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Newsletter of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute



Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA)

ICAR-CMFRI played a significant role in the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA), a national campaign spearheaded by the Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, from 28 May to 12 June 2025. The campaign focused on disseminating modern agricultural, livestock, and fisheries technologies, promoting government schemes, and collecting farmer feedback. Sixty-two ICAR-

CMFRI scientists were engaged with farmers across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Gujarat. In Kerala alone, the campaign reached over 2.56 lakh farmers across 14 districts. A key VKSA event organised by ICAR-CMFRI on 4 June 2025 was attended by Dr. Raghavendra Bhatta, DDG (Animal Science), ICAR, during which fishing gear was distributed to tribal and Scheduled Caste farmers.

INSIDE

Lakshadweep KVK bags National Best Award	3
Marine Fisheries Census 2025	4
Broodstock Development and Larval Rearing of Royal Dottyback	5
Lakshadweep Coral Health Monitoring	10

Union Minister Visits KVK-Lakshadweep

Shri George Kurian, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, GOI, visited Kavaratti Island on 10 June 2025 to participate in the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA) led by

KVK-Lakshadweep. The campaign was conducted in the presence of Dr. Giri Sankar IAS, Collector and District Magistrate and Shri Raj Tilak, IFS, Secretary (Agriculture), UT Administration of Lakshadweep. Advisories for agriculture and



We remember with deep respect Padma Shri Dr. S. Ayyappan, whose visionary leadership and lasting contributions to agriculture and fisheries research continue to inspire our work.

ICAR-CMFRI remains committed to advancing India's marine fisheries sector through science-driven, inclusive and sustainable initiatives. Our active engagement in national programmes such as the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, along with strategic collaborations and technology dissemination, reflects our focus on strengthening coastal livelihoods and resource management. The Marine Fisheries Census 2025 preparations and Innovations like the VyAS-NAV platform will further enable data-driven governance. With continued emphasis on mariculture, seaweed farming, ecosystem-based management and capacity building, we aim to contribute to a resilient Blue Economy through technology, partnerships and community participation.

With best wishes

Grinson George
Director, ICAR-CMFRI



fisheries were provided to the farmers. The Minister highlighted fisheries prospects, including deep-sea fishing and seaweed farming, and lauded ICAR-CMFRI's technical support in promoting seaweed cultivation. He visited the

ornamental fish hatchery at Kavaratti, established by ICAR-CMFRI with the support of NCDC, New Delhi, and distributed agricultural machinery to beneficiaries, supported by the KVK, the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) of ICAR-CMFRI and PMMSY.

Strengthening sustainable fisheries, coastal livelihoods and institutional capacity

The Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, GOI, Shri George Kurian, along with Thiru K. Kailashnathan, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, and Thiru N. Rangasamy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Puducherry, graced the MoU exchange ceremony between ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi, and the Government of Puducherry on 16 April 2025 at Karaikal and Puducherry. Two MoUs were signed by the Director, ICAR-CMFRI with Shri A. Muhammed Ismail, Director of Fisheries, Puducherry, to undertake a pilot study on commercially important marine finfish farming in sea cages integrated with seaweed cultivation. The project proposes the integration of 16 HDPE seaweed rafts with a 6 m HDPE sea cage at



four sites, Pudukuppam, Panithittu, Karukkalacherry and Pattinacherry to promote sustainable, climate-resilient mariculture and coastal livelihoods. Later sensitization programmes, were conducted on 2 May 2025, under this project with special focus on fisherwomen. All selected sites witnessed enthusiastic participation from fishers.

Johnson, B. and Team ◆

Obituary



Padma Shri Dr. S. Ayyappan
(10.12.1955-10.05.2025)

Padma Shri Dr. S. Ayyappan, former Director General of ICAR and Secretary, DARE passed away on 10 May, 2025. He was a visionary leader and an eminent scientist devoted to strengthening Indian agricultural and fisheries research. A steadfast supporter of CMFRI, he guided the Institute with clarity and encouragement. Beyond his scientific brilliance, he is remembered for his humility, compassion, and commitment to inclusive development. Indian science has lost a luminary, but Dr. Ayyappan's legacy will continue to illuminate the path for future generations. As a mark of profound respect and sorrow, the CMFRI fraternity bows its head in reverence, offers prayers for the departed soul, and stands united in grief, pledging to carry forward the ideals and values he so nobly upheld.

EAFM initiatives

ICAR-CMFRI entered into a contract agreement with the BOBP-IGO for the preparation of a Scoping Report and Action Plan towards implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in the Coringa Mangrove Ecosystem, on 27 May 2025.

Women-led family-centric seaweed farming models

In Kutch, seaweed farming is taking on a new dimension of family-centric models that put women entrepreneurs at the forefront, promoting shared responsibilities and sustainable livelihoods within coastal households. By encouraging women's active participation through hands-on training, this initiative empowers households, strengthens community resilience, and promotes inclusive economic growth. The initial demonstration of this model was conducted at Jarapara and Mundra in Kutch on



4 April 2025, serving as a benchmark for replication across other coastal villages in the region.

Veraval RC of ICAR-CMFRI ♦

Lakshadweep KVK bags National Best Award



Lakshadweep Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CMFRI) has won the NAAS-Dhanuka Best KVK-National Award for excellence in agricultural extension. Among a range of works for the development of agriculture and allied sectors in the region, the KVK's pioneering efforts that led to declaring Lakshadweep organic territory were pivotal in

securing this national recognition. The Kendra was instrumental in registering an impressive 7591 active farmers across 10 islands of Lakshadweep who have adopted organic farming practices. Following such initiatives with the support of the Department of Agriculture, UT Administration of Lakshadweep, the archipelago was declared fully organic territory by the Union Government in 2021.

KSBB funded project for protecting marine ecosystems



Kerala State Biodiversity Board funded project titled "Identification and Removal of Ghost Fishing Nets in Selected Fishing Zones of the Trivandrum Coast for Developing Strategies for Regular Monitoring of Marine Ecosystems," was launched on 9 April 2025 at ICAR-CMFRI, Vizhinjam. The initiative focuses on tackling the growing issue of ghost nets, which severely threaten marine life and livelihoods in the region.

Vizhinjam RC, ICAR-CMFRI

CMFRI-CIFT partner to explore mesopelagic resources

A pilot study has been launched jointly by ICAR-CMFRI and ICAR-CIFT to explore mesopelagic resource exploitation under the PMMSY-NFDB Innovative Projects. The initiative titled "Exploring the Harvest and Post-Harvest Potential of Mesopelagic Resources from the Indian EEZ- A Pilot Study Towards Commercial Exploitation for Blue Economy", aims at sustainable exploitation of mesopelagic species to ease fishing pressure on coastal and pelagic resources.

Mangalore RC, ICAR-CMFRI

Marine Fisheries Census 2025 brainstorming for census schedule revision



Marine Fisheries Census schedules from the 2010 and 2016 exercises were reviewed and revised, incorporating new socio-economic dimensions and suggestions from the DoF, GoI, through a series of brainstorming sessions and consultations to enhance clarity, relevance, and applicability by FRAEE Division, ICAR-CMFRI.

Sensitization workshop

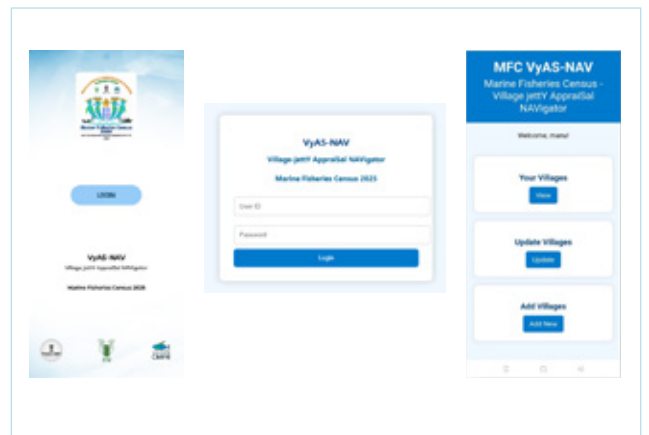


The Marine Fisheries Census 2025 Sensitization Workshop was held on 20–21 May 2025, bringing together officials from CMFRI, FSI, and state fisheries departments. The workshop discussed the objectives, operational framework, activity milestones, and budgetary provisions, along with the finalized household schedules. Deliberations led to the definition of

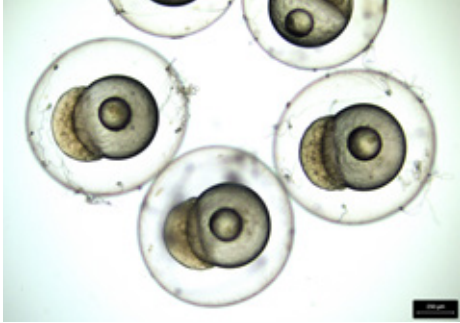
statutory precincts, clarification of institutional roles, presentation of the four-tier supervisory mechanism, preliminary assessment of enumerator requirements, and conceptual discussions on digitizing schedules into mobile applications, culminating in several actionable decisions and clarifications to support effective census implementation.

Launch of VyAS-NAV Pre-Census App

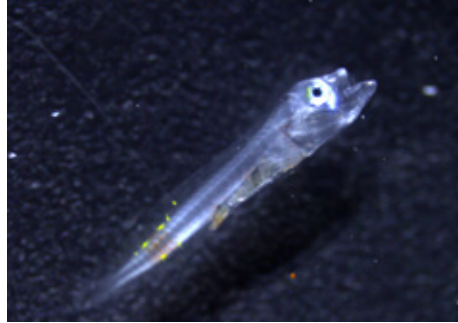
VyAS-NAV (Village-jetty Appraisal NAVigator), an innovative digital platform developed by ICAR-CMFRI for both mobile and web portals was launched on 28 April 2025 at Mumbai during the Coastal States Meet reviewing PMMSY implementation to support pre-census activities of the Marine Fisheries Census 2025.



Broodstock development, spawning and larval rearing of the Royal Dottyback



The royal dottyback, *Pictichromis paccagnellorum* (Axelrod, 1973) is a marine, reef-associated fish native to the tropical Western Pacific Ocean (0-15 m) and valued in the marine aquarium trade. About 15 subadults (3.5-4.2 cm; 0.7-1.2 g) were stocked in 500 L HDPE tanks with ozone-treated seawater at Vizhinjam RC of ICAR-CMFRI, after quarantine. Aggressive territorial behaviour was



observed after six months, which eventually formed breeding pairs. The spawned egg mass was deposited on PVC shelters. The Globular and transparent eggs (990-1090 μm), were incubated in a customised RAS system. The hatching occurred after 76-82 h. Hatchlings (3161 \pm 110 μm , TL) were fed with nauplii of the copepod *Parvocalanus crassirostris* and completely metamorphosed into



juveniles at 28-30 dph. Spawning occurred at 6-9 day intervals, 3-4 times consecutively and repeated in a 20-30 day cycle. This represents the first successful seed production of the royal dottyback in captivity.

