

Space tech for fisher folks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Visakhapatnam, March 26: Fisher folks of Visakhapatnam and Machilipatnam have gone hi-tech by harnessing satellite imagery for a good fish catch.

The joint research project taken up by the Centre for Studies on Bay of Bengal at Andhra University and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) of Hyderabad, is helping fishermen in zeroing in on the potential zones.

INCOIS and AU today signed an MoU to further extend these services to the fishermen community. INCOIS Director Shailesh Nayak and AU Registrar P Vijaya Prakash signed the MoU in the presence of AU Vice-Chancellor L Venugopal Reddy and Visakhapatnam Mayor P. Janardhana Rao on the AU premises.

As part of their research project, INCOIS is providing satellite images and oceanographic data to AU to identify the Potential Fishing Zones (PFZs) for fishermen.

Satellite imagery for fish catch



Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services Director Shailesh Nayak (extreme left) and Andhra University Registrar P Vijaya Prakash exchanging copies of MoU on sharing information on fisheries, in Vizag on Monday. University Vice-Chancellor L Venugopal Reddy is also seen. —Expressphoto

graphic data to AU to identify the Potential Fishing Zones (PFZs) for fishermen.

The professors and research scholars of AU analyse the data to identify PFZs and pro-

INCOIS provides satellite images & oceanographic data to Andhra University to identify the potential fishing zones

vide this information to fishermen along Visakhapatnam and Machilipatnam coast.

"We identify the PFZs based on various factors, including the chlorophyll content, sea surface temperature, sea water salinity and other oceanographic characteristics conducive to attract fish. Being the food for fish, chlorophyll helps us in

identifying these PFZs," said Rajendra Prasad, coordinator of Centre for Studies on Bay of Bengal at AU.

The centre provides the information on PFZs to fishermen thrice a week giving details of location and depth of the PFZs and good fish catch can be expected for about two days after announcing the PFZs location.

INCOIS is extending these services to fishermen through about 20 centres located in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Under the MoU, research scholars and postgraduate students of AU can have access to the oceanographic data that is available with INCOIS for their research projects.

Apart from sponsoring a training programme on 'Application of RS and GIS to Coastal Oceanography', INCOIS will extend support to the research and development activity at AU.