, Sadashiva Kharvi, said that dredging operations have not been undertaken at the Gangolli estuary for the last many years and that repeated pleas made to the government officials have not succeeded in making any impact. He urged the department to undertake dredging at Gangolli fishing port and estuary as the accumulated silt has been endangering the fishing boats and the fishermen.

**Karnataka: Heavy rain raises flood scare on river banks in North**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/heavy-rain-raises-flood-scare-on-river-banks-in-north-karnataka/article35475221.ece>

"Heavy rain across the region raised a flood scare on the river banks in North Karnataka on Thursday. In Belagavi and Bagalkot, officers asked farmers and inland fishermen not to venture into rivers. As many as 16 bridge-cum-barrages were submerged. Approach roads to Jatrat, Bhivashi, Bhoj, Karadaga, Akkol, Sidnal, Naganur, Gotur, Mamadapur, Bhojwadi, Kunnur, Mallikwad and Dattawad and surrounding villages were cut off due to submergence of

bridge-cum-barrages. However, there were alternative routes and commuters did not suffer, officers said. The police had to struggle for hours to clear the traffic jam on the Belagavi-Kolhapur National Highway after parts of it were submerged in water. An abandoned house collapsed in Khade Bazaar after heavy rain. No one was injured. A passer-by who was nearby was saved as he heard the sound of falling stones and ran to safety. The Belagavi District Police pulled out a car that was stuck in a ditch on the Kolhapur highway near Rani Channamma University on Thursday. The driver lost control of the car as rainwater flooded the highway. The car slowly slid to the left side of the road. The driver ran to safety. Heavy rain had filled the ditch with water. Commuters who saw the car slid into the ditch called the police. Kakati Police went to the spot and used a jeep to pull the car out.

No one was injured, Deputy Commissioner of Police Vikram Amathe said. Heavy rain in Belagavi and parts of South Maharashtra led to an increased inflow into the Krishna and its tributaries. However, there was no immediate threat of a flood as inflow into the Krishna was less than two lakh cusecs, officers said. Maharashtra released over 77,000 cusecs of water into the Kallol Barrage. Inflow and outflow in the dam was 77,768 cusecs. Inflow into the Alamatti Dam was 66,936 cusecs and outflow 65,238 cusecs. Inflow at the Narayanpur Dam was 69,782 cusecs and outflow 84,680 cusecs. Inflow and outflow at Rajapur Barrage was 58,000 cusecs. There was 33.77 tmcft water in the Raja Lakhamagouda Reservoir on the Ghataprabha that has a total capacity of 51 tmcft of water. Inflow was 17,467 cusecs and outflow 134 cusecs. In the Renuka Sagar Dam on the Malaprabha, there was 21 tmcft of water out of the gross capacity of 37.73 tmcft. Inflow was 1,317 cusecs and outflow 194 cusecs. Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Govind Karjol announced that the State government has given administrative approval to construct a wall to stop the flooding of the Malaprabha at Hampiholi near Ramdurg in Belagavi district. This is to be built at an estimated cost of ₹126 crore. The State Cabinet has granted administrative approval to the project for which demand was long pending. This will raise the wall to stop flooding of the Malaprabha that tends to flood and damage crops and property in Ramdurg taluk. The Deputy Chief Minister's office released a press note saying that the project would be completed in time. The project aimed at halting the river from flooding due to excessive rainfall will also help in reducing damage due to flooding in the surrounding areas. The Cabinet okayed the transfer of three acres of land owned by Karnataka Neeravari Nigam to the Revenue Department for the construction of a Mini Vidhan Soudha at Badami in Bagalkot district. This will help people by bringing all government offices in one building, the Deputy Chief Minister said.

### **Karnataka: Coast Guard sensitises fishermen on security, safety aspects while in sea**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/coast-guard-sensitises-fishermen-on-security-safety-aspects-while-in-sea/article35303695.ece>

"Indian Coast Guard, Karnataka, conducted a community interaction with fishermen in

Sasihitlu here on Tuesday to sensitise them on the safety and security aspects while in the sea. During the interaction, the fishermen were sensitised about the security scenario and the important role they play as the country's eyes and ears while in the sea. In addition to 20 fishermen, personnel from the Fisheries Department, Coastal Security Police and Customs Department attended it, a Coast Guard release said. They were encouraged to share information on any untoward or suspicious activities they may come across while in the sea with the Coast Guard on toll free number 1554. The fishermen were also briefed about various safety precautions to be adhered to while operating in the sea, including the use of safety equipment and gears. They were advised to carry all life-saving equipment, boat registration papers, including biometric identity cards and Aadhaar cards, during their fishing expeditions and also operate in groups or buddy systems so that they can help each other during an emergency. The Coast Guard officials also sensitised them on the need to adhere to weather warnings and the importance of collecting weather updates prior to proceeding to sea. The Coast Guard personnel demonstrated and briefed about various life-saving equipment, distress alert transmitters and life jackets. The fishing community was also apprised of the role of Coast Guard and job opportunities in the service. They were also made aware of the Union government's flagship programme, Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav, the release added.

**Karnataka: Fish becomes dearer in Dakshina Kannada – Fresh catch unavailable**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=852953>

"Most of the people from Dakshina Kannada cannot think of having food without fish. As currently there is a ban on fishing, the fish prices have gone up. Still, fresh fish has disappeared from the market. Even the country boat fishing is facing problems because of the hostile climate. Sardines are now being sold at Rs 200 a kg and Rs 300 for mackerels in both Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts. Kingfish costs Rs 900, with the prawns priced at Rs 300 per kg. During the fishing season, sardines were available at Rs 100 a kilo, and mackerels were costing Rs 150. Kingfish was priced at Rs 400 and pawns Rs 200 per kg. Fresh catches are not available now. Fishes coming from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala are a couple of days old, considering transportation time. Sardines, mackerels and Kingfish are the varieties of fish that are in high demand in hotels. Rates have now skyrocketed for dishes made out of fish. A mackerel fry costs Rs 150 per plate while a Kingfisher piece is priced at Rs 400. Inclement weather The country boats got good catches during January. But for the last some days, because

of heavy rain, the sea has become disturbed and the fishermen have been instructed against venturing into the sea. Therefore, the financial transactions have been hit and a fisherman, Vasu, said that there is good demand for country boat fishes but the activity has been stopped. As per the government directives, deep-sea fishing can be undertaken from August 1 onward. But most of the fishermen undertake fishing only after August 15, after 'Samudra Pooja' custom is observed. By then the fishermen who have returned to their native places return. Majeed, a fisherman, said that currently, the fishermen are busy repairing the boats and nets in preparation for the next season

### **Karnataka: Sea washes away sand wall, may take road too**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/sea-washes-away-sand-wall-may-take-road-too/article35292819.ece>

"As feared by residents, the sand wall built by the administration to protect the fisheries road from sea erosion got completely washed away and it is a matter of hours before the road too gets swallowed by the raging waves of the Arabian Sea at Batpady on Karnataka-Kerala border, South of Mangaluru. Last month, the residents feared that there may be another disconnect as the road was facing a threat from natural elements. Also, the residents had remained cut off from the mainland for almost six months from August last as the road was completely washed away. A temporary road along with sand wall was built in February this year. With monsoon regaining momentum in the last week, high waves have begun to swallow whatever is remaining at the location. Batpady Abdullah, who has been time and again approaching the authorities concerned in connection with the issue, said that instead of wasting lakhs of rupees on the sand wall, the authorities could have built two more horizontal groyens into the sea close to the Kerala border. About 10 groyens have been built from Uchchila till near Batpady end-point leaving about 500 m of beach stretch near the State border, where the sand wall was built, he said. Mr. Abdullah said that the beachfront where groyens and two off-shore reefs have been built are relatively safe while the end-point has taken the brunt of sea erosion. Sand is getting deposited in-between the groyens in this region and this may not have happened, if two more groyens were built at the far-end. The Ports and Inland Waterways Department then erected a sand wall for more than one kilometre from Uchchila till Batpady end-point sourcing sand from dredging the Netravathi-Phalguni river mouth near the Mangaluru Old Port. Now, Usman, whose house is close to the eroded road, is now fearing losing it, along with that of his neighbours too.

### **Karnataka: Traditional fishermen oppose Sagar Mala project, to protest**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/traditional-fishermen-oppose-sagar-mala-project-to-protest/article35205229.ece>

"Traditional fishermen in Mangaluru will hold a protest with their boats on Friday on the

banks of the Phalguni (Gurupura) at Bengre calling for scrapping the Sagar Mala project of the Union government that among others proposes a coastal berth at Bengre. Phalguni Sampradayika Meenugarara Sangha president Abdul Tayyur Bengre in a statement here said that the coastal berth project at Bengre will snatch the livelihood of hundreds of traditional fishermen and destroy their right to undertake work. Besides protesting with boats, families of fishermen will hold protests in their respective houses too. Mr. Bengre said that the Union and State governments have decided to introduce several projects along the coastline in the name of Sagar Mala project. Already, the government is using force against fishermen who are protesting against such projects in Karwar, Honnavar and other places.

All the projects under Sagar Mala will result in the displacement of fishermen from the coastline on which they have built their life, Mr. Bengre said. Sagar Mala's intention itself is to remove traditional fishermen from their land and sea and hand fishing over to corporate entities. At Bengre, the governments have proposed to construct the coastal berth to accommodate domestic vessels up to 5,000 tonnes capacity, for which the river bed will be dredged up to 7 m deep. This will not only affect small boats of traditional fishermen but also destroy valuable marine life, including the Maruvai and crabs. Dredging will result in increased speed of river current thereby destabilising traditional fishing boats, Mr. Bengre said. The traditional fishermen thus are not only fighting for their survival but also for the protection of environment, said sangha's honorary president Muneer Katipalla.

### **Karnataka: Fish prices soar despite fresh produce being unavailable**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/fish-prices-in-karnataka-soar-despite-fresh-produce-being-unavailable/articleshow/84175528.cms>

"In these unprecedented times, a food staple of the coast, mackerel's price skyrocketed from Rs 420 to Rs 500 a kilo. Premium fish like seer's price has gone up to Rs 1,100 a kilo, so has the price of white pomfret. In spite of paying these high prices, the fish produce is not sea-fresh. They arrive here after a 36-50 hour journey from the east coast of India - Andhra Pradesh or Tamil Nadu – by trucks. With the fishing ban in force for 60 days from the beginning of the month, the prices of fish usually see a 20%—30% rise from the rates that were prevailing during the fishing season. But this year, the prices have seen a serious spike. Last monsoon during the ban period, the price of mackerel was about Rs 300 a kilo, but this time it has gone up to Rs 420-Rs 500 a kg, depending on where it is bought.

But the prices of sardines, another food staple, is almost the same as last year hovering at Rs 250

a kilo. Sadiq, a fish seller, said this season the majority of the fish is coming from Tamil Nadu, especially Thoothukudi (formerly Tuticorin), and Andhra Pradesh. While Andhra mackerels are smaller and do not have the same kind of taste as Tamil Nadu mackerels, the demand is high and so is the price. While Andhra mackerel is sold at Rs 360 per kg, Thoothukudi mackerel is sold at Rs 420 per kg. Also though one gets cultured prawns throughout the year and are cheaper at Rs 300 per kilo, sea prawns cost Rs 280 to Rs 460 per kilo depending on size. "Bigger the size, higher the price," said Sadiq adding seer and white pomfret cost anything higher than Rs 800-900 per kilo. "We get two boxes each of sardines and mackerel, each box weighing 30 kg, and little remains at the end of the day, said Sadiq indicating the demand for fish in this part of the state.

### **Karnataka: Hundreds of fishermen tried to jump into the sea to protest the construction of a port in Uttara Kannada district**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/karnataka-fishermen-jump-into-sea-oppose-razing-homes-port-construction-1820000-2021-06-27>

"Hundreds of fishermen jumped into the sea in Karnataka's Uttara Kannada district to oppose a private port's construction and save their houses from being demolished by the private port company. The incident took place on Saturday after the port company deployed workers with JCB machines (earth movers) to oust the fishermen and raze their houses on the land it has acquired for port construction. The local administration had to deploy over 300 police personnel to bring the situation under control and stop the fishermen from jumping into the sea. The Andhra Pradesh-based private company, Honnavar Port Private Company Limited, had acquired 93 acres of land from the state government to build a port at Rs 600 crore. ALSO READ: Lakshadweep residents on hunger strike to protest against draft regulations However, the fishermen allegedly had encroached upon over 200 acres of land in the area and were not agreeable to the port's construction as they feared loss of their homes as well as livelihood. Honnavar Port Private Company Limited claimed to have secured all necessary permits to construct a greenfield port under public-private partnership at Honnavar. At the Maritime India virtual Summit 2021, the CEO of Honnavar Port Private Limited, Suryaprakash, said that all necessary clearances from different departments and agencies had been secured to begin construction.

The company wanted to start construction of breakwaters and jetty and deployed workers with JCB machines. ALSO READ: Indian climate activist gets prestigious UN land conservation award However, the situation got out of hand when the fishermen jumped into the sea to protest the demolition of their houses. Other local fishermen also arrived at the Tonka beach to lend their support. Rama Moger, state president of fishermen's association, argued that constructing a port is supposed to be the government's job and not left with any private organisation. He says that for the past three months, fishermen have been protesting against the port construction

project. Rama Moger added that the High Court had also given a temporary stay regarding the construction, stating that forest land should not be diverted. The next court hearing is on July 30. 'With the petition pending in the High Court, the government should not take this up. We from the fishermen association condemn this work that is taking place,' Rama Moger said.

### **Karnataka: Flood alert issued along banks of Krishna river**

<http://www.uniindia.com/flood-alert-issued-along-banks-of-krishna-river/south/news/2430927.html>

"Due to increased inflow into Narayanpur Basava Sagar reservoir built across river Krishna, an alert has been declared in the area along the banks of Krishna in Yadgir district on Thursday. The Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigam Ltd ( KBJNL) on Thursday said that huge quantity of water as much as more than 40,000 causes being released from Narayanpur dam in Surpur taluk, the Yadgir district administration sounded a alert along the banks of Krishna on Thursday and warned the villages not to venture into the river for fishing or any other reason.

### **Karnataka: Execute sea erosion prevention works on priority basis, Minister tells officials**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/execute-sea-erosion-prevention-works-on-priority-basis-karnataka-minister-tells-officials/article34923152.ece>

"Minister for Fisheries, Ports and Inland Waterways S. Angara on Tuesday directed officials to execute sea erosion protection wall works on scientific basis and complete the same on priority basis in three coastal districts of Karnataka: Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada. He was chairing a meeting to review progress of works in the department as well as that of ports development committee. Mr. Angara said the Karnataka government has released ₹35 crore to undertake works to prevent sea erosion in the three coastal districts. Also, the Chief Minister has approved a proposal for ₹70 crore as additional grants to continue work on the existing sea protection wall.

The Minister directed the officials to submit fresh proposals to undertake sea erosion related works that have been pending since three years. The proposal to the K government should indicate the requirement of financial grants. He directed officials to submit fresh proposals, including working schemes for maintenance of works executed under the Asian Development Bank-funded shoreline protection project works along the Karnataka coast. They should submit comprehensive technical study reports on the ADB-funded projects, Mr. Angara said. He further told officials to take steps for vacating stay obtained by contractors for execution of 10 projects for which tenders were finalised. Marina project Mr. Angara said the department should submit a proposal for the Marina project in Mangaluru under the Sagarmala project after preparing a blueprint. MP Nalin Kumar Kateel said the ₹340 crore Marina project being executed under the Sagarmala scheme in partnership with Inland Waterways Authority of India would include

development of cargo islands in Phalguni and Netravathi rivers as well as tourism development projects. Dredging work at the Old Port and the coastal berth projects were being undertaken at a cost of ₹29 crore and ₹65 crore, respectively under the Sagarmala project. MLAs D. Vedavyasa Kamath, Y. Bharath Shetty, U.T. Khader, Rajesh U. Naik and K. Umanath Kotian, Additional Chief Secretary, IDD and Ports, Kapil Mohan, and Deputy Commissioner K.V. Rajendra participated in the meeting.

### **Karnataka: Centre notifies Karnataka Coastal Zone Management Authority**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/centre-notifies-karnataka-coastal-zone-management-authority/article34858231.ece>

"The Union government has issued a gazette notification on June 17 constituting the Karnataka Coastal Zone Management Authority. The 15-member body is meant to protect and improve the quality of the coastal environment. Its job is preventing, abating and controlling environmental pollution in the Coastal Regulation Zone in Karnataka. The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued the gazette notification on June 17 under provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The authority is headed by the Additional Chief Secretary, State Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Bengaluru. The term of the present members is for three years. Referring to the measures to be taken by the authority the order said: "The authority shall, after receiving the application for approval of project proposal, examine the same if it is in accordance with the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan and within the requirements of the Coastal Regulation Zone notification issued by the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Environment and Forests and published vide number S.O.19(E), January 6, 2011 (hereinafter referred to as the said notification), and make recommendations for approval of such project to the concerned authority, as specified in the said notification, within a period of sixty days from the date of receipt of such application..."

The authority should regulate all developmental activities in the CRZ areas as specified in the 2011 notification, and is responsible for enforcing and monitoring provisions of the notification. It should examine the proposals received from the Karnataka government for changes or modifications in classification of CRZ areas and in the Coastal Zone Management Plan, and make specific recommendations thereon to the National Coastal Zone Management Authority. The authority should inquire into cases of alleged violation of provisions of the Act or the rules made thereunder; and review the cases involving violations or contraventions of provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder, the order said. It should inquire or review cases of violations or contraventions of the notification suo moto, or on the basis of a complaint made by any individual or body or organisation. It is authorised to file complaints under Section 19 of the Act. The authority shall take such action as may be required under Section 10 of the Act, to verify the facts of the cases before it. It should have its own website and post information relating to its functions, including the agenda in its meetings, minutes of the meetings, decisions

taken in each meeting, recommendations for matters on violations and contraventions of the said notification and action taken on such violations and contraventions. The authority should also post on its website court matters, including orders of courts and the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan of the Karnataka government.

It should furnish reports of its activities at least once in six months to the National Coastal Zone Management Authority. A. Senthil Vel, Professor and Dean, College of Fisheries, Mangaluru; Shivakumar B. Haragi, Assistant Professor, Karnataka University Post Graduate Centre, Karwar; M.D. Subash Chandran, Consulting Scientist, (Ecology and Environment), Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc., Bengaluru; Ramesh H., Associate Professor, Department of Applied Mechanics and Hydraulics, NITK, Mangaluru are expert members. Ramachandra Bhatta of Kasarakod, Honnavar is the member representing NGOs in the authority. Others are ex-officio members. Prof. Vel told The Hindu on Saturday that one of the major concerns of the Karnataka coast is that the shore line is experiencing serious erosion resulting in loss of land, property and livelihood. The root cause of the erosion is to be analysed and scientific measures are to be adopted to prevent erosion. Coastal and marine pollution, including indiscriminate disposal of solid waste, sewage discharge, reclamation of land, loss of fish stock and adverse impact of climate change, have to be addressed on a war footing in order to protect the livelihood of fishing and local communities. He said that the Union government is constituting coastal zone management authorities in 13 States and Union territories as per an order of the Supreme Court in writ petition 664/1993. The national authority had also been constituted as per the order.

### **Karnataka: Boat ambulance – Coastal areas badly in need of it**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=842147>

"Cyclone which wreaked havoc on the coast just before the beginning of the monsoon this year, accounted for several lives as boats met with accidents at sea. Now, the monsoon is here and the sea can turn violent anytime. Boat ambulances had been envisaged as a measure that is very much needed in coastal Karnataka to avoid loss of lives at sea. But so far the ambulance has not been provided. Karnataka has a 320 km coastline from Talapady to Goa. In this part of the sea, many accidents happen every year and several lives are lost. Many die because, after the accidents, others cannot reach there on time to help the concerned. Even though the Coast Guard has a fleet of ships and the Coastal Security Force has interceptor boats, they have only a first-aid facility. If complicated treatment is needed, the injured need to be brought to the shore and then taken to hospital. In this case, a lot of time gets wasted. Boat ambulances can come in handy in such cases. The state government, with the aim of reducing loss of lives by whatever extent possible, had envisaged boat ambulance to enable the concerned to rush to the spot in a few minutes. This also was a long pending demand of the fishermen. The Coastal Security Police

Force and fisheries department had also taken up this issue with the government but the ambulance is yet to come. The coast is in need of a minimum of two boats. If the ambulance comes early, the district administration will be able to handle the accidents during the monsoons in a better way. These ambulances have more facilities than road ambulances. They have a team of experts who know how to treat people who are rescued after falling into the water, provision to treat multiple people at a time, treatment centre, mortuary etc. Expert swimmers are also provided. These ambulances can move at a speed of 14 nautical miles per hour. Capt Manivannan P, principal secretary in the animal husbandry and fisheries department, said that processes to provide sea ambulance boats are on and that the ambulances might become a reality soon.

### **Karnataka: Fishing season leaves behind bitter taste of disappointment**

<https://daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=840606>

"The fishermen suffered from fish famine, cyclone, rain etc during the fishing season just gone by. This season proved to be a disaster financially for all the fishermen. There will be a fishing holiday from June 1 to July 31 for deep sea fishing. The entire west coast will stay without deep sea fishing activity for two months. The fishing community had to go through cyclone and lockdown issues last year too. On most of the days, the fishermen preferred to stay home instead of venturing into the sea for fishing, taking into account financial implications. The fishing community has been facing one or the other challenge for the last two years. Out of the fish catches, 25 percent goes to fishermen in trawl boats. It is 35 percent of purse seine boats, But because of diesel price hike in recent years, profit has drastically fallen, says former president of Purse Seine Boat Owners Association, Mohan Bengre. Under the current circumstances, one has to spend not less than one lac rupees for diesel alone for each of the deep sea fishing trips. As the government did not release subsidies on diesel from December, many of the boats did not undertake fishing. Because of the lockdown, fish could not be exported, he stated. Bengre also lamented the fact that fishermen from Kerala and Tamil Nadu use scientific methods like light fishing for catching the fish. He expressed disappointment at not announcing any package to the fishermen by the government. Chairman of Karnataka State Fisheries Development Corporation, Nitin Kumar, says that the software problem had disabled subsidy release. He said that a diesel subsidy of Rs 12 crore has been released for December and January.

### **Karnataka: 61-day fishing holiday starts today in three coastal dists**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/61-day-fishing-holiday-starts-today-in-three-coastal-dists/article34693883.ece>

"The 61-day annual deep sea fishing ban will come into effect in the coastal districts on June 1. The main objective of banning deep sea fishing during June and July is to protect fish

wealth as commercially important species breed during this period. It is to prevent juveniles fishing and also excessive fishing. Accordingly, mechanised boats and traditional boats fitted with inboard or outboard engines of 10 HP and above are banned from carrying out fishing activities till July 31. However, fishing boats fitted with engines of up to 10 HP will be allowed to carry out fishing during the period. Last year, the government had reduced the deep sea fishing ban period in the coastal districts from the usual 61 days to 47 days effective from June 15 to July 31. It was in view of hardship faced by fishermen due to the lockdown and COVID-19 situation. Hence, fishermen had been given an extra fortnight's time to carry out deep sea fishing. Mangaluru Trawl Boat Owners Association president Nitin Kumar told The Hindu that like other sectors, fisheries too has been hit hard due to COVID-19 and lockdown. Deep sea fishing activities in the State came to a halt for three months, from June to August, last year. Though fishing resumed in September, it had to be abandoned for a few days after September 15 due to cyclone. Though fishing resumed in late October, catch was meagre. "It was not even 50% of the usual catch," he said. Many of the 800 to 900 trawl boats (that are involved in deep sea fishing beyond 15 km-20 km from the coast) in Mangaluru did not sail out for fishing due to hike in diesel prices, meagre catch and labour issue. It was same in the case of Purseine boats that sail out for fishing up to 15 km-20 km.

"Only about 50 trawl boats were sailing out in Mangaluru after November," Mr. Kumar, who is also the chairman of Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation (KFDC), said and added that about 25 Purseine boats were carrying out fishing in shallow waters. Mr. Kumar said that when the second lockdown began in late April, many of the labourers from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu left the city. The fisheries sector is gasping for breath ever since COVID-19 started, he said. Last year, the government had reduced the deep sea fishing ban period in the coastal districts from the usual 61 days to 47 days effective from June 15 to July 31.

### **Karnataka: Equipment worth Rs 3.9 lac handed over to fishermen by Byndoor**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=836890>

"Fishing boat and tools worth Rs 3.9 lac were distributed among eligible people belonging to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe in Byndoor Vidhan sabha constituency limits on Tuesday. Byndoor MLA B M Sukumar Shetty distributed them near Manganese, Gangolli. Speaking on the occasion he said, ""The facilities provided by the government should be used efficiently for fishing so that the fishermen can have a comfortable life. I will try my best to provide as much help I can with the help of the government."" Equipment worth Rs 3.9 lac that included a boat, engine, net, life jacket and shock resistant box was handed over to the beneficiaries. Udupi fisheries department, senior deputy director, Ganesh K, Kundapur fisheries department assistant director, Sumalatha, BJP Byndoor Mandala president, Deepak Kumar Shetty, BJP district vice president, Ananda Kharvi, Gangolli gram panchayat vice president, Prema C Poojary, gram panchayat member, B Raghavendra Pai, Gangolli Primary Fishermen's

Co-operative Society president, Sadashiva Kharvi, BJP Trasi Mahashakti Centre chief secretary, Ashok N D, BJP Gujjadi centre president, Somanath Mestha and others were present.

**Karnataka: Maravanthe road damaged due to sea erosion, cyclone under repair at brisk pace**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=836557>

"Temporary repairs to Maravanthe coast connecting road that was broken due to sea erosion and the recent cyclone is being repaired at a brisk pace. The work is likely to be over in a week. There was sea erosion at the north breakwater wall of Maravanthe out port and a portion of land area and coconut trees were washed away in the sea. Meanwhile, the tauktae cyclone that lashed last week raised the sea level. The waves were ferocious. The land about an area of 350 meter long and 50 meter wide, hundreds of coconut trees and fisheries sheds became part of the sea. The concrete road was broken apart and disconnected the only link to the residence of fishermen. The waves reached a stage of attacking houses. The fishermen who did not have a go, laid bags of sand and stones across and prevented damage to the houses. MLA B M Sukumar and minister of revenue R Ashok who visited at that stage realized the grim situation and directed the officials to repair the road from the next day itself. A temporary road is being constructed protecting the western side of the collapsed wall with stones after the orders. The fishermen who were devastated are satisfied to some extent. The fishermen have urged the minister and MLA to construct strong breakwater walls like at nearby Maraswamy. The gram panchayat vice president Lokesh Kharvi said that he is confident that the current work will be completed soon. MLA B M Sukumar Shetty said that permanent works in this connection will be taken up after the monsoons.

**Karnataka: Pramod Madhwaraj seeks bailout package for fishermen**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/pramod-madhwaraj-seeks-bailout-package-for-fishermen/article34606705.ece>

"Former Fisheries Minister Pramod Madhwaraj on Thursday alleged that the BJP government that came to power in the State and at the Centre with the help of fishermen has ignored the community hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Notwithstanding whether the sops announced by Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Friday would reach the targeted group, it was painful that a large proportion of vulnerable sections including fishermen have been ignored, he said. Marine fishing has been the backbone of the three coastal districts and its woes have only amplified after the lockdown. Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Madhwaraj said fishermen did not receive diesel subsidy since six months while K. Abhayachandra Jain, who was the Fisheries Minister in the Siddaramaiah government, had facilitated direct benefit transfer of subsidy. The COVID-19 restrictions have only amplified their woes, he said adding BJP had "emotionally

used the community” to come to power. The governments instead have brought fishing gears under goods and services tax, he regretted.

Ancillary industries depending upon marine fishing too were in distress with non-availability of raw material and many products under GST. Export subsidies too have been removed thereby affecting frozen fish industries, fish mills and others. The situation of inland fishing sector and inland fishermen too was no different. . The Congress government’s efforts to allocate the right of fishing in inland reservoirs to fishermen community was stalled through a court stay and the present government did not make any efforts to get the stay vacated, Mr. Madhwaraj said. Though the BJP government recently waived loans taken by fisherwomen, the benefit did not reach many. The rule that those had availed themselves of the loan waiver facility could not get fresh loans was condemnable, he said. He urged the government to rush to the rescue of fishermen by extending the loan repayment period by six months, immediately releasing subsidy and offering them a package. Mr. Jain, DK Youth Congress President Mithun Rai and others were present.

### **Karnataka: Three rescued fishermen handed over to Kerala**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/three-rescued-fishermen-handed-over-to-kerala/article34601533.ece>

"Coast Guard Karnataka on Wednesday handed over to the Kerala government the three fishermen who were rescued in the sea off 10 nautical miles from Kannur at midnight on May 14. According to a press release, the three fishermen were handed over to the Kerala government authorities in the presence of Dakshina Kannada MP and State BJP president Nalin Kumar Kateel in Mangaluru. The release said that the three fishermen, Arun (36), S. Francis (58) and Suriendar (64), were in the fishing boat IFB Bhadriya. The boat suffered an engine failure because of inclement weather on that night. Coast Guard ship Vikram braved the rough sea and rescued the three fishermen. The ship then proceed towards the Lakshadweep Islands coast for search and rescue operation of fishing boat IBD/TN/06/MM/5517 from Tamil Nadu and fishing boat IFB Aji Mersha from Kerala. The ship carried out extensive operation along with Dornier aircraft but could not trace the two boats and their crew members, the release said.

**Karnataka: Hundreds of dead fish float in Bengaluru lake; residents complain of pollution**

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/world/rest-of-asia/india-hundreds-of-dead-fish-float-in-bengaluru-lake-residents-complain-of-pollution>

"Way back in the mid-1980s, Bangalore had over 50 lakes, with fresh water gushing across the city. Sadly, today there are less than a score of lakes and many such as the Mottanalluru are flooded with effluents including pesticides and chemical wastes, which kill most of the fish and other creatures. Residents around lake Mottanalluru have been complaining to local officials and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board over the past few days about the hundreds of dead fish floating by the lake. Board officials told them that the fish were killed by the sudden dip in dissolved oxygen and the inflow of effluents and pesticides from nearby industrial units. "The level of contamination has increased and the discharge is coming from Chandapura lake," K.C. Santosh, an activist was quoted in the media on Tuesday. "This discharge is from the industrial unit located in and around the lake." Another major factor for the disappearance of lakes is the massive urban growth witnessed by the metropolis. Sprawling catchment areas have been overtaken by housing and commercial complexes with developers dumping construction material and other waste products, virtually blocking the flow of water and destroying biodiversity.

**Karnataka: 8 die, 3 missing as cyclone Tauktae batters coast; 300 homes damaged**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/8-die-3-missing-as-cyclone-tauktae-batters-karnataka-coast-300-homes-damaged/articleshow/82698186.cms>

"Eight people died, more than 300 houses were damaged, hundreds of people evacuated to safety and dozens of electric poles uprooted as Tauktae — which is turning into a 'very severe cyclonic storm' and set to lash Gujarat on Monday morning — tore through the coast of Karnataka on Sunday, unleashing heavy rain in seven districts of the state. The deceased included a three-year-old boy and two stranded on a tugboat along the coast. Officials said they were looking for three people who were on the tugboat that later capsized. At least nine persons were stranded on another tugboat that drifted from anchorage off New Mangalore Port Trust. Indian Coast Guard's vessel Varaha is monitoring the boat amid 6ft of waves. Sources said two persons each died in Dakshina Kannada and Belagavi, and one each in Udupi, Uttara Kannada, Chikkamagaluru and Shivamogga, and heavy rain was reported from these and Udupi districts. In Khanapur taluk of Belagavi district, a 54-year-old woman and her three-year-old grandson

died when their house collapsed.

At least 300 houses were damaged in worst-affected Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts. Udupi bore the brunt with 211 houses damaged partially and seven completely. In Dakshina Kannada, 122 houses were partially destroyed and 14 submerged. Udupi deputy commissioner G Jagadeesha estimated the loss at Rs 69 crore and added that one person was electrocuted in the cyclone. The district has opened 14 rehabilitation centres, besides shifting 60 people from the seashore to their relatives' houses. Dakshina Kannada district minister Kota Shrinivas Poojary said 380 people have been evacuated in the past 24 hours. In addition, 63 electric poles, eight transformers and five electric lines were damaged. The district has deployed a 20-member team of National Disaster Response Force and another team of 25 from State Disaster Response Force for search-and-rescue operations. A total of 18 boats and 12 fishing nets were damaged. In Shivamogga, heavy rain claimed the life of a 42-year-old farmer when a bolt struck him on his farmland in the district. The man's family will get Rs 5-lakh compensation. While rain subsided in Kodagu district, an under-construction bridge at Mapilethodu on Ponnampet-Hudikeri road partially collapsed following two days of downpour. Residents of the area and on Cauvery banks have been asked to move to safer places. Met department says rainfall will be widespread in the state and its intensity in coastal districts will decline in the next 48 hours.

### **Karnataka: Udupi sees massive sea erosion**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/udupi-sees-massive-sea-erosion/article34566582.ece>

"Cyclone Tauktae brought heavy rains that partially damaged eight houses and five sheds in Udupi district on Saturday and one person was electrocuted in Kapu taluk owing to a snapped power cable. A communique from the Deputy Commissioner here said four families on the seafront were shifted to a relief centre at Uppunda in Byndoor taluk while seven families in Kundapur taluk and one family in Kapu taluk were shifted to relatives' houses. About 60 residents of Kodi village in Brahmavara taluk were asked to shift to the relief centre, it said. Similar instructions were given to people residing close to the Sea in Kapu taluk. The raging Arabian Sea has caused extensive damage to the beachfront along the coast from Hejmady in the south till Shiroor in the north in Udupi district. Hundreds of coconut trees fell down due to the erosion. Padubidri, Kapu, Kodi-Bengre, Kundapur-Kodi, Gangolli, Maravanthe, Uppunda, Byndoor, and Shiroor witnessed massive erosion.

At Maravanthe village, about 600m of fisheries road was almost washed away by the swelling

waters of the Arabian Sea. The area, located to the north of the outer fishing harbour, saw constant erosion since a week and the cyclone only added to the miseries. Authorities concerned dumped boulders on the affected stretch as an emergency measure even as houses of fishermen were in the danger of getting washed away. Kundapur Assistant Commissioner K. Raju and other officials visited the spot. At Malpe Padukare, the sea reached very close to the fisheries road threatening over 300 houses in the region. K. Raghupathi Bhat, Udupi MLA, tahsildar Pradeep Kurdekar, and other officials visited the area and were coaxing residents to shift to relief centres at Mogaveera Sabha Bhavana and Narayana Guru Sabha Bhavana at Malpe by deploying KSRTC buses. Salt water entered agriculture fields and damaged standing crops of vegetables at many places. Fishermen were busy shifting their fishing boats to safer locations in the district.

**Karnataka: About 12 km stretch of beachfront in Mangaluru North ravaged by raging sea waves**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/about-12-km-stretch-of-beachfront-in-mangaluru-north-ravaged-by-raging-sea-waves/article34570499.ece>

"Coastal belt in Dakshina Kannada district for a length of about 12 kilometres, from Kulai to Sashithlu, to the North of Mangaluru, was ravaged by raging waves of the Arabian Sea under the influence of Cyclone Tauktae since Saturday. Major portions of fisheries roads along this stretch has been damaged along with adjacent buildings and houses. The NITK beach road between Surathkal Light House and NITK Beach, was completely cut off following the onslaught of the waves. With the sea continuing to be rough on Sunday too, the district administration has taken steps to move families living along the fisheries road in Sasihitlu, Hosabettu, Meenakaliya, Panambur, Ullal and Ullal Someshwar to relief centres.

As many as 100 people from Sasihitlu, where major part of the beach has been eroded, have been moved to the relief centre. As many as 50 people near Ullal Masjid, 30 from Kotepura Ullal, 33 from Hoige Bazar, and 14 persons each from Panambur and Someshwar have been moved to relief centres. Apart from 16 hostel blocks of National Institute of Technology, Surathkal, relief centres have been opened at 25 places in the northern part of the city. It includes Shrinivas Mallya Charitable Trust's Community Hall in Surathkal, NITK High School, Kunal Bhavan in Tatambail, Govindadasa College Surathkal, Vidyadayini School Surathkal, Cyclone Centre in Hosabettu, Angaragundi Government Higher Primary School in Baikampady, and Womens Polytechnic in Bondel. Residents have expressed concerns over movement of vehicles on the fisheries road from the Light House to NITK beach where the sea water was close to the road. Part of fisheries road in Sasihitlu and Kulai have been damaged.

**Karnataka and Goa: Cyclone Tauktae: 29 missing; 8 dead in Karnataka; parts of Goa without power, may need 2 days to restore it**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/29-missing-8-dead-in-karnataka-parts-of-goa-without-power-may-need-2-days-to-restore-it/articleshow/82694233.cms>

"Cyclone Tauktae tore through coastal Karnataka and Goa on Sunday, with eight people dead and 300 houses damaged in Karnataka — even as hundreds were evacuated — while leaving large parts of Goa without power. Airline operations were suspended in Goa and many trains were cancelled. As many as 29 people have been reported missing, 10 each from Kerala and Tamil Nadu and nine from Karnataka. Tauktae, which is turning into a “very severe cyclonic storm” and is headed towards Gujarat, tore through the coast of Karnataka on Sunday, unleashing heavy rain in seven districts of the state. Among those who died is a three-year-old boy and two stranded on a stricken tugboat along the coast. At least nine people were stranded on another tugboat that drifted from anchorage off New Mangalore Port Trust. At least 300 houses were damaged in the worst-affected Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts of Karnataka. Met department says rainfall will be widespread in the state and its intensity in coastal districts will decline by Tuesday. In Goa, strong winds uprooted electricity poles and left large parts without power supply as the cyclone crossed the state approximately 150km off the coastline. Goa CM Pramod Sawant said on Sunday that it would take two days for power supply to be completely restored throughout the state.

Goa Medical College too suffered a 15-minute power outage, Sawant said, adding that all Covid hospitals were provided backup generators. All air operations were suspended for a day at the Goa International Airport on Sunday. Along with gusts of wind at 80-100kmph and heavy rainfall, Tauktae also led to visibility at the airport dropping to less than 500m at one point of time. After heavy rain and high tidal waves wreaked havoc across Kerala and claimed two lives on Saturday, there was forecast of isolated rainfall for Monday in all districts of the state, except Thiruvananthapuram, Palakkad and Wayanad. On Sunday, an orange alert of very heavy rainfall was issued for eight districts. Meanwhile, the Coast Guard has launched a search to locate the crew of Tamil Nadu fishing boat that was reported missing off Lakshadweep coast on Saturday night.

**Kerala, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Goa and Maharashtra: Cyclone Tauktae: Coast Guard warns fishermen as cyclone likely to hit Western Coast**

<https://www.india.com/news/india/cyclone-tauktae-coast-guard-warns-fishermen-as-cyclone-likely-to-hit-western-coast-4660263/>

"With the formation of Cyclone Tauktae over the Arabian Sea, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) issued an advisory to the Fisheries Department to warn the fishermen not to venture into sea and ask them to return to the nearest harbour, officials said. Also Read - Year's First Cyclone 'Tauktae' Forming Over Arabian Sea, Likely To Intensify Further, Says IMD. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a low-pressure area is forming over the Arabian Sea

and it may gradually turn into a cyclone over the east-central Arabian Sea by May 16. The cyclone 'Tauktae' is likely to impact areas including the coast of Kerala, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Goa and Maharashtra. Meanwhile, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has ordered the suspension of fishing activity on the coasts. "IMD issued a warning for a low-pressure area over the Arabian Sea that is likely to turn into a cyclonic storm. Although Kerala will not be in its path. Heavy rainfall is likely to occur on May 14 and 15. Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) held preparedness meetings with Army, Navy, IAF, Coast Guard and NDRF. Fishing activity has been suspended, said the chief minister. If the cyclone hits the Western coast, then it will be the first cyclonic storm in the country in 2021.

**Karnataka: Cyclone, to be named Tauktae, may hit coastal region by Sunday**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/cyclone-to-be-named-tauktae-may-hit-coastal-region-by-sunday/article34546524.ece>

"The Coast Guard on Tuesday swung into action to alert fishermen in high seas to return to the nearest shore in view of a possible cyclonic storm hitting Karnataka and Kerala coasts by Sunday. Karnataka Coast Guard Commander, DIG S.B. Venkatesh in a statement here said that the India Meteorological Department has forecast formation of a low pressure area over South-East Arabian Sea later this week. The low pressure area may intensify into a cyclonic storm, to be named Tauktae, over East-Central Arabian Sea by May 16 to 21. As such, the Coast Guard has issued instructions to Indian fishing boats not to venture out into the sea in view of the cyclonic alert. Indian Coast Guard ships and Dornier aircraft on patrol have been relaying weather warning to fishermen in sea on VHF channel asking them to return to the nearest shore, Mr. Venkatesh said. Forecast India Meteorological Department has said that the low pressure area is likely to be formed around May 14 morning. It is very likely to concentrate into a depression over Lakshadweep Islands and adjoining South-East and East-Central Arabian Sea by Saturday. The depression might move North, North-West and intensify further into a cyclone storm over East-Central Arabian Sea around Sunday and continue to move North, North-West for some more time with further intensification. The cyclonic circulation over the Comorin area and adjoining South Tamil Nadu now lies over Tamil Nadu and neighbourhood at 1.5 km above the mean sea level. India Meteorological Department, Bengaluru, has in its forecast said that squally wind with speed reaching 50-60 kmph gusting to 70 kmph is likely along and off the coastal region in the State by Saturday. On Sunday, the wind speed might reach up to 80 kmph along and off the coast. The India Meteorological Department has asked fishermen not to venture into the sea at this time and urged those in the sea to return to the coast by Friday night.

**Karnataka: Sale of fish at Malpe port banned – Additional DC Sadashiva Prabhu**

<https://daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=832350>

"Retail sale of fish at Malpe port is banned amid the current pandemic situation. Fish can be only sold at wholesale and people have been already informed about it. The additional deputy commissioner Sadashiva Prabhu visited the fisheries port on Tuesday following information that a large number of people were gathered at the port to buy fish. The police department was asked to tighten inspections and prevent people from going to the port to buy fish. He warned that cases would be filed against retail buyers and their vehicles would be impounded. People have been permitted to buy fish from their nearest markets or from the people coming to sell fish at their doorsteps. The additional DC said that local people should cooperate with the district administration and follow the Covid guidelines. Shivakumar, deputy director of the fisheries department, Shaktivelu police SI, Sushma, senior director of fisheries department were present.

### **Karnataka: Fishing activities face brunt of Covid-induced lockdown again**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=831678>

"Several deep-sea fishing trawl vessels lie berthed at Mangaluru fishing harbour, after fishing activities partially came to a halt, due to surging cases of Covid-19 in the state. After the state government imposed strict guidelines to contain the spread of Covid-19, many labourers involved in fishing activities outside the state have returned to their villages. It is also said that authorities concerned have advised fishermen to avoid gathering hundreds of people at Dhakkes (fish landing points) at ports during the fishing activities to avoid the spread of coronavirus. Chairman of Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation (KFDC) Nitin Kumar speaking to daijiworld said, ""As many as 100 deep-sea trawl boats have ventured into the water for fishing activities out of around 1,000 trawl boats. As of now, only 45 small and traditional boats are involved in fishing activities. The rest of the boats have stopped the fishing activities."" A few trawl boats discontinued fishing long back due to low number of catches. Now, after the spike in the Covid cases, most of the fishing activity has come to halt and several labourers from other states returned to their native place. Mohan Bengre, former president of Karnataka Parishath Meenugarara Sangha said, ""Fishing activities have come to halt. Fishermen of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh who were involved in fishing activities have returned to their native, as lockdown is being imposed in the state. This is the second blow to fishing activity. It is a huge loss for this sector. The government should give attention to the problem of fishermen and help them. As we have not received a diesel subsidy for the past five months, we are facing a loss. If the government provided us subsidy, it would be better. There is no saying as to when the government will lift the lockdown.""

### **Karnataka: The upcoming marina at Malpe and why the local residents are against it**

<https://india.mongabay.com/2021/05/the-upcoming-marina-at-malpe-and-why-the-local-residents-are-against-it/>

"As Mangalore resident Spandana walked on to Padukere beach in the first week of April, a menacing sign restricting the entry of anyone connected with the marina project on to the beach welcomed her. This white sand beach was a favourite spot from her childhood, as she grew up in Udupi, which is only a thirty-minute drive from Padukere. Curious, she tried to find out more. "The villagers there are not willing to have a conversation with anyone. They are suspicious of everyone and even tried to take pictures of my car number plate," she informed. The plans for a marina to come up in this part of the southern state of Karnataka have been in the offing for a couple of years. And for many months now, this beach has been a site of many protests. Discussions regarding developing the beach in order to increase tourism and employment opportunities began in 2018. According to the feasibility report conducted by the Central Water and Power Research Station, Pune, the proposed marina at Padukere, Malpe has the possibility of being constructed in an area of 3.69 km with the help of breakwaters (an offshore structure such as a wall protecting the harbour or beach from the force of waves) extending 1.66 km to 2 km into the sea. It is proposed to cover a large area between Shanthinagar and Mattu Kopl.

The marina will not be for berthing large cruise ships — only for yachts and sailboats. Publications report that the proposed cost of this project is Rs. 800 crores. The case for "With India's only functional marina currently in Kochi, there are fewer intermediate berthing facilities for the 4,000-plus boats travelling between the Arabian sea and south Asian countries," says G. Jagadeesh, deputy commissioner of Udupi. The government sees this as an opportunity to increase tourism, especially international tourism, in turn increasing employment as well. The many small, natural islands in this region make it even more suitable for the parking of various yachts and boats. Because there's no other marina of international standards in India, the one at Padukere, to be implemented by the Coastal Development Authority, is planned to be a state-of-the-art one. The government is trying its best to assure people that the project will not be taken ahead if it is harmful to the environment and the construction of the marina will be done without flouting environmental norms, informed Jagadeesh. Restaurants, clubs, gazebos, and a promenade are proposed for attracting international tourists.

The case against So, why are the villagers against a marina that would turn Padukere beach into a rich man's paradise? As fishing communities, their biggest concern is the possible impact on their livelihoods. A fisherman, Krishna Suvarna, president of the Malpe Fisherman's association said, "We fishers only oppose that which is likely to harm our fishing." A lot of fisherfolk in the Malpe area use a fishing technique that involves casting a net close to the shore. The presence of a marina with its small boats, accompanied by their sounds and movements, is bound to disturb the natural habitat of the shallow-water fish. They will retreat further out in the seas, making it difficult for the fishers to fish for them. A fishing community leader, Rama Kanchan explains, "We are not against development, but we are against anything that has the potential of harming the region and our lives." The aspects which the government sees as tourism and economy-

boosting are precisely the ones the villagers are dreading. They do not want their culture and social activities to change or be destroyed on account of a marina. Yet another fisherman said they fear that, because of such projects, they might be forced to leave their hometowns, the land of their forefathers. Marinas have long-term environmental effects. There are several research papers that highlight the impact of anthropogenic modifications to waterways, on the existing quality of seas, biodiversity, quality of water, quality of air, and the environment as a whole. Besides the loss of livelihoods, the presence of a marina will also hugely affect aquatic species, even resulting in the danger of extinction of some of the endemic species, said a marine researcher who did not wish to be named.

According to research done by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), this region boasts of 28 types of phytoplanktons, 28 species of seaweed, 25 types of sea anemones, 390 species of fish, and 234 molluscan species. A marina, which is a dock or a basin, not only provides a berthing facility for yachts, but it also provides facilities such as fuel, water, electricity, and sewage pump-outs for boats. Globally, the increase in recreational boating has resulted in an increased demand for marinas or mooring spots. The construction of the breakwater as well as other parts of the marina causes a big reduction in the aquatic vegetation which actually forms the food for the young fish. A fluctuation in the quantities of small, shallow-water fish, as well as in the salinity and other water conditions, results in less food for certain avifaunal bird species. The mangroves in Padukere. The construction of a marina or a port will harm the mangroves and the breeding grounds of fish and shrimp. Photo by Spandana W. Marine biologist, Lavina, a former researcher at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), highlights the fact that “Malpe is a region that is rich in mangroves; it has huge mangrove forests. The construction of a marina or a port will definitely harm the mangroves and, in turn, the breeding grounds of fish and shrimp.” With concern in her voice, she also talks about the possible impact on dolphins.

“Boats in the water result in a lot of movement and sound pollution — they end up disrupting the communication system of dolphins. It ends up disturbing their regular behaviour.” While the marina is still in the proposal stage, the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune has already conducted a feasibility report that green-lights this project. The effects a marina has on the environment is usually not visible immediately; it could take a long time for the damage to show up. The locals of the area are afraid that in addition to the damage to the ecology and biodiversity of the region, the government’s assurances are only to placate them for now. Later, it is possible that the villagers themselves won’t be allowed access to their beaches. In the light of multiple coastal infrastructure projects, such as those in Goa, Mumbai and Kolkata, being planned across the country, this is an important conversation to have.

### **Karnataka: Access to Bunder for fish vendors, retail buyers denied**

<https://daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=829903>

"Dakshina Kannada district deputy commissioner (DC) Dr Rajendra K V, said that selling of fish in retail and purchase of the same by the general public at the fishing port located at the Bunder area here have been banned. He was speaking after presiding over a meeting of MLAs and fisheries department officials at the auditorium of the deputy commissioner's office on Monday May 3. Rajendra said that this decision has been taken as people who flock Bunder area in large numbers for buying fish create a crowd there, which can facilitate the spread of the pandemic. He stated that unnecessary movement of the public in fishing port areas in the city has been strictly banned, and advised people to buy fish at the markets located in their localities. He warned that in addition to imposition of fines, other action as may be necessary will be taken without any lenience. The DC asked officials confirm that the Covid guidelines are followed in Bunder areas, and collect video footage of those violating rules. He asked more home guards and police to be positioned at Bunder area.

