

Andhra Pradesh News Articles

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Andhra Pradesh: Ensure higher income for fishers

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2022/sep/24/ensure-higher-income-for-fishers-ap-animal-husbandry-minister-2501405.html>

"Andhra Pradesh has been contributing significantly to the fish basket of the country in recent years through an effective strategy in both coastal and freshwater aquaculture and marketing, said Animal Husbandry Minister Seediri Appalaraju.

In a virtual address of the conference on Fisheries and Aquaculture organised by the CII AP here on Friday, he said the role of private sector has become equally important right from pre and post-harvest infrastructure like hatcheries and seed rearing farms, brood banks, broodstock multiplication centres and nucleus breeding centre, creation of adequate infrastructure to minimise post-harvest loss and increased value addition across the supply chain.

He urged the industry to coordinate with the department to create a robust plan for infrastructure development to ensure higher income for fishers and fish farmers, safe and nutritious food to the consumer and minimise food loss. He also emphasised the need to enhance the value addition, processing, handling and the promotion of cleanliness in fish markets so that right value is gained by fishermen and quality is ensured for the consumer.

Arabind Das, Co-Chairman, CII National Committee on Fisheries, stated that the CII with its National Committee on Fisheries is committed to working with the State government to position Andhra Pradesh as an investment destination and export leader for marine products. AP Maritime Board Deputy CEO Ravindranath Reddy said the government is actively considering formulating a policy to promote cage culture of fish along the coast. He stated that the government will establish 35 Integrated Aqua Labs to provide aqua input testing facilities to farmers and also set up AP Fisheries University (APFU) for developing skilled manpower."

Andhra Pradesh: Fishermen must not venture into sea during next 3 days

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/in-other-news/190922/fishermen-must-not-venture-into-sea-during-next-3-days-imd.html>

"A low-pressure area formed over the northwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal extended up to 5.8 km above mean sea level on Monday. The low-pressure area is likely to move northwestwards towards the Odisha coast and become more marked during the next 24 hours, the IMD report from Amaravati said.

The IMD issued an advisory to fishermen not to venture into the sea during the next three days. As per the IMD report, under the influence of the above system, heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places in East Godavari, West Godavari districts of North Coastal Andhra

Pradesh and Yanam and heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places in the districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Viskhapatnam of North Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Krishna and Guntur districts of South Coastal Andhra Pradesh for the next three days.

Squally weather with wind speeds of 45-55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph is very likely over North Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam during the same period.

During the last 24 hours, ending at 8.30 on Monday, Vararamachandrapur (East Godavari) received 13cm of rain, followed by Eluru (West Godavari) 11cm, Kunavaram (East Godavari) 5cm, Parvathipuram (Vizianagaram) 5cm, Velairpad (West Godavari) 5cm, Nellimarla (Vizianagaram) 5cm and S. Kota (Vizianagaram) 5cm."

Andhra Pradesh: Centre focusing on aqua sector development

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/centre-focusing-on-aqua-sector-development-murugan-761400>

"Union minister of state for fisheries, animal husbandry and dairy Dr Loganathan Murugan asked the officials to create awareness on fish and other allied products among people. He inaugurated Fish Food Festival arranged at Venkatagiri Rajah's College in the city on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, he said the Centre was supporting the fishermen community through the Antyodaya scheme, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had started an exclusive ministry for fisheries.

The Union minister said for the last few years exports of aqua products from Andhra Pradesh have been significant and a fishing harbour has been established at Vizag at a cost of Rs 100 crore with world-class amenities. 'Sab ka Saath Sab ka Vikas' scheme has contributing to the development of the sector for the last eight years and the Centre had spent more than Rs 32,000 crore on the sector.

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Dr Murugan pointed to the Central assistance of Rs 20 lakh each to deep-sea fishing vessels with a 60 per cent subsidy and said when all the sectors were facing hardship due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Centre had chalked out development programmes for the welfare of fishermen with Rs 20,000 crore. He commended the efforts of Andhra Pradesh fishermen in increasing

aqua exports in the last few years. Fisheries exports have increased by 30 per cent and the role of AP fishermen is outstanding as they have been able to reach the set goals owing to their commitment and hardworking, he added.

The Union minister said the Centre was taking up several programmes for the development of the fisheries sector in AP and emphasised the need for public participation in these programmes for the overall development of communities. Women and disadvantaged groups should take advantage of various schemes being implemented by the government, he suggested. He especially congratulated the members of the Fisheries Welfare Committee for their initiative to create awareness on the importance of taking fish as a staple diet. Dr Murugan released a book on Prime Minister Matsya Sampada Yojana in Telugu language. Officials from AP fisheries department, representatives of the Fishermen Welfare Committee and others participated in the programme."

Andhra Pradesh: Aiming to sell 30% of aqua produce within the State, increase per capita consumption under Fish Andhra scheme, says Minister

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/ap-aiming-to-sell-30-of-aqua-produce-within-the-state-increase-per-capita-consumption-to-18-21-kg-under-fish-andhra-scheme-says-minister/article65856990.ece>

"Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries Seediri Appalaraju said that the State government aims to increase the per capita consumption of seafood in the State to 18-21 kg by way of selling at least 30% (equivalent to 15 lakh tonnes) of aqua produce within the State through the Fish Andhra initiative.

Mr. Appalaraju, along with Commissioner of Fisheries K. Kanna Babu and Paytm chief business officer (Payments) Abhay Sharma distributed Point of Sale (PoS) payment devices and speakers to beneficiaries under the Fish Andhra scheme on Tuesday. Paytm and AP State Fishermen Cooperative Societies Federation Limited (AFCOF) signed an MoU to provide payment support to the 100 Aqua Hubs being set up by the State government and 2,000 retail outlets under the scheme in the first phase.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Appalaraju said Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is keen that at least 30% of the aqua produce is sold within the State as most of the produce was being exported to other States and countries currently. ""The per capita consumption of seafood in many States is 27 kg while it was only seven to eight kg in A.P. We are planning to increase the State's per capita consumption of seafood to 18-21 kg,"" he said. To achieve the aim, the government is setting up aqua hubs, mini retail outlets, fish kiosks and live fish vending stations by turning around 14,000 youth into entrepreneurs and providing jobs to at least two lakh people,

he said.

""As many as 2,725 beneficiaries have been finalised for mini retail outlets and 355 mini retail outlets are already running successfully in the State. Also, 15 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) through aqua hubs were finalised and super retail outlets were established in Pulivendula, Vizag and Vinukonda,"" he said. Mr. Appalaraju said that the Fish Andhra initiative is meant to change the lives of the fishermen community and vendors who were forced to sell fish on the roadside in unhygienic conditions for years.

