

Museum Highlights

What to Explore

2,790+ Preserved Specimens

A vast holding including finfishes, echinoderms, molluscs, crustaceans, corals, and seaweeds—carefully curated for scientific validity and taxonomic research.

Deep-Sea & Fish Diversity

From microscopic plankton to majestic apex predators like sharks and rays, explore the incredible depth of marine life forms.

Interactive Learning Displays

Engaging exhibits equipped with responsive touch screens, immersive audio-visual presentations, and hands-on activities that make scientific concepts accessible and interesting.

Educational Focus

Curated educational pathways designed to inspire students and young minds, fostering a lifelong interest in marine sciences.

An Ocean of Knowledge Awaits

The CMFRI Museum is more than just a place to observe marine life; it is an immersive experience that builds appreciation for the oceans. It stands as a testament to the tireless efforts of India's marine scientists and remains a must-visit destination for researchers, students, and nature enthusiasts alike.

Visitor Information

- **Open to:** Students, researchers, professionals, and the general public.
- **Location:** ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Abraham Madamakkal Rd, Ernakulam, Kochi, Kerala 682018.
- **Time:** On all days 9.30 am -5 pm (except Saturdays/Sundays and Public Holidays)

Connect With Us

For group bookings, institutional visits, or taxonomic research access:

Contact: Director, ICAR CMFRI

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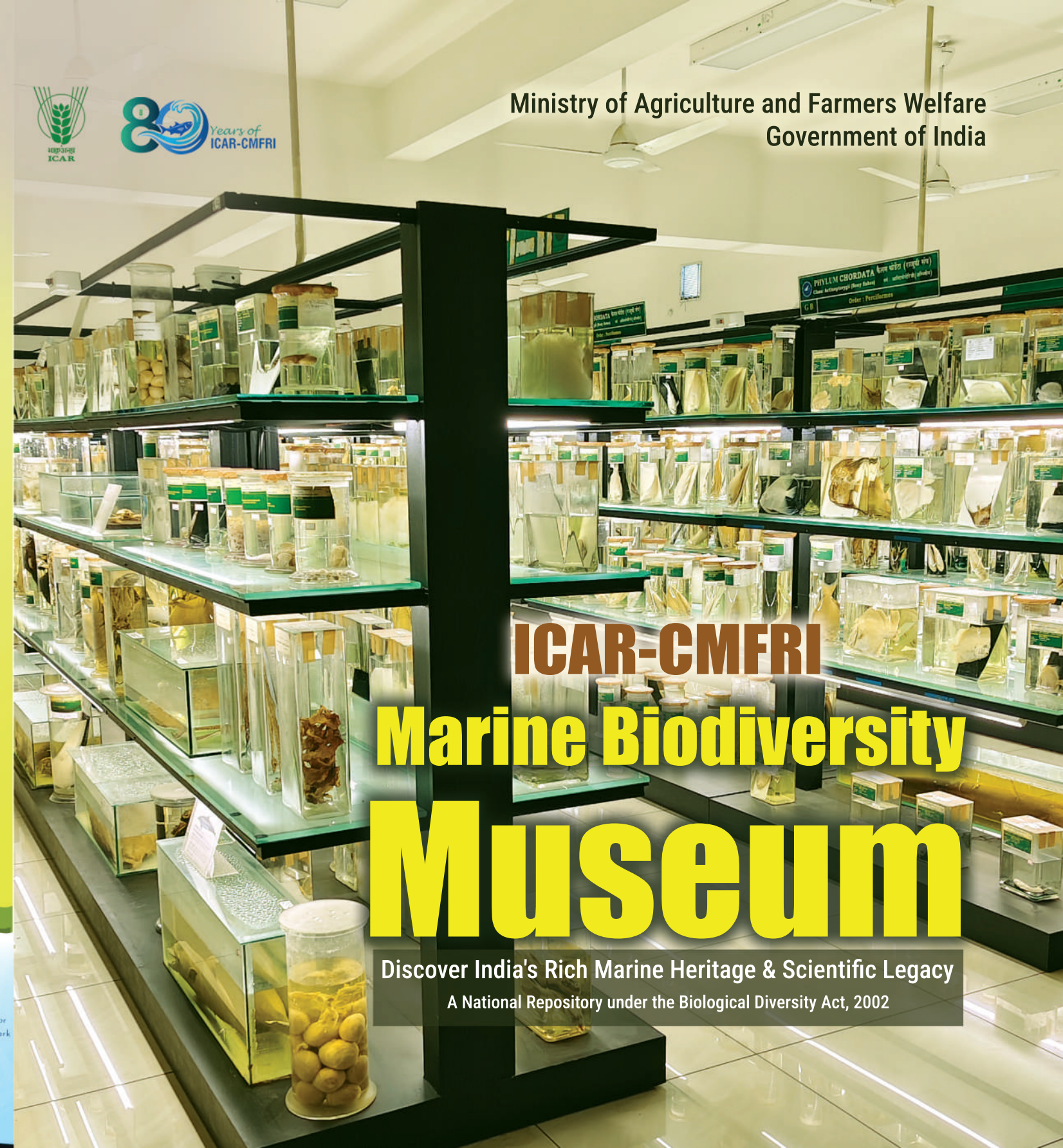
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Design and Layout

