

Remembering distinguished scientists as contributors to growth and development in Indian fisheries and aquaculture sectors

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In this short communication, I have genuinely attempted to compile and present at a glance the dates of birth and passing of as many as sixty-five legendary fishery and aquaculture experts of India as of 10 May 2026, the first anniversary of the passing of Padma Shri Dr S. Ayyappa. They were leaders, educators and mentors. Over the last seventy-five years or so, before leaving this mortal world, they shaped sustainable Indian marine and inland fisheries and aquaculture and strengthened scientific understanding. They were the pioneers of different technologies, and studied and investigated them in depth so they could be transferred. Their research work and leadership have fostered the progress, growth and development of these sectors in India, leading to increased fish production and enriching knowledge in ichthyology and allied fields. I confess that I have missed out the names of other distinguished contributors. This was unintentional, as I could not get information on all.

Excluding twenty-five persons, namely Dr Hora, Dr Ramaswami, Dr Bal, Dr Natarajan, Dr Alagarwami, Dr Sundararaj, Dr Jhingran, Dr Alikunhi, Dr Mitra, Dr Ayyar, Dr Chauhan, Dr Desai, Dr Pillay, Dr Thakur, Dr Datta Munshi, Dr Kapoor, Dr Menon, Dr A. K. Mondal, Dr Janakiram, Dr Sundaramoorthy, Dr A. Mondal, Dr Talwar, Dr Jayaram, Dr Durve and Dr Varghese, I was fortunate to meet all the other forty doyens and experts in Indian fishery and aquaculture in person over the years. I listened to their invited lectures and heard them while they chaired technical sessions. For most of them, I bowed my head down and touched their feet to obtain their blessings at different seminars and symposia in different parts of India over the last twenty-seven years. This began with my first participation in the National Conference titled 'Bridging gaps for attaining self-sufficiency in inland fish production at the dawn of new millennium', organised in Kolkata in June 2000. Now they are no more. Without boasting, I can say that I could even talk humbly for a little while with a few of these great personalities, obtain academic advice from them and

win their affection. They have helped me to become what I am today. I serve the West Bengal Fisheries Directorate in Purba Medinipur district as a West Bengal Junior Fisheries Service Grade-II officer, at the office of the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Government Fish Technological Station and Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory, Junput.

The compiled information in tabular form is as follows:

In this presentation, I have arranged the dates of demise of these persons of eminence in order, from the most distant past to the most recent. Indeed, "Man is mortal, but his legacy remains immortal". Their illustrious research careers, commitment to work and outstanding scientific contributions will continue to shine upon the newer generation for a long way to come. While preparing this communication at 48 years of age, I fondly recall my very small association with the late sirs (only some of those in the table below), and I hold tremendous respect for them.

I have included Dr B. R. Mohanty's name here. He was the most talented researcher of my age I have ever seen. I end here with the hope that some present-day MFSc students in Fishery Colleges/Universities in India would like to read through this information and concise tabular presentation, for an enduring inspiration in their academic pursuits.

Acknowledgement

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Name	Birth	Passing	Interest/specialisation	Affiliation / institution
Dr Sunder Lal Hora	22/05/1896	08/12/1955	Ichthyology, Biology of Hill Stream Fishes, Riverine Fish Migration	Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata
Dr Bangalore I. Sundararaj		07/10/1983	Fish Endocrinology, Catfish Reproductive Physiology	Professor of Zoology, Delhi University, New Delhi
Dr L. S. Ramaswami	01/01/1907	18/05/1987	First success in induced breeding of catfishes in India	Professor, Department of Zoology, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur
Dr A. V. Natarajan	1929	1989	Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Management; Fish Biology	Director, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore
Padma Shri Dr Vishwa Gopal Jhingran	18/06/1919	15/01/1991	Composite Fish Culture, Brackishwater Fish Tagging, Mullet Culture	Director, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore

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Dr Nirmal Kumar Thakur	29/09/1941	10/09/1998	Air-breathing Fish Breeding and Culture; Field Trial of Inducing Hormone 'Ovatide'	Joint Director, Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai
Dr D. V. Bal	1905	01/04/1999	Marine Fisheries, Author of Book on Marine Fisheries	Director, Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai
Dr Ambat Gopalan Kutty Menon	19/04/1921	11/04/2002	Ichthyology, Taxonomy, Identification of Marine and Freshwater Fishes	Scientist, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata
Dr Arabinda Nath Bose	Sept. 1922	March 2003	Food Science, Food Processing Technology	Director, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kochi; Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University, Kolkata
Dr T. V. R. 'Ramu' Pillay	July 1921	09/02/2005	Evolution of Modern-day Sustainable Aquaculture Globally	Leader and Programme Director, Aquaculture Development and Coordination Programme, UNDP/FAO
Sri Gajendra Nath Mitra	Oct. 1916	18/07/2006	Upliftment of Small-scale Inland and Marine Fisheries; Freshwater Prawn Hatchery	Director, Department of Fisheries, Govt of Odisha; Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt of India
Dr Umesh Chandra Goswami	May 1944	25/06/2009	General and Reproductive Biology of Air-breathing Fishes	Professor of Zoology, Gauhati University, Guwahati
Dr Gyan Prakash Dubey	05/01/1922	28/08/2010	Inland Fisheries Development in Rivers and Reservoirs, Fish Fauna Conservation	Director, Department of Fisheries, Government of Madhya Pradesh
Dr Kolliyil Hameed Alikunhi	27/05/1918	26/09/2010	Hypophysation of Indian major carps and Exotic Carps; Penaeid Shrimp Hatchery Operation	Head, Pond Aquaculture Division, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Cuttack; Director, Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai
Dr Bikash Ranjan Mohanty	1979	26/10/2010	Fish Disease Edwardsiellosis, Fish Immunology	Postdoctoral Researcher in Fish Microbiology at Pennsylvania University, USA
Dr Dharendra Kapoor		11/01/2011	Fish Chromosome Mapping, Karyotyping, Fish Biodiversity Conservation	Director, National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow
Dr C. S. Singh	07/05/1937	2011	Hill Fisheries Research and Management	Dean, College of Fisheries, GB Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar
Dr Kottore Chidambaram Jayaram	1926	2011	Taxonomy and Identification of Freshwater Fishes	Joint Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata
Dr Padmakar Vishwanath Dehadrai	21/12/1938	02/06/2011	Biology, Breeding and Culture of Air-breathing Fishes	Deputy Director General (Fisheries), ICAR, New Delhi
Dr Sree Narain Dwivedi	16/12/1933	26/04/2012	Carp Hatchery Model CIFE D-81, D-85, High-tech Aquaculture	Director, Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai; Additional Secretary, Ocean Development, Govt of India
Dr Mudnakudu Channabasappa Nandeesh	01/07/1957	27/12/2012	Innovations for Fish Farmers, Rural Aquaculture, Synthetic Hormones for Fish Breeding	Professor and Head, Aquaculture, Lembucherra Fisheries College, Tripura
Dr K. L. Sehgal		05/03/2013	Fishery of Mahaseer and Trout, Coldwater Fishes in Himalayan Rivers	Director, National Research Centre on Cold Water Fisheries, Bhimtal
Dr S. A. H. Abidi	04/04/1940	11/07/2014	Induced Breeding of Catfish, Aquaculture Biotechnology	Director, Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai; Member, ASRB, New Delhi
Dr Hira Lal Chaudhuri	21/11/1921	12/09/2014	Fish Endocrinology, Fish Breeding in Captivity	Head, Pond Aquaculture Division, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute Cuttack; Chief Technical Advisor, SEAFDEC & FAO/UNDP, Myanmar

