

# Sea erosion along the Andhra Pradesh coast

N. Rajendra Naik<sup>1</sup>, G. Maheswarudu<sup>2</sup>, L. Loveson Edward<sup>1</sup>, K. Gouri Sankara Rao<sup>1</sup> and T. Nageswar Rao<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Visakhapatnam Regional Centre of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Visakhapatnam

<sup>2</sup>ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi

Andhra Pradesh with a coastline of around 974 km has frequently been affected by cyclones and inundated by storm surges. Sea erosion is noticed at Visakhapatnam, Bhimuniapatnam and in the East and West Godavari districts. Vishakhapatnam coast is facing erosion since long specially at Ramakrishna Beach. In 2013 and 2014, the cyclones 'Phailin' and 'Hudhud' further hastened erosion of the Ramakrishna Beach, severely damaging the adjacent protection wall and road. Uppada village which is 22 kilometres away from Kakinada also faces severe erosion. The Kakinada-Uppada road is gradually disappearing due to shoreline erosion. In the event of submersion of the road in sea water, the residents of 20 seashore villages will have to face many difficulties to reach Kakinada. Many buildings, temples and coconut groves

in the village also face the threat of incursion by the sea. Peddamylavani Lanka of West Godavari district is another fishing village which is affected by sea erosion. Many coconut trees have got uprooted and roads damaged with the sea extending more inland. Environmentalists attribute beach erosion which has been severe in the recent times to urbanization, anthropogenic activities, construction of jetties and lack of mangrove plantation along the beaches. An annual feature since the construction of the Outer Harbour in 1970s, the Visakhapatnam Port Trust takes up the responsibility of beach nourishment by removing sediments collected in the Sand Trap built near the Dolphin's Nose and breakwater area. Dredging is being carried out for restoration of beach and for sand deposition at shore.



Sea erosion at Ramakrishna Beach



Coconut trees damaged by sea erosion at Peddamylavani Lanka



Beach restoration process by dredging