He asked the merchants to provide sanitisers and cloth masks to their workers and ensure that they are properly used. He said that if norms are not followed, fishing activity will have to be banned. MLA Vedavyasa Kamath, asked the officials to take strict measures against violators and use loudspeakers to convey information to the people as well as the fish vendors. Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation chairman Nitin Kumar, city mayor Premananda Shetty, commissioner Akshy Sridhar, additional deputy commissioner Dinesh Kumar, and assistant police commissioner P A Hegde, were present.

**Karnataka: Expect higher fish prices soon- Lockdown has worsen fishing activity putting boat owners in loss**

<https://www.mangalorean.com/expect-higher-fish-prices-soon-lockdown-has-worsen-fishing-activity-putting-boat-owners-in-loss/>

"After the government enforced a fortnight-long partial lockdown from Tuesday night till May 12, Fishermen are unable to sell the entire catch before the closing time, of 10:00 am. The fishing sector that was already hit by delay in diesel subsidy reimbursement and a drastic reduction in catch is gasping under COVID-19 restrictions as fishermen are unable to get a good price for their catch, within the four hours of morning relaxation window. This morning the price of some of the fish have reached very high- Seer fish aka Anjal is Rs 1200 per kg, Ladyfish aka Kane over Rs 1000 per kg, Mackerels aka Bangude Rs 220 per kg, and so on – these are the prices gone up since a few days. The three coastal districts, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada, had robust marine fishing till a few years ago which, of late, has been affected by reduced catch. An increase in the number of deep-sea vessels, unbridled marine resources

exploitation and environmental pollution have all contributed to the reduction in marine resources, according to the owners in the fishing sector. With the government enforcing the fortnight-long partial lockdown from Tuesday night till May 12 with a window for buying essentials between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m., fishermen are finding it difficult to dispose of whatever catch they land in the deep sea. Ramesh Kotian, a fisherman working on a deep-sea vessel based at the Bunder Port/Dakke, said that they have to return to the harbour only after 6 a.m. and dispose of the entire catch before 9 a.m.

The police begin closing down operations from 9 a.m. itself, he said. Thus, fishermen are deprived of a good price for their catch as there is no bargaining and also, they are in a hurry to dispose of the catch. Kotain wondered why the government which equates fishing with agriculture is not allowing fishing activities throughout the day. The situation is similar in almost all major fishing ports along the coast, including Malpe, Gangolli, Honnavar and Karwar. Many fishermen have already anchored their vessels due to reduced catch and non-payment of diesel subsidy. The present partial lockdown has only worsened the situation with more and more fishermen intending to halt fishing activities ahead of the monsoon fishing holidays, said Raju Puthran, another fisherman. Many owners of fishing firms have already sent back workers from other states, like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Kerala working in the fishing boats. As the present condition due to lockdown has worsened, the boat owners find it hard to earn a good income, thereby putting them in huge losses. It should be noted that by May-end, the fishing season comes to a close after which the annual fishing holiday begins. While only a few fishermen from other states are still here, the boat owners are still bearing their stay expenses, food, salary etc. This is one reason many boat owners have decided to send out of Mangaluru fishermen back. As per the lockdown rules, the fish sale has to be conducted between 6 am and 10 am but by the time fishes received in boats are disposed of, it is normally 10 am. How the fish are to be sold thereafter, is a big problem.

### **Karnataka: Fishermen unable to sell entire catch before closing time**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/fishermen-unable-to-sell-entire-catch-before-closing-time/article34446037.ece>

"The fishing sector that was already hit by delay in diesel subsidy reimbursement and drastic reduction in catch is gasping under COVID-19 restrictions as fishermen are unable to get good price for their catch, within the four hours of morning relaxation window. The three coastal districts, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada, had robust marine fishing till a few years ago which, of late, has been affected by reduced catch. An increase in the number of deep sea vessels, unbridled marine resources exploitation and environmental pollution have all contributed to reduction in marine resources, according to experts in the field. With the government enforcing the fortnight-long partial lockdown from Tuesday night till May 12 with a window for buying essentials between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m., fishermen are finding it difficult to

dispose of whatever catch they land in deep sea. Sanjiv Suvarna, a fishermen working on a deep sea vessel based at the Mangaluru Fishing Harbour, said that they have to return to the harbour only after 6 a.m. and dispose of the entire catch before 9 a.m.

The police begin closing down operations from 9 a.m. itself, he said. Thus, fishermen are deprived of a good price for their catch as there is no bargaining and also, they are in a hurry to dispose it of. Suvarna wondered why the government which equates fishing with agriculture is not allowing fishing activities throughout the day. The situation is similar in almost all major fishing ports along the coast, including Malpe, Gangolli, Honnavar and Karwar. Vessels Anchored Many a fishermen has already anchored his vessel due to reduced catch and non-payment of diesel subsidy. The present partial lockdown has only worsened the situation with more and more fishermen intending to halt fishing activities ahead of the monsoon fishing holidays, said Sumith Mendon, another fisherman.

### **Karnataka: Fishing season inching towards premature closure**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=828599>

"The fishing season this time appears to be moving towards premature closure because of the re-introduction of Covid restrictions. Lending diesel subsidy, fish famine etc. As lockdown has been made effective from April 27, arrangements are being made to send back workers from other states working in the fishing boats here. As the conditions are adverse, and the fishing industry is in the doldrums, the boat owners find it a loss-making proposition to retain workers from other states. When announcing a 14-day lockdown on Monday, the chief minister has dropped enough hints about the likelihood of its extension.

By May-end, this fishing season comes to a close after which the annual fishing holiday begins. Most of those who work in the deep sea fishing boats here are from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Kerala. As long as they are here, the boat owners have to bear their expenses, salary etc. Therefore, the boat owners have decided to send them back. In the meanwhile, a meeting of fishermen associations has been called to discuss the problems faced by the fishermen on Tuesday, April 27. Out of the deep sea boats here, only 50 per cent have gone into the sea. Out of them, 40 per cent returned to the seashore before the lockdown was announced. The other boats are in the sea and all these boats cannot return before the lockdown begins. As per the lockdown rules, the fish sale has to be conducted between 6 am and 10 am but by the time fishes received in boats are disposed of, it is normally 10 am. How the fish are to be sold thereafter, is a big problem. Fishermen leader, Diwakar Ullal, sounds pessimistic when he says that unless the fishes are supplied in time, huge losses stare the boat owners in the eye. In the meantime, fish prices have not gone down in the city. Instead, they are going up. Mackerels were traded at Rs 175 per kg on Sunday. The price swelled to Rs 200 on Tuesday. Diwakar said

that even though hotel businesses are restricted, there is good demand for fish locally.

**Karnataka: Curfew affect – Fishermen returning to shore confined inside boats**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=827477>

"A number of fishermen who returned to the shore at Bunder area in the city after completing their fishing trips had to spend time in their boats which were anchored at the fishing port as they were unable to unload the fish because of the curfew in operation. These boats had left the shore over ten days back. They returned on Saturday and Sunday. By the time they reached here, the weekend curfew had been clamped. There were no workers at the port to unload the fish catches. Therefore over 60 boats had to stay at the Bunder area with the stock of fish caught by them. As vehicular traffic was banned and shops were closed, the fishermen stayed back at the boats. As food arrangement is provided in the boats, they did not face any major problem. The fishermen leaders, it is learnt, have advised the boat owners to adjust their time so that the time of their return here does not coincide with curfew hours.

**Karnataka: Fishing boat owner files case for compensation**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kozhikode/fishing-boat-owner-files-case-for-compensation/articleshow/82246164.cms>

"The owner of the Beypore-based fishing boat, which capsized after a container ship rammed it off the coast of Mangaluru on April 13 leaving six persons dead and six other missing, has initiated legal proceedings against the owners of the Singapore-flagged vessel seeking compensation. The admiralty suit seeking compensation has been filed on behalf of boat owner Mamantakath Jaffar against the owners of the container vessel APL Le Havre at the Karnataka high court.

Advocate C Unnikrishnan who filed the petition on behalf of the boat owner said that the owners of the foreign ship have come forward for talks regarding the compensation. "As the shipping firm had filed a caveat in the court, when we filed an admiralty suit in the court, they were provided a copy of our petition and they approached us and asked whether we are ready to hold discussions regarding compensation. Now talks are underway regarding providing compensation to the affected persons," said Unnikrishnan. He added that the case was filed in Karnataka high court as the waters where the incident took place fell under its jurisdiction. Unnikrishnan said that the overspeeding ship had hit the fishing boat from behind. "It is learnt that the ship was speeding and was moving at a speed of 19 knots as against the safe speed of 18 knots," he said. Kerala Boat Operators Association state vice-president Karichali Preman said that the boat owner had suffered losses of over Rs 1.3 crore. "Also, of the 14 fishermen in the ill-fated boat, six persons have lost their lives and six others are still missing and two have survived," he said. The boat IFB Rabah, owned by Jaffar, had set off sail from Beypore on April 11 night with 14

migrant fishermen hailing from Tamil Nadu and West Bengal on board. The boat had overturned after being hit by the ship around midnight the next day. Two fishermen were rescued by the crew of the ship. The ship was en route to Nhava Sheva port from Singapore when it collided with the fishing boat around 43 nautical miles off Mangaluru coast.

**Karnataka: Beaches of coastal areas to soon be developed – New CRZ plan to come in effect**

<https://daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=825435>

"Developmental works and tourism-related activities will soon be set in motion for the beaches in coastal Karnataka. Top sources in the tourism department confirmed that the state government has approved the revised plan of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) 2019 of the Centre. The notification in this regard will be taken out in a week's time. Once the notification is announced, the public has 60 days to raise their objection. A meeting to receive petitions will take place under the presidency of DC. Petitions related to objections and disputes will also be taken by local governing bodies including gram panchayats. Once the objections are received, the district administration is going to send a report to the state government. Then the same will be sent to the central government by the state government after verification. The Centre will finally approve the project. According to the revised plan, in CRZ-II, there is a provision to build houses or other structures from roads that were built prior to 1991 on beaches. If a road is not available, then new houses or commercial buildings can be built from the building that is constructed on the land which has authorized documents. But there are restrictions for establishing industries. There is a demand to develop tourism in Karnataka based on the Goa model for many years. Now complimentary to this demand, many rules in the CRZ notification have been relaxed. In specific areas of CRZ-II, provisions are made to build new resorts, homestay and apartments. According to the revised plan, 95% of CRZ in Dakshina Kannada and 30% CRZ in Udupi will be included in CRZ-II. Meanwhile, CRZ-I had more restrictions. In the old CRZ plan, only 60% of the CRZ area in Dakshina Kannada and 10% in Udupi were in CRZ-II. Locals living in and around the beach areas are concerned that open permission to conduct activities throughout the beach in the name of development might make it difficult to protect the species of sea creatures and plants that are on the verge of extinction. Moreover, if the beaches are seen only from the point of view of increasing commercial income, it might cause disruption of peace for locals. The union government had taken out CRZ notification - 2019 in January 2019. Due to the Covid pandemic, the necessary map release was delayed.

**Karnataka: Diesel subsidy issue to be resolved soon: Fisheries Minister**

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/diesel-subsidy-issue-to-be-resolved-soon-fisheries-minister/2065973>

"The problems being faced by fishermen due to the non-release of diesel subsidy would be brought to the attention of Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa and the issue would be resolved, state Fisheries Minister S Angara said on Friday. Addressing reporters after visiting the old fisheries port here, Angara said efforts would be made to make available the Rs 45-crore pending subsidy to fishermen at the earliest. The Minister said he has held talks with fishermen's leaders on the works relating to the extension of the third jetty at the port. To a question on opposition from Bengre residents to the proposed coastal berth project there, he said all the stakeholders would be taken into confidence before the project's implementation. Discussions would be held with local people on the pros and cons of the project.

### **Karnataka: Navy joins in search for nine missing fishermen**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/navy-joins-in-search-for-nine-missing-fishermen/article34319598.ece>

"The Indian Navy on Wednesday deployed its surface and air assets for the search and rescue of nine missing fishermen of a Kerala-registered mechanised fishing boat which with 14 crew on board capsized off the Mangaluru coast in the early hours of Tuesday. Three fishermen died, while two crew members were rescued after the boat Rabah suffered a collision with a merchant ship carrying the Singapore flag mv APL Le Havre at about 2 a.m. about 43 nautical miles west off Mangaluru coast. A press release said that Indian Naval Ships Tillanchang and Kalpeni along with naval aircraft from Goa were deployed in the area to augment search and rescue efforts of Indian Coast Guard vessels. To assist in the rescue efforts, INS Subhadra, a patrol vessel, sailed out from Karwar with a diving team embarked. Two specialist diving teams undertook snagline search in the area in an effort to locate the fishing craft that had sunk, it said. Meanwhile, Superintendent of Police, Karnataka Coastal Security Police, Udupi, Chethan R. said that two of the three bodies were handed over to their relatives on Wednesday. The two survivors were also handed over to the owner of the boat Mamentakathu Jaffar of Beypore in Kozhikode. The bodies of Dasan Channappa and Alexander Syrang were taken to Tamil Nadu after post-mortem. The body of Manikyadas from West Bengal will be handed over to the concerned after a COVID-19 test on Thursday. It will be flown to West Bengal. The Coastal Security Police have registered a case under Sections 304 (A) (causing death by negligence) and 280 (navigating a vessel in rash and negligent manner), Mr. Chethan added. Of the fishermen on board, seven each were from West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. The two survivors are Sunil Das (34) of West Bengal and Velumurugan (37) of Kalirajapuram, Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.

### **Karnataka: Three dead, nine missing after cargo ship collides with fishing boat off Mangaluru coast**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/kerala/2021/apr/13/three-dead-nine-missing->

[after-cargo-ship-collides-with-fishing-boat-off-mangaluru-coast-2289532.html](https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/the-story-of-jakkur-lake-sets-an-example-for-inclusive-rejuvenation-projects-6746181.html)

"Three fishermen were killed when a cargo ship collided with a fishing boat off the Mangaluru coast on Monday night. According to sources, two fishermen were rescued alive by the crew of the ship while nine others are missing after the collision. The rescued workers are Vel Murugan of Colachel in Tamil Nadu and Sunil Das of West Bengal. According to Kerala Fishing Boat Operators Association vice president Haneefa Haji, there were 14 workers in the boat of which 7 were from Colachel and 7 from Odisha and West Bengal. ""The workers had joined duty only on Sunday. The boat set off for fishing from Beypore harbour on Sunday and collided with the ship at around midnight on Monday,"" he said. The ill-fated boat IFB Rabbal was owned by Mamantakathu Jaffer of Beypore. According to sources, APL Le Havre, a container ship with Singapore registration, collided with the fishing boat. The crew of the ship launched a rescue operation immediately after they noticed the incident and saved five workers, of whom three died. The Navy and Coast Guard have rushed to the spot and launched a search for the missing fishermen. The incident occurred around 60 nautical miles off the Mangaluru coast.

**Karnataka: The story of Jakkur lake sets an example for inclusive rejuvenation projects**

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/the-story-of-jakkur-lake-sets-an-example-for-inclusive-rejuvenation-projects-6746181.html>

"Morning walkers, residents of nearby residential complexes, vouch for the beauty and serenity of Jakkur Lake in Bengaluru and completely endorse and support the rejuvenation of the fairly large water body in their area. Administration and local agencies are mighty proud of the project – which involved fencing, cleaning of sewage and garbage and aiding biodiversity. Environmentalists and naturalists are enthused by the arrival and staying of birds. However, this much-documented success story has a crucial stakeholder, that has played an integral part in the success story – the fishing community. -- The poor condition of lakes in Bengaluru and subsequent revival efforts have been under scrutiny and public discourse for several years now. - - Jakkur Lake in north Bengaluru has received many accolades for creating and sustaining the rejuvenation and conservation initiative. -- The lake supports and provides livelihoods for 70 fishermen families and their role has been crucial to the success of the lake rejuvenation project. -- Jockim, a fisherman, and other members of his community rue the general attitude to keep local communities out of conservation plans and not recognise their contribution. Jockim is one of the leading members of the fishing community that depends on the lake for its livelihood and is also part of the conservation initiative.

But it doesn't stop at that. In fact, without the help, support and active participation of the community and without any major differences with other stakeholders, the management of the lake would have been impossible. Jakkur is one of the 51 lakes in the city, artificially created in

the 16th century. It is a crucial urban wetland for Bengaluru, in the absence of any other waterbodies such as rivers or the sea. The lake supports and provides livelihoods for 70 fishing families and 30 cattle owners/grass cutters and their role has been crucial to the success of the lake rejuvenation project. The lake has been managed by a citizen's group with Bengaluru's municipal corporation (BBMP) since 2015. Prior to that, Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) had completed fencing and cleaning before handing it over. Rejuvenating Jakkur Lake, constructed over 200 years ago, had become a site for sewage and garbage dumping, in recent decades, like most of the other lakes in the city. In 2005, the BDA took up the project to rejuvenate a few lakes, Jakkur was one of them.

They worked on it for from 2008 till about 2010-11. The BDA took charge of desilting, fencing and sewage treatment and completed the revival of the lake. Once most of the work was done by 2012, they handed over the lake to Bengaluru's municipal corporation (BBMP) and the citizen's group. Post the handover, the lake has been managed by the BBMP with citizen's group Jalaposhan since 2015. The BBMP, as the custodian of the lake, has its various departments undertake different tasks of lake management such as sewage treatment, checking quality of water, water pollution, maintenance of biodiversity in the wetlands, construction of pathways and maintenance of bunds. The Fisheries department meanwhile, works with the fishing community for the formation of society, and monitoring of fishing, sales, cleaning of the lake, etc. Around 197 species of birds are found at the lake. These include pelicans, who have made Jakkur their home and no longer migrate. There are nests of peacocks as well, indicating that the flora and fauna are in healthy condition now. The fishermen fish upto 500 kg of fish on good days during the fishing season from the lake. The fishing community has been a proactive stakeholder among all the others. It is primarily responsible for the maintenance and conservation of water in the lake. Though the community's livelihoods depend on it and hence it is invested in the lake's upkeep, the people are also on board for eco-friendly practices and working as a multiple-stakeholder community to enable conversation of biodiversity and upkeep of the lake in the best possible way. For example, at the moment they are busy cleaning up the rampant growth of water hyacinth, which is detrimental to the overall health of the lake. Jockim, 45, has a quiet, confident presence. He takes a long time to open up and even after that, he speaks little. He is well aware of the role he and his people play in keeping Jakkur Lake as beautiful and ecologically thriving. However, he is also deeply aware of the fact that the urban idea of conservation often seeks to keep traditional dwellers out. "Fishermen are the main people for a lake to thrive," he says.

"If fishermen are there, the birds will come. We are the only people entering the water and we understand it from generations." His family, like many others in the vicinity, has always depended on fishing. They lived nearby and fished in Rachenahalli lake, very close to Jakkur lake (it gets its water from Jakkur too) and moved to Jakkur sometime in 2006. Jockim witnessed the lake's degeneration and the subsequent efforts of Bangalore Development

Authority to clean and rejuvenate it. He has been part of the community initiative to maintain the lake from the very beginning and brought with him the entire fishing community. The BBMP website about the lake says, “Jakkur Lake is an example of collective action – the implementation of a node for social and scientific innovation to help improve the lake ecosystem and social relations among stakeholders.” Jakkur Lake is one of the largest lakes in the grid of man-made lakes in the city and is located in the north eastern part of Bengaluru. Unplanned development in the area surrounding the lake had led to solid waste filling its feeder channels. This choked the natural watershed so much that the lake resembled a dumping yard. Jakkur Lake interestingly has a very well-designed wetland system. According to the BBMP website, a wetland is a complex assemblage of water, substrate, plants (vascular and algae), litter (primarily fallen plant material), invertebrates and an array of micro-organisms (most importantly bacteria), as defined by the US Environmental Protection Agency.” Annapurna Kamath, of Jalaposhan, the NGO that was registered to partner officially with BBMP to manage the lake, says the primary goal of conservation has to be inclusive.

“You cannot assume that you have some privilege because you are environmentally inclined and the rest of the world is not interested. Fishermen community have been here much before us, they know the lake very well. Initially, some people said fishermen community are a threat, birds get threatened by fishing and all that. But we believed they had a role because fishing community understands water the best and the ecosystem as well. They need to be supplemented but they have the base knowledge of what a lake should be and how to take care of it. It’s innate. Moreover, we shouldn’t think of disturbing social eco-system,” she told Mongabay-India. Jockim, on his own, has always tried to improve and learn the best practices for fishing as well as preserving the biodiversity of the lake. “The fisheries department people help us and guide us on what to do to maintain the biodiversity. Along with our traditional methods, we also get scientific advice. We don’t fish when the fish are small. We understand when to stop,” says Jockim, who has studied up to Class 8 but makes all efforts to understand the environmental issues, guidelines from the fisheries department and legal issues as well. He said at least 70 families directly depend on Jakkur Lake for their livelihoods. He is right when he says that having healthy fish in the water body is a sign of good health of the overall wetland ecosystem. Nagendra Babu, Assistant Director in the Fisheries Department says, “If fishes are there in the water, it will be clean. If not, the rampant growth of plankton leads to bacteria, it dies and settles in water, becomes algae. All urban lakes are flooded with sewage, which leads to rampant growth. Secondly, birds will come, if the fishes are there.

It maintains the food chain. Livelihood for fishermen is also useful to balance the ecosystem.” Though it sounds logical and plausible in theory, it is easily possible to alienate and have differences between various stakeholders – administration, scientists, citizens’ groups and local communities. Especially, when there is a popular perception that removing all activity from a distressed waterbody will actually help its conservation. Because of that, there have been

instances of indifference or even conflict between citizen-environmentalists and local communities. Add to that, if the administration is not effective, it can make the situation worse. T.V. Ramachandra from the Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc) in Bengaluru has studied various wetlands management systems. “It doesn’t work where people have disassociated themselves. People are actively involved and it worked at Putanehalli and Jakkur lakes. If there is a sense of belonging, no one will abuse it. Moreover, many families who are below poverty line depend on common property.” S. Vishwanath, urban planner and water conservationist, emphasises the need to recognise local communities. “Acknowledging the grass cutters and fishermen will go a long way. Middle-class attitude is to exclude in the name of protection.

We have to reinvent the conservation of the lake with the current urban context. Lake is a complete wetland by itself if we allow biodiversity, the flora and fauna to develop by itself. However, the real question is are the citizens ready to pay the true cost of their sewage?” Ramachandra adds, “Those who live away from the lake, pollute and contaminate. Raw sewage, industrial effluent are resulting in falling health standards, air and water quality. Vegetables, fish, grass – all had heavy metal. It is getting reflected higher instances of cancer and kidney failures in the city. Innocent people are paying for the irresponsible behaviour of bureaucracy and state and management strategies.” He says many lakes in the city are in need of urgent attention but the initiatives are not working the way they worked at Jakkur. Kamath says there is no alternative to an integrated approach. “Everyone understands conservation in their own language. We can’t be extreme. The existing ecosystem is native intelligence. We can’t work with superficial intelligence. Jockim knows if sewage comes, what happens, if fish is dying, what is happening. Grass cutters and fishermen are the first responders.

All of us have the same passion. They feel it’s “my own lake” they have an attachment to the lake. I don’t know if it’s special to Jakkur but it should be the model because it works.” Kamath speaks of Jockim as a spiritual person who has the ability to take everyone along with him. “I always tell people that we never had any conflict with the fishing community. In fact, I even suggested that Jockim should train other fishermen near other lakes where similar efforts are going on.” When asked if he has faced any resistance from the community or outside of it, while taking up these activities apart from fishing, Jockim simply says, “My reputation is good. They are with me.” One of the reasons why Jockim is respected and almost indispensable is his integrity and honesty. He has maintained the water body from their own expense and does not seek funds from the NGO or the administration. However, the past year hasn’t been easy. First, the pandemic and the lockdown affected their business. And now they are witnessing rampant growth of water hyacinth.

For Jockim and his fishermen partners, the lack of funds to clean the hyacinth is a challenge. Sewage also continues to be a problem. What truly bothers him are different rules and regulations that try to put them out. While Supreme Court doesn’t allow fishermen to live near

the water bodies, Jockim says at least facilities like sheds to mend the equipment, boat, and to rest while working should be allowed. “Community initiatives would be failures without fishermen. But nobody writes or recognises us,” he says wistfully. Ironically, he points out that they get unnecessary attention from social media when walkers post their pictures. “They don’t ask or talk to us about what we are doing but take photos.” He doesn’t talk much about family members. He says he doesn’t want his children to follow this vocation. “People aren’t good. The younger generation will not be able to manage. It is not a peaceful profession,” he says requesting to highlight their problems and their contribution as a community and not as an individual.

### **Karnataka: Bengre residents hold massive protest against Sagarmala project**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=820622>

"The residents of Bengre staged a protest against coastal berth and capital dredging under Sagarmala project here on Monday April 5. The protestors said, “We strongly oppose the coastal berth and capital dredging under Sagarmala project. By bringing the project to Bengre, we realize that the government is trying to evacuate people from Bengre. Since several years, we have been demanding to provide title deeds and RTC documents. Our demands are yet to be fulfilled. “The fishing community, houses, people involved in dry fish business and fish drying tents will face huge a problem regarding their livelihood due to the construction of the coastal berth which will be 350 meters-long. People here will not have any alternative solution for their livelihood if the project comes up at Bengre. There is a government school close to the area. The project will affect the health condition of the children. So on humanity basis and in view of health condition of school children, we demand the project to be shifted elsewhere. “Recently, our fishing boats powered away after their ropes snapped due to strong winds. If the boats had gone missing due to the strong winds, then the entire fishing community would have been in dire straits. The government needs to concentrate on providing basic facilities such as jetties for small boats. Our basic demands are not being fulfilled,” they said.

### **Karnataka: KCCI seeks fund allocation for inland waterways development**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/kcci-seeks-fund-allocation-for-inland-waterways-development/article34243916.ece>

"The Kanara Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has asked the Karnataka government to develop inland waterways on Netravati River and Gurupur River in Dakshina Kannada district, and has sought budgetary allocation for their development. In a letter to the Director of Ports and Inland Water Transport of the Karnataka government, the President of KCCI, Isaac Vas, said that even though India’s Inland Waterways Authority has identified Netravati River as National Waterway 74 and Gurupur River as National Waterway 43, there has

not been any budgetary allocation for implementing them. These waterways must be developed and connected to different ports such as Goa, Lakshadweep, Mumbai, Kochi, and Karwar to spur economic activity, he said. Industries in specific areas The waterways, if built, will make it possible for boat-building activity to resume and help Mangaluru regain its past glory as a vital boat-building centre.

There exists a lot of potential for repairs as well. Vessels up to 100 metre length can be easily taken alongside for repairs, if a good draft of 4-4.5 metres is provided in the river channel, he said. NMPT signs 7 MoUs with stakeholders Stating that there is a good scope to promote fish meal and fish oil industries in specific areas along the river banks, he said a couple of such industries exist on the sand bar of Netravati River on the southern side. If the waterway is established, this industry can be localised along the river banks. Stressing the need to promote tourism along the waterways, he said there are seven floating restaurants operational on Netravati River. These restaurants are not able to sail further into the river since suitable waterways are not available. The proposed waterways should develop tourism, thereby generating employment and bringing connected economic benefits to the region. The development of waterways would increase tourism activities in this region. Immense economic benefits Referring to the allocation of funds by Mangaluru Smart City Ltd (MSCL) for waterfront development, Vas said these will complement the plans of MSCL projects for the development of Dakshina Kannada district. Requesting the government to allocate budget for the development of inland waterways for all-around economic activity, he said the establishment of waterways will provide immense benefits for economic activities connected to movement of cargo, men and material, small shipbuilding and boat building, fisheries, fish meal and fish oil, tourism and water sports.

### **Karnataka: 10 fish sanctuaries in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi to conserve rare breed fishes**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=820227>

"Undivided district nestles in the shadow of the Western Ghats. It boasts of over 10 rivers and numerous rivulets. Almost all of them flow near well-known places of worship, move westwards and join the Arabian sea. The Western Ghats and the rivers are home to some very rare kinds of biodiversities. A total of 10 spots in Udupi and Dakshina Kannada district have been identified as 'Matsyadhamas (fish sanctuary)'. Four among them have also received official recognition. Shishila in Dakshina Kanada (River Kapila), a spot near Mallikarjuna temple in Aranthodu village (Chandragiri river), Bachchanayakana Gundi in Yenekallu village (Kallaje rivulet) and Tingale in Udupi (River Sita) have already been identified officially as fish sanctuaries. Other six spots which have been chosen as home to rare fish breeds but order about which have not been issued are Dharmasthala bathing bay (Netravati), Kelyaru (Falguni), Marakatha (Yenekallu rivulet), Nakooru Gaya (Kumaradhara), Uppukala (Kallaje rivulet) and a

spot near Hebri (River Sita). The government has been approached for facilities like a platform for feeding the fish, provision of grill etc but they have not been approved. The government has not been releasing any separate grants, and the department has to adjust funds from other grants. All types of fishing are barred for a radius of 4 km from these fish sanctuaries. As most of the areas are located near the temples, Garody etc, the fishes that are on the verge of extinction are expected to get better protection. Minister, S Angara, feels that a rare variety of fishes can be saved if temples create a separate facility for breeding and protecting them.

### **Karnataka: Mangaluru to be home to higher level of marine innovation**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=818371>

"Currently, the region is witnessing only fishing activity in the sea. In the future generation of chemicals needed for pharmaceutical companies and the production of food also will begin. As a prelude to this ambitious programme, a 'Biotech Innovation Centre for Aqua Marine', will come up here. The state budget finds a mention about this centre costing Rs 6 crore. If this centre is established here, more investment and employment opportunities will open up. As per the current information, this new centre will be opened at the fisheries college here. Marine Biotech Centre will be on the model of the 'Blue Economy' mentioned by the central government's ministry of geology. In foreign countries, organic extracts are processed and new products are produced. Therefore, there will be a spurt in the role of sea products in the fields of medicines and other areas. In India, large scale research in this field has not been undertaken. Dean of the fisheries college here, Dr Senthil Vel, says that the coastal belt has an opportunity for new research and production by using sea resources. He said that water resources are being used for medicines in foreign countries. The proposed centre is expected to meet the lack of a research centre for sea products like the ones in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The centre can create new products through seaweeds, research and generation of some chemicals needed by factories, research on biofuel by using sea moss, use of bio technology, and saline water processing among others.

### **Karnataka: Sea ambulances to be deployed along the coast shortly**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/sea-ambulances-to-be-deployed-along-the-coast-shortly/article34218387.ece>

"Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Secretary P. Manivannan on Thursday said that the department will shortly deploy sea ambulances along the State's coast to rescue and render emergency services to people, particularly fishermen in distress on the high sea. Chairing a review meeting of the department at the Udupi Zilla Panchayat's Dr. V.S. Acharya Auditorium, Capt. Manivannan said that sea ambulances would go a long way in rescuing people and fishermen in distress and saving their life. The fishermen community had been demanding such a

facility for long. Meanwhile, the Secretary told department officials to ensure that none of the banned or illegal methods of fishing were practised along the coast. They should keep tab on the activities of fishermen to ensure compliance with orders and rules. Officials should also ensure that all those entering fishing harbours follow the COVID-19 protocols, including compulsory wearing of face cover, social distancing and maintaining hygiene. Fines should invariably imposed on those violating the protocols, he said.

Capt. Manivannan said that officials should periodically inspect closed circuit television cameras installed at fishing harbours to ensure their uninterrupted services. If necessary, they should procure superior quality cameras and get them installed in harbours. The Secretary asked personnel of the Coastal Security Police to frame specific guidelines for regulating and registering visitors and workers at harbours. Nearly 10,000 people, including locals, those from neighbouring districts and other States, visit the Malpe Fishing Harbour every day. The Coastal Security Police should keep a regular watch on them, he noted. There were many unregistered dinghy fishing boats in the district, Capt. Manivannan noted and asked the Fisheries Department officials to complete their registration within three months. Different categories of fishing boats should strictly follow the colour-coding scheme prescribed by the government. Speaking about activities of the Animal Husbandry Department, the Secretary said that officials should immediately identify suitable spaces to open Go Shalas across the district. Deputy Commissioner G. Jagadeesha, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Y. Naveen Bhat, Superintendent of Police N. Vishnuvardhan, Coastal Security Police Superintendent of Police R. Chethan and others were present.

**Karnataka: At least 30 houses damaged and fishermen suffer huge loss as their fishing boats were also damaged**

<http://www.uniindia.com/at-least-30-houses-damaged-and-fishermen-suffer-huge-loss-as-their-fishing-boats-were-also-damaged/south/news/2357618.html>

"Heavy rains accompanied by strong winds, thunder and lightning in Bantwal on Monday night damaged at least 30 houses and several fishing boats. Several trees and electric poles too were uprooted due to strong winds. Electricity supply has also been completely disrupted in several rural areas of the taluk since last night. Traffic was disrupted at several places after trees fell on roads. The fishing boats that were anchored at Old Bunder Dhakke were damaged after the ropes tying the boats got severed due to heavy wind, causing the boats to collide with each other resulting in severe damages. Due to the heavy rain and winds, several boats in Panambur,

Minakaliya, Chitrapura, Surathkal, and Sasihithlu were washed towards the seashore.

**Karnataka: Government urged to declare submerged coral reefs as ecologically sensitive**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/govt-urged-to-declare-submerged-coral-reefs-as-ecologically-sensitive/article34164978.ece>

"The College of Fisheries, Mangaluru, has urged the Union government to notify groups of submerged coral reefs off coastal Karnataka as ecologically sensitive and treat them on par with Lakshadweep Islands and eco-sensitive areas under the Wild Life Protection Act. Professor and Dean of the college A. Senthil Vel has in a release said that as per the Survey of India map these coral reefs are about 120 nautical miles (about 220 km) from Mangaluru. The Survey of India has named them as Bassas De Pedra, Cora Divh and Sesostris Bank. They may be the extension of Lakshadweep Islands towards the north from the Lakshadweep waters. Submerged reefs are at a height of around 40 m-50 m from the sea bed. Some of the catches that have not been recorded on the Karnataka coast are being observed along these reefs. The reefs are known to harbour some of the endangered species such as sharks, spotted skates and rays, lobsters, shells which are listed under Schedule I of the Wild Life Protection Act, including large bio diversity comprising sea weeds and sea fans.

These have not been explored so far. "While there has been over-fishing and over-exploitation of the coastal waters, information has been received that certain fishing communities from neighbouring States are also exploiting some of the endangered and scheduled animals off the Karnataka coast," he said and added that hence, there is a need to declare submerged coral reefs off coastal Karnataka as ecologically sensitive. Illegal fishing "The area has been neglected; hence, the fishing communities from other States have resorted to fishing using illegal methods and nets such as gill netting through monofilament material. As these fish are not known so much along the Karnataka coast, these fishermen are selling these fish at a low cost of Rs.100-Rs.130 a kg. Further, the shells which are pretty big in size and fall under Schedule I of the Wild Life Protection Act are being sold at Rs.50-Rs.100 a piece," Prof. Vel said. He said that the gears/nets are dangerous and extremely destructive and could catch several of these beautiful animals. If the reefs are over-fished they become barren and the bio-diversity totally lost. Such submerged reefs also act as breeding and spawning areas for several commercially important fish and shell fish, including molluscs and star fish.

**Karnataka: Purse seine boats stranded – 5,000 families devastated**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=815855>

"The Purse Seine Fishermen's Association held its meeting here on Saturday March 20. At the meeting, the fishermen expressed their grievances and pointed out that 140 purse seine boats at Malpe port have not been working for the last four years, and as a result, over 5,000

families are facing distress. They said that light fishing law is made applicable only in Malpe port whereas there is no such bar in Kerala, Goa and Maharashtra. General secretary of the association, Naveen Kotian, accused the people's representatives, officials and leaders of the association being in favour of capitalists. He said that out of the said 140 boats, only ten are undertaking fishing. ""The boats acquired by raising loan, have become useless. Fishing activity is continued to be conducted at Mangaluru. Purse seine fishing is allowed in Karwar and Goa. But Malpe, an all season port, we are barred from undertaking fishing, citing rules. We are facing injustice because of lack of political will, and exploitation by the organization. As the boats are at one place, the net and other assets of the boats are getting burned down,"" he cla med. President of the organization, Nagaraja Suivarna, vice president Madhukar Suivarna, secretary Santhosh Salian, joint secretary Jayyasheela Ameen, honorary president Y Yashodhara Ameen and honorary advisor Gururajk Bangera and others were present.

**Karnataka: No discussion on bringing fuel under GST: Diesel subsidy to fishermen pending**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2021/mar/23/bomma-no-discussion-onbringing-fuel-under-gst-2280216.html>

"A day after Union Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur reiterated that fuel would be brought under the GST regime, Karnataka Home and Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Basavaraj Bommai has said that no such discussions have been held so far. Bommai, also the state's representative in the GST Council, said the issue of including fuel or liquor under GST was not brought to the GST Council or proposed to the states so far. He said it is unlikely that the states would agree to such a proposal considering fuel cess is a huge source of revenue for states. Thakur, despite telling Lok Sabha earlier there was no proposal to bring fuel under GST, has been repeatedly saying that the Centre is hopeful of bringing fuel prices down if states agree to include fuel under GST. Karnataka has one of the highest sales tax (VAT) rates of 35% on petrol and 24% on diesel. In the budget 2020-21, tax on petrol was increased from 32% to 35% and on diesel from 21% to 24%. But in the budget 2021-22, they were left untouched. The VAT is over and above the cess levied by the Centre. Following the Union Budget 2021-22, the Centre's tax on fuel, including basic excise, surcharge, agri-infra cess and road/infra cess is currently Rs 31.83 per litre for diesel and Rs 32.98 for petrol. Karnataka had raised Rs 10,473 crore in 2020-21 from sale tax/VAT on fuel and Rs 164 crore in SGST. "Excise and fuel are the last resort of any state when faced with a financial crunch. If that is also brought under the GST regime, the state's dependence on the Centre will increase," said a Finance Department official. Rs 47.03 cr Diesel subsidy to fishermen pending The government told the Assembly that Rs 47.03 crore in diesel subsidy is yet to be paid to fishermen. Ports and Inland Water Transport Minister S Angara, in reply to a question from Congress MLA UT Khader, said Rs 30 crore of the Rs 77.30 crore in diesel subsidy has been released to fishermen. MLA Priyank Kharge, who

asked the question on behalf of Khader, said 70% of boats have been lying idle at ports and deep-sea fishing has stopped due to the pending dues.

**Karnataka: Adoption of advanced technologies critical to spur growth in India's fisheries sector**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/adoption-of-advanced-technologies-critical-to-spur-growth-in-indias-sheries-sector/articleshow/81589551.cms>

"As the Indian Government prioritises the rapid development and modernization of India's fisheries sector with policy reform measures, including the transformative Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna (PMMSY), the Centre for Strategy and Leadership (CSL), a leading Indian think-tank, has released a whitepaper on the adoption of modern digital technologies to spur growth in this important sector. The CSL whitepaper— 'IoT in the fisheries sector in India'— discusses the importance of new technologies for India to realize optimal green growth in the fisheries sector. This is especially important as digital advancements, such as the Internet of Things (IoT), evolve and impact broad economic and social sectors. The whitepaper focuses on how technologies like IoT optimise management of scarce resources and increase productivity of Indian fisheries industry as a whole. The fisheries sector provides livelihood to approximately 160 lakh (1,60,00,000) people at the primary level and almost double that number along its entire value chain. India is the second largest fish producer in the world, contributing 5.43% to world fish production, while fisheries is one of the most committed agricultural and cooperative sectors in the country.

Unfortunately, at this time, the fisheries sector faces three major challenges: ensuring fishermen safety while out at sea, maintaining national security by monitoring international borders, and prioritising fisheries as a robust economic activity. Unless digitisation and advanced technology are deployed consistently, these challenges will remain and continue to be barriers to productivity, growth and safety long term. On the findings of the whitepaper, Vikas Sharma, Director and Chief Executive, Centre for Strategy & Leadership, said, "India, which has 65% of its population under the age of 35 years, makes it the world's most enviable workforce pool. As per studies, the IoT sector will boom to grow to a more than \$20-billion market by 2022. We believe India's fisheries sector currently in the middle of a transformation would derive great benefits by the adoption of modern technologies such as IoT when compared to other areas." Therefore, bringing IoT to the centre of the sector's growth model should be prioritized. This will also show the way to create an inclusive strategy of public and private partnerships with an eye on creating millions of job opportunities in the fisheries and IoT-led sectors along with auxiliary industries, Sharma noted.

The whitepaper also points out that disruptive technologies, such as those being provided by Skylo, the world's most affordable end to end solution connecting machine and sensor data via

satellite, are critical to meet the demands of fishermen, boat owners, and regulators as industries innovate according to the Prime Minister's initiatives. Such technologies provide the much-needed edge to keep fishermen safe, enable higher productivity, and help monitor national borders for safety. Skylo is being deployed throughout India and has proven useful to the fisheries sector. Parthasarathi Trivedi, co-founder and CEO of Skylo, said, "Digitization and connectivity are key to achieving our Prime Minister's goal of doubling fisheries production under the Blue Revolution. Technology will transform the fishery sector in three main ways: safety, productivity, and sustainability. At the heart of this transformation is access to data and cloud-based analytics for unconnected fishing vessels and aquafarms - there is an immediate need to prioritize the adoption of modern digital technologies in the sector." The future of fisheries management depends on technological innovation.

Improvements in digital technologies now allow innovative monitoring tools to manage fish stocks better at every phase of the value chain. Technology adoption in such situations is still limited primarily due to high cost, therefore presenting challenges for fishery management authorities to adopt the best in data-sharing and communications systems. The fact that there are also just a few people trained to handle such devices and technologies has made the process further complex. These challenges in the fisheries sector can be overcome through a uniform use of technology, making it easy and affordable for fishermen to deploy solutions. The paper suggests that all value-chain stakeholders need to be involved in the decision-making process, from fishermen to boat owners to government organizations. New technologies need to be applied in a progressive manner to better adapt to changes.

### **Karnataka: Minister Angara promises to strive for diesel subsidy, concessional kerosene early**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=812646>

"Minister Angara said that all efforts are being made to disburse the remaining portion of the diesel subsidy and kerosene at concessional rate as early as possible. He said that the attention of the centre has been drawn towards these demands through a letter. Congress MLC K Harish Kumar, had moved a call attention motion in the legislative council on Monday March 15 seeking to complete the schemes meant to extend assistance to the fishermen in Dakshina Kannada district at the earliest. Angara said that discussions were held with finance department officials about the release of diesel subsidy and that the centre has been urged to provide 3.313 kilo litres of kerosene for the fishermen. Harish Kumar said that the fishermen have not got their diesel subsidy for the last six months. He pointed out that the fishermen are in distress because of

coronavirus infection. He demanded to waive interest on the loans of fishermen and to resolve the pending issue of diesel and kerosene on an emergency basis. The minister informed that Dakshina Kannada district has 57 purse seine boats, 1,327 trawler boats, 1,501 mechanised country boats and 541 non-mechanised country boats. He also said that during the year 2019-20, 1.8 lac tonnes of fish worth Rs 2,031.38 crore was produced. Angara also stated that the third phase expansion work of the fisheries port at Mangaluru has been undertaken with central assistance at a cost of Rs 57.6 crore rupees. He said that the work got delayed due to a litigation preferred by an individual and he hoped to settle the matter soon. He also said that an all season port costing Rs 196.51 crore is being constructed at Kulai and country boats anchoring area at a cost of Rs 3.37 crore is being executed at Thota Bengre.

### **Karnataka: Fisheries Corporation to open 12 'Mathsya Darshini' seafood restaurants**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=810671>

"Towards popularising eatables and dishes made out of fish and to make a variety of fish products widely available, Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation Limited has decided to set up 12 'Mathsya Darshini' seafood restaurants at 12 places in Karnataka. This is an endeavour of the corporation aimed at supporting the development of the fishing sector, at a total investment of Rs 15 crore. These restaurants will cost Rs 1.25 crore each. The corporation has also prepared a proposal to set up ten mobile 'Mathsya Darshini' seafood units. The corporation plans to set up fish markets that is well-equipped and modern, and had approached the state government with a demand for budgetary support. The state government has set apart Rs 30 crore for the corporation, by using which, hygienic markets and seafood restaurants will come up. Ten ultra-modern fish markets, five with an investment of one crore rupees each, and ten with an investment of Rs 50 lac each, are planned.

Various venues are under consideration and markets where hygiene will get top priority, will come up on the basis of availability of land and infrastructure. Water facility will be provided for those who sit for cutting the fishes to maintain cleanliness, platform for showcasing fish will be provided, and provision for 75 people to market their fishes will be made. Restrooms at the upper floor, toilets etc will also be provided. Rs six crore rupees has been provided to the corporation in the budget for processing frozen fish products and to establish value addition centres. Nithin Kumar, chairman, Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation Limited, said that a request for the grants had been placed with the chief minister through fisheries minister, S Angara. He said out of the budgetary grant, as soon as the grants are released, the above projects will be implemented.

### **Karnataka: Action sought to protect Sasihiltu beach**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/action-sought-to-protect-sasihiltu->

[beach/article34031575.ece](#)

"Former Moodbidri MLA and former Minister K. Abhayachandra Jain and former members of Haleyangadi Gram Panchayat on Tuesday sought urgent intervention of the State government to protect the pristine Sasihiltu beach, which is gradually getting eroded following sea erosion over the years. The beach, which is about 7 km from the Haleyangadi Junction on the NH 66, has been promoted as a destination for surfing. With the beach being close to confluence of Nandini and Shambhavi rivers with the sea, the waves were found to be moderate and conducive for surfing. Mr. Jain, during his visit to the beach, said following two surfing festivals at the beach in 2016 and 2017, the State government gave impetus to building sea wall. The Haleyangadi Gram Panchayat formed Sasihiltu Beach Development Committee and posted lifeguards and watchmen. The committee also constructed some temporary structures for eatery outlets, washrooms and erected seats on the beach. He said the government has failed to complete building of sea wall and this has brought a large portion of beach under water. Most of the structures have been damaged following sea erosion. Vasant Barna, the former president of Haleyangadi Panchayat, alleged that Moodbidri MLA Umanath A. Kotian prompted change of Panchayat Development Officer and this led to closure of Beach Development Committee.

"As a result there are no lifeguards and watchmen on the beach now," Mr. Barna said. He pointed out that four recent deaths of youths who drowned after getting caught in the rip current while swimming across the confluence of the sea and the river. "No serious effort is being made by the State government to preserve the pristine nature of this beach and make it safe for tourists," said former District Youth Congress president Mithun Rai. Rammohan Paranjape from Mantra Surf Club said lack of planned development of the beach has already affected it to a great extent. Surfing in the region will take a beating if the government goes ahead building fishing harbour in Haleyangadi, he said.

**Karnataka: KFDC to set up more 'Matsya Darshinis'**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/kfdc-to-set-up-more-matsya-darshinis/article34023481.ece>

"Announcing the plans mooted for the fisheries sector, the Budget has said that Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation (KFDC), Mangaluru, will establish fish sales units and Matsya Darshinis at a cost of ₹30 crore to encourage sale of fish and to create awareness on the diverse varieties of fish. Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa said the KFDC will set up a modern processing and value addition centre to process the Pangasius Tilapia fish into fillets and frozen products, which has got a huge demand in the international market. The project will cost ₹6 crore. He said ₹2 crore will be provided for the upgradation of 16 fish seedling

production centres in the State. ‘Grama Bandha Sethuve’ scheme to construct footbridges will be implemented with an outlay of ₹100 crore in places without proper road connectivity in Malnad and coastal regions, the Chief Minister said. The Budget also mentioned arranging e-marketing facility for Udupi sarees among other similar products in the State.

### **Karnataka: Enough scope for coastal Karnataka in Budget: KCCI**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/enough-scope-for-coastal-karnataka-in-budget-kcci/article34022172.ece>

"The Kanara Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has said that Dakshina Kannada has enough scope of taking advantage of most of the new proposals in the Karnataka Budget for 2021-22. Isaac Vas, President of KCCI, said that the proposal to establish an advanced biotech research centre in Mangaluru will encourage fishermen in the region to take up sea-weed cultivation. The cultivation of sea-weed has tremendous export potential and employment and wealth generation opportunities for the coastal region, he said. The Karnataka Budget has allocated Rs.2 crore for 2021-22 for the establishment of the ‘Advanced Biotech Innovation Centre for Aqua-Marine’ in Mangaluru. The centre aims to encourage the production of light food items utilising the bioactive compounds available from fish and sea weed. He said the State government’s decision to allocate Rs.66 crore for the establishment of a plastic park at Ganjimath in Mangaluru will help accelerate the project implementation. This project is being taken up along with participation from the Centre. ‘Fillip to tourism’ Referring to the budget proposal to develop waterways between Mangaluru and Panaji in Goa and to develop five waterways of the State, he said such a move can give a fillip to tourism in this much-neglected sector of coastal Karnataka. On the proposal to amend the Land Revenue Act to simplify the process of conversion of agricultural land, Vas said this move will be of help for sustainable industrial projects in the land-starved Dakshina Kannada district. Welcoming the Budget proposal to introduce a Bill to reconstitute Coastal Development Authority as Coastal Development Board, he hoped that this Board would take up development of the coastal region as the region’s requirements in various sectors are different from the rest of the State. However, he said, the capital expenditure for the year has been restricted to Rs.44,237 crore out of a total budget outlay of Rs.2.46 lakh crore. “It was expected that a sizeable portion of the budget would be used for capital expenditure so that this extra money would finally reach people’s hand, and in turn it would spur up demand and enable to the state’s economy to pick up after the damage done due to Covid and the lockdown that followed,” he added.

