



MATSYA DRISHTI

मत्स्य निदेशालय / **DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES**
अंडमान तथा निकोबार प्रशासन / **ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION**

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THE ERA OF FISHING IN THE
EEZ & HIGH SEAS BEGINS
COVER STORY

Carrier vessel

Transponder satellite

Mother vessel

12NM

EEZ

**MILESTONE CREATED
IN MARICULTURE SECTOR
OF A&N ISLANDS**

**BLUE ECONOMY
POTENTIAL PROJECTED
IN INDIAN MARITIME WEEK**



fisheriesandaman



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dirfish@and.nic.in



FOREWORD

It gives me immense pleasure to Present the Third Edition of Matsya Drishti, e-magazine of the Department of Fisheries, Andaman & Nicobar Administration. This publication continues to serve as an important platform to showcase the progress, potential, and people shaping the fisheries and aquaculture sector of our Islands.

Fisheries sector in Andaman & Nicobar Islands is undergoing a transformative phase, aligned with the national vision of Blue Economy and sustainable ocean governance. During recent period, the Department has made notable strides in mariculture development, particularly in sea cage farming, seaweed cultivation, and open-sea aquaculture initiatives. These efforts are unlocking the vast untapped potential of our pristine marine resources while ensuring environmental sustainability and enhanced livelihoods for coastal communities.

Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has significantly strengthened fisheries infrastructure, value chains, and income generation avenues across the Islands.

A landmark development during this period has been the enabling policy framework of the Government of India, including progressive initiatives related to Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) utilization and marine fishing regulations. These reforms have opened new opportunities for harnessing tuna and tuna-like resources through regulated, responsible, and deep-sea fishing practices, positioning the Islands as a strategic hub for oceanic fisheries.

Matsya Drishti reflects these collective efforts and achievements while also capturing success stories from the field. I congratulate the editorial team for curating this edition and appreciate the dedication of officers, stakeholders, and fishers whose contributions continue to drive the sector forward.

I am confident that this edition will inspire greater participation, innovation, and commitment towards building a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable fisheries sector in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Ms. Chanchal Yadav, IAS
Commissioner-cum-Secretary(Fisheries)
Andaman and Nicobar Administration

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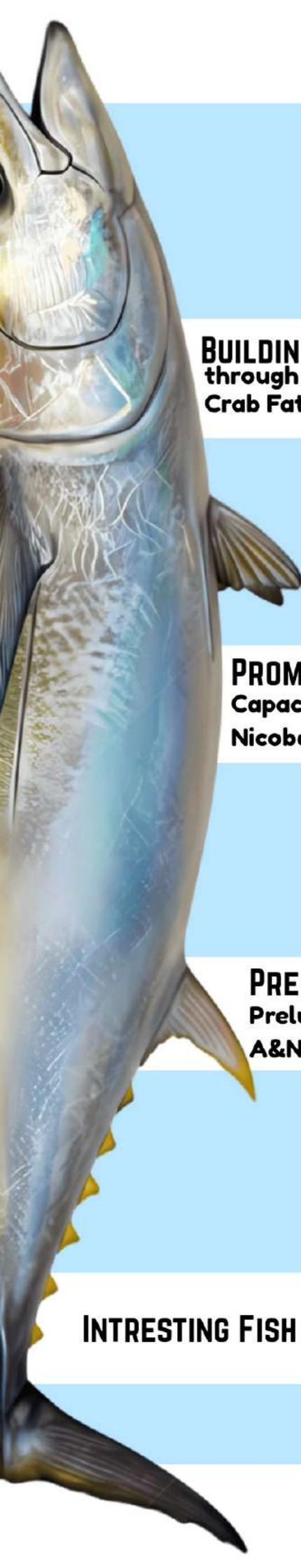
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EDITORIAL BOARD

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Shri. Nesnas EA
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LAYOUT AND CONTENT SETTING

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Fisheries Inspector (Ext. & Trg)

Shri. Subhash
Assistant Fisheries Guard

IT SUPPORT

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Computer Assistant

COVER

Dream Designs

DESIGN

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Sagar Mitra

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A&N Islands usher in New Era of Mariculture- Commercial Cage Culture Launched



Historic Launch of Open-Sea Cage Culture Marks a Major Breakthrough in Fisheries Sector

Marking a historic milestone in the maritime development of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the A&N Administration formally launched the Open-Sea Cage Culture initiative on November 21, during the World Fisheries Day celebrations held at the Tagore Government College of Education (TGCE) Auditorium. This pioneering effort is expected to usher in a new era for the Islands' fisheries sector by utilizing the vast marine potential of the region for scientific, sustainable, and commercially viable mariculture, paving the way for enhanced livelihood opportunities and economic growth.

A Milestone Moment in Island Fisheries Development

The formal launch was led by Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, IAS, Chief Secretary, who graced the event as Chief Guest. In a symbolic gesture, he handed over leasing orders to three selected applicants, authorizing them to initiate open-sea cage farming operations in approved coastal waters. This marks the first official approval for open-sea cage farming in the archipelago, paving the way for entrepreneurship, investment, and innovation in marine aquaculture. The beneficiaries shared their excitement and aspirations with the Chief Secretary, who assured them of continued institutional handholding, technical support, and assistance through schemes under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the Fishery Infrastructure Development Fund, and other government support programmes.



WHY OPEN - SEA CAGE CULTURE MATTERS FOR A&N ISLANDS

With over 1,900 km of coastline and nutrient-rich waters, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands possess unmatched potential for mariculture. Open-sea cage farming is globally recognized as a high-yield, environmentally responsible method of fish production, offering higher fish productivity, improved quality due to clean oceanic conditions, a lower environmental footprint compared to intensive land-based systems, diversification of species including high-value marine finfish, and new livelihood avenues for coastal communities. For the Islands, this initiative represents a strategic shift from conventional nearshore fishing to scientific ocean farming, reducing stress on wild fish stocks while boosting sustainable production.



Chief Secretary's Vision for a Blue - Resilient Economy

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for responsible harvesting practices and reiterated the Administration's commitment to balancing productivity with sustainability. He highlighted that open-sea cage culture aligns with the national theme "India's Blue Transformation" and stressed that the Islands can emerge as a premier hub for marine aquaculture.

Proper implementation of this initiative, he noted, can contribute significantly to employment generation, export growth, and economic resilience. He also underlined the integration of cage culture with other ongoing reforms, such as Tuna Cluster Development, expansion of Seaweed Cultivation, and strengthening of cold-chain infrastructure and seafood processing facilities.

Strengthening the Ecosystem: Training, Technology & Support

The launch of open-sea cage culture is complemented by several enabling measures. SHGs members have undergone a 45-Day Seaweed Training Programme, highlighting the Administration's commitment to capacity-building. Future training sessions will focus on cage installation, species selection, feeding protocols, and biosecurity management. Scientific and technical support will be provided by experts from ICAR-CIARI, FSI, NIOT, and MPEDA, offering guidance on site suitability, species recommendations, disease surveillance, and cage performance monitoring. Additionally, infrastructure development, including fish landing centres, cold-chain networks, marine hatcheries, and processing facilities, is being planned to ensure that cage-cultured fish reach markets in top quality and generate higher incomes for local producers.

Economic & Social Impact Expected

The initiative is expected to bring transformative benefits, such as doubling marine fish production in selected zones, creating jobs for coastal youth and SHG members, reducing pressure on wild fish stocks, enhancing

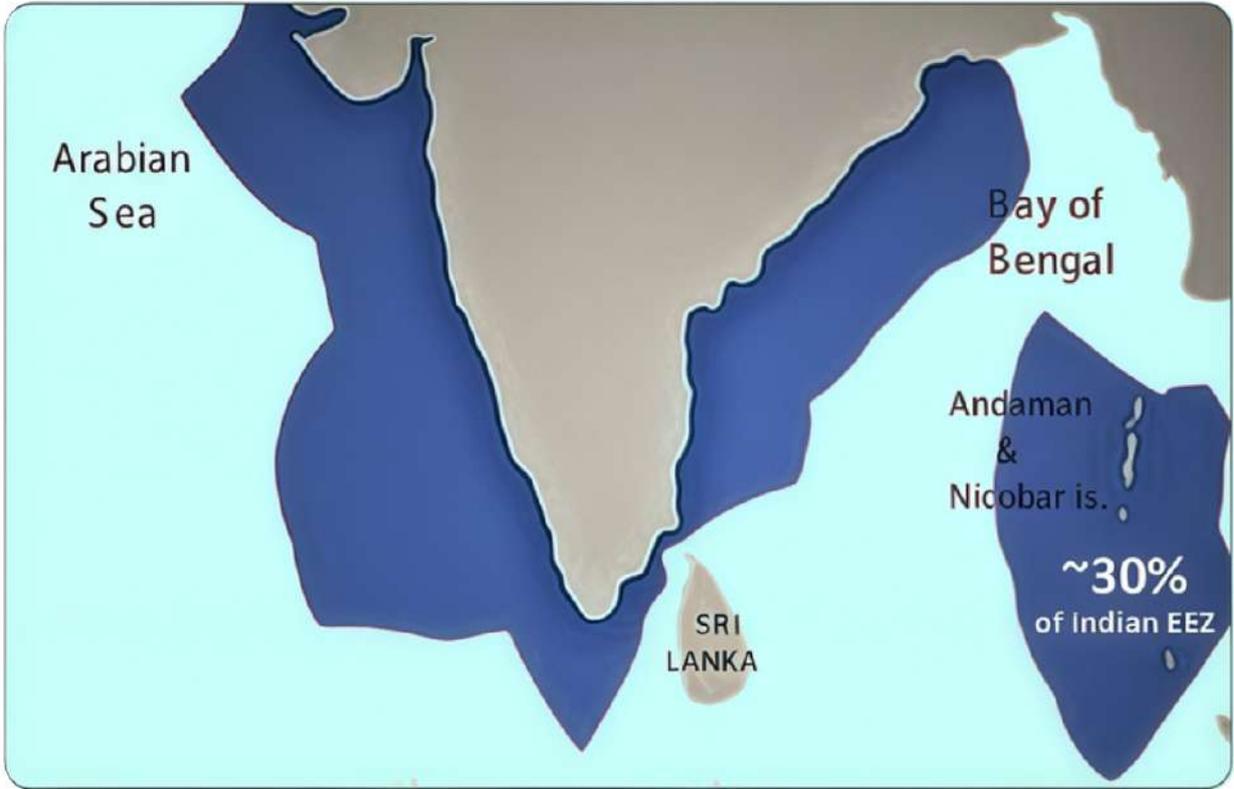
export potential for high-value species, and opening new avenues for entrepreneurship. In the long term, open-sea cage culture is likely to position the A&N Islands as a model hub for mariculture in India, combining sustainability with economic growth.

A FUTURE ANCHORED IN SCIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY

With the official launch of Open-Sea Cage Culture, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands have taken a decisive step toward reshaping their marine economy. As the first batch of entrepreneurs prepares to deploy sea cages, the region stands on the threshold of a blue revolution powered by innovation, conservation, and community participation. This initiative reflects the Administration's broader vision to build a vibrant, modern, and sustainable fisheries sector that empowers local communities, protects ocean resources, and drives long-term prosperity.



Strategic Importance of Andaman & Nicobar Islands



EEZ Rules vs High Seas Guidelines - Key Differences

Feature	EEZ Rules 2025	High Seas Guidelines 2025
Geographical scope	Within 200 nm (EEZ)	Beyond 200 nm (High Seas)
Authorisation	Access Pass	Letter of Authorisation (LOA)
Governance	National regulation	National + RFMO compliance
Catch status	Indian origin when landed in India	Indian origin when landed in Indian port even from High Seas
Monitoring	VMS/AIS mandatory	VMS/AIS + RFMO reporting

Key Provisions of EEZ Guidelines

The guidelines introduce access passes, vessel monitoring, catch reporting, and certification systems. EEZ catch landed in India is recognized as Indian origin, removing earlier trade ambiguities. Foreign vessels are barred from EEZ fishing, protecting national resources and island livelihoods.