Mr. Kanna Babu said that people are gradually becoming aware of the benefits of the consumption of fish. "Fish is good for health and it is cheaper than other meat but people do not come forward to buy it because of hygiene and packaging issues. Fish Andhra scheme will address the issues effectively and in the near future, the outlets will become lucrative business opportunities in the State," he said. The digitalisation of payments with Paytm's support will help the beneficiaries analyse their sales trends and act accordingly, he added.

"We are proud to partner with the Andhra Pradesh government. Paytm will enable consumers to make digital payments seamlessly at aqua hubs and retail outlets in the State. Paytm's all-in-one PoS devices will give merchants access to a powerful dashboard with a multi-level view of daily transactions. Merchants can also avail services and financial solutions such as loans, insurance and digital ledgers," Mr. Abhay Sharma said."

Andhra Pradesh: Formulating policy for cage culture of fish along coastline

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/in-other-news/020922/ap-formulating-policy-for-cage-culture-of-fish-along-coastline.html>

"Andhra Pradesh government is formulating a policy to promote cage culture of fish in the sea along its 974-km coastline. Visakhapatnam-based Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute is helping the government in finalising the policy. A key aspect is geospatial mapping to identify places for setting up cages and study the chemical and biological parameters of water to know the suitability of the location for taking up fish culture.

There are plans to raise fish species like grouper, sea boss, Indian pomfret and silver pomfret. Each cage will be of four-metre width and six-meter depth. It will be placed in shallow waters of the sea coast at a depth of 15 metres. Each cage is expected to cost ₹5 lakh and a group of 10 cages comprise a fish culture unit. The cages will be floating in shallow waters with a net tied underneath. There will be a platform around a group of cages for regularly feeding the fish and maintaining them. The challenges are that installation of cages is a costly affair. AP has a surf-beaten coast with high tidal waves, which can influence the stability of cages. Further, authorities

have to ensure that these cages do not disturb navigation of nearly 17,000 fisherfolk, who go fishing into the sea on a regular basis. They must also not affect the 350 fish-landing centres located all along the coastline.

Keeping all these aspects in view, the state government is looking for entrepreneurs and technocrats who can come forward to take up caged culture of fish. It involves setting up hatcheries for distribution of fish seed and establishing feed supply centres and other infrastructure like transport, storage and marketing facilities, among others. A senior official from fisheries department said, "A policy is being formulated to promote cage culture of fish along the AP coastline at all viable places by involving entrepreneurs. This will help the state generate income and also create good job opportunities."

State government will provide subsidies up to 40–60 percent of unit cost to BC, SC, ST and women as also OC entrepreneurs. Cage culture of fish in the sea on commercial scale is already being taken up off Ullipalem in Koduru mandal and also at Nagayalanka in Krishna district. Fish varieties like grouper and sea boss have demand in local market. Entrepreneurs can explore international market for exporting several varieties of fish based on demand."

Andhra Pradesh: Visakhapatnam fishing harbour to get a facelift with ₹150 crores

<https://www.yovizag.com/visakhapatnam-fishing-harbour-to-get-a-facelift-with-%e2%82%b9150-crores/>

"The Central Government has allotted a budget of Rs 150 crores to redevelop the Fishing Harbour in Visakhapatnam. Earlier, the Visakhapatnam Port Trust was asked to submit a Detailed Project Report (DPR) regarding the redevelopment of the harbour. As per the report, repairs of platforms, construction of an auction hall, restrooms for fishermen, and an effective wastewater disposal system will be carried out soon.

Taking the improper waste management and unorganized sale of fish at the jetties into consideration, the port trust will build several other facilities at the harbour. A canteen, vehicle parking area, and shops to sell the fish will also be constructed with the allotted budget at the Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour. Port Chairman K Rammohan Rao informed that a whopping Rs 1.2 crores go into the maintenance of the fishing harbour every year. He also announced that the tenders will be rolled out within a week."

Andhra Pradesh: Fishermen stage protest at Visakhapatnam port

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/fishermen-stage-protest-at-visakhapatnam-port/article65805910.ece>

"Fishermen, on the banner of Matsya Parisramikula Sankshema Sangham, staged a protest at the port here on Wednesday demanding that the Visakhapatnam Port fulfil the promises made to them in the past apart from providing jobs to local fishermen in the cruise terminal under construction at the port. The fishermen squatted on the ground in front of the main entrance to the General Cargo Berth (GCB) preventing the movement of vehicles in and out of the port.

The sangham leaders, in a memorandum to the Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) Chairman, reminded that their forefathers had given land for construction of the port in 1933. The fishermen used to go for fishing from the area, where the VCTPL was located, after handing over their lands to the port. They noted that VCTPL had promised to allot a house to each of the 543 fishermen apart from allocating 5 acres of land at Rushikonda for carrying out their fishing activities besides education and a job to one member in each family. They had also promised to provide compensation of ₹1 lakh to each fisherman but ended up paying only ₹25,000.

The sangham leaders said that as the fishermen have lost their livelihood, the port should implement all the assurances given to them in the past. They also sought provision of employment to local fishermen in the cruise terminal, under construction at the port."

Andhra Pradesh: Migrations improved fishermen's financial status

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/study-migrations-improved-fishermens-financial-status/articleshow/93698918.cms>

"Central Marine Fisheries Research Institutes in Kochi (Kerala) and Veraval (Gujarat) conducted a study on migration patterns in the marine fisheries sector in Gujarat and Maharashtra. Interestingly, the majority of the migrants working in this sector in Gujarat are from AP.

These migrants spend nearly 10 months of the year away from their homes, moving to native places only during festivities and fishing holidays. According to the study, the financial and social status of these fishermen has improved after migration.

Despite contributing to a major chunk to the Indian economy, the marine fisheries sector is still facing disguised unemployment. According to the researchers, income inequalities, climate change, demographic shift and conflicts contributed much for the migration of labour in search of employment and security.

