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## Ocean research agency plans to tie up with like-minded bodies

Staff Reporter

### *Display board opened to help fisherfolk*

*"The research will be targeted to address the problem of coastal erosion, especially during monsoon"*

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PUDUCHERRY: During the 11th five year Plan, the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad plans to expand its area of research by joining hands with like-minded institutions across the country for further research and gathering more scientific information, according to T.M Balakrishnan Nair, Scientist and Head of Ocean Sciences and Information Services Group at INCOIS.

INCOIS, a premier government agency entrusted with the task of providing information regarding the state of ocean, would tie-up with about seven oceanographic institutions to probe more into ocean current, salinity, sea surface temperature and mixed layer duck (the first layer of the ocean where the salinity and temperature is almost same), he told *The Hindu* on the sidelines of a function here on Friday to dedicate a digital display board, which gives information about the ocean state and for weather forecasting.

The scientists at INCOIS were already working on these ocean phenomena, he said, adding that the findings of the probe would help regular seafarers from Navy, Coast Guard, besides helping the port authorities and oil companies to have better understanding of the sea.

#### Benefit for fishermen

The fishermen too would benefit from a better understanding of the sea. For example, if the fisher folk have prior information about the ocean current they could place the net accordingly to get a better catch, he pointed out.

They were planning to launch a research into sediment transportation.

The research would be targeted to address the problem of coastal erosion, especially during monsoon.

Earlier, Education Minister M.O.H.F Shahjahan dedicated the digital display board developed by INCOIS.

The equipment, costing about Rs 25 lakh, would be installed in the costal villages of Puducherry.

The board would provide information regarding present condition of the sea, such as height of waves and information about the availability of fish in a particular location.

The Pondicherry Multipurpose Social Service Society, a non governmental organisation, would install the digital board at Thengathittu shortly.

The NGO had tied up with INCOIS to extent the service to other coastal villages in Puducherry and Cuddalore district.