

CMFRI open house highlights effects of climate change

Expert calls for promotion of cage fish farming



Marine beauty: Visitors at an exhibition organised as part of the CMFRI Foundation Day celebrations in Kochi on Saturday. ■ H. VIBHU

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI**

The open house, an exhibition and education programme, organised by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) on its 71st Foundation Day on Saturday, highlighted the impact of climate change on the marine fisheries sector.

The institute displayed its findings on climate change on the basis of studies conducted under the National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA).

Scientists said there had been changes in scores of areas such as sea surface temperature, wind and rainfall, ocean current, spawning season, maturity, distribution and catch of various

marine fishes owing to climate change. The shift in distribution of commercially important fish resources affects fish catch, livelihoods of people and the national economy as a whole.

“Climate change coupled with intense fishing pressure has an adverse effect on fisheries resources,” said a statement from the CMFRI citing research scientist P.U. Zacharia. Adaptive measures such as reducing fishing efforts, forestation of mangroves, farming of seaweeds and promotion of cage fish farming were need of the hour, he said.

During the open house, students and the public had an opportuni-

ty to enjoy rare views of marine life. As part of the programme, the National Marine Biodiversity Museum, marine research aquarium, Agricultural Technology Information Centre, and hatcheries were opened to the public.