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Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Government of India



ICAR-CMFRI Marine Biodiversity Museum

Discover India's Rich Marine Heritage & Scientific Legacy
A National Repository under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002



Our Journey

The ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has long been at the forefront of marine fisheries research, biodiversity conservation, and education in India. The Marine Biodiversity Museum, an integral part of this legacy, serves as a vital window to the fascinating world of marine biodiversity.

1947
(Mandapam,
Tamil Nadu)

The journey began with systematic collections of marine specimens initiated alongside early field research.

1971
(Kochi, Kerala)

To enhance infrastructure and accessibility, CMFRI shifted its headquarters and part of the Museum to Kochi. Valuable collections were carefully relocated, marking a pivotal phase of

2006
(Modernization)

The state-of-the-art Museum facility was formally inaugurated on 4 February 2006 by Padma Vibhushan Prof. M. S. Swaminathan.

National Recognition

In December 2007, the ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi, was officially placed as a ‘Designated National Repository’ (DNR) by the Government of India, in consultation with the National Biodiversity Authority. Under this mandate, the Institute is authorized to securely preserve and archive diverse categories of biological specimens for posterity.

Aims & Objectives

The CMFRI Marine Biodiversity Museum serves as a crucial hub connecting the scientific community, policymakers, and the public.

NATIONAL REPOSITORY

Preserving a comprehensive collection of marine specimens as a national resource for future generations.

DOCUMENTATION & CATALOGUING

Systematically mapping Indian EEZ species to build a baseline database for ecological conservation

REFERENCE & RESEARCH RESOURCE

Acting as a National Reference Center for marine taxonomists, ecologists, and scientists globally.



Marine Megafauna Museum

The Marine Megafauna Museum is the newest landmark at ICAR–CMFRI, dedicated to the study, conservation, and public appreciation of the ocean’s giants. From majestic whales and dolphins to elusive sharks, rays, and sea turtles, our exhibits showcase the extraordinary vertebrates that maintain the balance of our marine ecosystems

Biodiversity Baseline Assessments

The newly released Catalogue of the Museum Specimens (2025) provides a meticulous taxonomic database. Specimens are grouped systematically under respective Phyla, Orders, and Families, offering an invaluable tool for ecological planning and fisheries management.

CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING: Providing a collaborative platform for hands-on technical training in taxonomy, specimen handling, and biodiversity documentation for scholars and stakeholders.

CONSERVATION & AWARENESS

Fostering community engagement and raising critical public awareness regarding the delicate balance of marine ecosystems and the urgent need for environmental protection.

Explore the Wonders of the Deep

As *flagship species* for conservation, these large marine animals are vital indicators of ocean health. Our museum brings their world to the surface through a sophisticated blend of:

Osteological Marvels

Intricate skeletal remains and articulated displays.

Scientific Repositories

Expertly preserved specimens and life-sized models

