



## **NITI Aayog moots marine fisheries index**

### **CMFRI asked to prepare index, meant for deriving a comparative picture of fisheries development**

Deputy advisor (fisheries) of NITI Aayog Manash Choudhury has asked the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) to initiate a programme for the development of a marine fisheries index of the country.

The index is meant for deriving a comparative picture of fisheries development across the maritime States and the islands of Andaman and Lakshadweep.

During an interaction with CMFRI director A. Gopalakrishnan here on Tuesday, Mr. Choudhury also asked the CMFRI to formulate a National Marine Fisheries Action Plan covering all maritime States and the islands following the alignment with the ‘Sagarmala’, a programme introduced by the Union government to boost the blue economic growth focussed on improvement in coastal logistics, skill development, and so on.

The action plan should be prepared based on the prospects and limitations of marine living resources and environmental factors prevailing in coastal States, he said adding that the CMFRI could identify the reasons for underutilisation of the potential of promising areas in the sector in each State.

### **Investments**

“Large-scale investments are required to fully exploit the potential of marine fisheries resources giving due weightage to sustainable growth. The CMFRI may find ways and means to overcome the impediments, which limit private investments in mariculture and similar activities,” Mr. Choudhury said.

By 2022, it is expected that four lakh tonnes of fish will be produced through cage farming subject to the translation and adoption of technology.

The Kudumbasree units of Kerala could be a viable option for successful adoption of cage farming technology across the State, Mr. Choudhury said.