Aim of EEZ Rules 2025

A significant step to strengthen small scale fisheries, fisheries cooperatives & Fish farmers Production Organizations (FFPOs)

“A Strong Framework for Fishermen Future”

To uplift livelihood, generate more income & opportunities

- Gives fisherman the right to fish in deep waters – legally and confidently
- Makes paperwork simple and free – no hassle for small fishermen
- Helps fisherman add value and export their catch – earn from global markets
- Brings training and modern tools – so fisherman grow with the times

EEZ Rules Beneficial for

Fisher Community:

Empower traditional and small-scale fishers with high value fishing opportunities.

Sustainability

Ensuring livelihood security through sustainable long term fish stocks

Economy

Boost fisher income through deep-sea fishing and export facilitation.

Empowering Cooperatives and Community-Led Models

The framework is designed to significantly benefit cooperatives, FFPOs and small-scale fishers

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The Cooperatives, FFPOs and small-scale fishers may:

- i. Apply for access pass and undertake deep-sea fishing ventures
 - ii. Operate mother vessels and support vessels
 - iii. Link with export-oriented fish processing units
- This will ensure community-driven economic growth and equitable revenue sharing

What is an Access Pass?

A valid document to be issued under the existing ReALCraft mechanism for fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone

Who Needs an Access Pass?

Required only for

- 1. All Mechanized Vessels
- 2. Motorized Vessels(24m and above OAL)
- 3. Pole and line Vessels

Not Required for

- 1. Motorized Traditional Vessels (<24 m OAL and not engaged in Tuna Fishery)
- 2. Non-motorized traditional vessels

Fishing Areas	Requirement
Territorial Water	'Fishing License' under Marine Fisheries Regulation Act(s) of Coastal States/UTs.
EEZ	'Access Pass' by Govt. of India, processing by State Govts through RealCRAFT
High Seas	'Letter of Authorization' by Govt. of India, processing by State Govts through RealCRAFT

Understanding High Seas Fisheries

High-seas fisheries refer to fishing activities beyond 200 nautical miles, outside national jurisdiction. These areas are governed internationally under UNCLOS and managed through RFMOs such as the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). India's participation in high seas fisheries has so far been limited, and the new EEZ framework bridges the gap between coastal fisheries and global oceans. Guidelines for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the High Seas by Indian Flagged Fishing Vessels, 2025 notified by Govt of India on 9th December, 2025

Digital Backbone for Fisheries Governance

The ReALCRaft portal digitises vessel registration, licensing, ownership, and compliance. Only mechanised and tuna vessels require EEZ access passes, while traditional fishers are exempt. Integration with export certification systems enhances traceability and global market access.

Safety, Monitoring and Maritime Security

Mandatory transponders, QR-coded fisher IDs, and digital monitoring systems improve safety at sea, strengthen search-and-rescue capabilities, and enhance coastal security. Mariculture and seaweed farming are promoted to reduce pressure on nearshore ecosystems.

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EEZ Opportunities for Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Opportunities include tuna longlining, deep-sea pelagic fisheries, onboard icing and sashimi-grade handling, mariculture expansion, and eco-friendly fisheries-linked tourism. These must be balanced with reef conservation, seasonal closures, and bans on destructive gears.

Opportunity Area	Potential Impact
Tuna longlining & pole-and-line	High-value exports and fisher income
Deep-sea pelagic fisheries	Diversification beyond coastal waters
Onboard icing & sashimi handling	Premium market access
Mariculture & seaweed farming	Alternative livelihoods, reduced pressure on reefs

Integrated EEZ and High Seas rules position Andaman & Nicobar as India's gateway to global tuna fisheries.

Integrated Ocean Governance

The EEZ rules recognise the connection between national waters and the high seas. By aligning domestic fisheries governance with international sustainability norms, India strengthens its role as a responsible ocean nation.

Do's and Don'ts under EEZ Rules

Do's	Don'ts
Use selective fishing gears	Use dynamite, poison, bull trawling
Carry valid access pass and crew ID	Catch juvenile fish
Report catches accurately	Fish in No-Fishing Zones



Origin of Catch Advantage

1. Fish caught in EEZ by Indian vessels = Indian origin
 2. No import duty when landed at Indian ports
 3. Export-ready with eco-labelling & traceability
- Indian Origin of Catch: Fish caught in High Seas and landed at Indian Ports will be treated as “Indian Origin”, with zero import duty

Promoting Good Fishing Practices

Promotion of Sustainable Fishing	Prohibited Activities
Promote bycatch reduction measures	Destructive fishing methods, such as use of dynamite, explosives, poisons, chemicals
Promotion of Mariculture practices such as sea-cage farming and seaweed cultivation	LED light fishing or artificial light attractors
Address Marine pollution	Pair trawling / bull trawling
Prepare Fisheries Management Plans with fisher consultation	Juvenile fishing (catching small fish)
Conservation of fish stocks or rejuvenation measures such as sea ranching, installation of artificial reefs	Fishing during ban periods announced by Govt

Why this matters?

1. Rebuilding Fish Stocks to provide good catches year after year
2. Long term security of fisher livelihood and to preserve opportunities for future generations



High Seas Guidelines, 2025 - India's Entry into Global Ocean Fisheries

High Seas fisheries operate beyond 200 nautical miles and are governed by international law, including UNCLOS, the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, and RFMO conservation measures. The 2025 High Seas Guidelines mandate that Indian-flagged vessels obtain a Letter of Authorisation (LOA) and comply with RFMO rules, monitoring systems, and reporting obligations.

Key features

- **LOA Requirement:** A streamlined online Letter of Authorisation (LOA) through the ReALCRaft portal with minimal fee and ensures Ease of Doing Business (EODB)
- **Charter, Lease & Joint Venture Opportunities:** Fishermen, cooperatives and FFPOs can partner through charter /JV/ lease arrangements.

- **Compliance with International Standards:** Conservation and management measures of relevant RFMOs.
- **Digital Integration:** MPEDA & EIC for Catch & Health Certificate.
- **Sustainability:** Mandatory adherence to catch limits, gear regulations, FAD management, by-catch reduction and prohibition of IUU.
- **Institutional Mechanism:** Authorised Officers, Verifying Officers, Adjudicating Officers, Issuing Authority & Appellate Authority
- **Mid-Sea Transshipment:** Mother-child vessel model for efficiency & export

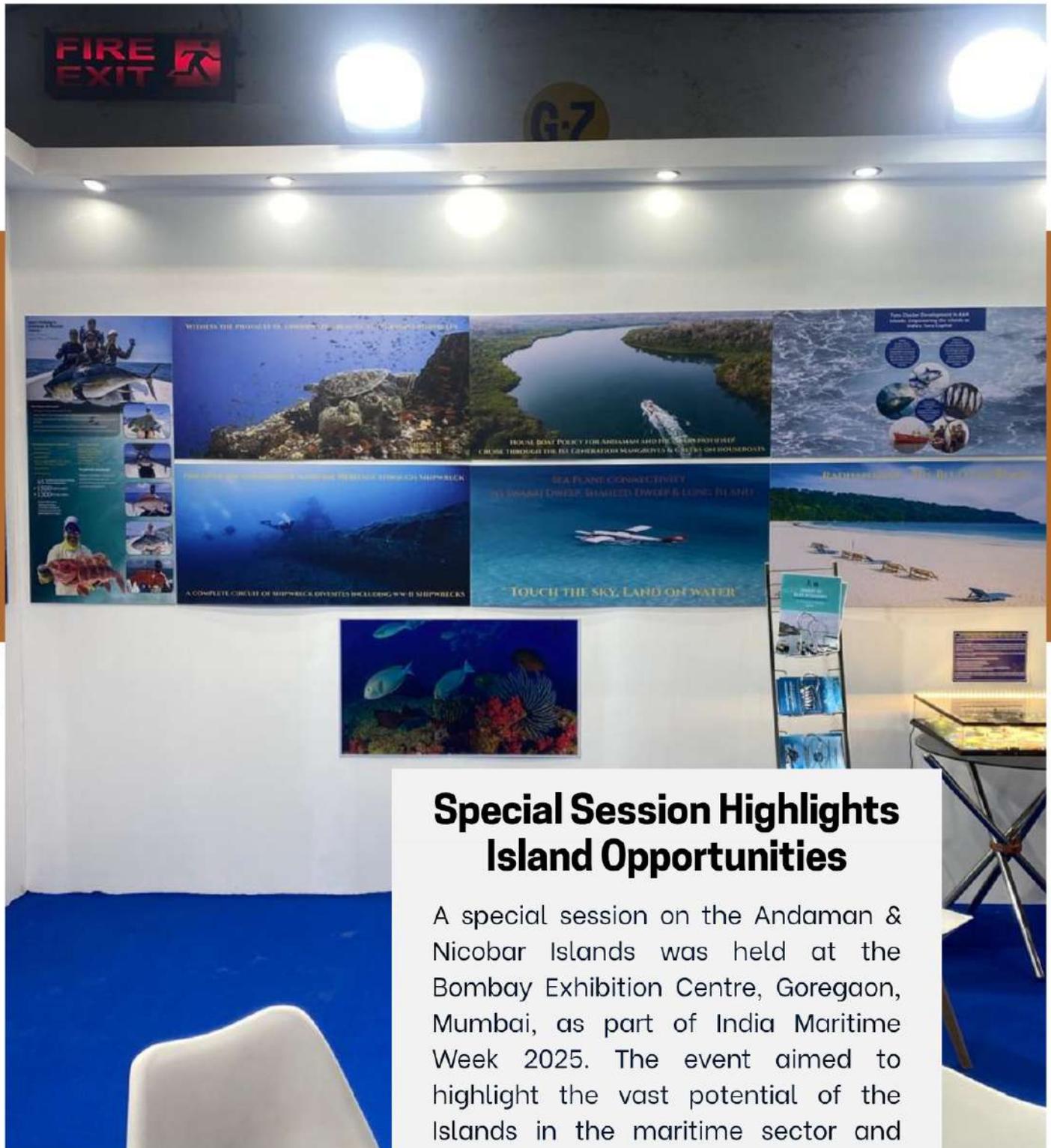
Conclusion

By integrating EEZ Rules, 2025 with High Seas Guidelines, 2025, India has taken a strategic leap towards responsible ocean governance. For the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, these reforms unlock high-value deep-sea opportunities while safeguarding marine ecosystems and ensuring long-term economic resilience.



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A&N ISLANDS SHOWCASE BLUE ECONOMY POTENTIAL AT INDIA MARITIME WEEK 2025.



Special Session Highlights Island Opportunities

A special session on the Andaman & Nicobar Islands was held at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, Goregaon, Mumbai, as part of India Maritime Week 2025. The event aimed to highlight the vast potential of the Islands in the maritime sector and explore emerging opportunities across various blue economy domains.



DISTINGUISHED DIGNITARIES GRACE THE EVENT

The session was attended by prominent dignitaries including Admiral D.K. Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.), Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of A&N Islands and Vice Chairman of the Islands Development Agency; Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, IAS, Chief Secretary, A&N Administration; Ms. Chanchal Yadav, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Fisheries); Smt. J.P. Irene Cynthia, IAS, Managing Director, Kamarajar Port Limited; and Ms. Purva Garg, IAS, Secretary (Shipping). Representatives from various maritime sectors and industry stakeholders also participated, underscoring the national-level interest in the Islands' maritime growth.



Chief Secretary Emphasizes the Pillars of Maritime Development

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Secretary of the A&N Administration highlighted the pivotal role of Shipping, Tourism, and Fisheries as core sectors shaping the maritime landscape of the Islands. He stressed that the strategic location of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, coupled with their rich natural resources, positions them as a key contributor to India's maritime vision.

Fisheries Session Focuses on Blue Economy Expansion

A dedicated session on Fisheries, themed "Fisheries as a Driver of the Blue Economy," was led by the Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Fisheries). The panel discussion drew active participation from stakeholders representing multiple sectors of the Islands' maritime ecosystem. The discussions revolved around the Islands' immense blue economy potential and emerging opportunities in areas such as the Tuna Cluster development, Commercial Mariculture, Brackishwater Aquaculture, the establishment of the Integrated Fishing Harbour at Mayabunder, and the growing scope for Sport Fishing.



DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AT IITF 2025, NEW DELHI - SHOWCASING ISLAND EXCELLENCE.

Participation at Bharat Mandapam

The Department of Fisheries, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, made a noteworthy presence at the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025, organised from 14 to 27 November at the iconic Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. As one of the country's most influential trade expositions, IITF attracts thousands of visitors, buyers, and industry specialists. Against this backdrop, the Department utilized the platform to highlight the Islands' vast and pristine marine wealth, premium fisheries resources, and the growing potential of blue-economy initiatives in the Union Territory. The participation not only affirmed the Islands' commitment to sustainable fisheries development but also positioned Andaman & Nicobar as an emerging hub for niche marine products in the national commercial landscape.