B. Santhosh, F. Muhammed Anzeer, K. S. Aneesh, Y. Dispindas, Ambarish P. Gop, Krishna Sukumaran, G. Rathi Bhuvaneswari, S. Athira, and A. R. Akhil ◆

A novel immune gene paralog from Snubnose Pompano

Tumour necrosis factor alpha (TNF- α) is an important cytokine in vertebrate immunity. Researchers from ICAR-CMFRI identified a novel gene encoding TNF- α paralog from snubnose pompano, *Trachinotus blochii*. Molecular analysis confirmed it as a type1 TNF- α , found in many fish species. It showed the highest similarity to that of *Seriola dumerili*

(~83%). Structural features were conserved across teleosts and a 3-D model was generated using *in silico* tools. The gene showed constitutive, tissue-wide expression, with maximum level in the kidney. As *in silico* analysis predicted its biological function in bacterial defence, functional validation was done following exposure to a marine

pathogen (*Vibrio harveyi*). The expression was upregulated in all organs after the challenge. These findings provide a valuable genetic resource for future studies on fish health management.

Sumithra T. G., Amritha Jagannivasan, Krupesha Sharma S. R., Gayathri S., Reynold P., and Ambarish P. Gop ◆

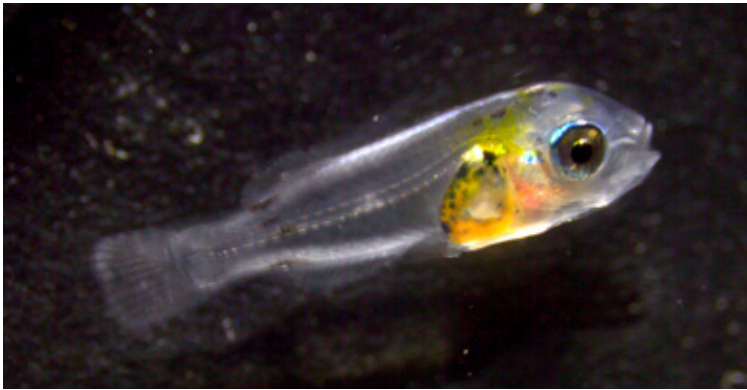
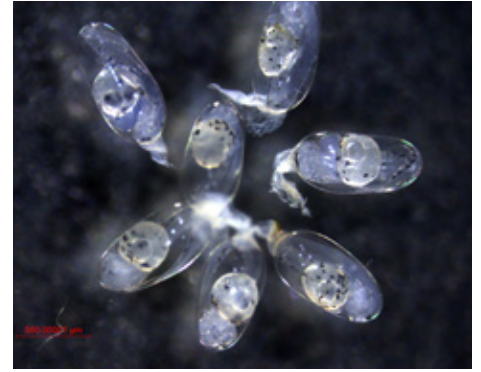


Talbot's damsel breeding in captivity

Broodstock development of the Talbot's damsel, *Chrysiptera talboti* (Allen, 1975) was conducted at the Vizhinjam RC of ICAR-CMFRI in HDPE tanks. After four months, mature males and females (4.4–5.8 cm TL) showed territorial behavior. Spawning occurred during summer in the early morning hours. Eggs (350–700) were attached to PVC pipes. The eggs were transparent and cylindrical. Hatching occurred after 72 h of incubation.

Males guarded the eggs until hatching. The hatchlings measured 2.0 ± 0.103 mm in TL. Larvae were fed different stages of *Parvocalanus crassirostris* until metamorphosis at 43–48 days post-hatch.

B. Santhosh, F. Muhammed Anzeer, K.S. Aneesh, Y. Dispindas, Ambarish P. Gop, Krishna Sukumaran, G. Rathi Bhuvaneswari, S. Athira and A. R. Akhil ♦



Successful demonstration of seaweed farming



Mangalore RC successfully demonstrated seaweed farming for the first time in Karnataka as part of an Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture (IMTA) system at the Yadamavinahole Estuary in Udupi District. Supported by NFDB, the 72-day trial integrated *Kappaphycus alvarezii* with mussel and Silver Pompano, yielding 180 kg of biomass from 20 net tubes.

Mangalore RC, ICAR-CMFRI ♦

Subterranean eel loach discovery



A new subterranean eel loach species was discovered from a perennial well in Naduvannur, Kozhikode, which is connected to underground water flow from adjacent hilly terrains. Detailed morphological and molecular analyses confirmed it as a distinct species. It has been named *Pangio juhu* after Ms. Juhu (Dhanvi Dheera), who first noticed it. This marks the third discovery of a subterranean eel loach species in Kerala in recent years.



Visakhapatnam



Visakhapatnam RC organised Indian pompano harvests during May–June 2025 under SCSP in Krishna and Konaseema Districts. Harvests were conducted during 25–30 May 2025 from ten cages stocked in December 2024 with hatchery-produced fingerlings (15–20 g) at a stocking density of 15 numbers/m³. The fish attained 360 - 440 g in size after five months. Harvested fish were sold at ₹315/kg.

Sekar Megarajan, Joe K. Kizhakudan, Ritesh Ranjan, Jayasree Loka



Fish harvest melas were organised by Visakhapatnam RC under TSP in Krishna and West Godavari districts. Eight coastal cages stocked with Indian pompano by 40 Yenadi tribal beneficiaries attained a size of 375–435 g in 4–5 months from a stocking size of 10–15 g. Harvests were conducted during 23–30 May 2025 in Peddapalem (730 kg), V. Kothapalem (845 kg), Kothanavarasapuram (818 kg) and Laxmipuram (510 kg) villages and sold at ₹315/kg.