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Dr J. V. H. Dixitulu	February 1926	28/05/2015	Deep Sea Fishery Resources in Indian EEZ	Associated with Fishery Survey of India; Editor and Publisher of <i>Fishing Chimes</i> , Visakhapatnam
Padma Bhushan Dr Syed Zahoor Qasim	31/12/1926	20/10/2015	Estuarine Ecology, Reproductive Biology of Marine Fishes	Professor at Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai; Director, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi
Dr H. P. C. Shetty	17/05/1930	11/11/2015	Fisheries Research and Education	Professor and Director of Instruction, College of Fisheries, Mangaluru; Senior Aquaculturist, FAO
Dr Jyoti Swarup Datta Munshi	08/02/1930	21/07/2016	Respiratory Anatomy of Air-breathing Fishes, River Ecology	Professor of Zoology, Bhagalpur University, Bihar
Dr Asit Kumar Mondal	Oct. 1935	28/07/2016	Freshwater Aquaculture	Former Principal Scientist at Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Kalyani Regional Centre
Dr Telikacherla Rajyalakshmi	June 1935	25/11/2016	Brackishwater Aquaculture, Harmful Impact of Shrimp Seed Collection from Estuaries on Environment	Former Director, Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture, Chennai
Dr K. Devadasan	07/08/1946	15/03/2017	Post-Harvest Technology, Farmed Fishery Products	Director, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kochi
Dr Radheyshyam	June 1950	10/10/2017	Aquaculture Technology Demonstration, Rural Aquaculture	Principal Scientist, Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar
Dr K. Janakiram		2017	Freshwater Pearl Culture Technology	Director, Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar
Dr Naresh Chandra Datta	01/01/1934	19/03/2018	Ichthyology, Fish Anatomy, Aquatic Ecology	Professor of Zoology, University of Calcutta
Dr N. R. Menon	1942	19/03/2018	Impact of Shrimp Farming upon Environment; Marine Living Resources; Environmental Management	Standing Council Chairman for Academics, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies
Dr Eric Godwin Silas	10/01/1928	27/04/2018	Marine Fishery, Mariculture, Biology of Tuna	Director, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi and Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture, Chennai; Vice Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University
Dr Radha Kanta Mandal	29/09/1941	05/10/2018	DNA Satellite Markers and Molecular Characterisation in Fishes, Gene Expression in Transgenic Fishes	Professor of Biochemistry, Bose Institute, Kolkata
Dr Vasant Ramchandra Desai	25/07/1936	12/10/2018	Reservoir Fisheries, Biology of Golden Mahaseer	Officiating Director, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore
Dr P.S.B.R. James	January 1934	22/08/2019	Sea Ranching of Marine Fishes and Shrimps, Marine Resource of Silverbelly and Ribbonfish	Director, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi; Professor, College of Fisheries, Mangaluru
Dr Anandamoy Mondal	1964	2019	Fishery Economics and Statistics	Associate Professor, Faculty of Fishery Sciences, WBUAFS, Kolkata
Dr Nihar Ranjan Chatterjee	01/07/1951	15/01/2020	Induced Fish Breeding in Chinese Hatchery; Fish Breeding Standardisation	Professor, West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences, Kolkata; Visiting Professor in Biotechnology, Rajiv Gandhi University
Dr Alappat Ramachandran	June 1959	26/03/2020	Coastal Zone Management, Seafood Safety, Fishery By-products, Climate Change Impact	Vice Chancellor, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, Kochi