Learning Beyond the Islands

For the SHG members, the fair served as both a commercial avenue and a practical learning forum. Interacting with a diverse customer base, exposed them to consumer expectations, packaging aesthetics, pricing logic, and promotional strategies insights rarely accessible in islands. The experience sharpened their communication abilities, strengthened their marketing confidence, and motivated them to scale their activities with a market-driven approach.



Community Empowerment Through National Exposure

The participation of Self-Help Group (SHG) members at the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025 marked a significant step toward strengthening community-based livelihoods across the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Three SHG representatives, Smti. Joshy, Smti. Anamika Sen Gupta and Smti. Mitu Sen Gupta were sponsored by the Department of Fisheries to display and sell locally prepared value-added fishery products at the event. In line with the Administration's mission to empower coastal communities, this initiative provided women entrepreneurs with a national platform to promote their products, interact with prospective buyers, and understand emerging market opportunities.



Their presence demonstrated how fisheries-based micro-enterprises are gaining momentum in remote island belts, delivering both social and economic empowerment to women who have traditionally operated in informal spaces. By enabling them to showcase their work beyond geographical limitations, the Department created a valuable opportunity for grassroots entrepreneurs to engage directly with wider markets, consumers, and business networks.



Showcasing Island-Based Value Addition

The women entrepreneurs brought to Delhi a colourful assortment of traditional and innovative fish-based products, including marinated and pickled fish flavoured with local spices, and dry prawn. These showcased not only the islands' rich culinary heritage but also the growing capability of women producers to convert marine resources into commercially appealing products.



Encouraging Consumer Response

Consumer reaction at IITF was highly encouraging. Visitors appreciated the freshness, authentic processing methods, and distinct island flavours, resulting in sustained demand and strong sales throughout the event. Many customers returned for repeat purchases, highlighting the appeal of natural marine products presented with traditional expertise and contemporary packaging. This response provided direct income gains for the participating SHG members while also creating brand visibility for Andaman & Nicobar fish-based products in metropolitan markets.



Strengthening Market Linkages

The initiative has helped strengthen market connections, enhance national branding, and build confidence among women-led micro-enterprises. Exposure to competitive retail environments encouraged the participants to explore diversification, maintain quality standards, and envisage larger business opportunities in value-added fisheries. In turn, the Department's continued support has reinforced the islands' presence in major commercial circuits and expanded prospects for sustainable blue-economy development.

A Step Toward Commercial Identity

More broadly, the representation of SHG entrepreneurs at IITF repositioned island-based fisheries as a credible commercial proposition. It showed how small-scale producers, when given access to platforms of national relevance, can transform natural resources into high-value products and contribute meaningfully to livelihood security, women's empowerment, and community resilience. With regular participation in such exhibitions, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands are steadily carving a distinct identity in the Indian seafood market—one built on quality, authenticity, and innovation.



EMPOWERING SELF HELP GROUP FOR SEAWEED FARMING, PROCESSING AND MARKETING.

Strengthening the Islands' Blue Economy Footprint

The Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration, in collaboration with NIOT-ACOSTI under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, inaugurated a 45-day Field Training Programme on “Seaweed Cultivation and Processing” at the NIOT Campus, Dollygunj. The initiative aims to promote seaweed farming as a sustainable livelihood opportunity, particularly for coastal communities and Self-Help Group (SHG) members.



Empowering SHG Members through Practical Training

SHG members identified jointly by the Rural Development Department and the Department of Fisheries will undergo the full training cycle. The programme is designed to equip them with essential skills in cultivation, harvest, and processing, enabling them to take up seaweed farming as a commercial and community-driven enterprise.



Dignitaries Grace the Inaugural Session

The inaugural session was graced by Ms. Jyoti Kumari, IAS, Secretary (Fisheries), as the Chief Guest, along with Ms. Jagtap Kalyani Rajendra, Director of Fisheries, Dr. Dilip Kumar Jha, Officer-In-Charge, NIOT-ACOSTI, and Dr. K. Gopal, Joint Director (Fisheries). Their presence highlighted the Administration's commitment to advancing seaweed-based livelihood initiatives.



Secretary (Fisheries) Highlights Progress and Future Vision

In her address, the Chief Guest emphasized the Department's continuous efforts—supported by NIOT—toward promoting seaweed cultivation through trainings, workshops, field studies, and scientific inputs. She acknowledged that nearly six months of groundwork by NIOT had paved the way for this training programme. She also announced the Department's vision to expand seaweed initiatives toward large-scale processing and commercialization. Urging the youth and SHG members to make full use of this opportunity, she stressed that scaling up production will be key to establishing a viable seaweed-based industry in the Islands.

Broad Participation by Institutions and Departments

The inaugural session saw participation from SHG members, students of JNRM and Pondicherry University, and officials from the Fisheries Department and Rural Development Department, reflecting wide institutional support for the initiative.



Director of Fisheries Calls It a Milestone in Island Mariculture

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Jagtap Kalyani Rajendra, Director of Fisheries, expressed appreciation for the active participation of SHG members and students. She described the programme as a milestone toward commercial seaweed cultivation in the Islands and thanked NIOT for its consistent technical support. She encouraged SHGs to take maximum benefit from the training, noting that it will empower communities to adopt seaweed farming at a commercial and sustainable scale.



NIOT Highlights Practical and Scientific Training Modules

Welcoming the gathering, Dr. Dilip Kumar Jha, Officer-In-Charge, NIOT-ACOSTI, outlined the training's focus on practical aspects such as raft preparation, mooring, deployment, and step-by-step cultivation techniques. He emphasized that seaweed cultivation provides significant economic prospects while supporting environmental sustainability, making it a promising alternative livelihood for coastal communities.

Technical Sessions Enrich the Inaugural Day

The inaugural day featured a series of informative technical sessions that offered valuable insights into various aspects of seaweed cultivation and its broader significance. Dr. K. Gopal, Joint Director (Fisheries), presented an overview of the prospects of fisheries and Mariculture, setting the context for emerging opportunities in the sector. This was followed by Dr. T. Ganesh, Associate Professor at Pondicherry University, who elaborated on the ecological and commercial importance of seaweeds. Dr. Dipon Sharmah, Assistant Professor at JNRM, connected seaweed cultivation with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, emphasizing its relevance to sustainable coastal development. Dr. J.C. Santhanakumar, Scientific Officer at NIOT, highlighted essential safety measures for seaweed farming, ensuring that participants understood the practical requirements for safe operations. Additionally, NIOT Project Scientists Dr. M. Savurirajan, Dr. Aron Santhosh Kumar, and Dr. R. Karuna Kumari detailed various culture techniques with special reference to *Gracilaria edulis*. Collectively, these sessions underscored the economic, ecological, and livelihood potential of seaweed cultivation, inspiring participants to explore future possibilities and consider tapping into mainland markets.



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EMPOWERING NICOBAR FISHERMEN: MASTERING BOAT ENGINE TROUBLESHOOTING AND MODERN FISHING METHODS BY CIFNET, COCHIN.



Strengthening Technical Skills in Nancowry

In a significant step towards enhancing the technical capabilities of fishermen in the Nicobar region, the Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration, in collaboration with the Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET), Cochin, and with financial support from the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad, conducted a specialised training programme on 'Defects and Troubleshooting of Boat Engines' at Kamorta on November 29, 2025. Implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the programme aimed to equip local fishermen with practical skills to ensure safe and efficient fishing operations while reducing dependence on external repair services.

Inauguration and Chief Guest Address

The programme was inaugurated by Shri Aditya Sangotra, Assistant Commissioner, Nancowry, who lauded the efforts of the Fisheries Department in bringing reputed national-level technical institutions to the Nicobar region for skill development. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized that the ability to diagnose and troubleshoot boat engine defects is not just a technical requirement but a critical life-saving skill for fishermen operating under challenging sea conditions. He highlighted that timely identification and repair of engine faults could prevent breakdowns at sea, lower maintenance costs, and ensure safer fishing operations, ultimately contributing to the sustainability and efficiency of their livelihoods.





Expert-Led Training and Practical Exposure

The technical sessions were conducted by a team of CIFNET instructors, including Shri S. Viswanathan, Shri E. Praveen, Shri Antony Rejoy, and Shri V. Naresh Kumar. The programme was designed to provide both theoretical knowledge and hands-on training. Fishermen were taught to identify common engine defects, adopt preventive maintenance practices, and perform essential onboard repairs with confidence. Practical demonstrations allowed participants to directly engage with engine components, learn repair techniques, and understand operational procedures that are crucial for maintaining boat engines in optimal working condition. This combination of theory and practice ensured that the training was not only informative but also immediately applicable to the daily work of the participants.

Participation and Community Impact

A total of fifty fishermen from the Nancowry group of Islands attended the programme and actively engaged in all training sessions. The skills acquired are expected to enhance operational efficiency, improve safety at sea, and support the long-term sustainability of their livelihoods. Many participants expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to gain knowledge and practical experience from national-level experts, acknowledging that such training will significantly reduce the risks associated with engine failures during fishing operations.



Commitment to Capacity Building and Sustainability

The programme concluded with positive feedback from participants and reinforced the Administration's commitment to empowering the fishing community through capacity-building initiatives. The Directorate of Fisheries highlighted that similar training programmes will continue to be organized across the Islands to strengthen technical competence, ensure safer operations, and support better livelihood outcomes.



Campbell Bay, Andaman And Nicobar Islands, India 🇮🇳
2w9g+8wr, Rajiv Nagar Road, Campbell Bay, Andaman And Nicobar Islands 744302, India
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sustainable fisheries sector, reflecting its broader vision of enhancing the welfare and resilience of coastal communities in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

By equipping local fishermen with essential technical skills, the Administration is taking a proactive step toward building a safe, efficient, and



EMPOWERING TRIBAL COMMUNITIES TOUCHING THE LIFE OF THE ONGE TRIBE FOR THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES PRACTICES AT DUGONG CREEK.



Fisheries as a Driver of Tribal Socio-Economic Growth

Fisheries play a vital role in the socio-economic fabric of the tribal communities of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, offering them a sustainable source of nutrition, livelihood, and cultural identity. The active participation of communities such as the Onge Tribe in fisheries-based training programmes



reflects their deep connection to the marine environment and their willingness to adopt improved practices for better livelihood outcomes. By equipping tribal groups with skills in hygienic fish handling, modern fishing techniques, and gear repair, the Department of Fisheries—along with agencies like MPEDA and AAJVS—is helping strengthen food security, enhance income opportunities, and promote self-reliance. Such initiatives not only preserve traditional knowledge but also empower tribal communities to engage in sustainable resource management, ensuring their long-term socio-economic development and inclusion in the Islands’ broader fisheries growth story.



Towards Inclusive Growth: Onge Tribe Trained in Fisheries Activities

In a significant initiative aimed at empowering Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), the Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration, in collaboration with the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Chennai, and the Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti (AAJVS), conducted a specialized skill development training programme for the Onge Tribe of Dugong Creek, Hut Bay on June 14, 2025. The programme focused on hygienic and sanitary handling of fish, the nutritional importance of fish consumption, modern fishing techniques, and net repair practices.

Inaugural Highlights: Emphasis on Nutrition

The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. Jeyabal, Joint Director, MPEDA, Chennai. In his address, he highlighted the role of fish as a crucial source of protein and essential nutrients, especially for rural and tribal communities. He emphasized that improving fish handling and consumption practices could significantly contribute to addressing nutritional deficiencies and promoting better health outcomes among tribal populations.

Technical Sessions on Hygiene and Preservation

The sessions began with Dr. Arulmoorthy, State Coordinator, NETFISH-MPEDA, Chennai, who provided detailed guidance on hygienic fish handling protocols, preservation techniques to maintain freshness, and methods to reduce bacterial contamination for safe consumption. To reinforce learning, demonstration videos on modern fishing practices, preservation methods, and sanitary handling procedures were screened, allowing trainees to visualize best practices and their practical application in day-to-day fishing activities.