### **Karnataka: Fish famine forces boats to stay grounded since two months**

<https://daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=809066>

"For the last couple of months, famine has hit the fishing port at Gangolli. The fishermen are

hard hit by the fish famine that has come as a bolt from the blue. Boats which go for fishing are returning empty handed. This should have been the peak of the season with good catches but this time the fishermen have hit hard times. As fish catches are miserably low, many fishing and purse seine boats have been moored at the port. Fishing workers, women etc are not getting any work or income and their lives have become miserable. Rising costs of operation are met with very low catches. Exorbitant diesel costs have also added to the problems of the fishermen. As fishing trips are resulting in more losses, the boats are anchored at the port, fishermen say. The fishermen leaders have requested the government to come to their rescue. Similar is the condition at the Bhatkal port, where because of woefully low catches, boats are not venturing out. Non-receipt of diesel subsidy from the government for months has added to their woes. The fishermen are worried about their traditional vocation and how to manage this bleak situation.

Karnataka: Govt. committed to facilitate world-class maritime infrastructure, CM

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/govt-committed-to-facilitate-world-class-maritime-infrastructure-cm/article33974455.ece>

"Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Tuesday said the State was committed to facilitate world-class maritime infrastructure through private participation and urged entrepreneurs to invest in the maritime sector. He was speaking at a session on 'Investment opportunities in Karnataka' as a part of the Maritime India Virtual Summit 2021 organised by Union Ministry of Shipping in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Yediyurappa said the government had facilitated construction of a greenfield port under PPP at Honnavara with an investment of Rs.600 crore. Another Rs.3,000 crore were likely to be invested in two more greenfield ports at Pavinakurve and Belikeri in Uttara Kannada district, he said. This was apart from developing second phases of Karwar and Mangaluru fishing ports at an estimated cost of Rs.1,172 crore.

In his introductory address, Additional Chief Secretary (Infrastructure Development) Kapil Mohan said the government intends to convert Karnataka into a Global Maritime Hub through private participation. Karnataka Maritime Board intends to unlock the huge potential of land and island along the coast. Director of Ports K.C. Swamy said the government also intends to encourage ship building and breaking industries along the coast. Value unblocking New Mangalore Port Trust chairman A.V. Ramana said though Karnataka has 12 non-major and one major port, lack of proper connectivity has blocked their values. He hoped the present dynamic leadership would address the connectivity between the coast and the hinterland. If ports were developed and connectivity was improved, the huge value could be unblocked ushering in port-led industrialisation and development. Tourism too could flourish along with facilities to fishermen, he said. Suryaprakash, CEO of Honnavar Port Pvt., Ltd., said work on the project has already commenced after obtaining necessary clearances from different departments and agencies. While designs for the breakwaters, jetty etc., have already been done, the road

connecting Kasarkod and the National Highway 66 has to be developed. The State government has to facilitate this by writing to the Union Road Transport Ministry. A representative from the tourism department said the Tourism Policy 2025 envisages Rs.5,000 crore investment in the tourism sector creating nearly one million employment. The department was offering subsidies, incentives and concessions of different forms to private investors to create facilities across the state, including the 320 km long coastline, she said. Minister for Ports and Fisheries S. Angara was present.

### **Karnataka: Fishing industry in doldrums as diesel subsidy dues mount**

<https://daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=805741>

"The fisher folk in coastal Karnataka have been suffering on account of hike in diesel prices. In addition, they are facing the problem of non-disbursal of diesel subsidy to which they are eligible, by the state government from the last four months. The diesel subsidy dues have soared to Rs 25 crore. The sales tax portion of the diesel price is being reimbursed by the state government in the form of subsidy. Per month, a big fishing boat on an average, gets a subsidy up to 9,000 litres per month. Thousands of boats here are getting that facility. This amount used to be credited to the bank accounts of fishermen every month. The government had released a subsidy amount promptly till October but from November onwards, the fishermen are waiting for the subsidy that has not yet come. Fisheries department claims that about Rs 75 crore is due to be released to the fishermen in the coast in the form of subsidy. Sales tax which was eight rupees in the past has now gone up to Rs 14. It is said that there is delay in release of subsidy as the government is grappling with the problem of weak finances cause by the coronavirus pandemic. Minister, Angara, has promised to give top priority to the issue of releasing the subsidy. Fishermen leader Mohan Bengre, notes that a boat needs 6,000 to 6,500 litres of diesel for each fishing trip. He points out that the diesel price which hovered around Rs 68 at this time last year, has gone up to Rs 80, which has made it difficult to undertake fishing activity. Even other things like rope, salary of workers, nets, steel items, ice etc are costing much more. Therefore, 70 percent of deep sea boats have already been moored and only a few boats are continuing to undertake trips, he stated. Deputy director of fisheries, Parshwanath, said that the issue of pending diesel subsidy has been taken up with the government and there is information that the same would be released shortly.

### **Karnataka: 'Provide reservation for us too' – Mogaveera community urges government**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=805288>

"Mogaveera community has joined various other communities in raising their voice for reservation. They have urged the government to provide reservation to them also as their demand is a decade old. Prominent leaders of the community spoke on this subject in the city and also

shared information about the difficulties they are facing in fishing which is their livelihood. Nearly 90% of fishermen of coastal regions in the state are facing difficulties as they cannot do fishing due to high waves and storms in the sea and steep increase in petrol and diesel prices. Due to inclement weather and environmental pollution, the fishing boats have to spend at least 12 days in the deep sea in order to fill the boat with fishes. Now the situation is such that the boats have to travel more than 800 km in the sea for fishing. The leaders have urged the government to waive off the loan and interest of the fishermen of the coastal region, who are facing difficulties due to various reasons.

In the joint press conference that was held on Wednesday, February 24 in the city, Jaya C Koitan, president of Dakshina Kannada Mogaveera Mahajana Sangha, Sudhakar Kundar, chief secretary and Devaraj Bolor, vice president, gave details of the issues that are faced by the fishermen of the coastal region. In the coastal districts of Karnataka, 4,750 mechanised boats, 7,500 traditional fishing boats and more than 10,500 outboard mechanized boats are into fishing. This industry has given livelihood to lacs of people in the form of selling fish, hotels and fish transportation. Foreign exchange of Rs 5,000 crore is earned due to this industry. In addition, lacs of people are indirectly employed due to the fishing industry. "For the last five years, storms have become common. Due to this reason, fishing is on a downward trend year by year. Coronavirus pandemic shattered the lives of fishermen.

Fishes have also migrated from seashore to far off places in the deep sea due to waste disposed of from industries, air pollution and inclement weather. Because of this, the boats have to go a distance of 800 km in the deep sea to fish in waters that are 150 ft in depth. One boat has to spend a minimum of 12 days in the sea in order to fill the boat with fishes. Fishermen do not have any other skill needed to survive," said Jaya Kotian, president of Dakshina Kannada Mogaveera Mahajana sangha. Sudhakar Kundar, secretary of the association said, "The rate of fuel has skyrocketed in the country. This has affected the fishermen in a huge manner. As the boats have to traverse 800 km in the sea, they required 300 to 500 litre of diesel and kerosene for one-time fishing. Nearly 75% of the boats run on diesel.

In the present situation, 75% of the revenue is spent on fuel. Due to this reason, nearly 75% of fishing boats have stopped going into the sea. Fishermen are facing graving situation straits. The state government has to immediately look into our profession." The association of fishermen has kept several demands before the government. They are demanding tax concessions at the delivery point and diesel on a yearly quota. Kerosene needs to be provided to traditional fishermen without any taxes on it. Bank loan and interest need to be waived off for fishermen who are distraught due to fierce storms in the sea for five consecutive years. A loan facility at an interest rate of 4% needs to be provided to fishermen. The government has to provide relief to those who have lost their jobs due to the scarcity of fish. The state government has to recommend to the central government to waive off the road tax for the diesel that is used by

fishermen. A separate industrial zone has to be formed for fisheries. A clean fish market needs to be built in every taluk. The state government has to protect the fishermen by fulfilling all these demands. Otherwise, the association will resort to an indefinite strike.

### **Karnataka: Slipway at third phase of Malpe port turns waste dump**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=805075>

"The slipway built at a cost of crores of rupees at the third port at Malpe has turned into a mass of filth now. During the last nine years since the slipway was built at Baputhota, Malpe, at the third phase of Malpe port, it has turned into a waste dump. The entire area around the slipway has been covered by grass and stinking because of non-maintenance. The slipway had been built for the specific purpose of pulling mechanised fishing boats to the ground for repairs. But due to certain developments, the slipway went to Tebma Shipyard where commercial ship construction was undertaken. As the slipway was not of any use for the fishing boats, the fishermen had protested. In 2005 and 2008 the fishermen had organized large scale protests. After meetings with the participation of the chief minister twice, it was decided that Tebma Shipyard would build a separate slipway for the fishermen. Accordingly the slipway was built in the third phase plan. During the six years since it was completed, the slipway is not used by the fishermen and the area has become a residence for dogs and the entire area has full of grass and rusted steel. As the slipway has rusted, boats cannot be pulled up now.

The Malpe fishermen's union has requested the government to hand over the slipway to it so that it will pay a fee to the government and recover a reasonable fee from the boats and provide good facilities to boat owners. Currently, the boat owners have to spend heavily to shift their boats out of water. President of the association, Krishna Suvarna, says that they are opposed to handing over the slipway to a third party for maintenance on the basis of tender as proposed by the department. A decision needs to be taken before the region becomes a breeding ground for infectious diseases.

### **Karnataka: Hit by fuel hike, fishermen demand budgetary allocation**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/hit-by-fuel-hike-fishermen-demand-budgetary-allocation/article33929582.ece>

"Hit by increased fuel costs, coronavirus pandemic, heavy drop in marine catch and other issues, leaders of fishermen community from three coastal districts of Karnataka have demanded that the State government come to the rescue of fisheries sector by announcing a package of Rs.10,000 crore in the upcoming budget. They said that the hike in fuel costs has resulted in increased operational costs, because of which more than 90% of the mechanised boats have stopped venturing into fishing. To lessen the financial burden, they demanded that the government provide subsidised diesel at the delivery points and reduce taxes. On Wednesday,

various fishermen associations under the aegis of Dakshina Kannada Mogaveera Mahanjana Sangha held a press conference in the city. Kishore D. Suvarna, president of the Aala Samudra Meenugarara Sangha, said, "In the last five years, fishermen community has suffered a lot due to consistent drop in marine catch.

Operational cost involved in running mechanised boats has increased drastically as boats are spending more days in the sea and going to far off places for fishing, which has resulted in more consumption of fuel. To lessen the financial burden, more than 90% of boats have stopped venturing into the sea. There is no option left before us than to seek help from the government. We demand that the government waive off loans as we are not in a position to repay them to the banks." The Sangha demanded that subsidised kerosene be provided for traditional fishing and the launch of a separate fishing zones. They also demanded that the government provide a loan with 4% interest for fishing activities in coming days, and that the Coastal Regulation Zone rules be relaxed for construction of houses for fishermen. Leaders said that a memorandum has already been submitted to the Chief Minister to include their demands in the ensuring budget. The Sangha said that they will go on indefinite strike by stop fishing activities in the coastal districts if the State fails to meet their demands.

#### **Karnataka: Fisheries College to build aquaculture units**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/fisheries-college-to-build-aquaculture-units/article33909415.ece>

"The Union government has sanctioned a Rs. 7.9-crore project to the College of Fisheries, Mangaluru, to develop ultra modern aquaculture units in the farm area of the college at Yekkur. The project assigned under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) will be implemented in coordination with the National Institute of Technology – Karnataka (NIT-K), Surathkal, according to A. Senthil Vel, dean. The bhoomi puja for the upcoming project will be performed on Tuesday at 12.30 p.m. Minister for Fisheries, Ports and Inland Transport S. Angara, Nalin Kumar Kateel, MP, Minister in-charge of Dakshina Kannada Kota Srinivas Poojary, and others will be present, he said in a release.

#### **Karnataka: Fishermen dies after getting trapped in fishing net**

<https://www.udayavani.com/english-news/kaup-fisherman-dies-after-getting-trapped-in-fishing-net>

"An incident where a fisherman who died after getting trapped in a fishing net near the lighthouse here was reported on Monday morning. The deceased fisherman has been identified as Kasmer (65). It was suspected that Kasmer, who left for fishing early in the morning, might have accidentally trapped in the net and fell into the sea while he was engaged in fishing. Local fishermen noticed Kasmar drowning in the water and rushed to his aid, but he was dead by the

time they rescued him. Kaup police station officials have visited the spot.

### **Karnataka: Fisheries department agrees to hand over Malpe slipway to fishermen**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/fisheries-department-agrees-to-hand-over-malpe-slipway-to-fishermen/articleshow/80759390.cms>

"Department of fisheries has warmed up to a demand from local fishermen, to hand over maintenance of the slipway at Malpe fisheries harbour to them. The issue has been hanging fire since April 2016, when the slipway sustained damage, when a 45-tonne motorboat was hauled up for repairs. Due to the absence of this functional slipway, steel boats anchored at the harbour have to be taken to Kochi, for any major repair work. Malpe harbour is one of the biggest fishing ports in Karnataka, which is home to around 2,000 boats, and 50% of them are steel boats. The Malpe Fishermen's Association has been vocal in its demand, that maintenance of the slipway be handed over to them. Even the district administration is of the considered view, that the maintenance part be handed over to fishermen, and the fisheries department will finalise modalities for this handover soon.

Hinting at this becoming a reality, Ramacharya Purnaik, director, department of fisheries, then minister for ports and fisheries Kota Shrinivas Poojari and deputy commissioner G Jagadeesha, were all of the view, that the association should be vested with the maintenance rights. The files in this regard, have moved to and from the finance department, which has resent the file with certain observations, Puranik told TOI. Located near the third stage of Malpe fisheries harbour, the slipway on which Rs 2.4 crore has been spent, is presently in a state of disuse. Krishna Suvarna, president of the association, says steel boats are taken to Kochi for major repair works. This issue can be resolved with early commissioning of the existing slipway at Malpe. "Handing it over to us for maintenance, will help local fishermen get their boats repaired at a reasonable cost," he said. The project aimed at helping fishermen in Malpe, is a manual-cum-mechanical slipway, and confusion abounded with regard to its maintenance, from the day the project started. The department of ports and fisheries initiated the project. It is the only slipway in the state, on par with the one in Kochi. The foundation of the winch house of this slipway, was damaged on April, 2016, while a boat was being hauled on to it. After this, the foundation for the winch house was reconstructed on expert advice, and later certified to bear a load of up to 70 tonnes. While M/s Yojaka (India) took up the civil works, Tebma Shipyard, under its CSR initiative, took up the mechanical works worth Rs 1.5 crore. This facility can be used to repair and paint 15 boats at a time. All one can see at this slipway now, are the tracks, bearing gear wheels and other machinery, rusting away, and overrun with weeds.

### **Karnataka: Rampancy of trawling near shore raises alarm**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/rampancy-of-trawling-near-shore->

[across-state-raises-alarm/articleshow/80749427.cms](https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/women-to-be-trained-in-fish-processing/article33754325.ece)

"Experts, including marine conservationists, have raised concern about the rampant trawling taking place near the shore, across the Karnataka coast, that is leading to the destruction of fish breeding locations on the seabed, and severe depletion of marine stocks. The Karnataka Marine Fishing Regulatory Act permits mechanised fishing only after six nautical miles, and fishing near the shore is restricted to only traditional crafts. Several factors have led to a rise in fishing near the shore. Experts believe many traditional fishermen have either left their profession, or may have joined as mechanised labourers. Excess fishing and increasing demand for trash fish by fish meal units, have resulted in depleting fish catch. Even during the lockdown period, though fishing activities had come to a halt, there has been no drastic rise in fish catch.

Several factors like over mechanisation and mesh size regulation not being monitored, light fishing, bull trawling, bottom trawling and use of high-speed engines are causing harm to marine biodiversity, as they are picking up everything, including seaweeds and corals, which is alarming. Dr Shantanu Kalambi from Reef Watch told TOI, "We are noticing this phenomenon across the Karnataka coast, and the frequency of trawling near the shore has been on the rise. We have noticed birds waiting on the shore every day to pick up dead fish that wash up after a trawler drives past. Unregulated trawling near the shore will lead to an ecological catastrophe from which we will not easily recover, as well as destroy the livelihoods of artisanal fishermen," he said. Dr A Senthil Vel, professor and dean (fisheries) Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, College of Fisheries, Mangaluru, said the issue was discussed at a recent meeting with fisherman representatives. Other than the strict implementation of guidelines, creating awareness among the fishermen on the impact of trawling near the shore, and bottom trawling, is the need of the hour. Dr Dinesh Kumar Y K, DCF, forest ecology and environment, stating that the situation is alarming, said that community conservation reserves through people's participation, should be identified, and these areas should be developed as buffer sites.

**Karnataka: Women to be trained in fish processing**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/women-to-be-trained-in-fish-processing/article33754325.ece>

"The College of Fisheries, Mangaluru, in association with the Coastal Development Authority, Mangaluru, will provide two-day training for women on drying fish with advanced processing technology at Malpe in Udupi from Monday. Chairman of the authority Mattar Ratnakara Hegde will inaugurate the training at the Fish Traders Community Hall at 9.30 a.m. A. Senthil Vel, Professor and Dean, College of Fisheries, will preside over the inaugural session. According to B. Manja Naika, chief convener of the training programme and Professor and Head, Department of Fish Processing Technology at the college, the training sessions will throw

light on freshness of fish, advanced methods of drying fish, availability of financial aid for setting up fish processing unit, marketing of processed dry fish and its products, maintaining quality and preservation techniques, brining fish and preparing dry fish and the like. Various resource persons, including teachers from the college, and Manjunath R Nayak, Director, Canara Bank Rural Self Employment Training Institute, Manipal, will guide participants. Hema Karkera, a trader from Padubidri, will speak

### **Karnataka: Locals, fisherfolk opposed marina project at Padukere**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/locals-fisherfolk-opposed-marina-project-at-padukere/articleshow/80484191.cms>

"The proposed marina project at Padukere in Udupi ran into rough weather with locals and fishermen from in and around Padukere-Malpe area opposing the same. Making this clear during their interaction with K Raghupathi Bhat, Udupi MLA on Tuesday, the locals staunchly registered their protest and efforts made by Bhat to convince them about the boost that the project would give to local tourism went in vain. The locals protested despite a categorical assertion by the MLA that the marina project is still at the proposal stage and that no decision has been taken. Bhat said any decision will be taken only after the Pune based Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) will study its feasibility aspects first and people need not fear about its implementation right now. "We will not push a project if it harms the local environment," Bhat said. Attempting to put a stop to misconception among the locals regarding the marina project, the MLA said no luxury hotels will be built nor any clubs and pubs opened near the shore as per the rumours doing rounds. The marina may give a booster dose to the tourism and local economy with the arrival of foreign yachts, he said. "There will be no threat to local culture and fisheries activities as well from the marina project," the MLA said. Rama Kanchan, senior fishermen leader however was adamant noting that the administrators were least bothered about the locals once the project came up. "They will deny locals entry to the shore. We could agree if the beach is developed for tourism, but there locals will not allow the marina project to come up," he said. The MLA said he will convey their decision to the deputy commissioner who heads the district tourism committee.

### **Karnataka: CSP, fisheries department moot proposal for sea ambulance**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hubballi/karnataka-csp-fisheries-department-moot-proposal-for-sea-ambulance/articleshow/80449914.cms>

"Proposal for a dedicated sea ambulance for the state received fresh legs with Coastal Security Police (CSP) under internal security division (ISD) of the Karnataka state police forwarding it to the state government for consideration. This follows persistent requests from the fisherfolk for such a facility in the state on lines with a similar set up already in vogue in

neighbouring Kerala, noted R Chethan, superintendent of police, CSP. Interacting with the media after a live-demonstration of the charter of duties of CSP off Malpe coast, Chethan said since its inception in 2010, CSP has rescued around 460 fishermen in 82 separate cases registered in nine CSP police stations dotting the state. While protection of the coastline is our main duty, we have taken up this welfare activity for fishermen that are usually handled by the department of fisheries at their behest, Chethan said.

The above rescue acts have underscored the need for upgraded facilities such as sea ambulance which will enable the CSP personnel to effectively handle the rescue operations and most importantly save lives out at Sea, he said. The sea ambulance, when operational, will have a trained doctor on board so that rescued fishermen can receive emergency medical assistance on boat itself, which can mean saving a precious human life. Both the CSP and fisheries department have forwarded this proposal to the government and it is up to the government to take a call on modalities of who handles this resource as and when approved. "We have sent the specifications needed for the sea ambulance after studying the same from Kerala," Chethan said. The existing 5 tonne and 12-tonne capacity boats with CSP are not an effective tool in effecting lifesaving mid-sea rescue operation, he said.

### **Karnataka: Fishermen in Dakshina Kannada hit by poor supply of kerosene**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/karnataka-districts/fishermen-in-dakshina-kannada-hit-by-poor-supply-of-kerosene-943472.html>

"Dakshina Kannada District Gillnet Fishermen Association has urged the Central and state governments to release the quota of subsidised kerosene every month without any delay. The pending 300 litres of kerosene per permit should be released at the earliest. "The shortage of supply of subsidised kerosenes have been affecting the fishing activities carried out the kerosene only for nine months and that too irregularly. In the month of October, around 500 permit holders did not get the kerosene. While no kerosene was supplied in the month of December. Owing to the non-availability of kerosene, the fishing boats could not venture into fishing, thus affecting the livelihood of thousands of fishermen engaged in it," he said. Stating that the district has 1,322 traditional boats using kerosene for its outboard engines, Hassan said the outboard engines were designed for the use of kerosene. The use of gas in these engines does not function properly.

A total of 30,000 to 50,000 fishermen are dependent on subsidised kerosene for carrying out fishing in the coastal districts. Association Working President Subhash Kanchan said, "We have to wait in a long queue to collect subsidised kerosene at the bunk, at 2 am. We require 35 litres to 105 litres of kerosene for one trip of fishing boat per day. Though the government order states that 215 litres of subsidised kerosenes will be supplied to the fishermen per month, it has not been fulfilled so far. The non-availability of kerosene in the open market has put us in hardship."

There are 4,514 permits for kerosene boats in Karnataka. The kerosene should be supplied by 10th of every month. There is a need to find a permanent solution to the problem of shortage of supply of subsidised kerosene every month. The demand in 2020 was 7020 KL kerosene. However, the state government has procured only 6775 KL kerosene from the Centre. He urged the fisheries department officials to create awareness on various facilities for the fishermen from the government. At least 400 litres of subsidised kerosene per month should be supplied for the fishermen, he demanded

**Karnataka: Fisheries department amenable to handing over maintenance of Malpe slipway to fishermen**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/karnataka-fisheries-department-amenable-to-handing-over-maintenance-of-malpe-slipway-to-fishermen/articleshow/80383479.cms>

"Department of fisheries has warmed up to a demand from local fishermen to hand over maintenance of the slipway at Malpe fisheries harbour to them. The issue has been hanging fire since April 2016 when the slipway sustained damages while a 45-tonne motorboat was hauled up for repairs. Due to the absence of this functional slipway, steel boats anchored at the harbour have to be taken to Kochi for any major repair work. Malpe harbour is one of the biggest fishing ports in Karnataka, home to around 2,000 boats, and 50% of them are steel boats. The Malpe Fishermen's Association has been vocal in its demand that maintenance of slipway be handed over to them. Even the district administration is of the considered view that the maintenance part be handed over to fishermen and the fisheries department will finalise modalities for this handover soon. Hinting at this becoming a reality, Ramacharya Purnaik, director, department of fisheries then minister for ports and fisheries Kota Shrinivas Poojari, deputy commissioner G Jagadeesha were all of the view that the association should be vested with this maintenance rights.

The files in this regard have moved to and from the finance department, which in the latest department has resent the file back with certain observations, Puranik told TOI. Located near the third stage of Malpe fisheries harbour, the slipway on which Rs 2.39 crore has been spent is presently in state of disuse. Krishna Suvarna, president of the association says steel boats are taken to Kochi for major repair works. This issue can be resolved with early commissioning of the existing slipway at Malpe. "Handing it over to us for maintenance will help local fishermen get their boats repaired at reasonable cost," he said. The project aimed at helping fishermen in Malpe is a manual-cum-mechanical slipway and confusion abounded with regard to its maintenance from the day the project started.

Department of port and fisheries initiated the project. It is the only slipway in the state on par with the one in Kochi as far as standard is considered. The foundation of the winch house of this

slipway suffered damages in April, 2016 while hauling the boat. Post this, the foundation for the winch house was reconstructed on expert advice and later certified to bear a load of up to 70 tonnes. While M/s Yojaka (India) took up the civil works, Tebma Shipyard under its CSR initiative took up the mechanical works worth Rs 1.53 crore. This facility can be used to repair and paint 15 boats at a time. All can see at this slipway is the tracks, bearing gear wheels and other machinery rusting away and overrun with weeds.

### **Karnataka: Yediyurappa lays foundation stone for fisheries harbour in Hejmadi**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/yediyurappa-lays-foundation-stone-for-fisheries-harbour-in-hejmadi/article33609875.ece>

"Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Tuesday laid the foundation stone for a fisheries harbour at Hejmadi in Udupi district. Speaking after laying the foundation stone for the ₹180.84-crore project, he said the Centre is contributing ₹69.30 crore to the project. The share of the State government is ₹111.54 crore. He said the Central government has released ₹13.86 crore out of its share for the construction of the harbour. Completion of the harbour will bring down pressure on the Malpe fisheries harbour in Udupi district and the Mangaluru fisheries harbour in Dakshina Kannada district. He hoped that the contractor would finish work on the project in two years. There will be no compromise on the quality of work to be taken up for the harbour project, the Chief Minister added. Karnataka, which has a coastline of 320 km and around 8,000 hectares of backwaters, has played a major role in the fisheries sector of the country. Stating that the State government has been implementing various welfare schemes for the fishing community, Yediyurappa said that since coming to power, his government has waived around ₹60 crore of loans taken by fishermen.

### **Karnataka: College of fisheries to prepare DPR for dry fish curing yards**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/karnataka-college-of-fisheries-to-prepare-dpr-for-dry-fish-curing-yards/articleshow/80314692.cms>

"Based on a request from the state government, the College of fisheries will soon prepare a detailed project report (DPR) for setting up dry fish curing yards in the three districts of coastal Karnataka. Speaking on the sidelines of a three-day training programme for fisherwomen, organised jointly by the College of Fisheries and the coastal development authority on Friday, B Manja Naik, professor and head, department of fish processing technology, College of Fisheries told TOI, "The government has asked the college to prepare a DPR for setting up a dry fish curing yard at Mangaluru, Udupi and Karwar. Traditionally, fishermen have been drying fish, but this is done in an unscientific and unhygienic manner, leading to the stench in the

surrounding areas. Since there is a good demand for dry fish, we have decided to train fishermen to use the Solar Biomass Hybrid dryer as well as train them in branding and getting Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) certification for the products,” he said. Dry fish segment constitutes 2-4% of the total fish production in India and the aim is to increase the dry fish export by introducing technology. The three-day workshop will cover all aspects and the women will also be given field training. In the first batch, 22 women are being trained and plans are to organise more such programmes. Using the Solar Biomass Hybrid dryer will give a huge boost to the industry and the feedback from women at the training programme will be incorporated in the DPR, Dr Naik said. The training programme was inaugurated by Coastal Development Authority chairman Mattar Rathnakar Hegde, who said that the training programme is being conducted on the lines of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s call for Athmanirbhar Bharat, which translates to ‘self-reliant India’ or ‘self-sufficient India’.

### **Kerala and Karnataka: Drop in sardine catch poses a risk to nutrition security**

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/drop-in-sardine-catch-poses-a-risk-to-nutrition-security-11610559894711.html>

"If you love your fish or just crave natural sources of Omega3 here’s a fact that should alarm you: every time a fishing vessel has returned to coast in the last two years, it has had fewer sardines in its catch. Unsustainable fishing practices and changing ocean environments have brought down the population of the popular fish. The declining numbers have also boosted the price of sardines and prompted authorities to issue alerts to fishermen. The declining population of the sardine, which now costs as much as its larger cousin the mackerel, traces its roots to overfishing, besides dwindling breeding periods and places due to marine pollution, worrying scientists, fishermen and consumers alike. India’s apex fisheries body the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has issued alerts to fishermen and fisheries, and warned in a June 2019 report against the undesirable practice of capture fishery and juvenile fishing—both don’t leave enough time for the sardines to breed. Kerala and Karnataka together saw a decline in sardine catch from 119,000 tonnes in 2018 to 74,000 tonnes in 2019. Kerala’s sardine catch was 390,000 tonnes in 2012. This came down precipitously to 77,099 tonnes in 2018 and 45,300 tonnes in 2019. CMFRI scientists Pratibha Rohit and Rajesh K.M. warn that if left unchecked, the 2020 catch might be even lower. Ramacharya Puranik, director of the Karnataka fisheries department, attributes much of this to capture fishery. “Fishermen use bright lights to attract the fish at night. This is illegal and destructive. Secondly, they use nets with smaller gaps which will not allow the juvenile fish to escape.

We have banned both types of fishing in Karnataka and instructed the coastal security police to curb such activities,” Ramacharya said. Fisheries economist Ramachandra Bhatta cites other reasons as well. “Sardines are used for multiple value addition. Firstly, it is used for producing fish meal, predominantly for feeding the shrimp farms because the sardines are a low-value fish;

if the catch does not improve the commercials for fish meal, factories will also dwindle. Similarly, those companies that produce Omega 3 fatty acids need Indian oil sardines in high volumes for their production line. Sardine is a pelagic short-lived fish abundantly found in Karnataka and Kerala coasts. The decline of sardines started in 2010, although the significant decline happened after 2018. There is an inverse relationship between the increasing demand for shrimp feed and sardine fishery. Ignoring its role in nutrition security and promoting fishmeal and oil industries is an ecological disaster as 60% of the country's fish meal units is concentrated in three coastal districts of Karnataka which has led to overfishing of sardines,"" Bhatta said. According to Bhatta, Kerala's sardine numbers in 2012 were never seen again, which is a matter of concern. According to the National Institute of Oceanography, there has been no significant change in the temperature and other natural conditions that prevails in the Arabian Sea to affect marine creatures to this extent. Experts at the fisheries college affiliated to the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries University at Bidar have been warning about the degeneration of the coastal ecosystem and the sardine breeding grounds near the estuarine waters of Karnataka. Pollution, destruction of mangroves and excessive human activity also aided the decline.

### **Karnataka: Country-made fishing boat engines to replace Chinese ones**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news//newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=790006>

"State fisheries, ports and inland water transport minister Kota Srinivas Poojary, said that it has been decided to use engines made in India for powering the fishing boats in place of the current Chinese ones in order to fall in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's concepts of self-reliant India and Make in India. He was speaking with the media persons on Sunday January 10 after visiting Coastal Traditional Fishermen's Cooperative Society's Navunda branch that is set for Monday inaugural. ""A total of 22,500 mechanised fishing boats are functioning in the state's coast. Out of them, 7,500 are traditional boats which have fitted nine HP outboard engines. Bigger boats have different ranges of engines up to 350 HP. Ninety percent of them are China made while the rest are manufactured by Japan and other countries. The fishermen are inclined to use indigenous products. In order to herald a change in the practices, a meeting of Mahendra Kirloskar and others was convened at Vikasa Soudha Bengaluru where these companies agreed to manufacture engines that are high in quality and priced competitively. The officials of Kochi Shipyard have also given favourable response. In order to stop use of kerosene by the boat engines, we have sought gas-based engines. The companies have promised to prepare model engines within three months and arrange exhibition cum demonstration,"" the minister said. The minister was honoured on behalf of the society on this occasion.

### **Karnataka: Cylinder blast at sea – Eleven fishermen rescued**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=789987>

"A cylinder kept in a fisheries boat exploded when the boat was in the middle of the sea. The 11 fishermen in the boat who faced peril, were saved by the Coastal Security Force. A fishing boat of Tamil Nadu origin was undertaking fishing about 140 nautical miles off the Mangaluru port when the boat caught fire after a gas cylinder went off. The people in the boat immediately contacted the Coast Guard. Two patrol boats of the Coastal Security Force at Mumbai, Sachet and Sujith, were rushed to help the fishermen. A Dornier aircraft was also deployed to locate the boat faster. The officials not only located the boat but also established communication with the fishermen facing danger and instilled courage and confidence in them. By then, two Coast Guard boats reached the spot. First aid was provided to a fisherman who had suffered serious injuries before shifting the fishermen to the Coast Guard boat. The injured fisherman and other three have been brought to New Mangalore port where they have been admitted into the Wenlock Hospital.

### **Karnataka: Traditional fishermen demand halt to sand extraction from rivers in CRZ**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/traditional-fishermen-demand-halt-to-sand-extraction-from-rivers-in-crz/article33475192.ece>

"At a time when the State government has been allowing sand extraction from river beds in coastal regulation zones (CRZ) in the guise of clearing sand dunes for fishing boat movement, the Moola Nadi Meenugarara Sangha (association of traditional river fishermen) on Friday urged the authorities concerned to immediately halt such activities as sand extraction was affecting traditional fishermen. Fishermen leader Vasudeva Bloor told reporters here that traditional fishing was being taken up for time immemorial and the present generation of fishermen too was engaged in traditional fishing in rivers in CRZ area. Fishermen get into the river directly to lay nets and these methods were called Bolpubale, Rampani, among others. On the other hand, fisherwomen collect Maruvai (clam) from rivers, he said.

However, extensive sand extraction from riverbeds in CRZ in the recent past has been threatening traditional fishermen wherein riverbeds have become deep. Even women were finding it difficult to collect Maruvai. While fishermen were negotiating rivers using Jalle (long poles), they were unable to do so now because of the increased depth, up to 30 ft at some locations. Nets of fishermen were getting damaged as sand extractors were leaving their boats anchored in rivers for long, Mr. Bloor said. Some extractors were using machinery too to extract sand due to which the riverbed becomes too deep. Limestones and other chemical material have come up because of deep sand extraction affecting fishing activities. On the other hand, well water on the river banks have become saline even as sand transporting trucks were polluting the environment. A factory producing edible oils on the banks of the Phalguni (Gurupura) near Kulur has been letting effluents into the river thereby destroying the marine life,

Mr. Bloor said. The authorities have not acted upon the representations given by fishermen so far, Mr. Bloor said and warned launching an agitation if sand extraction was not halted or regulated. Even the Karnataka Karavali Meenugarara Sangha has extended support to the cause, he added. Sangha president Harish Puthran, general secretary Naveen Salian and others were present.

### **Karnataka: Depleting exports – Fish industry under huge loss**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=785360>

"The fish industry in the coastal districts has received a big blow due to the lowering of demand for fish overseas because of Covid-19 pandemic and also for the fact that the relations with China is not good. Yearly 1,000 containers of fish are being exported to China from Karnataka. One container contains 25 tonnes of fish. However, now China has formulated tough rules because of the tussle with India. In addition, fish was being exported to countries like Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Korea and European countries. Now due to coronavirus, all these nations are not buying fish from Karnataka. There are 25 fish exporting factories in the three districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada. Last year, the exports from Karnataka stood at Rs 1,600 crore. However, the business was completely stalled from March to September due to Covid. Frog Squid, Squid and Pambolu fish used to get exported to China in huge quantities. Now the exporters are facing losses due to no demand for the stored fish. Office of seafood products export authority of the union government is situated in Mangaluru. However, the test of the fish that get exported from the city has to be done by the central office at Cochin in Kerala. Though there is a laboratory in the factories exporting fish, the factory owners have to get an annual test report done by Cochin laboratory itself. This is causing inconvenience to the seafood exporters of the coastal region. Canara Chamber of Commerce has already appealed to the union government to open a laboratory in Mangaluru center. But so far there is no response from the union government. In air cargo, the rate of transportation has skyrocketed. If the airlines reduce their cargo fare, then the stored fish can be exported, according to an export industrialist. Parshwanath, deputy director of fisheries department of Dakshina Kannada says, ""Due to severe restrictions of China and reduction in demand for fish in overseas countries, the fish export industry is facing losses. It is expected to pick up in the next one or two months.""

### **Karnataka: Fisheries Director stresses importance of two-way communication technology**

<http://www.uniindia.com/news/india/k-taka-fisheries-director-stresses-importance-of-two-way-communication-technology/2272768.html>

"Director of Fisheries in Karnataka Ramacharya has stressed the importance of two-way communication technology, saying scores of lives are lost at sea every year due to the unavailability of modern connectivity technologies, such as satellite-based navigation systems.

Participating in the virtual summit on 'Criticality of Transforming Fisheries Industry: Ushering Digitization to Support PMMSY,' organised by India's premier news agency, United News of India, here on Tuesday, Mr Ramacharya said the two-way communication technology connects fishermen with mobile devices, offering timely SoS alerts and harvesting predictions, to ensure better catches and safety while at sea. The top official said he is hopeful of installing the two-way security system in all the boats in the state by next year. He expressed satisfaction over the Satellite-based BSNL-Skylo 2-way Communication technology, saying now from his office, he can spot all the fishing boats venturing in the sea. Mr Ramacharya further said that a small section of people practising illegal marine fishing were scared of the two-way technology, as they could not hide their illegal work.

Fishermen's life is precious, he said and appealed to the fishermen to get rid of such practices. Karnataka has an area of 320 km coastal area and as many as 13500 motorised and mechanised boats are operating daily. The fishing boats are going up to 200 nautical miles far from here. Some are going up to the Kerala shores, Gujarat coast and even reaching till Andaman islands.

### **Karnataka: Locals demand action against illegal night fishing, sand lifting off Karwar coast**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2020/dec/20/locals-demand-action-against-illegal-night-fishing-sand-lifting-off-karwar-coast-2238758.html>

"Despite several complaints, the sand quarry and illegal night fishing at Karwar's Ladies beach continues unabated off the coast. The local fishermen are now up in arms demanding immediate action against the fishing boats which come from neighbouring states. The illegal night fishing, or jigging, which was a huge matter of concern has now aggravated due to lack of security checks. The local fishermen are helpless as their counterparts from neighbouring states are being supported by other fishermen in such illegal activities. Expressing their concerns, locals are now demanding immediate action against boats involved in illegal activities. With the threat of fish famine looming large, the local fishermen say that they do not indulge in jigging as it is against the nature and plastic is used to fish the squid and cuttle fish. ""They use some plant and they make an artificial anchor with sand. The fish then breed to this anchor,"" said a fisherman from Baithkol Vinayak Harikanthra.

""The eggs of this fish are greasy and stick on the leaves and twigs. The fish will be around this anchor and they end up in nets,"" explained Assistant Professor Shivakumar Haragi of department of Marine Biology in Karnataka University Dharwad. ""The eggs are like a bunch of grapes,"" he added. The fishermen, according to Vinayak Harikanthra, have been collecting sand from Hembala beach, also known as Ladies beach. ""The beach is hardly 100 meters wide and is far from human habitation. Concealed by a mountain, the beach has been vulnerable for sand quarrying,"" he said. He added that though the Karnataka department of fisheries has banned the

night fishing, it has not banned catching of these two fish, which are fast going extinct. When the issue was brought to the notice of the state fisheries department, it was said that they do not have human resources to deal with such violations. However, they said guard have been alerted about the violations at the beach. Deputy Commissioner Uttara Kannada district K Harish Kumar said that he will soon take steps to protect the Ladies beach and develop it.

### **Karnataka: Deadly virus killing fishes grown in cages**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=783187>

"The fishes being bred through cage fishing method at Tallur in Panchagangavali river area near Kundapur are dying on a large scale under mysterious circumstances. Now, the scientists of fisheries college Mangaluru have found out that the deadly red sea bream iridoviral disease is causing the massive death. A report about this has been submitted to the assistant director in the fisheries department at Kundapur. The scientists have advised the state government to initiate immediate steps to stop the virus from spreading, duly warning that otherwise fishes may die in large quantities even in future. Cage fishing has been undertaken in this area in 115 cages. As the fishes are dying the pisciculturists are facing huge losses. At the request of the department, assistant professor for fisheries microbiology of the fisheries college, Dr S K Girish, had visited the spot, collected the samples of the dead fish and subjected them to laboratory testing. Then the real cause of the deaths was found. This virus spreads most during the winter. There are chances that the virus came along with the fingerlings which were brought here initially for cage fishing. When the water becomes cool and depth of water in the cages decreases and pressure increases, oxygen level goes down. These viruses become active under these circumstances. They can cause deaths of fishes. This virus has no medicine and it can be stopped by breeding the fishes in a systematic way. The dead fish should be buried elsewhere without throwing them into the water. Fingerlings should be grown in cages based on their capacities, the scientists said. Dr S K Girish said that a similar virus had been found during the last two years at this spot. He said that taking care against the spreading of the virus is the only way out. Dean of Mangaluru fisheries college, Dr Senthil Vel, suggested that before permitting cage fishing henceforth, fisheries college can be contacted so that the experts can visit the spot and undertake tests before giving the opinion whether the fishes can be raised there.

### **Karnataka: Fishermen seek stern action against those spreading fake message on formalin use in fish**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=782362>

"Malpe fishermen community and the fishing federation submitted a memorandum to the Udupi district commissioner seeking action against those spreading fake messages on the use of formalin in fish. Some fish are sold in unauthorised stalls. If they have found formalin in them,

then the fishermen are not responsible for that. Strict action should be taken against those spreading fake messages. Customers should act wisely with regard to the quality of fish. The district administration should take strict action against those selling fish in unauthorised stalls," said Yashpal Suvarna, president of the fishermen federation. Leaders of the community, Yashpal A Suvarna, Ramesh Kotian, Kishore D Suvarna, Subhash Mendon, Ramachandra Kunder, Jaya C Kotian, Dayanand Suvarna, Rathnakar Salian, Vinay Karkera were present at the meet.

### **Karnataka: RSIV disease reported again in cage farming in Kundapur**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/rsiv-disease-reported-again-in-cage-farming-in-kundapur/article33341762.ece>

"The outbreak of Red Sea Bream Iridovirus (RSIV) disease in cage farming resulting in the death of fish has been reported again from Kundapur in Udupi district. It had been reported earlier during the winter season of 2018 and 2019. Scientists from the Department of Aquatic Animal Health Management, College of Fisheries, Mangaluru, who visited Thallur estuary, near Kundapur, on Sunday, reported that there is a danger of the disease spreading in the estuarine and coastal waters thereby not only affecting cultured fish but also the other fish. As there is no cure for RSIV, diseased and dead fish should be immediately cleared and buried or burnt in a safe location. The spread of the virus in the waters is difficult to control as the water is free flowing, the college said. Dean of the college A. Senthil Vel said in a release here on Tuesday that a team comprising Assistant Professor Girisha S.K. and research staff Nithin, Kushala K.B. and Soundarya, visited the site on Sunday and observed large-scale death of sea bass in one particular cage and infected fish in the other cage. They held discussions with the Fisheries Department officials and collected water samples in and around the floating fish cages. "Dead, moribund and apparently healthy fish samples were collected and brought to the college laboratory for microbial and viral testing.

Based on the analysis, it was found that around 2,000 fish of 40-60 grams each in two cages were infected or dead on account of RSIV, Prof. Vel said and added that internal organ analysis of these dead fish showed enlarged spleen and dull coloration of skin. The release said that the State government should make it mandatory that fish seeds procured by farmers are only from certified fish seed sellers. "The possible spread of the virus in these cage culture farms may be on account of high stocking density. Proper housekeeping, sanitation, disease control measures, monitoring needs to be undertaken, Prof. Vel said. The release said that apart from high stocking density, cages, during low tide, have very little depth of water thereby increasing stress in fish. The high stocking density and low water-levels during low tide lead to stress thereby becoming a fertile ground for such virus activation. "The cultured sea bass are highly carnivorous and are fed with trash fish. If proper care is not taken and infected feed is given, chances of such infection with RSIV increases. It is advised that authenticated commercial feed may be provided to these fish, he said. The release said that during discussions with fish farmers it was mentioned

that the water has high load of pollution level mainly from sewage. As it had been reported in the winter during the last two years, stocking of seeds can be avoided during these winter months and they can be stocked from late February as this virus subsides during the summer months, the college said.

**Karnataka: Fishermen from Kodi Kanyana have been facing problems because of silt that has accumulated at the jetty as several boats have capsized at the docking point, affecting their livelihood**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2020/dec/13/villagers-to-boycott-elections-against-jetty-work-stopped-atkodi-kanyana-2235580.html>

"Villagers of Kodi Gram Panchayat in Udupi district have decided to boycott the local body election, protesting against the jetty work being stopped at Kodi Kanyana within the panchayat limits. Residents of Kodi Kanyana, Kodi Thale, Kodi Hosabengre and Kodi Bengre, all part of the panchayat, refused to give in when Deputy Commissioner G Jagadish, along with a group of officials, met them and requested them to take part in the electoral process, saying officials will look into their issues. Fishermen from Kodi Kanyana have been facing problems because of silt that has accumulated at the jetty as several boats have capsized at the docking point, affecting their livelihoods. In 2017, the Central and State governments allocated Rs 6 crore for dredging work at the jetty, and Yojaka India Pvt Ltd, a Mangaluru-based company, bagged the contract. But it abruptly stopped the work midway and now, the Udupi district department of ports and fisheries has initiated action against the company. The villagers also cited the problem of saltwater entering fields in Kodi Kanyan and surrounding areas. "More than hundred acres of land, where paddy, urad and groundnuts are grown, are facing this issue, said Laxman Suvarna, a local. On Friday, three nominations were filed as it was the last day to do so. Twelve contestants had earlier surrendered their nomination forms to the returning officer, saying they will not contest as the villagers were boycotting the election.

**Karnataka: Marina at Malpe Padukere beach proposed**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/marina-at-malpe-padukere-beach-proposed/article33250658.ece>

"Home Minister and Udupi in-charge Basavaraj Bommai has said that funds will be released shortly to prepare a detailed project report (DPR) to construct a marina at Malpe Padukere beach in Udupi. Speaking at a function to dedicate a ₹2-crore tourism development project near the Malpe sea walk on Thursday, the Minister said that constructing a marina could help in the docking of small cruise vessels at Malpe. It will also help in promoting tourism and related commercial activities in the district. The Union government will be requested to sanction funds for the proposed marina construction project. The Minister said that a technical feasibility

study will be done on setting up cable car facility at the Malpe Padukere beach. Mr. Bommai said that the district administration should have an exclusive logo for promoting tourism in Udupi district.

A master plan should be prepared for promoting beach and temple tourism in the district. A vision document should be prepared for boosting tourism. The tourism task force should be made more creative. He said that the administration has been instructed to submit proposals for the development of minor fishing ports in the district. The 5-km stretch of National Highway 169A between Karavali Junction and Malpe will be developed as a four-lane road. Approvals have been given to release ₹91 crore for the proposed project which is expected to commence within a year. The Minister said that the Goa model of coastal regulatory zone (CRZ) rules are likely to be implemented in Karnataka. The draft on the same is awaiting the approval of the Union government. If the same is approved there will be some relaxations in CRZ rules which will help for the promotion of tourism too. The tourism attractions dedicated on Thursday comprised an amphitheatre, a garden, a children's play area, a pathway, seating arrangements, parking area, and five cement sculptures of a Garuda in Yakshagana style, a fisherman rafting a traditional boat, fishermen towing a fishing boat to the shore, a fish, and a cat.

**Karnataka: Accelerate implementation of govt. schemes, Udupi district admn. officials told**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/accelerate-implementation-of-govt-schemes-udupi-district-admn-officials-told/article33265855.ece>

"Udupi district in-charge secretary M.T. Reju on Saturday asked officials to take up full-fledged implementation of government schemes and programmes during December and January as there was a complete lag in their implementation due to COVID-19. Presiding over a district review meeting in Udupi, Mr. Reju said that the government had announced many schemes and formulated programmes for the welfare of the people during the budget. However, they could not be implemented up to the expected level due to the pandemic. After gathering details about the loss of property and agricultural crops due to heavy rain in the district, Mr. Reju asked officials to extend necessary assistance to people to come out of the trauma and help rebuild their houses. Sufficient attention should also be given to arrange for drinking water facilities to people in rural as well as urban areas. The administration should draw up permanent development plans besides providing employment to people under the employment guarantee scheme, he said. Taking note of unscientific marine fishing activities in the district, Mr. Reju said that he had been getting complaints about them.

The Fisheries Department should take necessary action to curb such activities, he told the Deputy Director of the department. He noted that only Rs.31 crore out of the Rs. 38 crore released for loan waiver for fisherwomen was released to 11,000 beneficiaries in the last two years. Officials should set right bank account details of the remaining 4,050 beneficiaries and disburse the

amount, he said. The budget proposals are planned on the feedback on needs from the district-level, Mr. Reju said and asked officials from every department to submit the list of demands well ahead of the deadline. Deputy Commissioner G. Jagadeesha, Zilla Panchayat CEO Y. Naveen Bhat, Superintendent of Police N. Vishnuvardhan, Additional Deputy Commissioner B. Sadashiva Prabhu and others were present.

### **Karnataka: Govt. announces ₹6 lakh compensation each to families of Mangaluru fishing vessel tragedy victims**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/fishing-vessel-tragedy-compensation-announcement-by-tomorrowsays-minister/article33229388.ece>

"Minister for Fisheries and Dakshina Kannada district in-charge Kota Srinivas Poojary on Wednesday said Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has announced ₹6 lakh compensation each to the families of six victims of the Mangaluru fishing vessel tragedy of Monday. In a tweet, the Minister said he would urge the Chief Minister to release additional assistance to those families. Interacting with family members and relatives of the six fishermen at the district Government Wenlock Hospital earlier here, Mr. Poojari said an inquiry would also be ordered in to the mid-sea mishap of fishing vessel Shree Raksha. Meanwhile search teams recovered two more bodies of missing fishermen, Hassainar and Chinthan, on Wednesday. The Democratic Youth Federation of India has demanded a compensation of ₹25 lakh each to the families of the victims as well as a government job to one family member each at a condolence meeting at Bengre. DYFI said one of the fishermen, Nizam Bengre, displayed extreme valour in the rescue of 18 of his peers by releasing dinghy boats with great difficulty. Meanwhile, fishermen at Mangaluru Old Port suspended their activities for a day on Wednesday in honour of the six fishermen.