Sekar Megarajan, Joe K. Kizhakudan, Biji Xavier, Ritesh Ranjan

Kochi



ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi organised a Biofloc fish harvest mela under the SCSP at Vengola, Ernakulam, on 9 April 2025. A total of 900 kg of *Channa striata*, cultured for 11 months in a 6 m tank (1,100 seeds) was harvested. The produce was sold at ₹340/kg.

Rema Madhu, K. Madhu and Veena George



Two mussel farms, stocked in December 2024, supported by ICAR–CMFRI for 15 Scheduled Caste families in Kodungallur were successfully harvested on 23 May 2025. The harvest mela was inaugurated by Adv. V. S. Binil, the Vice Chairman of Kodungallur Municipality in a meeting presided by Shri. K.S.Shivaram, Ward Councillor and Shri. T.S. Sajeevan, Opposition leader.

Rema Madhu, Vidya R., P. S. Alloycious

Chennai



Under TSP, two circular cages and four square cages were installed on 2 April 2025, at Senjiamman Nagar, Pazhavercadu coastal village, Ponneri Taluk, Tiruvallur District. The Irular

community members were the key beneficiaries, primarily involved in the cage farming. Each cage was stocked with 750 numbers of Asian Seabass fingerlings, with regular feeding and monitoring. Additionally, eight circular sea cages (6m diameter) were installed at Kottaikadu by four SC groups, each consisting of six members. Asian Seabass were stocked from 4 to 23 April 2025 at a density of 950 seeds/cage and monitored with regular feeding.

Madras RS, ICAR-CMFRI

Tuticorin



The Alangar Group, a SC fisher group from Mottaigopuram, successfully cultured *Trachinotus blochii* in a 6 m HDPE sea cage. Stocked with 5 g fingerlings sourced from the ICAR-CMFRI, Mandapam RC, they achieved a 418 kg harvest over nine months with an 84% survival rate and a 1.95:1 FCR, realizing a revenue of ₹1.31 lakhs

D. Linga Prabu, L. Loveson Edward, K.R. Veera Venthana, S. Ramkumar, V. Vidhya, L. Ranjith and M. Kavitha

ICAR-CMFRI support to FFPOs



The office of Aquarise FFPO was inaugurated at Gothuruthu with financial support from NABARD and technical guidance from ICAR–CMFRI. Registered under the Producer Companies Act, the FFPO seeks to enhance farmers’ bargaining power, improve market access, and reduce the cost of cultivation through organised farmer collectives.

Mumbai



Under the National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture - SCSP programme, Mumbai RS distributed small-scale fishing gears to SCSP beneficiaries at Ratnagiri on 6 April 2025. This initiative aimed to strengthen livelihood resilience and promote sustainable fishing among Scheduled Caste fishers, enhancing their efficiency and income generation.

Mumbai RS, ICAR-CMFRI ◆

Karwar



A Field Day was organised on 7 May 2025 at Devagiri Panchayat, Karnataka, with distribution of two FRP dinghy boats under SCSP. An input distribution drive was also held at Horabaga village, providing FRP boats, deep freezers, and farm inputs to SC beneficiaries by Smt. Veena Durgekar, Chairperson of Devigiri Panchayat.

C. Kalidas ◆

Mangalore



Two awareness programmes were conducted on 18 June 2025 at Kundapura, and on 27 June 2025 at Mangalore, for selecting SC beneficiaries. Scientists from Mangalore RC and Gram Panchayat representatives interacted with over 100 SC members to assess their specific needs for scheme implementation.

Mangalore RC, ICAR-CMFRI ◆

Awareness/Training programme

Kochi



A five-day training programme on Advancing India's Blue Economy: The Role of the Fisheries Sector was conducted at ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi, from 13–17 May 2025 in collaboration with VIBHA's WOSC. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Balaji Ramakrishnan, Director, NIOT, and coordinated by Dr. Ratheesh Kumar R. It brought together 24 participants from 12 states for expert-led sessions on biodiversity, climate change, sustainable fisheries, and ecosystem-based management.

Ratheesh Kumar R ◆

ICAR-CMFRI hosted a two-day workshop on "Developing a Framework for Implementation of Voluntary Carbon Markets in Fisheries and Aquaculture" during 2–3 June 2025 under the aegis of the Department of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DoF). The workshop aimed to



develop a framework for implementing Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCM) in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

Shinoj P ◆



A one-day hands-on training on fish ageing using hard parts was conducted on 31 May 2025 at ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi, under the capacity-building initiative "Aligning Academic Research with Marine Fisheries Resources Assessment Needs." Thirteen participants from universities attended, completed workflows from otolith collection to age estimation for stock assessment applications.

Finfish and Shellfish Fisheries Division ◆



A hands-on training, "Tropical Fish Ageing using Hard Parts – Core Techniques (Trop FACT) – Training Series I" was conducted from 30 June to 4 July 2025 at ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi. Fifteen participants from the FFD were trained in otolith and vertebrae analysis, growth interpretation and stock assessment applications

L. Remya and Livi Wilson ◆



With technical guidance from ICAR-CMFRI, Kudumbashree women's units achieved a bumper harvest of 4 t from two mussel farms at Moothakunnam and Kottappuram. Depurated mussel was marketed through the ATIC of ICAR-CMFRI.

