



## Dr A Gopalakrishnan, Director, ICAR-CMFRI's Independence Day Message 2023



My dear CMFRI family members, both serving and retired, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls,

Today we celebrate the 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of the Indian Republic, and ICAR-CMFRI is proud to join fellow Indians in paying respect and tribute to the great leaders and brave freedom fighters, whose sacrifices earned us this freedom! **On this momentous occasion of the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independent India, I extend a warm Independence Day greeting to all of you! सभी को स्वतंत्रता दिवस की शुभकामनाएँ !**

As you know, ICAR-CMFRI has also been celebrating its 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of stewarding India's vast and varied marine fisheries resources. Through our dedicated research activities, we have travelled a long way during the 76 years of our existence to ensure sustainable harvest of marine fisheries in the country. We have made significant strides in developing policy framework for sustainable management of our marine fisheries resources, technologies for mass production of high value finfishes, seed production of marine ornamental species, identifying and geo-referencing sites for cage and seaweed farming, deploying artificial reefs and sea ranching of shrimp to augment fish production, developing 12 nutraceuticals for combating lifestyle diseases, deciphering the whole genome of our favourite fish - Indian oil sardine, green mussel, seaweeds and so on. We made sure that the fruits of our research efforts reached the fishing community and fish farmers, thereby contributing to their livelihood enhancement.

The proudest, happiest and most satisfying moment in the recent history of CMFRI was the release of two major documents - **Marine Fish Stock Status (MFSS) of India 2022** and the **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) document**, which are path breaking outputs of CMFRI's research efforts in harvest fisheries. These publications, essentially meant for the planners, was the first effort of its kind in the history of CMFRI. The **MFSS 2022** document has given terrific confidence, self-assurance, pride, a winning smile and a fresh lease of life to all the 52 scientists, vast number of technical staff and others in the two harvest fisheries divisions (FFD & SFD) and FRAEED of CMFRI. In a very short span of time, the wonderful and precise **MFSS Report** that received wide appreciation and applause, was referred in the recently held WTO negotiation meetings in Geneva and there, it was quoted as "*the model report for all countries for sustainably managing their marine fisheries resources*". The MFSS Report is awaiting its official launch in New Delhi by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri. Parshottam Rupala Ji, in the presence of the respected Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR and DDG (Fisheries), ICAR. Let me take this opportunity to profusely thank all the 52 scientists and staff, and particularly the MFSS Report Compilation Team of 9 scientists for their dedication and successful effort in timely publication of the report, against all odds, confusion, tensions and frustration. A perfect blend of brainy and bubbly youngsters, and sincere, systematic and well-experienced seniors, the MFSS team deserves a big applause and it has kept the flag of CMFRI flying very high. My request to the team is to keep the same pace, do hard work, widen the scope of the document and continue bringing out such marvellous output regularly in the coming years.

During the '*Amrit Kaal*' (i.e., from 75 years to 100 years since Independence), till 2047 both India and CMFRI have many more things to undertake, many more responsibilities to handle with the ultimate aim to sustainably produce 10 million tonnes of sea fish by 2047. Larger cages, off-shore farming, use of Artificial Intelligence in sea farming and in marine harvest fisheries, greater integration of seaweeds in mariculture practices, looking for untapped and non-conventional marine fisheries resources, marine microalgal culture for human consumption, cellular meat production, etc. are some of the options.

I urge each and every one of the CMFRI family, especially the younger generation to rededicate their talents, efforts, might and services for the nation, society and the Institute, so that CMFRI will truly shine in her "*Amrit Kaal*"! With all Head of Divisions and Head of Research Centres in position after a long span of 18 years and all vacant positions of Senior Scientists and Principal Scientists already advertised, ICAR-CMFRI will soon be in the full strength of 165 scientists and the task of achieving our goals will be easier.

**एक बार फिर सी एम एफ आर आइ परिवार के सभी सदस्यों को स्वतंत्रता दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ !**

**"എല്ലാവർക്കും എന്റെ ഹാർട്ടുമായ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യദിനാശംസകൾ"**

**Thank you and നമസ്കാരം, നമസ്കാരം!**

**Jai Hind! Jai Bharat!**

Kochi,  
15.08.2023