Enhancing Local Fishing Skills

Shri Nesnas E.A., Assistant Fisheries Development Officer, highlighted the abundance of marine resources in the A&N Islands and the nutritional value of these resources for the local population. He also provided practical demonstrations on the use of various fishing gears and techniques to improve efficiency and yield, empowering the Onge community to enhance their traditional fishing practices while incorporating modern methods.



Hands-On Training and Resource Support

A key feature of the programme was the practical hands-on session, where Onge community members actively participated in repairing old nets and learning the operation of cast nets. To support their training and encourage continued practice, each participant received essential input materials, including fish baskets, gloves, water jerry cans, and T-shirts. These provisions are expected to facilitate the immediate application of acquired skills in real fishing operations.



Community Engagement and Future Prospects

At the conclusion of the programme, Shri Aswath M., Tribal Welfare Officer, AAJVS, appreciated the collaborative efforts of the Fisheries Department and MPEDA in extending technical support to the tribal community. He emphasized the need for more such training programmes and requested assistance under the UT Plan for the supply of fishing boats. Shri Aswath also highlighted the Onge community's keen interest in confined aquaculture activities and recommended implementing a demonstration project with active community participation to further enhance livelihoods.



Recognition and Certificate Distribution

The training team, comprising Shri Sitangshu Ghosh, AFDO (SA), and Shri G. Shibu, PCOM, Department of Fisheries, successfully conducted the programme, ensuring comprehensive coverage of both theoretical and practical aspects of fisheries. The initiative concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony, and a heartfelt vote of thanks was proposed by Shri Vicky, Captain of the Onge Community, recognizing the efforts of the trainers, organizers, and participants.



A Step Toward Inclusive Livelihood Development

This training programme marks an important milestone in skill development and livelihood promotion for the Onge Tribe, reinforcing the Administration's commitment to inclusive growth, capacity building, and the welfare of tribal communities in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. By integrating modern techniques with traditional knowledge, the programme aims to enhance sustainable fisheries practices, ensure food security, and create viable income opportunities for one of the Islands' most vulnerable communities.





Empowering Island Communities: Live Broadcast of PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana and Dalhan Aatmanirbharta Mission.

Connecting the Isles to National Initiatives

The Department of Fisheries, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, successfully organized the live broadcast of the launch of the “PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana” and “Dalhan Aatmanirbharta Mission,” inaugurated by the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India on 11th October 2025. This event marked a significant step in linking the remote island communities with landmark national programs aimed at strengthening agriculture, allied sectors, and promoting self-reliance in food production.

Facilitating Active Participation across the Islands

The live telecast was arranged across all three districts of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, with special viewing facilities set up at various Zonal Fisheries Offices. These arrangements enabled the participation of fishers, fish farmers, and fisheries stakeholders, ensuring that the island communities were directly engaged with the launch. The initiative fostered a sense of inclusion and encouraged stakeholders to align local practices with national objectives for sustainable food production.



A Proud Moment for Andaman & Nicobar Fisheries Sector

In a moment of pride for the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Shri Durai Selvam, a fisherman from the Islands, was among a select group of fishermen from across India who had the rare opportunity to interact with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, at the National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), Pusa, New Delhi. The interaction took place ahead of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's participation in a special Krishi programme organized at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), where he engaged with farmers and stakeholders from various sectors of agriculture and allied activities.

Representing Island Fishermen on a National Platform

Shri Durai Selvam was deputed by the Department of Fisheries, Andaman & Nicobar Administration to attend the programme. He was nominated by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying as one among eight fishermen selected from different States and Union Territories for this prestigious interaction with the Hon'ble Prime Minister. This recognition underscores the growing importance of the fisheries sector in the Islands and the contribution of local fishermen to national fish production.

A Dedicated Fisherman from Junglighat

An active fisherman based at the Fish Landing Centre, Junglighat, Shri Durai Selvam is engaged in mechanised fishing operations, primarily targeting large pelagic and demersal fish resources. His consistent efforts, along with those of fellow island fishermen, have played a significant role in:

- Increasing overall fish production in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- Meeting local consumption requirements
- Enhancing the volume of fish transported to mainland India

His work reflects the resilience and dedication of the island fishing community in strengthening the regional fisheries economy.



Gratitude for Support Under PMMSY

During the interaction, Shri Durai Selvam expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for the support extended under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). He highlighted how assistance for the establishment of cold chain infrastructure and fish transport facilities has helped ensure:

- Hygienic handling of fish catch
- Improved storage and transportation
- Better marketing opportunities for fishermen

These facilities have significantly enhanced the quality and value of fish marketed from the Islands.

Prime Minister's Vision for Tuna Fisheries

The Hon'ble Prime Minister advised Shri Durai Selvam to focus on harvesting tuna and tuna-like species from the rich waters surrounding the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. He noted that the development of tuna fisheries could emerge as a potential game changer for the Islands, especially in strengthening the seafood export sector.

The advice reflects a broader vision to tap the untapped marine potential of the region and position the Islands as a key contributor to India's global seafood exports.

A Milestone for Island Fisheries

This interaction marks a significant milestone for the fisheries sector of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, highlighting the recognition of grassroots fishermen at the national level. It also reinforces the Government of India's commitment to empowering fishermen through infrastructure support, policy guidance, and sustainable fisheries development. For the island fishing community, Shri Durai Selvam's interaction with the Hon'ble Prime Minister stands as a symbol of progress, opportunity, and national recognition—inspiring many more to contribute towards a resilient and sustainable fisheries future.



Inspiring Commitment through Prime Minister's Address

During the live broadcast, participants were inspired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister's address, which emphasized the importance of achieving self-reliance in food and pulse production through community participation, innovation, and sustainable practices. Fishers and farmers observed the national launch in real-time, gaining insights into the broader vision of building a resilient, self-reliant agricultural and fisheries sector under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.



Strengthening the Isles' Role in National Food Security

The live broadcast not only created awareness about these flagship programs but also highlighted the active participation of the A&N Islands in India's journey toward self-reliance in food production. Through such initiatives, island fishers and farmers are encouraged to adopt innovative practices, engage in community-based resource management, and contribute meaningfully to national objectives while improving their own livelihoods.

Department of Fisheries: Commitment to Sustainable Development

The Department of Fisheries reiterated its commitment to supporting the goals of the PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana and Dalhan Aatmanirbharta Mission. Efforts include promoting livelihood development among fishers, strengthening fisheries infrastructure, introducing sustainable aquaculture practices, and facilitating access to modern technologies. By aligning local initiatives with national missions, the Department aims to enhance food security, increase productivity, and empower coastal communities across the Islands.

A Future Anchored in Sustainability and Self-Reliance

By connecting local communities with national policy initiatives in real-time, the Department of Fisheries has demonstrated its commitment to inclusive growth, technological adoption, and capacity-building. This engagement ensures that the islands remain an integral part of India's broader strategy for food self-sufficiency, sustainable fisheries development, and economic empowerment. The initiative represents a harmonious blend of national vision and local action, fostering a future of sustainable, self-reliant, and resilient island communities.



Date: November 11th, 2025

Organized by

National Fisheries Development Board

Department of Fisheries

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying

Government of India



ISLANDS
HIGHLIGHT
THEIR
EMERGING
ROLE IN
INDIA'S
AQUACULTURE
LANDSCAPE

A & N ISLANDS SHINES AT WORLD AQUACULTURE INDIA 2025.

A Premier National Platform for Aquaculture Excellence

The World Aquaculture India 2025, held at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre from 10–13 November 2025, stood out as one of the most influential national events dedicated to advancing India's fisheries and aquaculture sector. The conclave brought together fish farmers, policymakers, researchers, industry experts, and innovators from across the country. It served as a vibrant forum where ideas, technologies, and experiences converged, helping shape India's commitment to strengthening its Blue Economy. With its focus on sustainable aquaculture, futuristic technologies, and collaborative development, the event reaffirmed the sector's importance in ensuring livelihoods, nutritional security, and economic progress.

A&N Administration Makes a Strong Impact

The Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration, made an impressive mark at the Fish Farmers' Conclave organized by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB). The conclave provided a unique platform for the Islands to showcase their emerging presence in India's aquaculture map.



The delegation highlighted community-driven aquaculture success stories and region-specific innovations that demonstrate how small island ecosystems can adopt sustainable and scalable farming practices. Five progressive fish farmers from the Islands were deputed to participate, enabling the national audience to gain valuable insights into the distinct field-level challenges and opportunities of aquaculture in the archipelago.



Details of farmers deputed from the programme

Sl.no	Name	Address
I.	Shri. D. Potaiah S/o- Lt. D. Suryanarayan	Manarghat
II.	Shri. Patit Paban Das S/O-Budheswar Das	Guptapara
III.	Shri. Uttam Kumar Roy S/o- Gurupadapada Roy	Wandoor
IV.	Shri. Ashok Kumar Sarkar S/o- Mahadev Sarkar	Govindapur
V.	Shri. B. Rajesh S/o- B. Vasudev	Baratang

Islands Celebrate a Proud Moment

A moment of pride for the Islands unfolded when Shri D. Potaiah, a progressive fish farmer from Mannarghat, was felicitated by Shri Vakiti Srihari, Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries Development, Government of Telangana. His recognition as a Progressive Fish Farmer celebrated his pioneering contributions to sustainable shrimp farming and his consistent adoption of improved practices that have uplifted coastal aquaculture in the region. His efforts stand as an inspiring example of how dedication, innovation, and community engagement can drive transformation in island-based aquaculture systems.



Showcasing the Islands' Export Potential



One of the major highlights of the national event was the presentation delivered by Ms. Jagtap Kalyani Rajendra, Director of Fisheries, A&N Administration, during a technical session organized by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA). Her presentation on “Marine Product Export Potential of A&N Islands” received high appreciation for its clarity and forward-looking vision. She emphasized the immense export potential of the Islands’ Tuna resources, the scope for value addition and eco-friendly harvesting practices, and the growing opportunities in Mariculture suited to the archipelago’s unique marine environment. The session also featured a brainstorming discussion chaired by Shri D.V. Swamy, IAS, Chairman, MPEDA, focusing on developing a robust Tuna value chain under the proposed Tuna Cluster initiative—an effort set to enhance the export competitiveness of the Islands.

Strengthening the Islands’ Blue Economy Footprint

The active participation and recognition received by the A&N Administration at World Aquaculture India 2025 reaffirm the region’s commitment toward building a modern, sustainable, and dynamic aquaculture sector. The initiatives showcased at the event highlight the Administration’s focus on empowering fish farmers through scientific training, promoting innovation-driven aquaculture, expanding fisheries-based livelihoods, and enabling market-ready value-added products. Such endeavours are instrumental in positioning the Andaman & Nicobar Islands as a significant contributor to India’s expanding Blue Economy, while ensuring long-term economic resilience and ecological sustainability.





TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SHRIMP FARMING AND MUD CRAB FATTENING.

Scope of Shrimp & Mud Crab Fattening in A&N Islands

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands hold tremendous potential for shrimp and mud crab fattening due to their pristine coastal waters, rich mangrove ecosystems, and naturally available seed resources. Key species such as *Scylla serrata* (giant mud crab) and *Penaeus indicus*, *Penaeus monodon* (black tiger shrimp), and *Litopenaeus vannamei* thrive in these conditions, making the region ideal for sustainable aquaculture. Under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), fishers and SHGs receive financial assistance for pond renovation, procurement of seed and feed, training programmes, and scientific capacity building. These interventions enable communities to adopt improved culture techniques, increase survival rates, and enhance production. With growing market demand and strong Government support, shrimp and mud crab fattening is emerging as a promising livelihood avenue that can significantly boost incomes and strengthen the Islands' blue economy.

Tsunami-Affected Areas Utilized for Aquaculture

In a strategic effort to promote sustainable livelihoods and ensure the productive use of coastal resources, the Fisheries Department has earmarked several tsunami-affected areas across the Andaman & Nicobar Islands for aquaculture development. These locations –once rendered unfit for traditional agriculture–have now been transformed into viable sites for shrimp and mud crab fattening units, thanks to their natural tidal flow, saline conditions, and accessibility. By allocating these zones to local fishers and Self Help Groups (SHGs), the Department has created new livelihood opportunities while supporting climate-resilient coastal development. This initiative, strengthened further under PMMSY, is helping communities rebuild, diversify incomes, and contribute to the long-term growth of the Islands’ blue economy.