Vinaya Kumar Vase, a Telugu scientist working with CMFRI-Veraval said the mechanised trawlers being operated in the sea go on a voyage for nearly three to four weeks. "About 8-10 labourers are needed on each trawler. Telugu fishermen are taking advantage of this as the majority of the locals are not interested in such long fishing journeys. The better payments and

the year-long work are attracting the fishermen from AP to Gujarat,” said Vinaya Kumar. The scientist added that the fishermen from AP can be found not only in Veraval, but also in Mangrol, Porbandar, Daman Diu and Okha along the Gujarat coast. “The study found that the majority of the achievements, construction of own house, increased savings, improvement in the social status, possessed assets, and the quality of education being provided to their children were all the outcomes of these continued migration of the fishermen to other places,” he said. When TOI visited several fishermen villages in Srikakulam district, where the migrations are rampant, particularly to Gujarat, hundreds of fishermen from each village have migrated to some or the other coastal place of the country - from Mangalore in Karnataka, Andaman and Nicobar, and Balasore and Paradeep in Odisha to Veraval in Gujarat, Goa and Mumbai.

Andhra Pradesh: Brackishwater aquaculture will drive West Godavari’s economy

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/brackishwater-aquaculture-will-drive-west-godavaris-economy/article65771811.ece>

"Roads and Buildings Minister Dadiseti Raja on Monday stated that aquaculture, which spread over 44,000 hectares, would continue to be the prime source of economic activity in the newly formed West Godavari district headquartered at Bhimavaram. Mr. Raja hoisted the national flag during the 76 th Independence Day celebrations at the Collectorate campus. “The West Godavari district carved out from erstwhile West Godavari now has a 19-km stretch of coastline and supports brackish water aquaculture,” he said.

“In the present fiscal, the total production of fish (cultured) is more than 1.64 lakh tonnes in the district. In brackishwater aquaculture (shrimp), the production is 1.46 lakh tonnes,” he said, adding the district was India’s leading producer of shrimp. Mr. Raja said that a Detailed Project Report had been prepared to develop Perupalem beach in the district.

The Minister claimed that ₹10 crore aid was given to the spinning mills in the district as part of the industrial policy. Students performed various cultural shows with patriotic fervour during the celebrations. Various feats by SCHDRM school students and dance performances by Tanuku Roots Convent enthralled the audience."

Andhra Pradesh: Marine fish landings 40% fall in 7 years in 2021

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/marine-fish-landings-in-ap-saw-40-fall-in-7-yrs-in-2021/articleshow/93311246.cms>

"The estimated marine fish landings from Andhra Pradesh’s coast in 2014 stood at 3.42 lakh tonnes – the highest for any year in the history of Andhra Pradesh. Since then, it has never crossed 3-lakh tonne mark. It decreased to 2.07 lakh tonnes in 2021, reflecting a 40% drop from its peak in 2014.

Overexploitation of marine resources over the years - that may have made it difficult for sustaining viable populations – is said to be the prime reason for this dwindling trend. Increasing fuel prices coupled with limited availability of fish stocks made fishing a capital-intensive sector and financially unviable for some. These factors have led to scaled down operations, forcing some of the dependents to migrate to other means of livelihood.

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) recorded 255 species in Andhra Pradesh in 2021 compared to 216 species in 2018. Head of the Visakhapatnam regional centre, CMFRI, Dr Shubhadeep Ghosh, said that the recording of the number of species in a particular year will depend on several factors. “These include the extent of fishing operations, area of operations, fishing operations season, the efficiency of the gear used for fishing, etc. For example, if the fishing is conducted in a particular area where the fish are more, the operations will end up with more diversity of species,” said Dr Ghosh.

“The increase in species does not necessarily mean that some new species have entered the waters of Andhra Pradesh from other coasts. Some fishermen tend to conduct their operations in Odisha and Tamil Nadu, but the landings will be done in Andhra Pradesh. This may reflect more diversity of species in a certain year,” said Dr Ghosh. The estimated marine fish landings from all the maritime states and two union territories in the mainland of India for the year 2021 was 3.05 million tonnes. This was a 11.8% increase compared to the landings in 2020 (2.73 million tonnes). But it was still less by 14.4% in comparison to the landings in 2019, the last of pre-pandemic years (3.56 million tonnes).

Gujarat made it to the first position replacing Tamil Nadu, after a gap of two years, with 5.76 lakh tonnes in 2021. Gujarat accounted for 18.9% of the total landings in the country."

Andhra Pradesh: Action will be initiated against miscreants

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/action-will-be-initiated-against-miscreants-fisheries-minister/article65700128.ece>

Strict action will be initiated against miscreants responsible for burning five fishing boats and four fishing nets at Jalari Yendada in Visakhapatnam on Friday, said Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries Seediri Appala Raju.</p>

Addressing a press conference after holding a meeting between the two warring fishing communities, he said that the issue of ring nets has been prevalent for the last two decades and there was similar tension between both the communities since 2010. But then we had entered

into a 'gentleman agreement' and it held good so long. But due to some violations in the fishing rules, the issue has again come to the forefront, he said.

He also said that he had a detailed discussion with both the fishing communities, the traditional fisherman and the ones that use ring nets, and they have come to an agreement once again.

"We hope that there will not be any violations in the future and if there are, the violators will be dealt with seriously," said Mr. Appalaraju. Collector A. Mallikarjuna and senior police officials were present.

Andhra Pradesh: Modernisation of Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour to be completed by November 2023

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/modernisation-of-visakhapatnam-fishing-harbour-to-be-completed-by-november-2023/article65687171.ece>

"Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) has taken up modernisation and upgradation of Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour at an estimated cost of ₹151.81 crore. The project, taken up with 100% Central funding, is scheduled for completion by November 30, 2023.

This was stated by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal in response to a query from G.V.L. Narasimha Rao on his unstarred question on the 'Mega Fishing Harbour in Visakhapatnam', in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

The Union Minister replied that VPA has earned ₹358.46 lakh as revenue and spent ₹175.51 lakh on various contingencies at Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour. About 11,775 people are dependent on the fishing harbour for their livelihood.

The project to be funded under the Central Sector Component of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) of the Department of Fisheries in convergence mode with the Sagarmala Scheme of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW). The in-principle approval for the project was given to VPA on March 30, this year and the sanctioned financial assistance of ₹50 crore was released to VPA from Sagarmala budget.

VPA has appointed M/s Indian Port Rail and Ropeway Corporation Limited on April 24 to review the DPR and preparation of detailed estimate, architectural drawings, designs, RCC etc during the construction. The topography survey and geotechnical studies at the fishing harbour site have commenced on July 7, the Minister added."

