

## Hon'ble Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR) Inaugurated Display-cum-Interpretation Centre for Marine Ornamentals at Lakshadweep Island

Lakshadweep, 20 April 2024

Ornamental fish culture is a potential venture for the livelihood enhancement of women islanders of Lakshadweep. In continuation with the community aquaculture unit established by the ICAR-NBFGR, a new facility, Display-cum-Interpretation Centre for Marine Ornamentals, was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR), Dr. Himanshu Pathak at Agatti, Lakshadweep on 20 April 2024 in the presence of Dr. Uttam Kumar Sarkar, Director, ICAR-NBFGR and Dr. T. T. Ajith Kumar, Head, PAGR Centre at ICAR-NBFGR, Kochi. The facility will serve as a knowledge hub for the public to create awareness and conservation of marine diversity, mainly marine ornamental organisms. Also, it will provide additional income to the women islanders of Agatti. Further, *Cinetorhynchus himanshui*, a new ornamental shrimp discovered from Lakshadweep waters, was launched for captive propagation. The new species will be captively bred and brought into the ornamental trade for the livelihood enhancement of the local tribal women. Dr Pathak interacted with the 100 women beneficiaries of the institute gathered at the event and urged them to actively participate in the initiative of the bureau to enhance livelihood security. During this occasion, five publications were released on the ornamental fishes of the Lakshadweep and community aquaculture and livelihood development. Dr Pathak visited and observed the fish diversity associated with the island's coral reef.

