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Andhra Pradesh - Visakhapatnam

Andhra University signs MoU to help identify fishing zones

Staff Reporter

Information is passed on to fishermen early before they set sail

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- AU-INCOIS research project taken up using remote sensing and GIS
 - During the season, three forecasts made available for every week to eight days
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VISAKHAPATNAM: Andhra University has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS). Besides helping in identifying potential fishing zones, the MoU relates to training and research in selected and advanced thrust areas like science and technology with special reference to Earth and Ocean sciences, joint research and development programmes, spatial and temporal data generation etc.

INCOIS Director Shailesh Nayak and Andhra University Registrar P. Vijaya Prakash signed the MoU here on Monday in the presence of Vice-Chancellor L.Venugopal Reddy and Mayor Pulusu Janardhana Rao.

The Mayor hoped identifying fishing zones would help fishermen who were facing hardships of late owing to reduced catch.

Prof. Venugopal Reddy said as a part of the AU-INCOIS collaboration, a research project had been taken up using remote sensing and geographic information system on "validation of potential fishing zone (PFZ) advisories" to pass on the information to fishing community along Machilipatnam and Visakhapatnam coast.

As a part of it, user-interaction meetings were conducted and 200 active fishermen and boat operators were involved in passing the information.

It has resulted in improving the catch from 140 per cent to 160 per cent.

Long history

Dr. Shailesh Nayak said Andhra University had a long history of oceanographic research and human resource could be improved by the coming together.

Various forecast abilities could be increased with a multidisciplinary approach. The MoU would enable research and postgraduate students of the university to spend time at INCOIS and also earn some honorarium.

P. Rajendra Prasad, Director of Centre for Studies on Bay of Bengal, said for two years staff, research scholars and students prepared 400 to 500 sketches based on information received from

satellites indicating the location of catch in signs intelligible to fishermen.

Fish catch

The information was passed on to fishermen early before they set sail for fishing.

During the four-month season, three such forecasts had been made available for every week to eight days.

The fish catch was mainly concentrated in areas where chlorophyll was available as food for fish and sea surface temperature and salinity were the other factors.

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Prof L Venugopal Reddy, Vice-chancellor, Andhra University, with a representative of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, on the occasion of signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Monday. GVMC Mayor Mr Pulusu Janardhan Rao and Prof P Vijaya Prakash, Registrar, AU, are also seen.