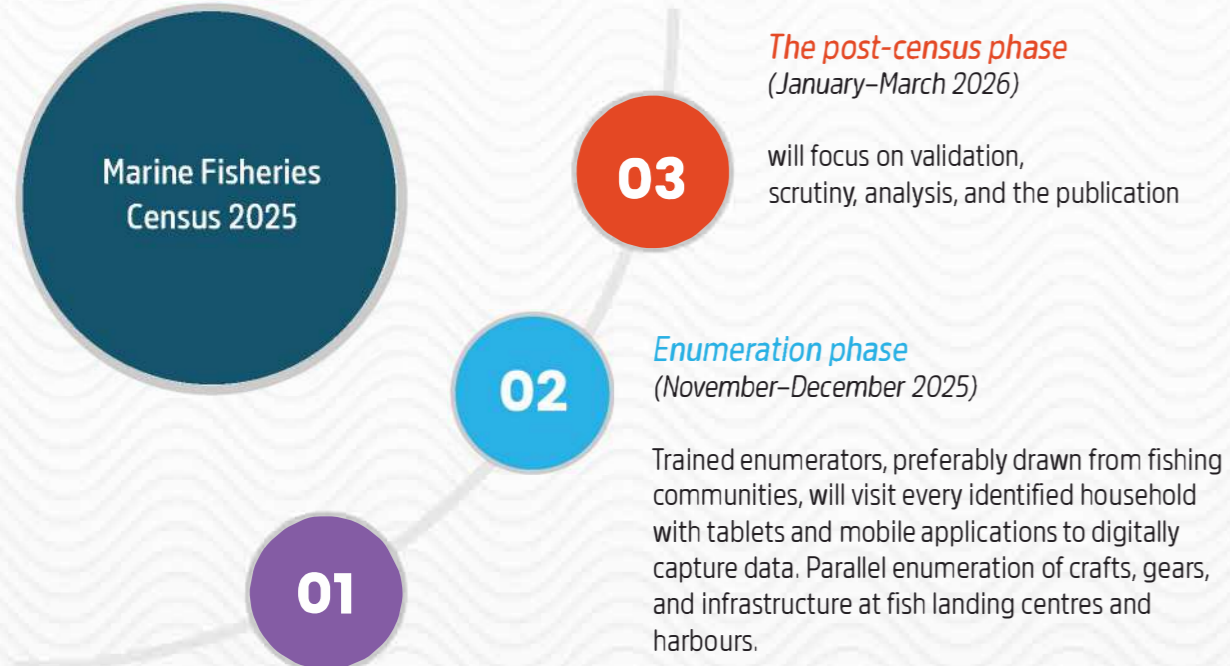


Phased Implementation and Milestones

The Marine Fisheries Census 2025 is being carried out in three distinct phases.



01

Preparatory phase / Pre-census phase
(November 2024 - October 2025)

Finalizing schedules, developing digital applications, training supervisors, recruiting enumerators, and validating village lists.

02

Enumeration phase
(November–December 2025)

Trained enumerators, preferably drawn from fishing communities, will visit every identified household with tablets and mobile applications to digitally capture data. Parallel enumeration of crafts, gears, and infrastructure at fish landing centres and harbours.

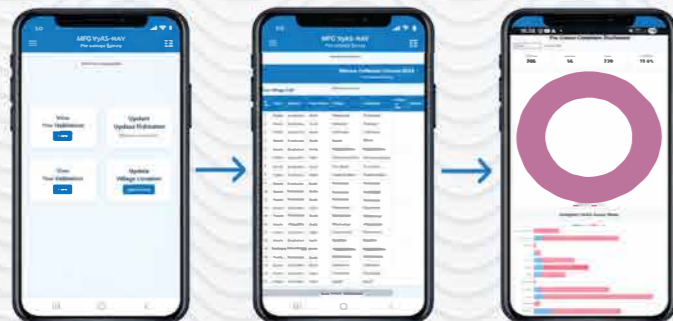
03

The post-census phase
(January–March 2026)

will focus on validation, scrutiny, analysis, and the publication

Key milestones

MFC VyAS-NAV:
Pre-Census Survey Application



Pre-census activities and training
(April–October 2025)