Andhra Pradesh: NGT directs AP Chief Secretary to ensure strict implementation of aquaculture and sand mining regulations in coastal areas

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/ngt-directs-andhra-pradesh-chief-secretary-to-ensure-strict-implementation-of-aquaculture-and-sand-mining-regulations-in-coastal-areas/article65661033.ece?homepage=true>

"The Chennai-based south zone Bench of National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the Chief Secretary of Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) and Principal Secretary (Environment and Forests) to ensure strict implementation of aquaculture and sand mining regulations in coastal areas as per the guidelines laid down by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

The NGT issued the above direction while disposing of a petition filed by Y. Venkatapathi Raja of Sakhinetipalli in East Godavari (E.G.) district for action against those doing illegal beach sand mining and operating aquaculture farms which have no clearances from the Departments concerned, in Pallipalem and Gogunnamatam villages of Razole Mandal and Kesavadasupalem, Chintalamori, Sankaraguptam, Padamatipalem, Turpupalem, Gollapalem, Karavaka and Kesanapalli in Malkipuram and Sakhinetipalli Mandals.

Advocate Madhuri Donti Reddy appeared for the State of A.P. while Sravan Kumar represented the petitioner. Justice K. Ramakrishnan, judicial member of the NGT Bench, and expert member K. Satyagopal said in their order that the A. P. Aquaculture Authority, the Fisheries Department and E.G. District Collector should take appropriate action against the persons who are operating illegal/unauthorised aquaculture farms in the coastal zone or other areas without obtaining necessary permission or licences.

Besides, the tribunal instructed the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Department of Mines and Geology (DoM&G), A. P Coastal Zone Management Authority (AP-CZMA) and the District Collectors in general to monitor illegal seashore sand mining and take action against the persons violating norms. Further, the NGT directed DoM&G and the CZMA to fully comply with the Regulation of Maintenance and Enforcement of Guidelines, 2020 issued by the MoEF&CC and the Sustainable Sand Mining Policy of 2016."

Andhra Pradesh: Traditional fishermen demand action against use of ring nets in Bay of Bengal

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/traditional-fishermen-demand-action-against-use-of-ring-nets-in-bay-of-bengal/articleshow/92958742.cms>

"A group of traditional fishermen under the banner of ""Ring Valala Vyatireka

Ikyavedika"" alleged that despite the ban, some fishermen in and around Vizag have been using the ring net in the restricted area of the Bay of Bengal. They also alleged that the ring nets have hit hard to the livelihood of traditional fishermen but no action was initiated till now.

Tedu Shankar of Ikyavedika said that a ring net is a long net that is used to surround fish with a wall of netting. It captures everything that it encloses. He said that the ring net used by some fishermen leaves local and traditional fishermen with no catch.

Though the ban on using the ring nets was announced by the AP high court, the use of ring nets continues in parts of Vizag district, alleged Shankar. A few years ago, the number of ring nets was 42 and the fisheries department had given permission to use only 13 ring nets. Now, the number of ring nets in Vizag and Bheemili areas was 115 and of them only 8 ring nets were given permission. We have been opposing the ring nets citing that the nets will catch small fishes, leading to depletion of marine life and would hit the livelihood of traditional fishermen. The nets also harm endangered marine species, he added.

It may be recalled that the simmering discontent between traditional and ring net fishermen in Vizag turned into a full-on battle off Vizag coast in January this year. At least six fishermen were injured, six fishing boats were set ablaze and section 144 imposed at Peda Jalaripeta in the incident.

Though we have been appealing to the authorities of the fisheries department, district administration and coastal security police to initiate action against those who are using ring nets in Vizag coast, the authorities have utterly failed. Since the authorities have failed to curb the ring nets menace, we will chalk out plans against the ring nets and if any law and order issue arises, the authorities will sole response, expressed the other members of the traditional fishermen group."

Andhra Pradesh: Shrimp farmers in troubled waters as prices sink

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/andhra-pradesh-shrimp-farmers-in-troubled-waters-as-prices-sink/article65631057.ece>

"Shrimp farmers in Prakasam district are mulling to go on a culture holiday after a slash in electricity subsidy and skyrocketing input costs, coupled with an unexpected plunge in prices of their produce, have left their finances in a precarious state. The farmers, who reel in much-needed foreign exchange for the country by cultivating and exporting the whiteleg shrimp in a big way, are unhappy over what they allege are 'unfavourable policies' being framed by the Centre and State governments.

“We are not in a position to culture shrimp any longer in the wake of a huge increase in the cost of feed, probiotics and antibiotics used in the cultivation process,” says a group of shrimp farmers ahead of a meeting at Koppolu near here on Wednesday to take stock of the situation arising out of government regulations and prevailing market conditions.

The shrimp farmers say that while input costs have risen by 30%. feed manufacturers are not providing them any relief even as the cost of soy protein had come down recently, complains Prakasam District Shrimp Farmers Association convener D. Gopinath.

Recalling that while the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government had brought down the power tariff to ₹1.50 per unit for aquaculture units in line with his election promise, the State government had subsequently revised the power tariff upwards to ₹3.85 per unit for establishments spread over an area of five acres.

“This has come as a bolt from the blue for shrimp farmers who on an average raise *Litopenaeus vannamei* shrimp in more than 10 acres, as only then would aquaculture be viable,” says M. Venkateswarlu, an aquaculturist from Koppolu. Power tariff concession is now available only to those shrimp farmers within the aqua zones declared by the Andhra Pradesh State Aquaculture Development Authority (APSADA). Over 10% of the units fall outside the aqua zone.

In the present situation, each shrimp farmer is forced to incur an additional cost of ₹20 per kg of the produce on the electricity front. Shrimp farmers need electricity for running aerators to provide adequate oxygen for the healthy growth of the invertebrates in the ponds, besides for pumping water in and out of the ponds.

Encouraged by the good market rates prevailing in February, shrimp farmers had raised *vannamei* with great hopes. However, the market rates for counts of 30, 40 and 50 per kg had now unexpectedly dipped by more than ₹100 per kg. As a result, most of the farmers are no longer taking the trouble of cultivating large shrimps. “I sell my produce for a count of 100 per kg,” says S. Anji Babu, a shrimp farmer from Koppolu who has raised whiteleg shrimp in a 20-acre pond.

It is unfortunate that exporters who are making a killing in the wake of the weakening of the rupee against the dollar had not passed on even a part of the benefit to the shrimp farmers. Farmers are still facing problems with spurious seeds and medicines even after the constitution of the Andhra Pradesh State Aquaculture Development Authority (APSADA), they rue. The shrimp farmers are urging the Union and State governments to intervene and put in place a

shrimp farmer-friendly environment in order to help the sector get back on track."