Strengthening Capacity in Sustainable Aquaculture

A three-day training programme on “Shrimp and Mud Crab Fattening” was organised at the Fisheries Training Centre, Marine Hill, with the objective of enhancing practical skills and technical knowledge among island-based aquaculture practitioners. Jointly organized by the Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration and the ICAR–Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture (CIBA), Chennai, the programme brought together 25 enthusiastic participants from South Andaman and North & Middle Andaman. Designed to build competency in two high-potential farming practices, shrimp culture and mud crab fattening and the training aims to support income generation, sustainable aquaculture, and livelihood improvement across coastal communities.

Expert Guidance to Boost Technical Competence

The training sessions were led by an expert team from ICAR–CIBA, ensuring that participants received scientifically grounded and field-relevant knowledge. Dr. K. Ambasankar, Head of the Nutrition, Genetics & Biotechnology Division at CIBA, underlined the significant potential of the Islands’ pristine environment for brackish water aquaculture expansion. He explained how the curriculum was structured to integrate theoretical inputs with practical demonstrations, covering topics such as sustainable practices, shrimp culture techniques, broodstock management in mud

crab, and modern aquaculture systems customized for island conditions. The expert team emphasized that mastering these aspects would enable farmers to adopt efficient, productive, and environmentally sustainable aquaculture methods.



Hands-On Exposure Through Field Demonstrations

A key strength of the programme lies in its practical component. Technical sessions conducted by Dr. Ambasankar, Dr. A. Panigrahi (Principal Scientist), and Dr. Raymond Jani Angel (Senior Scientist) are complemented by field visits to operational aquaculture facilities. Participants will visit the Shrimp Farm at Mannarghat and the Crab Fattening Unit at Wandoor, where they will observe real-time farming operations, learn about pond preparation, feeding protocols, water quality management, and fattening cycles. These hands-on sessions will provide invaluable exposure, bridging the gap between classroom training and real-world aquaculture practices.



Support and Encouragement for Trainee Engagement

The programme also received support from the Department of Fisheries officials, who motivated participants to make the most of the technical sessions and field opportunities. Assistant Director of Fisheries (Extension & Training), Shri Bhargav Chakravarty, encouraged trainees to engage actively in discussions and demonstrations. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri Iswar Rao, Assistant Fisheries Officer, who acknowledged the coordinated efforts of the Department, ICAR-CIBA scientists, and the committed participation of the trainees.

Towards a Sustainable and Progressive Aquaculture Sector

This training programme reflects the Department's commitment to empowering coastal communities through structured capacity-building initiatives. By promoting sustainable aquaculture techniques and enhancing local expertise, the Department aims to boost productivity, improve livelihoods, and strengthen the Islands' contribution to India's growing seafood market. Efforts such as these reaffirm the Administration's dedication to fostering a resilient, sustainable, and economically vibrant aquaculture sector across the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.





Training And Skill Development In Freshwater Aquaculture.



A Freshwater fish seed plays an essential role in sustaining and expanding inland aquaculture activities in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Despite the vast marine expanse, the islands possess only limited freshwater ecosystems, which are primarily confined to village ponds, small tanks, agricultural reservoirs, farm ponds, and a few perennial streams. These freshwater bodies are crucial for meeting local household consumption, generating livelihood opportunities in rural communities, strengthening food and nutritional security, and reducing dependence on marine fish transported from the mainland during unfavourable weather or fishing ban periods.

The Fresh Water Fish Seed Farm at Nayagaon is the primary freshwater seed production facility in the Islands, operated by the Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration. The farm produces freshwater fish seeds—mainly Indian Major Carps such as Catla, Rohu, and Mrigal—through induced breeding. The spawn is reared for 30–45 days before distribution to fish farmers. Notwithstanding this effort, the islands still import a substantial quantity of fish from mainland India during certain seasons. By stocking ponds with quality fingerlings of suitable freshwater species, the local production of table-size fish increases, helping stabilize prices, improve availability to consumers, and reduce reliance on imported marine fish, which is costly, highly perishable, and subject to weather-related supply disruptions. Freshwater aquaculture therefore complements marine fishing, particularly during rough-sea periods when fishing activities decline.



Under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the Department has introduced several provisions to strengthen freshwater aquaculture infrastructure in the Islands. These include financial assistance for the construction of new freshwater fish ponds, renovation of existing ponds, establishment and modernization of fish hatcheries, installation of seed rearing units, and support for farm inputs. The scheme also encourages adoption of scientific aquaculture practices, capacity building, livelihood promotion, and creation of post-harvest infrastructure. These interventions aim to increase seed production, improve accessibility of quality fish seed to farmers, and expand overall inland fish production across the Islands.

Despite the ongoing distribution of fish seed from Nayagaon and periodic import of fish from the mainland, there remains a persistent gap between the actual requirement of fish farmers and the volume of seed produced locally. To bridge this gap, the Department of Fisheries, in collaboration with ICAR-CIARI, Garacharma, organised a three-day capacity-building programme for 25 selected beneficiaries. The training focused on scientific breeding techniques, nursery and rearing practices, pond preparation, seed health management, and species diversification, enabling farmers to undertake seed rearing at their own ponds.

By empowering local farmers to produce and rear fish seed independently, the initiative aims to reduce supply shortages, promote self-sufficiency, and accelerate freshwater aquaculture development in the Union Territory.

Within PMMSY, one of the key components focused on the inland and marine aquaculture segment is support for establishing and upgrading hatcheries and seed production facilities – a critical step for ensuring availability of quality fish seed for farmers and entrepreneurs.

Under PMMSY, financial assistance is provided to farmers, entrepreneurs, and community groups for establishing or upgrading hatcheries, including support for new freshwater or brackish water fin-fish hatchery units, seed-rearing and pond construction, and the adoption of improved breeding technologies, broodstock management, and water-treatment systems to ensure better-quality fish seed. Capacity-building initiatives have also been organised in the Islands to train farmers in hatchery management, broodstock selection, and seed health practices, helping them operate commercially under the scheme. The scheme is open to individual farmers, entrepreneurs, SHGs, JLGs, FFPOs, fisheries cooperatives, private firms, and eligible youth, women, and SC/ST groups involved in fisheries activities.



Training and Capacity Building

A three-day Training Programme on Freshwater Fish Seed Production, jointly organised by the Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration, in collaboration with the ICAR-Central Inland Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CIARI), Garacharma, was inaugurated during November, 2025 by Ms. Jyoti Kumari, IAS, Secretary (Fisheries), at the Fisheries Training Centre, Marine Hill. The training witnessed enthusiastic participation from 25 selected beneficiaries representing South Andaman and North & Middle Andaman. Participants include progressive fish farmers, aquaculture entrepreneurs, and interested youths who are expected to play a vital role in strengthening freshwater aquaculture in the Islands. This capacity-building initiative was conceptualised to address the growing demand for quality fish seed and to promote sustainable aquaculture practices in the Union Territory. The programme is designed to impart hands-on training, covering key aspects such as broodstock management, induced breeding protocols, hatchery operations, larval rearing, nursery management, and water quality monitoring. Special emphasis will be placed on the production of Indian Major Carps, given their commercial importance and suitability for local freshwater conditions.

Through expert lectures, practical demonstrations, and interactive sessions, the programme seeks to enhance the technical competence of the participants and enable them to adopt scientific methods of fish breeding and seed production. The initiative is expected to contribute towards augmenting freshwater fish availability, strengthening livelihood opportunities, and supporting the Island Administration's objectives of self-reliance and long-term aquaculture development.



Empowering Livelihoods Through Aquaculture



In her inaugural address, the Secretary (Fisheries) encouraged the participants to fully utilise the learning opportunities offered through the three-day training programme. She emphasised that the skills and knowledge gained should enable them to enhance their livelihoods by venturing into scientific freshwater fish seed production and, where feasible, establishing their own fish seed hatcheries under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). Highlighting the broader impact, the Secretary stated that strengthening freshwater seed production will help the Islands achieve greater self-reliance by reducing dependence on fish seed sourced from mainland states. This, she said, will also contribute to elevating the Andaman and Nicobar Islands' status in the national freshwater aquaculture landscape, while opening new avenues for income generation among rural households. The Secretary also released a Training Manual on Freshwater Fish Seed Production, prepared by the Department of Fisheries as a practical reference guide to support participants during hatchery operations, broodstock management, seed rearing and other field activities.

Technical Insights from ICAR-CIARI Experts

Addressing the participants, Shri Chittaranjan Raul, Scientist, ICAR-CIARI, underscored the comprehensive structure and practical orientation of the three-day training curriculum. He noted that the programme has been carefully designed to integrate theoretical understanding with field-level demonstrations, thereby enabling participants to acquire the full spectrum of skills required for successful freshwater aquaculture. To supplement classroom learning, a field visit has been scheduled to ICAR-CIARI's freshwater ornamental fish breeding unit and the freshwater fish seed farm at Nayagaon.

This hands-on exposure will allow participants to observe operational hatchery systems, broodstock handling, seed rearing practices, and on-farm management techniques, thereby strengthening their confidence to adopt similar practices in their own farming environments.



Building a Sustainable Future for Freshwater Aquaculture

The training programme serves as a significant milestone in the Department of Fisheries' ongoing efforts to promote sustainable, scientific, and community-oriented aquaculture development in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. By prioritising knowledge dissemination and field-level skill enhancement, the initiative reflects the Administration's long-term vision of strengthening freshwater resources, improving rural livelihoods, and ensuring year-round availability of quality fish seed within the Islands.

Through a balanced blend of classroom sessions, expert interactions, and hands-on demonstrations, the programme enables participants to gain a deeper understanding of critical hatchery operations, species-specific breeding techniques, water quality management, and scientific grow-out practices. Such comprehensive exposure is expected to help farmers adopt best practices, minimise production risks, and improve fish survival rates, thereby contributing to sustainable aquaculture yields.



Beyond individual capacity-building, the initiative supports the broader objective of positioning the Islands as a proactive contributor to India's freshwater aquaculture sector. By encouraging local seed production and reducing reliance on mainland procurement, the programme paves the way for enhanced self-sufficiency, reduced logistical constraints, and improved access to superior-quality inputs for small and marginal farmers.

Ultimately, the programme is expected to generate long-term socioeconomic benefits by expanding livelihood opportunities, promoting micro-enterprise development, and strengthening the aquaculture value chain in coastal and rural communities. In doing so, it lays a strong foundation for a resilient and sustainable future for freshwater aquaculture in the Union Territory.



PROMOTING SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Capacity building initiative of MPEDA, Cochin at Car Nicobar.

Chief Guests Emphasize Importance of Hygiene

The programme was graced by Shri Lionald Nicomed, Chairman, Tribal Council, Car Nicobar, as the Chief Guest, and Shri Martin Luther, Secretary, Car Nicobar Tribal Council, as the Guest of Honour. Also present were Shri Paul David, 1st Captain of Perka Village, Dr. Arulmoorthy, State Coordinator, NETFISH-MPEDA, Chennai, and officials from the Department of Fisheries. In his address, the Chairman praised the efforts of the Fisheries Department and NETFISH-MPEDA in empowering fishers, noting that adopting hygienic practices not only safeguards public health but also enhances income by enabling access to premium markets.

Enhancing Hygiene in Fisheries Practices

In a significant step toward strengthening hygienic practices among local fisher communities, the Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration, in association with NETFISH-MPEDA, Chennai, organized a one-day training programme on “Capacity Building on Hygienic and Sanitary Procedures” for the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community at Car Nicobar. The initiative reflects the Administration’s ongoing commitment to ensuring food safety, improving fish quality, and enhancing market opportunities for small-scale fishers across the Islands.



Localized Approach Ensures Effective Learning

Shri Martin Luther highlighted that the programme’s localized and easily understandable approach bridged language and cultural barriers, ensuring that the fisher community could effectively grasp the concepts. He emphasized that awareness-building at the grassroots level is critical for adopting hygienic procedures throughout the fish value chain—from catch to consumption.



Focus on Hygiene from Catch to Consumption

Smti V. Sheeja, Deputy Director (Fisheries), Car Nicobar, welcomed the participants and underscored the programme's objective to create awareness about hygienic handling and sanitary practices at every stage. The initiative aimed to instill Good Hygienic Practices (GHP) and Sanitary Standard Operating Procedures (SSOPs) among fishers, enhancing the safety and quality of fisheries produce.