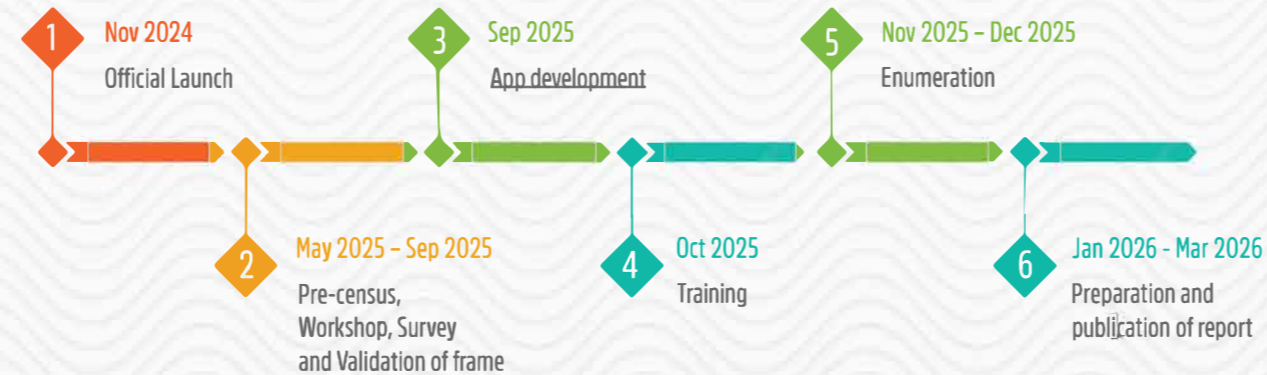
Marine Fishing Village list validation

Sensitisation workshops

Enumerator recruitment and Training

Craft and gear census

- ◆ Nov–Dec 2025
45-day field survey of fisher households and infrastructure
- ◆ Jan–Mar 2026
Validation, analysis, and release of census reports



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Government of India



5th Marine Fisheries Census 2025

(Department of Fisheries, Govt. of India & ICAR-CMFRI)



Indian Council of Agricultural Research
Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Govt. of India)

Introduction

The Marine Fisheries Census 2025 (MFC 2025) is the fifth national census of India's marine fisheries sector, jointly conducted by the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, and the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), covering across 9 maritime states and 4 Union Territories.

The census is vital for providing accurate and comprehensive data to support evidence-based policymaking, the welfare of fishing families, and sustainable management of marine resources. By linking directly to the national vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, the census aims to strengthen coastal communities and enhance the blue economy.

History

India's marine fisheries documentation especially the enumeration of fishing villages, fishermen and crafts began with surveys by ICAR-CMFRI in 1948-49, followed by further rounds in 1957-58, 1961-62, and 1973-77. The first nationwide Marine Fisheries Census was conducted in 1980, establishing a systematic framework for data collection. After a long gap, the second census was held in 2005, with expanded coverage and government funding support. The third census followed in 2010, introducing improved methodologies. The fourth census was conducted in 2016 and all these exercises covered all maritime states and union territories, including the islands. The upcoming Marine Fisheries Census 2025 will be the fifth edition and the first to go fully digital, using apps and real-time monitoring for accuracy and speed.

Objectives

The primary goal of MFC 2025 is the exhaustive documentation of every marine fisher family, fishing village, fishing craft, gear, and associated infrastructure like fishing harbours and fish landing centres across India's vast coastline. It seeks to gather detailed data on:



Fisher Households

Demographics, socio-economic status, educational levels, occupational profiles, caste, religion, housing, and amenities.



Fishing assets

Ownership details of mechanized, motorized, and non-motorized crafts, including type, size, engine power, and share, along with details of fishing gear.