### **Karnataka: Bodies of three more fishermen recovered**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2020/dec/03/mangaluru--bodies-of-three-more-fishermen-recovered-2231128.html>

"Authorities found the bodies of three more fishermen of the group of six who had gone missing a day after their boat capsized off the Mangaluru coast. The search operations continued on Wednesday. The bodies of Chinthan (21) from Bokkapattna Bengre, Mohammed Hasainar (28) and Ziyauulla (36) from Kasaba Bengre, were recovered on Wednesday, while that of Mohammed Ansar (32) is still missing. On Monday, a purse-seine fishing boat with 25 fishermen onboard capsized eight nautical miles from Alive Bagilu in Mangaluru. On Wednesday morning, more than 50 purse-seine boats resumed the search operations and at 10 am, the body

of Chinthan was found, while that of Hasainar and Ziyauulla were recovered around 2 pm. The fishermen who found Chinthan's body mistook it for that of Ansar at first. However, later, officials at the Wenlock Hospital mortuary that it was Chinthan's after identifying a tattoo on the body. Ansar's body reportedly fell into the water while being shifted to another boat by the search team. Meanwhile, Fisheries Minister Kota Srinivas Poojary has announced an ex-gratia of `6 lakh each to the families of the deceased fishermen. "I have directed the officials to submit a report to the director of the fisheries department about the cause of the boat tragedy. We will also release more relief to the kin, he said. When the boat turned turtle, it was Nizamuddin, Ijaz and Sharafath, whose presence of mind, saved many fishermen. Nizamuddin from Bengre said that immediately after the boat capsized, he cut the rope of the emergency boat and 19 of them survived. "If the Coast Guard had used a crane, the fishermen would have been alive, he said. Several fishermen leaders alleged that only fishermen were part of the search operation and the Coast Guard officials did not extend support. Fish business in the city was also stalled for a day

### **Karnataka: Rs 12 crore sanctioned for Gangolli jetty reconstruction**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=777317>

"Rs 12 crore has been sanctioned for the reconstruction of the damaged jetty at Gangolli fishing port. He stated that work on the jetty will begin soon. He further explained that Rs 1.35 crore that has remained after undertaking breakwater works is being used for the construction of the auction yard. Shetty was speaking after initiating a port cleaning programme at Gangolli fishing port area, which has been undertaken under the aegis of Netfish Mpeda, fisheries department, Gangolli coastal security police station and various fishing societies on Tuesday, December 1. Assistant director of the fishing department Anjanadevi presided over the programme. Zilla Panchayat member Shobha G Puthran, gram panchayat president Srinivas Kharvi, inspector of the coastal security police station Nanjappa, president of the primary fishermen's cooperative society Sadashiva Kharvi, president of the fresh fish merchants association Vasudeva Shipa, Konkani Kharvi Marketing committee president Sauparnika Basava Karvi, fishermen leaders Narayan and Ramesh Kunder as well as Golpaklakrishna, Shruti, Pratheeksha, Saraswati and others of the fisheries department were present.

### **Karnataka: Fishing boat tragedy – Bodies of two fishermen found**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=776917>

"Six fishermen had gone missing during a boat tragedy that occurred in Ullal west in the sea on Monday. The bodies of two fishermen among them have been retrieved this afternoon. They are brought to the deck. The deceased have been identified as Panduranga Suvarna and Preetham Suvarna, residents of Bokkapatna. The boat had capsized on Monday evening, it is

said. Six fishermen among 22 who were in the boat had gone missing in the mishap. Several boats have continued to search for the remaining four fishermen in the vicinity of the accident. Earlier report A purse seine deep sea fishing boat that was engaged in fishing activity overturned at sea. The incident happened in the early hours of Tuesday December 1 a few nautical miles off the shore here. Six fishermen have gone missing, while 16 were rescued with the help of dinghies. The boat which met this tragedy was titled 'Shree Raksha'. It belonged to an entrepreneur from Bolar here. The boat with 22 fishermen had left the dock at 5 am on Monday. After undertaking fishing the whole day, it was expected to reach the dock here on Tuesday morning. As the boat did not reach as expected, the boat owner tried to contact those in the boat through wireless. He could not establish contact with them. He became suspicious and got in contact with other fishing boats and requested them to search for the boat. The other fishing boats which were searching for the boat, found an empty net at a spot.

From there, they noticed some nautical miles away that 16 persons had taken shelter in dinghies. The fishermen in the boat immediately went there and rescued them. The six missing fishermen have been identified as Ziaullah (32), Ansar (31), Hussainar (25), Chinthan (21), Panduranga Suvarna and Preetham Suvarna (58). At that time, those in the dinghies informed that six fishermen of their boat who were in the cabin, had gone missing. They explained to other fishermen that because of huge weight of fish, the boat capsized after the boat lost balance after swaying due to strong wind. They also said that those in the cabin got stuck in the net and therefore they might not have been able to swim and their chances of survival are bleak. As of now, other fishing boats are on rescue mission. The fishermen searching for the missing boat and fishermen have said that the boat seems to have drowned as no portion of the boat can be seen above the seawater.

### **Karnataka: Fish factories' pollution causing health hazards, locals complain**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=776746>

"The locals of Mukka, Sasihitlu and Mithrapatna are agitated with the three fish oil factories located at the surroundings of Sasihitlu which is causing health hazards, air, sound and water pollution. Mukka Fish Meal and Seafood Industries Pvt Ltd, BAWA Fishmeal Industries and Bawa HKA and Sons are the three factories locals are pointing at for the health issues faced by the people in the vicinity. Since several years, locals have been raising voice to inform people's representatives, police, the Pollution Control Board and concerned authorities to take action against the three factories but all efforts went in vain with no action. Srinivas Institute and Pavanje temple also complained against these factories, while the locals have appealed to the

factory authorities. The locals also informed environmental engineer Dayanand about the problems faced in the area, who replied that notice will be issued by the commissioner and health officer and action should be taken by the Pollution Control Board and assured to submit true facts before higher officers.

""We have been staying here for two years and it has become difficult to live here in the stink and noise all the time. We do not get proper sleep. Despite complaining, no action has been taken and only notices are issued. I feel they get information beforehand when someone arrives for inspection, they stop the production for a while and report in a manner that nothing as such is happening. They speak about promoting tourism in this region. When you do not have a proper environment to live, then how can you promote tourism? Tourists may never return if they visit once due to the stinking smell here, said a family of retired Indian Air Force officer. The three factories are surrounded with nearly 100 families who have been troubled with the stinking smell and polluted water leading to health issues. The locals allege that the factories are operating in the residential areas with unbearable foul smell, malodorous and harmful smoke in the entire vicinity of 5 km radius 24 hours and seven days a week. Poisonous pungent chemical gases are emitted in the air, terrible dust, and black soot falls from chimneys on rooftops of houses, passers-by and people's clothes. Nonstop boisterous noise of machines running 24x7 disturbs the peace of the residential area even in the night. Locals cannot sleep properly due to the ear-deafening sound and foul smell. Pests, crows, eagles and flies are always flying around eating the garbage and wastes from the factories and drop on the rooftops and walls of the residents' houses. All houses are full of flies and pests due to these polluting operations which contribute to unhygienic living conditions in the area. Dirty water effluents are being released into the sea which has a hazardous impact on marine life and ecosystem.

Trucks and large vehicles of these factories, carrying rotten smelling fish, and logs are parked on the roads of residential areas and beach side blocking movement of vehicles of locals and visitors. The locals also urge to relocate these factories to the industrial area so that no public, residents – adults or children, visitors and tourists, coastal beaches and environment are impacted by the air, sound or water pollution caused from the operations of such factories. Speaking to Daijiworld.com a local, Karthik said, ""The three factories have created a lot of problems for the public. The contaminated water from the factory is released to the sea, a lot of noise and stinking smell throughout the day is the situation here. Due to this, we are not able to consume food. The vehicles coming to the factory block the roads of residential areas and spill waters on the road. We have approached the pollution board, deputy commissioner and people representatives but no action has been taken so far. ""We have approached the company and complained, but it is of no use. Even Pavanje temple and Srinivas College too have complained about the same. Earlier, it was started with a small factory with no smell, now that the factory has extended with more production, the stinking smell has troubled the public,"" another local Doomappa Poojary said. A resident Chidananda Poojary said, ""We do not have any problem with the factory, but there has

to be some systematic method to be followed, without troubling the public. If we walk in this lane, it makes our clothes stink.

They should operate the factory without troubling the public." ""I stay beside the company. Production has been increased and rotten fish are used in this factory. My entire house stinks. Vehicles from Tamil Nadu and Kerala come to the factory spilling fish water on the roads. Political leaders do not care as they need votes and do not heed to people's problems,"" another resident Vijay said. A retired IAF officer, two years ago, had brought a new house facing the sea to witness the beautiful scenic beauty. But now the condition is such that there is no peace of mind to the families due to the smell and pollution despite having sea facing houses. The locals also questioned the government and the corporation for permitting these factories to operate in the residential area. When Daijiworld team visited the spot, the team felt the genuineness of the problems faced by the public, be it smell, noise and even noticed that contaminated water from the factory is released into the sea. On a visit to the house of a local resident, the entire house was stinking.

### **Tamil Nadu and Karnataka: Cyclone Nivar heads for Karnataka, heavy rainfall in parts of Tamil Nadu for next 3 hours**

<https://www.india.com/news/india/cyclone-nivar-live-updates-tamil-nadu-puducherry-cyclone-makes-landfall-latest-news-ndrf-imd-high-alert-4224423/>

"Relief authorities have evacuated more than one lakh people from the coastal areas of the union territory and neighbouring Tamil Nadu, and housed them in shelters. We're closely monitoring situation in Tamil Nadu & Puducherry in the wake of cyclonenivar. Have spoken to Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K Palaniswami & Puducherry CM V.Narayanasamy and assured all possible help from the centre. NDRF teams are on ground to help people in need, says Amit Shah. Tamil Nadu: Eraiyannur village fishermen in Villupuram district experience less than expected damage from cyclone Nivar. ""We're happy that cyclone hasn't affected us much. A day ahead we shifted our boats. Now the waves are high. We cannot fish till next week,"" says a fisherman

### **Karnataka: Suvarna Tribhuja Tragedy: Rs 10 lakh compensation handed over to families of missing fishermen**

<http://www.uniindia.com/suvarna-tribhuja-tragedy-rs-10-lakh-compensation-handed-over-to-families-of-missing-fishermen/south/news/2241015.html>

"Compensation cheques for Rs 10 lakh each were handed over to the families of the seven missing fishermen who were on the board Suvarna Tribhuja boat which had set sail from Malpe in December 2018 but never returned. Those who went missing also included the owner of the fishing boat. The compensation was handed over by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa to

the families on the World Fisheries Day at the Banquet hall of the Vidhana Soudha, the State Secretariat on Saturday. DK District in-charge Minister and Minister for Fisheries Kota Srinivas Poojary and Udupi MLA Raghupathi Bhat were also present.

### **Karnataka: Seafood to be home-delivered by fisheries department**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2020/nov/20/seafood-to-be-home-delivered-by-karnataka-fisheries-department-2225636.html>

"Fish lovers, rejoice! Seer, salmon and other creatures of the sea will now be available at the tap of an app. The Karnataka fisheries department is coming up with a dedicated mobile-based application to order fish to be home-delivered. Fisheries minister Kota Srinivas Poojary said the app will be launched on Saturday by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa. He told reporters on Thursday that there is a long-pending proposal to start online sale of fish, and the department proposes to give private players some stiff competition. The Union government has approved of Rs 137 crore for the scheme, and in the next five years, the State government will get Rs 4,115 crore under the Matsya Sampada Yojana. The app for online sales and door delivery was designed to push for better turnover. Poojary said that Karnataka is in ninth place in terms of inland fisheries and fourth in marine fisheries. "We want to make it to first place," he said. He also said there is a proposal to upgrade the Mangaluru Fisheries College as a University. They will also start a diploma in fisheries courses at Shivamogga, Ankola, Udupi, Mysuru and other places. Pointing to a fisheries centre at Hesaraghatta, Poojary said they are setting up a quarantine centre where fish coming from outside India will be stored for a week before they are allowed to breed. There is a similar set-up in Chennai.

### **Karnataka: KCCI wants MPEDA-approved laboratory in Mangalore**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/kcci-wants-mpeda-approved-laboratory-in-mangaluru/article33121230.ece>

"The Kanara Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has urged the Director-General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to take up with the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry a proposal to set up a Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) approved fish and fisheries products' testing and certification laboratory in Mangaluru. This is aimed at providing a boost to exports from the coastal and other parts of Karnataka. In a letter to the Additional Director-General of Foreign Trade, Bengaluru, on November 11, the president of KCCI Issac Vas said that the establishment of the laboratory will go a long way in bettering the fisheries industry and accelerating economic development in the region.

He said that the College of Fisheries in Mangaluru has given an in-principle approval for

allotting space for the laboratory in Mangaluru. The letter said that undivided Dakshina Kannada is a hub for fishing industries. The two districts exported an average of 1.18 lakh tonnes of fish and fisheries' products per annum. For the export of fish and fisheries' products, the exporter must get the fish tested at a MPEDA Quality Control Laboratory and the nearest one is at Kochi. This causes a delay of around six working days. At times, the test results are available after 10 working days. As a result of these delays, the industry is facing several constraints. There is a block on working capital for the industry as the exporter cannot export the product on a timely basis.

### **Karnataka: Fisheries college bats for aquatic quarantine facilities near airports**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/fisheries-college-bats-for-aquatic-quarantine-facilities-near-airports/articleshow/79237196.cms>

"The College of Fisheries here has proposed to establish aquatic quarantine facilities (<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/aquatic-quarantine-facilities>) in the vicinity of international airports in Karnataka along with necessary transportation facilities. The project proposed under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), is expected to take shape near the Bengaluru and Mangaluru airports. This is one of the 22 proposed projects. Dr A T Ramachandra Naik, professor, department of aquatic environment management, College of Fisheries, said the purpose and scope of setting up quarantine facilities are to prevent the ingress of dangerous exotic diseases into the country through imported marine products. Reports suggest that India has managed to export 12,89,651 MT of seafood despite the sluggish demand in its major export markets due to the pandemic. The cancellation of orders and slowdown in cargo movement had an impact this year.

A quarantine facility will play an important role in quality checking and certification, he said. Besides, the college has proposed a disease monitoring and surveillance network, and aquatic animal health referral laboratory. Dean Dr A Senthil Vel has proposed 22 projects worth an approximate Rs 1,500 crore to fisheries minister Kota Shrinivas Poojari. The projects have been approved at the department level, and are before the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad, the nodal agency for distribution of funds for the projects. 'Woman burnt alive': Rahul accuses Bihar govt of 'hiding' incident Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday attacked the NDA government in Bihar over a woman allegedly burnt alive and accused the Nitish Kumar dispensation of ""hiding"" the incident for ""electoral gains"". In a first, a non-Muslim tops Islamic Studies exam in India Shubham Yadav (21) from Alwar has become the first non-Muslim in the country to top in the Central University Common Entrance Test in Islamic Studies. A philosophy graduate from Delhi University, Shubham wanted to understand the religion in depth. Dreaming to become a civil servant, Shubham said that Islamic Studies will be helpful for UPSC preparations. Some proposed projects Cost ( In crore) Genetic improvement programmes and Nucleus Breeding Centres (NBCS) for shrimp, finfishes of marine, brackish

water, freshwater Rs150 Establishment of Fisheries Science Centre (fish aquaria and museum) in schools, colleges and at Pilikula Rs 258.2 To study the climate change impacts on fisheries and aquaculture of Karnataka and establish adaptation methods and technologies for mitigating its adverse impacts Rs 10.9 Pilot project on establishing a research centre to conserve and protect the endemic species of flora and fauna in the Western Ghats of Karnataka Rs 141.5 Development of low-cost ready to eat fish products for distribution to government schools/orphanages/women centres in pouches Rs 8.9 Pilot project on large scale production of larvivorous fish in malaria, dengue and chikungunya in disease-prone areas of Karnataka Rs 20.4 Establishment of a data centre in College of Fisheries, Mangalore (FISHDaC, COFM) to act as a central information repository unit Rs 60.2 Establishment of Centre for Traceability, Labeling, Certification and Accreditation, including barcoding for aquaculture products Rs 13.9

### **Karnataka: KCCI presses for MPEDA approved lab**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/kcci-presses-for-mpeda-approved-lab/articleshow/79215374.cms>

"Following the in-principle consent from the College of Fisheries, Mangaluru, to house the Marine Product Export Development Authority (MPEDA) approved quality control lab, the Kanara Chamber of Commerce and Industry has written to J V Patil, Additional Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Bengaluru to push the proposal further. Isaac Vas, president, KCCI, said, "We would like DGFT to pursue, amongst other matters, a setting up of the MPEDA approved quality control lab in Mangaluru. The lab would greatly benefit in boosting the export of fish from this district. He said the undivided Dakshina Kannada is a hub for fishing industries across the value chain. We export an average of 1,18,466 tonnes of fish and fisheries products. For export of fish and fisheries products, the exporter must get the fish tested at the MPEDA quality control lab. The nearest approved lab is at Kochi. The exporters from this region have to send their samples to Kochi to get their product tested, which causes a delay of around six working days. At times, the test results are available after 10 working days. Due to these delays, there is a block on working capital for the industry as the exporter cannot export the product on a timely basis. The industry has to store the material in cold storage, causing colossal power consumption and blocking of storage space which could otherwise be used for more efficient productions. "Since the State government is proposing a fish processing park in Mangaluru, it is imperative that the testing and certification of the export products get done without much loss of time to maintain the value chain of the products exported, Vas said, urging DGFT to pursue with its parent ministry- the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for setting up of the quality control lab

### **Karnataka: Kadalapp to help fishermen launched in Udupi**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/kadalapp-to-help-fishermen-launched->

[in-udupi/article33099469.ece](https://www.kannadablog.com/in-udupi/article33099469.ece)

"The Coastal Security Police on Friday launched the Kadal App for fishermen that will help them in submitting information about their arrival and departure from the fishing harbour using android mobile phones. The Coastal Security Police conceptualised the app and developed it for the Department of Fisheries. It was launched by the Minister for Fisheries, Inland Transport Department and Muzrai Kota Srinivasa Poojary at a fishing awareness programme held at Moodukudu, Krishnapura, near Udupi. Coastal Security Police Superintendent of Police R. Chetan said that the personnel maintained manually the account of fishing boats leaving and entering the fishing harbour. With the manual system, it was difficult for Coastal Security Police to keep count of the number of fishing boats in deep sea and initiate search and rescue operations when there is inclement weather. With the app, those leaving on registered fishing boats can post details about the members onboard and upload their group photos before leaving the harbour. This information has to be uploaded even after returning to harbour with catch. "With this system, we will have clear idea of boats that are in sea at a given time, which will facilitate initiating search and rescue and other operations, he said. Mr. Chetan said that in the next few days fishermen will get weather updates on the app. They will also provide information about places where fish will be available, he said. There are about 2,000 fishing boats registered in Udupi and 1,200 fishing boats registered in the Mangaluru Harbour. There are a good number of fishing boats, including traditional boats, registered in Uttara Kannada. The information about all these boats are being fed into the app.

**Karnataka: Fishing in pandemic waters, Bengaluru startup realises potential of delivering fresh to Indian home**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/bangalore/fishing-in-pandemic-waters-bengaluru-startup-realises-potential-of-delivering-fresh-to-indian-homes-7048691/>

"Not everyone has had a bad run because of the coronavirus-induced lockdown. In fact, FreshToHome, a Bengaluru-based e-commerce brand focused on fresh fish and meat netted a growth of 2.5 times since March thanks to the sea change in consumer behaviour amidst the pandemic. Buoyed by this surge, FreshToHome has raised \$121 million (about Rs 890.8 crore) in a funding round led by the Investment Corporation of Dubai, Investcorp, Ascent Capital, DFC, Allana Group and others. "Consumers in India who mostly go to the local wet market, which is considerably unhygienic, believe what is cut in front of them (meat, fish) is fresher. Little do they realise that it might have taken some days for the fish to reach there, Shan Kadavil, Co-Founder and CEO of FreshToHome, explains to indianexpress.com. The company has for years

had its job cut out trying to make people aware that stuff ordered online might actually be fresher, but the 'try and buy' initiative during the lockdown started showing positive response soon. "This led to many new consumers trying our products and over 96% of per cent of them continued to trust our products after having a good first experience, Kadavil says. FreshToHome already had a supply chain that sourced directly from fishermen and farmers. It then added another layer.

"Our patent-pending Artificial Intelligence-powered supply chain technology is a key reason why we have seen larger growth in this category during Covid, Kadavil said, adding how the pandemic has changed the fish and meat purchasing behaviour of Indian consumers dramatically. "Consumers also made the habit-forming shift to e-commerce and we saw online demand for our products going up because of the safety concerns. The company's AI-based system helps it forecast the demand. "This helps us to spend right and the price elasticity is also calculated to help us decide on where and how much to spend and procure. This in turn helps us to keep our wastage to the minimum (around 1.5 per cent), says Kadavil, underlining how his is a business dealing only in perishables. The company also used Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled sensors to monitor, maintain, and manage temperature across its supply chain. In 2012, when it began as SeaToHome, possibly India's first e-commerce venture in fish and meat, Kadavil was India Country Head of leading gaming company Zynga which had major hits like Farmville. The Malayali in Kadavil made him an ideal customer of SeaToHome run by Matthew Joseph. "Mathew, a veteran fish exporter, used to take fish directly from fishermen and farmers and shipped it to Bengaluru and Delhi. But as he ran out of money to scale the SeaToHome business, it turned out to be a tragedy for many people like me, Kadavil remembers. Kadavil decided to pitch in his technical expertise to revive the venture and co-founded FreshToHome with Joseph in August 2015. "FreshToHome began as a concept born out of the love for food, he asserts, adding how they wanted to ensure their produce did not have any harmful chemicals like ammonia in it.

"Our key differentiator of knowing where the food comes from from the boat in which the fish has landed to the farm from which the antibiotic residue-free poultry was sourced from has worked well, Kadavil says, adding how their commodities exchange platform for 1,500 fishermen and farmers across India helps deliver fresh, chemical-free products to the consumers' doorsteps. "This value proposition has led to rapid growth and demand for FreshToHome. At present, the company supplies to the National Capital Region (NCR), Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune, Kochi, 22 towns in Kerala and in all seven emirates of the UAE. It plans to soon expand to Kolkata, Coimbatore and Jaipur. "We use refrigerated trucks and a lot of ice across the supply chain.

We have collection-centred infrastructure along 40 different harbours in India, vehicles ensuring last-mile connectivity and processing centres in different cities, Kadavil says, explaining how the

company is able to avoid using chemicals to preserve the fish. In addition to this, the firm has contract farming linkages for fish and poultry around each city. For instance, farms in Kanakapura, Mysuru and near the Tamil Nadu border primarily ensure supply to Bengaluru. “The entire process, if completed between 24 to 36 hours helps us to eliminate the use of chemicals and that's what we do, Kadavil adds. However, eliminating chemicals from the supply chain has not been the biggest challenge, but getting rid of the middlemen. “This is a hard task in India since three to four middlemen are involved in the most perishable supply chains of meat and fish and the cold chain is relatively absent. Eliminating middlemen to enable our sellers to directly offer products to the end consumer took a lot of time for us to stand by our brand claims, Kadavil says, adding that it has helped the brand offer over 20 per cent of the price benefit directly to the fishermen and farmers.

The opportunity in getting this right is immense. “Interestingly, the size of the fish market in India is around \$60 billion, much higher than meat which is at around \$30B. This indicates that in most Indian cities, fish is more widely consumed than meat, Kadavil highlights. The firm has developed an application called FTHDaily which offers products on a subscription basis. “Over six lakh litres of milk and a lot of fruits and vegetables are supplied every month on this platform, the company claims. As of November 2020, FTH estimates it has over 20 lakh customers, facilitating around 15 lakh orders per month at an annualised sales run rate of Rs 600 crore. “Our idea is to deepen the supply chain to add more fishermen and farmers to the existing 1500 and to enable more jobs beyond the 17,000 that we have today, Kadavil lays down his plans. “In the near future, we plan to reach 56 tier-1 cities and to achieve a revenue run rate of Rs 1,500 crore in the next 12 months.

**Karnataka: Sea erosion has uprooted coconut trees, fishermen under panic as waves hitting hard their houses**

<http://www.uniindia.com/sea-erosion-has-uprooted-coconut-trees-fishermen-under-panic-as-waves-hitting-hard-their-houses/south/news/2231041.html>

"Sea erosion has intensified near Dombé Jattigeshwara Temple in Paduvari village in the district on Wednesday. Huge waves hitting the shore have uprooted several coconut and other trees. A 40-year-old tank which was used for storing fish, has washed away in the fury of waves. Now, the waves have begun lashing at the buildings belonging to fishermen. Local residents have urged district administration to come up with a permanent measure to check sea erosion. Tahsildar Basappa P Poojar and others visited the spot.

**Karnataka: Gangolli jetty repair work assigned to backburner**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=771026>

"The repair of the jetty at Gangolli fisheries port which crashed two years back, and also the repair of the auction yard have been long neglected. Now, even the slabs of the drain near the jetty are crumbling. The jetty and the auction yard to the south of the fisheries port at Gangolli had crashed more than two years ago. Therefore, fishing activities in this portion of the port have been restricted. About half of the 402 metre-long jetty has crashed and fishing activities are performed now in the other half. Now, slabs of the drain located in the jetty area that is being used by the fishermen are crashing. This has been happening after the fishing showed signs of recovery after facing reverses due to corona-related lockdown. The jetty slabs at the place where fishing activities are taking place are also falling. The slabs covering the drains too are falling down one by one. Thousands of fishermen and businessmen visit the fisheries port at Gangolli on a daily basis. Several tourists also come to the port to have a look. This area is always crowded. The crumbling of the drain slabs has therefore worried the local fishermen. Fishing activity is suffering because of this.

People have to tread cautiously when in this area. About a year back, a tourist who came to the port had fallen into the drain after a slab gave way. The fishermen have urged the department to repair the crashed slabs before such incidents recur. Executive engineer in the ports and fisheries department Uday Kumar says that the government has sanctioned Rs 12 crore for the repair of the collapsed jetty including the drain repairs. He said that a tender process has been completed and sent to the government for technical approval. He said the works are expected to begin shortly. Fishermen leader Ramappa Kharvi says that the crashed jetty and crumbling slabs are creating hurdles in the fishing activities. Noting that the situation is prone to danger, he demanded the immediate repair of the crashed slabs of drains.

**Karnataka: Another proposal to be submitted on integrated coastal fisheries authority**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/another-proposal-to-be-submitted-on-integrated-coastal-fisheries-authority/article33079065.ece>

"The College of Fisheries will submit another proposal to the State government urging it to set up an Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Development Authority. It is to address the issues of fishermen and maintain the eco-sensitive nature of the Western Ghats. The proposal is the result of a meeting the College of Fisheries led by its dean A. Senthil Vel had with representatives of fishermen in the college here on Wednesday. Shashi Kumar Bengre, president of Mangaluru Purse Seine Boat Operators Association, said that fishermen continue to be neglected by the successive State governments. Unlike governments in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the Karnataka government has not been looking at issues concerning fishermen. The fishermen in the State, more so of Mangaluru, have been operating under a lot of constraints. He said that the government has failed to properly dredge the channel leading to the Mangaluru fishing harbour,

which is damaging fishing boats. Naveen Bangera, vice-president of Karnataka Purse Seine Fishermen Association, said that fishermen have been facing issues with New Mangalore Port Trust that does not permit entry of fishing boats into its jetties. “As it is difficult to enter the fishing harbour when the sea is rough, we seek entry into the New Mangalore Port during emergency situation.

We are being looked at as extremists and are turned away, he said. NMPT officials want prior intimation about boats entering the port which is difficult to provide, Mr. Bangera added. To prevent the influx of fishermen, NMPT has come forward to build a fishing jetty at Kulai under the Sagar Mala project. “But the way it is being constructed in a curve-like shape, it is unlikely to help fishermen as no provision has been made for regular dredging, he said. He also pointed out at the discharge of untreated effluents from industries operating along the coastline that has resulted in drastic decrease in the fish yield. “No study has been carried out to find out the reasons for drastic decrease in catch in the Mangaluru region, more so of the shell fish, which was once available abundantly in Bengre, he said. The fishermen representatives questioned the operations of Bharat Ship Yard, sand mining and construction of vented dams, which, they said, have impacted fishing in the region. Mr. Vel said that the integrated authority which can be constituted under Section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act can address the issues raised by fishermen. The Fisheries Minister can head the authority that will have the Deputy Commissioner, NMPT Chairman, Secretary, Environment (CRZ), and Secretary, Fishing Department, among its members. This authority, which will be on the lines of the one in the Sunderbans, will have legal sanction for its actions. Deputy Director of Fisheries Parshwanath also spoke.

**Karnataka: Sasihithlu Beach to be developed without causing harm to fishermen’s interests**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/sasihithlu-beach-to-be-developed-without-causing-harm-to-fishermens-interests/article33031006.ece>

"Dakshina Kannada district in-charge Minister Kota Srinivas Poojari on Tuesday said that the government will develop the Sasihithlu-Munda Beach, off Mukka, at an initial cost of 10 crore. The development, Mr. Poojari said, would be undertaken without affecting the interests of local fishermen. Already, 5 crore have been released for the development work, he said and added that a 4.15 crore plan was prepared for the construction of a sea protection wall. He was speaking to reporters during a visit to Sasihithlu Beach along with Moodbidri MLA Umanath Kotian, Deputy Commissioner K.V. Rajendra and others. Mr. Kotian urged the Minister that beach development should also ensure the protection of the interests of local fishermen. He said that fishermen from Sasihithlu should be able to access the benefits of the proposed Hejmady Fishing Harbour to the North of Nandni-Shambhavi Estuary. Comprehensive plan Interacting

with officials earlier, Dr. Rajendra said that since the beach falls under Coastal Regulation Zone 1, no permanent structure, including all-weather concrete road, cannot be constructed during the development project. Instead of permanent structures, temporary structures such as cottages could be built on the location, he suggested.

He also asked the officials whether any comprehensive plan for developing the beach as a surfing destination was prepared. Highlighting local woes, Zilla Panchayat member Vinod Bollur said that residents of Sasiythlu village were not getting adequate supply of the Netravathi water through the Mangaluru City Corporation facility. Dr. Rajendra directed officials concerned to resolve the issue. Fishermen leader Shobendra Sasiythlu said that 146 house owners in the locality have not received possession certificates since 1990. There was a need to develop a fishermen colony, he said. While officials said that possession certificates could not be issued due to technical problems, Dr. Rajendra asked them to identify vacant government land and a list of homeless persons to take the proposal forward. Dr. Rajendra directed the development officer of the Haleyangadi Gram Panchayat to stop collection of entry fee from visitors to the beach and also ensure protection of structures there.

### **Karnataka: Fishermen of Uppunda, Koderi clash over auction of fish**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=769355>

"The cold war that was going on between the fishermen of Uppunda and Koderi with regard to the auction of fish at the Kodri fishing port in Kirimanjeshwara village near here came out in the open on Saturday, November 7. Fishermen of both areas clashed with each other and police resorted to lathi-charge to control the crowd. The fishing department had recently given temporary permission to auction the fish at the auctioning area in Koderi fishing port for fishermen of Koderi and Maravanthe. On the afternoon of Saturday, November 7 more than 100 boats of Uppunda were about to enter fish auctioning area of Koderi fishing port after finishing fishing through the Edamavinahole rivulet. However, fishermen of Koderi did not allow the fishing boats of Uppunda fishermen and blocked their boats by parking their own boats against those of Uppunda fishermen. Koderi fishermen were demanding basic infrastructure to be built and also a bridge to the river in order to go to the area of auctioning. Kundapur ASP Hariram Shankar arrived at the spot and tried to pacify them by holding discussion. However, Koderi fishermen were adamant on their demand and said that they will not allow the auctioning of fish of Uppunda fishermen in the Koderi fishing port premises till their demands are met. Fishermen of Uppunda had kept their catch of fish in their respective boats for more than four hours as Koderi fishermen had blocked their boats. Tahsildar B P Poojar visited the spot and held discussion with fishermen of both sides. But it did not yield desired result.

Enraged by the inordinate delay and blocking by the Koderi fishermen, the Uppunda fishermen rowed their boats towards the boats of Koderi fishermen and friction ensued between both the

sides. Police personnel climbed over the boats and lathi-charged the fishermen and tried to control the situation. Shukradas Kharvi, president of Trawlboat association of Koderi fishermen says, ""The assurance of building a bridge that was given to us when the Koderi fishing port was built is still not materialized. This bridge needs to be built immediately. In addition, we also demand the basic infrastructure facility in the fishing port to be provided. Till then no permission should be given to auction the fish in the Koderi fishing port campus."" Defending the Uppunda fishermen, Venkataramana Kharvi, president of Uppunda Ranibale fishermen federation says, ""We have had several rounds of talks with fishermen of Koderi.

As per their condition, we have got conditional temporary written permission to auction the fish at Koderi fishing port. Even then Koderi fishermen are obstruction the auctioning of fish urging their demands to be met. Fishing port is not limited to Koderi fishermen alone. It is open to all. We are ready to join hands with Koderi fishermen in their demand for bridge and basic infrastructure in the Koderi fishing port."" Kumarachandra, ASP said, ""Fishermen from both areas should resolve their differences through discussions. If anyone tried to meddle with the law, police department is ready to handle the situation."" More clashes were reported at the Koderi fishing port area. Some people have sustained injuries and were admitted to hospital. Stone pelting on police, who tried to control the friction, was also reported. More number of police personnel were deployed as per sources.

### **Karnataka: Special focus will be given to improve fisheries**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/bsy-special-focus-will-be-given-to-improve-fisheries/articleshow/79067168.cms>

"Chief minister B S Yediyurappa on Thursday said the state government will lay special emphasis on developing the fisheries and allied sector in Karnataka. This is in line with the state government's policy to perk up internal security of the state by involving fishermen while formulating schemes that will help them benefit for the same. Plans include harnessing tidal energy for power generation and optimal utilisation of marine resources. Laying out this development vision for the coastal district, Yediyurappa who inaugurated the special executive committee meeting of BJP here said the government will also focus on tourism in Karnataka. "The government has already released funds and work has started, the CM said adding the changes will be visible in the next six months. State chief Nalin Kumar Kateel summing up the proceedings of daylong meeting said the core committee of the party has discussed the criterion

for a candidate that Karnataka will send to the Rajya Sabha to replace Ashok Gasti, who succumbed to Covid-19 recently. The party has also started the process of identifying candidates for the Maski and Basavakalyan assembly and Belagavi Lok Sabha constituencies for which by-polls are to be held. Defending the central election committee's choice of Gasti and Eranna Kadadi to the upper house of the parliament in June, Nalin said while Gasti was an accomplished lawyer, Kadadi has come up the party ranks from the panchayati raj system. "The state unit will also consider names of achievers from other areas to the Rajya Sabha, Nalin said, adding party has to balance between rewarding its cadre and achievers in making these selections.

**Karnataka: Export of fish from Dakshina Kannada hit as airline refuses cargo service**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2020/nov/02/export-of-fish-from-dakshina-kannada-hit-asairline-refuses-cargo-service-2218133.html>

"With Air India Express refusing to export chilled fish from the Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) to various Gulf countries, the fish processing industry in the coastal region is hit. The airline reportedly stopped accepting fish a few years ago after a few stray incidents of spillage onboard that affected other cargo and passenger baggage. Exporters now have to transport fish in trucks from Mangaluru to airports in Goa, Bengaluru and Kozhikode where Air India and other Gulf-based airlines accept the cargo. But they say it is adding to the cost and affecting the quality. "Unlike frozen fish which is exported through cargo ships from New Mangalore Port, the chilled fish is packed and exported on the same day when boats bring the catch. On many occasions, by the time it reaches Bengaluru after an 8-10 hour journey, the ice melts and the consignment has to be repacked. Also, lack of godowns to repack in Bengaluru is a major concern, said Ismail Haldipur of Al Farhan Sea Foods. That is why most exporters prefer the Goa International Airport as it is closer and has lesser rush. The exporters find no logic behind the airline's refusal, as it carries chilled fish from the Thiruvananthapuram airport. They opine that the airlines should only reject consignments that are not packed as per specifications. Isaac Vas, president, Kanara Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in a recent letter to the Air India Express CEO said that accepting chilled fish at MIA would benefit both airlines and exporters. The region's exporters employ scientific chilling processes available at the KFDC facility, he added. Recently, Indigo Airlines agreed to export fish from MIA, but it will not help much as there is demand in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, while Indigo flies only to Dubai from MIA.

**Karnataka: Unexpected bad luck – Poisonous jellyfish catches hit fishermen hard**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=766250>

"The fishermen who finally began to undertake their traditional activity of fishing, after having to contend with coronavirus lockdown and hostile climate, have been hit hard by the bolt

from the blue. Poisonous jellyfish are caught in their nets, which has been causing them huge losses. Normally September to November happens to be a season of rich fish catches during which period fishes like mackerel, pomfret, sardines, kingfish etc were traditionally found in the nets. However, since the last nearly a week, boats which left the shores from Gangolli, Shirur, Maravanthe, Malpe etc are mostly catching jellyfish, and the efforts of the fishermen are proving to be wasteful. The fishermen who usually got 1,500 to 2,500 kg fish for every trip are not getting only 300 to 500 kg, the fishermen lament. In the past, jellyfish were mostly found in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific. Their presence is increasing in the Karnataka coast which is deadly for the fishing activity. In several countries like Japan and eastern European countries, because of excessive jellyfish, other species of fish are becoming extinct and fishing had to be suspended a few years back. The scientists of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute opine that chances of the jellyfish proving ominous for the fishing here cannot be ruled out. Purse Seine Boat Fishermen's Cooperative Society Gangolli president, Ramesh Kunder, says that in addition to loss incurred by shortfall of other fish catches, the fishermen are dithering from undertaking fishing trips as accidental contact with the jellyfish gives rise to itching of the skin.

#### **Karnataka: 17 children rescued at fishing harbour**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/17-children-rescued-at-fishing-harbour/article32976845.ece>

"Various government agencies acting in coordination rescued 17 children engaged in fish collection at Malpe Fishing Harbour in Udupi district in an early morning operation on Thursday. The operation was led by the Children Protection Unit of the Women and Child Development Department. The rescued children hailed from Raichur and Koppal districts, said a communique here. The rescued children were later produced before the Children Welfare Committee. District Children Protection officer Sadanand Nayak, legal officer Prabhakar Achar, labour officer Kumar and others participated in the raid.

#### **Tamil Nadu: Karnataka CM urged to release 10 Tamil Nadu fishermen from jail**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/karnataka-cm-urged-to-release-10-tamil-nadu-fishermen-from-jail/articleshow/78914872.cms>

"Kin of 10 Kanyakumari fishermen lodged in an Udupi prison in Karnataka and representatives of South Asian Fishermen Fraternity (SAFF) made an appeal to the Union fisheries minister and chief ministers of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to release them. They alleged that the 10 men were attacked by fishermen from Karnataka before being falsely booked. The 10 fishermen have been identified as C Robinson, 36, of Pillaithoppu, A Arulraj, 42, of Vavuthurai, W Dennis, 56, of Kanyakumari, S Arulselan, 40, of Azhikal, C Joseph Ajayan, 50, of Manakudi, S Pravin, 18, and S Subin, 20, of Kadiyapattanam, J Rohan Diyo, 18, of Muttom, V

Abin Samuel, 18, of Periaivilai, and R Zechariah, 27, of Erumpukaadu. SAFF general secretary Churchil said the men set off in a mechanised boat from the Beypore fisheries harbour in Kozhikode on October 19. "Like most of the deep sea fishermen from Kanyakumari, they ventured into the Arabian Sea for fishing. On October 23, they were engaged in hook and line fishing around 35 nautical miles off the Malpe coast in Karnataka, he said. Quoting fishermen, he said around 400 Karnataka fishermen surrounded them in 20 mechanised boats. "They forced the TN fishermen to get in one of their boats and brutally attacked them with weapons. The captain of the boat, Robinson was their prime target. The attackers had also lodged a forged complaint against the TN fishermen, he added.

The Karnataka fishermen accused the Tamil Nadu fishermen of fishing at a nine nautical miles distance off the shore and that they were requested to not to fish close to the shore. They added that the TN fishermen attacked them when they made this request and sought their arrest. Churchil added that the Malpe police registered a case (86/2020) against the TN fishermen under sections 307 (attempt to murder), 143 (unlawful assembly), 147 (punishment for rioting), 148 (rioting armed with deadly weapons), 149 (member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object) and 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code. Attack by Malpe fishermen is said to be in retaliation to the few lakh rupees worth fine slapped on two boats from Malpe by the Kasaragod fisheries department officials a few months ago. The kin of the TN fishermen made an appeal to the chief ministers of both states through the Kanyakumari district administration to help their injured men get treated, withdraw the cases registered against them, release them without delay. SAFF made an appeal to the government to make the national waters safe and peaceful for deep sea fishing.

**Karnataka: The looming perils of overfishing**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/specials/insight/the-looming-perils-of-overfishing-906613.html>

"In the rapid decline of its oil sardine and mackerel catch, Karnataka is losing the mainstay of its marine fisheries. Between 2017 and 2018, the harvest of these two staple fish varieties has fallen by 59 per cent and 29 per cent respectively. This is affecting not just livelihoods but also the food security of coastal communities. Part of the problem is that the oil sardine is also highly sought after by the Fish Meal and Fish Oil industry (FMFO), whose factories are clustered along Karnataka's coast there are 34 factories in Karnataka alone and 10 of the 15 biggest fish oil exporters are also from the state. These FMFO industries use edible, nutritious fish and process it into fish feed for the voracious aquaculture industry in India and abroad. Aquaculture accounts for 70 per cent of FMFO consumption, with the rest going into the agricultural and poultry sector. Fish traders in Mangaluru indicate another trend that could have a direct effect on human health. Large players buy fish in bulk, store it in cold storage for three months or more and sell when the prices are high. Indiscriminate fishing along Karnataka's coast,

in which juvenile fish are increasingly hauled out of waters by mechanised boats, has only added to the problem.

The mackerel, which was abundantly available along the coast and was the top commercial fish netted in the state in 2017 and 2018, dropped to the fifth position in 2019; the sardine catch in 2018 was just 39,758 tonnes, a drop of 72 per cent when compared to 2014. The drop in the number of sardines and mackerels has also seen a parallel drop in exports from the Fish Oil industry, indicating just how much the industry depends on these resources. At the same time, ports along Karnataka's coast are also seeing a rise in catches of blowfish and red-toothed triggerfish, which have little commercial value and are sold to FMFO plants at a pittance: Rs 11 - Rs 14 per kg. Depending on the quality, these 'trash fish' are either sent to the Surimi (a food paste made from fish proteins) plants or the FMFO industry, according to Prathibha Rohit, Principal Scientist and in-charge of Mangalore Research Centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute. Indiscriminate fishing So what is happening? Experts say that the indiscriminate fishing of juvenile fish by mechanised trawlers, and overfishing of existing stocks, is to blame.

A T Ramachandra Naik, a lecturer in the Fisheries College in Mangaluru, says that contrary to the claims of FMFO industry, a huge quantity of juvenile fishes are also diverted to their plants. Despite sensitisation programmes, juvenile fish continue to land in the nets of fishermen, he said. Though the State and central governments have directed the industry to use of 35 mm square-shaped nets, most boats continue to use smaller mesh-size, diamond-shaped nets, which prevent the escape of juvenile fish.

One major issue is that the fisheries industry in the state, like elsewhere, is geared towards scaling up. And the high costs of running a trawler fuel costs, salaries for the workers, supplies mean that these mechanised boat owners are tempted to scoop up everything they can find beneath their feet. Mohan Bengre, the President of the Purse seine Boat Owners Association, said that in order to make fishing viable, a deep sea expedition should fetch them an income of above Rs seven lakh. "An amount of Rs four lakh is spent on diesel alone, he says. Fishermen asserted that the presence of FMFO plants along the coast supports their livelihoods. Prathibha Rohit, also agrees with this assessment and says that the FMFO market, which buys the bycatch of these boat owners, has made fishing viable. Prof Ramachandra Bhatta, a marine resources economist and senior research consultant for Hyderabad-based National Academy for Agricultural Research Management, says the FMFO industry encourages destructive fishing like light fishing, bull trawling in Karnataka "In 2010, only five per cent of fish landings were diverted to FMFO units. A decade later, nearly 35 to 40 per cent of fish landings are diverted to FMFO. With fewer fish available for consumption, "low-income families along the district have been deprived of easily accessible nutritious food, he says. "By intensifying pressure on pelagic fish stocks to feed the fast-growing aquaculture industry will have further knock-on effects on other marine life and

marine ecosystem... we are killing the rich marine biodiversity, he adds

### **Karnataka: Free training in ‘aquaclinics and aquapreneurship development’**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/free-training-in-aquaclinics-and-aquapreneurship-development/article32912954.ece>

"The College of Fisheries here will conduct a four-week free-residential training on “aquaclinics and aquapreneurship development from November 3. The National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management and the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad, are supporting the training programme, according to dean of the college A. Senthil Vel. The training programme is aimed at creating self-sustainable employment opportunities, he said in a release. Aquaclinics is the need of the hour for sustainable aquaculture practices such as culture of fish and shrimps, pond design, pond preparation, soil analysis, water quality analysis, selection of species, seed and feed supply, disease management, better management practices, technical consultancies, skill development, networking and marketing linkages, said coordinator of the training programme and a professor in the college A.T. Ramachandra Naik. Aquapreneurs will be trained on how to prepare detailed project reports to get financial assistance from funding agencies and under subsidy schemes. Graduates and diploma holders in fisheries, graduates in biology, post-graduates in aquaculture, Industrial Fisheries and Marine Biology are eligible to apply for the training programme. A total of 30 candidates will be selected. Candidates may submit their applications (downloaded from [www.cofm.edu.in](http://www.cofm.edu.in)) either personally to the dean of the college at Yekkur or by e-mail: [deanfisheries@gmail.com](mailto:deanfisheries@gmail.com) on or before October 31. Call Ph: 0824-2248936 or 9916924084 for further details, the release said.

### **Karnataka and Tamil Nadu: Fishermen engage in scuffle over border violations**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=763838>

"Incidents of fishermen from outside Karnataka indulging in violating fishing borders has become usual occurrence. Fishermen from Tamilnadu were fishing in a Kerala boat by using lights in Malpe on Thursday morning. As fishing with the use of lights is banned and fishing boats from outside the state entered the Karnataka border, the purse seine boat owners in Malpe opposed. The fishermen from outside the state then entered into arguments with Malpe fishermen and ended up damaging Makara Sankranti boat in Malpe. The boat named 'Indian' from Kerala was brought to the port by the others including the boat owner. Two people sustained injuries in the scuffle that ensued. They were also administered medicine. The fishermen at Malpe have objected to such incidents that are occurring repeatedly. More than 100 fishing boats that had been for deep-sea fishing returned and the fishermen have urged for suitable action against the violators. A grim situation prevailed in Malpe port on Thursday morning. The coast guard police and Malpe police personnel arrived at the spot and took control of the situation. “Penalty of

several lac rupees has been imposed when the fishing borders of Kerala are violated.

Therefore, the violators in this incident should be also punished and the cost for damaging the boat should be also recovered, urged the owner of Makara Sankranti fishing boat. The boat named 'Indian' does not have any registration documents. It is said to be belonging to a person named Farooq from Kerala. Purse Seine Boat Fishermen's Association secretary, Naveen Kotian, said that over a hundred boats from other states have been undertaking light fishing and using spathes to catch fish illegally but the Coast Guard which is aware of this activity, has been turning a blind eye. Coastal Security Force superintendent of police Praveen Nayak, inspector Ratnakumar, Udupi police circle inspector Manjunath, deputy director of fisheries Ganesh K, senior assistant director Shivakumar and assistant director Payal, visited the spot and verified the details. Both Purse Seine Fishermen's Association and owner of Makara Sankranti boat have filed complaints in Malpe police station and a case has been registered. Fishermen leader had drawn the attention of fisheries minister, Kota Srinivas Poojary, about the illegal catching of cuttlefish near the shore and disposing them off at Malpe and the inaction of the officials in handling these illegal operators.

### **Karnataka: Fishermen face health problems due to polluted river Phalguni**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=762965>

"Fishermen who regularly undertake fishing activity in River Phalguni have been facing health problems since about a month. They claim that the moment they place their feet in the river between Bolor and Bengre, their feet start to itch. Thereafter, ulcers are formed in the legs. These ulcers rupture thereafter, after which blood oozes out. When this happens they cannot go fishing for a few days. The fishermen say that chemicals released into the river by industries are harming them. They have to stand in water for hours. The skin of their legs turn red and then ulcers are formed. Because of extreme itching, the ulcers worsen, and when this happens, the fishermen cannot enter the river. Bengre village alone has over 200 country boats and over a thousand people are dependent on fishing for a living. Now, there are ulcers in the legs of most of the fishermen. Normally there are four to five persons in a boat. If even a couple of them develop any health problem, the others cannot go fishing and therefore lose their livelihood. They are now worried how to continue with fishing, how to earn the daily bread, and how to repay loans. Rajesh, a country boat fisherman from Bengre says that the people are unable to

undertake fishing as chemicals are released into the river. He has urged the administration to take serious note of the itching and ulcers the fishermen suffer in the river.

