



Blue Economy-Wave 41



Capt. Gajanan Karanjikar, Blue Economy Social Activist & Multi Modal Logistics Expert

Blue Economy and Marine Bio Technology (MBT):

The marine environment is considered Earth's last frontier of exploration. In fact, a common belief is that just less than 5% of the vast and rich marine environment has been explored. Our seas and oceans represent a much unknown resource for the discovery of novel organisms, (bio) products, (bio) processes, and for the development of bioinspired synthetic drugs.

Recent advances in genetics and

other (bio) molecular techniques are providing all necessary tools to access these still-untapped marine resources on a larger scale and, consequently, enabling exploitation of the true promise of the blue biotechnology. Acknowledgment of the potential of marine biotechnology is in due course by many governments in the world to provide solutions to some of global Grand Challenges of the twenty first Century such as sustainable supply of food and energy, development of new drugs and health treatments, and providing new industrial materials and processes. For this reason, the advances in marine biotechnology may foster the much-needed source of innovation and economic growth in many countries and pave the way towards the development of a global blue economy, i.e., a new economic model based on the sustainable exploration of our ocean ecosystems. They can create jobs and wealth by contributing to the development of greener and smarter economies

The Promise of the Blue Biotechnology

Marine biotechnology can play an important role towards meeting challenges of the new century and can greatly contribute to economic recovery and growth worldwide by delivering new knowledge (scientific knowledge

of marine life and ecosystems) and facilitating access to products and services by cutting-edge technologies. In 2011, it was estimated that 20,000 marine natural products were discovered in the previous five decades, and preclinical and clinical pipelines for new pharmaceuticals contained almost 1500 molecules, specially related to anticancer research. However, in marine biotechnology field, significant contributions for new antibiotics, anticancer, and immune system modulator can be accounted. Due to widespread use of known molecules (i.e., antimicrobial resistance), new antibiotics are necessary, and this is one of the point of worldwide interest in applied marine pharmacology. In this context, more than in others, marine microbes are still seen as untapped resource.

As per Dr AS Ninawe, advisor, Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi, The global market for products

from marine biotechnology is forecast to reach over \$4 billion by 2015 and therefore marine bio-resources offer a lot of scope for the health and well-being of aquaculture production in the country through marine bio-business. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has been supporting the program area of Aquaculture & Marine Biotechnology, covering both R&D and applied aspects through competitive grant scheme with the operational inputs from the Task Force Committee and with impetus during Brain Storming Sessions and workshops. For the past two decades, the department has been concentrating on developing technology for seed production and grow-out pond culture for economically important finfish and shellfish species, and also on seaweeds.

(To be continued...)

Italy Approves the Restart of Cruises as of August 15



Complete details on the scope of cruising that will be permitted from Italy are still pending but the cruise lines anxious to capture some of the summer vacation season will likely announce their plans very shortly

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Italy's premier announced late today, August 7, a series of new steps relaxing controls and permitting the additional resumption of businesses including cruises for the country that had been hard hit by COVID-19 and cruising could resume beginning August 15.

Two major cruise companies making initial preparations for a return to service

The two major cruise companies

operating from Italy had been quietly taking steps to prepare to resume operations. Both Costa Cruises and MSC Cruises reportedly were bringing crew members back for their ships and making initial preparations for a return to service. Both companies earlier in the week detailed their new health protocols and steps that they would be taking aboard their ships when cruising resumes.

France, French Polynesia, Germany, and Taiwan as the first countries to permit cruises to resume

Italy's decision to restart cruising joins it with France, French Polynesia, Germany, and Taiwan as the first countries that have granted permission for ocean cruises to resume.

Details of cruising permitted from Italy pending

Complete details on the scope of cruising that will be permitted from Italy are still pending but the cruise lines anxious to capture some of the summer vacation season will likely announce their plans very shortly.

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