Jharkhand News Articles compilation
by ICSF
Ashrita Horo, who was once unable to arrange food for her family due to extreme poverty is now not just earning a minimum of Rs 1.20 lakh annually but is also providing employment opportunities to other women in her village. Ashrita, a resident of Jalanga, a village in the interiors of Khunti district of Jharkhand was first introduced to aquaculture in 2010. “My husband took me to Ranchi in 2010 to show me around the town, but he made me sit near the gate of Fisheries Training and Research Centre and went to visit the local market,” she said. As Ashrita sat there alone, she noticed people in blue uniforms leaving the building. “I asked the guard and was informed that these were villagers who are being trained in fish culture. I found it fascinating and decided to visit the centre,” she added.

Soon Ashrita applied for training in aquaculture and started fish farming in a pond in the village by buying fish spawn on a subsidised rate from the market. The first year, her income was Rs 55,000 and by the third year, it increased to Rs 1.20 lakh. “My life changed within three years. Now I do not just earn for the entire family, I also send my two children to an English-medium school,” Ashrita said. The success story of Reservoir Fish Farming (RFF) in Salboni, a small village in the Saraikela-Kharsawan district of Jharkhand has become a case study for the fisheries departments of various states. In 2016, as many as 34 unemployed youths of the village got together and started RFF in Chandil Dam. Vibhishan Murmu, who headed the team, said, “The first year, we were able to produce 15 tonnes of fish, which, when sold gave a profit of Rs 50,000 to every member of the group.

Over the years, the annual income per head has gone up to Rs 1.5 lakh.” From the production of merely 14,000 metric tonnes of fish in the financial year 2001-02, the State Fisheries Directorate has managed to increase the production to a whopping 1.90 lakh metric tonnes in FY 2017-18. The various projects, schemes and subsidies offered by the Directorate has not just provided direct and indirect employment opportunities to the unemployed youth of the state but has also led to an increase in the revenue from Rs 132 lakh in FY 2006-07 to Rs 505.98 lakh in FY 2017-18. At present, the Directorate has more than 1,28,000 fishermen enrolled with it, who are involved in various sectors of aquaculture and rear fish in over 1.33 lakh private and government ponds, farm ponds, dams, rivers and tube wells.

There are many aspects of aquaculture in which the farmers are involved right from hatchery management to nursery pond management, rearing pond management and composite fish culture management. However, the major projects which led to the tremendous growth in fish production in the state included cage farming and reservoir fish farming (RFF). Dr H N Dwivedi, Director, Fisheries Directorate, said, “Jharkhand is the first state to adapt cage farming on a large
scale. Cage culture started here in 2011 and has grown tremendously since then.” An average cage is of 6x4x4 metres which is 96 cube metres and can stock up to 6,000 fish.

“Thus, the stocking density of a cage is around 50 to 60 fish per metre cube, while in a regular pond, the stocking density is only one or two fish per metre cube,” he added. The cages are fabricated by professional fabricators in dams, and the fish farmers are given a 90% subsidy to get them installed. 3,625 such cages are installed across the state in various dams including Chandil, Kanke, Getalsud, Patratu, Tillaiya, Maithan, Konar, Tenughat, Masanjore and others. Meanwhile, RFF, another project which helps in high fish production has also been widely appreciated. Under this project, groups of local unemployed youth, including both men and women are trained by the Fisheries Directorate. “The process is simple: pockets of ponds and water bodies having narrow necks are separated using nets, and fish are reared in these areas.

We support the farmers in erecting nets and provide them training, fish seed and fish feed,” Dwivedi explained. With the growth in fish production in the state being tremendously high, officers from other states often visit Jharkhand to study the two processes. “Till date, officers from the fisheries department of states such as Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, Telangana, Odisha, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and many others have visited the state to study cage culture and RFF,” the director said. Apart from providing training to the fish farmers, the Directorate also provides subsidies and facilities–from providing fish seeds to boats and cages on subsidised rates, to providing pucca houses for the fishermen.

Till date, 16,843 fishermen families across the state have been provided pucca houses while another 2,735 families would be allotted houses by the end of this year. This apart, the fish farmers have also been provided with mobile vans, pushcarts, freezers and other needed equipment on up to 80% subsidy. Randhir Kumar Singh, state agriculture minister, concluded, “The government is dedicated to providing livelihood to as many people through fish farming as possible. We are aiming to increase the fish production to 2.25 lakh metric tonnes by the end of the current financial year.”

**Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Odisha: Training on fish feed underway at CIFA**


A NFDB-sponsored five-day national training on “Recent Trend on Feed and Feeding Strategy for Various Life Stages of Commercially Important Freshwater Fish” from August 21 to 25 at the ICAR-CIFA here is underway. Inaugurating the programme, ICAR-CIFA Director Dr BR Pillai emphasised the production of cost-effective diet for different life stages of fish by using locally available feed ingredients. She also expressed that in order to increase the present fish production of 3.0 tons/ha to 6.0 tons/ha, supplementary feed is essentially required. She had
advocated for the sustainable and eco-friendly aquaculture. Course Director Dr KN Mohanta opined that for doubling the income of fish farmer, the input optimisation is the need of hour.

He also spoke about the different feeding strategies to be followed to reduce production cost and increase the profit margin. Programme Coordinator Dr KC Das gave the outline of the training program and ICAR-CIFA Principal Scientist Dr SC Rath offered a vote of thanks. Fisheries Department officials from the Government of Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Odisha and Officers from the other Central Governments, entrepreneurs, progressive fish farmers and the trainers from the Aqua Field School (AFS) participated.

**Assam, Jharkhand and Odisha: FISHCOPFED to set up Aqua Centres in states**


FISHCOPFED has signed an MOU with the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad to set up initially 16 Aqua One Centers in the state of Assam, Jharkhand and Odisha. On success it shall be replicated in other states of the country. In all six firms have been shortlisted in the country including FISHCOPFED from the cooperative sector whereas the others are from the private sector. Each AOC shall provide ICT enabled aquaculture support services besides all other related services under one roof to the registered fish farmers with an aim to transfer latest technology to enhance fish production and focus on e-traceability. It is an improved modified concept to empower potential fish farmers.

Funding support to the extent of 80% shall be provided for NE states and 50% for other states shall be applicable to FISHCOPFED. The federation which has already opened up eight offices in the country shall coordinate with its member institutions and the concerned state Fisheries Dept to make it a success, said Fishcopfed MD B K Mishra. Earlier, Fishcopfed got into the spotlight with convergence of Group Accident Insurance Scheme with Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yozana (PMSBY) to be implemented through the cooperative for the fishery sector. The FISHCOPFED has been identified as the nodal agency by the Govt. of India to implement the Scheme for the fisheries sector.

**Jharkhand: A fishy story of Getalsud grave**


The district fisheries department and Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB) are blamestorming over 300 fish dying a sudden death at the 700-acre Getalsud Dam, 30km from here. While the JSPCB, after a recce of the reservoir on Sunday, has claimed that there is nothing wrong with the water except for it being highly alkaline in a few places, the fisheries department on Monday shot a letter to steel wire manufacturing unit Usha Martin asking it to re-examine its effluent discharge system. “We have written to the company, seeking preventive measures at
discharge point. A copy of the letter has been forwarded to the deputy commissioner's office because he has the authority to take punitive action," district fisheries officer Manoj Thakur said.

Member-secretary of JSPCB Rajiv Lochan Bakshi, on the other hand, insisted that the fish might have succumbed to some endemic infection that had nothing to do with the quality of water. "Since the fishermen's co-op alleged that the steel wire manufacturing unit was polluting the dam, we had collected samples from the outfall and other places. At the outfall, the pH is highly alkaline at 12.5, but in other places it is normal," Bakshi said. The pollution watchdog said results of a few other tests such as turbidity was expected in two-three days. "On the basis of scientific studies, there is absolutely no issue with the water quality of Getalsud Dam. Once the full report arrives, it will be shared," Bakshi stressed. "In fact, there seemed to be wounds on the gills, which the fisheries department needs to probe.

Death could be due to some infection/disease. We don't know," he added. R.N. Kashyap, a pollution analyst and JSPCB regional officer, seconded Thakur. "Dissolved oxygen (3-5mg/l), pH value (6.5-8.5), biochemical oxygen demand (3mg/l), total dissolved solid (1,500mg/l), et al, are within range not just at Getalsud, but also other dams like Kanke and Hatia," he said. Fisheries officer Thakur refused to buy that all is well. "The pH of Getalsud is as high as 12.5. The water is high on contaminants that are detrimental to fish health. We shall conduct our own studies once we get a formal report from JSPCB," he said.

According to experts, extreme pH can kill adult fish and invertebrates directly. It can also damage developing juvenile fish. Alkaline water is known to strip a fish of its slime coat. High pH level chaps the skin. When the pH of freshwater rises beyond 9.6, the effects on fish may include death, damage to gills, eyes or skin and inability to dispose of metabolic wastes. High pH may also increase the toxicity of other substances. For instance, the toxicity of ammonia is 10 times more severe at a pH of 8 than it is at pH 7. It is directly toxic to aquatic life when it appears in alkaline conditions. Low concentrations of ammonia are generally permitted for discharge.

**Jharkhand: Over 3000 fish die of filth in dam**


Around 30 quintal of adult fish were found dead at Getalsud dam, some 30km away from capital limits in Angara block on Saturday, the needle of suspicion falling on industrial units in close proximity to the dam. Fishermen, who informed the state fisheries department of the occurrence, alleged any one of the industries nearby had released untreated effluents in the dam. Speaking to this paper, Bhola Mahto, secretary of Getalsud Matsya Sahog Samiti Limited, a cooperative of local fishermen who are patronised by state fisheries department, said they had spotted thousands of adult fish carcasses floating on the water body on Saturday and in lesser numbers on Friday.
"Yesterday (Friday), we spotted some, but today (Saturday) it was no less than 3,000 kilos (30 quintal) of dead fish floating downstream at Getalsud's Angara side. I'd say each fish would weigh between 1 and 1.5kilo. Something is drastically wrong," he said. Mahto added, "There are quite a few companies (industrial units) on other side of the dam. Someone must have silently discharged their chemicals/untreated wastes into Getalsud waters. The incident requires deep probe and strict punitive action," he demanded, adding that they had informed officials of state fisheries department on Saturday morning itself requesting immediate spot inspections. Mahto said their samiti alone had around 100 fishermen as members. Directly and indirectly close to 5,000 people are dependent on fishing at Getalsud as their lone source of livelihood. "Very few families have land here. Most people fish.

So, if the dam water gets polluted and fish die, our families go hungry. Water pollution directly hits our stomachs," he stressed. Ashish Kumar, deputy director of state fisheries department, confirmed having received the information from fishermen. He said, "I am not exactly sure which company polluted the dam but this is cause for serious concern. We shall soon send a team for inspection and alert pollution board officials." Member secretary of Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board Rajiv Lochan Bakshi said they would take strict action against erring companies if any was found guilty of polluting the water body. "I haven't officially received any complaint but let me assure you that we are highly sensitive towards water pollution in Getalsud dam. We want industries to follow a policy of zero discharge of untreated water.

In the past too we had closed down few firms found guilty of polluting the dam. We will inspect the industries and will close down the unit or units till they establish functional effluent treatment plans," he said. On the eve of World Environment Day, June 5, fish had died in droves at Ranchi Lake or Bada Talab, with conservationists blaming pollution. Ravindra Kumar Sinha, the VC of Nalanda Open University and a noted environmentalist dubbed Dolphin Man who was in Ranchi then, had told the paper that severe water pollution led to fish deaths. "The required DO level for fish to survive is 5ml per litre. Though some species can survive low oxygen levels, usually fish die when pollution depletes required oxygen," he had said.

Jharkhand: Net some fun with Jhascofish tours

Jharkhand State Co-operative Fisheries Federation Ltd, also known as Jhascofish, is planning to launch "matsya avlokan sair" or guided fish tours at its training centre at Shalimar in Dharwra to make people, especially students, researchers and entrepreneurs, aware of the state's richness in this sector. Besides facilitating leisurely strolls around fish ponds, the programme aims to inform people about various schemes undertaken by the state fisheries department to promote fishery. Those interested can enjoy the 35-40 minute guided tours for free on all days except Sundays.
The tours will be conducted twice a day at 10am and 2pm. Jhascofish CEO Manoj Thakur said he was planning to introduce the facility by the end of this month.

"State agriculture, fisheries and animal husbandry department secretary Puja Singhal is currently on leave. We are waiting for her to return to get the proposal cleared formally. In all likelihood, we will start it from the last week of June," Thakur said. Thakur said he got the idea during his visit to Chandigarh where capital complex walks were conducted. They take you on guided tours to high court building complex, secretariats and world heritage sites. The walks are fairly interesting. I thought why not fish parks?" he said, adding that the training centre at Shalimar comprises a host of ponds breeding numerous varieties of fish, hatcheries and fish seed factories. On what one can expect in these tours, he said they would begin with a 10-minute audio-visual presentation on what fishery is all about, the initiatives undertaken and new innovations introduced by the state.

"People will also be taken to the breeding centres for live demonstrations, hatcheries, cage culture section and the feed plant. There will also be an exhibition of various fish products from where people can buy if they wish to," he said. According to Thakur, farmers from various states are coming to Jharkhand to learn new techniques in fishery but local people aren't much aware about good work undertaken by the fisheries department. "Such exposure trips can motivate someone to take up fishery as their career or launch their own start-ups here," he added.

**Jharkhand: Bamboo bar for fish theft**


Tired of rampant theft of fish from the iconic Jayanti Sarovar lake in Jubilee Park here, Jamshedpur Angling Club (JAC) has decided to install a bamboo mesh about a feet deep under water to foil 'fishy' attempts. The club, which was established in 1947 and oversees fishing activities at Jayanti Sarovar, Beldih Lake and Bara Lake, decided to use this contraption in the hope that the arrangement would prevent fishing nets and hooks making it to the depth of the lake and thus foil unauthorised fishing attempts. "We had started night vigil last year while our members regularly watch out for youths trying to steal fish. However, it is not possible to keep a round-the-clock vigil. Thieves place baits (on fishing hooks) and nets at different points and pick them up later with their catch.

We have now decided to place the arrangement nearly a feet below the water surface which will prevent nets or hooks to reach the depth of the lake. This should prevent theft of fishes," said JAC general secretary Aftab Khan. On Wednesday the first such mesh was placed in the lake near the inlet at the Old Court end (Garamnullah Sakchi side). "This is the point from where we recover the maximum number of nets and rods as the miscreants sneak in easily by climbing past the Old Court wall and escape with their loot. So we have placed the mesh here on a pilot basis
and gradually we will put these at other outlets and inlets (around four) which are used by the
thieves," said Khan. Incidentally, JAC had released 2.5 lakh fries in 2017.

The lake has a rich stock of rohu, catla, catfish along with other varieties of fish, many of which
are stolen and sold by thieves in the open market. The club had formed groups of 10 volunteers
for night vigil last year to prevent the pilferage. But the thieves find their opportunity by banking
on occasional shortage of volunteers or their absence. "Besides our volunteers, Jusco security
men also keep vigil. But the thieves find their gaps and get away with the loot. They prefer the
outlets and inlets," said a JAC member.

Jharkhand: Fear of dead fish haunts steel city lake again

https://www.telegraphindia.com/states/jharkhand/fear-of-dead-fish-haunts-steel-city-lake-again-
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Angling club members and conservationists fear a re-run of what has been a regular occurrence
at Jayanti Sarovar here for the last few summers: hundreds of dead fish floating amid those that
are alive and gasping for breath. The reasons behind this heart-rendering calamity, silt deposits
leading to depletion in the water level of lake and oily pollutants near the shallow parts, are as
valid this summer as it was in the last four years during April-May, when temperatures shot up
above 40°C and there were storms at night. No wonder conservationists have already started to
air their concern. "It is April-end and the temperature has not shot up above 40°C," said K.K.
Sharma, a conservationist and former zoology head of Jamshedpur Cooperative College. But he
warned that if the temperature rose above 40°C, as it was usual in May, and there was a sudden
late evening downpour, then there could be a rerun of the tragic occurrence reported by morning
walkers who spotted dead fish floating in the lake and people diving in to catch the dying fish
that were gasping for breath.

"The depth of the lake has decreased drastically due to silt. One can clearly see oily pollutants
floating near inlets. It is time Jusco and Jamshedpur Angling Club take up desperate measures,"
Kumar, a morning walker, said. He explained why the fish die. "Shallow water gets hot and
when there is a sudden change in temperature due to showers, it affects oxygen content leading
to the death of fish. The lake is so shallow that egrets walk on the surface while hunting for fish."
Aftab Khan, general secretary of Jamshedpur Angling Club that coordinates fishing activity at
the lake, admitted silt deposits and pollution were major problems but added damage control had
begun. "The lake has to be de-silted since such an exercise has not taken place for years. Soak
pits aren't serving the purpose as we spot plastic and other forms of garbage accumulating in the
lake.

We have tried to increase water level by letting in water from the outlet near Tata zoo," he said.
Khan revealed that they had procured 40kg of toximar - it neutralises toxic binder for aquatic
bodies -that is to be sprayed in the lake when temperatures rise. The club has constituted a night
committee that will swing into action whenever temperatures cross 40°C and there is possibility of rain in the evening. The club general secretary said toximar would help maintain oxygen balance. They had already pumped 22 quintals of lime and potassium permanganate, he said. Jusco's horticulture department has started operating four lake fountains regularly to increase oxygen saturation in water. "Our staff are regularly cleaning the lake. We will take steps to prevent oily pollutants," said Jusco spokesperson Rajesh Rajan.

**Jharkhand: Fillip for fish farming**


The state government is working to make fish farming an effective means of supplementing farmers' income. World Bank-assisted Jharkhand Opportunities for Harnessing Rural Growth (Johar) - which functions under the aegis of Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS) - signed an MoU with state fisheries department on Wednesday to facilitate increase in fish production, supply of quality seeds, use of cage culture and boost fish marketing. JSLPS is an initiative of state's rural development department.

The MoU was signed by JSLPS chief executive Paritosh Upadhyay and director of fisheries H.N. Dwivedi. "This scheme will initially be implemented across 46 blocks in 13 districts where over 34,500 farmers will be encouraged to get involved in fish farming to augment production income," Dwivedi said. Fish production in the state, which currently stands at 1.90 lakh metric tonnes per year, will be increased to 2.25 lakh metric tonnes through farming in private ponds and dobhas. The fisheries directorate will train farmers and supply quality seeds and feed. Rural women will also be encouraged to form groups or sakhi mandals to take part in this venture.