**Karnataka: Fishermen halt work**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/fishermen-halt-work/article32896174.ece>

"Over half-a-dozen fishermen living close to the Khaja Kotnoor Lake, 15 km away from Kalaburagi city, have for the last fortnight halted their activities temporarily following heavy rain and floods in the district, and moved to the city. Some of the makeshift huts in which the fishermen were living on the banks of the lake have been partially damaged, while others are completely missing. The damaged remains of the huts and fishing equipment were seen scattered on the water surface when The Hindu visited the spot on Monday. Two fishing boats anchored on the banks were filled with floodwaters, their huts were littered with debris of fishing nets and broken thermocol. According to information provided by a local farmer owning agriculture land on the banks of the lake at Khaja Kotnoor, the fishermen attached to a private society that has been allotted fishery activities on a lease basis used to catch fish from the lake and sell them in the market.

**Karnataka: State plans to reach No 1 spot in inland fisheries' – minister**

<http://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=760121>

""The state government is contemplating the execution of various plans to improve the fisheries input. Currently, Karnataka is ranked ninth in the state as far as inland fisheries are concerned. We have planned to execute special plans to develop inland fisheries in the 120-km long seashore and also interior places and has set itself the target of reaching No 1 spot,"" said fisheries and district in-charge minister, Kota Srinivas Poojary. He spoke at the Pravachana Mantap, Dharmasthala after inaugurating the new aquarium installed at Lalitodyana Park of Dharmasthala on Sunday October 11. The minister said that the state ranks fourth in the country as far as sea fishing is concerned. He said that out of Rs 20,000 crore earmarked by the prime minister, Narendra Modi, under the 'Atma Nirbhar' concept, Karnataka will get Rs 3,500 crore. He stated that the money will be spent for inland fishing and production of decorative fishes in an attempt to catapult the state to the top position in three years. He noted that Singapore, a tiny country, has been exporting fish costing 40 to 50 million dollars a year whereas India's contribution is one percent of the global output. He stated that the government will think about providing training to young people in producing decorative fish in order to make fishing

profitable employment.

The minister informed that a scheme to produce fingerlings for sea fishing has been introduced at Mulky, duly recalling that in the past, the fingerlings were brought from Kerala and Goa. He said that sea fishing will be given a new dimension and thrust towards reducing transportation costs. Dharmasthala Dharmadhikari, Dr D Verendra Heggade, requested the minister to set up aquariums at various places to develop it into a favourite hobby among the people. He said that within three months, a museum for ancient statues would be established at Dharmasthala. On this occasion, Dr Heggade felicitated Chetan Bengaluru and Pradeep Bengaluru who have been providing special fish and food for the aquarium and Hamza, who has been tending to the fish. MLA, Harish Poonja, MLC, Prathapsimha Nayak, zilla panchayat standing committee chairperson, Mamata M Shetty, Shantivana Trust secretary, Seetharam Tholpadithaya and others were present.

### **Karnataka: State making efforts to reach the top slot in fisheries, says Minister**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/state-making-efforts-to-reach-the-top-slot-in-fisheries-says-minister/article32829843.ece>

"Minister for Fisheries, Ports and Inland Water Transport Kota Srinivasa Poojari said on Sunday that the State occupied the ninth position in inland fisheries and fourth position in marine fisheries in the country. All efforts are being made to take the State to the top position in both the sectors. Speaking after inaugurating "Matsya Pradarshanalaya at Lalithodyana in Dharmasthala, Mr. Poojari said that the Union government has sanctioned ₹ 3.5 crore to the State to promote the fisheries sector along the coast. There is good demand for fish chips. Pattadhikari of Dharmasthala D. Veerendra Heggade said that taking care of animals and birds, more so, fish, will help in reducing stress in one's life. Ornamental fish cannot be seen in lakes, rivers and sea. Hence, one should cultivate the hobby of keeping fish by becoming an aquarist. Legislators Harish Poonja and Pratap Simpa Nayak took part in the function.

### **Karnataka: Fall in marine catch leaves fisheries sector gasping**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/fall-in-marine-catch-leaves-fisheries-sector-gasping/article32829883.ece>

"A month after deep sea fishing began in the coastal belt, the fisheries sector is gasping for breath with heavy reduction in marine catch. Though many workers from outside the State such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha have returned to work in fishing boats, marine catch is yet to pick up. Mangaluru Trawl Boat Owners Association president Nitin Kumar told The Hindu that a majority of about 900 trawl boats in Mangaluru, which are engaged in deep sea fishing spending 10 days to 11 days in the sea, have begun sailing out in turns. But the catch is not normal. Trawl boats also lost some days of fishing during the last month due to rough sea

condition. Mr. Kumar said that normally, fishermen get bumper marine catch during September-November. Catch has come down drastically in this season though deep sea fishing resumed on September 1 after a five-month break due to the lockdown and COVID-19 issues. For example, “Rani fish catch has come down from the normal about six to seven tonnes a day to about two to three tonnes. Market demands this particular variety of fish for its meat. Cuttlefish catch has also come down from tonnes to kilograms to the level of 700 kg to 800 kg on some days. Cuttlefish has good export demand, while its local consumption is not much. Mr. Kumar, who is a former chairman of Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation, said that marine catch depended on the vagaries of sea, including direction and speed of current and other weather factors.

As the marketing of marine catch has not picked up due to transport issues in view of COVID-19 situation, prices of fish and other marine products have not picked up. Mangaluru Fishmeal and Oil Manufacturers Association president Khader H.K. said that the coastal belt had 21 active factories covering Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada. They are making use of only 5 % of their processing capacity now as many fishing boats are returning with meagre marine catch. “I have not seen such a scenario in the fishing sector in the past 25 years of my experience as a processor of marine products, he said. Mr. Khader said that like the other sectors hit by COVID-19 issues, the fisheries sector too has been affected. There is a chain impact. Deputy Director, Department of Fisheries, Dakshina Kannada, P. Parshwanath, said that the sector is yet to come to terms due to multiple factors associated with COVID-19, including transportation. Fishermen and traders are not getting remunerative price for quality fish used for table purpose. The rates for quality fish have dropped by 30 % to 40 %.

### **Karnataka: Fishermen through IFTA urge PM Modi’s intervention for infusion of technology**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/fishermen-through-ifta-urge-pm-modis-intervention-for-infusion-of-technology/articleshow/78541057.cms>

"Leading fishermen's associations in Karnataka under the aegis of Indian Fishermen for Technology Adoption (IFTA) have sought intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for urgent need to adopt new technology in the state's fishing sector. Taking cue from similar requests made by boat owners and fishing community leaders from Gujarat to PM Modi, the state's fishermen leaders through IFTA have made a similar plea. Referring to incidents involving fishing boat Suvarna Tribhuja last year and Malpe recently, Yashpal Suvarna, president, South Kanara and Udupi district Co-operative Fish Marketing Federation Ltd said it has made fishermen realise that their usual methods of communication and warnings are not adequate to respond to tragedies like these. It is time that India adopts highly-advanced communications and connectivity technologies, he said.

The center must implement technology adoption via standardising the quality of technology

available. "We have tested BSNL's transponder, which has two-way data communication directly over satellite and works in the deep sea. We urge PMs direct intervention and request the government to deploy the latest technology immediately. We need a solution today as any delay will continue to endanger safety and security of fishermen, he said. Adoption of next-generation digital and satellite communications technology will raise productivity of fishing harvest, create world-class competitiveness, apart from addressing the immediate and urgent challenge to ensure the safety of state's fishermen on high seas. With the availability of new satellite technology, India today has access to services that can ensure the safety of fishermen through ubiquitous coverage in most adverse conditions. Ganapati Mangre, president The North Kanara District Co-Operative Fish Marketing Federation Ltd, said, "Lives of hundreds and thousands of fishermen are lost at sea every year due to unavailability of modern connectivity technologies such as satellite based navigation systems.

This can connect Indian fishermen with mobile devices offering timely SoS alerts and harvesting predictions to ensure better catches and safety while at sea, he said. Along with enhancing safety, technology can also help fishermen raise their productivity and enable e-commerce transactions at sea. Through 2-way data systems, it is becoming easier to send fish location data to fishermen at sea to ensure better supply and demand match while allowing fishermen to access markets and transact at sea to maximize the value of their catch, he said. More fisheries sector stakeholders are backing IFTA in this regard, he said.

### **Karnataka: Nitin Ramakant urges government to install satellite based tracker for fishing boats**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=758848>

""By installing satellite-based navigation system to deep-sea fishing boats, it helps the fishermen to get alert at the right time. In addition, it also gives an indication of getting a good bounty of fish. The government should help fishermen to install this new technology, which will resolve the danger and difficulty of the life of fishermen when they are in the deep sea,"" urged Nitin Ramakant, member of the District Cooperative Fish Sellers' Federation. Speaking at a press conference in the city on Wednesday, Ramakant further said, ""Fishermen of the coast have not forgotten the tragedy of Survarna Tribhuja boat that occurred one and a half years ago. Presently, the communication technology that is used in deep-sea fishing is not working effectively. The sinking of some boats recently is proof of this. ""In the future, if we have to tap the benefits from the fishing industry, we have to install modern communication technology. Mainly, we do not have a sea ambulance facility in Karnataka. The union government has to provide this immediately. The union government has to provide financial aid as well as complete details of the technology to the fishermen. ""The government should bring separate schemes for fishermen.

The emergency loan facility, which is given to fishermen under the Kisan scheme, is given by banks to only those who possess RC for boats.

Due to this, eligible fishermen are deprived of the scheme. The emergency loan facility should be available to all the fishermen, who are registered with the fishermen's cooperative association." Speaking on the occasion, Raviraj, president of Malpe Tandelu boat association said, "Sagar ambulance, which has a well-equipped medical facility, including a doctor, that has 8,000 litre of diesel capacity should be started in the deep-sea area. An agreement should be made between Maharashtra and Karnataka governments and emergency treatment should be provided for fishermen without conducting any inquiry." Ganapati Mangre, president of the Uttara Kannada District Cooperative Fish Sellers' Federation said, "Injustice is meted out to fishermen during the Suvarna Tribhuja boat mishap by the earlier government. No attempt is made to bring out the mortal remains of the seven people who died inside the boat in the deep sea. At least now this should be done. At least 60% of local fishermen should be recruited in the coastguard force. As they know the inflow of sea, they will be able to save the lives of the fishermen during emergency situations in the sea. In addition, the coast guard force officers should not waste time on the shore. They should patrol the deep sea."

### **Karnataka: Fishing season begins late – Fishermen get mixed result**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=756205>

"Fishing season began this time with the inordinate delay due to adverse circumstances. The fishermen are a bit relieved as they could catch red prawns, pomfrets etc in good quantities. But in Udupi, catches of fishes which command a ">good price in the market are not that good. During the last year, fishing could be undertaken for only a very short period because of cyclonic storms and inclement weather. Lockdown announced on March 25, fishing holiday in June and July and hostile weather in August had robbed the livelihood of the fishermen. During the last two days, the fishermen from here were able to get good catches of red prawns, black prawns, pomfret and some other variety. Some boats which left the shore came back with about 1,000 tonnes of red prawns. It is said that in Udupi, a fish variety known as Klathi, was caught in abundance but at some places, space constraints were faced to store the fish. This variety of fish can be exported but in the local market, it has less demand. Some high-value fishes like squid, ribbonfish and others have been rare in Udupi. In Mangaluru also their catch was less. About 70 per cent of migrant workers from other states have returned. Once they come back in full strength, fishing might revert to its original form, feels deputy director of fisheries, Parshwanath.

Fishermen leader Divakar Ullal expressed happiness at getting good catches.

### **Karnataka: Confusion prevails after emergency anchoring of fishing boats at NMPT**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=754158>

"Misunderstanding has arisen once again between New Mangalore Port Trust (NMPT) and fishermen on the issue of anchoring of fishing boats at NMPT for the safety of the fishermen during adverse climatic conditions. Fishermen leaders said that a few boats which had left for deep-sea fishing had taken shelter at NMPT on account of heavy rainfall. They charged the NMPT officials of forcing the boats to leave. They have urged to allow them to stay anchored at NMPT in the interests of the safety of the fishermen. The fishermen say that boats which had left from here for deep-sea fishing before the issuance of red alert were busy undertaking fishing at Karwar, Goa border etc. Because of sudden changes of the climate at sea, a red alert was issued till September 24 and fishermen were warned. As such as a measure of safety the boats have sought shelter inside NMPT but now the boats are being told to leave without any reason, they said. Fishermen's leader Mohan B said that it has become impossible to return to fishing port because of the fact that the sea is rough near the estuary. He said that over 175 deep-sea fishing boats have anchored at the NMPT and these boats have over 1,500 fishermen. He said that taking into account red alert till September 24, there is no other option but to stay here in order to save the boats costing several lacs of rupees from suffering damages.

Fishermen's leader Rajaratna Sanil said that two trawler boats have encountered problems near Karwar and have got stuck in sand. He urged the NMPT not to pressurise the boats to leave under these conditions. A release by NMPT said that fisheries trawler boats which faced problems due to inclement weather have been given shelter at NMPT. "We are governed by International Ships and Ports Security rules and none of the trawlers or other boats and ships can be allowed in without proper documents or security information. NMPT has been requesting the fisheries department repeatedly to create digital documents and take safety measures but no such system has been put in place. Therefore, under emergency situations safety rules are being compromised. Still, NMPT under humanitarian consideration and local needs has been allowing boats to be anchored here. But in the light of country's security and interests of the fishermen, the fisheries department has to adopt digitalised safety system so that there is no confusion, it said. Deputy director of fisheries Parshwanath said that the fishing boats are unable to return to the fishing dock because of the fact that the sea is turbulent near the estuary and therefore for the present they are anchored at NMPT.

### **Karnataka: Three boats meet with accidents – 19 fishermen rescued**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=753585>

"Due to strong wind and heavy rain, three boats, two near Malpe and one at Karwar, met

with accidents. A total of 19 fishermen from these boats were rescued. A trawler belonging to Rama Kunder that had been anchored at Malpe port was washed away after its rope snapped because of the force of water. The boat had five fishermen. Because of a technical problem, the boat engine could not be started. The boat floated towards St Mary's Island where it dashed against the rock. Water started to gush into the boat. The locals then rushed in other boats and rescued all the five fishermen. The boat which was completely damaged after hitting the rocks, drowned. Another boat owned by Leelavathi Salian that had left Malpe port on September 19 was returning to its base on Sunday when its steering broke near St Mary's Island. It had six fishermen, who were rescued by the local fishermen. The boat could not be brought to the shore because of the huge waves and was abandoned. A deep-sea fishing boat from Malpe sank near Karwar port. All the eight fishermen inside the boat were rescued by people in another boat.

### **Karnataka: Pandemic leaves fishing industry in doldrums**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/pandemic-leaves-fishing-industry-in-doldrums/articleshow/78224957.cms>

"Unlock 4.0 hasn't brought much cheer to fishermen of Uttara Kannada. The catch, many fishermen rue, isn't good quality fish. Fishing in Karwar port had come to halt for over 20 days in January owing to the agitation against expansion of the port under Sagaramala project. Fishing activity resumed in February after the high court stayed the project. However, between February and March the catch was poor with most fishing boats returning empty. ""And then came the lockdown which made matters,"" said Vinayak Harikantra, president of Youth Fishermen organisation in Karwar. Most of the workers who work on boats are from Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal. They went home during the lockdown as there was no work. ""None of them have returned and boats are lying idle with no workers to go fishing,"" adds Vinayak. August and September witnessed volatile weather not conducive for fishing. "At least four purse-seine boats have sunk in the sea in the last 15 days between Karwar and Bhatkal. Though the fishermen were rescued, owners of the boats suffered heavy losses, says Suresh Harikant a fisherman from Karwar. Neighbouring Goa had banned the entry of vehicles due to the pandemic with fishermen losing business. "For last few days our catch has been like of jelly fish which is useless. We have to pay to for labours even though there is no catch. The fish famine has affected us badly. The government should think of helping us at this difficult juncture, said Ganesh Surangekar, a traditional fisherman.

### **Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Odisha, Karnataka and Kerala: Heavy to very heavy falls likely over Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Odisha, Coastal & South Interior Karnataka and Kerala during 19th-20th September, 2020**

<https://orissadiary.com/heavy-to-very-heavy-falls-likely-over-andaman-nicobar-islands->

[odisha-coastal-south-interior-karnataka-and-kerala-during-19th-20th-september-2020/](#)

"According to the National Weather Forecasting Centre/Regional Meteorological Centre, New Delhi of the India Meteorological Department (IMD): Significant Weather Features - The Monsoon Trough lies to the north of its normal position. Western end of the Monsoon Trough is likely to remain close to foothills of Himalayas during next 5 days and the eastern end is likely to shift southwards from 19th September onwards. - An east-west shear zone runs roughly along Latitude 15°N between 3.6 & 5.8 km above mean sea level. It is likely to persist during next 2 days and weaken thereafter. - Due to the above favourable meteorological conditions, Fairly widespread to widespread rainfall with isolated heavy falls very likely over Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, Coastal & North Interior Karnataka and Kerala &Mahe during next 3days. - Under the influence of likely formation of a Low Pressure Area over Northeast Bay of Bengal and consequent strengthening of lower level winds along the West Coast; Fairly widespread to widespread rainfall with Isolated heavy to very heavy falls are likely over Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Odisha, Coastal & South Interior Karnataka and Kerala during 19th-20th September,2020. - Moderate thunderstorm with lightning very likely at isolated places over Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam & Meghalaya, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, Odisha, Telangana, Kutch region, Southeast & Northwest Uttar Pradesh, South Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh during next 12 hours. Weather Warning during next 5 days \* 16 September (Day 1): - Heavy to very heavy rainfall with extremely heavy falls very likely at isolated places over Assam & Meghalaya; heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Marathwada, Telangana and heavy rainfall at isolated places over West Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Bihar, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, Rayalaseema, Coastal & North Interior Karnataka, Kerala &Mahe and Tamilnadu, Puducherry & Karaikal. - Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning at isolated places over Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Bihar, West Bengal & Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, Kutch & South Gujarat Region, North Jharkhand, South Interior Odisha, Northwest & Southeast Uttar Pradesh, Southeast Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, Telangana and Rayalaseema. - Strong Wind (speed reaching 45-55 kmph) very likely over Southwest Arabian Sea. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas. 17 September (Day 2): - Heavy rainfall at isolated places over West Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Bihar, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Assam & Meghalaya, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, Konkan & Goa, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, Telangana, Coastal & North Interior Karnataka and Kerala &Mahe. - Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning at isolated places over Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Gangetic West Bengal, Assam & Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, Telangana and Rayalaseema. - Strong Wind

(speed reaching 45-55 kmph) very likely over Southwest Arabian Sea. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas. 18 September (Day 3): - Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Coastal Karnataka and heavy rainfall at isolated places over southeast Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Odisha, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Nagaland, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, Konkan & Goa, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, Telangana, Interior Karnataka and Kerala & Mahe. - Thundersquall (speed 50-60 kmph) accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands; moderate thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over southeast Rajasthan and thunderstorm accompanied with lightning at isolated places over Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, Telangana and Rayalaseema. - Strong Wind (speed reaching 45-55 kmph) likely over Southwest Arabian Sea and along & off Kerala-Karnataka coasts and Lakshadweep area; Gulf of Mannar and Southwest Bay of Bengal, Southeast & adjoining Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas. 19 September (Day 4): - Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Coastal & South Interior Karnataka and Kerala & Mahe and heavy rainfall at isolated places over southeast Rajasthan, Odisha, Madhya Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, Telangana, North Interior Karnataka and Tamilnadu, Puducherry & Karaikal. - Thundersquall (speed 50-60 kmph) accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands; moderate thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over East Uttar Pradesh and southeast Rajasthan and thunderstorm accompanied with lightning at isolated places over West Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, Telangana, Rayalaseema and Tamilnadu, Puducherry & Karaikal. - Strong Wind (speed reaching 45-55 kmph) likely over Southwest Arabian Sea and along & off Kerala-Karnataka coasts and Lakshadweep area; Gulf of Mannar and Southwest Bay of Bengal, Southeast & Eastcentral Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas. 20 September (Day 5): - Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Odisha, Coastal & South Interior Karnataka and Kerala & Mahe and heavy rainfall at isolated places over south Chhattisgarh, Gangetic West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Madhya Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, Telangana and North Interior Karnataka. - Thundersquall (speed 50-60 kmph) accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands; moderate thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over East Uttar Pradesh and southeast Rajasthan and thunderstorm accompanied with lightning at isolated places over West Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, Telangana, Rayalaseema and Tamilnadu, Puducherry & Karaikal.

**Karnataka: Coastal dists to get mega seafood parks**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/coastal-dists-to-get-mega-seafood->

[parks/articleshow/78045993.cms](https://www.parks/articleshow/78045993.cms)

"As Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) on Thursday, the Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation (KFDC) is hoping to set up mega seafood parks in three coastal districts of Karnataka under the scheme. PMMSY aims to bring about blue revolution through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector. Assuring that the project will revolutionise the sector, fisheries minister Kota Shrinivas Poojari said seafood parks will be one part of the PMMSY and a detailed project report will soon be prepared. KFDC has been looking for land close to the airport and port for the pet project of the fisheries minister. For Dakshina Kannada, land has been identified at Moodabidri, but the department is also looking at other options in Puttur and Mangaluru. The park is expected to come up in Gangolli of Udupi district. Officers in Uttara Kannada have been asked to identify land near Karwar, said KFDC managing director ML Doddamani. Speaking to TOI, KFDC assistant executive engineer Amarnath Jain said, "The purpose of setting up the seafood park is to encourage exports, especially to the European Union. It will give a big boost to entrepreneurs who are into fish processing, production of value-added goods, cold storage, packaging and related activities.

The plan is to provide A to Z facilities for the entrepreneurs and include all aspects of fish export. The fish production in India has registered an average annual growth of 7.5% during the last five years and stood at an all-time high of 137.5 lakh metric tons in 2018-19. The export of marine products stood at 13.9 lakh metric tons and valued at Rs 46,589 crores in 2018-19.

### **Karnataka: 24 Fishermen Rescued Off Karnataka Coast As Heavy Rain Batters State**

<https://www.ndtv.com/karnataka-news/karnataka-rain-24-fishermen-rescued-off-karnataka-coast-as-heavy-rain-batters-state-2293966>

"Twenty-four fishermen stranded at sea due to heavy rainfall were rescued by the Indian Coast Guard today off the Karnataka coast. The fishing boat called IFB Qamrul Bahar was stranded 15 nautical miles off the Karnataka coast when the Kasturba Gandhi ship went to the rescue. The coast has been receiving very heavy rainfall which led to the fishing boat being stranded. The rescue was carried out off the Bhatkal port. The Defence spokesperson of Bengaluru tweeted on the rescue and said, ""In view of rough weather conditions in area the owner of fishing boat, which had lost propulsion power had requested DD Fisheries Karwar for rescue of fishermen. The entire rescue operations at sea was undertaken and at around 1030 h on 11 Sep 2020 all fishermen in good health were shifted on board by ICG Ship."" The spokesperson also added that electronic surveillance is being maintained in the area through coastal surveillance network to move fishing boats in the area to safer locations ""Regular weather warning advisory is also being transmitted,"" the spokesperson added. Heavy rainfall since August 1 in Karnataka has killed at least 20 people, displaced thousands, damaged more

than 10,000 homes and crops in about 4.03 lakh hectares, and wrecked 14,182 km of roads in the state.

### **Karnataka: Beyond the blue waters**

<https://www.nsoj.in/stories/beyond-the-blue-waters>

"The Mogaveera is a traditional fishing community, the members of which involve themselves in marine activities in and around coastal Karnataka, mainly the coasts of Mangalore and Udupi. Having practised the trade for many decades, many elders in these families continue to practise this risky profession even though many of the younger populations have found better prospects to move on to. How has their trade been affected, especially during these months, with the initial lockdown and the weather conditions along the coast now? "The lockdown didn't affect me as much; some of us had to maintain a distance but our work continued regardless, said Yogish, a fisherman who has been fishing for over 30 years. He is seated just opposite the Chitrapura Devi temple, with few other men from the same community. There is a look of resignation in his eyes. "I know that some of my colleagues and I received some aid from private parties, some from members of the Sangha, but many people didn't." The stretch of sea at Chitrapura has choppy waters, not very favourable for fishing boats to set sail now, he said. These months, they have had to begin and end their sailing from the nearby harbour and local port of NMPT (New Mangalore Port Trust).

The days when the weather isn't favourable, they'd know. "We observe the waves and know if it is a good idea to set sail. We also keep an eye on the weather updates and any high tide alerts that we get from local authorities, said Kunal, another fisherman. But the situation hasn't been easy. Rates have decreased considerably since the pandemic broke out, with fewer people venturing to markets to buy fish, he said. ""We have to follow set timings to set sail and sell our catch for the day or people will not show up and we will lose whatever meagre earnings we get,"" he said. ""It is a risky job, but we have no choice,"" he added, rueful. The beach is dotted with many small huts with terracotta roof tiles, standing in stark contrast to some wealthier sea-front dwellings and apartments.

Walking on the beach, one cannot miss signs of the previous night's tide, with swash marks as close as few feet from the doorsteps of several houses. This means, undoubtedly, that water levels have been on the rise. Yet, relocation to higher ground would mean leaving behind ancestral homes and community connect. "Our profession is linked to our lives, it is part of who we are. Where we live, the job asked of us entail risks of course, but we need to continue doing it despite those risks because this is all most of us know, said Kunal. Deep-sea fishing was banned from March 20 due to the lockdown. And although traditional fishing resumed in April, there have been restrictions put in place. Yet the fishermen and women who sell fish in markets have had to work non-stop, only allowing themselves to rest when the weather conditions weren't

favourable for work or there wasn't much to sell that day. Looking for alternatives isn't an option, said one of the women.

""We have been doing this for as long as we remember, this is what we are known for. How can we just leave it because of what is happening now?"" one of the women declared while arranging fish in concentric circles in baskets. One such basket weighs about 25 kilograms and is priced at about ₹2500, although market fares change depending on the conditions. "When demand is high, we can hope to earn more, but now, even getting most of our catch sold is a task, they remarked, in unison. In another location nearby, a similar sorting of fishes is taking place, only this time, these women are packing fish to take them to the markets the next day. "We have paid the fishermen rupees 2700 for these baskets. When selling them tomorrow we need to set prices based on demand to ensure that we get minimal profits, otherwise, what is the point? said Yashoda, a fisherwoman involved in selling fishes. These baskets will make their way to the city's famous fish markets at State Bank via tempos to be sold the next day. In April, Yashpal Suvarna, Chairman of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi District Co-operative Fish Marketing Federation, had urged the state and central governments to provide compensation and benefits to the fishing community. However, it comes as a surprise to the fishermen and women, when asked about compensation and aid, for everyone echoes similar statements: "we got nothing from the government, no aid, no security, no easing of the financial burden. We just needed to continue our work and hope for better returns.

### **Karnataka: Full-fledged fishing yet to commence**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/mangaluru/full-fledged-fishing-yet-to-commence-884554.html>

"Shortage of labourers, inclement weather and poor financial condition of boat owners have prevented commercial marine fishing from achieving its full potential since the start of the fishing season from September 1. According to the statistics available with the fisheries department, there are 57 purse seine boats, 1,270 trawl boats, 1,483 mechanised gill net boats, among others, in Mangaluru. Over 30,000 labourers are directly working in these boats. Boat owners are grappling with a shortage of labourers as local fishermen have not evinced interest in deep-sea fishing lasting for 10 to 12 days. As a result, the fishing industry in the district is forced to depend on labourers from outside the state and district. "Owing to the shortage of labourers, all trawlers and purse seine boats had not entered the sea. Only 40% of labourers from Odisha, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala had returned back to Mangaluru. The boat owners are making arrangements for their return. Only 30% of the purse seine boats are engaged in fishing. Inclement weather in the past few days also prevented fishermen from venturing into the deep sea, Purse Seine Boat Owners' Association President Mohan Bengre said. Rakesh Bengre, a boat owner, said, "Many labourers have a fear of contracting the virus. The boat

owners are also in financial distress owing to the abrupt suspension of fishing due to the Covid-19 induced lockdown in March.

We lost six months of fishing. The owners spend upwards from Rs 6 lakh in deep-sea fishing expeditions. The cost of diesel, engine and net repair, ice for stocking fish catch and food for labourers on board have to be borne by the boat owner. Due to the pandemic, boat owners are arranging buses and ferrying labourers from their native villages to Mangaluru. This has added to the burden, he said and added that export quality fish was also sold for a lesser price, which also has affected fishermen. The low pressure and gusty wind for the past few days had hampered the fishing activities, Trawl Boat Owners' Association President Nithin Kumar told DH. "For over six months, the boat has not entered the water, he added. "The engine needs to be repaired. We don't have enough money to repair the engine and nets, said another boat owner. Yallavva from Bagalkot who is engaged in loading and unloading ice and fish from the boats said, "The commencement of fishing has helped us to eke out a living.

### **Karnataka: State's fisheries sector yields ₹5,863.9 cr value in last fiscal**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/states-fisheries-sector-yields-5863-9-cr-value-in-last-fiscal/articleshow/77896500.cms>

"Karnataka has steadily managed to ramp up fish production with its total fish production in 2019-20 in marine fisheries sector valued at Rs 4,032.1 crore and that of inland fisheries at Rs 1,831.8 crore. The yield in 2019-20 was 4 lakh tonnes and 2 lakh tonnes respectively. The figures place Karnataka fourth among maritime states in terms of marine fish production and ninth overall among states as far as inland fisheries is concerned. Karnataka stands sixth among all Indian states if one combines the fish production in both these sectors, says Ramacharya, director, department of fisheries. The estimated yield from marine fisheries, mainstay of fishing activity is 6 lakh tonnes, Ramacharya told TOI.

Given this is a dynamic resource, state can optimally look to raise its production to up to 5 lakh tonnes, he said, adding the additional catch will be possible only if the fishing ban period is assiduously followed. "We need to give fish species time to spawn and not resort to overkill for the value it brings to the table, he said. The continental shelf off Karnataka is productive and helps sustain fishing in the long run unlike European and American continents that grapple on this front. The perennially flowing rivers that join the Sea bring in much needed nutrients, Ramacharya said. If fisher folk adhere to minimum legal size for 19 fish species they harvest and also do not violate the mesh size for the fishing nets, they are bound to reap the benefits in the long run, he said. Minister for fisheries Kota Shrinivas Poojari said the department has taken up a series of interactive exercises with fisher folk to drive home the point of making fishing a sustainable economic activity in the long run. "We are focussing on inland fisheries as we are on marine fishing, Poojari said adding emphasis is being laid on cage fishing, increasing fishing

activities in reservoir and promoting brackish water fishing as well.

**Karnataka: Fisheries department mulls amendment to Act to curb delinquent acts by fishermen**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/karnataka-fisheries-department-mulls-amendment-to-act-to-curb-delinquent-acts-by-fishermen/articleshow/77826806.cms>

"A proposed amendment to the Karnataka Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1986 and rules framed therein a year later will empower the department of fisheries to curb delinquent acts by fishermen. At present, various offenses under the said Act are non-cognisable and the department at best can impose a maximum fine of up to Rs 5000, which was a big amount by the late 1980s stand, Ramacharya, director, department of fisheries, said. In an informal chat with TOI on the side-lines of a department workshop here, Ramacharya said the proposed amendment seeks to make various offences under the Act cognizable. "We have mooted to raise the upper limit of fine that can be imposed under the amended Act to Rs 2.5 lakh, the director said. The department of law is vetting the proposed amendment and is expected to be tabled in the forthcoming session of the state legislature. The proposed amendment will be placed in public domain for suggestions/objections, if any, Ramacharya said adding the intent is not to use it to browbeat fishermen, but their welfare by adherence to rules.

"We are considering setting up an independent fisheries enforcement unit on lines with similar arrangements in Kerala, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu or alternatively empower Coastal Security Police to Act once the amendment is through, he said. R Chethan, superintendent of police, CSP said the department of fisheries at present compounds fine as applicable for various offences under the Act such as light fishing, bull trawling and no separate criminal offence is made out. Bhaskar Rao, additional-director general of police (Internal Security Division) said while empowering CSP under the Act is a welcome step, one has to wait for the nuances of how the department has set out to achieve it. Incidentally, the marine enforcement wing that Tamil Nadu inaugurated in November last not only patrols the high Seas, but also enforces fishing regulations, deters illegal and destructive fishing activities and acts against use of banned nets. The enforcement wing also addresses issues such as juvenile fishing, which has a bearing on future fish production as well as deals with potential law and order situations that can arise on the high seas.

**Karnataka: Govt to promote inland fishing in Karnataka, says Kota**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/mangaluru/govt-to-promote-inland-fishing-in-karnataka-says-kota-880258.html>

"Minister for Fisheries and Inland Water Transport Kota Srinivas Poojary said that the government will conduct 100 training sessions on cage fish farming across the state to create

self-employment for 10,000 people. Speaking after inaugurating a training programme, he said the state government under Atmanirbhar programme, has chalked out a programme for self-employment through cage fishing. Cage fish farming is successful in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The government wants to bring in a revolution in fishing sector by taking up cage fishing. The minister said cage fish farming can be promoted in ponds, lakes, reservoirs, backwaters and large water bodies. Karnataka is in the ninth position in the country in inland fisheries. The government wants to reach the top position by promoting inland fisheries through various methods. The minister said to support fishermen, the Centre has been providing a loan of Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 lakh for fishermen possessing Kissan card through DCC Banks. To support fisherwomen to take up self-employment through SHGs, capital amount of Rs 2 lakh will be given by the government. The fishermen should wear life jackets while entering the sea. The government is committed to providing more facilities for fishermen. Fisheries department director Ramacharya said that the government has submitted a Rs 4,115 crore action plan to the Central government to promote fisheries in the state in the next five years. Awareness on cage fishing will be taken up at taluk levels by conducting workshops.

### **Karnataka: Let us make government schemes reach fishermen’ – Yashpal Suvarna**

<http://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=744731>

"An information seminar was held under the aegis of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi District Cooperative Marketing Federation for Dakshina Kannada District Fisheries Cooperative Society office bearers to provide details of various schemes of the fisheries department. Federation president Yashpal Suvarna inaugurated the seminar. He asked to implement and make the facilities of the schemes reach the fishermen through fisheries cooperative societies. Mangaluru trawl boat fisheries cooperative association president Nithin Kumar Sasihitlu, fisheries cooperative association president Shobhendra Sasihitlu, fisheries deputy director Parshwanath, Leed district manager Praveen Kumar, camp resource persons, fisheries assistant director Sushmita Rao, Dileep Kumar and Manjula Shenoy were present. Fifty camp participants including 20 fisheries primary cooperative society office bearers and members took part in the seminar. District manager Praveen Kumar explained about Kissan credit card and other schemes and resource persons gave details about facilities available from fisheries department. Federation managing director Harish Kumar welcomed, Fisheries assistant director Dileep Kumar rendered vote of thanks.

**Karnataka: Rs 6 lakh each compensation for fishermen families: Kota**

<http://www.uniindia.com/rs-6-lakh-each-compensation-for-fishermen-families-kota/south/news/2133840.html>

"Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa has ordered the release of Rs 6 lakh compensation each for the families of four fishermen who died in a boat accident, at Koderi in Kirimanjeshwara. The order copy on the compensation was handed over to the families of the victims, said Fisheries Minister Kota Srinivas Poojary on Monday. The minister along with MLA B M Sukumar Shetty visited the families of the victims and consoled them. Four persons, Manjunath Kharvi, Laxman Kharvi, Shekhar Kharvi and Nagaraj Kharvi went missing after a gigantic wave toppled the boat, in which they were returning after fishing on August 16.

**Karnataka: Survival hopes of fishermen reported missing off Koderi dim**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/survival-hopes-of-fishermen-reported-missing-off-koderi/articleshow/77596745.cms>

"Hopes of survival of two out of four fishermen reported missing after their country boat Sagara Shri crashed into the breakwater at the mouth of Koderi fishing jetty in Byndoor taluk on Sunday is fast receding. By the time search operations were stopped late on Monday night, rescuers had first located the body of Nagraj Kharvi, 55, resident of Uppunda at Hosahithlu near Navunda and that of Laxman Kharvi, 35 at Hadaragoli, 5kms south of the incident spot later in the evening. Search for the other two missing fishermen is on. Nagraj along with Manjunath Kharvi, Laxman Kharvi and Shekar Kharvi, fishermen from Navunda were part of a group of 11 fishermen who had gone fishing in the boat. R Chethan, superintendent of police, Coastal Security Police said professional divers from Murudeshwar pressed to locate the fishermen in the area where the boat capsized drew a blank. Drone was pressed to scout the area to locate the missing fishermen, Chethan noted. DIG S B Venkatesh, commander, Coast Guard, Karnataka said Indian Coast Guard pressed its fast patrol vessel (FPV) that was patrolling the high seas off Karnataka and Kerala coast to the area to scout for the missing fishermen seawards. Sandeep G S, police inspector, Gangolli CSP station said the FPV was coordinating with coastal security police in keeping a lookout for the missing fishermen from a point as close as it could come near the shore.

Sandeep, citing eyewitness accounts of surviving fishermen said Nagraj who had managed to clamber on board the battered boat after it capsized was the last one to drown. The police official did not discount the possibility of fishermen who drowned getting ensnared in heavy fishing nets on the boat that could have dragged them beneath. The seven who managed to swim ashore were treated in the hospital and discharged after first aid, he said. In a related development, Kota Shrinivas Poojari, minister for fisheries in a Facebook post who expressed concern at the

development and offered condolences to the next of kin of the deceased fisherman. Noting that he had drawn the attention of the chief minister to the incident, Poojari said the government and fisheries department will provide all possible financial assistance to the distraught family and that he would meet them personally on return to Udupi.

### **Karnataka: All four missing fishermen found dead**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/all-four-missing-fishermen-found-dead/articleshow/77599452.cms>

"All the four fishermen, who went missing after their country boat 'Sagara Shri' crashed into the breakwaters near Koderi fishing jetty in Byndoor taluk on Sunday, were found dead on Monday. Rescuers located the bodies of Nagraj Kharvi, 55, at Hosahithlu near Navunda, early in the day, and that of Laxman Kharvi, 35, at Hadaragoli, hours before the search operation ended at 9pm. The bodies of the other two Manjunath Kharvi and Shekar Kharvi washed ashore at Gangibail late on Monday night. Nagraj, along with Manjunath Kharvi, Laxman Kharvi and Shekar Kharvi, fishermen from Navunda, were part of a group of 11 fishermen who had gone fishing in the boat. R Chethan, SP of Coastal Security Police (CSP), said after professional divers from Murudeshwar, who were deployed to locate the fishermen in the area, drew blank, a drone was flown to scout the area. DIG S B Venkatesh, commander of Coast Guard (Karnataka), said Indian Coast Guard had pressed its fast-patrol vessel (FPV) that was patrolling the high seas off Karnataka and Kerala coasts to trace the missing fishermen. Sandeep G S, police inspector of Gangolli station, said they coordinated with CSP in the operation. Citing eyewitness accounts of surviving fishermen, Sandeep said Nagraj, who had managed to clamber on board the battered boat after it capsized, was the last one to drown. The seven fishermen, who managed to swim ashore, were treated in a hospital and also discharged after first-aid. Fisheries minister Kota Srinivas Poojari, in a Facebook post, offered condolences to the bereaved families. Noting that he has drawn the attention of the chief minister to the incident, Poojari said the fisheries department will provide financial assistance to the distraught families and that he would meet them personally.

### **Karnataka: Mangaluru fishermen to begin deep-sea fishing from Sept 1: Minister**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/mangaluru-fishermen-to-begin-deep-sea-fishing-from-sept-1-minister/article32332528.ece>

"Though the fishing holiday had ended on July 31, fishermen had stayed away from fishing due to rising number of Covid-19 cases. Deep-sea fishing activities from the Old Mangalore Port (commonly known as Bunder) will start from September 1, according to Kota Srinivasa Poojary, Karnataka Minister for Fisheries. Though the fishing holiday came to an end on July 31, fishermen from Bunder area did not start fishing activities on August 1 due to an increase in the

number of Covid-19 cases in the region. Speaking at a meeting held to restart fishing operations, Poojary said that nearly 75 per cent of workers in the fisheries sector are from other states. They will have to submit their applications on the Seva Sindhu portal of the Karnataka government to enter the state. Only those workers with a negative report for Covid-19 test will be allowed to enter the district. Stating that owners of fishing boats will have to take responsibility for the health-related aspects of these workers, he said, each worker entering the state should undergo a 14-day quarantine, as per rules.

Nitin Kumar, President of Mangaluru Trawl Boat Owners' Association, had told BusinessLine recently that the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown had forced around 5,000 labourers from states such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal to go back to their native places. Poojary also directed the stakeholders to sanitise the fish landing area in Mangaluru every day. MJ Roopa, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Dakshina Kannada, said that retail sale of fish has been banned at the fish landing centre at Old Mangalore Port. She said that 6,000-7,000 people visit this area every day. In such a situation, it is the duty of the fishermen's association to conduct thermal screening of all these people and maintain social distancing in that area. The district administration will provide training to the teams formed by the fishermen's associations to carry out these activities, she said.

### **Karnataka: Fishing labourers entering Karnataka from other states to be quarantined in boats on arrival**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2020/aug/11/fishing-labourers-entering-karnataka-from-other-states-to-be-quarantined-in-boats-on-arrival-2182156.html>

"Deep sea fishing is likely to start on September 1 in the Karnataka Coast after a gap of nearly five months. Kota Srinivas Poojary, minister for ports and fisheries who held a meeting with district officials and stakeholders in the business, said free COVID test will be conducted on fishing labourers coming from outside the state if they do not possess a COVID negative certificate. They have to undergo 14-day of quarantine inside the fishing boats before they venture into the sea for fishing activities. The deep-sea fishing activity had come to an end in the month of March after Covid-19 outbreak.

Then it was set to resume on August 1 after two months of the fishing ban due to breeding season, but the authorities and boat owners decided to postpone it due to a spike in Covid-19 cases and as labourers from outside the state were yet to reach the state. More than 80 per cent of labourers involved in the sector are from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and other states. Nithin Kumar, Mangaluru Trawl Boat Fishermen's Association who was present in the meeting, told TNIE that the boat owners will make arrangements to bring fishermen from

outside the state in buses and tempos as the train operations are yet to fully resume. Kumar said it was decided to quarantine the labourers in boats as there is no other facility to make such arrangements for over 3,000 people in Mangaluru. "They will arrive in the state in phases and not at once. So somehow we can manage with the boat quarantine, he said. The minister said fishing harbour will be sanitised on a daily basis and teams will be formed to conduct thermal screening of fishermen and other people in the harbour and to ensure other norms.

**Karnataka: We should be self sufficient in fishing through technology**

<http://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=738895>

"Karnataka is in the sixth spot in sea fishing and the ninth spot in inland fishing in the country. We should reach the first spot in another three years. It is necessary to use modern technology for this purpose, said minister of fisheries Kota Srinivas Poojary. He was speaking after inaugurating a workshop on August 8 on cage fishing at the taluk panchayat auditorium. "Those who get trained should take up cage fishing. We hope to develop 26 thousand lakes in the state and use them for inland fishing. All the fishermen will be issued Kisan cards. Three thousand houses will be built for fishermen out of which 100 houses will come up immediately. "The government has released 45 crore diesel subsidy. Rs 60 crore loan of 23 thousand fishermen women is waived out of which 19 thousand women belong to Udupi. The CM should be congratulated for it. Technology should be used in fishing and fishermen should be self-reliant. All the problems of the fishermen should be solved. Fishing and agriculture are like two eyes of the government, he said. Taluk panchayat president Ramkishan presided. Fisheries federation president Yashpal Suvarna, district panchayat member Laxmi Manju Billava, taluk panchayat social justice committee president Roopa Pai, scientist Prathibha Rohit were present. Mukund said a prayer. Fisheries department deputy director K Ganesh welcomed everyone. Fisheries department senior assistant director G M Shivakumar rendered the vote of thanks.

**Karnataka:Sea occupies 100 meters land in Kota by erosion**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=738296>

"Sea erosion was observed in Kodi panchayat limits after about 25 years. The sea has occupied about 100 meters of land area by erosion. This has caused the local people to worry about the increasing area of erosion every day. They have urged for a permanent solution for it. The matter was brought to the notice of local MLA by former panchayat representative Annappa Kunder here. The MLA then sent his private assistant, fisheries department engineer and revenue official to the place. Fisheries department engineer Dais held spot inspection under the leadership of Kota revenue officer Raju. Quick action needed: It is necessary to act immediately in this connection so that the sea does not occupy nearby roads and houses. "Huge boulders were laid to prevent sea erosion here 25 years ago. Nobody looked at it after that. People will heave a sigh of

relief if a permanent break wall is constructed," said Annappa Kunder, former president of Kodi panchayat. Antony D'Souza, a former member of Kodi gram panchayat said, "The matter of erosion was brought to the notice of all. It is worse this year. We urge for a permanent break wall, he said. Dias, an engineer in the department of ports and fisheries said that they have conducted an inspection of the spot on directions from the deputy commissioner and will submit a report to the higher officials.

### **Karnataka: Zero-interest loan booster for dairy, fishery industries**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2020/aug/04/zero-interest-loan-booster-for-dairy-fishery-industries-2178710.html>

"The Karnataka government is giving a zero-interest loan of up to Rs 2 lakh to farmers who are willing to take up dairying and fisheries. The cooperation department's initiative is expected to help people who have lost jobs in urban areas and returned to their villages and towns. At present, in Karnataka, farmers can take up to Rs 3 lakh as crop loan without interest, through cooperative banks. The government has come forward to extend this facility to farmers taking up dairying and fisheries, but up to Rs 2 lakh. With this, Karnataka will be the first state to introduce zero per cent loan in dairy and fisheries. However, farmers who want to avail of loans in all three or more than two sectors, cannot exceed an amount of Rs 3 lakh. There are 14 cooperative milk societies with more than 25 lakh members in Karnataka. Of them, at least 10 lakh farmers supply milk. Similarly, around 6,000 fishermen are members of various fishery societies. The zero-interest loan is for all of them. A senior cooperation department official said this is the first of its kind in India. "We are aware of many people, especially youngsters, returning to their villages. They can take up fisheries or dairying, and avail of the loan. We have instructed officials to take up applications and disburse loans," an official said. The department of fisheries is also checking the possibility of including health card and other facilities for fisher folk located in coastal districts.

### **Karnataka: Fishing sector takes a hit due to virus scare, labour shortage**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/fishing-sector-takes-a-hit-due-to-virus-scare-labour-shortage-in-karnataka-868910.html>

"The Covid-19 scare and non-availability of labourers have deeply affected the lives of people dependent on the fishing industry in the Udupi district. There are more than 1,700 mechanised boats in Malpe fisheries port. Thousands of people earn their livelihood from the sector. Once the fishing season commences, the activities will commence in the port with the auctioning of the fish catch and export of the fish outside the state. However, the fishermen representatives fear that the entire port will be sealed if anyone contracts coronavirus. The sealing down of the port will have its impact on the economy and financial conditions of the fishermen, said fishermen

leaders. Malpe Fishermen Association President Krishna Suvarna said the fishing sector has been suffering for various reasons for the past two years and added that now due to Covid-19, the boat owners are facing the burden of loan. "The industries dependent on the fishing sector are also in distress. We could not carry out fishing properly during this year, Suvarna said. "We did not get any expected support from the government as well, he alleged.

"The decision to resume mechanised fishing will be taken shortly after consulting the fisheries minister, MLAs and deputy commissioner. A meeting of the fishermen leaders will also be convened shortly, Suvarna said. Meanwhile, Fisheries Department Deputy Director Ganesh said according to the government's direction deep sea fishing is allowed from August 1. "Looking at the present situation, it looks like the resumption of fishing likely to be delayed, he added. Samudra Puja The fishermen leaders said Samudra Puja will be offered at Malpe on August 3, after offering prayers at Balarama Temple and Parivara Daiva at Vadabandeshwara in Malpe. Fish catch In Udipi, the fish catch during 2019-20 was 1,21,479 tonne worth Rs 1,197 crore. It was 1,17,895 tonne worth Rs 1,450 crore in 2018-19 and 1,28,136 tonne worth Rs 1,580 crore in 2017-18.

### **Karnataka: Will soon come out with new Fishing Policy: Minister**

<http://www.uniindia.com/k-taka-will-soon-come-out-with-new-fishing-policy-min/south/news/2098284.html>

"Karnataka Minister in-charge of Dakshina Kannada District Kota Srinivas Poojary said that the draft on comprehensive fisheries policy was ready and it would be soon placed before the State Cabinet for approval. The policy will be tabled in the upcoming Assembly Session for approval, he further said. He was speaking to the media after attending a video conference with Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on the occasion of government completing one year in office on Monday evening. "Already, objections and suggestions for the draft on fisheries policy have been received from various quarters. Based on the suggestions and objections, the policy will be finalised. The fisheries policy will help in promoting the fisheries sector," he stated. The Minister further stated that the World Fisheries Day would be observed at Vidhana Soudha on July 30 and a book on the achievement of the fisheries sector would be released on the occasion. He affirmed that at the fisheries meeting, the funds that Karnataka would get for the fisheries sector, under Atma Nirbhar Bharat of the Union government would be discussed and the future programmes of the fisheries department would also be discussed.

Mr Poojary informed that there was a demand for fish chips, launched by Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation (KFDC) and accordingly, it has been decided to set up units manufacturing fish chips in Dakshina Kannada and Udipi districts, to cater to the demand. He

further affirmed that Dakshina Kannada district was effectively tackling the Covid-19 situation. In the last one year, works related to rural roads, drinking water supply and port have been taken up. Assistance has been provided to the fishermen. The Krishi Samman Yojane too has benefited the farmers in the district, he added.