Andhra Pradesh: Biodegradable nets to tackle ghost fishing

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/biodegradable-nets-to-tackle-ghost-fishing/articleshow/92736618.cms>

"The Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT) scientists are working on producing biodegradable fishing nets that are durable.

The CIFT scientists began their research recently to protect the marine species from ghost fishing or ghost gear, which refers to fishing nets that are lost, dumped or abandoned in the sea.

Ghost fishing is contributing to the depletion of commercial fish stocks, due to the lack of profit made from fish catches. Fish that are caught in ghost nets often die and attract scavengers that can get caught in the same net, creating a vicious cycle. The ghost gear remains active underwater, continuing to catch and kill animals, and capturing anything in its path in an unselective manner.

CIFT Vizag Center scientist in-charge, U Sreedhar, told TOI that It is estimated that around 6.4 lakh tonnes of fishing gear is lost or discarded in oceans annually."

Andhra Pradesh: seafood exports exceed ₹20k crore, highest in country

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/aps-seafood-exports-exceed-20k-crore-highest-in-country/article65583000.ece>

"Andhra Pradesh stood top in the country in seafood exports by shipping 3.24 lakh metric tonnes of shrimp, fish and other items during the 2021-22 financial year. The total exports of seafood from India was about 13,69,264 metric tonnes. The value of the seafood exports from the State was about ₹20,019 crore, said Marine Products Export Development Authority's (MPEDA) Andhra Pradesh Joint Director A. Jeyabal. The contribution of the State in the country's overall exports was 23.66% in quantity and 34.76% in terms of value, the Joint Director said.

"In 2020-21, India had exported 11,49,510 metric tonnes of seafood worth ₹43,720 crore (\$5,956 million). In 2021-22, marine products of about 13,69,264 metric tonnes, valued at ₹57,586 crore (\$7.76 billion) were shipped," Mr. Jeyabal told The Hindu on Wednesday. According to overseas shipment data, the US continued to be the major importer of Indian seafood, followed by China, the European Union, South-east Asia and Japan as the other major customers. "From Andhra Pradesh, frozen shrimp, frozen fish, squid, cuttlefish, dried items and

other varieties were exported," the JD said."

Andhra Pradesh: With 9 more fishing harbours, set to increase fish output

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/amaravati/with-9-more-fishing-harbours-ap-set-to-increase-fish-output/articleshow/92507283.cms>

"Continuing the dominance, AP has once again emerged as leader in fish production in the country. AP is producing 42 lakh metric tonnes of fish annually.

This is nearly 30 per cent of country's total production of 141 lakh metric tonnes. No other state is closely behind AP as West Bengal stood a distant second with an output of around 17 lakh MT.

With a view to firm up its grip over the marine sector, the state government has launched works on nine fishing harbours. The new harbours are expected to increase the fish output by another three to five lakh metric tonnes annually."

Andhra Pradesh: Soft-shell crab farming picks up in Nagayalanka villages

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/vijayawada-soft-shell-crab-farming-picks-up-in-island-villages-in-nagayalanka/article65549939.ece>

"Soft-shell crab farming in the islands of Nagayalanka has emerged as a rewarding aquaculture venture in Krishna district. Even as not many entrepreneurs are practising this painstaking farming in the region, they say high demand for soft-shell crabs in major cities in India and the East Asian countries has made it lucrative proposition.

A kilogram of crab is sold for ₹200 to ₹250 before moulting, while they fetch ₹600 to ₹700 after moulting. Soft-shell crab are being preferred by many eateries now as the dishes are easy to prepare and there is minimum wastage, says Fisheries Development Officer, Avanigadda M. Ravi Kumar. Soft-shell crabs are grown in specially designed boxes in aquaculture ponds. However, water with more than 12% salinity levels are preferred for the venture. Soft-shell crabs farming is being practised at Gullalamoda and Sangameswaram villages in Nagayalanka mandal.

Red crab species procured from the locals are used as seed. Red crab weighing about 70 gram to 100 gram is placed in a box until they moult. Crabs take at least 45 days to moult. Soft-shell crabs are grown in boxes partially submerged (up to six inches) in ponds through a frame installed above the water level, explains Mr. Ravi Kumar.

To ensure that crabs are picked immediately after moulting, the boxes are checked frequently

every day. "If crabs are not picked within hours of moulting, the soft shell turns harder. The weight of the crabs doubles after moulting. They are frozen, packaged and exported," says Mr. Ravi Kumar. The boxes are accessed through catwalks built on the pond. The crabs are exported to various countries from Kerala, Mumbai, Chennai and other cities, he adds.

"We check the boxes thrice a day, pick the right ones for harvesting and freeze them. We are selling the crabs to buyers in New Delhi and Mumbai. I started this venture with 3,000 boxes in a one-acre pond six months ago and it has been remunerative," says 19-year-old B. Bala Ravivarma from Sangameswaram village, who studied fisheries at M.V.K.R. Fisheries Polytechnic College in Avanigadda. The officials say that more than 5,000 boxes can be set up in a one-acre pond."

Andhra Pradesh: App to help fisherfolk to net catch

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/visakhapatnam-app-to-help-fisherfolk-net-catch/articleshow/92297210.cms>

"Fishermen of Srikakulam district can now rely on a mobile application to net a good catch as the district administration, Agribusiness Center of Excellence (ACE), entered into an MoU with the Dr MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) on Friday.

The app would be made available for fisherfolk in the district, and will provide information about weather conditions, fish activity below the sea's surface, wave activity, and dangerous situations along the 193-km coastline, said district agricultural advisory council chairman Ch. Netaji. The app will also show the potential fishing zone.

The Fisher Friend mobile app has been developed by the MSSRF and Qualcomm, a company specializing in wireless technology and research, through collaborations with the Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (Incois). Under the MoU, 20 master trainers will be selected from coastal landing point villages in the district and sent for training to the Fish for All Research Centre at Poompuhar in Tamil Nadu. They would be given capacity building on identifying fishery zones."

Andhra Pradesh: Bio-diesel, ice shortage hit fishing industry

<https://newsmeter.in/regional/andhra-pradesh/in-troubled-waters-bio-diesel-ice-shortage-hit-fishing-in-andhra-pradesh-696583>

"New fishing season in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh is set to resume in a couple of days. This follows the end of the 61-day ban on Tuesday. The new fishing season is supposed to resume from midnight on Tuesday. Dolphin Boat Operators' Welfare Association

and the AP Mechanized Boat Operators' Welfare Association decided to delay the commencement of the new fishing season by two days due to a shortage of ice and diesel.