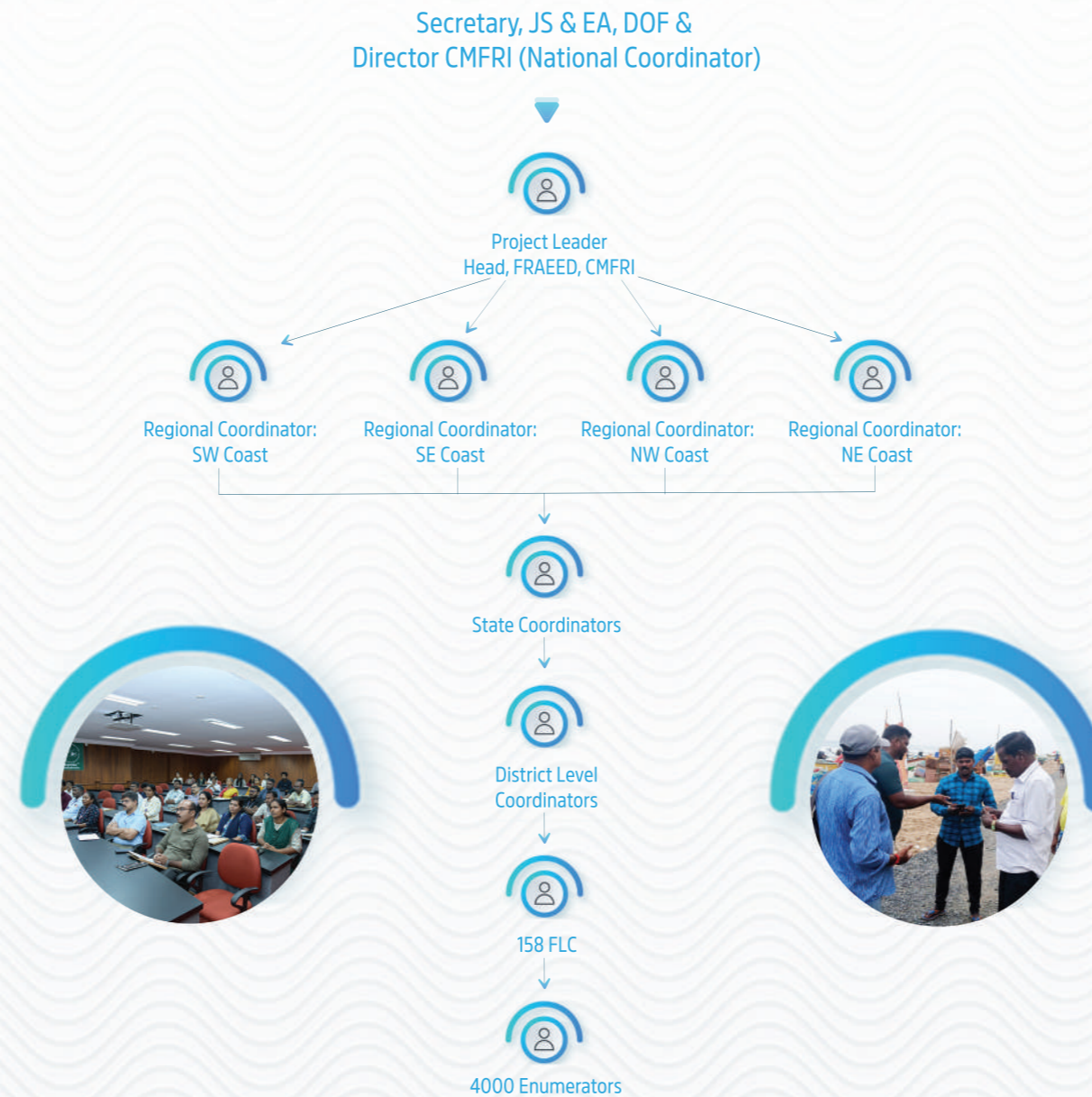


Infrastructure

Mapping of fishing harbours, landing centers, boat building/repairing yards, ice factories, cold storages, processing plants, peeling sheds, fish meal plants, SHGs, FFPOs, and listing of general village amenities.

Supervision cum Coordination Framework

A multi-tiered supervision framework ensures smooth coordination at national, regional, state, and district levels.



• **Committees:** Multiple committees (Advisory, Execution, Budget, Technical - including schedule finalization, app development, training, database/analytics, communication, publicity) have been established to manage specific aspects of the Census.

• **Manpower:** The exercise involves significant manpower, including CMFRI/FSI staff, state DoF officials (FLCs are staff of CMFRI/FSI/State DoF), and hired personnel (enumerators, data validators, administrative assistants).

Geographical Coverage

Entire coastal belt of 9 maritime states and 4 Union Territories.

ICAR-CMFRI is the nodal agency and overall coordinator for the census exercise and will conduct the field operations in nine maritime states. While the Fishery Survey of India (FSI) will lead operations in Union Territories including island regions.



A Digital Leap

For the first time, the Marine Fisheries Census is being conducted entirely through a digital platform. Instead of paper forms and manual entry, enumerators will use customized mobile and tablet applications to record household and infrastructure information in real time. The first of these tools, the VyAS-NAV App, has already been launched to validate marine fishing villages, landing centres, and harbours. Two more advanced applications viz. VyAS-SUTRA, VyAS-BHARAT designed to capture household data and track coastal infrastructure are ready for deployment. Thus the protocol, whose information nuggets are digital, gets collated, supervised and validated by online means, thereby making the whole process digitalized too.



Advantages of digital transformation

- Paperless Process
- Reduced errors
- Instant uploading of geo-tagged and time-stamped data
- Speeding up the process
- Near real time monitoring and validation