

Hon'ble Minister of State Shri George Kurian Visited ICAR-NBFGR for the Institute Progress Review and Infrastructure Inauguration

Lucknow, 25 February 2025

The ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFGR) had the honour of welcoming Shri George Kurian, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Minority Affairs, Government of India. The visit underscored the institute's pivotal role in aquatic genetic resource conservation, fisheries research, and farmer empowerment. The Hon'ble Minister was warmly welcomed by Dr. Uttam Kumar Sarkar, Director, ICAR-NBFGR, along with senior officials and distinguished guests. As a symbolic gesture of environmental commitment, a plantation drive was conducted, followed by the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Exotics & Farmers Training Unit (EFTU), which aims to enhance fish farmers' capacity-building and technology transfer initiatives. Further strengthening its infrastructure, the new Main Gate of ICAR-NBFGR was inaugurated, reflecting the institute's continuous development efforts. The Minister was then given an extensive tour of state-of-the-art research and conservation facilities, including the Ganga Aquarium, Live Fish Germplasm Resource Centre, National Fish Museum & Repository, and advanced research laboratories. This visit provided an in-depth understanding of the institute's ongoing scientific endeavours in fish biodiversity conservation and genetic resource management. A formal Institute Progress Review Meeting was convened. In his address, Dr. Uttam Kumar Sarkar highlighted ICAR-NBFGR's significant achievements, breakthrough research initiatives, and contributions to national fisheries development. A key highlight of the event was the launch of the National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD) website and the release of important scientific publications, further reinforcing the institute's commitment to disease monitoring, biosecurity, and sustainable fisheries management. In his address, Shri George Kurian emphasized the importance of fisheries research in boosting the Blue Economy, ensuring biodiversity conservation, and supporting fish farmers through innovative and sustainable practices. He lauded the institute's contributions to scientific advancements in genetic resource conservation and urged researchers to strengthen collaborations for holistic fisheries development. The event concluded with an interactive session with scientists, fostering discussions on policy support, technological interventions, and future research directions. A vote of thanks was extended by Dr. Neeraj Sood, followed by the National Anthem and a group photograph. This visit reaffirms ICAR-NBFGR's role as a centre of excellence in fisheries research, striving to bridge the gap between scientific advancements and grassroots implementation. The institute continues to drive innovations that align with national fisheries policies, ensuring sustainable aquatic resource management and economic upliftment of the fisheries sector.



