

Report

DG, ICAR Visits ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai

Research-to-Impact, Innovation, and Human Resource Development for a Sustainable Blue Economy

Mumbai, 24 October 2026

Dr Mangi Lal Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), visited the ICAR–Central Institute of Fisheries Education (ICAR-CIFE), Mumbai, to review its infrastructure, research, academic and technological initiatives. During the visit to the Versova campus, Dr Jat reviewed the existing infrastructure and ongoing reconstruction and renovation activities in the context of the proposed demolition of certain structures by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). He interacted with BMC officials and received the official document regarding the allotment of new land adjacent to the CIFE, Yari Road campus.



At the new campus, Dr Jat laid the foundation stone for the expansion of the girls' hostel and announced the name “**Minakshi**” for the facility. He inspected the hostel infrastructure and interacted with female students, encouraging them to develop leadership qualities and strengthen professional networks with overseas alumni to explore postdoctoral opportunities in fisheries and aquaculture.



Dr Jat visited the Aquatic Biodiversity Museum and Repository, which houses specimens representing more than 550 aquatic species, including finfish,



shellfish, molluscs, crustaceans, corals, sharks, seaweeds, mangroves and other invertebrates. The facility also showcases fishing gear and craft models and

incorporates digital learning tools, including virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR), to promote aquatic biodiversity awareness and fisheries education. At the Dr. S. N. Dwivedi Aquaculture Complex, he reviewed the institute's aquaculture facilities and technological initiatives, including the renovated public aquarium, recirculatory aquaculture system (RAS), automated solar feed dispenser, CIFE-Cool, AI bin and breeding unit. He emphasized the need to translate research outputs into economically viable, farmer-friendly and sustainable technologies that can be effectively adopted by the fisheries sector.



Dr Jat subsequently interacted with scientists from ICAR-CIFE, and ICAR-CMFRI, along with students, technical and administrative personnel, and research scholars, at the committee hall of the academic building. Dr N. P. Sahu, Director, ICAR-CIFE, presented the institute's major

achievements in research, academics, technological innovation, scientific publications and entrepreneurship.

Addressing the institute community, the Director General emphasized strengthening human capital to contribute to the vision of **Viksit Bharat**, ensuring measurable societal and economic impacts from scientific research, fostering innovation and promoting entrepreneurship to address emerging challenges in fisheries and aquaculture. He highlighted the importance of strengthening alumni networks and organizing alumni meets to facilitate professional collaboration, knowledge exchange and career development. He also advised the institute to assess and quantify gaps in skilled human resources and the additional fisheries graduates required to support the growth of the blue economy. During the interaction, students requested the expansion of Agricultural Research Service (ARS) disciplines to accommodate specialized areas within the mainstream research framework. DG acknowledged the



concern within the broader ARS reallocation framework being discussed with SMDs. He highlighted the importance of aligning human resource development and research specialization with the evolving needs of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

DG called for a comprehensive document quantifying: fisheries manpower needed by 2030 and 2047, current supply, gaps by state, and return on investment if human capital is developed versus the cost of inaction. This document should be submitted to NITI Aayog, Ministry of Animal Husbandry & Fisheries, and other relevant bodies. In the concluding remarks, Dr Jat encouraged scientists and students to pursue research excellence and ensure that scientific advancements deliver tangible benefits to fish farmers and other stakeholders. The visit reaffirmed ICAR-CIFE's commitment to excellence in fisheries education, research, extension and entrepreneurship, further strengthening its role in the sustainable development of India's fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

The meeting was attended by Dr. S. K. Shukla, Director, ICAR-CIRCOT, scientists and staff from ICAR-CMFRI, and other officials.

Source: ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai

