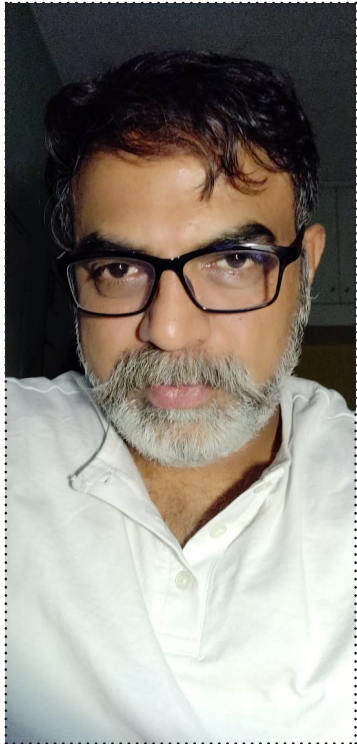




Blue Economy-Wave 29

(Series on "Blue Economy" By Capt. Gajanan Karanjikar)

Table : Tweaking the Indicators to Suit India



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



- **Illegal fishing:** The most immediate concern perhaps, is that the laws of the IORA countries are unable to effectively attenuate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. An even greater concern is the threat of piracy and maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The disparities

between the members of the IOR littoral countries with regard to the sustainable management of the marine fisheries and the Blue Economy, give ground for India to be more proactive in providing a platform for resolving the issues, charting governing laws and assume leadership.

- **Pollution:** In recent years, our oceans have increasingly been polluted by plastic like plastic bottles, cigarette butts, plastic straws, food wrappers and even the abandoned fishing nets. Sewage pollution is also a major issue in India, especially in coastal areas, 80% of which is carried to the sea. In fact, a giant litter was reported in 2010 in the IOR known as Indian Ocean Garbage Patch.

- **Microfibers:** Furthermore, the microfibers - emerging after washing the clothes- reach oceans and even find their way in our food chain through the seafood we consume.

Dr V Kripa, principal scientist at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) stated that in seas around the Indian subcontinent, high rise of plastic levels was found in many varieties of fish starting from sardine to tuna and sea birds.

- **Climate Change:** The much greater threat to the blue economy due to the effects of climate change. As agriculture is increasingly facing stress due to this, the communities increasingly depend on seafood for their food security. The coastal and littoral states in the IOR are susceptible to natural disasters, increasingly so, with climate change. Climate change can prove to be catastrophic when the cover of mangroves diminishes affecting the life cycles of the marine species, straining the coastal ecosystems threatening the sustainability of the blue economy in general and fisheries in particular.

- **Lack of Governance:**

Experts have also pointed at the lack of coherent governance agreement in the IOR. The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) with a focus on Tuna species and the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SIOFC) with only eight countries in its membership, thus have a narrow scope and outcome (Aparna Roy, 2019). Lack of research has also caused a lack of progress in the fisheries sector and environmental management of the region. Beyond this, the research on the technical knowledge of the seas and the study on the communities, dependant on the health of the ocean are also critical.

Social inclusion and upliftment: social inclusion and upliftment of fisherman is must. Infrastructure building for fisherman at various fish landing places is very important and which would not only create an environment for business but there would be an inclusion of other communities with fisherman which support fishing

(To be continued...)

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