There are over 2,500 mechanized boats in Andhra Pradesh (in Vizag, Kakinada, Machilipatnam, Vadarevu, Kalingapatnam, and others). Diesel is a key element for the fishing industry to run mechanized boats. Out of 2,500 odd mechanized boats, we are expecting 50 percent of boats to undertake the first voyage on Friday. For each voyage (12 to 15 days), the boat owner must invest at least Rs 5.5 lakh to Rs 7 lakh due to the increased prices of oil, diesel, groceries, and a few others.

The fishing trade has been dependent on various factors including weather, market, export atmosphere, and a few others. ""But, for the past few years, many of the boat owners have incurred losses"", said Mylapalli Ramu, a boat owner in Vizag. The fishermen are hopeful of getting a good catch of Tiger Prawn, White Prawn, Flower Prawn, and Brown Prawn besides popular varieties of fish such as silver pomfret and seer fish this fishing season.

On the other hand, seafood lovers in the state are waiting for the popular variety of fish and quality prawns. Fish and prawns from Vizag harbor are exported to various parts of the country. It is also exported to different foreign destinations.

Andhra Pradesh: State's marine sector helping country meet export targets

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/aps-marine-sector-helping-country-meet-export-targets-says-union-fisheries-minister/article65526641.ece>

"Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan on Tuesday stated that Andhra Pradesh's 36% share in the country's marine exports was helping the country stay on track to meet its export target of ₹1 lakh crore by 2024. "The total worth of India's marine exports stood at ₹59,000 crore in the last financial year. Andhra Pradesh's share accounts for 36%. An amount of ₹7,500 crore is being spent on construction of new harbours with the Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu to improve the marine exports by 2024," said Mr. Murugan

Mr. Murugan, accompanied by Kakinada MP Vanga Geetha and district officials, inspected shrimp hatcheries and interacted with the fisherfolk on the Uppada coast on Tuesday. He also inspected the projects granted by the National Fisheries Development Board and Indian Council of Agriculture Research..

Speaking to reporters after inspecting a shrimp hatchery at Konapapeta near Uppada in Kakinada

district, Mr. Murugan said that fisheries was the only sector to have not been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Murugan was in Kakinada district on a two-day tour to interact with beneficiaries of Central government schemes.

The Central government had invested ₹32,500 crore on the fisheries sector since 2014. In the 2013-14 financial year, the investment in the sector was barely ₹4,000 crore. The Blue Revolution launched in 2015 is changing the face of fisheries sector," said Mr. Murugan.

"The Andhra Pradesh government can propose a seaweed park. The Centre is willing to grant one for the State to improve the livelihood opportunities for fisherfolk," said Mr. Murugan. a seaweed park for the State to improve livelihood opportunities for the fisherfolk", said Mr. Murugan. Mr. Murugan claimed that Visakhapatnam harbour is one of the five harbours in the country that were being modernised to give a fillip to marine exports.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishermen clash over ring net use

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2022/may/31/fishermen-from-andhra-pradesh-and-telangana-clash-over-ring-net-use-2460078.html>

"Fishermen of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have reportedly engaged in a fight over the usage of ring nets in Krishna river at Vijayapuri South of Palnadu district on Monday.

According to sources, the trouble began when Andhra Pradesh fishermen ventured into the water that falls under Telangana and used ring nets, instead of traditional fishnets. Fishermen from Vijayapuri North (Telangana) tried to stop them.

They detained the AP fishermen after they allegedly pelted stones on the former. Later, they were taken to the nearby police station. Police officials from Palnadu intervened and settled the issue and brought the fishermen back safely."

Andhra Pradesh: Aquaculture ponds posing threat to farmlands

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/srikakulam-aquaculture-ponds-posing-threat-to-farmlands-745686?infinitemscroll=1>

"Aquaculture ponds all along coastal belt are posing threat to paddy cultivation and causing water pollution around it. Large number of aquaculture ponds appearing in all 11 coastal mandals across the district. These ponds are being used for cultivation of fish and prawn. Indiscriminate digging of these ponds posing threat to adjacent agriculture fields in several villages in seacoast mandals. Both fish and prawn is being cultivated in an extent of 4,000 acres across the district.

Due to the ponds saline water is also receding into the farm fields along the seacoast mandals in Itchapuram, Kaviti, Sompeta, Mandasa, Vajrapukotturu, Santhabommali, Polaki, Gara, Srikakulam rural, Etherla and Ranastalam mandals. Feed used for prawn and fish is causing damage to regular crops and farmer friendly creatures and ecological system, food chain are also affected in the seacoast villages.

Chemicals and medicine used for better and quick growth of the fish and prawn is leading to pollute air, water and soil in all the seacoast villages. AP Aquaculture Development Authority Act, 2020 rules must be followed for digging the ponds and to cultivate fish and prawn. Coastal regulatory zone (CRZ) rules and restrictions are applicable for the ponds, if any complaint is registered on violation of rules, ""we will stop the cultivation and remove the ponds, said joint director for fisheries, PV Srinivasa Rao."

Andhra Pradesh: Two fish landing centers to come up in Visakhapatnam and Anakapalli

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/two-fish-landing-centers-will-come-up-in-visakha-and-anakapalli-dists/articleshow/91747495.cms>

"The Central government has given administrative approval for two fish landing centers in Visakhapatnam and Anakapalli districts under Prime Minister Matysa Sampada Yojana's scheme.

Each fish landing center at Rajayyapeta in Nakkapalli mandal of Anakapalli district and Bheemili in Visakhapatnam district would be constructed with around Rs. 28 crore each. According to sources, the district has received the guidelines from the Central government. The centers would be built with the funds 60-40 ratio by the central government and the state. "The state government has to spend Rs. 10 crores while the remaining amount would be borne by the central government.

The Anakapalli Fisheries Department Deputy Director Lakshmana Rao told TOI that around four to five village fishermen would be benefited from each fish landing center. Each fish landing center needs around five to six acres of land. The center would come up at the river mouth at the Gantastambham area in Bheemili where five acres of land was already identified. Around six acres of land for Rajayyapeta would be acquired by the concerned district administration.

As part of the fish landing center, there would be an auction hall, net mending center, community hall, fish drying area, truck parking, cement roads from the village to the landing center, godowns, and others. Tender process and Construction of all these would take place once

the land acquisition process was completed and advance possession would be given to the fisheries department, the Fisheries DD Lakshmana Rao said. Around 10,000 fishermen at Bhimili and 6000 fishermen at Rajayyapeta would be benefited directly through these centers and another two to three thousand fishermen would get benefit indirectly, he said."