R. Vidya, P.S. Alloyicious and K.M. Jestin Joy ◆

Tuticorin



The Tuticorin Regional Station of ICAR-CMFRI organised a three-day hands-on training programme on Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) during 18–20 June 2025, supported by NABARD. The programme combined lectures with practical field visits, focusing on cage farming, seaweed cultivation, bivalve farming, feed preparation, and crab fattening.

Ranjith L., Loveson Edward L., K. R. Veera Venthan, Kavitha M., D. Linga Prabu. ◆

Vizhinjam



The ICAR-CMFRI Vizhinjam Regional Centre conducted a three-day hands-on training on mussel and oyster farming from 6 to 8 May 2025, supported by the UNDP-GCF ECRICC SPMU Project. Nineteen participants from Maharashtra gained practical exposure to seed production, site selection, seeding methods, farm management, and sustainable bivalve farming, with field visits.

M. K. Anil, P. Gomathi, Jose Kingsly, P. Krishnapriya and O. Salini ◆

Visakhapatnam

A training program on “Taxonomy of finfish, shellfish and other marine resources” was held during 21-23 April 2025 for staff of Visakhapatnam RC.

Muktha M., Manas H. M. and Indira D. ◆

Mumbai



Stakeholder consultation on sustainable marine fishing practices, focusing on MLS, juvenile fishing, monsoon ban, and bivalve mariculture was organised by Mumbai RS, in collaboration with the Centre for Social Action, at the Uttan Fisheries Co-operative Society on 23 and 25 June 2025, engaging 80 fisherfolk of Pali and Uttan villages.

Mumbai RS, ICAR-CMFRI ◆

Mandapam



The Mandapam RC of ICAR-CMFRI organised a three-day training on seaweed farming, sea cage farming, and IMTA during 18–20 June 2025. Twenty-two fishers and officials from Puducherry and Karaikal gained practical exposure through demonstrations, industry interactions, and field visits.

B. Johnson ◆

Outreach programmes on jellyfish sting management were conducted during May–June 2025 in collaboration with the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation. Awareness activities on the use of “Jellyspray” as a first-aid measure were organised in Sambai and Natarajapuram fishing villages during 10–11 May 2025, benefiting about 150 fishermen. A webinar on jellyfish diversity along the Tamil Nadu coast and their sting management was held on 20 May 2025, with participation of around 100 fishermen

from Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Kanyakumari, and Ramanathapuram districts. Additionally, a webinar on first-aid measures for jellyfish stings, exclusively for Irular fishers, was conducted on 18 June 2025, with about 25 participants.

Mandapam RC, ICAR-CMFRI ◆

Mangalore



Field day was organised on 2 May 2025, at Uppunda to harvest silver pompano, green mussel, and seaweed from the NFDB-supported IMTA system. Honourable MLA of Byndoor, Shri Gururaj Shetty Gantiholi, along with local leaders, fisheries officials, scientists and fish farmers, participated.

Veraval



ICAR-CMFRI organised a Seaweed Harvest Mela and Field Day from 24 to 26 May 2025 along the Kutch Coast under India's priority seaweed farming project. Custom-designed HDPE rafts deployed in March 2025 yielded 19.8 t of wet seaweed, with growth 7–9 times the initial seeding, marking a milestone in sustainable Blue Growth and resilient livelihoods for the region. The programme included hands-on training, awareness sessions, certificate distribution, and MoUs with local stakeholders.

D. Divu, Suresh Kumar Mojjada, P.S. Swathi Lekshmi, Sagar Jadav, Jayesh Devaliya, T. S. Ramshad, S. Aarsha, Prachi S. Bagde and Mayur S. Tade ◆

Empowering coastal livelihoods through habitat enhancement



Visakhapatnam RC, in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Andhra Pradesh, deployed artificial reefs at 22 sites off the Visakhapatnam Coast on 19 May 2025. This initiative under the PMMSY aims to restore marine biodiversity and enhance fish production. The program was officially flagged off by Shri Kinjarapu Atchannaidu, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Co-operation, Marketing, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development & Fisheries, Andhra Pradesh

Joe K Kizhakudan, H. M. Manas, Indira Divipala, Pralaya Ranjan Behera



Shri Sanjay Kumar Pathak, Joint Secretary (Finance), ICAR, inaugurated a five-day training programme (Module-II) for newly recruited ICAR Assistants at ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi, on 21 April 2025. During the event, he emphasized the crucial role of administrative personnel in strengthening institutional functioning and supporting research activities.

Lakshadweep coral health monitoring

Coral reef survey was conducted from 2 to 9 May 2025 at Agatti and Kavaratti Islands in the Lakshadweep archipelago to assess post-bleaching recovery following the mass coral bleaching event. Benthic substrates and reef fishes were surveyed using belt transect methods in 10 sites in the lagoon and 3 sites in the forereef in Agatti, and 11 sites in the lagoon and 3 sites in the forereef in Kavaratti. While slight bleaching persisted in branching *Acropora* corals, massive *Porites* showed no signs of bleaching. Following the 2024 mass bleaching, many *Acropora* colonies were found dead and are now overgrown by turf algae. New *Pocillopora* colonies were found indicating early reef regeneration. Furthermore, high densities of herbivorous fishes suggested early signs of recovery.

Divya Viswambharan, Ranjith Lakshmanan, Alvin Anto, P. Abdul Azeez and Miriam Paul Sreeram



Revitalising seaweed farming in Kutch



ICAR-CMFRI initiated a programme to promote seaweed cultivation along the Kutch Coast, focusing on marine creeks along the Indo-Pak border and other coastal areas. Master trainers, trained by scientists from Veraval, Tuticorin and Mandapam Regional Centres, served as resource persons. Awareness programmes and hands-on training were conducted at Kori Creek,



Padala Creek, Jakhau and Mandvi, covering raft fabrication, seed stocking, farm maintenance, growth monitoring and harvesting. The initiative aims to strengthen sustainable seaweed farming practices in the region.

