

Marine biodiversity exhibited at Open House

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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THE Visakhapatnam Regional Centre of the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) celebrated its 79th Foundation Day by organising an Open House programme at its R K Beach research facility on Tuesday. Over 1,100 people visited the open house.

The event drew around 1,000 school students from 15 schools and colleges in the city, besides nearly 100 postgraduate and doctoral students and members of the general public.

Visitors were given an opportunity to closely observe marine biodiversity through live displays of jellyfish, crabs, shrimps, seaweeds and different fish species arranged in specially designed tanks. The



Students observe live display of marine organisms during Open House organised in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday | G SATYANARAYANA

exhibits aimed at creating awareness on marine life and fisheries science through direct interaction. The Open

House also included guided tours of the institute's museum, demonstrations of SCUBA and surfing equipment, kayaks,

and model displays of marine organisms such as sharks, dolphins, lobsters and octopus. Twelve scientists interacted with visitors, explaining ongoing research activities and recent developments in marine fisheries.

Participants were taken through laboratories where they observed microscopic marine organisms using advanced equipment.

Sessions were also conducted on sustainable fishing practices, marine biodiversity conservation and advances in aquaculture technologies.

The ICAR-CMFRI Visakhapatnam Regional Centre principal scientist and head, Dr. Joe K. Kizhakudan, noted that the centre plays a key role in marine fisheries research and environmental monitoring in Andhra Pradesh.