

## **Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute's Research on Coral Reefs Garner National Recognition**

KOCHI: The research on coral reefs being carried out by the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has garnered national recognition, with Alvin Anto, a young professional at the institute, securing the prestigious Hasmukh Shah Memorial Award for Ecological Studies for the year 2023 in the research category.

“The award includes a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh and a certificate of recognition. Anto has been recognised for his extensive research on the resilience of the coral reefs in the Lakshadweep Islands, highlighting the increasing threats these critical ecosystems face from climate change and other human-induced factors,” as per a press release.

The Hasmukh Shah Memorial Award, instituted by the Gujarat Ecology Society (GES) and funded by the Kachnar Trust, aims to honour and reward individuals who have made significant contributions through research, development, or implementation of innovative development, or implementation of innovative environmental, technical, or social solutions that address and mitigate pressing sustainability or societal issues.

This award is particularly significant as it will help promote the resilience-based management approaches, which are vital for coral reefs. These approaches aim to develop strategies for the preservation, protection, and restoration of these fragile marine habitats,” the release stated.

“A passionate ocean enthusiast and a PADI (Skilled Affiliation of Diving Instructors) qualified dive grasp, Anto has led numerous underwater surveys concentrating on the coral reefs and connected maritime lifestyle alongside the Indian coastline and its islands. His get the job done has been instrumental in delivering useful insights and details that are vital for ongoing conservation endeavours. He is also section of CMFRI’s staff conducting coastal surveys on marine mammals,” as per the release.

The award will be conferred all through the Hasmukh Shah Memorial Lecture, scheduled for January 5, 2024, at the Federation of Gujarat Industries (FGI) in Vadodara.