D. Divu, Suresh Kumar Mojjada, P.S. Swathi Lekshmi, Sagar Jadav, Jayesh Devaliya, Ramshad T S, Aarsha S, Prachi S. Bagde, Mayur S. Tade and Bhint Mitesh

MSC ELSA-3: impact monitoring

Following the maritime accident involving MSC ELSA-3 off the Kerala Coast on 24 May 2025, ICAR-CMFRI launched a coastal water quality monitoring programme to assess environmental impacts. Samples were collected from Ernakulam, Alappuzha, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram coasts (10 stations). Results indicated no immediate large-scale chemical contamination. Water quality parameters viz., pH, salinity, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, chlorophyll-a and alkalinity remained within normal ranges. Elevated turbidity and TAN were linked to rainfall and runoff. However, extensive debris, including plastic nurdles, LDPE/HDPE bags, cotton bales and containers, was recorded. Long-term monitoring for at least three years is recommended to track delayed ecological impacts.

Shelton Padua

Fisheries Minister graced fish and seaweed harvest melas

Harvesting of sea cage-farmed Indian pompano and seaweed, with the support of Visakhapatnam RC, was conducted on 19 May 2025. Indian pompano, reared from 25 g fingerlings to 510-560 g over eight months, yielded approximately 1t at harvest. The maiden seaweed harvest of *Kappaphycus alvarezii*, cultivated in 40 HDPE rafts using the tube-net method, produced 1.04t. The events were graced by Shri Kinjarapu Atchannaidu, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Cooperation, Marketing, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development & Fisheries, AP, with participation from officials and fish farmers.




Whale strandings

ICAR-CMFRI has documented a 10-fold increase in whale strandings over the past decade along the southwest coast of India, highlighting the need for region-specific conservation strategies in the face of climate change.

Ratheesh Kumar R. and T. G. Sumithra

Nemertean worm from the Palk Bay

During the regular coastal survey along the Palk Bay, nemertean worms (ribbon worms) were collected alive, and maintained in an aquarium at Mandapam CMFRI. About nine species of nemerteans have been reported from India, yet there are likely over a hundred species in that fauna. The proboscis is branched and the



present collection has been identified as *Cerebratulus cf. gardineri*.

R. Saravanan and K. Vinod

In-house Programmes

Environment Day and Ocean Day celebrations



ICAR–CMFRI observed World Environment Day 2025 across its regional stations on 5 June with awareness and conservation activities. At Madras RS, Dr. K. Venkataraman, former Director, ZSI, delivered a lecture on “Ending Plastic Pollution Globally”. Veraval RS organised a beach cleanliness drive at Chowpatti Beach with the Indian Coast Guard and a sapling plantation programme at Inaj village. Tuticorin RS initiated a small



nursery for mangrove propagules. On 8 June, the MBEM Division at CMFRI headquarters observed World Ocean Day by conducting an ocean conservation awareness programme for students of Govt Fisheries LP School, Panambukad Island, Ernakulam. Veraval RS also marked the day with an awareness talk at Edu Care Public School, Bhidiya, engaging over 50 students on ocean conservation and sustainability.

WorldFish delegates visit ICAR-CMFRI



A team from WorldFish, Malaysia, led by Schmidt Jorn and Arun Padiyar, visited ICAR–CMFRI, Kochi, to explore joint research in marine fisheries. Dr. Grinson George, Director, ICAR–CMFRI, welcomed the delegation and discussed research collaborations on seaweeds.

Poshan Pakhwada



In pursuance of directives from the Ministry of Women and Child Development and ICAR, the 7th Poshan Pakhwada 2025 was observed from 8 to 22 April 2025 by ICAR–CMFRI, Kochi, and its sub-centres through diverse outreach and health activities. Kochi HQ organised “The Seafood Savvy Quiz,” while Vizhinjam RC distributed nutritional supplements and held a quiz, “Nutritional Security through Fish and Fish-Based Foods”. Regional stations in Mumbai and Veraval conducted awareness programmes for school students, while Karwar RS and Puri FC held



health check-up camps for fishers. Madras RS focused on campaigns for Safai Mitras under the theme “Ensuring Nutritional Security through Fish and Fish-Based Foods”, and Mandapam RC engaged staff and trainees through a walkathon and essay-and slogan-writing competitions. Tuticorin RS organised the event with an online quiz and awareness talk on “Nutrition and Different Life Stages”.

Miriam Paul Sreeram ◆

International Yoga Day



ICAR–CMFRI observed International Yoga Day 2025 on 21 June with active participation from staff and students at Kochi. At Madras RS, a special session was led by Smt. Thangalakshmi Balasubramanian of Vivekananda Kendra Prakasham Trust, Chennai, on “Yoga for One Earth, One Health”, along with a demonstration of simple daily yoga practices. Veraval RS marked the day with a yoga class and orientation session by Yoga Master Smt. Kirti, focusing on physical and mental well-being. Mangalore RC also organised a yoga programme under the guidance of Yoga Guru Smt. Prathibha. The celebrations highlighted the role of yoga in promoting health, harmony, and workplace wellness.

Foundation stone laid



The foundation stone for the new Laboratory and Office Complex at the Veraval Regional Station of ICAR-CMFRI was ceremoniously laid on 30 June 2025. The event was graced by Shri N. V. Upadhyay, IAS, Collector and District Magistrate of Gir-Somnath, as Chief Guest. Dr. P. S. Swathi Lekshmi welcomed the dignitaries. Dr. V. V. R. Suresh, Dr. Bobby Ignatius, and staff members were present during the programme held at the station.

