

ICAR-CIFE's 19th Convocation Highlights India's Rise as Global Fisheries Power

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The ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education (ICAR-CIFE), Mumbai, a premier Deemed University under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and a Centre of Excellence in Fisheries Higher Education, celebrated its 19th Convocation on Saturday (21st February, 2026). The Institute is recognized for producing Master's and Doctoral graduates in 11 highly specialized disciplines of fisheries and for developing innovative technologies to strengthen the fisheries sector in the country.

Dr. N. P. Sahu, Director and Vice Chancellor, conferred degrees on 94 Master's and 49 Ph.D. scholars. The ceremony marked a significant milestone in the academic journey of the graduating students.

Dr. Mangi Lal Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, ICAR, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. He awarded gold medals to meritorious students and delivered the Convocation Address. Dr. Joykrushna Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science) and Additional Charge of Education Division, ICAR, attended as Guest of Honour.



Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest Dr. Mangi Lal Jat highlighted the transformative role of fisheries education in supporting a vibrant and rapidly expanding sector that provides livelihood to nearly 30 million people across India. He noted that capture fisheries and aquaculture now contribute almost equally to

global fish production, reflecting a paradigm shift towards advanced aquaculture systems that conserve water and energy, utilize genetically improved strains, and adopt efficient feed and health management practices.



The Chief Guest informed that India's fish production reached a record 197.75 lakh tonnes in 2025. India currently ranks as the second-largest fish producer globally, contributing about 8 per cent to world fish production. Fisheries and aquaculture account for nearly 1.24 per cent of the national GDP. During 2023-24, fisheries exports reached 16.98 lakh tonnes valued at Rs. 62,408 crore. The sector has recorded an annual growth rate of over 11 per cent since 2014-15.

The Chief Guest emphasized that initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), along with extension of Kisan Credit Card facilities to fishers and fish farmers, are strengthening the sector. He also referred to the proposed Bharat-VISTAAR, a multilingual AI tool integrating AgriStack portals with ICAR systems. Congratulating the graduates and medal winners, he urged ICAR-CIFE to continue enhancing its stature and contribute to India's vision of becoming a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

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