Governor to open CMFRI jubilee fete

Year-long celebrations at Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) is all set to celebrate the platinum jubilee of its founding.

Governor P. Sathasivam will inaugurate the year-long celebrations at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday at the CMFRI headquarters in Kochi. J. K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries) of ICAR, New Delhi, will preside over the event.

The CMFRI, one of the largest fisheries research organisations in the world, was founded as a marine fisheries research station on February 3 in 1947 in Madras. The institute joined the Indian Council for Agricultural Research family in 1967 and soon emerged as a premier research establishment on marine fisheries in the country, said a statement issued by the institute.

Diverse activities

Apart from estimation of marine fish landings, its valuation and taxonomic studies, the CMFRI research activities are diversified and in niche areas such as sea farming and coastal mariculture, development of hatchery technologies, cage farming, bio-technological applications of marine resources, biodiversity studies, development of sustainable ecosystem management interventions, and policy studies.

The CMFRI has 11 regional research centres as well as 15 field centres throughout the coastal belt of the country. A total of 154 scientists and over 600 other staff members work at the CMFRI in 10 research divisions.

The last seven decades have seen the institute grow in stature and significance as a leading tropical marine fisheries research centre in the world, said CMFRI Director A. Gopalakrishnan.

Among its activities are annual estimation of the marine fishery resources for more than 1,200 species covering 1,511 fish landing centres on a GIS platform for marine fish stock assessment and maintenance of a national marine fishery resources database.

The Fisheries Resource Assessment Division of the CMFRI undertakes the marine fisheries census across the coastal States every five years.