Technical Training and Practical Exposure

Dr. Arulmoorthy conducted the technical sessions, focusing on both theoretical and hands-on components. Key areas included immediate post-harvest handling of fish, sanitary maintenance of landing centres and processing sites, proper usage and upkeep of fishing tools and equipment, and implementation of standard hygienic protocols. The sessions also emphasized practical demonstrations, enabling participants to apply the knowledge directly in their daily operations.

Resource Support to Encourage Adoption

As part of the programme, essential resources such as fishing crates, gloves, and water cans were distributed to the participants by the Chairman and Secretary of the Tribal Council. These inputs were intended to facilitate the adoption of hygienic practices in routine fishing activities, ensuring that the training translated into actionable improvements in field operations.

Participation and Certification

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from fishers across various villages of Car Nicobar, reflecting the community's keenness to upgrade skills and adopt best practices. The event concluded with the distribution of certificates to all participants, marking a significant milestone in promoting safe, sustainable, and hygienic fisheries practices in the Islands.

Strengthening Sustainable Fisheries in the Islands

This capacity-building initiative demonstrates the Department's commitment to empowering local communities, ensuring food safety, and enhancing the quality and marketability of fisheries produce. By combining technical training, practical exposure, and resource support, the programme lays the foundation for sustainable and profitable fisheries in Car Nicobar, contributing to the broader goal of responsible fisheries management across the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.





WORLD FISHERIES DAY 2025 CELEBRATED IN ISLES.



A GLOBAL CALL FOR SUSTAINABILITY

WORLD
FISHERIES
DAY

World Fisheries Day, observed globally on 21st November, serves as a significant reminder of the vital role that fisheries play in ensuring food security, supporting livelihoods, and sustaining marine ecosystems. Established by the World Fisheries Forum in 1997, the day highlights the need for responsible and sustainable fishing practices to protect oceans and inland water resources from overexploitation and environmental degradation. Across the world, and particularly in India, the occasion is marked through awareness programmes, technical sessions, exhibitions, and community events that celebrate the contributions of fishers, fish farmers, and coastal communities. For regions like the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, where fisheries form an integral part of the socio-economic landscape, World Fisheries Day provides an important platform to promote innovation, strengthen conservation efforts, and showcase initiatives aimed at building a resilient and sustainable fisheries sector.

A Grand Celebration at TGCE Auditorium

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands celebrated World Fisheries Day 2025 with great enthusiasm at the Tagore Government College of Education (TGCE) Auditorium, Middle Point. The event highlighted the national theme: “India’s Blue Transformation: Strengthening Value Addition in Seafood Products.” The celebrations were graced by Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, IAS, Chief Secretary, A& N Administration as the Chief Guest. Shri Arjun Sharma, IAS, Deputy Commissioner (South Andaman), and Ms. Purva Garg, IAS, Secretary (Fisheries), attended as Guests of Honour, lending their support to the Islands’ growing fisheries initiatives.



HISTORIC LAUNCH OF OPEN-SEA CAGE CULTURE

In a first-of-its-kind initiative for the Islands, the Administration launched Open-Sea Cage Culture, marking a transformative milestone in regional fisheries development. The Chief Guest formally handed over leasing orders to three selected applicants and interacted with them to understand their aspirations and challenges. This initiative is expected to enhance aquaculture productivity and provide a new avenue for sustainable livelihoods among coastal communities.

He also launched the Training Manual and Documentary Videos on Seaweed Cultivation, developed as part of the 45-Day Seaweed Training Programme for SHGs, aimed at empowering local communities with practical knowledge and livelihood opportunities.

The Chief Secretary further outlined key initiatives for strengthening the fisheries sector, including the adoption of scientific and eco-friendly fishing methods, the advancement of the Tuna Cluster Development initiative, upgrading skill sets of stakeholders, establishing robust cold-chain infrastructure, and promoting strong branding for Island-based fish products in national and global markets. He assured continued institutional support in terms of technology, training, infrastructure, and policy measures for all fisheries stakeholders.

CHIEF SECRETARY'S ADDRESS: COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Secretary highlighted World Fisheries Day as an occasion to reaffirm the collective commitment of the Islands to marine conservation, sustainable harvesting, and responsible resource management. He emphasized the vast potential of the A&N Islands to emerge as a hub for sustainable fisheries and stressed the importance of value addition in strengthening seafood-based industries in line with India's Blue Transformation vision.



WORLD FISHERIES DAY



Technical Sessions by Experts Expand Knowledge Horizons

The celebration also featured technical sessions conducted by leading experts to provide insights into emerging opportunities in fisheries. Dr. C. Babu, Fisheries Scientist from the Fisheries Survey of India, presented on “Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone of India (Rules 2025).” Dr. Jess Maria Wilson from ICAR-CIARI shared insights on “Tuna Cluster Development in A&N Islands,” while Dr. Souvirajan and Dr. Arjun from ACOSTI-NIOT discussed “Mariculture Prospects in A&N Islands.” These sessions fostered collaborative learning, encouraged innovation, and highlighted the Islands’ potential to strengthen India’s Blue Economy through sustainable fisheries development.

Towards a Sustainable and Prosperous Fisheries Future

The World Fisheries Day 2025 celebrations in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands underscored the Administration’s commitment to marine conservation, community empowerment, and the development of a resilient fisheries sector. Through initiatives such as Open-Sea Cage Culture, seaweed cultivation training, youth engagement, and technical capacity building, the Islands are poised to emerge as a model for sustainable fisheries management and value-added seafood production in India.

Theme Highlight



India’s Blue Transformation – Strengthening Value Addition in Seafood Exports



The theme for World Fisheries Day 2025, “India’s Blue Transformation – Strengthening Value Addition in Seafood Exports,” aligns with the national vision of promoting sustainable fisheries, enhancing value addition, and empowering coastal communities. By actively involving students in these pre-event activities, the A&N Administration has demonstrated its commitment to nurturing future ambassadors of marine stewardship and fostering an informed generation capable of contributing to the Islands’ blue economy aspirations.

Honouring Excellence in Fisheries

To recognize outstanding contributions to the sector, awards were presented across multiple categories, including Best Fish Farmer, Best Aquaculturist, Best Trader, Best Co-operative Society, Best Fish Processing Entrepreneur, and Field-Level Officers and Sagar Mitras. Awardees from all three districts were honoured for their dedication and exemplary contributions, inspiring others to emulate their achievements in advancing fisheries and aquaculture in the Islands.





WORLD Fisheries DAY 2025

India's Blue Transformation - Strengthening Value Chain in Seafood Export

South Andaman

- Best Performing Fisherman: Shri K. Appanna
- Best Performing Aquaculturist (Freshwater): Shri Sukumar Mondal, School Line
- Best Performing Fish Trader/Exporter: Shri Jahar Samanta, M/s JSK Exports, Sippighat
- Best Fish Processing Entrepreneur: Shri Pradeep Kumar Pulikanti, Proprietor - M/s Monsoon Fisheries
- Best Fisheries Cooperative Society: Dhanalaxmi Women Fisheries Co-operative Society Ltd., Phoenix Bay



North & Middle Andaman

- Best Performing Fish Farmer: Shri Tapan Biswas, Rangat
- Best Fish Processing Entrepreneur: Ms. Bibhabari Halder, Diglipur



Nicobar District

- Best Performing Fisherman: Shri A. Shyam Babu, Campbell Bay
- Awardee: Shri Tanveer Hussain, Kamorta





Special Achievement Award

**Breeding & Seed Production of Freshwater Fishes (2025):
Fish Seed Farm, Nayagaon – Sri Vijaya Puram**

Department of Fisheries – Section Award

**Best Performing Section: Technical Section, Directorate
of Fisheries**



South Andaman – Personnel

**Best Performing Field Level Officer: Shri Dilip Kumar,
Fisheries Inspector, ZFO South Andaman**

Best Performing Sagar Mitra: Ms. S. Usha, ZFO South Andaman

North & Middle Andaman – Personnel

**Best Performing Field Level Officer: Ms. Jolly John, Sub-
Inspector of Fisheries, FSS Rangat**

Best Performing Sagar Mitra: Ms. Shripa Das, FSS Diglipur

Nicobar – Personnel

Best Performing Sagar Mitra: Ms. Ankita Kujur, Nancowrie



PRE-EVENT ACTIVITIES SET A VIBRANT PRELUDE TO WORLD FISHERIES DAY- 2025 IN A&N ISLANDS.

In the lead-up to World Fisheries Day 2025, the Department of Fisheries, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, in collaboration with the Department of Education, organized a series of engaging pre-event activities across the islands. These initiatives aimed to raise awareness, encourage active participation, and enhance students' understanding of the significance of fisheries and marine resources in the region.



Youth Engagement Through Creative Competitions

As part of the celebrations, the Department organized multiple competitions to engage students and promote awareness about marine ecosystems. An essay writing competition on “Fisheries Potential of A&N Islands: Way Forward for Fisheries Economy Development” was held for students of JNRM (Zoology) and Pondicherry University (Marine Biology).

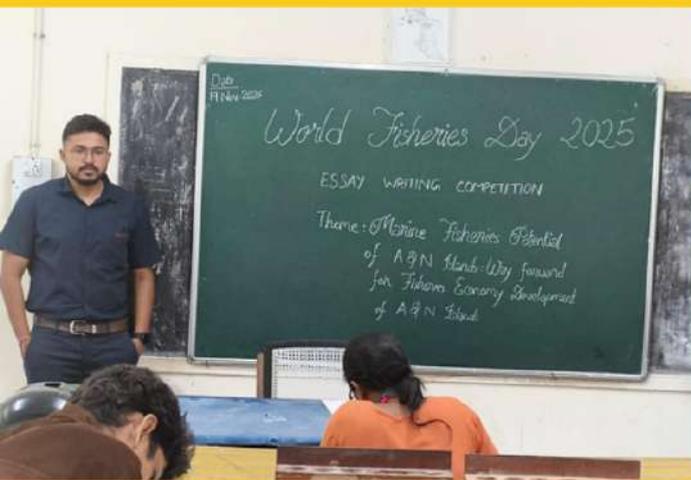


Poster-Making Competition

Marine Biodiversity of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Alongside the quiz, a poster-making competition was held to encourage students to express their creativity while showcasing the rich marine biodiversity of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The competition focused on themes such as marine conservation, sustainable fisheries, and the ecological significance of aquatic species. Students' imaginative artworks served as a powerful visual medium to communicate environmental awareness.





Quiz Programme

A dynamic quiz competition was conducted under the theme **“Wonder World of Fisheries”**, where students enthusiastically participated, testing their knowledge on fisheries, marine biodiversity, and sustainable aquatic practices. The programme not only encouraged students to learn about the scientific and economic importance of fisheries but also highlighted their critical role in the conservation of marine resources.

The events received enthusiastic participation from students across the islands, reflecting their keen interest in fisheries, marine life, and the importance of sustainable practices. Through these initiatives, the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Education successfully instilled awareness, curiosity, and responsibility among the youth towards the sustainable management of marine resources.

These pre-event activities served as a vibrant prelude to the main celebration of World Fisheries Day 2025, reinforcing the role of fisheries in the socio-economic development of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and promoting the message of marine conservation and sustainable resource use.



List of Winner felicitated on the celebration of “World Fisheries Day”-2025.



JNRM College – Essay Competition

First: Ms. Sneha Acharjee (1st Year)

Second: Ms. Mansi Mishra (3rd Year)

Third: Ms. Rishitha Ganni P. (3rd Year)



JNRM College – Poster Making Competition

First: Ms. Rishitha Ganni P. (3rd Year)

Second: Ms. Jyotsna (2nd Year)

Third: Ms. Ananya Biswas (2nd Year)

Pondicherry University (Marine Biology) – Essay Competition

First: Amar Sai Ram (Msc. Marine Biology)

Second: Mohammed Navroz Rahman (Msc. Marine Biology)

Third: Sayed Ibrahim , Prithviraj Bhadury (Msc. Marine Biology)

Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Junglight – Quiz Competition

First: Maanav (Class 10)

Second: D. Dhanush, B. Jaswanth, S. Sruthi, M. Maduri, G. Roojitha (Class 10)

Third: A. Karan, K. Sailaja (Class 9)

Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Junglight – Poster Making Competition

First: S. Nikhil (Class 10)

Second: Nisha Kumari (Class 9)

Third: S. Shruthi (Class 10)

Fourth: B. Devika (Class 9)



Towards promoting sustainable aquaculture in Isles Secretary (Fisheries) inaugurates Training Prog. on Shrimp and Mud Crab Farming

Sri Vijaya Puram, May 21
A three days training programme on Shrimp and Mud Crab Farming jointly organized by Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration, in collaboration with ICAR-Central Institute of Sustainable Aquaculture (CISA), Chennai was inaugurated today by Ms. Jyoti Kumari, Secretary of Fisheries, A&N Administration. She emphasized the importance of such programmes in supporting the livelihoods of coastal communities in the Islands. In her inaugural address, the Secretary (Fisheries), A&N Administration welcomed participants and emphasized the importance of such programmes in supporting the livelihoods of coastal communities in the Islands. She emphasized the importance of such programmes in supporting the livelihoods of coastal communities in the Islands.