International Seaweed Day celebrated at Mandapam



To mark International Seaweed Day, Mandapam RC, in association with SNAP Natural and Alginate Products Pvt. Ltd., organised a seaweed farmers and collectors interaction meet on 4 June 2025 at Mandapam. Around 350 seaweed farmers and collectors from Ramanathapuram and Kanyakumari districts participated. The programme was inaugurated by Shri Simranjeet Singh Kahlon, IAS,

District Collector, Ramanathapuram. Experts from research institutions, fisheries departments, academia, and industry discussed challenges and opportunities in seaweed farming and collection. Farmers also shared their experiences and raised queries, which were addressed by the expert panel. The event highlighted the importance of seaweeds in sustainable livelihoods, food security, and ecosystem health.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IMPLEMENTATION

Town Official Language Implementation Committee (Offices) meeting



The first half-yearly meeting of the Kochi Town Official Language Implementation Committee (Offices) for the F.Y. 2025-26 was held on 22 May 2025 at ICAR-CMFRI under the chairmanship of Smt. Preeti Garg, IRS, Principal Chief Commissioner of

Income Tax. Dr. V.V.R. Suresh, Principal Scientist & Head, Mariculture Division presented the Official Language activities of ICAR-CMFRI. Shri. Hareesh Nair, Chief Administrative Officer (S.G.) & Officer-in-Charge (OL) and officials of the Official Language section also attended the meeting.

Chennai

Dr. R. Narayanakumar, SIC & Principal Scientist, Madras RS attended the 69th meeting and discussion of TOLIC on 23 June 2025, held at National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai.

Hindi competition



As a part of monthly Hindi competition, Hindi Dictation competition was conducted for staff members on 21 May 2025 at ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi.

Hindi workshop



A Hindi Workshop was conducted on 30 June 2025 at the Institute Headquarters. Smt. Papiya Chatterjee, Retired Assistant Manager from National Insurance Company Limited,

conducted the class. The workshop provided an awareness about official language policies among the staff members, which helps to implement official language in their official works.



A Hindi Workshop was organised on 19 June 2025 at Karwar RS. Shri Sateesh Duri, attended the event as the guest speaker and delivered a talk on the topic "The Role of Employees in the Successful Implementation of Official Language Hindi.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



Dr. Sekar Megarajan, Senior scientist and Dr. Gyanaranjan Dash, Senior scientist of ICAR-CMFRI attended the international workshop on "Artificial Intelligence and Sustainability Applied in Aquaculture" held from 3 to 6 June 2025 at Tainan, Republic of China (Taiwan).

Exhibitions organised

Date	Event	Organising/Participating centre
9-11 April 2025	ICMBGSD 25 International Conference on Marine Biodiversity , Genomics and Sustainable Development, School of Marine Sciences, CUSAT, Kochi.	ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi.
7-11 May 2025	Exhibition in connection with the Golden Jubilee celebration of Janmabhumi.	Vizhinjam Regional Centre, ICAR-CMFRI .
9-11 May 2025	"ipaaF" Midas Touch Events and Trade fairs LLP. Chennai.	ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi.
22 May 2025	International Day for Biological Diversity 2025, organised by Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board.	Visakhapatnam Regional Centre, ICAR-CMFRI.
30 May-1 June 2025	Seafood Festival & Aqua Show, Dept. of Fisheries, Govt. of Tamil Nadu.	Madras Regional Station, ICAR-CMFRI.
12 June 2025	International Fishery Tech Exhibition, Bombay Exhibition centre, Mumbai.	Mumbai Regional Station, ICAR-CMFRI.



The exhibition stall by the Vizhinjam RC, bagged the Best stall award for its outstanding display and presentation in connection with the Golden Jubilee celebration of Janmabhumi in Thiruvananthapuram during 7-11 May, 2025.

Appointments

Name & Designation	Centre	Effective Date
Dr. B. T. Naveen Kumar Senior Scientist	Mandapam Regional Centre of ICAR-CMFRI	27.05.2025
Dr. J. Biju Sam Kamalam Senior Scientist	Vizhinjam Regional Centre of ICAR-CMFRI	23.05.2025
Dr. P. A. Vikas Senior Scientist	Mandapam Regional Centre of ICAR-CMFRI	30.05.2025
Dr. Raju Baitha Senior Scientist	Visakhapatnam Regional Centre of ICAR-CMFRI	05.06.2025
Dr. Ashish Khandelwal Senior Scientist	ICAR-CMFRI Kochi	10.06.2025
Dr. Rajeev Ranjan Senior Scientist	ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi	10.06.2025
Dr. Gokhlesh Kumar Senior Scientist	ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi	23.06.2025

MACP-Scheme

Name with Designation & Place of posting	Pay Matrix	Effective Date
Smt. M. Muthuvelu Multi-Tasking Staff Mandapam Regional Centre	1 st MACP Pay Matrix Level-02 Rs.19900-63200/-	12.02.2024
Shri P. M. Gireesh Multi-Tasking Staff ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi	3 rd MACP Pay Matrix Level-04 Rs.25500-81100/-	16.03.2025
Smt. T. Mahalakshmi Assistant Tuticorin Regional Station	3 rd MACP Pay Matrix Level-07 Rs.44900-142400/-	07.04.2024
Shri C. H. Rama Rao Multi Tasking Staff Visakhapatnam Regional Centre	3 rd MACP Pay Matrix Level-04 Rs.25500-81100/-	02.08.2024