Andhra Pradesh: Fishermen stage protest alleging non receipt of aid

<https://www.uniindia.com/story/Fishermen-stage-protest-alleging-non-receipt-of-aid>

"Several fishermen led by former MLA and community leader Vanamadi Kondababu have staged protest demonstration in front of the Office of the Joint director of fisheries here on Thursday raising slogans denouncing the government for not paying the normal relief for the losses sustained by them during the ban on fishing period.

Addressing the protesters Kondababu alleged that the funds sanctioned under Mathsyakara Bharosa scheme did not reach the beneficiaries and the officials are complacent in the matter. He further alleged that names of several beneficiaries were removed from the list showing flimsy grounds.

The funds under the Bharosa scheme were yet to be deposited in the banks. The government was making tall claims on the Bharosa scheme and except publicity nothing was done to the fishermen families who are suffering for sustenance due to the ban imposed on fishing.

If the government fails to respond the fishermen would be left with no option except taking up agitation he warned. Fishermen leaders of Yetimoga, Dummulapet, Parlaopet including Aradadi siva, Tummala Ramesh, Chintha Perraju, Panthadi Rajimoogu raju, Vanamadi Dharmarao, Kamadi Subbarao participated in the stir."

Andhra Pradesh: Government stalls maritime trade operations at Kakinada deep-sea port

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/andhra-pradesh-government-stalls-maritime-trade-operations-at-kakinada-deep-sea-port/article65403809.ece>

"The Andhra Pradesh State Government on May 11 halted the maritime trade operations at Kakinada deep-sea port and anchorage port to avoid any untoward incidents and damage to infrastructure and ships in the wake of Cyclone Asani.

Operated by the Andhra Pradesh State Government, the Kakinada anchorage port is India's prime port from where non-Basmati rice and Maize are exported to various countries round the year. The deep-sea port operated by the Kakinada Seaport Limited also exports non-Basmati and other materials from the Kakinada coast.

In a review meeting on the preparedness on the Cyclone Asani with Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy on May 11, Kakinada District Collector Krithika Shukla has appraised Mr. Reddy that the operations at the Kakinada anchorage port and deep seaport have been halted and an alert was sounded to prevent any damage to the ships anchored at the two ports.

Relief camps: As many as 31 cyclone relief camps have been set up in the strategic locations in the six Mandals along the Kakinada coast. We are prepared to rehabilitate the affected coastal communities through APSRTC bus services. A team of State Disaster Response Force and another team of National Disaster Response Force are deployed at U. Kothapalli and Thallarevu Mandals.

On saving the paddy crop, Ms. Krithika has stated that the harvesting of paddy was completed in nearly 60% of area. The harvested paddy is being shifted to the nearby godowns and rice mills to avoid the damage."

Andhra Pradesh: Eight fishermen who ventured into sea during cyclone rescued

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/eight-fishermen-who-ventured-into-sea-during-cyclone-rescued/article65407940.ece>

"The Krishna district police have rescued eight fishermen and their fishing boat in the Bay of Bengal off the Machilipatnam coast.

The fishermen, hailing from Uppada, near Kakinada, ventured into the sea from Gilakaladindi fishing harbour in Machilipatnam at 8 p.m. on May 8 ignoring the orders of the government authorities not to enter the sea in view of cyclone Asani. Sangadi Rambabu and seven others had hired the boat of Sk. Mohammad Ali of Machilipatnam.

Left discreetly

According to Krishna district Superintendent of Police Siddharth Kaushal, the group left for fishing discreetly without informing anyone. They lost their way due to the cyclone on May 9 and went about 100 km into the Bay of Bengal, he said.

Mr. Kaushal said that upon learning that the boat was missing on May 9, a search operation was launched and information was passed on to the Collector and SP of Kakinada, and the families of the fishermen were also informed.

Two teams were formed including officials from the police, marine police, coast guard, revenue

and fisheries department for the search operation, he said. The missing boat was found on Thursday near Malakayalanka and the fishermen and boat were rescued and brought to Gilakaladindi harbour.

Mr. Kaushal said action would be taken against those who violated the rules and entered the sea for fishing, and a report on the incident would be sent to the government. Mr. Kaushal along with officials of revenue, marine police, coast guard, fisheries and others interacted with the fishermen."

Andhra Pradesh: Slump in shrimp price leaves Bapatla aqua farmers in deep trouble

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2022/may/11/slump-in-shrimp-price-leaves-bapatla-aqua-farmers-in-deep-trouble-2452190.html>

"With the increase in investment cost and sudden fall in aqua product prices, aqua farmers are facing severe losses. The recent climate change and the spike in prices of medicines and food especially in shrimp culture have left the aqua farmers in deep trouble. Several varieties of shrimp is cultivated in about 1.5 lakh acres in coastal regions in Repalle and Chirala in Bapatla district.

Due to its high quality, the shrimp species are famous in foreign countries too. Most of the shrimp cultivated in the region is exported to America, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia and Gulf countries. In the last month, the price of shrimp has witnessed a fall of Rs 90 to Rs 100 per kg. Along with the hike in prices of medicines, and labour costs, the frequent power cuts have also become a major problem for the shrimp farmers.

As the cultivation is in a crucial stage, the shrimp ponds require aeration at night. But due to the power cuts, the farmers have to depend on generators, which are proving highly costly with increased diesel price. Speaking to TNIE, K Rama Rao, an aqua farmer with a shrimp farm in 10 acres, said usually he used to earn a profit ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.

But the prices of fish food and medicines have increased recently. As the shrimp cultivation is at a crucial stage, the ponds require aeration frequently. But due to power cuts, we have rented generators, the cost of which had peaked recently and so our investment. "If the low prices of shrimp continue further, it is extremely difficult for us to get even our investment back," he lamented.

Shrimp culture in 1.5L acres

Several varieties of shrimp is cultivated in about 1.5 lakh acres in coastal regions in Repalle and

Chirala of Bapatla district. Due to its high quality, the shrimp species are famous in foreign countries too. Most of the shrimp cultivated in the region is exported to foreign countries."

Andhra Pradesh: State's share in marine exports will touch 50%, says Union Minister

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/aps-share-in-marine-exports-will-touch-50-says-union-minister/article65368045.ece>

Fisheries sector reviving due to effective steps taken by Centre, says L. Murugan. L. Murugan, Union Minister of State for Fisheries, said Andhra Pradesh was a leading exporter of marine products and expressed hope that the State's share would go up to 50% soon from the present

Addressing a meeting at Machilipatnam after inspecting the progress of the development work on the Gilakaladindi fishing harbour on Friday, Mr. Murugan said that the fisheries sector was in turmoil during the COVID-19 pandemic, but has now revived thanks to effective steps taken by the Central government.