June 1 to Aug.31 declared closed season operation of fishing vessels for conducting Sport Fishing activity in A&N Waters

Sri Vijaya Puram, June 2
In accordance with the A&N Islands Marine Fishing Vessels for conducting Sport Fishing (Amendment) Rules, 2019, the period commencing from 1st day of June to 31st day of August, 2025 (period of 90 days) shall be declared as closed season for operation of fishing vessels for conducting sport fishing activities in the A&N Islands waters. The period commencing from 1st day of June to 31st day of August, 2025 (period of 90 days) shall be declared as closed season for operation of fishing vessels for conducting sport fishing activities in the A&N Islands waters.

Fisheries Dept. & MPEDA, Chennai conduct training prog. for Onge Tribe on fisheries related activities at Dugong Creek

Hut Bay, June 16
The Department of Fisheries with the support of Marine Export Development Authority (MEDA), Chennai conducted a training programme for Onge Tribe on fisheries related activities at Dugong Creek. The training programme was conducted by Dr. Arulmoorthy, State Coordinator, NETFISH-MPEDA, Chennai and Dr. Jayabal, Joint Director, MPEDA, Chennai. The training programme was conducted by Dr. Arulmoorthy, State Coordinator, NETFISH-MPEDA, Chennai and Dr. Jayabal, Joint Director, MPEDA, Chennai.

UT level Online Refresher Training Prog. for ATMA functionaries held

Sri Vijaya Puram, June 18
A three-day online refresher training programme was organized from 16th to 18th June, 2025 for Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) functionaries, Assistant Technology Managers (ATMs) and Block Technology Managers (BTMs) working under UTATMA across all zones of the Union Territory on Farmer Oriented Activities for the month of June and July, 2025 as per the approved State Extension Work Plan (SEWP) 2025-26. The training was organized by the Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration.

Deptt. of Fisheries conducts awareness prog. on 'Field Identification of Scheduled/Protected Fishes'

Sri Vijaya Puram, Aug. 31
The Department of Fisheries conducted an awareness programme on 'Field Identification of Scheduled/Protected Fishes' on Aug. 29 at the Fisheries Training Centre, Marine Hill wherein Dr. Bineesh K. Zoologist, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata delivered a detailed session on field identification of scheduled and protected species available in A&N waters. A key highlight of the session was the technical presentation in the taxonomy of sharks and rays in India. Practical identification techniques were also demonstrated to strengthen on-ground identification skills. In addition to this, an online session was also taken up by Dr. Rajendra Kumar Zoologist, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata under Wild Protection Act, 1972. During the session, Dr. Bineesh K. requested participants to act as field surveyors in the field avoiding catch of scheduled fishes thereby protecting marine biodiversity. The programme is designed with the primary objective of creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for coastal communities, with a special focus on empowering Self-Help Group (SHG) members. The SHG members, jointly identified by the Rural Development Department and the Department of Fisheries, will undergo the field training programme.

Fisheries Deptt. in association with NETFISH-MPEDA, Chennai organize Training prog. on 'Capacity Building on Hygienic and Sanitary Procedures' at Car Nicobar

Car Nicobar, June 15
The Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration in collaboration with NETFISH-MPEDA, Chennai organized a training programme on 'Capacity Building on Hygienic and Sanitary Procedures' at Car Nicobar. The programme was inaugurated by Shri Arulmoorthy, State Coordinator, NETFISH-MPEDA, Chennai, who was the chief guest. Shri Martin Luther, Secretary, Fisheries, A&N Administration, Car Nicobar, was the guest of honour. The programme was inaugurated by Shri Arulmoorthy, State Coordinator, NETFISH-MPEDA, Chennai, who was the chief guest. Shri Martin Luther, Secretary, Fisheries, A&N Administration, Car Nicobar, was the guest of honour.

Two-years duration training under Craftsman Training Scheme of NCVT Interested candidates from fishermen community urged to submit applications latest by June 14

Sri Vijaya Puram, June 8
The Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical & Engineering Training (CIFNET), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India located at Kochi, Chennai, and Visakhapatnam, offers career training to the selected candidates on Vessel Navigator (VN) and Marine Fitter (MF) for the academic session 2025-2027 batch. These two-year (24 months) duration training programs are conducted under the Craftsman Training Scheme of the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT), introduced by the Directorate General of Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour, Government of India. The courses are open to candidates who have passed 10th standard (SSLC) with 40% marks in Mathematics and Science. The cost of each oxygenated packet is Rs.135/- and payment is received from the parent.

Director of Fisheries visits Nimbutala & Shivapuram Panchayats, interacts with fishermen community

BANGALURU, June 17
The Director of Fisheries Department, Mrs. Jagtap Kalyani Rajen visited Nimbutala and Shivapuram Panchayats to assess the status of the local fishing community and to directly interact with the fishermen. She was accompanied by Mr. Anand Kumar, Assistant Director of Fisheries, North & Middle Islands, and Mr. Anand Kumar, Assistant Director of Fisheries, North & Middle Islands. The Director of Fisheries Department, Mrs. Jagtap Kalyani Rajen visited Nimbutala and Shivapuram Panchayats to assess the status of the local fishing community and to directly interact with the fishermen.

Fisheries Deptt. launches first phase of fish seed distribution to boost freshwater aquaculture

Sri Vijaya Puram, July 3
As part of the initiative to promote freshwater aquaculture in the Islands, the Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration has commenced the fish seed distribution of Indian Major Carps to the farmers of the Islands at approved Panchayat Calicut, and Shri R. Parmasivam Pradhan, Gram Panchayat, Beodnabad. The fish farmers were advised on best pond maintenance practices and regular feeding schedules to ensure successful rearing of seedlings to marketable sizes. In the first phase, a total of 81 packets of fish seeds of Indian Major Carps were distributed to 39 fish farmers of Calicut and Beodnabad Gram Panchayat today. The distribution took place in the presence of Shri T. Yaghambaram, Gram Panchayat Calicut, and Shri R. Parmasivam Pradhan, Gram Panchayat, Beodnabad. The fish farmers were advised on best pond maintenance practices and regular feeding schedules to ensure successful rearing of seedlings to marketable sizes.

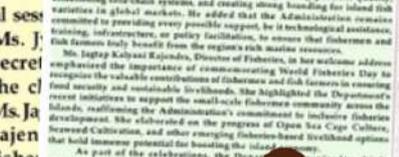
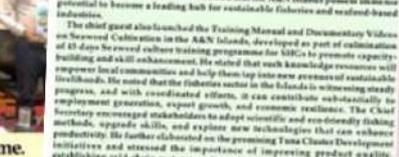
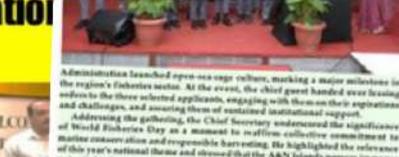
Field Training Prog. on 'Seaweed Cultivation and Processing' gets underway

Sri Vijaya Puram, Sept. 3
The Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration, with the technical support of NIOT-ACOSTI under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, commenced a 45-day Field Training Programme on 'Seaweed Cultivation and Processing' today at the NIOT Campus, Dollygunj. The programme has been designed with the primary objective of creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for coastal communities, with a special focus on empowering Self-Help Group (SHG) members. The SHG members, jointly identified by the Rural Development Department and the Department of Fisheries, will undergo the field training programme. The programme has been designed with the primary objective of creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for coastal communities, with a special focus on empowering Self-Help Group (SHG) members. The SHG members, jointly identified by the Rural Development Department and the Department of Fisheries, will undergo the field training programme.

Distribution of freshwater fish seeds at Calicut & Beodnabad

Sl No.	Name of the Panchayat	Distribution Point	Date and time of Distribution
1.	Gram Panchayat, Calicut	Office of the Gram Panchayat	3rd July, 2025 at 9 am
2.	Gram Panchayat, Beodnabad	Office of the Gram Panchayat	3rd July, 2025 at 10 am

The interested fish farmers have been requested to bring the oxygenated packets of fish seeds to the respective Panchayats. The cost of each oxygenated packet is Rs.135/- and payment is received from the parent.



Applications invited for leasing of designated sea areas for undertaking Seaweed farming and Pearl Culture activities

Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 25
The Directorate of Fisheries, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, has invited interested parties to apply for leasing of designated sea areas for undertaking seaweed farming and pearl culture activities. The notification dated 19th September, 2025, details the terms and conditions for leasing. Eligible applicants include fish farmers, fish workers, and individuals interested in aquaculture. Applications should be submitted to the Fisheries Offices in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Deptt. of Fisheries conducts awareness prog. on 'Field Identification of Scheduled/Protected Fishes'

Sri Vijaya Puram, Aug. 31
The Department of Fisheries conducted an awareness programme on 'Field Identification of Scheduled/Protected Fishes' on August 29 at the Fisheries Training Centre, Marine Hill. The programme was led by Dr. Bineesh K. Scientist-E, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata. It focused on identifying and protecting species like sharks and rays in India. Practical identification techniques were demonstrated, and an online session was also held to strengthen on-ground identification skills.

Freshwater Fish Seed Distribution by Fisheries Deptt. from July 24

Sri Vijaya Puram, July 22
The Fisheries Department is ready for distribution of freshwater fish seed among the interested fish farmers of the Panchayat Gram (Wimberlygram) under the Department of Fisheries, Administration has Shool Bay under the South Andaman District as per the notification dated July 24.

Isles fisherman among select few to interact with Hon'ble Prime Minister at NASC, New Delhi

Sri Vijaya Puram, Oct. 11
Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, interacted with farmers before participating in a special Krishi programme held at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi today. Shri Durai Selvam, a fisherman from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, was among the select few to interact with the Prime Minister. He was nominated by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying as one among eight fishermen selected from across the States and Union Territories of India for this special interaction.



Production in the Islands, meeting local consumption needs and enhancing the quantity of fish transported to mainland India. During the interaction, Shri Durai extended gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister for extending support to him in establishment of cold chain infrastructure and fish transport facilities.

Notification on A&N Islands Marine Fishing (Amendment) Rules, 2025 uploaded in official website

Sri Vijaya Puram, Sept. 3
The A&N Administration has notified the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Marine Fishing (Amendment) Rules, 2025. The notification is available on the official website of the Department of Fisheries, Andaman & Nicobar Islands at <https://andaman.gov.in> and the Official website of A&N Administration at <https://andamannicobar.gov.in>. The notification is dated 28th August 2025.

Deptt. of Fisheries invites application for purchase of life saving appliances/fire-fighting appliances/ navigational equipments

Sri Vijaya Puram, Sept. 18
The Department of Fisheries, A&N is implementing a UT Plan scheme for purchase of life saving appliances, fire-fighting appliances, navigational equipment (GPS, VHF, DAT etc.) under the UT Plan scheme of the Department during 2025-26.

including navigational GPS and VHF. Eligibility Criteria: Applicant should be a bonafide fisherman/tribe of A&N Islands possessing registered non-motorized / motorized / mechanized fishing craft. Applications should be submitted to the Directorate of Fisheries, Zonal Fisheries Offices, Nearest Fisheries Stations and also available in the Official website of A&N Administration (<http://www.andamannicobar.gov.in>). The application should be completed in all respects.

Deptt. of Fisheries notifies designated sea areas identified for leasing to undertake Fish Culture including Seaweed Cultivation and installation of Fish Aggregating Devices

Sri Vijaya Puram, Sept. 23
In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 4 of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Culture including Seaweed Cultivation and installation of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADS), the notification dated 19th September, 2025 published in A&N Gazette can be downloaded from A&N website andamannicobar.gov.in.

