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CMFRI develops e-database on fishing activities

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: In a bid to ensure safety of fishermen at sea and security of the country, the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has developed a database of all fish landing centres along the Indian coast.

The facility will have details such as geographic information system (GIS) location, types of fishing activities, seasonal fishing and the extend of fishing operations from each fishing centres.

The database is expected to be a major development towards ensuring safety and security of fishermen and monitoring intrusion into Indian territorial waters from neighbouring countries.

Details of traditional landing centres and modern fishing harbours have been included in the database.

The database provides an in-depth information base regarding fishing activities along the Indian coast, said AP Dineshbabu, principal scientist at the Mangaluru Research Centre of CMFRI.

He coordinated a research team comprising 22 scientists and 85 other staff to prepare the database.

"Nature and areas of fishing activities may vary from one region to other. Fishing is purely seasonal in some locations. All these changes and accurate data have been included in the GIS document," he said.

He said the information about the landing centres and operational area of fishing would be useful to identify the regions where fishing activities are taking place.

"Fishermen can be considered as soldiers in the sea because they are constantly moving in and out of the sea scouting for fish. They can monitor unscrupulous activities if any," he said. He added that the document would also help the Navy, the Coast Guard and other security agencies in disaster management.