

## **Report on Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of “Healing Fins” – Maharashtra’s First Multispecialty Fish Clinic & Mobile Fish Care Unit**

The Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of “*Healing Fins*” – *Maharashtra’s First Multispecialty Fish Clinic & Mobile Fish Care Unit* was held on March 22, 2026, at the ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai.

The foundation stone was laid by the Chief Guest, Ashish Shelar, Hon’ble Minister of Information Technology & Cultural Affairs and Guardian Minister, Mumbai Suburban, Government of Maharashtra. The ceremony was attended by Haroon Rashid Khan, Hon’ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Versova Constituency; Saurabh Katiyar, IAS, District Collector, Mumbai Suburban; and N. P. Sahu, Director, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai, along with other dignitaries.

The programme witnessed the participation of more than 250 attendees, including Heads of Divisions, scientists, students, representatives of fishermen societies, and staff of the Mumbai Suburban Committee.

The “Healing Fins” facility is being established within the ICAR-CIFE campus by the Aquatic Environment and Health Management Division (AEHM), with financial support from the District Planning Committee, Mumbai Suburban, Government of Maharashtra. The facility, located at Versova, is designed to provide comprehensive fish health services, including disease diagnosis and treatment.

The clinic is intended to serve fish farmers, shrimp farmers, aquarium owners, and ornamental fish hobbyists. The initiative follows a four-tier approach comprising clinical services, mobile outreach, advanced diagnostics, and telehealth services to ensure effective and holistic fish health management.

A Mobile Fish Care Unit has also been incorporated under the project to provide on-site services, enabling timely treatment and technical advisory support directly at farms and field locations.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. N. P. Sahu, who highlighted the importance and relevance of the initiative. This was followed by a detailed presentation by Megha K. Bedekar, Principal Scientist, Head of AEHM Division, and Principal Investigator of the project, who explained the concept, infrastructure, and operational framework of the clinic and mobile unit.

During the programme, Shri Haroon Rashid Khan emphasized the significance of establishing such a facility in a metropolitan region and its expected benefits to stakeholders in the fisheries sector.

The dignitaries also visited key facilities of ICAR-CIFE, including the Aquatic Biodiversity Museum and Aquarium, and appreciated the institute’s contributions towards fisheries education, research, and extension.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Aishwarya Ranadive, Assistant Commissioner of Fisheries, Mumbai Suburban.

The event was organized under the leadership of Dr. N. P. Sahu and Dr. Megha K. Bedekar HoD AEHMD. The organizing team comprised Dr. Gayatri Tripathi, Dr. S. P. Shukla, Dr. Vidhya Shree Bharati, Dr. Arun Sharma, Dr. Kundan Kumar, Dr. Saurav Kumar, Dr. Jeena K., Dr. Bharathi R., Dr. Kapil Sukhdane, Dr. Nalini Poojary and Mr Amit Kumar. Security arrangements were managed by Mr. Jagadeesan A.K., Joint Director (OL), along with his team. Heads of all divisions provided necessary support in coordination and execution of the programme.