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Dr Bankim Chandra Jha		04/10/2020	Pen Culture and Cage Culture, Phytoplankton Diversity, Primary Productivity of Aquatic Ecosystems	Principal Scientist and Head of Division, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore
Dr Amalesh Choudhury	11/07/1931	30/12/2020	Estuarine Biology, Estuarine Fishes, Biology of Hilsa ilisha	Professor of Marine Science, University of Calcutta
Dr B. Sundaramoorthy	13/06/1965	29/04/2021		Dean, Fisheries College and Research Institute, Thoothukudi
Dr M. Yusuf Kamal		15/05/2021	Fishery Education, Inland Fisheries Development	Vice Chancellor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology; ADG (Inland Fisheries), ICAR, New Delhi
Dr Methil Narayanan Kutty		02/06/2021	Prawn and Shrimp Aquaculture, Inland Fish Production Enhancement through Aquaculture	FAO/UN and FAO/NACA Expert in Fisheries and Aquaculture; Dean, Fisheries, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Dr Amitabha Ghosh	06/01/1947	26/08/2021	Estuarine Fisheries, Fishery Resource of Estuarine Wetlands	Principal Scientist and Head of Division, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore
Dr T. J. Varghese		04/11/2021	Fish Breeding; Dietary Requirements of Cultivable Carps	Director of Instruction, College of Fisheries, Mangaluru
Dr Vishwa Raman Prasad Sinha	April 1938	11/12/2021	Fishery Management, Fish Reproductive Physiology; Freshwater Pond Aquaculture	Senior Aquaculturist (Research and Training), UNDP/FAO; Director, Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai; OIC, Freshwater Aquaculture Research & Training Centre, Bhubaneswar
Dr Ajoy Kumar Ghosh	1944	27/09/2022	Fish Parasitology, Estuarine Fisheries Management	Officiating Director, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore
Dr B. N. Singh	15/07/1942	Nov. 2022	Fish Physiology, Fish Nutrition	Assistant Director General (Inland Fisheries), ICAR, New Delhi
Dr Punyabrata Das	19/09/1936	15/12/2022	Fish Genetics, Inbreeding Depression, Fish Biodiversity Conservation, Stock Assessment	Director, National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow
Dr Subhendu Dutta	15/01/1968	13/02/2023	Fish Toxicology, User-friendly Water Quality Test Kit	Principal Scientist, Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Kolkata Centre
Dr Satyendra Datt Tripathi	04/12/1935	23/08/2023	Sustainable Rural Aquaculture for Livelihoods; Genetic Improvement of Fishes	Director, Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai and Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar
Sri Rai Milon Bhowmick	28/02/1930	06/04/2024	Breeding of IMC and Exotic Carps, Chinese and Glass Jar Hatchery, Carp Spawn Rearing	Fishery Scientist, Central Inland Fisheries Research Sub-Station, Cuttack; Senior Advisor in Fisheries at FAO
Dr P. K. Talwar	14/11/1934	08/04/2024	Identification of inland and commercial marine fishes of India	Scientist-E, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata
Dr K. C. Alagaraswami	13/08/1937	June 2024	Shrimp Disease Prevention, Pearl Oyster Biology	Director, Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture, Chennai
Dr P. Ravichandran		13/11/2024	Best Management Practices in Shrimp Culture, Shrimp Disease Management	Director, ICAR-Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture, Chennai; Member Secretary, Coastal Aquaculture Authority
Dr Kumara (Panicker) Gopakumar	14/04/1942	05/12/2024	Fish-based Value Added Products, Marine Fish Biochemistry	Director, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kochi; Deputy Director General (Fisheries), ICAR, New Delhi

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Dr Vinayak Sadashiv Durve	21/03/1931	24/02/2025	Pioneer of Limnology and Fisheries in Rajasthan	Head, Department of Limnology and Fisheries, Rajasthan Agricultural College, Udaipur
Padma Shri Dr Subbanna Ayyappan	10/12/1955	10/05/2025	Aquatic Microbiology, Aquaculture, Capture Fisheries	Director, ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai; Deputy Director General (Fisheries), ICAR
Dr Kamarath Viduran Devaraj	29/01/1937	December 2025	Culture-based Capture Fisheries in Reservoirs; Freshwater Aquaculture Management	Vice Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru; Assistant Professor, College of Fisheries, Mangaluru
Dr Rikhi S. Chauhan	10/09/1958	02/02/2026	Additives in Supplementary Fish Feed, Fish Parasitology, Biology of Coldwater Fishes	Dean, College of Fisheries, GB Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar; Director of Fisheries, Uttarakhand
Dr S. Parameswara Ayyar	03/12/1934	02/03/2026	Reservoir Fisheries Management, Major Carp Seed Rearing	Director, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore