



### Ground station to get data from Oceansat-2

Union Minister for Science and Technology Vilasrao Deshmukh inaugurates a state-of-the-art ground station for receiving real-time data from Oceansat-2 at the INCOIS. — Page 4

# Fishermen to benefit from ground station

Special Correspondent

**HYDERABAD:** Fish catches across the country are poised to improve with Union Minister for Science and Technology Vilasrao Deshmukh on Monday inaugurating a state-of-the-art ground station for receiving real-time data from remote sensing satellite Oceansat-2 at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) here.

With the help of data received from Oceansat-2, as it passes over the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, the ground station will enable INCOIS to issue faster advisories on Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ).

The chlorophyll data derived from the Ocean Colour Monitor (OCM) onboard Oceansat-2 will be integrated with Sea Surface Temperature (SST) from the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) series of satellites for providing PFZ advisory services.

Mr. Deshmukh said the services delivered by INCOIS through hi-tech innovations were directly touching the lives of millions of coastal people.

The PFZ advisories have



**INNOVATION:** Union Minister of Science and Technology Vilasrao Deshmukh at the Oceansat-2 ground station at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services in Hyderabad on Monday. — PHOTO: MOHD. YOUSUF

become part of the value chain of the fishing community and improved the quality of life. A recent study by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) estimated the socio-economic benefits from the utilisation of PFZ and Ocean State Forecasts to be in the range of Rs.34,000 crore to Rs.50,000 crore.

### Higher profitability

He said the advisories had

reduced the search time for fishermen by 60-70 per cent and improved the net profit by two to four times. "This results in huge national savings on diesel and valuable human effort."

Mr. Deshmukh, who earlier visited the National Tsunami Warning Centre at INCOIS, said it was one of the best in the world and was providing timely and accurate tsunami advisories.

He said the accuracy of

"our advisories" was on a par with or even better than other global centres and that "our system has now expanded its services to all the Indian Ocean Rim countries."

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy said fish production in the State was worth around Rs.11,000 crore per annum and this could go up to Rs.20,000 crore with help from INCOIS.

Lauding the services provided by INCOIS, he said the livelihood of people would not change unless science and technology was useful to them.

ISRO chairman K. Radhakrishnan said the new ground station was a symbol of synergy between the Department of Space and the Ministry of Earth Sciences. The ISRO would be launching Megha-Tropiques — an advanced weather and climate satellite — next month, and SARAL (Satellite with Argos and AltiKa) later. SARAL would study ocean surface topography.

Earth Commission chairman and Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Shailesh Nayak, and INCOIS director Satheesh C. Shenoi also spoke at the event.