Training prog. on Freshwater Fish Seed Production held Secretary (Fisheries) urges participants to utilize opportunity to enhance skills & boost income by setting up Fish Seed Hatcheries under PMMSY

Sri Vijaya Puram, Nov. 13
A three-days training programme on Freshwater Fish Seed Production jointly organized by the Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration, in collaboration with Central Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CI Garacharima), inaugurated today by Jyoti Kumari, Secretary (Fisheries), Fisheries Training Centre, Marine Hill.

Training prog. on 'Maintenance of Boat Engine & Fishing Practice' at Campbell Bay concludes

Campbell Bay, Nov. 27
The Department of Fisheries, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, has successfully completed a training programme on 'Maintenance of Boat Engine & Fishing Practice' at Campbell Bay. The programme was conducted by the Fisheries Department.

A&N Islands shine at World Aquaculture India 2025 Conclave provided an excellent opportunity for the Islands to highlight their emerging role in India's aquaculture landscape

Sri Vijaya Puram, Nov. 13
The World Aquaculture India 2025, held at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre from 10th to 13th November, 2025, served as a premier national platform to showcase innovations and sustainable practices shaping India's fisheries and aquaculture sector. The event brought together fish farmers, policy makers, researchers, and industry stakeholders from across the country to deliberate on advancing the sector.



Organized by National Fisheries Development Board, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India.

Pre-event activities mark vibrant prelude to World Fisheries Day-2025 in A&N Islands

Sri Vijaya Puram, Nov. 19
In the run-up to the World Fisheries Day 2025 celebrations, the Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration, in collaboration with the Department of Education, successfully organised a series of engaging pre-events aimed at fostering awareness and knowledge among students and youth on the importance of fisheries and marine resources. As part of the initiative, a Quiz Programme on "Wonder World of Fishes" was held. The quiz was designed to test the knowledge of students on various aspects of fisheries and marine biodiversity. The winners were announced and certificates were presented to them.



The importance of fisheries and marine resources. As part of the initiative, a Quiz Programme on "Wonder World of Fishes" was held. The winners were announced and certificates were presented to them.

World Fisheries Day befittingly celebrated in Isles Open-sea cage culture, marking a major milestone in the region's fisheries sector launched

Sri Vijaya Puram, Nov. 21
The Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration celebrated World Fisheries Day today at the Auditorium of Tagore Government College of Education, Middle Point, highlighting the national theme "India's Blue Transformation: Strengthening Value Addition in Seafood Products." Dr. Chandra Bhusan Kumari, IAS, Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Shri Arjun Sharma, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman and Mr. Parva Garg, IAS, Secretary, A&N Administration, Islands, also graced the occasion. The programme was inaugurated by the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, who emphasized the importance of open-sea cage culture in enhancing the region's fisheries sector. The launch of open-sea cage culture is a significant milestone for the region's fisheries sector, marking a shift towards sustainable and modern fishing practices. The programme included a practical session on cage culture, where participants learned about the various aspects of setting up and maintaining open-sea cages. The session was highly interactive and provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with open-sea cage culture. The programme concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, presented certificates to the participants. The event was a great success and received positive feedback from all attendees.



Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Shri Arjun Sharma, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman and Mr. Parva Garg, IAS, Secretary, A&N Administration, Islands, also graced the occasion. The programme was inaugurated by the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, who emphasized the importance of open-sea cage culture in enhancing the region's fisheries sector.



at Gert. Senior secondary School, Junglighat. These events drew participation from school students, fish farmers, traders, and various stakeholders, showcasing the vibrant and growing fisheries sector in the Islands. The events were well-attended and provided a platform for knowledge sharing and networking among participants. The Department of Fisheries, A&N Administration, is committed to promoting sustainable and modern fishing practices and enhancing the livelihoods of fish farmers. The events were a great success and received positive feedback from all attendees.

breeding and seed production techniques with special emphasis on Indian Major Carps. In her inaugural address, the Secretary, Fisheries, A&N Administration, highlighted the importance of fish seed production in enhancing the region's fisheries sector. She emphasized the need for sustainable and modern fishing practices and the role of fish seed production in achieving these goals. The programme was highly interactive and provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with fish seed production. The programme concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where the Secretary, Fisheries, A&N Administration, presented certificates to the participants. The event was a great success and received positive feedback from all attendees.

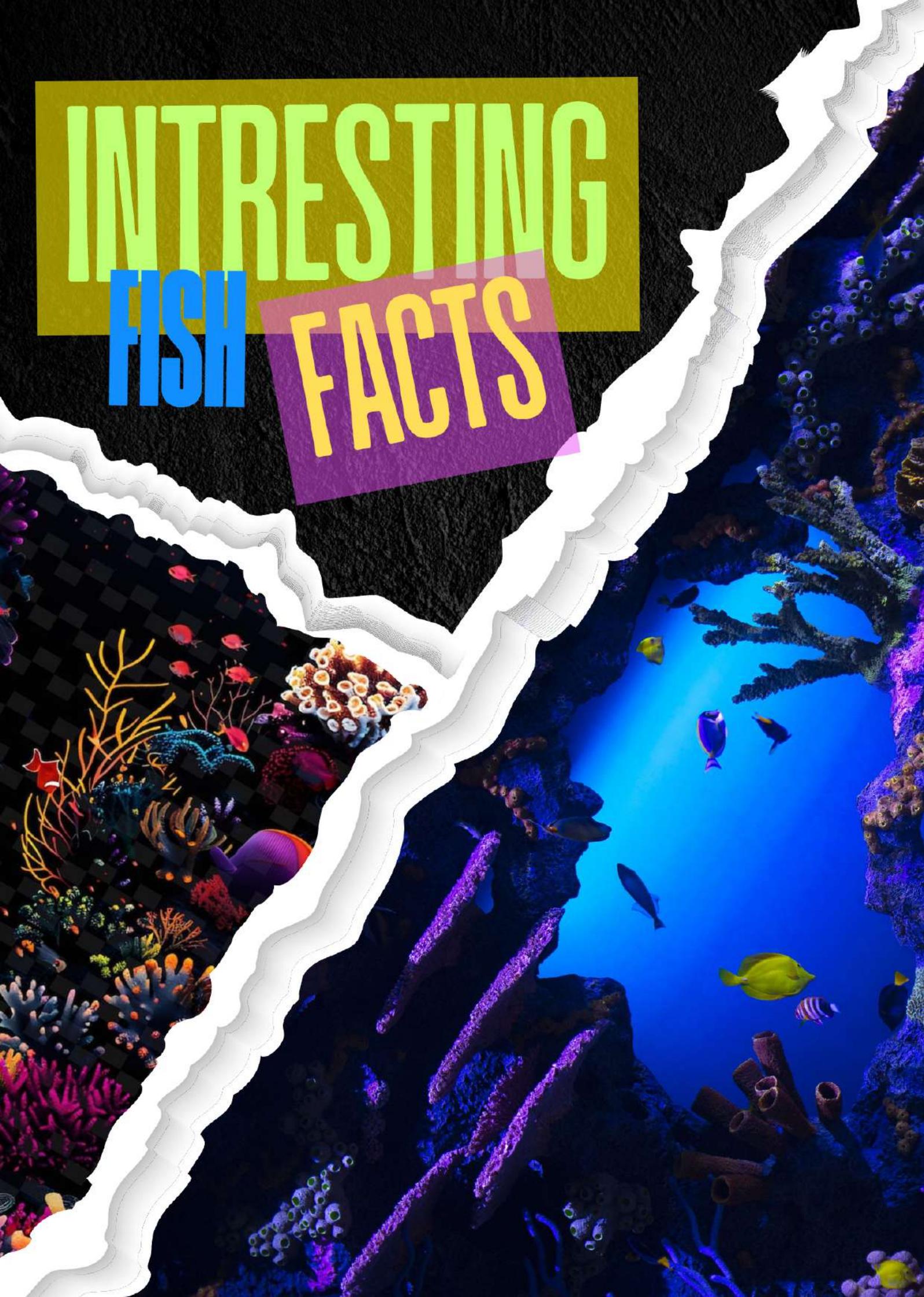
During the conclusion session, Ms. Glory, Assistant Director of Fisheries, Andaman & Nicobar, highlighted the commitment of the Department towards empowering fishermen through continuous training, modern fishing techniques, and improved livelihood opportunities. She emphasized the need for sustainable and modern fishing practices and the role of the Department in achieving these goals. The programme was highly interactive and provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with modern fishing practices. The programme concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Andaman & Nicobar, presented certificates to the participants. The event was a great success and received positive feedback from all attendees.

As part of the initiative, a Quiz Programme on "Wonder World of Fishes" was held. The quiz was designed to test the knowledge of students on various aspects of fisheries and marine biodiversity. The winners were announced and certificates were presented to them. The programme was highly interactive and provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with modern fishing practices. The programme concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Andaman & Nicobar, presented certificates to the participants. The event was a great success and received positive feedback from all attendees.

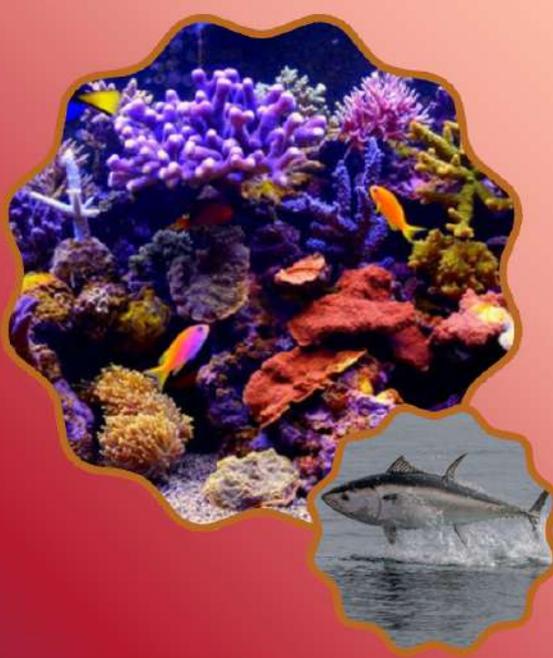
INTRESTING

FISH

FACTS



The mudskipper, spend most of their life out of water. They can walk on land using their fins and breathe through their skin and the lining of their mouth.



The Blue Tang Fish 'Dory' from Finding Nemo' is poisonous to eat, has venomous barbs on their back, and will cut you.

All Clownfish begin life as males; if the dominant female of the group dies then one of the males will develop into a female.



Members of the catfish family (Ictaluridae) lack scales, distinguishing them from many other fish.

The arapaima, native to the Amazon, can grow over 2 meters long and weigh around 90 kg.

Mandarinfish display vibrant blue and orange patterns, making them popular in aquariums.



Clownfish have a mutualistic relationship with sea anemones, gaining protection from predators.



There are over 500 species of sharks, ranging from the tiny dwarf lanternshark to the massive whale shark.



The wahoo is among the fastest fish for its size, reaching speeds up to 78 km/h.



The wahoo is among the fastest fish for its size, reaching speeds up to 78 km/h.

The Indo-Pacific sailfish can reach speeds over 110 km/h, making it one of the fastest fish.



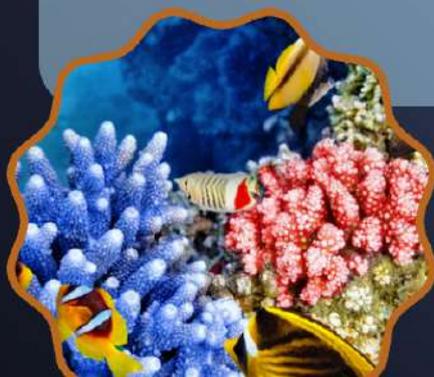
Lanternfish produce light through bioluminescence and account for a significant portion of deep-sea biomass.



Brownsnout Spook fish: It's the only vertebrate known to use mirrors in its eyes to focus images.

Red hues render deep-sea fish nearly invisible in the ocean's depths, as red light doesn't penetrate far.

Hammerhead sharks have wide-set eyes that give them better depth perception than most sharks.



Zebrafish have the unique ability to repair large portions of damaged heart muscle.





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