### **Karnataka: Deep sea fishing not to resume from August 1**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/deep-sea-fishing-not-to-resume-from-august-1/article32221235.ece>

"Fishermen in Mangaluru will resume deep sea fishing tentatively from September 1. If the spread of COVID-19 does not come under control by then, it might be further delayed. A meeting of fishermen representatives here on Wednesday decided not to resume the deep sea fishing from August 1 after the 47-day fishing holiday comes to an end by this month end. It is in view of issues relating to COVID-19. Nitin Kumar, president, Mangaluru Trawl Boat Owners' Association and former chairman of Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation (KFDC), said that Mangaluru had about 1,200 boats involved in deep sea fishing. About 75% workers in them are from outside Karnataka. They are mainly from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal and Jharkhand. In the absence of train and inter-State bus facilities they are not in a position to return. Even if they return, they will have to undergo 14 days' home quarantine. Mr. Kumar said that the issues relating to transporting the marine catch are yet to be addressed. The transporters have said that the factories and exporters have not yet assured them of resuming the processing. Unless the chain from fishing to processing is re-established it would be difficult to resume fishing. He said that the fishermen in Mangaluru will meet again next month to take up certain issues with the district administration before resuming fishing from September 1. They include home quarantine for workers from outside Karnataka and maintaining social distance at the fisheries harbour. Mr. Kumar said that out of around 1,200 boats, about 900 are trawl boats each of which had about eight to 10 fishermen. Those boats went deep in the sea spending about 10 to 11 days in fishing. Representatives of Karnataka Purse Seine Boat Owners' Association, Raw and Dry Fish Merchants' Associations, and Fish Buyers' Association took part in Wednesday's meeting. This year the State government reduced the deep sea fishing ban period along coastal Karnataka from the earlier 61 days to 47 days effective from June 15. It is in view of hardship faced by fishermen due to the lockdown and COVID-19 situation. Usually, the fishing ban is scheduled from June 1 to July 31. The main objective of banning deep sea fishing during June and July is to protect fish wealth as commercially important species breed during this period. It is to prevent juvenile fishing and excessive fishing.

### **Karnataka: Comprehensive fisheries policy during next legislature session**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/comprehensive-fisheries-policy-during->

[next-legislature-session/article32206079.ece](https://www.kannadablog.com/next-legislature-session/article32206079.ece)

"Minister for Fisheries and Dakshina Kannada in-charge Kota Srinivas Poojari on Monday said that the government will come out with a comprehensive fisheries policy during the next legislature session. He was speaking to reporters here after attending the celebrations to mark one year in office of the B.S. Yediyurappa government. Mr. Poojari said that the draft of the policy was ready and the government has already considered objections to it. They would be placed before the legislature after Cabinet clearance, he added. Meanwhile, the department would celebrate the World Fisheries Day on July 30. The main programme would be held at the Vidhana Soudha attended by the Chief Minister, among other dignitaries. The department would thrash out ways and means to improving inland and marine fisheries in the State, which were at the ninth and fourth places, respectively, in the country, Mr. Poojari said. Snacks (chips) made out of fish products by the Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation have been receiving good response from consumers, the Minister said. As such, steps would be taken to establish snacks manufacturing units in coastal region too, he said. Dignitaries, including Mr. Poojari, MLA D. Vedavyas Kamath, MLC Prathap Simha Nayak, Mayor Divakar Pandeshwar, Zilla Panchayat president Meenakshi Shanthigod, Deputy Commissioner Sindhu B. Rupesh, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer R. Selvamani and others watched the live telecast of the celebrations from Bengaluru. Mr. Poojari released the publications brought out on the occasion.

**Karnataka: July 29 meet holds key for resumption of deep-sea fishing off Karnataka coast**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/july-29-meet-holds-key-for-resumption-of-deep-sea-fishing-off-karnataka-coast/articleshow/77180274.cms>

"Uncertainty shrouds resumption of deep-sea fishing off Karnataka coast with the 47-day fishing holiday ending on July 31. Fuelling this uncertainty is the prevailing Covid-19 situation in the coastal district. To tide over this situation, fishermen representatives and other stakeholders will meet on July 29 to decide if the 1,200 odd fishing boats in this coastal city will keep their tryst with the deep-sea starting August 1. "Representatives of purse seine boat owners and other stakeholders will take a call on resuming fishing at this meeting, Nitin Kumar, president, Mangaluru Trawl Boat Owners' Association,said. Around 4000 workers on the 1,200 fishing boats are migrant labourers from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal and Jharkhand. Issue of quarantine, maintaining social distancing will be the key issues to be resolved before fishing commences, he added. Noting that the possibility of fishing holiday being extended due to Covid-19 is removed, Nitin said it will be the primary duty of stakeholders to work out a SOP to ensure 'Covid-19' free fishing operations. The meeting will explore feasibility of postponing operations by some more days, he said.

Around 900 of the 1,200 boats are trawl boats with a crew complement of 8-10 members

spending around 10 to 11 days in deep-sea fishing, he noted. The 100-odd purse seiners with a crew complement of 25-30 fishermen are daily runners who return with their catch at the end of the day. The 200 other mechanized boats which have a crew complement of up to five fishermen are out at sea for a maximum of three days and fish in shallow waters, he said. The important issue of handling and transportation of fish catch once it lands in the port also must be addressed in view of Covid-19 restrictions. The pandemic saw the fisheries department pare the deep-sea fishing ban off the state's coast from 61-days hitherto to 47-days starting June 15 to mitigate hardships that the fishermen faced due to the lockdown from March 25. The ban usually starts from June 1. Mechanised boats with inboard/outboard engines of 10hp and above are not permitted to fish during the holiday, a facility extended to boats fitted with engines of up to 10hp, Nitin explained.

### **Karnataka: Sea erosion continues at Kaup, Padubidri**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/mangaluru/sea-erosion-continues-at-kaup-padubidri-863261.html>

"Sea erosion continued at Padubidri, Ermal, Ucchila and Kaup beaches on Sunday. The sea erosion at Padubidri beach had intensified, further damaging a concrete retaining wall and interlock. An electricity pole is also facing the threat of being away. Kaup beach is also facing the threat of sea erosion. High tides have been lashing the shore and the concrete retaining wall. The sea erosion at Kadipatna too has increased. On the other hand, the rain had receded in Dakshina Kannada on Sunday. Owing to high tide, the road connecting Ucchila end point in Someshwara is facing the threat of getting washed away. The sea erosion has intensified at Kaiko, Kilerianagara, Seaground, near Someshwara Temple and Someshwara Ucchila. The waves threatened to wash away a few houses also. The boulders dumped to check sea erosion were being washed away by the strong waves.

### **Karnataka: Fisherfolk not happy with Kisan Credit Scheme**

[https://m.timesofindia.com/city/mangaluru/fisherfolk-not-happy-with-kisan-credit-scheme/amp\\_articleshow/77026170.cms](https://m.timesofindia.com/city/mangaluru/fisherfolk-not-happy-with-kisan-credit-scheme/amp_articleshow/77026170.cms)

"A move by the NDA government in its second term to set up a separate ministry for fisheries has not satisfied the fisherfolk, at least in this part of the state. This was apparent in a high-powered meet that minister for fisheries Kota Shrinivas Poojari convened to discuss situation of coastal fishing. Fishermen were not happy with terms under which loan has been made available to them as part of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme. Fishermen and dairy farmers were brought under the ambit of KCC scheme in May 2019 which was meant exclusively for farmers growing crops. Fishermen community leader Naveen Bangera said KCC is a non-starter. With maximum credit of Rs 2 lakh available under KCC with a requirement that

collateral be provided for loan above Rs 1.6 lakh as per RBI norms, there are not many takers. Most fishermen invest more than the Rs 2 lakh credit limit, he said.

“We are not allowed to pledge our house as collateral for they are in the CRZ areas as they have been traditionally there since many years, he said. Yashpal Suvarna, another leader said fishermen must be considered on par with farmers and given liberal credit to carry out what is a traditional and skilled operation. Ramakrishna, director, department of fisheries too averred that banks are very rigid when it comes to giving KCC for fishermen. Praveen M P, lead district manager said concept of KCC for farmers, which is to provide them with an overdraft facility for maintenance purpose as per a scale of finance determined by the district level task force committee, holds good for fishermen and dairy farmers too. As per this very scale of finance, fishermen with boats of 15-24m length are eligible for KCC limit of Rs 2 lakh, those with boats of 10-15m length for credit limit of Rs 1.25 lakh Banks in Dakshina Kannada have disbursed Rs 2.25crore to 230-odd fishermen applicants of KCC since January this year, Praveen said. The state level task force is empowered to increase the scale of finance, Praveen said, adding it could also take a call on issue of allowing houses in CRZ area for collateral. State government could also form a trust for fishermen on lines of Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises, Praveen noted.

### **Karnataka: Lockdown and fishing ban leave traditional fishermen in the lurch**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/fishermen-face-a-double-whammy/article32094815.ece>

"Earlier it was COVID-19 lockdown and now it is ban on fishing in rivers that is affecting the fishermen community on the backwaters of Hemavati reservoir. Without being allowed to catch fish, around 60 families of Shillekyatas are struggling. The Fisheries Department has issued licenses to local people to fish in Hemavati backwaters. Shillekyata families, a tribal community, have put up tents on the banks of the backwaters in Chowdahalli, Konapura, Shettihalli and other villages in Hassan taluk. Their only source of income is fishing with no land as back up. “If we don't catch fish, our family members have to remain hungry, said Subramanya, a member of the community. During lockdown, they could not catch fish. Even if some people could, they had no opportunities to sell. “We ran out of all our savings during lockdown. A few families with ration cards got foodgrains from the State government. Now, again ban has been imposed, making our lives difficult, said Mr. Subramanya. Representatives of the community met the officials and placed their demand to allow fishing, but in vain. “As a policy, fishing is banned in all waterbodies in June and July.

This is a breeding season for fish. If we allow catching fish during these two months, it would

affect the yield in the next season. We cannot allow fishing violating the policy, R. Vivek, Senior Assistant Director of the department, told The Hindu. The officers in the department maintain that the fishermen community had difficulty during lockdown only for a short duration. “Later there was a huge demand for fish when the sale of chicken was stopped due to bird flu scare, said the officer. ‘Reality hidden’ However, the fishermen reject the officers' statement. “The officers are hiding reality. The police did not allow movement of the public during lockdown. How can one expect fishermen to carry fish to the market? Moreover, the market itself was closed down, pointed out Mari Joseph, an office-bearer of Dalit Human Rights Forum. The fishermen have demanded the State government allow them to fish, or else provide them food and other essential items till the ban is lifted.

### **Karnataka: Non-availability of spare parts from China further cripples fishing sector in coastal districts**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/karnataka-non-availability-of-spare-parts-from-china-further-cripples-fishing-sector-in-coastal-districts/articleshow/76954521.cms>

"In what has turned out to be a particularly distressing sequel to the woes of lockdown grappling with which stretched the limited resources of the fishing industry in Udupi and Dakshina Kannada thin, the non-availability of spare parts for boats used for trawling, most of which are imported from China, has now added to the troubles of the sector. Fishermen in the two coastal districts are growing increasingly anxious with each passing day since the longer the wait for the spare parts for the mechanised boats, the longer they will be compelled to defer putting out to sea. In addition to key components in the machines of the boats, the nets that are used for fishing are also mostly imported from China.

The collective opinion among the anguished fishermen in the two districts is that there is an urgent need to find an alternative source for all the equipment usually purchased from China. “Any delay in making these arrangements will further dent our fortunes, they said. Records with the department of fisheries in Dakshina Kannada indicate that there are as many as 1,331 fishing trawlers, Purse Seine boats, 1,500 traditional vessels and 500 row boats in the district. Members of the fishing community voiced their concerns at a recent meeting that was jointly chaired by Dakshina Kannada MP Nalin Kumar Kateel and Karnataka minister for fisheries Kota Shrinivasa Poojari held at the zilla panchayat office on June 30. Vice-president of the All Karnataka Purse Seine Boat Fishermen's Association Naveen Bangera said that, nearly 1,000 boats in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts needed spare parts from China. “Currently we have no other source for these key components. The lifespan of the Chinese engines and their spare parts is generally two to four years. The government will now have to start thinking seriously about manufacturing these components in India, Bangera said.

Exodus of workforce The other problem that the sector is grappling with is the huge void that the exodus of labourers has left in the two districts. Most navigators and crew members are from Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, who have returned to their respective states. Owners of the fishing boats are worried since these workers are unlikely to return as long as the Covid-19 crisis lingers. "Even if the labourers return, they will have to remain in quarantine for 14 days, and fishing cannot start without the workers, who are expert repairmen, said an owner of a fishing boat in Dakshina Kannada. Nearly 40% of the workforce in the fishing sector in Dakshina Kannada is constituted by people from Tamil Nadu and Northeast states such as West Bengal, Assam. "Most of the drivers are from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Among them, drivers from Rameshwaram are much sought after considering their expertise in navigation, said another boat owner.

### **Karnataka: Fish marketing federation distributes ration kits to boat owners**

<http://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=729203>

"Karnataka fisheries is in the third position on the national level. I intend to raise it to the first position during my term, stated state fisheries minister Kota Srinivas Poojary who addressed a programme where ration kits were distributed by Dakshina Kannada and Udupi fish marketing federation to boat owners. The programme was held under the aegis of Hangarkatte and Kodibengre fisheries association on July 8. "The department intends to develop cage fishing for people returning from abroad and who have lost their jobs. Diesel subsidy from January to March is released, he said. Yashpal Suvarna, president of the federation who presided over the programme said that fishing has progressed in the administration of minister Kota Srinivas Poojary. Ration kits were distributed to more than 45 boat owners. Mechanized fishermen association president B B Kanchan, Malpe mechanized fishermen association president Ramachandra Kunder, federation director Suresh Salian, Sudhaker and Airdodi gram panchayat former vice-president Baby Salian were present. Yathish Kotian compered the programme. "An estimate of the cost of removing sludge at Kodibengre fisheries jetty has already been sent and funds are required for the work, requested Yashpal and B B Kanchan to the minister.

### **Karnataka: Diesel subsidy for mechanized boats for fishermen received – Minister Kota Poojary**

<http://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=728258>

"District in-charge minister Kota Srinivas Poojary confirmed the release of diesel subsidy for mechanized boats of fishermen. "Over Rs 22 crore and Rs 75 lac of diesel subsidy for mechanized boats of fishermen in coastal Karnataka has been received on directions from chief minister B S Yediyurappa. The state government has released a total of Rs 47 crore and Rs 75 lac including the amount of Rs 25 crore released earlier. "With this amount, the long felt

demand for diesel subsidy of fishermen will reach the beneficiaries. I thank chief minister B S Yediyurappa on behalf of fishermen in coastal Karnataka for having responded to my request during the difficult conditions caused by the coronavirus, said minister Kota Srinivas Poojary.

### **Karnataka: Sea erosion intensifies in Yermal, Padubidri areas in Udupi**

<http://www.uniindia.com/sea-erosion-intensifies-in-yermal-padubidri-areas-in-udupi/south/news/2068814.html>

"Sea erosion has intensified in Padubidri and Yermal area in Udupi as many coconut trees were uprooted and washed away due to the strong waves. The fisheries road, house of Nadipatna Harish Puthran is facing the danger of being washed away due to sea erosion, officials said on Monday. The locals alleged that they had drawn the issue of sea erosion to the notice of officials. But, no steps like dumping boulders were taken to check the problem. The building of Maheshwari Fund is also facing a threat. Fishermen are afraid that the fishing equipment and nets that are kept in the building will be lost. The sea erosion has intensified at Padubidri beach, Kaup beach and Mulooru. The waves are lashing the retaining walls. All the boulders dumped to check sea erosion were washed away at Yermal. Meanwhile, the rain which lashed Udupi and Dakshina Kannada for the past two days.

### **Karnataka: Fishermen to get QR code-based biometric cards**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/karnataka-fishermen-to-get-qr-code-based-biometric-cards/article31960060.ece>

"Cards will be made available through 'Seva Sindhu' portal of govt or Fisheries Department The Karnataka government will issue an order making the QR code-based biometric cards mandatory for fishermen. Speaking at a meeting on coastal fisheries in Mangaluru, Kota Srinivasa Poojary, Karnataka Minister for Port and Fisheries, said the government plans to introduce QR code-based biometric cards to fishermen as a safety measure. The biometric cards will be made available either through the 'Seva Sindhu' portal of the government or through the Fisheries Department, he said. When some participants urged the Minister to extend all the facilities available in Kisan Credit Card to fishermen also, Poojary said he will discuss the matter with the Chief Minister and other officials concerned. Participants have also urged the government to earmark 20 per cent of the jobs in Coastal Security Police to the fishermen from the region. The Fisheries Department official said at the meeting that coastal Karnataka has around 3.28 lakh fishermen. Of them, 1.57 lakh are actively involved in fishing along the coast. The Karnataka coast has eight fisheries harbours, and 26 fish-landing centres. The region has 128 fisheries cooperative societies, one fisheries development corporation, and two fish marketing

corporations. The coastal region has 4,585 mechanised fishing vessels, 9,362 motorised boats, and 9,037 traditional country boats, he said

**Karnataka: Kodagu has huge scope for fish cultivation: Kota Srinivas Poojary**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/mangaluru/kodagu-has-huge-scope-for-fish-cultivation-kota-srinivas-poojary-853282.html>

"Noting that Kodagu has ample opportunities for fish cultivation, Minister for Muzrai, Fisheries, Port and Inland Transport, Kota Srinivas Poojary felt the need to carry out serious efforts in this regard. Chairing a meeting at Zilla Panchayat auditorium in Madikeri on Wednesday, he lauded the efforts of coffee growers who have been carrying out fish cultivation in their private ponds in the plantations. The minister meanwhile directed the officials from the fisheries department to rear the best varieties of fish in Harangi fish rearing centre and provide fingerlings to interested farmers. ""Innovative ideas with respect to fish breeding should be brought into effect,"" he said. Fisheries department assistant director K T Darshana said that a total of 1,886 hectares of area in Harangi reservoir is being utilized for fish rearing and has been handed over to Kaveri Meenugarara Sahakara Sangha. Similarly, 105 hectares in Chiklihole has been handed over to the cooperative society, through tender-cum-auctioning. There are 200 fishermen, 95 fish vendors and 2,000 fish cultivators in the district, she said.

The official said that six lakes under fisheries department, 506 lakes under various Gram Panchayats, 3,000 private lakes, nine ponds and two riversides in the district have been handed over to Kodagu Vanyajeevi Samrakshana Sangha on a contract basis. ""Sale of 4,000 kg to 5,000 kg fish takes place in the district on a daily basis. Kodagu is among the first 10 districts which have the highest sale of fish. The total production capacity of fish in the district is 3,582 tonne, as per the statistics of 2018-19,"" she added. Harangi fish rearing centre official Sachin said that ponds are being created in Harangi region. Currently, there is a demand for 40 lakh fingerlings in the district and 21 lakh fingerlings are being provided by the centre. Minister Kota Srinivas Poojary assured to provide Kissan cards to fish cultivators. Loan facility with zero percent interest up to Rs 3 lakh will be provided to fishermen. 'Complete development works soon' Conducting a review meeting of the Muzrai department, the minister directed the officials concerned to complete the development works in the temples soon. He stressed on completing the work on the proposed 'Yatri Nivasa' guest house at Bhagamandala, on priority. The minister assured to hold discussions with the health department towards giving permission for 'pinda pradana' ritual at Bhagamandala. Deputy Commissioner Annies Kanmani Joy said that Rs 1 crore has been provided by BBMP, towards the development of Bhagandeshwara-Talacauvery temple. Kodagu Zilla Panchayat CEO K Lakshmi Priya, Additional DC Dr Sneha and Assistant Commissioner T Javaregowda were present.

**Karnataka: Covid-19: Fishermen asked not to undertake fishing activities at harbour and**

### **Hoige bazaar until further orders**

<http://www.uniindia.com/covid-19-fishermen-asked-not-to-undertake-fishing-activities-at-harbour-and-hoige-bazaar-until-further-orders/south/news/2051359.html>

"Following five people related to harbour activities testing positive for Coronavirus, the Karnataka Department of Fisheries has banned fishing activities at the harbour and Hoige Bazar with immediate effect until further orders. The decision which has been taken as a precautionary measure. Fishermen have been informed not to unload or conduct any kind of fishing activity at Bunder and Hoigebazar area, official sources added.

### **Karnataka: Merchants want sale of fish banned in Mangaluru for a fortnight**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/karnataka-merchants-want-sale-of-fish-banned-in-mangaluru-for-a-forenight/articleshow/76587866.cms>

"Panic has gripped those engaged in the sale of fish at Old Port in Mangaluru following reports of a Covid-19 case being reported at the port. Members of the Fish Commission Agents' Association have demanded a ban on the sale of fish at Old Port for a fortnight. Secretary of the association K Ashraf said that they had appealed to Dakshina Kannada deputy commissioner to impose a complete ban on the sale of fish. Pointing out that fishing activity had been banned in the region owing to the climatic conditions, Ashraf told TOI, "The fish being sold at the Old Port are those coming to Mangaluru from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and even Gujarat. The fish arrive by trucks, and we have been asking the DC to ban the movement of vehicles from other states to Mangaluru. The fish must be sold once they are brought here. Stating that sale of fish was going on at other places such as Ullal, Kudroli, and BC Road, Ashraf called on the district administration to impose a blanket ban on the sale of fish to arrest the spread of the pandemic. Deputy director of the fisheries department P Parshwanath admitted to social distancing and other safety norms being tossed out of the window at the Old Port market. "Since there is a ban on fishing, those who use traditional vessels and means, venture into the sea only if it is calm. Although Section 144 of the CrPC is imposed at the Old Port, people forget all about social distancing when the fish arrives, Parshwanath said.

### **Karnataka: Fish trade suspended for ten days at Bunder**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=722949>

"Wholesale fresh fish dealers have decided to suspend business for the next ten days. K Ashraf, president of the association of Mangaluru deck fresh fish dealers and commission agents on Tuesday has written a letter in this regard to the district deputy commissioner. In the letter, Ashraf stated that the businesses will be suspended as several traders who conducted their business in the Bunder area are reportedly suffering from coronavirus symptoms such as cough,

cold and fever since the last few days. Some of the traders have got themselves admitted in hospitals for treatment. The wholesale dealers have requested the deputy commissioner to prevent and ban unauthorized traders from carrying out the fishing business from nearby areas of Ullal Kotepur, Hoige Bazar, Bengre, Farangipete, near VRL, Kudroli, Kallapu, Maripalla and other places during their absence.

### **Karnataka: Saline land may be used for fisheries**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/saline-land-may-be-used-for-fisheries/article31854547.ece>

"Minister for Fisheries Kota Srinivas Poojari has said that the State government is contemplating using around 1.20 lakh hectares of saline land for rearing fish. Addressing presspersons after a review meeting here on Wednesday, he said that because of the excess use of water, 1.20 lakh hectares of land in the State has become saline. Therefore, the land is unfit for cultivation. "We have been receiving proposals from many farmers and experts to convert such land for rearing fish, he said. Mr. Poojari made it clear that the proposal is only at a nascent stage as no final decision has been taken yet. He added that only after holding wider consultation with experts, the government will reach a conclusion. He said that a project worth Rs.3,500 crore is in the offing for the development of fisheries and welfare of the fishermen. Admitting that inland fisheries is still too weak compared to sea fishing in the State where fishing is taken up in around 320 km of coastal area, the Minister said that emphasis is needed to be given to improve inland fisheries also. On the demand of several fishermen to waive loan they have borrowed, the Minister did not give any commitment, stating that the financial condition of the State is not conducive because of the prolonged lockdown. On the demand for upgrading the Fisheries Research Centre located at Bhutanal tank area here and establishing a diploma college for fisheries, Mr. Poojari said that he would look into it. About using the only government-run aquarium for selling ornamental fish at subsidised rate here, Mr. Poojari said that he would send officials to conduct a survey and submit a report before taking any action. Earlier, he said that the Union government has decided to extend Kisan Card even to fishermen where they would be given loan up to ? 3 lakh at 3 % rate of interest. He said that the loan would help fishermen to buy equipment for fishing.

### **Karnataka: Prices likely to fall as fish catch surges in DK coast**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/prices-likely-to-fall-as-fish-catch-surges-in-dk-coast/articleshow/76238852.cms>

"Dakshina Kannada district has recorded an increase of over 11,000 tonnes in fish catch in 2019-20 compared to previous year. In 2018-19, the district had recorded 1,59,852 tonnes of fish catch worth Rs 1,716 crore. In 2019-20 the fish catch was 1,71,692 tonnes valued at Rs 2,031

crore. The district recorded an increase of 11,840 tonnes in fish catch in the last fiscal year ended on March 31. The difference in the quantity of fish catch and the value is very large compared to the statistics of nine years ago. In 2011-12, the quantity of fish catch was 1,37,435 tonnes valued at Rs 641crore. The fish catch has increased by 34,257 tonnes and the value jumped to Rs 1,390 crore between 2011-12 and 2019-20. The increase is recorded despite fishing season being not too good for the fishermen, who had to face difficulties due to threat from Okhi, Kyarr, Maha cyclones. However, spread of Covid-19 did not affect the financial year as lockdown began in India only in the last week of March. Officials of the fisheries department expect an ease in the prices of fish due to the increase in the catch. Meanwhile, the central government has reduced the annual 61-day deep-sea fishing ban period to 47 days. Accordingly, fishermen engaged in deep-sea fishing in the Karnataka coast will get additional 14 days for activities. The new ban period along the West coast is from June 15 to July 31. Fisheries department deputy director P Parshwanath told TOI that the increased human efforts combined with technology helped fishing industry see growth in the district. Fishing effort has increased and the investment in the industry also gone up. Similarly, the number of boats and fishermen also has increased considerably. As a result, fish catch is good, he said.

### **Karnataka: 50,000 fish found dead in Karnataka's Kommaghatta lake**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/50000-fish-found-dead-in-kommaghatta-lake/articleshow/76115380.cms>

"Nearly 50,000 fish were found dead in Kommaghatta lake near Kengeri on the outskirts of the city. This is the second time that the 37-acre lake is witnessing fish kill in the last one year. Activists said there are several apparel industries and the water used to wash clothes is let into the lake along with sewage. Venkatesh V, who has acquired the tender for fishing in the lake, said: "We're witnessing this issue for the last two years. This is due to rapid development of layouts and factories around the lake. The dead fish were buried on the banks of the lake. The loss is estimated to be Rs 4 lakh. "The panchayat officials don't seem to care. Many officials come, but they just take pictures and leave, he added. "It also depends on whether the water has been tested before the fish was left inside as overcrowding also kills them. The slightest amount of sewage will create dip in the amount of oxygen in water, Ramprasad V, an expert, said.

### **Karnataka: Fishermen not keen on utilising extended fishing season**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/fishermen-not-keen-on-utilisingextended-fishing-season/article31719476.ece>

"Notwithstanding the Union and State governments extending the fishing season by a fortnight till June 15 to offset COVID-19 lockdown losses, not many fishermen are keen on taking up deep sea fishing. While the fishermen's strong conviction that marine life should be given adequate breather for breeding as well as growth was one of the reasons, a four-day cyclone warning starting Monday was also another reason for the lukewarm response from the fishermen to the extended season. Mangaluru Trawl Boat Meenugarara Sangha president Nithin Kumar told The Hindu that marine fishermen in the State had the worst fishing season in 2019-20 with a never-heard fish famine. Even if the season is extended by a fortnight, their fortunes would change little. It was prudent to leave marine life undisturbed for two months to get good catch next season starting October, he said.

Moreover, the sea becomes highly volatile at the entry to Mangaluru fishing harbour even with small weather changes in monsoon. With the monsoon in the offing, fishermen were not eager about taking a risk. Even New Mangalore Port Trust this time has refused to allow fishing boats to berth on its premises during monsoon for various reasons, including COVID-19, national security and lack of space, he said. Hence, fisherman have nowhere to go if the weather becomes rough, he said. With fishing becoming an industry, there was a large dependence on migrant workers, a majority of whom have left for their native places, Mr. Kumar said. Yet, a few short-range fishing vessels with engines less than 110 hp could venture out for overnight fishing as a few workers from Uttara Kannada district have arrived in Mangaluru. Meanwhile, fisherman associations in Udupi district too have decided not to utilise the extended season. No vessel would go out from June 1; but those who have already ventured out could return till June 4, the associations have said. Dakshina Kannada Deputy Director of Fishing Parshwanath said that not many fishermen would venture out because of the cyclone warning. One has to see how many would venture out after June 5 till June 15, he said.

### **Karnataka: Fishermen want beached dredging vessel on Surathkal coast to stay put**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/fishermen-want-beached-dredging-vessel-on-surathkal-coast-to-stay-put/article31699971.ece>

"Notwithstanding environmentalists and experts concern over the continued stay of dredging vessel Bhagvati Prem on Surathkal beach, fishermen in the region want the vessel to stay put. Though it may seem strange to those staying off the marine environment, fishermen have a reason behind their argument. None of the traditional fishermen who were picking up day's catch between Surathkal and Panambur beach said they were troubled by the beached vessel when The Hindu visited the stretch. A large sand bar, approximately measuring 100 ft by 200 ft, has come up on the beach-side of the vessel after its beaching by New Mangalore Port Trust (NMPT) on October 28, 2019. The sand bar appears to have become a safe landing place for traditional fishermen, who venture into the sea in their small boats. Fishermen who feared their boats might get damaged at a time when Bhagvati Prem was beached last year, now say

they have no problem with its presence. Explaining the rationale behind their changed approach, Yatish Baikampady, CEO of Panambur Beach Development Project, said the beached vessel has been facilitating the growth of marine life around it.

The stagnant vessel that is pretty large (114 mt long and 21 mt wide) smoothens rough sea waves around it thereby forming a calm pool of water. This encourages marine life, including fish, to grow. Fishermen would naturally be happy to get good catch, he said. Such growth of marine life was also being witnessed around another dredging vessel Tridev Prem that sank 2.5 nautical miles off NMPT on September 3 last, Mr. Baikampady noted. Fishermen have been getting a good catch from the location. The presence of the vessel could also encourage tourism in the region when things become normal after COVID-19, he said, adding the coastline may not get altered drastically with its presence. Fishermen, however, were against in-situ breaking of the beached Bhagvati Prem, Mr. Baikampady said. Whoever buys the vessel in the auction being planned by NMPT should tow away the vessel. In-situ breaking of the vessel would result in multiple damage to the coastal eco-system as well as social life, he added.

### **Karnataka: Ministry of fisheries rejigs order on uniform fishing ban due to lockdown**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/karnataka-ministry-of-fisheries-rejigs-order-on-uniform-fishing-ban-due-to-lockdown/articleshow/76034296.cms>

"Ministry of fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying has altered its order of imposing a uniform ban on fisheries in the Indian exclusive economic zone (EEZ) beyond territorial waters – both on the east and west coast of the country. A decision to this effect has been taken in view of the restrictions in marine fishing activities for 17-days from March 24 to April 10 in view of the lockdown imposed across India. The ministry, in consultation with experts and the coastal states and Union territories and in view of the interests of the fishermen, has decided to supersede its order dated March 20 to impose the uniform ban.

The new ban period along the east coast will now be from April 15 to May 31 and along the west coast from June 15 to July 31. Both these ban on fishing activities along the two coasts will be for a uniform period of 47 days. The traditional non-motorized units will be exempted from this uniform fishing ban imposed in Indian EEZ beyond territorial waters, an order from assistant commissioner (fisheries) Sanjay Pandey said, adding the amendment in the period of uniform fishing will be applicable only for current year. Welcoming the new ban period, minister for fisheries Kota Shrinivas Poojari said, extending the fishing period up to June 14 will help the traditional fishermen. In a related development, IMD has warned of a likely development of a

low-pressure area over south-east and adjoining east central Arabian Sea and advised fishermen to avoid deep sea fishing activity over the region from May 31 to June 4. Indian Coast Guard district headquarters and three authorities in Panambur have requested boats already at sea to return to harbour prior to onset of monsoons and adhere to implementation of uniform fishing ban.

### **Karnataka: Deep-sea fishing ban from June 1**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/mangaluru/deep-sea-fishing-ban-from-june-1-841790.html>

"The state government has announced 61-day annual deep-sea fishing ban from June 1 to July 31, to facilitate breeding of fish. Deputy Director of Fisheries department Harish Kumar said mechanised boats and traditional boats fitted with inboard or outboard engines of 10 hp and above are banned from fishing during the period. The traditional fishing boats fitted with less than 10 hp engines are allowed to carry out the fishing, he added. Action will be taken against those who violate the ban under Karnataka Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1986, and they will not be eligible for subsidised diesel for one year. The authorities have appealed to the stakeholders to cooperate keeping in mind the interests of fisheries sector. Monsoon is the breeding season for fish which lay eggs along the coast during the season. Thus most of the fish are likely to be caught easily in nets. The reckless fishing during monsoon will adversely affect fish catch once the fishing season resumes. Last fishing season was not good for the fishermen. Due to Okhi, Kyarr and Maha cyclones, fishermen lost several days of fishing. Further, the lockdown announced to check the spread of Covid-19, led to early ending of the fishing season. Though fishing season had commenced on August 1 in 2019, owing to the protest by the fish meal industries, the fishermen incurred a huge loss. Owing to the Covid-19 lockdown, the fishing was banned. Though fishermen were allowed to carry out traditional fishing in the month of April, the poor catch affected the sector. Further, labourers engaged in fishing started returning to their states from April 26. More than 150 buses had ferried labourers from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and other states to their respective states. The Shramik special trains also helped the stranded fishermen labourers from Odisha and Jharkhand to return to their native places. Fishermen leaders said that number of boats too have increased which meant that the available fish would be shared among the boats. The vagaries of nature and the lockdown have delt severe blow to the fisheries sector. Compared to last nine years, the fish catch in Dakshina Kannada was more in 2019-20. Till March, 1,71,692 tonnes of fish were caught.

### **Karnataka: Coastal residents now feast on prawns from Raichur**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=710872>

"People from coastal Karnataka districts like Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Uttara Kannada

and also Mumbai in Maharashtra get supply of prawns from Raichur now. Young farmers from Devusugur village of Raichur taluk, Sarvesh Rayudu, Sathish Doddi, Venkatesh Bhootapalli, Suresh Patil and Rajkumar Varapete took up the challenge of undertaking prawns culture on the banks of River Krishna and have succeeded in their effort. It has been six months since they came together and dug 12 huge pits in 12 acres of field in which prawns were raised. They spent Rs 1.2 crore for this purpose. They began to raise the fingerlings in December last year and within six months, they have recovered half of their investment. When they were about to market the prawns in April this year, lockdown was clamped. There was huge demand for prawns from Raichur from coastal Karnataka district where fishing was suspended. The farmers confess that they have sold prawns valued at Rs 70 lac so far.

Their prawns are liked by the people of coastline. Prawns are dispatched by them every Wednesday and Sunday. The district administration and horticulture department have issued passes to them. Every kilogram of prawns commands a price between Rs 300 and 500. They get daily price chart of prawns online from Mumbai every day. Sarvesh Rayudu explained that they had seen farmers undertaking prawns culture at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh. "We hired 18 workers from Andhra Pradesh to monitor the activity. We are getting online booking for prawns every day," he revealed. He said that locally they are able to sell one and half tonne of prawns very week. The remaining prawns are being dispatched elsewhere, he added.

### **Karnataka: Two-month fishing ban along Karnataka coast to begin on June 1**

<https://www.indiatvnews.com/news/india/karnataka-coast-annual-two-month-fishing-ban-to-begin-on-june-1-618921>

"The annual two-month monsoon trawling ban along the Karnataka coast will come into force from June 1, as per the notification issued under the Karnataka Marine Fishing (regulation) Act. All fishing activities with mechanised and traditional boats using inboard or outboard engines of over 10 HP capacity using nets or other means has been banned from June 1 to July 31. The ban is not applicable for fishing with traditional and country boats which use engines of less than 10 HP capacity. Fishing boats which violate these orders and the fishermen concerned face the risk of being punished as per the Marine Fishing Act 1986, besides losing diesel subsidy for a period of one year. The order, issued in the interest of all the fishermen in coastal areas, has to be followed by all the fishermen, a release from the office of the Dakshina Kannada district fisheries deputy director here said.

### **Karnataka: Govt bans entry of people from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu till May 31**

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/india/karnataka-govt-bans-entry-of-people-from-gujarat-maharashtra-kerala-tamil-nadu-till-may-31>

"The Karnataka government on Monday banned entry of people from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala and Tamil Nadu till May 31. Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa while addressing media said, ""We have decided not to allow entry of people from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala and Tamil Nadu till May 31."" This came after Yediyurappa held a meeting with state ministers and senior government officers to discuss the guidelines issued by the Centre regarding the fourth phase of nationwide lockdown. ""State road transport corporation buses in Karnataka and private buses will run. Strict lockdown measures in containment zones and economic activities will be permitted in other areas. Sundays will be total lockdown across the state. Home quarantine will be strengthened,"" he added. The Chief Minister further said that all shops will be allowed to open and all trains running within the state will be permitted. The central government on Sunday extended the ongoing COVID-19 induced nationwide lockdown till May 31, but with a set of new relaxations commencing from Monday. The Union Home Ministry has also given powers to States/UTs demarcate areas in Green, Orange and Red zones, which will allow them to start activities except in containment zones.

#### **Karnataka: Udupi fishermen stranded in Kerala return home**

<http://www.uniindia.com/udupi-fishermen-stranded-in-kerala-return-home/south/news/2000232.html>

"As many as 41 boats, along with fishermen from Udupi, who were stranded in Kerala due to Covid-19 lockdown, returned to Hangarakatte and Gangolli fisheries port on Sunday. The boats had remained stranded in Cheruvathur, Chombala and Kannur in Northern Kerala. Karnataka Minister for Fisheries Kota Srinivas Poojary had informed the Chief Secretary Vijayabhakar, who in turn contacted his counterpart in Kerala. The latter made arrangements for the return of the fishermen. Boat owners along with few fishermen left for Kerala in three mechanised fishing boats, to bring back the fishermen along with their fishing boats, the fishermen on returning to their villages thanked the Minister for the timely help rendered to them.

#### **Karnataka: Mechanised boat operations hit by shortage of workers**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/mechanised-boat-operations-hit-by-shortage-of-workers/article31585867.ece>

"Although the Udupi district administration permitted fishing by mechanised boats with the condition that social distancing is maintained, shortage of workers has led to just 100 mechanised boats venturing into the sea from the Malpe Fisheries Harbour here. According to the Department of Fisheries, there are a total of 1,645 mechanised boats at the Malpe Harbour,

the largest in Udupi district. The administration gave its nod to fishing by mechanised boats a week ago. But it put riders that only 39 boats should land at the harbour in a day so that social distancing was maintained during unloading and later, sale of fish. “As a result, there is no proper auctioning of fish. The rate is decided by four or five fishermen and then, fish is packed in boxes and taken out for distribution. This has hit the profits of fishermen, said president of Malpe Fishermen Association Krishna Suvarna. The mechanised fishing boats are mostly dependent on workers from Uttara Kannada district and other States. “Nearly 70 % of workers on deep sea trawlers are from Uttara Kannada district.

They have gone back and are unlikely to return because of COVID-19 pandemic. As many as 270 workers from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu also have returned to their States, he said. Assistant Director of Fisheries G.M. Shivakumar said that 415 workers at Malpe Harbour , who are from Odisha, Chhatisgarh, West Bengal and Jharkhand, had registered online as they too want to return to their native places. With the fishing season ending on May 31, the mechanised boat owners do not want to operate their boats just for a fortnight. “Earlier, the mechanised boats used to do business of about ? 6 crore daily at the harbour. The lockdown has hit them hard. We have urged the government to extend the fishing season till June 15, said Mr. Suvarna. A fishermen's delegation will be meeting Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa soon. “We want a relief package for fishermen, release of pending diesel subsidy and postponement of loan repayment by six months, he said.

### **Karnataka: Fishermen wind up season, hope for good catch in monsoon**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/fishermen-wind-up-season-hope-for-good-catch-in-monsoon/article31585951.ece>

"Traditional fishermen, numbering about 2.5 lakh along the Karnataka coast, who suffered a double whammy with fish famine and COVID-19 lockdown in the last six months, have now begun preparing for the monsoon. “Unlike the previous couple of seasons, this monsoon we hope the weather would be favourable to get sufficient catch, said B.H. Kumar, former president of Byndoor Valaya Nada Doni Meenugarara Sangha. He was among several fishermen who was winding up the season's fishing activities at Koderi Fishing Harbour abutting Yadamavinahole river in Byndoor taluk of Udupi district on Wednesday. Mr. Kumar said the Arabian Sea witnessed unusual cyclones last monsoon, preventing traditional fishermen from entering the sea. “We need toofan (storms) at regular intervals during the monsoon wherein marine life comes up following convulsions in the sea.

However, there were none last year, he said. Yet, fishermen are gearing up for a favourable monsoon this time. “We need different fishing gear for the monsoon, said Santhosh, a fisherman at Koderi. Unlike regular heavy fishing gear, fishermen use light-weight nets during the monsoon so that they can drag back the net in the turbulent weather, he explained. As such, they

were cleaning the nets and keeping them tidy for the next fishing season. Fishing holiday The State governments along the West Coast declare 61-day fishing holiday from June 1 to July 31 when mechanised vessels (trawlers, gil-netters etc.,) are prohibited from undertaking fishing to facilitate fish breeding. However, these restrictions do not apply to traditional fishermen who use either motorised (up to 10 HP) or non-motorised small boats. When marine produces are not abundantly available during fishing holiday, traditional fishermen are in an advantageous position if the weather is favourable, said Mr. Santhosh. Karnataka has about 8,500 motorised fishing boats and 8,000 mechanised fishing vessels across the three coastal districts. Fishermen, traditional as well as those in mechanised vessels, have suffered extensive losses this fishing season due to severe fish famine coupled with the COVID-19 lockdown.

### **Tamil Nadu: Stranded fishermen from Karnataka, TN return**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/stranded-fishermen-from-karnataka-tn-return/articleshow/75664524.cms>

"The state government has brought home 921 fishermen from Andhra Pradesh who were stranded in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu since the lockdown was imposed. While 236 fishermen from Malipi and Mangaluru harbours in Karnataka reached the state on Sunday morning, 685 fishermen from Tamil Nadu came by train later in the evening. "Recently, the government had prepared a list 5,034 fishermen who got stranded in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The rest of the fishermen would start coming in phases from next week, said Arijili Dasu, a fisherman-activist in the state. The fishermen brought back are from the districts of Visakhapatnam, Vizianagram and Srikakulam. They have been sent to quarantine centres for 14 days upon their return. "The government has already announced a compensation of Rs 5,000 for each of the migrant fishermen from the state who got stranded at their workplaces because of the lockdown. The total number of beneficiaries would be around 10,000, added Dasu. Earlier, the government had evacuated 4,054 fishermen from Veraval Port in Gujarat and brought them back by buses. In addition, another 48 fishermen from neighbouring Odisha have also been brought home by the state government.

### **Karnataka: Relaxation in lockdown norms – No relief for mechanised fishing**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=706821>

"Even though lockdown norms have been eased and industrial as well as financial activities are set to gain momentum again, deep sea fishing is in limbo. The worry among the fisherfolk stems from the fact that this fishing season will come to an end on May 31 and they can resume fishing only after a gap of two months since then. The district administrations have not given their nod for mechanised fishing. At the same time, the workers have returned to their homes. Therefore the sector is facing a grave problem on account of dearth of workers. After

about 5,000 migrant workers from various states left by buses and trains, the fishing sector like many others, is facing shortage of workers. The remaining workers, numbering about 500, who are found at Bunder area also are preparing to go back home. Therefore this fishing season will be marked by the absence of workers. The deep sea fishing boats undertake eight to ten days fishing trips. The fishermen have therefore approached the district administration with a request to permit mechanized boats which undertake fishing trips of single day duration. Once the permission is received, about 150 boats may take to waters with the support of people from Ullal and Bengre areas. Another big question mark staring the fishermen in the eye is the requirement to maintain social distancing. Fishing docks everywhere are known as crowded, noisy places where maintaining any kind of discipline or rule is next to impossible, the fishing community points out. Deputy director of fisheries of Dakshina Kannada district Harish Kumar, said that chances of permitting deep sea fishing are remote as the district is in orange zone. Fishermen leader Nitin Kumar, feels that some sort of fishing activity can be undertaken even if single day fishing boats are allowed to function now.

### **Karnataka: CM assured to offer immediate help to stranded fishermen**

<https://www.thedispatch.in/karnataka-cm-assured-to-offer-immediate-help-to-stranded-fishermen-tdp-chief/>

"Around 300 Andhra Pradesh fishermen are stranded on the coast of Malpe village in Udupi district. "Karnataka CM has responded very positively and assured to offer the stranded fishermen immediate help. The fishermen hail from Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh. Yediyurappa has also said that their team was also contacting Andhra Pradesh authorities to safely bring them back to their home state, Naidu said in a statement on Twitter. In a separate letter to Yediyurappa, Naidu lauded the tremendous efforts that the government of Karnataka has been putting to fight COVID-19 and expressed his solidarity with the people there in this critical time. Naidu said that many Telugu people that have migrated to other states for work were facing various problems due to the COVID-induced lockdown. "In this backdrop, I would like to bring to your notice that around 300 fishing folk from Srikakulam District are stranded in Malpe Village, Udupi District, Karnataka. Their families, relatives and well-wishers are deeply worried for their safety and well being, Naidu said. Those families and on his own behalf, he would appeal for sending the stranded fishermen back to their respective homes. "In case that is not possible, I request you to provide them with shelter, food, water, medical aid and other essential commodities until the end of COVID lockdown, TDP chief said in a letter.

### **Karnataka: Boats from Bhatkal sent back after Gangolli fishermen raise objection**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=705634>

"Fishermen had verbal arguments and fist fights at Gangolli fishing port of Byndoor taluk over boats that had come from Bhatkal. Eventually, the boats that arrived from Bhatkal were sent back. Eight boats had arrived from Bhatkal to Gangolli. Due to lockdown, arguments ensued between the fishermen of Bhatkal and Gangolli. Fishermen from Gangolli took exception to the presence of Bhatkal fishermen in the port as coronavirus positive cases are more in Bhatkal. As argument and fist fights were going out of control, officials of fisheries department went to the fishing port of Gangolli and brought the situation under control. Gangolli fishermen urged that till the lockdown is relaxed completely, outside fishermen should not be allowed inside Gangolli fishing port. Giving clarification Anjanadevi, deputy director of fisheries said, ""We got the information that eight boats are arriving to Gangolli port from Bhatkal. Immediately we informed the coastal protection force. We have come to know that around 20 fishermen of outstation districts and states were there on those boats. We have gathered all information about them. We have sent them back along with their boats. I will send information in this regard to all the fisheries officials of Uttara Kannada district.""

### **Gujarat: Covid-19 lockdown: 10,000 fisherfolk are stranded along Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka coasts**

<https://scroll.in/article/960695/covid-19-lockdown-10000-fisherfolk-are-stranded-along-maharashtra-go-and-karnataka-coasts>

"For over five weeks, even as the government exhorted citizens to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds several times a day, Yarayian Somesh had avoided using water, except when absolutely necessary. Stranded on a trawler docked off the fishing port of Veraval in Gujarat, ever since the countrywide lockdown was announced on the evening of March 24, this 18-year-old fisherman from Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh told IndiaSpend that he had just eight litres of water per day for all his needs – even while being surrounded by water. Somesh is one of an estimated 15,000 fish-workers who had found themselves marooned near landing points and harbours on India's western coast, battling physical hardships and psychological trauma when the lockdown was announced. Two have died on boats, and at least two others are known to have been injured. On April 28, Somesh, along with 4,000 other fish-workers, was repatriated to Andhra Pradesh in 54 private buses organised by the Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh governments. There are over 10,000 others who are stranded along the coasts of Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka and still need help, according to estimates by fishermen associations.

These fishers represent the human face of the ongoing turmoil in the country's fisheries sector which contributes Rs 1.75 lakh crore – \$26.3 billion, nearly equivalent to the Centre's Covid-19

relief package for the poor – to India's gross value added. The sector is now staring at lost revenues and livelihoods. Livelihoods affected The lockdown is inflicting a daily loss of Rs 224 crore on the sector, the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, the country's only national centre for research on fisheries and fish-processing, has estimated in a new report accessed by IndiaSpend, which is yet to be made public since government approval is pending. The bulk of the losses will be borne by the mechanised fishing sector. The report estimated that the mechanised sector will see daily losses in the range of Rs 197 crore while the small-scale, non-mechanised fishing sector will experience losses to the tune of Rs 27 crore a day. “Fishing has come to a halt, exports have been derailed because countries are refusing to import seafood, restaurants are shut and hence, local demand has also dipped, Ravishankar CN, director of Kochi-based Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, told IndiaSpend, explaining the cascading effect of the lockdown and the Covid-19 pandemic. The effect on livelihoods would be pronounced due to the nature of the sector in India, Ravishankar stressed. “Unlike other countries, fisheries in India is still a livelihood sector, with most people working on daily wages. It is not corporatised. As a result, daily-wage earners as well as small fishermen will be badly hit due to this disruption, he said. Fishers' associations also emphasise the impact of the lockdown and the pandemic on a workforce dominated by casually employed migrants, many from below-poverty-line families. On the Western coast, where the fishing season lasts till May 31, followed by the annual monsoon fishing ban until July 31, two months of the season have been wiped off, with no fishing, and consequently, no sales. On the Eastern coast, the ban, meant to encourage fish breeding, is from April 15 to June 15.

