Propelling India's blue economy: technological and governance perspectives in fisheries and aquaculture

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The blue economy, encompassing sustainable utilization of coastal and oceanic resources, has gained global significance in the context of the developing discourse on economic growth and environmental conservation in ocean-based economies. This article delves into the multifaceted realm of India's fisheries and coastal aquaculture sectors, exploring their status, challenges and prospects through the lens of the 'blue growth' narrative. Various enabling factors, such as technological advancements, governance improvements, market and policy incentives, and investment strategies are discussed that can catalyse a smooth transition of India's marine capture fisheries and aquaculture to align with the blue developmental agenda.

Keywords: Blue economy, coastal aquaculture, fisheries, governance perspective, sustainable development, technological advancements.

of the oceans. The blue economy concept is underpinned by the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-14 on 'sustaining life below water'. Presently, the global blue economy is valued at US$ 1.5 trillion annually, which is expected to grow to US$ 3 trillion by 2030 (ref. 3). India is a member of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), which focuses on the blue economy in the Indian Ocean region through its two programmes – The Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR), and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). The Government of India (GoI) included blue economy as one of the ten core dimensions of growth in its Vision of New India by 2030 (ref. 4). A National Blue Economy Advisory Council (NBEAC) is also proposed to be set up under this policy framework.

Relevance of marine fisheries and aquacul