

NEW SATELLITE GROUND STATION

## Fish location info for fishermen

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 12

The ability of fishermen to receive data from the Oceansat-2 satellite through the city-based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services' ground station's state-of-the-art facility will greatly enhance their ability to locate fish in the vast depths of the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

The Union science and technology minister, Mr Vilasrao Deshmukh, and the CM, Mr N. Kiran Kumar Reddy, inaugurated the ground station on Monday.

So far, Incois has been obtaining oceanographic data from Isro's ground stations. Transmission of data to Incois had been delaying the process of issuing fishing zone advisories to fishermen.

"Incois advisories reduce the search time for fish in the seas by about 60 per cent, besides doubling or quadrupling fishermen's profits. By reducing the search time, fishermen also save on diesel leading to greater profit and less pollution," Mr

### Groundbreaking technology

The net annual gain to fishermen through use of the new facility would be close to ₹50,000 cr. It could also help in oceanographic study.

Deshmukh said.

"As Oceansat-2 passes over the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, it provides real time data to the ground station," he said, adding that, the Incois forecast, which is valid for five days, would also help the Navy and Coast Guard."

The Incois ground station covers an area of 5,000 km in diameter of the seas on either side of the country and generate images of chlorophyll, suspended sediment and aerosol optical depth from the Ocean Colour Monitor (fitted to the satellite) in real time.. The ground station will help in improving the timelines in issuing potential fishing zone advisories by directly acquiring it from the satellite traversing overhead.