Many fish workers employed on the West coast are unlikely to be able to work until August 2020. No government relief The industry would face a crisis if the government does not reach out with relief measures, of which there have been none so far, said Pradip Chatterjee, convener of the National Platform for Small Scale Fishworkers, an association with 50,000 fisherpeople from 18 states. “We demand that the government pay Rs 15,000 per month per family to fishworkers to sustain them during this period, and financial assistance to help offset losses for the small-scale fishermen who own boats but will not be able to absorb these losses, said Chatterjee. Somesh, who spoke to IndiaSpend over the phone from the fishing vessel on which he lived with nine others before they were repatriated, said he has heard that workers would be paid their wages during the lockdown. “But till we get the money in our hands, no one is believing this. Chatterjee said that the association was receiving complaints from many fishworkers about unpaid wages. “As soon as fishing stopped due to the lockdown, many boat-owners stopped paying wages to their workers. This has had an immediate impact on the workers because they will be going back home empty-handed, he said. Stranded at sea “We were not given the option of returning to land when the lockdown was announced, Somesh told IndiaSpend. He and his co-workers had no choice but to remain on the 16-foot wide and 80-foot long fishing vessel, with a covered area the size of a small room and a lone toilet till the afternoon of April 28. The vessel's

owner, based in Veraval, delivered food – rice, pulses, vegetables, oil and spices – once a week, along with some 500 litres of water, which was not sufficient for their needs, Somesh said. “We got 70-80 litres of water every day between the 10 of us. Each of us had eight litres a day, with which we needed to bathe, clean and drink, he said.

A person needs between 50 and 100 litres per day to meet their basic needs, a World Health Organisation estimate shows. There are no government figures for the number of stranded fish-workers. However, fishing associations and civil society actors estimated that at least 15,000 fishworkers had been living on vessels on the Western coast since the lockdown. While some media reports have said that 4,000 workers are stranded in vessels docked off Veraval, the Andhra Pradesh Traditional Fish Workers' Union, representing the predominantly Andhra workforce, said the number is over 5,000. Most of the stranded fisherfolk work on vessels that go to the sea for multi-day fishing expeditions, ranging between 15-20 days, said Velji Masani, a boat-owner, and president of the Akhil Bharatiya Fishermen's Association. Most were out on fishing expeditions when the lockdown was announced and had to be summoned back by owners. While vessels have toilets and space for the fish-workers to rest and sleep, workers are not used to staying in them for more than a fortnight at a stretch, Masani pointed out. Many workers themselves opted to stay on their boats, not realising how long the lockdown would stretch out, he said. While stating that boat owners would pay workers for the duration of the lockdown, Masani pointed out that owners were also losing money, both because work had come to a standstill, and on the expenses they were incurring. “Each owner was spending approximately Rs 45,000-Rs 50,000 a month on getting food and water supplies to these workers. Owners are suffering tremendously too, he said. Not all boats have toilets, according to Somesh. “Some fish-workers either used the toilets on the vessels around them or went in the open, on the deck, he recalled, adding that workers were expressly forbidden from debarking when they dock at Veraval harbour, facing the landing point, to pick up their rations. When they stepped out on April 28, it was the first time in five weeks that any of these workers had stepped on land.

Masani, whose association has been coordinating with about 800 boat owners whose boats and workers had been stranded along the Gujarat coastline at various landing points – from Porbandar to Mangrol, Okha, to Diu and further south, in Navsari and Valsad – said he worries that physical hardships aside, the lockdown is now having a deep psychological impact on fish-workers. Anxiety was a precipitating factor in the deaths of two fish-workers from Andhra Pradesh, stranded off the Veraval coast, according to Masani. Forty-five-year-old T Jagannathan, hailing from Gara Mandalam sub-district in Srikakulam, who had stopped eating, and had become increasingly anxious about contracting Covid-19, died on April 9, TK Rahman, head of the TKFU said. K Raju, also from Srikakulam, who was only 22 years old, reportedly died of a heart attack on April 22. “His wife had recently delivered a baby, said Masani. “His colleagues told us that he kept expecting to be rescued, and became worried when this did not happen.“ Two

others are reported to have fallen off their vessels and grievously injured themselves. “As days stretch into weeks, the workers are getting restless. Often, some stop eating, and others fight amongst themselves. The frustration is starting to show, Masani said. Since their mobile phones worked, the stranded workers were able to speak to their families. However, they had little else to do, as they huddled together, five to 15 in a vessel, in the only roofed area, housing the steering wheel as well as other electronic equipment, to shelter from daytime temperatures crossing 30 degrees Celsius. State governments have neglected fish-workers during the lockdown, Chatterjee said.

They had not adhered to the Union Health Ministry's directions to state governments asking them to ensure proper living conditions for migrant workers, house them in relief camps/shelter homes, and also arrange counselling for mental health problems. He said his organisation was planning to move the National Human Rights Commission to draw attention to the plight of fish workers. However, following the two deaths, political pressure started building on the Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat governments, asking them to repatriate these fishworkers. Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi had asked the government to move the fishworkers to a relief camp, whereas former Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu had urged the Gujarat government to rescue the workers. Initially, media reports last week had indicated the governments were likely to repatriate the stranded Andhra Pradesh fishers by cargo ships, after conversations between the chief ministers of the two states. However, Masani said that local boat owners expressed their displeasure to the Gujarat government about this plan. “Cargo ships are expensive and they would take about eight days to reach, whereas buses would take about two days. Hence, we urged the government to consider buses instead of the ships, says Masani. Unorganised labour The fisheries sector is a major employer in India, providing a livelihood to over 16 million people. Over the past five years, the sector has seen a steady growth of over 6% in its production. In 2017-'18, it produced 12.59 million metric tonnes or MMT of fish, up from 9.40 MMT in 2012-'13, according to the Handbook on Fisheries Statistics, 2018, produced by the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husband and Dairying. The report pegged the sector's contribution to the gross value added in 2017-'18 at Rs 1.75 lakh crore.

### **Karnataka: Corona scare: Fish trucks from Maharashtra cause of concern for Udupi**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=703555>

"Trucks laden with fish arriving from outstation states are causing concern in the green zone district of Udupi. People are urging the administration to ban these trucks in order to contain the spread of coronavirus pandemic. Unscientific light fishing is being conducted in the deep seas of Ratnagiri of Maharashtra and Goa, due to which the fishermen are getting huge cache of fish. Fish merchants of Udupi are competing with one another for that fish. Trucks from Kundapur, Trasi, Gangolli and Udupi are going to fetch fish from outstation states and sell the same in Uttara Kannada and Udupi districts. The drivers and cleaners of these trucks are

locals. The public of Udupi is scared that these drivers and cleaners may bring the infection from outstation states. Goa state does not allow trucks carrying fish from Maharashtra. Now the trucks are entering the district of Udupi through Kolhapur-Hubballi-Yellapur-Ankola-Bhatkal-shirur route. Goa trucks are entering the district through Karwar. Nearly 60 outstation trucks are entering the district carrying fish from outstation states. In Maharashtra, till Friday, 11,506 people have been infected with coronavirus. The drivers and cleaners of these fish trucks are in the ice plant in the day time and visit their houses in the night. In some areas locals have had arguments and fights with these people also.

The locals are accusing that the owners of fish trucks are offering double salary and perks to drivers and cleaners and that is why they are going to outstation states to bring fish to the district. Raghavendra Ganiga, member of Gujjadi gram panchayat says, ""All connection with a red zone state like Maharashtra which is hit hard by coronavirus should be snapped. Traditional boat fishing is being carried out in the district. That is enough for local consumption. We are under panic from the local drivers and cleaners who bring fish from outstation states. We have given information to MLA as well as local administration. Mumbai fish truck movement should be banned within the district.""

### **Karnataka: Migrant fishworkers are charged for the usage of toilet and bath facilities at Mangaluru**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/improvements-sought-at-mangaluru-fish-landing-centre/article31470011.ece>

"A team of experts from the College of Fisheries in Mangaluru, which undertook a field survey at Old Mangaluru Port (the major fish landing centre in Dakshina Kannada district), has suggested the need to improve toilet facilities to migrant labourers at the port. Shivakumar Magada, Professor and Head of Department of Aquatic Environment Management at the college, who led the survey team, told BusinessLine that the landing centre harbours 1,337 trawl boats, 57 purse-seine boats, 1,420 motorised boats and 534 traditional boats. Around 1.5 lakh people are engaged in fishing and related activities that are directly or indirectly connected to the landing centre. Apart from fishermen from the district, labourers from states such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Odisha and Chhattisgarh are also engaged in fishing activities in the district, he said. Recalling the team's interactions with the migrant workers, he said 400-500 workers from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Tamil Nadu are stranded in Old Mangaluru Port. Though the Boat Owners' Association has been providing meals to these migrant workers every day, the team observed the lack of adequate toilet facilities at Old Mangaluru Port.

Only two toilets are operational there, and there is a big rush during the morning hours. Workers are, therefore, forced to defecate in the open in isolated areas there, he said. The team suggested that the State government and other agencies step in to enhance basic facilities at the fish-landing

centre. Users should not be charged for the usage of toilets, he said. Facilitate return The migrant workers, especially those who are away from their families, are also facing the stress of separation. The team which discussed its observations with the Dean of the college, Senthil Vel, and other faculty members has suggested that the government grant permission to the migrant workers to reach their home States after the lockdown. He said it would be appropriate to provide them with alternative income-generating activities such as net making and net mending for the time being. Magada said the government allowed the operation of traditional fishing boats in mid-April. This has given a little breathing space to the fishing community. At least 20,000-30,000 people used visit the port at any given time during the normal fish-landing period earlier, he added.

### **Karnataka: Fishing resumes in Uttara Kannada, boats set sail on Arabian Sea**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hubballi/fishing-resumes-in-uttara-kannada-boats-set-sail-on-arabian-sea/articleshowprint/75358187.cms>

"The fisherfolk in the coastal district of Uttara Kannada have had, in more ways than one, a very dry past month. The curbs on fishing activity during the lockdown has severely impacted their livelihood, but the relaxation in the norms by the Karnataka government has ushered in a slim ray of hope. Fishermen in Karwar returned to the Arabian Sea to resume traditional methods of fishing on Friday after a forced hiatus. In addition to the traditional boats, small mechanical vessels have been permitted to venture into the sea at all the major ports such as Majali, Karwar, Keni, Kumta, Honnavar, Bhatkal and Murudeshwar across Uttara Kannada. Deputy director of the department of fisheries P Nagaraju said that as many as 1,514 boats waded into the sea along the Uttara Kannada coast on Friday. "In all, the catch reported across the district came up to 5,638kg, all of which was sold locally, Nagaraju added. The department has stipulated that fishing will be permitted as long as those involved practice social distancing. This entails sale of catch immediately, and curbs on the number of people who can assemble at the market. The department has made it clear to both the fishermen and the merchants at the markets that crowds cannot be allowed to gather for purchase of fish. In addition to easing the hardships of the fishermen, the lifting of restrictions on the activity will be greeted with pleasure by the residents of the district, for many of whom fish is a staple diet. For the past month, they have been forced to pay enormous sums to purchase freshwater fish.

### **Karnataka: Fishing dock abuzz with activity without social distancing, masks**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=699576>

"Fish vendors jostled to buy fish at the fisheries dock at the Bunder area here. During the time the fish stock is marketed, neither masks are worn by the vendors nor social distancing is followed. As deep sea fishing has come to a standstill here, fish from other states gets supplied in the city. The auctions take place from 2 to 7 am every day. Retail vendors go to the Bunder area to buy fish but there are allegations that the vendors do not follow precautionary measures to stop the proliferation of the pandemic. The district administration has provided a facility for auctioning of fish on the road leading to the dock. Enough lighting arrangement has been made to facilitate trade at night. About 25 huge fish trucks from other states arrive here. Vendors come here with their mini trucks or tempos to buy fish. One of the auctioneers, Majeed, confessed that it is difficult to maintain social distance as about 500 fish vendors gather here and the road is narrow. He stressed that it would be convenient if the police could control the crowd.

Even people who travel between the city and Bengare from morning to noon here face jam-packed conditions in the boat that carries about 30 people at a time making the social distancing impossible. Locals say that there are no policemen to regulate the crowd. Even the police vans which arrive, warn the people to follow norms from a distance before proceeding further. They say that as soon as the van moves away, the people crowd the area again.

#### **Goa and Kerala: Fishermen crossing into Karnataka waters, violating ban'**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=698376>

"There is ban on deep sea fishing in Karnataka due to the coronavirus pandemic lockdown. However, it has come to light that fishermen from Goa are engaging in deep sea fishing in the northern territorial waters of Karnataka. In addition, it has been alleged that fishermen from Kerala have also been fishing on the southern territorial water area of Karnataka. The fishermen of Karnataka are questioning the administration whether the acts of Goa and Kerala fishermen amount to violation of lockdown rules or not. In Karnataka, only traditional fishing is allowed as of now. However, fishermen from Goa are carrying out light fishing in areas of Gangolli in the taluk for the four or five days during the night, it is alleged. It is also learnt that from the south, fishermen of Kerala are also violating the territorial water boundary and entering the waters of Karnataka. Mohan Karwar, president of Karwar Purse Seine fishermen's association says, ""Deep sea fishing is allowed in the state of Goa. I have information about Goa fishermen carrying out banned light fishing in the territorial waters of Karnataka for the past four or five days."" Ramesh Kundar, president of Gangolli Purse Seine fishermen's cooperative society questioned the authority saying, ""We are aware that the fishermen from Goa and Kerala are entering into territorial waters of Karnataka. Do they not have the restriction that is put on us?""

Responding to the issue, R Chethan, SP, Udupi district coastal protection police force said, ""We do not have any information of fishermen from Goa and Kerala carrying out fishing in waters of Karnataka. If our fishermen or any other person has information in this regard, they can pass on the same to us. We will investigate the matter. We have nine coastal protection force police stations at Mangaluru, Hejamadi, Malpe, Gangolli, Bhatkal, Honnavar, Kumta, Belekeri and Karwar in the three districts of Udupi, Dakshina Kannada and Uttara Kannada. Patrolling is carried out everyday in all the places."" Checkposts have been opened at inter-district and inter-state borders. People are allowed only if it is really needed, he said.

### **Karnataka: Fish from traditional fishing in great demand in Udupi**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=697007>

"Traditional fishing has started in the district after the state government gave the go ahead. The fishermen went into the sea before dawn and have come back with catch of around Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000. The fishermen are following the social distancing rule set by the government and only less than five people are going in a boat for fishing. Revenue department and police have instructed the fishermen not to sell the fish for high price than usual. This has brewed dissent among some of the fishermen. One of the fishermen said, ""We follow the rules of the government and catch the fish. But we are not happy by the instructions of the government that we should not sell fish at higher price. It is difficult for us to survive if the fish is sold for the cost price."" Finally the fishermen who were sitting at home since days have started work. The fish lovers of the district are also eager to taste the catch as fish is staple diet of coastal districts.

### **Karnataka; Traditional fishing begins on the coast**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/traditional-fishing-begins-on-the-coast/article31325249.ece>

"All country boats which are also called traditional fishing boats have been permitted to venture out for fishing in the coastal belt, according to Minister for Fisheries, Ports, Inland Transport and Muzrai Kota Srinivasa Poojary. In a statement here the Minister said that there are about 14,000 traditional fishing boats in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada districts. Fishermen will have to ensure social distancing, while selling fish to contain the spread of

COVID-19, he said. Sources said that fishermen have been asked not to sell fish in the Old Port in Mangaluru. Instead, they have been asked to sell them at other designated places along the coast where crowding will be less. The State government has, however, not given permission for deep sea fishing by mechanised boats.

**Karnataka : No fish to eat even for fishermen**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/no-fish-to-eat-even-for-fishermen/article31296904.ece>

"Fish, the staple food for a majority of coastal people, has been missing from the plates ever since declaration of the lockdown to combat COVID-19. Its absence is so pronounced that even fishermen, already bogged down by fish famine, were unable to have it in their menu. The district administrations of three coastal districts - Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada - imposed a ban on deep sea fishing from March 23 itself and cut off diesel supply to vessels. It was aimed at preventing large gatherings of buyers at 'dhakkes' (fish landing points). Since then mechanised vessels have not ventured out, thereby drastically reducing supply of marine produce not only in the coast, but also across the State. While traditional fishing is on in Uttara Kannada and Udupi districts, Dakshina Kannada district on April 4 said it cannot allow even motorised boats for conventional fishing for the fear of entry of people from Kerala to Mangaluru. Since State borders were sealed to prevent spread of COVID-19, there were instances of people from Kerala landing in Mangaluru through the sea route.

Shobendra Sasihihlu, President of Sasihihlu Fishermen Cooperative Society at Sasihihlu close to Udupi district border, told The Hindu that just a few conventional boats venture out in the early morning and come out with almost no catch. The famine has ruined the fishermen community, he regretted, adding even fishermen were unable to take home fish for their meal. Eighty-five-year-old Vittal Gurikar, a fishermen head from Kapu in Udupi district, said he had not seen fish famine as severe as the present one during the last eight decades. Fishermen have not seen Silver fish, Sardine, Mackerel, Kingfish, Ladyfish and such other popular varieties for long, he said. On the other hand, fish lovers in Udupi district have launched an online campaign - enkleg fish boadu (we need fish) - urging the district administration to relax conditions on fishing. Even if conventional fishermen come back with some catch, they were unable to sell it for lack of transportation and restrictions on gatherings, the campaigners said. Consequently, prices of all fish varieties across the coast have more than doubled with Sardines selling at Rs.250-300 a kg as against Rs.100-150, Mackerels at ?350-400 as against Rs. 150-200 and the like.

**Karnataka: Migrant fish workers stranded during COVID-19 lockdown, need more Karnataka government support**

<https://caravanmagazine.in/health/migrant-fish-workers-stranded-during-covid-lockdown>

"Badi Narayan is a 28-year-old crew member of NR2, a multi-day fishing trawler, that operates off the coast of Mangaluru. "We came back from our last fishing trip around ten days ago, I can't recall the exact date, he said on 2 April. Since then, the boat has been docked at the Mangaluru harbour and Narayan has been staying in it due to the 21-day lockdown imposed to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Narayan, who hails from the Ganjam district in Odisha, told me that he "wanted to go back home immediately, but I was told all the trains and bus services were shut. So, I couldn't go. He was hired on a contract basis and is currently out of work. Like Narayan, tens of thousands of migrant fish-workers are stuck in different parts of the country due to the lockdown. According to a report in the Gaon Connection, a media platform, many fish workers are also stranded at sea. "COVID-19 perfectly allows for precarious labour to just be dismissed, Siddharth Chakravarty, who works at The Research Collective and analyses fisheries policies through the lens of labour, gender and class, said. As India's migrant workers, who predominantly work on mechanised fleets, are generally not a part of unions, Chakravarty said, the responsibility falls more so on the state to handle emergencies. "Boat owners keep precarious, contract-less workers because it becomes easy for them to cut costs when the time arises, he said.

The entire marine fisheries industry has been hit by the lockdown. According to a news report in the Hindustan Times, people are throwing away fish stocks as traders, exporters, and allied businesses, such as ice plants used for storage, have shut shop. Small-scale fishers are finding it hard to sell fish in an organised manner. Nithin Kumar, who owns a mechanised trawler which operates in Mangaluru, told me he is hoping to resume fishing after the lockdown ends "but if the crew is not there then we can't function. People in the mechanised fisheries sector told me that most of their crew members are migrants who have been severely impacted. Kumar said they depend on the crew "for all the work. Migrant fish-workers form an integral part of the mechanised fisheries sector. But they are invisible and often ostracised. They work in boat yards, net-repair shops and ice-plant factories that supply ice to preserve fish. They are also employed as crew members of large boats, such as trawlers and purse seiners a boat equipped with a purse seine, a type of fishing net. Their jobs include labour-intensive work at or outside the harbour, such as loading and unloading the fish, hauling nets, ferrying fish stocks from trucks to the auction site, crushing ice, making ice and transporting stocks. As crew members of big boats, their earnings depend on the catch of each day and their location. For instance, on many boats in Mangaluru, 65 percent of the earnings go to the boat owner and the remaining is distributed among the crew. On an average, a catch worth one lakh rupees would give a crew member Rs 1,000. As workers in the mechanised sector are mostly not unionised, they can be rendered jobless at any time by their employers.

Often, migrant workers bear the brunt of unplanned measures, such as the current lockdown, as

they are dispensable. In a notice dated 29 March, the department of fisheries of Goa stated that “all the vessel owners are hereby informed that the fishing vessels after unloading their catch shall leave jetty with crew members to safe zones offshore and remain anchored. Effectively, this meant that the crew will not be allowed to get out of the fishing vessels as long as the lockdown is in place. According to a report published in the Times of India on 2 April, around twenty-five thousand fishermen were stranded in boats anchored at the Porbandar, Veraval and Mangrol port areas of Gujarat. Over four thousand were stuck in Karnataka's Mangaluru city itself at the time of the lockdown, according to Kumar, who is also the president of the Dakshin Kannada Trawl Boat Association. “Many managed to leave in time, he said. The association is providing food and shelter to about four hundred fish workers who have been stuck at the harbour. Several non-profit organisations and fish-worker unions are tracking those who are stranded and coordinating relief efforts. Dakshin Foundation, a marine conservation non-profit based in Bengaluru, is one of them. “Our protocol is to first contact the district magistrate or district collector of the place where they are from, Marianne Manuel, the assistant director of the foundation, said.

“In cases where government action is limited, we reach out to civil society. Usually, it works with a coordination between the two. Manuel said that the organisation has information of fish workers stranded in different parts of Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. Most of them are from Odisha, and some from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The non-profit is trying to help two groups in Goa. Asha Cherian, who also works at Dakshin Foundation, told me about one of the groups, of 150 to 200 fish workers from north Karnataka. The workers are living in boats just off the coast at Betul, in South Goa. There are thirty–forty workers on each boat, which are not docked at the jetty. The owners of the boats have given the crew instructions to stay at sea and supplied them with barely enough dry rations, Cherian said. As per the information gathered by the Dakshin Foundation, the fish workers have not been offered any extra health and safety precautions to combat COVID-19. The workers have been told that they can return to the dock after the lockdown period is over.

The 29 March notice from the fisheries department of Goa placed the onus of providing the crew with ration on the boat owners. Manuel said, “There are many cases where the boat owners have stepped in to take responsibility, and many cases that they haven't. According to her, another group of about two hundred and sixty fish workers from Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand are stranded in Old Goa. The owners of their boats have provided them with accommodation and basic essentials like food, water and sanitation kits. Manuel said that the foundation has “just scratched the surface and is trying to get more information from the ground. On the other hand, two hundred and fifty daily-wagers from Kallakurichi, a town in Tamil Nadu who worked in ice plants for the Mandovi Fisherman Marketing Cooperative Society in Goa were fired post the lockdown, according to Jesu Rathinam, the convener of Coastal Action Network, a forum that works to protect the rights of coastal communities. They were stuck

without sufficient ration, she said. The National Fishworkers Forum, a federation of trade unions of independent and small scale fish-workers, had found out about this and alerted Rathinam, who is also the director of a Tamil Nadu-based non-profit SNEHA. According to her, she contacted the Kallakurichi district administration, which got in touch with the government in Goa, and started the process of supplying basic essentials to the stranded group.

Chakravarty said that the “contract-less seasonal employment model ensures that owners can bypass legal responsibility to maintain non-contracted workers, though it would be morally upon them to maintain and retain employment. He added, “The state has to step in, which it has. But it needs to put in more effort since the lockdown isn't planned keeping migrant fish-workers in mind. On 28 March, the fourth day of the lockdown, the union ministry of fisheries sent an advisory asking all state governments and administrations of union territories “to ensure that adequate food, water shelter, essential sanitary supplies in light of Covid 19 and wages are continued to be made available as per the directives issued by various central Ministries and State Governments. The letter also asked boat owners not to terminate the fish workers' contracts, and to ensure that their families received supplies of ration. However, as fisheries is a state subject, the mantle to implement such requests lies upon the state governments. To soften the economic blow to the sector, the union ministry sent letters to the state departments on 26 and 30 March, requesting details of fish workers in their states, so that relief measures could be worked out. In the letter dated 30 March, it mentioned “one of the pre-requisites would be the availability of aadhaar linked bank account for direct transfer of benefit.

The National Fishworkers Forum asked the government to scrap this prerequisite. “Not everyone has Aadhaar cards and bank accounts, especially the migrant fish-workers who are daily wagers, T Peter, the general secretary of the forum, said. “This is a time of crisis, and we would like them to ensure that everyone gets relief. Meanwhile, Narayan told me that he is “getting depressed. He spends his time eating, sleeping and playing PUB-G, a popular game, on his phone. On 1 April, he took two of his mates to a government hospital because they showed signs of a fever. They were discharged by the doctors who said they were fine. “Now, everybody is scared that they have coronavirus, he said. “I am tired and just want to go home to my family.

### **Lockdown could have long-lasting impact on fishing industry in Karnataka**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/lockdown-could-have-long-lasting-impact-on-fishing-industry/articleshow/74879074.cms>

"The forced fishing holiday due to the 21-day lockdown will have a long-lasting impact on the fishing industry which is already dented by lesser catch this year. With investments already made, extension of the lockdown could end the fishing season. Fishermen fear they will be unable to resume operations this season if the lockdown extended as the industry largely depends on labourers from other states. The region has witnessed a steady influx of migrant

labourers from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar and they may not return immediately. Umesh Karkera Kulai, boat owner and honorary president, Purse Seine Boat Owners Fishermen Association, said, “When compared to the previous year, there is 30% catch reduction this year. Currently, about 3,000 trawlers and purse seine boats have been anchored at the Old Port. Even if the lockdown period ends, fishing activity will depend on the return of labourers, he said. Harish Kumar, deputy director (in-charge), fisheries department, said over 40,000 people in Dakshina Kannada are affected due to the lockdown. This includes labourers, boat owners, ice plant workers, marketing, fisherwomen and workers involved in works like net mending and transportation, he said. Kumar said a report on the impact of the lockdown will be submitted to the government.

The fisheries sector provides livelihood to a large section of economically backward people in the state and contributes to the nutritional security, employment generation and foreign exchange earnings. According to the Marine Fisheries Census, 2010, Karnataka supports a coastal populace of 1,67,429 comprising 30,713 fishermen families.

The marine fishing sector in the state has been turbulent during the last decade due factors such as declining catch, imbalance in economic returns between the sectors and high production targeted innovations in fishing practices. An opportunity to study the impact Experts feel that the lockdown will help in the reduction of fishing stress. Dr Prathibha Rohit, scientist-in-charge, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mangaluru Research Centre, said marine fisheries and ancillary activities contribute immensely to socio-economic development. “This unexpected but necessary closure of fishing activities will therefore impact several sectors. This provides an excellent opportunity to study the impact of total closure on fishery as well as on the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. This will also provide better insight to develop appropriate management measures in the future. Though transportation and sales of fishes is included under essential and perishable commodities, the landing and auctioning of fishes is not considered safe at this point of time, she added. The closure would also highlight the need for better hygiene at fish landing centres. Large gatherings in harbours are not allowed and the supply chains are badly affected, said Dr Prathibha.

**Karnataka: Some fishermen stranded, few living inside boats since lockdown kicked in**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2020/mar/28/some-fishermen-stranded-few-living-inside-boats-since-lockdown-kicked-in-2122520.html>

"Some fishermen are stranded like in Kolar and some are living in their boats in Mangaluru unable to go their native places. Fishermen who tried to stay afloat in the times of corona are suddenly finding nowhere to go. At least this is true of Kolar where about 1,300 fishermen who left Mangaluru are stranded at Nangli checkpost in Kolar district. Reason: The Andhra Government is not allowing them to enter that state though these fishermen hail from

there. Fishermen in Mangaluru have a different story. About 2,000 fishermen from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh were sent back to their states from Mangaluru fishing harbour on Thursday, a day after fishing activities were stopped amid the nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of COVID- 19. But those who have come from Odisha and West Bengal are staying in their boats as the country is in a lockdown and there is no means of transport. In Kolar, according to sources, the fishermen from Nellore, Prakasam, Srikakulam and other places in Andhra Pradesh who used to engage in fishing in Mangaluru were issued passes by the fishery department to reach their native places. They engaged mini vans and tempos and left Mangaluru in the wee hours of Friday.

They reached the Nangli checkpost, bordering Andhra Pradesh. But when they moved towards Andhra, the AP government did not allow them to cross the border. And they have been stranded here since then. When the matter reached the district administration and the Police Department, Deputy Commissioner Satyavati and Superintendent of Police Karthick Reddy rushed to the spot. The senior officials are talking with their counterparts in Andhra Pradesh, sources said. Sources said, even Central Range Inspector General of Police Sharath Chandra spoke to senior police officers in AP to sort out the issue. The AP government is unwilling to take them due to the corona fear. The Kolar District administration and the police department have decided to accommodate /quarantine them in a nearby school, choultry and other government buildings. But the fishermen refuse to stay in the district and want to go to their native towns, leading to chaos. The DC has deputed a team of doctors to the spot and set up a medical health camp and the doctors. Meanwhile, in Mangaluru, fishing activities came to a halt on March 25 after the district administration advised fishermen not to venture into the sea. Diesel for mechanised vessels was not available due to which boat owners were restricted from venturing out.

### **Lockdown could have long-lasting impact on fishing industry in Karnataka**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/lockdown-could-have-long-lasting-impact-on-fishing-industry/articleshow/74879074.cms>

"The forced fishing holiday due to the 21-day lockdown will have a long-lasting impact on the fishing industry which is already dented by lesser catch this year. With investments already made, extension of the lockdown could end the fishing season. Fishermen fear they will be unable to resume operations this season if the lockdown extended as the industry largely depends on labourers from other states. The region has witnessed a steady influx of migrant labourers from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar and they may not return immediately. Umesh Karkera Kulai, boat owner and honorary president, Purse Seine Boat Owners Fishermen Association, said, "When compared to the previous year, there is 30% catch reduction this year. Currently, about 3,000 trawlers and purse seine boats have been anchored at the Old Port. Even if the lockdown period ends, fishing activity will depend on the return of labourers, he said. Harish Kumar, deputy director (in-charge), fisheries department, said over

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The fisheries sector provides livelihood to a large section of economically backward people in the state and contributes to the nutritional security, employment generation and foreign exchange earnings. According to the Marine Fisheries Census, 2010, Karnataka supports a coastal populace of 1,67,429 comprising 30,713 fishermen families. The marine fishing sector in the state has been turbulent during the last decade due factors such as declining catch, imbalance in economic returns between the sectors and high production targeted innovations in fishing practices. An opportunity to study the impact Experts feel that the lockdown will help in the reduction of fishing stress. Dr Prathibha Rohit, scientist-in-charge, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Mangaluru Research Centre, said marine fisheries and ancillary activities contribute immensely to socio-economic development. "This unexpected but necessary closure of fishing activities will therefore impact several sectors. This provides an excellent opportunity to study the impact of total closure on fishery as well as on the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. This will also provide better insight to develop appropriate management measures in the future. Though transportation and sales of fishes is included under essential and perishable commodities, the landing and auctioning of fishes is not considered safe at this point of time, she added. The closure would also highlight the need for better hygiene at fish landing centres. Large gatherings in harbours are not allowed and the supply chains are badly affected, said Dr Prathibha.

### **Fishing banned in Karnataka**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hubballi/fishing-banned-in-uttara-kannada/articleshow/74834655.cms>

"The Uttara Kannada district administration has banned fishing, fish farming activities and sale of fish till further notice. The order by deputy director of fisheries department in Karwar stated that fishing activities lead to the congregation of people at one place which can spread Covid-19 or coronavirus. All traditional and mechanised boats should be anchored on the shores, the order read. Meanwhile, deputy commissioner Harish Kumar warned that the vehicle registration and driving licence of people will be cancelled if they are found unnecessarily moving around the city. He said the process of identifying such vehicles through CCTV footages has begun. "Even after repeated requests to stay at home, some people have made it a habit to move around. Such people will be strongly dealt with, he said. No new positive cases of Covid-19 has emerged in the district after the lockdown. Two people who returned from the UAE had tested positive for Covid-19 in the district. The authorities are carrying out fumigation in the

district.

### **Fish from boats need immediate disposal to avoid rotting in Karnataka**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=689224>

"Fish catches that have remained in about 200 boats moored at Malpe port need to be disposed within ten days. Otherwise, the worried fishermen say, that they will rot. They have no way to handle the fish catch because of coronavirus-induced lockdown. Each of these boats have about two tonnes of fish. Over a hundred boats which left for undertaking fishing were far away near Ratnagiri when restrictions were imposed. As such, they did not get the message to return to the shore. Many of them will return during the first week of April. Already about 200 boats loaded with fish catches are waiting at the Malpe port for disposal. They are being preserved with the help of ice but they need to be cleared within ten days and there is no provision to use ice blocks again because all the 96 ice plants in the district are closed as fishing activity has been suspended. To make sure that the ice does not melt, ice plant is started for a couple of hours every day. Each of these units have capacity to produce 40 to 50 tonnes and they are in demand only when fishing is in full swing. The water that gets accumulated in the anchored boats are cleared with the help of a couple of persons. Engines are being run to pump water out. Boat owners have arranged for food and ration for the workers. The boats have not gone into the sea from Malpe shore since March 22. Malpe Fishermen's Association president Krishna S Suvarna, says that each fishing trip costs four to five lac rupees for the boats. He said that if the fishes begin to rot, it produces gas. Fish cannot be dumped into the sea as it pollutes environment and increases risk of infectious diseases. Fishermen leader Santoish Kunder, has urged the government to postpone the commencement of fishing ban from June 1 to June 15, and to provide for resumption of fishing from, August 15 in place of August 1 as the fishermen have suffered on account of cyclonic storms, fish famine, coronavirus etc.

### **Karnataka: Deep sea fishing in three districts banned till further orders**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/deep-sea-fishing-in-three-districts-banned-till-further-orders/article31148815.ece>

"Marine fish may cost more in the coming days as the government has prohibited deep sea fishing across the State's coastline from Monday till further orders to prevent assembly of large gatherings at Dhakkes (fish landing points) in view of COVID-19. The Fisheries Department in Dakshina Kannada, Udipi and Uttara Kannada districts have issued individual orders prohibiting all kinds of deep sea fishing activities. They have also stopped supply of subsidised diesel to mechanised vessels at the designated fishing harbours in these districts. The department has said that deep sea fishing activities result in gathering of large number of people at Dhakkes and go against the government directive on maintaining social distancing. Hence, it

was necessary to restrain such activities till further orders. Fishing vessels that have already ventured into the sea are allowed to return with the catch till Tuesday, the government has said. Mangaluru Trawl Boat Owners Association president Nithin Kumar told The Hindu that the Fisheries Department has cautioned against venturing into the sea. The department has also said that diesel would not be made available to mechanised vessels. It was aimed at preventing gathering of hundreds of people at Dhakkas at ports, he said and added that many traders from Kerala too arrived in Mangaluru to procure fish.

In Udupi Udupi Additional Deputy Commissioner B. Sadashiva Prabhu said that the administration had held a meeting in this regard with fishermen associations on Saturday urging them to exercise restraint. Vessels have not ventured out since Sunday and only those who have sailed out before Saturday may return to respective Dhakkas, Mr. Prabhu said. He said that workers engaged in deep sea fishing should not be sent out to their native places during the period. Coastal Karnataka Fishermen Action Committee from Uttara Kannada district vice-president K.T. Thandel said that almost all mechanised vessels in the district stopped deep sea fishing about a month ago following fish famine.

**Karnataka: The fishermen are responsible for their own transport, the fish should be cleared so that the place is not crowded**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=687984>

"Deputy commissioner (DC) of the district G Jagadeesha, in the company of superintendent of police N Vishnuvardhan, inspected shops and grocery stores in the city and issued instructions wherever felt necessary. The DC paid a surprise visit to Big Bazar over allegations of repeated violations of government orders like running the air-conditioner. The DC ordered for the arrest of manager on the spot. He further asked officials to verify increase in vegetable prices. It is said that Big Bazar had raised vegetable prices by three times. The DC also visited Malpe port and took stock of the situation. He requested fisheries association president Krishna S Suvarna to vacate the premises at once. The president and the fishermen had asked for a day's time to vacate everything. "Nearly 100 fishing boats which have gone for deep sea fishing have not returned yet. A day will be required to unload 700 tonne fish. There is no choice other than throwing the fish back to the sea if everything should be cleared today itself. Therefore, please allow us a day, they said. The fishermen said that they do not have transport to return to their houses. The DC said that the order is already in force. "The fishermen are responsible for their own transport. Therefore, the fish should be cleared so that the place is not crowded, he said. The deputy commissioner had earlier announced that Malpe port will be completely shut down from tomorrow onward. He stated that the boats which have already ventured into the sea for undertaking fishing would be allowed to return and boats cannot henceforth leave the port for fishing activity.

## **Coronavirus: Fishing activities to come to halt across Karnataka coast**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/coronavirus-fishing-activities-to-come-to-halt-across-karnataka-coast/article31141221.ece>

"Administrations of three coastal districts have advised fishermen not to venture out for deep sea fishing till the situation created out of COVID-19 scare improves. However, vessels that have already sailed into sea may return with the catch, the administrations have said. Mangaluru Trawl Boat Owners Association President Nithin Kumar told The Hindu that the fisheries department has cautioned against venturing into the sea. The department has also said diesel would not be made available to mechanised vessels. It was aimed at preventing gathering of hundreds of people at Dhakkes (fish landing points) at ports, he said adding many traders from Kerala too arrive at Mangaluru to procure fish. Udupi Additional Deputy Commissioner B. Sadashiva Prabhu said the administration held a meeting in this regard with fishermen associations on Saturday urging them to exercise restraint. Vessels have not ventured out since Sunday and only those who have sailed out before Saturday may return to their respective Dhakkes, Mr. Prabhu said.

## **Karnataka: Croaker renamed corona by fishermen**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/croaker-renamed-corona-by-fishermen/articleshow/74642015.cms>

"When Narendra Modi became Prime Minister in 2014, the humble sardines coming from the Gujarat coast were called as 'Modi Bhutai,' similarly, when Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussain was executed, 'Neimeen' or butterfish caught in the coast were rechristened after him. Now it's the turn of large size croakers or koddai in the local language, which have found a new name corona. Recently, fishermen who ventured into the sea got lucky and caught a large black spotted croaker. It is also known as sciaenidae or Jewfish. The fish is costly because its dried air bladder is used as a clarifying agent in breweries. The fishermen who caught the fish rechristened it corona. A kg of the fish fetched somewhere between Rs 1,200 to 2,000, said a fishermen at Old Port Mangaluru. A large croaker usually weighs somewhere between 7kg to 8 kg. "A month ago, a fishing boat had netted a 'corona' fish worth Rs 2 crore. The fish is mainly exported to foreign countries and buyers come from Gujarat, the fisherman explained. Pratibha Rohit, principal scientist and head, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Mangaluru, says that though fishermen have named the fish as Corona but it's the real name is croaker or koddai in the Tulu language.

However, there is a fish called *Melanotaenia Corona*, which is a freshwater fish. "It is common in the coast to name a fish according to the situation or after a person. Fishermen in Malpe dock call neimeen or butterfish as Saddam and it is still in practice for a long time. The trend started

after Saddam Hussein was executed. A few years ago, large size sardines (bhutai) were named after him. These sardines, also called as Oman sardines, were transported here from Gujarat. It looks like fishermen have renamed croaker or koddai as corona, which is now declared as a pandemic, she explained. Another marine expert, requesting anonymity, said that croaker/koddai is very much in demand, and used for preparing fish maws or dried air bladder. Maws is a Chinese word and used mostly for purification of wine and beer. Its swim bladder and meat is expensive, which is used to prepare soups and home decor. "The bladder of the croaker fetches about US \$1,000 in Hong Kong and South East Asia. The fish is also used for medicinal purposes. The price is higher than shark fins, the expert added.

### **Fisherfolk in Karnataka are coming back empty handed from the sea, face losses**

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/fisherfolk-udupi-are-coming-back-empty-handed-sea-face-losses-119729>

"There are plenty of fish in the sea', goes the popular saying. However, for hundreds of fishermen on Karnataka's coastline, this is hardly the case. Fishing boats have had to be shored, because fishermen who have been going out to sea have been coming back almost or completely empty handed for a couple of months now, according to Daiji world. This, despite it being fishing season, which begins around November and goes on till April. There is a ban on fishing after that, as the breeding season for the fish begins in summer. It seems like all the fish have moved away from the coast, said Yathish Baikampady, former President of the Fishermen's Association in coastal Karnataka. "Usually, after a cyclone, fisherfolk hope to see a bumper catch in fish. Expecting this, people took boats on a loan in anticipation to go out to the sea. Around this time, we would have exported tonnes of fish to other countries, making huge profits. However, the fishing community was shocked to see a very small catch of fish this year. Some people came back with one or two fish when they would have come back with boatfuls earlier. The entire industry is now facing serious losses," he said.

The subcontinent saw severe back-to-back cyclones, namely 'Maha' and 'Kyarr' in October 2019. This fishing crisis on the West coast has had serious repercussions for thousands across the Karnataka, and in other parts of India as well, says DD Ganesh, the Deputy Director of Fisheries, Udupi. "Karnataka is facing a severe crisis, but the case is the same even in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Kerala," he said. Some traditional fishers, such as Chetan, a fisherman on the Udupi coastline, said that the lack of fish this year is due to the practice of banned fishing practices, such as 'light fishing' and trawling. Light fishing is when heavy LED lights are used in the sea to attract the fishes and catch them. The practice was banned by the Central government

in 2017 due to risks of the method killing small fishes and affecting traditional fisherfolk. Yathish, however, said that those who indulged in such practices would not have been affected by the lack of fish in the sea, if light fishing was the cause for the dearth of catch. But even light fishing boats have come back empty handed, he said. Fishermen's associations have been asking for the government to declare a 'fish famine' due to the dire lack of catch this season, the Hindu reported. "Usually, when farmers face a crisis, the state government is quick to assure them of waiving off their loans. We are disappointed to see that the Karnataka government is entirely mute on this issue," Yathish said.

### **Karnataka: Budget has many plans for fisheries and tourism sectors**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/budget-has-many-plans-for-fisheries-and-tourism-sectors/article30994402.ece>

"The 2020-21 Budget presented by Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has brought in a host of plans and projects, including fishing harbours, two-wheelers for fisherwomen, developing inland water ways and more, for the benefit of lakhs of fishermen in the State, mainly in coastal parts. Though Rs.2 crore was earmarked for a backwater fish seedlings production centre at Mulki, the move could augment backwater fish production at a time when there has been marine fish famine. Karnataka Matsya Vikasa Yojane for adopting modern technologies by fishermen has got Rs. 1.5 crore. Considering fisherwomen play a vital role in marketing the catch and they walk miles from sea shore to market places, Mr. Yediyurappa announced to provide 1,000 two-wheelers to them under 'Mahila Meenugarara Sabaleekarana' scheme at Rs.5 crore cost. He has proposed a modern fish export plant at a cost of Rs.12.5 crore to supplement the Kulai Fishing Harbour under construction so as to augment fish export from the region. While the expenditure on Hejmadikodi fishing harbour being constructed in partnership with the Central government was revised to Rs.181 crore, Mr. Yediyurappa promised to complete the outer fishing harbour at Maravanthe by allocating Rs.85 crore and Rs.2 crore for Koderi fishing harbour.

The Budget also had proposals for improving fishing activities in Uttara Kannada district where it has provided Rs.4 crore for improving Karwar fishing harbour. Tenginagundi fishing harbour's estuary would be dredged at Rs.5 crore. Bids would be invited for developing Pavinakurve/Belikeri ports under public-private partnership at an estimated cost of Rs.2,500 crore, Mr. Yediyurappa announced. The Chief Minister said Karnataka Maritime Perspective Plan was formulated following a study for the development of mini ports, coastal protection and comprehensive development of coastal tourism in the State. The plan would be implemented in 2020-21. Inland waterways of the coastal rivers Kali, Sharavathi, Sita (Hangarakatte), Phalguni

(Gurupura), and Netravathi would be developed to promote tourism activities in collaboration with the Inland Waterways Authority of India.

### **Marine subsidies are a mess, say small scale fishers of southern Karnataka**

<https://india.mongabay.com/2020/03/marine-subsidies-are-a-mess-say-small-scale-fishers-of-southern-karnataka/>

"Till the 1950s, fishing operations in Karnataka were mostly of traditional, non-mechanised, small scale and subsistence nature. The Indo-Norwegian project in 1966 introduced the mechanisation of fishing crafts with a view of increasing fish harvest to increase export earnings. Trawlers were introduced. Purse seiners followed suit, and Karnataka became the first state to introduce purse seining in India. The introduction of modern marine fisheries brought with it several government-sponsored schemes and subsidies. These were meant to enhance the capacity of fishing by reducing fuel costs and offering modern fishing gear at low rates.

The schemes trained fishers to improve post-harvest efficiency for preserving, marketing and exporting the fish catch, and eventually improve their socio-economic livelihood. They are applicable to both small scale and large scale industries. In India, subsidies are given by the central government and the state government. Every year, an annual budget is allotted to the department of fisheries, out of which a certain chunk is reserved for subsidies. These subsidies are broadly around fuel, modern fishing gear, fishing nets, ice plants, and marketing infrastructure. Currently, the focus is shifting to the promotion of inland fisheries and aquaculture. The welfare schemes include providing monetary support to the fishermen during the monsoon season (when there is a fishing ban), housing welfare, security and insurance. Coastal Karnataka has three districts— Uttara Kannada, Udupi, and Dakshina Kannada. It has one state fisheries department, and three deputy departments in the three districts.

The state fisheries budget filters through to the three districts for subsidies. The state subsidies, combined with the central government subsidies, are announced at a particular time each year. The district panchayat also has a budget for certain subsidies... - Subsidies in marine fisheries in southern Karnataka, introduced after modernisation of fishing practices in the 1950s and 1960s, mainly focus around fuel and modernising gear. - Government welfare schemes such as housing welfare and distress relief fund have not been active since 2017, claim locals, although they are advertised on the government websites. - At the WTO, India seeks special and differential treatment because it says it needs to provide a secure livelihood to small scale fishers. Critics say the internal distribution of subsidies is a mess that needs to be sorted out first. - A focus on the welfare of small scale fishers and incentivisation of subsidies to encourage compliance to regulation are both critical to improving the situation, say experts.

### **Karnataka's Coastal development authority will explore setting up marine industrial zone**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/coastal-development-authority-will-explore-setting-up-marine-industrial-zone/article30891081.ece>

"The Karnataka Coastal Development Authority will explore the possibilities of creating a marine industrial zone in any of the three coastal districts in the State, chairman Mattar Ratnakar Hegde said here on Saturday. Addressing presspersons, he said that the zone should have ice plants, freezing units, fish mills, and other units required to promote the fisheries industry. The zone can be created either in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, or in Uttara Kannada. The authority will also try to organise an investors' meet in the coastal belt by consulting the government, he said. Mr. Hegde said that the authority has sought ₹100-crore grant from the State government. Currently of ₹20-crore worth projects planned, various projects worth between ₹8 crore and ₹12 crore are under progress. The chairman said that the authority is planning to promote Bangra Kuluru areas in the city as a tourist spot by creating water recreation facilities. It has been proposed to build clean fish markets at Hiriyadkka, Belman, and Inna in Udupi district. Mr. Hegde said that the lighthouse area in Kaup will be further illuminated as a tourist attraction. He said that he would take it up with the government a move to upgrade the coastal development authority as a Board or a Corporation. Earlier, Nalin Kumar Kateel, MP, said that the authority should take up projects which would create employment opportunities, boost tourism activities, and help the farming community. The authority can also explore the possibilities of promoting nature tourism, he added.

### **Fish famine in Arabian Sea, coastal Karnataka hit hard**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=677252>

"The fish industry of coastal Karnataka is facing a tough time. For the first time in the history of fishing, a terrible fish famine has hit the eastern coast. Fishermen are devastated as they do not find fish in the waters of Arabian Sea off the coast of the twin districts. The availability of fish has gone down considerably in the Arabian Sea due to the rise in global temperature as well as unscientific way of fishing. More than 80% of the boats have anchored on the shore because of this phenomenon. Generally from January itself the fish catch would be abundant. However, this year the fishermen are not able to get the expected catch. Labourers, mostly from the neighbouring states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh work in the trawl boats of the twin districts. Now they are sitting idle. More than 30,000 people earn their livelihood through the fish industry. But now all of them are in dire straits, including the Ice plants which supply ice to the boats, labourers who handle the fish after it reaches the port and also fish traders. Due to unscientific fishing also the fish wealth in sea is depleting. Fishermen are using light fishing method which is banned by the central government. Due to the high voltage of the lights used in this method, the food of fishes is getting burnt and the fishes are dying because of this. Compared to last year, the fishing industry has lost Rs 756 crore already in this year.

## **Rs 4.80 cr sanctioned to Ullal Kodi jetty in Karnataka**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/mangaluru/rs-480-cr-sanctioned-to-ullal-kodi-jetty-806923.html>

"Secretary to the Department of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Minorities Welfare A B Ibrahim visited Ullal Kodi on Friday and held talks with fishermen. Ibrahim informed that a boat jetty was sanctioned at Ullal Kodi to help the boats to anchor there. The work is likely to be flagged off before or after the monsoon. The jetty will be 82 metres long and will have an eight metre ramp. An amount of Rs 4.80 crore was sanctioned for the purpose. The government also had sanctioned Rs 185 crore to Hejamadi port. Depending on the number of boats, the size of the jetty will be ascertained at Ullal Kodi, Ibrahim added. Fishing using LED lights or fish light attractors on mechanised fishing boats, including motorised fishing crafts is not only destroying the population of small fish but also snatching away the livelihood of fishermen, charged traditional fishermen. In Kerala, a fine of Rs 5.25 lakh was slapped on those who violated the ban on fishing using lights. However, only Rs 5,000 is being slapped on violators as fine in Karnataka, they complained. Ibrahim directed Fisheries Department Deputy Director Thippe Gowda to discuss the issue with senior officers and submit a letter to the government. Ullal Dargah President Abdul Rasheed said Muslims and members of Mogaveera community in Ullal had been eking out living by fishing. If the small jetty is constructed, it will benefit only the traditional boats. A huge jetty should be constructed for the benefit of the entire fishermen community, he added.

## **Karnataka's government committed to drawing up fisheries policy: Kota**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/state-govt-committed-to-drawing-up-fisheries-policy-kota/article30891188.ece>

"Kota Srinivas Poojary, Minister for Ports and Fisheries, and Muzrai, said on Saturday that the State government was committed to drawing up a fisheries policy and implementing it to protect the interests of the fishermen . He was speaking after inaugurating a workshop on fisheries and distributing various facilities to the beneficiaries, organised by the Department of Fisheries and the Udupi Zilla Panchayat, here. Mr. Poojary said that the workshop was being held by the Department so that the fishermen could know about its programmes and schemes. There were two types of fisheries – sea fisheries and inland fisheries. The fishermen were facing several problems. His Ministry was committed to giving a fillip to fisheries. But no new schemes or projects would be implemented without bringing them to the attention of the fishermen. All problems of the fishermen would be solved in phases, he said.

A list of guidelines needed to be prepared for the problems faced by the fishermen. Fishermen should involve themselves whole-heartedly in fishing, he said. The government had acquired 34

acres of land for the construction of a fisheries harbour at Hejmady in Udupi district. The process of land acquisition for another 12 acres was under way, he said. The harbour at Karwar would also be developed. The Matsyagandhi scheme would be implemented in 11 places in the State, Mr. Poojary said. K. Raghupati Bhat, MLA, Dinakar Babu, President of Zilla Panchayat, Sheela K. Shetty, Vice President, Neeta Gururaj, President of Udupi Taluk Panchayat, and others were present.

### **Karnataka's Government plans floating fishing jetties to handle excessive boats**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=673812>

"Because of large number of mechanized fishing boats operating from the fishing ports here and at Malpe, there have often been complex traffic jams and accidents. The government has now envisaged a plan to introduce floating jetties to handle these problems. Accidents often happen when anchoring of mechanized boats and also when conducting fishing. Traffic jams are a regular phenomenon and unloading of fish often poses a huge problem for the boats. Both Mangaluru and Malpe ports suffer from paucity of space for constructing jetties. Therefore, the government feels that floating jetties could provide a lasting solution to the problems. At present, 1,375 mechanized fishing boats conduct fishing at Mangaluru while Malpe has 1,742 boats. Both the places suffer from space crunch.

Therefore the government wants to build two floating jetties at a cost of Rs 12.5 crore. The jetties, costing Rs 6.25 crore each, will be built on experimental basis in the form of pilot projects. Important meetings about the proposed project were held under the aegis of Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation. Two delegations, one from here and another from Udupi, are preparing to go to Goa on February 14 to check the floating jetties there. However, in Goa, these jetties are used for tourism. Based on the report of the delegation, Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation will take further action. The jetties will take three to six month's time to complete. They do not need concrete pillars at the bottom of the sea. The floating jetties can be installed at a spot with chains, and when needed, they can be shifted. They last 20 to 25 years, and have no side effects on environment. In some foreign countries, such floating jetties are functional.

### **“There is no fish in the ocean: Declining catch worries fishers in southern Karnataka**

<https://india.mongabay.com/2020/02/there-is-no-fish-in-the-ocean-declining-catch-worries->

[fishers-in-southern-karnataka/](#)

"It is a hot Saturday afternoon in Sasihithlu, a small fishing village in southern Karnataka. At 12:30 PM, the sun is directly above us, glaring through a largely cloudless sky. Surya Salian, 62, gathers his cast net for a final throw. He enters the still blue water until it is waist-high. He swings his arm and throws the circular net. It forms a shimmering translucent circle in the air for a few seconds, then drops into the water. After a few minutes, he pulls it out. It has one small fish, a silver biddy, wriggling. He throws it on the white sand, next to three other fish caught a short while ago. "This might be the year of famine for us, he said, after a moment. January 19th, 2020. It is balmy and breezy at 4 AM in the Arabian Sea. A purse seiner, a big boat that goes out about 15 nautical miles into the ocean to catch Indian oil sardines, is ready to head out. Most of the crew on the ship is from Odisha, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh. They left because their land did not offer them a living, and they arrived here, on the west coast, in south Karnataka, working on big fishing boats, hoping for a better life.

After six hours, the ship returns, empty-handed. The crew members earn nothing for the day. Since August 2019, fishers across the spectrum, from the small-scale ones to owners of giant trawlers, echo a similar lament. There are no fish in the ocean. Although the official fish catch data for 2019-2020 will be released only after March 2020, officials from Central Marine Fisheries of India (CMFRI) have confirmed that there has been a significant decline in fish catch since the post-monsoon season. "Usually, the post-monsoon period is peak fishing time. There is some cause of concern that the peak season did not do well, said Sunil Mohamed, principal scientist and head, Molluscan Fisheries Division, CMFRI, over a telephone conversation. There has been a decline in coastal marine fish production in India over the last few years. CMFRI data reveals a 9% decline in overall fish catch in 2018 as compared to the previous year. The 2018 annual fish landing data from the institute also showed a 54% decline since 2017 of the Indian oil sardine (*Sardinella longiceps*), a pelagic fish found abundantly in the Arabian Sea, particularly the coastal waters that cover Karnataka.

"We have seen a major decline in the Indian Oil sardine since 2016, said Mohamed. "For a long time, it formed 30-40% of fish catch. It reduced to 15%, and now barely makes it to 5%, he said. Reasons for the decline in fish catch Experts have given a variety of reasons for the decline of fish catch. There's climate change; the rise in sea surface temperature is changing the nature of oceans, which in turn affects the phytoplankton production, a primary food for several pelagic fish in the ocean, including Indian oil sardines. The Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change released a report last year stating that there will be an unprecedented rise in the frequency of cyclones in the Arabian Sea due to anthropogenic warming of the oceans. Secondly, there are unsustainable methods of fishing. Bull (or pair) trawling involves tying a net between two mechanised boats and dragging the net for several kilometres. It sweeps the ocean bed completely, taking everything with it. Light fishing involves attaching powerful LED lights at

the end of nets, dropping it in the water to attract shoals of fish and catching large spawning adults. While bull trawling has been banned by the Karnataka state government since December 2016, LED light fishing has been widely criticized in both Karnataka and Goa, and banned in Goa. However, state officials and trawlers themselves admit that the ban has not had much of an effect.

Both bull trawling and light fishing are in operation during the fishing season. On January 19th, this visiting correspondent heard murmurings at the Mangalore Harbour about a trawler named Blue Whale returning after a successful journey of light fishing, with a haul of spearfish and yellow-tailed tuna, worth 12 lakh rupees. “Yes, illegal fishing is still happening, said Manjula ShriShenoy, assistant deputy director at the department of fisheries, Mangalore. “In December, we caught two boats. We found generators for light fishing, higher horsepower (HP) [the limit is 350 HP], and mismatching registration certificate RC. We fined them INR 40,000 and 65,000 each. But there are more. But we are too short-staffed to do continuous surveillance. The fisheries department currently has a 40% occupancy. “Out of 43 seats, we have 25 lying vacant. None of our field officers are from Dakshin Kannada, she said. “We don't even know how many boats head out every day, and they come back at 2 AM, 3 AM, 4 AM. We don't have the staff to monitor all this, she said. The Coastal security police and the Indian Coast Guard have a mandate to patrol the territorial and EEZ waters, respectively, for illegal fishing. Both, however, declined to give an official comment. Overcapacity of boats In 1986, the Karnataka state government introduced the Karnataka Marine Fishing (Regulation) Act, 1986, in an attempt to regulate the rampant rise of fishing boats.

The act requires a license for every boat and gives the state fisheries department the authority to search the vessels. Over the years, several rules have been formed by the state government, capping horsepower of engines, minimum legal size to bring about regulation in fishing. According to records provided by the fisheries department, there are 1285 trawl boats, 57 purse seine boats, and 1487 mechanised gill nets and other boats registered in south Karnataka. But both department officials and the local trawler association admit that there are more than the registered number of ships. “About 100-125 boats are added every year, many not registered said Nithin Kumar, president of Dakshin Kannada Trawler Association. “Even with registration, one doesn't even need to be a fisherman to have a boat, he scoffed. Amidst all this, the traditional, small scale, artisanal fisherfolk suffer the most.

The “original fishers of Dakshin Kannada “Madam, please make sure you emphasise on the word moola. It means “original, and we are all the original fishermen of Dakshin Kannada, said Chandrasekhar Shriyan as I jot down the name of their newly formed union. It is called Dakshin Kannada Karavali Moola Meenugarara Sangha, translated to South Karnataka Coastal Original Fishermen Union. The union, with 1200 members covering 14 villages across the coast of south Karnataka, was formed on December 26th, 2019, as a result of growing discontent amongst

small scale fish workers of the region. “We are the Mogaveera, the original tribe of fishermen, born to protect the seashore, explained Shriyan. “And we are being pushed to the brink of desperation. There is nothing in the sea for us. The capitalists are taking everything. “And the government is not helping, he added. No fish no money no security Sharath Kumar, 38, has been fishing since he was 11 years old. He doesn't own a boat but works on other people's boats. “I do everything—gill netting, traditional, purse seining, trawl...anything you ask for I'll do. But he has not been successful since December 26th. “There is no fish in the sea, and if there is no fish, we don't earn anything for the day, he said.

“I just play rummy all day. Thinking of running away, he said with a laugh. Venkatesh, 42, owns two boats—a motorised craft with an outboard engine of 15HP, which is kept by the beach, and a non-motorised traditional canoe, which he takes into the river. When there is nothing in the sea, he takes his traditional craft on the river and hunts for clams. When there is nothing in either, he jumps on a trawl boat. On a trawl boat, for every lakh worth of fish caught, he receives INR 1000. But the season since August has been bad. “We haven't gotten anything in the sea since December 26th, he said, echoing several others. “My monthly expense is at least INR 5000. I need to meet that to keep going. Shirish Kerkura has similar sentiments. “You know, earlier we used to get a lot of fish, but not great money, said the 40-year-old fisherman. “Today, the catch is less, but the fish price is higher. We catch fish once a week and the money gets adjusted for the rest of the days. We roll with it. “But it has been awful since late December. They need to do something.

“A fisherman's income entirely depends on the catch of the day, said Shobendra Sashithlu, president of Sasiithlu Fishing Cooperative Society. In existence since 1932, the cooperative currently has 464 active members from the village. At least 150 of them have taken loans from the cooperative, for education, health matters, marriage, life things, said Sasiithlu. “And at least 25 have been unable to return the money. “Macchi nahi hai paani mein, he said in frustration. (Hindi for “There is no fish in the ocean). Support for women fisherfolk Remela M Mendela, 65, sells fish for a living. On January 17th, Friday, she woke up at 3:30 AM, made a cup of tea. She collected her baskets that she had made ready the night before. With four fellow fish sellers, she climbed onto a tempo they had taken on hire. She reached Malpe harbour, nearly 50 km away at 4:30 AM. She bought fish worth INR 21,000. She then headed to another market place about 20 km away by 9:30 AM, sold all her fish, and returned home by 8:30 PM. Her net earnings: zero. “Whatever I earned was spent on travel and food for the day, she said. In 2015, a subsidy was introduced for women, providing them with fish baskets, insulated iceboxes and stools to sit on.

“That was a good subsidy, but it lasted only a year, said ShriShenoy. “They should bring it back. But apart from this, there hasn't been much support for women fisherfolk. They have to buy their gear, pay their own fare for transport, and sometimes work in dilapidated conditions to get by.

According to a report by The Hindu, in 2012, the National Fisheries Development Board and the Karnataka state government proposed the construction of “ten modern fish markets for women in the three districts of coastal Karnataka, intending to boost a marketplace for small scale fish workers. We visited the market structure in Padubidri, another fishing village in south Karnataka. Women fish sellers dominate the market. It was sanctioned at an estimated cost of 76.92 Lakhs, with 90% funding from the central government (National Fisheries Development Board) and 10% from the state government (Karnataka State Fisheries Department). The property belongs to the panchayat, who has hired a contractor for four lakhs for nine months, who runs the show. Fishers from neighbouring villages come in the morning and display their fish ready for auction, giving a minimum selling price.

The women then begin the auction. They buy the fish and then proceed to sell it either in the market itself or carry it in their basket to a bigger market or walk for door-to-door delivery. Tulsi Kotiyan, 42, bought 25-30kg of fish worth INR 5500. She is hoping to sell the fish in the morning hours itself. One of her fears is that if she purchases the fish at a high price, and if the same fish is caught in the sea by the big boats, then the value of her fish goes down. She is one of the 25-30 women who sit at the market to sell the fish. She has to pay INR 20 per day to sit at her designated area. She received an insulated icebox from the state government. She gets her own plastic baskets. She said the cleaning is not good, the water is stagnant, and the toilet facilities are terrible.

The place, while an essential marketplace for small scale fish workers, could do with better management Support for the elderly fish workers A few weeks ago, Salian went out to sea on his boat. A big wave surged towards him, and he toppled over, hurting his rib cage. The nearest government hospital was 20 km from his village. “I had to spend INR 8000 for my treatment at a private hospital, he said. Chandravati, 63, used to sell fish. But over the last few years, arthritis has gripped her. Her husband, Chandaya Mandan, 75, has not gone fishing for the last five years. They both receive INR 1000 per month under the Sandhya Suraksha Pension Scheme, a state government endeavour for the senior citizens of Karnataka. “But it is not enough, said Chandravati. “All our money goes towards medical expenses. Every year, the central and state government doles out welfare schemes and subsidies that aim to enhance capacity for fishing, and improve the socio-economic condition of those working in fisheries. Given the current scenario, do these subsidies do anything for the welfare of the small scale fisherfolk? - Declining fish catch since August 2019 has triggered a wave of worry amongst fishers across the economic spectrum in southern Karnataka. - Climate change, unsustainable and unregulated fishing methods have both been blamed for this decline. - Small-scale fishers are the most affected, and are now seeking support from the government.

**Karnataka: To meet the demands put forth by the fisher folk of the state**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=673064>

"A delegation of fishermen led by Nadoja Dr G Shankar met Karnataka chief minister (CM), B S Yediyurappa, and urged him to meet the demands put forth by the fisher folk of the state, who are facing dire straits on account of fish famine. While thanking the chief minister for making unique contributions towards the welfare of the fishermen along with providing good administration in the state, Dakshina Kannada Mogaveera Mahajan Sangha, on this occasion, expressed gratefulness to him. The fishermen pointed out that diesel subsidy amount towards fuel used for fishing has not been credited to the accounts of the fishermen since the last five months. They asked him to direct the officials to credit this amount by the fifth of every month. They also demanded formation of an expert committee to implement an integrated new polity relating to fishing. ""Under Matsyashtraya scheme, no houses have been sanctioned to fishermen since two years,"" they said and requested that the needful should be done at the earliest. Besides demanding to complete works undertaken by the central government which have got stranded midway, they demanded sanction of special relief of Rs 25 lac to each of the seven fishermen who lost their lives in the Suvarna Tribhuja boat tragedy.

They also asked the government to include several sub-castes under scheduled tribes by pressurizing the central government. The delegation also sought reservation for at least ten members for the fishermen to pursue fishing courses in the fisheries college. The other demands spelt out through the memorandum are special grant for rejuvenation of fisheries cooperative societies, special subsidy for dry fish vendors to acquire solar driers, exempting subsidized diesel from road tax provisions, provide enough grants for break water construction and development, increase diesel limit for fishing boats from the current 300 litres to 400 litres, and bring the system of taking into account annual use instead of monthly use of diesel now. They also wanted 400 litres of duty free kerosene for country boat fishing at the rate of 400 litres per boat. They also sought engine subsidy for use for fishing. The demand to waive fishermen's loans was also requested to be extended to cooperative banks just like nationalized banks. Dakshina Kannada Mogaveera Mahajana Sangha Uchila president Jaya C Kotian, said that the delegation met fisheries minister, in-charge ministers of coastal districts, MPs and MLAs under the leadership of Nadoja Dr G Shankar and they were urged to meet these demands.

**Karnataka:Closing the Enforcement Gap: A community led groundtruthing of the expansion of a National Highway Project in Uttara Kannada**

<https://cprindia.org/research/reports/closing-enforcement-gap-community-led-groundtruthing-expansion-national-highway>

"Linear projects like highways have the potential of changing existing land use across long distances. These changes are not limited only to the stretch, which allows transportation of vehicles. The effects of construction are also visible on both sides of the breadth of a highway.

This study presents the findings of a two-year long groundtruthing exercise carried out between June 2016 and August 2018 across 187 kilometres of National Highway 66. A collaborative effort of members from towns and villages situated between Karwar and Kundapur, and people from 27 Panchayats, all from the district of Uttara Kannada in Karnataka, and the Centre for Policy Research-Namati Environmental Justice Programme, presents evidence of non-compliance of environmental safeguards resulting in social, economical and health impacts on people. It also highlights several instances that were not taken into account in the impact assessments. During the course of the study, the following impacts arising out of non-compliance were identified: - Permissions for blasting, groundwater and river water withdrawal were not taken - Flooding and salt water intrusion as a result of dumping soil on wetlands and creeks - Soil erosion and landslides along embankments - Non-submission of six-monthly compliance reports by the project proponent - Non-compliance of other laws and compensation agreements

The report includes a case study on a stone crusher unit that was operating in Bogribail as a result of which the communities living near the unit were faced with water and dust pollution. These impacts were arising as a result of not having built restraining walls or green belts and not having installed requisite protective equipment. In order to understand the scale of impacts that the project led to, a survey was carried out at the Gram Panchayat level. For this, surveys, interviews and focus group discussions were carried out with members of the local government. The responses to the survey were backed by official notices, circulars and meeting minutes available with them and all the complaints which they had received with respect to the expansion of the highway. The wide range of impacts on account of the expansion has led to the loss of livelihoods and lives and proceeded with absolute disregard to the ecology of the region. The report is available at: <https://cprindia.org/research/reports/closing-enforcement-gap-community-led-groundtruthing-expansion-national-highway>

**Karnataka: Union budget has something to cheer for Karnataka coast**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=670399>

"There are some positive points for coastal Karnataka in the union budget. One of the proposals is to have government medical college for every district having district government hospitals. If the above proposal comes through, the long-pending demand for a government medical college will be a reality in the city. The demand, mainly from coastal Karnataka, made to provide mobile phones to Anganwadi workers by the government, has now been upheld. As per the budget, six lac Anganwadi workers will get smart phones. There is even the possibility of the public-private partnership Kissan Rail meant for transportation of agricultural produce passing through the coast. In the previous budget, separate ministry for fisheries had been mooted. This time, 'Sagar Mitra' scheme has been proposed. This scheme is expected to give a boost to fisheries, one of the main occupations in coastal Karnataka. The budget has announced some financial support to certain schemes. There are no specific gifts to the coastal region here even in

railway department.

The government has announced about its ambitious plan of increasing fish catches to 200 lac metric tonnes by 2023 even though there is no clear indication how this will be achieved and what programmes the government will implement to achieve this. However, amid talk of fish famine, this aspect has kindled some hope in the fishermen. The budget speaks of completing Bengaluru-Chennai express corridor highway project within a year. As an extension of this project, economists say, Bengaluru-Manglauru express corridor project will also be implemented. There is possibility of Sagarmala and port connectivity plans being executed. This budget has proposal to establish connectivity between inland ports and the coast. The budget does not specify where it will run the passenger trains being started with private partnership. It need not come as a surprise if Shatabdi train is introduced between the city and Bengaluru.

**Karnataka: Missing fishermen of Suvarna Tribhuja – Government urged to pay more compensation**

<https://www.dajjiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=668029>

"Delegation led by Mangaluru MP Nalin Kumar Kateel, Udupi MP Shobha Karandlaje and Udupi MLA K Raghupati Bhat submitted an appeal to union defence minister Rajnath Singh urging him to provide more compensation to the families of fishermen of Suvarna Tribhuja boat who went missing along with the boat in deep sea while fishing in 2018. This appeal was submitted during the pro-CAA convention that was held at Mangaluru on Monday, January 27. President of Fishing Federation of undivided Dakshina Kannada district Yashpal Suvarna, leaders of fishermen community Satish Kundar, Raviraj Suvarna, Harish Kundar, Panduranga Kotian, Gopal R K and family members of the missing fishermen were present. Responding to the appeal, minister Rajnath Singh assured that suitable action will be taken after investigation. It may be recalled, on December 13, 2018, fishing boat Suvarna Tribhuja left Malpe harbour for the last time. Indian Navy found the sunken boat 33 km off the Malvan coast on May 1, 2018. However, the whereabouts of the seven fishermen on board still remains a mystery. The boat had lost contact with the harbour and other fishing boats on December 15, 2018. INS Nireekshak, with MLA Raghupati Bhat on board, started the search operation near the Malvan coast and had found the wreckage a few days later almost 60 metres underwater.

**Karnataka: Sagarmala: Fisherfolk call off stir, but resolve against project grows stronger**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/sagarmala-fisherfolk-call-off-stir-but-resolve-against-project-grows-stronger/article30655061.ece>

"On Saturday, after a fortnight of sleepless nights and tense days, Susheela Harikantra, Revati Harikantra, Anjali Arshekar, and several other fisherwomen were relieved as their leaders, lawyers, and representatives of various organisations decided to temporarily suspend

their agitation opposing the Sagarmala Project. This was following a High Court stay on the project. For a fortnight, hundreds had been taking turns to spend the night under a pandal erected adjacent to the Deputy Commissioner's office facing Rabindranath Tagore Beach in Karwar. Braving the winds, companions of their sea life, these women, along with their men and children, stopped fishing and closed fish market and spent nights under the pandal. They were worried that their future and livelihood would be shattered by the project. 'Can't afford to lose more' While they have suspended their agitation for now, they have become stern in their resolve that they want the project shelved. They said they had lost around 13 beaches for various development projects, including Seabird Naval Base, and they could not afford to lose more, which would result in displacing more fishermen. "The Karwar seashore has already reduced a lot and fishermen community has sacrificed in the interest of development.

Now they want to take away whatever is remaining. Where should we go? president of Chittakula Gram Panchayat and member of the fishermen community Raju Tandela told The Hindu. Construction of the northern breakwater proposed under the first phase of the second stage of development of Karwar Port (which is under the State government), now funded under the Sagarmala Project of the Union government, is not new, but one that has seen a delayed start. Although planned 15 years ago, the proposal did not attract any bids from competent companies in either 2004 or 2008 when tenders were floated. It was revived in 2017 and brought under the Sagarmala Project. The 'bhoomi puja' was performed during the fag end of the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government's tenure. Even as questions are being raised over the sudden protest and politics surrounding it, green activist and executive editor of Karavali Munjavu daily T.B. Harikant explained: "They (fishermen) thought it would not take off just like it had happened earlier. But as the work started and details of the master plan emerged, they understood that it is a do-or-die situation. They want to save what remains.

Vinayak Harikantra, a young fisherman, said that despite a lot of opposition during the public hearing held by the Deputy Commissioner in February 2018, the project got clearance. One of the main objections was that the project was prepared without taking into consideration its adverse environmental impact an issue raised during the public hearing in 2018. Issues such as sea erosion owing to the construction of breakwater, what happens to Kone Nala, a storm-water drain that carries sewage to the sea, silt, and train connectivity to the port were also raised. Erosion threat ruled out Speaking to The Hindu, Port Officer of Karwar Port Taranth Rathod, however, ruled out the possibility of sea erosion and claimed that the beach would actually extend after the construction of breakwater, which is being taken up initially. "The breakwater will actually bring down silt accumulation and reduce the maintenance cost of the port. Dredging will also ensure tranquillity, he claimed. But fishermen and Karwar residents see the breakwater as the first step towards reduction in the seashore and imminent destruction of their livelihood. Hundreds of fishermen of Baithkol and Aligadda use the fishing harbour adjacent to the

commercial port.

President of the Karwar Boat Union Venkatesh Tandela accused that officials were hiding details of the larger master plan and were just focussing on the first phase work on breakwater to mislead the public. Under the master plan for Karwar Port, development works worth Rs. 1,178 crore (initially Rs. 1,193 crore) have been proposed and as per the officials, the detailed project report for the next 30 years is yet to be approved. Sagarmala Project – Development of Karwar Port (2nd Stage) - Proposed under first phase: Construction of north breakwater and extension of berth; total cost Rs. 276 crore - Proposed under master plan: Construction of five additional berths; other facilities, including warehouses, cold storage, and buildings; desalination plant; transit sheds; railway marshalling yard; and effluent treatment plant; total cost Rs. 1,178 crore - What officials say: DPR for master plan yet to be approved; it will help develop commercial port; breakwater will stop siltation; will ensure tranquility in the harbour - What fishermen, activists say: The project will snatch away their livelihood; it will shrink the seashore and lead to sea erosion; no proper study done on environmental impact; no proper planning done for the project; no clarity on the project details

### **Karnataka: Fisher woman-turned-cage farmer trained under ICAR-CMFRI receives the first Kisan Credit Card for fisherfolk**

<http://www.cmfri.org.in/news/fisher-woman-turned-cage-farmer-trained-under-icar-cmfri-receives-the-first-kisan-credit-card-for-fisherfolk-in-karnataka>

"Mrs. Supriya Sudhir Sarang, a beneficiary of the coastal water cage culture demonstration undertaken by Karwar Research Centre of ICAR- Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) received the Kisan Credit Card from the honourable prime minister Shri Narendra Modi on 2nd January 2020 at Tumkur. A fisherwoman-turned-cage fish farmer, Mrs. Supriya Sudhir Sarang is the first fisherfolk in Karnataka to receive the same. Mrs. Supriya, who is a beneficiary under ICAR-CMFRI's All India Network Project on Mariculture, has undergone training on open water cage culture at the Institute during 24.9.2018 to 26.9.2018. She was also part of the cage fish farming along with other beneficiaries under the NFDB scheme for open water cage culture implemented by ICAR-CMFRI during 2019 and successfully harvested Asian seabass under the guidance of the Institute. She was felicitated by ICAR-CMFRI during the National fish farmer's day celebration in 2019.

### **Karnataka: Court stays Karwar port work under Sagarmala**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2020/jan/24/court-stays-karwar-port-work-under-sagarmala-2093708.html>

"The protest by fishermen against the project to extend the commercial Karwar port has received a shot in the arm with the Karnataka High Court ordering a stay on the second stage

works, a part of Union Government's ambitious Sagarmala project. The work was to be taken up on 17 hectares at Baithkol village in Uttara Kannada district. The court also directed the authorities to restore the beach to its original condition. The ruling came after High Court's attention was drawn to the construction of a road on the beach, carrying out levelling work for movement of vehicles and material in the original port area in the absence of consent from competent authorities. The extension project was undertaken on the Arabian Sea coast abutting Karwar beach, popularly known as Rabindranatha Tagore Beach. "As the Directorate of Ports and Inland Water Transport, considerable damage has already been caused beyond the beach, without consent.

We direct the authorities to restore the beach to the original condition by removing all preliminary work done, by February 26, the next date of hearing, a division bench of Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Hemant Chandangoudar said in the interim order. Hearing the public interest litigation petition filed by Baithkol Bandaru Nirashtritaru Yantrika Dhoni Meenugarara Sahakara Sangha, the bench directed the petitioner to implead the Union Government as respondent and ordered notice to the Chief Executive Officer of Karnataka Maritime Board, Director of Ports, and Inland Water, the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Deputy Commissioner of Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and others. The court noted that the Environment Impact Assessment Authority (EIA) has decided to grant environmental clearance for the project on December 26, 2018.

Accordingly, on January 25, 2019, the clearance was issued with certain terms and conditions. It appears that on the basis of the representation made by the petitioner, the Secretary of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, has forwarded the same to the EIA with a request examine the matter, it said. On December 28, 2019, the EIA issued showcause notice to the Executive Engineer (EE) of the Ports, and Inland Water Transport, asking the officer why the environment clearance given should not be cancelled. On the same day, KSPCB issued notice to the EE stating that a condition imposed while issuing consent for the project had been violated. Accordingly, the KSPCB directed the EE to stop the activities and obtain consent. The engineer was also warned that the activities will attract penal action. Meanwhile, the clearance given by EIA was withdrawn. Therefore, the court asked the KSPCB to initiate action strictly against the Director of Ports and Inland Water. Displaying photographs and video clippings of the works undertaken on the beach without consent, the petitioner's counsel, Murthy D Naik, contended that the project would cause serious ecological damage as it was being implemented without obtaining necessary permission from the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

**Karnataka: Why fisherfolk in Karnataka are protesting against the expansion of Karwar port**

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/why-fisherfolk-karnataka-are-protesting-against->

[expansion-karwar-port-116538](#)

"The fishing community in the coastal town of Karwar in the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka has steadfastly opposed the expansion of the port in the town. On Thursday, January 16, the community spilled out onto the streets to agitate against the construction of a breakwater, a barrier built out into the sea to protect a coast from the force of waves. The construction on the breakwater started on Monday and the fishing community fears that this is the first step in the proposed expansion of the port which they say will wipe out traditional fishing families, irreversibly damage Rabindranath Tagore beach and affect the movement of fishing boats in and out of Aligadda and Baithkoli beaches. ""The construction of the breakwater and the expansion of the port will adversely affect the lives of traditional fishermen who practice fishing in Karwar. There are traditional fishing families who practice fishing in Baithkoli, Tagore Beach and Aligadda beach in Karwar. Over the years, the construction of tourism initiatives, a naval base, and coast guard buildings has seen the spaces for traditional fishermen shrink to just these three spots,"" Mahabaleshwar Hegde, an environmental researcher from Karwar, who is currently working as a visiting faculty at the University of Winnipeg, Canada, told TNM.

""We want the construction of the breakwater, which was started in the sea on Tagore beach, to be stopped immediately,"" KT Tandel, a member of the fishing community said. The expansion of the port in Karwar was taken up under the Sagarmala Project of the Union government. It received an environmental clearance from the State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) of Karnataka in January 2019. The project also received a provisional Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance in the same month. The clearances were granted for the construction of five additional berths, reclaiming the sea behind the berth to make a stockyard, a petroleum oil jetty, and 'dolphins' – berthing and mooring structures. The clearances also mentioned the construction of an additional breakwater of 238 metres in the sea. The Uttara Kannada District Fishermen Association Forum, which opposes the expansion project, wrote to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) stating that the SEIAA was not authorised to grant environmental clearance in cases ""where a project is either partly or wholly located within 10 kilometers of an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA)"". The forum, in its letter, pointed out that the Kali river, considered a Critically Vulnerable Coastal Area (CVCA), which is an ESA as per the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, is located within 5 km of the project site. Taking note of the concerns raised by the forum, Vinod K Singh, an MoEFCC scientist wrote to the SEIAA in July 2019 asking the state-level body to take action based on the forum's letter. The SEIAA in turn asked the Uttara Kannada Deputy Commissioner Harish Kumar to file a report after inspecting the site.

In December 2019, the SEIAA gave 15 days time to the port authority constructing the project to show-cause on why the clearances should not be cancelled. Eventually, CRZ and environmental clearances were granted on December 30, 2019 but protesters say that their

concerns were not taken into consideration. Following this, the Union government decided to go ahead with the construction of the breakwater but were stopped by protesting fishers on January 14. In the past week, fishers from Bhatkal and Karwar have protested against the construction of the breakwater near Rabindranath Tagore beach. On Thursday, shops in Karwar remained closed and public transport was shut down after the protests intensified and the fishermen called for a bandh to be enforced in the town. Uttara Kannada DC Harish Kumar told the protesting fishermen in a meeting called at the DC's office that officials, both in Karwar and Bengaluru, will re-examine the expansion project. ""The district administration is with you (protesters). Peaceful protests were held in Karwar today.

There is no question of ego here and the district administration is working to resolve the issue through discussions. So far, this has not happened and you (protesters) have taken to the streets,"" Harish Kumar said. The DC added that the construction of the breakwater will be halted temporarily till the issue is resolved. He said that protesters have changed their stance on the issue and are now open to the project going ahead as long as Rabindranath Tagore beach is preserved. ""Now, the protesters are changing their demand and are allowing for the expansion project to go ahead as long as Tagore beach is preserved. I have requested officials to have another round of discussion with those opposing the expansion,"" the DC added. However, protesters leading the opposition against the expansion of the port stated that they will not go back on their demand and want the entire project to be scrapped. ""We want the lives of traditional fishermen in Karwar to go on uninterrupted,"" says KT Tandel, a member of the fishing community.

### **Karnataka: Fishermen to get Kisan Credit Cards shortly, says Kota**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/fishermen-to-get-kisan-credit-cards-shortly-says-kota/article30609964.ece>

"Minister for Ports, Fisheries and Muzrai Kota Srinivas Poojary said here on Monday that about 23,000 fishermen, who will benefit from the State government's decision to waive loans of up to Rs.50,000 from nationalised banks during 2017-19, will receive Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) within a week. Speaking after inaugurating the Kumaradhara ferry service, started by Mahajana Sabha Bengre at Thotta Bengre, the Minister said that the government has taken steps to transfer the loan amount of Rs. 60 crore to the nationalised banks from where fishermen had taken these loans. The Minister said that the banks will remove the beneficiaries from their list of "non-productive asset borrowers once the loan amount is transferred. The banks will issue the KCC to deserving fishermen later. The loan-waiver scheme of the State government was extended to fishermen at a rally that Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed recently at Tumakuru, the Minister said. Mr. Poojary said that the Ports Department is mulling the idea to own a dredger and allow its operation and maintenance under private ownership as followed in Kerala. A meeting of fishermen leaders will be convened soon to decide modalities of this move to ensure

safety of fishing boats using the ports. The proposal for third phase expansion of the old port here at a cost of Rs. 22 crore will come up for consideration before the Cabinet soon. Dredging work from the estuary mouth to the north commercial wharf of the old port will be taken up at a cost of Rs. 29 crore.

A sanctuary for country boats will be constructed at a cost of Rs. 3.5 crore at the old port with financial assistance from the NABARD, the Minister said. Mr. Poojary said that steps will be taken to set up floating jetties at Malpe in Udupi and Hoige Bazaar in the city at a cost of Rs.6.5 crore each. A demonstration of this technology will be held before a decision is taken on this project. The Minister later inaugurated a new passenger jetty constructed by the Public Works, Ports and Inland Transport department at nearby Sulthan Bathery at a cost of Rs.35.83 lakh.

### **Karnataka: Timeless Karwar beach nowa ‘zone’ of contention**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/karnataka-districts/timeless-karwar-beach-nowa-zone-of-contention-796273.html>

"The scenic beach, where poet Rabindranath Tagore wrote his first drama Prakritir Prathishodh, is now a ‘zone of contention’ between fishermen and the government. As boulders are being dumped on the Rabindranath Tagore beach in Karwar for building a breakwater, a little far away members of fishing community are staging a dharna and protesting against the expansion of Karwar port, under Sagarmala project, in front of the Uttara Kannada (UK) deputy commissioner's office for the past one week. The fishermen's protest against the project became vocal after Karnataka State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), following the recommendation by State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), in January 2019, issued an environmental clearance (EC) to the Karwar Port Division's proposal on expanding the port capacity from 3 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 4.5 MTPA. According to Karwar Port Officer Capt Swamy, the project would be implemented near Bhaitkol village at a cost of Rs 274 crore. A 880-metre sea wall will be constructed and the jetty will be expanded by 250 metre. Fishermen leader K T Tandel laments that their written objections against the project was ignored during a public hearing in February 2018. Last week, thousands of fishermen took to the streets after the executing agency of the project begun dumping boulders on the beach to build a 1200-metre-long break-water. As many as 114 fishermen families have to be relocated if the project is implemented. The fishermen in 13 beaches surrounding Seabird naval base were not scientifically rehabilitated, said Shridhar Bhaitkol, secretary, Bhaitkol Meenugarara Seva Sangha. Apart from harming the scenic Tagore beach, the project will threaten livelihood of 25,000 people.

Fishermen in Bhaitkol are already suffering dust pollution (during the loading and unloading of cargo), sea pollution and erosion. Senior marine biologist V N Nayak has justified the fears of fishermen pointing out that the sea wall would cut off fishing community's access to fish stocks.

Vinayak Bhaitkol, a fishermen leader, said Karwar, like Mumbai, was one foot below the sea. Due to reclaiming of land at Naval base, the sea had extended by 50 metres affecting the functioning of a toy train on the beach. "If there is another breakwater, entire town would sink, he feared. Advocate B S Pai asserts that the expansion of Karwar commercial port was not development but destruction. "Kali river creek, declared as critically vulnerable coastal area (CVCA), is located within 5 km from the project site, and thus SEIAA was not the competent authority to issue EC. The CRZ clearance is violation of CRZ notification, 2011. The port had submitted an application, a few days ago, seeking permission from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board. The project's bio-diversity plan also has not been validated by the Bio-diversity Board, he said adding that they were exploring legal option. U-K Deputy Commissioner K Harishkumar said, following the protest, work on breakwater had stopped. "The district administration will facilitate a meeting between the fishermen's delegation and the chief minister, he said.

### **Karnataka: Two-wheelers for fisherfolk to sell catch at markets**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2020/jan/08/two-wheelers-for-fisherfolk-to-sell-catch-at-markets-2086645.html>

"Fisheries Minister Kota Srinivas Poojary on Tuesday said the state government will provide two-wheelers to fishermen to help them sell fish in local markets. Speaking to mediapersons at the party office in Bengaluru, the minister the state will announce this and many other schemes in the state budget. He said over 23,000 fishermen in the state will be benefited by the loan waiver scheme that was announced by Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa. Immediately after coming to power, the CM had announced waiver of loans of up to Rs 50,000 taken by fishermen. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently launched a scheme to give Kisan credit cards to fishermen, and in the first phase, 28,000 to 30,000 fishermen will get the cards, he said. With that, they can avail loans of up to Rs 3 lakh, if they are big fishermen and small fishermen can take loans of up to Rs 2 lakh. Earlier, the cards were given only to farmers. Poojary, who is also Minister for Muzrai, said the mass marriage ceremony will be held at 110 department temples on April 26.

### **Karnataka: Comprehensive fishing policy to be implemented soon – Minister**

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=660664>

""In order to bring stability in fishing, to conserve marine resources and to prevent scarcity of fish, a comprehensive fishing policy will be implemented soon after thorough study on the same. Several programmes, including repairing of all jetties of coastal area and building of smaller ports, are chalked out to improve fishing and life of fishermen,"" said minister for muzrai, fishing and port, interior water transport Kota Srinivas Poojary. Kotar Srinivas was

speaking after inaugurating the fishing information workshop and facility distribution programme that was organized at the auditorium of Kundapur taluk panchayat by Udupi district fishing department. The minister further said, "Giving Kissan cards to fishermen is a new concept. The aim of Kissan card is to provide capital for working fishermen. Stress is given to internal water agriculture is also given importance along with deep sea fishing. "In order to increase the fish produce, equipment distribution, kit to traditional pati boat fishermen, Matsyavahini scheme, compensation scheme for the safety of fishermen, zero interest loans to women fishermen etc are under the pipeline. "Matsyadarshini is carrying out its functions in 11 cities of the state. The consumers are getting fish at lower prices. Several programmes to improve the life of fishermen are chalked out by the government, he said. The programme was presided over by taluk panchayat president Shyamala Kundar. Kissan Credit Card, check for calamity relief, kit for fishermen and ice boxes were symbolically distributed during the event. Senior assistant director of fisheries P Parshwanath welcomed the gathering. Chandrashekar, grade-2 assistant fisheries director compered the programme. Vote of thanks was rendered by assistant fisheries director Koderi.

### **Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh: The lucrative fish feed industry is killing traditional fisheries**

<https://scroll.in/article/948677/in-karnataka-and-andhra-pradesh-the-lucrative-fish-feed-industry-is-killing-traditional-fisheries>

"Tonnes of fish caught through unsustainable fishing methods are being used by the fish meal and fish oil industry – also known as the FMFO industry – that supply feed to global aquaculture chains. These are wreaking havoc on fish stocks. The FMFO industry was considered a solace for fishermen as it purchased the trash fish, which is not edible, that came in with the catch. But the scenario has changed as the FMFO industries have now turned into a threat to the fisheries sector as the income from supplying to these industries is driving unsustainable fishing. A study in India, Vietnam and Gambia by Netherlands-based Changing Markets Foundation highlights the hazards caused due to the present functioning of these industries. Tonnes of fish, including juvenile and edible ones, are being caught, processed and exported to various countries resulting in the collapse of fish stocks and marine ecology, imbalances in food security and causing severe environmental issues, pollution and overexploitation, said the CM End to fisheries?"

As part of the study in India, two regions were selected – the Mangalore-Karwar belt and the Vishakhapatnam region of Andhra Pradesh. Indigenous fishermen communities across Indian coastal areas predict an end to fisheries soon. The topmost reason they cite is unsustainable fishing driven by the income from the FMFO industry. In 2017, India's aquafeed market was valued at US\$ 1.20 billion. Its domestic feed mills have the capacity to produce 2.88 million metric tonnes, said the study. Vasudev Bloor, who is Karnataka Coastal Fishermen's Action

Committee general secretary, said that as the FMFO industries buy waste fish or bycatch from the fishermen, the trawlers intentionally go for waste fish, including juveniles and non-edible species of fish, which were not earlier targeted for fishing. The CM report claimed that these companies are causing the decline of local fish stock. “Earlier only a small portion of the catch was waste and that used to be given to the FMFO industries. But things have changed and to generate more income, fishermen have started fishing everything in the sea. Juvenile catch is the most serious threat because of which many species have declined in the sea, said Bloor, while adding that the trawlers use small-sized nets which makes it easy to catch juveniles. Divya Karnad, a marine biologist and assistant professor at the Haryana-based Ashoka University, said that the FMFO industries originally started as a solution to the trash fish that had been generated in the catch. “Ideally, trawlers should take measures for bycatch reduction. They are not using doing so and that is why this waste is generated. Moreover, now fishermen are encouraged to bring more and more waste. Presently, trawl fisheries are mainly dependent on this bycatch income. If the FMFO plants were not there, many of the trawlers would have gone out of the sector, Karnad said. Ineffective laws Karnad pointed out that each state in India has got specific laws to protect marine ecology but none of them has actually been implemented and the laws just remain on paper. For instance, as per the government rule in Karnataka, bottom trawling nets with mesh size more than 35 mm should be used and in other methods of fishing, nets with mesh size of more than 20 mm should be used. Vasudev alleged that there are many trawl boats that use smaller nets than prescribed measures. “Up to the 12 nautical miles, the state government can implement laws [regarding fishing].

From 12 to 200 nautical miles, we still have no rules, said K Sunil Mohamed, principal scientist at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute said. He stressed that overexploitation of the resources by using methods like bull trawling, where the net is tied between two boats and dragged for kilometres to catch fish and light fishing, where artificial lights used to attract fish to a particular spot for an easy catch, are being followed widely. According to the CM study, in both Mangalore and Malpe ports, the investigators found that bycatch mainly consisted of juvenile and extremely damaged fish. “At both harbours, the investigation team found several piles of pelagic fish, including pomfret, juvenile mackerel, juvenile cuttlefish and silverfish, the study said. Juvenile fishing is considered a major reason for the decline of certain species. The CM study said that FMFO plants have to be blamed for the decline of Indian oil sardine in many parts of India. The study also revealed that in Vietnam, one of the world's leading fishmeal producers, unsustainable fishing practices has caused fish stock reduction and due to which boats are regularly fishing in foreign waters which is prohibited. The situation in the Gambia is not very different. The country has one of the world's richest fishing grounds but despite that, the nation's food security is declining over the years. It is due to “fluctuating populations of Bonga fish [also known as shad], which experienced a crash of 40% between 2013 and 2014. The study even said, “Gambian fishmeal plants continue to be involved in social and environmental

scandals.

The study quoted the Indian government's Agriculture Ministry's 2017 National Policy on Marine Fisheries in India which had stressed on dangers of the fish feed industry. "Use of low-value fish species in the fish feed industry is becoming a matter of concern as it can lead to overfishing of such species and by-catch, and could undermine the integrity of the marine ecosystem. The spread of fish meal plants in some coastal states and their overwhelming demand for small pelagics [such as oil sardines] has led to overfishing, resulting in reduced stocks of small pelagics in some parts of the country, the policy said. Verge of extinction Sunil Mohamed said that juvenile catch could result in fish extinction as well as restrain fishermen from more profits. "In juvenile catch, we don't allow a fish to grow to its maximum size. With that, fishermen will not get good price[s]...[and] people will not get quality fish. Another issue with this that through juvenile catch, a chance of reproducing another generation been lost, Mohamed said. Shailendra Yashwant, environmental journalist and climate change activist, said that though fishermen are aware of the hazards of these industries, they are worried about the decline in the catch.

"They know the dangers posed by fish meal industry on the traditional fisheries. But the fishermen are desperate due to falling catches, reduced days at sea due to bad weather, rising operating costs, debt, the power of contractors and non-fishermen in the business, and thus, they are indulging in overfishing, including the catching of juveniles and wild catch, knowing well that there is a market for anything they catch. Those who can afford trawlers, and their numbers are increasing, are shamelessly literally scraping the bottom of the oceans to bring back catch, any catch, to survive, he said. The CM report said it's not just the trash fish that goes to FMFO plants. It points out that about 30%-40% of the catch in Karnataka goes to the FMFO plants including the species fit for human consumption. "Significant quantities of food rather than trash fish are being diverted to the fish meal plants...People rely on locally caught fish for their protein needs, and it is becoming harder for them to compete within the new system, said the study pointing towards the imbalances it creates on food security. It explained that agents of such plants bypasses the traditional auction system and get the entire fish in a vessel to the factory. Krishna, a fishermen association representative from Malpe in Karnataka, said that the FMFO plants use sardine, mackerel, squid lizard fish and almost all the edible varieties. "Fishermen catch the juveniles...which will not have demand in the market.

So usually traditional fishermen don't catch them, but those in trawl boats are not traditional fishermen, they aim for money, he said. Food security at risk The CM report emphasised that sardine is a staple food in south India and its decline has affected food security. "In June 2019, media outlets reported that the drastic decline in sardines has left Kerala's fishermen in crisis and is affecting food security in the region, said the report. "We cannot find the original oiled sardine now. It has been lost. [Soon] we will lose other species too, Krishna said. Divya Karnad said

since most of the FMFO is exported, it requires a minimum quality to meet the standards given by foreign countries, which lead these plants to go for quality fish than trash fish. “They cannot use semi-decayed fish to make the fish meal as it would not meet the standards of European countries. In order to meet the standards they use high-quality fish which is our food, said Karnad. “Trawl net fishers catch fish on a large scale, maybe in one net, they get five tonnes. When this large quantity is brought to the land, its price goes down, where the FMFO industries buy them in large quantities.

So in a way, they promote destructive fishing, Karnad added. “There are certain species which are not edible that can go to the FMFO industry. But they are not the ones we consume. Peruvian anchoveta is similar to sardines, but are not consumed directly by humans, while oil sardine is the staple food [in south India]. Sardine also has high nutritional values so it should not be included in the FMFO industries. When certain FMFO industries had tried to standardise sardine catch for the FMFO, we had objected to it, said K Sunil Mohamed. He added that there are many unhealthy practices that are being followed by the FMFO industries. “Apart from unsustainable fishing practices, they also get fish from boats by trapping fishermen. They pay an amount to fishermen in advance and get a full catch in their boat. The government doesn't have control over the number of industries coming up in the country, said Mohamed. Violation of norms The CM report also claimed that most of the plants located along the Indian coast are violating the Coastal Regulatory Zone regulations.

It revealed that their investigators, while visiting a few FMFO plants in Ullal of Mangalore, had found that there were no waste treatment plants for the industries. “After fish oil and fish paste [were] extracted, the remaining wastewater, called stickwater, was dumped into the backwaters adjoining nearby mangroves. The units visited did not have a wastewater treatment plant, said the report. “They loot fish from the sea and dump waste into the sea after production. If a poor fisherman has to build his house, he is tangled with CRZ rules but industries can easily bypass laws, said an official of the Karnataka government, who works with fishermen in Mangalore. “People living near the plants suffocate [because of the] putrid odour. These industries cause water pollution and air pollution. They dump effluents to the sea as well as to nearby rivers. Those who voice against them are being threatened by the companies. Is there a solution? The study recommends soybean and palm oil production as an alternative to the FMFO. Fish feed made of food waste, mealworms, algae, is being globally discussed as sustainable alternatives. “In 2012 in Kerala, there was a huge decrease in Indian oil sardine stock when the government had introduced certain rules specifying the size of the fish to be caught in order to prevent juvenile catch. The mesh sizes and shape of the net were also prescribed by the government. So strict rules on mesh size and shape can reduce juvenile catch, said K Sunil Mohamed. He further said that Karnataka has also implemented laws against juvenile catch of certain species but they haven't taken steps on restrictions over mesh size.

“There are recommendations given to Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra [by CMFRI]. We hope they will implement these restrictions soon. Regulations on the mesh size of the net are the only solution to control juvenile fish catch, he added. According to him, strict adherence to standards by the aquafarms can also be a solution. “There are certain standards prescribed by Marine Stewardship, Aquaculture Stewardship Council and International Fish Meal and Fish Oil Organisation, The Marine Ingredients Organisation. The fish farms accredited by these standards accept only fish feed from sustainable fisheries. So pressure from the buyers for sustainable fisheries can be a solution, said K Sunil Mohamed. However, the CM study alleged that certification from these standards was not effective to curb unsustainable fishing. “Many of the unsustainable practices witnessed during investigations in India, Vietnam and the Gambia, have received a stamp of approval by one or more of these certification schemes, the study said.