Transfer

Name & Designation	From	To	Effective Date
Dr. G. B. Purushottama Senior Scientist	Karwar Regional Station	Mangalore Regional Centre	02.06.2025 (FN)
Dr. S. Ramkumar Senior Scientist	Mumbai Regional Station	Madras Regional Station	06.06.2025 (FN)
Shri Punam Ashok Khandagale	Mumbai Regional Station of CMFRI	Visakhapatnam Regional Centre of CMFRI	04.06.2025
Shri Sarvottam Kumar Assistant	ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi	Visakhapatnam Regional Centre of CMFRI	04.06.2025
Dr. V. Venkatesan Principal Scientist & SIC	Mumbai Regional Station	ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi	12.06.2025 (FN)
Dr. A. Anuraj Scientist	Vizhinjam Regional Centre	ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi	12.06.2025 (FN)
Dr. P. Gomathi Scientist	Vizhinjam Regional Centre	Madras Regional Station	16.06.2025 (FN)

Assumption of charge

Name	Designation
Dr. S. R. Krupesha Sharma Principal Scientist	Head-in-Charge MBFNHD
Shri Nakhawa Ajay Dayaram Scientist	Scientist-in-Charge Mumbai Regional Station

Promotions

Name & Designation	Promoted as	Effective Date
Dr. Saima Rehman Scientist (Level-10)	Scientist (Level-11)	01.01.2021
Dr. Adnan Hussain Gora Scientist (Level-10)	Scientist (Level-11)	01.01.2021
Dr. Anulekshmi Chellappan Senior Scientist (Level-12)	Senior Scientist (Level-13A)	15.12.2022
Smt. R. Bavithra Scientist	Scientist (Level-11)	02.07.2023
Dr. A. Anuraj Scientist	Senior Scientist (Level-12)	28.08.2023
Dr. Shelton Padua Senior Scientist (Level-12)	Senior Scientist (Level-13A)	15.09.2023
Dr. N. Rajesh Senior Scientist (Level-12)	Senior Scientist (Level-13A)	15.09.2023
Dr. M. Muktha Senior Scientist (Level-12)	Senior Scientist (Level-13A)	15.12.2023
Dr. Divya Viswambharan Scientist	Senior Scientist (Level-12)	01.01.2024
Dr. S. Surya Scientist	Senior Scientist (Level-12)	01.01.2024
Dr. F. Jasmin Scientist	Senior Scientist (Level-12)	01.01.2024
Smt. M. Kavitha Scientist (Level-11)	Scientist (Level-12)	01.01.2024
Dr. M. T. Shilpa Scientist	Senior Scientist (Level-12)	01.01.2024
Dr. S. Chandrasekar Scientist	Senior Scientist (Level-12)	01.01.2024
Dr. D. Linga Prabu Scientist	Senior Scientist (Level-12)	01.01.2024
Dr. G. Rathi Bhuvanewari Scientist	Senior Scientist (Level-12)	01.01.2024
Dr. R. Ratheesh Kumar Scientist	Senior Scientist (Level-13A)	15.04.2025
Dr. K. K. Anikuttan Senior Scientist (Level-12)	Senior Scientist (Level-13A)	13.05.2025
Dr. Vinaya Kumar Vase Senior Scientist (Level-12)	Senior Scientist (Level-13A)	13.05.2025
Dr. Biswajit Dash Chief Technical Officer	Senior Scientist (Aquaculture)	07.05.2025
Dr. Subal Kumar Roul Scientist	Senior Scientist (Level-13A)	13.05.2025
Smt. P. A. Febeena Assistant Finance & Account Officer	Finance and Account Officer	28.04.2025

Retirements on Superannuation



Smt. V. K. Sobha
Administrative Officer
30.04.2025



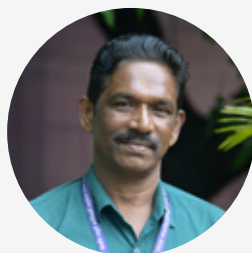
Smt. P. P. Sheela
Senior Technician
30.04.2025



Shri I. Syed Sadiq
Senior Technician
30.04.2025



Smt. P. K. Usha
Technician
30.04.2025



Shri P. K. Baby
Technical Officer
31.05.2025



Shri K. Ramaswami
Senior Technical Assistant
31.05.2025



Shri Bareen Mohammed
Senior Technician
30.06.2025

Relieving

Name & Designation	From	To	Effective Date
Dr. Kajal Chakraborty Principal Scientist	ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi	ICAR-NBFGR Lucknow	14.04.2025
Dr. Suresh Kumar Mojjada Chief Technical Officer	Veraval Regional Centre of ICAR-CMFRI	ICAR-NAARM Hyderabad	12.06.2025
Dr. L. Ranjith Senior Scientist	Tuticorin Regional Station of ICAR-CMFRI	ICAR-NAARM Hyderabad	27.06.2025
Dr. Reshma Gills Scientist	ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi	ICAR-NAARM Hyderabad	27.06.2025

Upcoming event

**TPSF Announces
TREVOR - SAFARI Symposium 2026**
4-6 November 2026 | Venue: ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi



ICAR-CMFRI

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute is a premier research institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and focusses on research and training in marine fisheries and mariculture.

Cadalmin is the quarterly newsletter of ICAR-CMFRI. This publication gives an insight into the major events of the institute, besides highlighting the salient research findings for the benefit of various stakeholders in the marine fisheries sector.

E-mail: director.cmfri@icar.org.in | www.cmfri.org.in