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Adhidhi Achyuth becomes India's first transgender fish entrepreneur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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ADHIDHI ACHYUTH, a native of Vennala in Kochi, has become the first trans person in the country to venture into the fisheries sector as an entrepreneur.

The 36-year-old transwoman had been struggling to earn a living as she faced difficulty in securing a job due to her gender identity. Her dreams to become an entrepreneur came true after the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) offered her a modernised fish vending stall.

Adhidhi opened her modernised fish vending stall at Vennala market on Monday. The stall was inaugurated by actors Harisree Ashokan and Molly Kannamally.

For Adhidhi, the stigma attached to her identity, has been haunting her throughout her



Actors Harisree Asokan and Molly Kannammally inaugurate the fish vending outlet of transgender Adhidhi Achyuth at Vennala market on Monday | ALBIN MATHEW

life. Though she managed to get admission for LLB at Ernakulam Law College, she had to discontinue studies due to discrimination.

“Though I completed my law degree through open university, I could not practice as a lawyer. I undertook menial

jobs at various offices and worked with Kochi Metro for a while. It was BJP leader C G Rajagopal who introduced me to CMFRI.” Adhidhi said.

CMFRI provided ₹5 lakh under the Central government's Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) to set up the fish stall.