He said fisheries was one of the major sectors which has a high potential for growth in exports, and that the Centre was supporting the seaweed culture undertaken by fisherwomen. Mr. Murugan said the Central government had selected five ports in the country, including Visakhapatnam port, for development works, which would bring them on par with international standards.

Minister for Fisheries Seediri Appala Raju, MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry, MLA Perni Venkataramaiah, Commissioner of Fisheries K. Kannababu and Krishna Collector Ranjit Bhasha were present.

Andhra Pradesh: Top slot in fish and shrimp production, says Amarnath

<https://www.thehansindia.com/news/cities/visakhapatnam/andhra-pradesh-in-top-slot-in-fish-shrimp-production-amarnath-739473>

"Endowed with the second longest coastline in the country, dotted with seaports, great road connectivity and growing air connectivity, Andhra Pradesh has been a natural destination for industry and commerce, Minister of Industries, Infrastructure, Investment and Information Technology Gudivada Amarnath mentioned. Appreciating the conclave organised by The Hans India and Bizz Buzz with the support of WTC, Visakhapatnam, the Minister observed that AP stands in the top position in terms of fish and shrimp production along with fruits and spices.

With the best Industrial Development Policy 2020-23, the Minister informed that the government has extended 'plug and play' support to industries. "Our coastline and the rich mineral strength are important drivers for industrial expansion in the State. Perhaps, more than that is the tremendous human resources available in the State, constituting over 71 per cent of the State's population is within the working-age bracket," Amarnath said.

With a visionary as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, who was an entrepreneur himself before foraying into the political arena, Amarnath underlined the need to provide an ecosystem for the entrepreneurs to set up their shops in AP. Amarnath said that the Bizz Buzz Business Conclave (BBBC) was the first conclave in which he participated after taking charge as the Industries, Infrastructure, Investment and Information Technology Minister."

Andhra Pradesh: Revised power subsidy a shocker to aqua farmers

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2022/apr/15/revised-power-subsidy-a-shocker-to-aqua-farmers-in-andhra-pradesh-2442282.html>

"The State government's latest decision to revise power subsidy has come as a shocker to the aquaculture farmers in the State. With the revised tariffs, the electricity bills of aquaculture farmers will be doubled. The aquaculture farmers in the State are planning to announce a 'culture holiday' in the next season in protest against the decision.

It may be noted that, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy announced a subsidised rate of Rs 1.50 per unit to aqua culture in the State and it was implemented in 2019. But now the State government released the GO revising power tariffs for aquaculture.

According to the latest order, farmers cultivating both shrimp and fish below five acres have to pay Rs 1.50 per unit while farmers cultivating more than five acres have to pay Rs 3.85 per unit. Rs 3.85 shall be charged for all the fish/shrimp tanks located outside the aqua zones, irrespective of the extent of the tanks. The power tariff concession shall be extended to fish/shrimp tanks based on the e-fish data for the time being. Later, the power tariff concession will be extended to the fish/shrimp culture tanks registered under APSADA Act, 2020, according to the GO.

According to sources, farmers in the State have taken up aqua culture in nearly 3.75 lakh acres. Nearly 55 per cent of farmers have been cultivating in non-aqua zones. More than 95 per cent of farmers are cultivating aquaculture, particularly shrimp, in more than 5 acres as below 5 acres is not viable for them. Shrimp culture requires aerators and sunlight support for getting oxygen for their healthy growth in the ponds. Usually, aerators need power supply for up to 16 hours a day. Power is also needed for regular pumping of water into and outside the ponds. Nearly 10 hp of power supply is required for running aerators and water pumps for one acre of culture for one

month.

“I cultivated L Vannamei (white leg shrimp) in around 9 acres. Usually, I will pay Rs 60,000 per one acre per year after subsidy. Now, I have to pay Rs 1.20 lakh per annum. The cost of cultivation will double due to the increased power tariffs. Majority of the culture was taken up in more than 5 acres across the sea coast mandals,” said K Ramireddy, a farmer from Nellore division.

Farmers have taken up aquaculture in Kota, Vakadu, Chittampur, Chillakur in Gudur division of Tirupati district, Manubolu, Venkatachalam, Muthukur, Thotapalligudur, Indukurpeta, Kovur, Kodavaluru, Vidavalur of Nellore division and Allur, Bogole, Kavali in Kavali division of Nellore district. After the implementation of power holiday to processing units, the shrimp processing units have reduced production due to reduced power supply, leading to price crash of aqua products.

Within a week of the power holiday, the price of shrimp has fallen in the market. The price for 100 count of shrimp has reduced to Rs 220 from Rs 280, the rate of 90 count fallen to Rs 230 from Rs 270, 80 count declined to Rs 250 from Rs 200, 70 count reduced to Rs 270 from Rs 320 and 60 count to Rs 290 from Rs 340. “I planned to maintain the culture for getting 70 count shrimp, which is a costly affair with the increased power tariff. Now, I have decided to harvest the shrimp at 100 count per kilo. The government should reconsider its decision as farmers have to pay double the amount as electricity bills with the revision subsidy to aquaculture,” said N Sukumar Reddy, a farmer from Gudur division. If the farmers decide to announce a ‘culture holiday’, it will affect the export of aqua products to other countries. On the other hand, the price for aqua products, particularly shrimp and fish, will increase if the production declines.

Andhra Pradesh: One lakh fisherfolk families to get Rs.10,000 each

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/200422/one-lakh-fisherfolk-families-in-ap-to-get-10000-each.html>

"Over one lakh fisherfolk families in Andhra Pradesh will get a financial incentive of ₹ 10,000 each under the YSR Matsyakara Bharosa in May. This money is to help families tide over the situation for 61 days when, as per centre's orders, they are banned from fishing in the sea from April 15 to June 14 along the entire east coast from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu. This is the breeding season for fish when eggs laid by them hatch and the offspring grow. A grown fish eventually means good income for families that depend on fishing.

AP has nearly 1.24 lakh fishing families living all along its coast. Fisheries authorities, with support from Sagara Mitra, will list out whether or not members of these families have ventured

into the sea during the period of ban.

No mechanised or motorised boat is permitted to go fishing into the sea during the ban period. Traditional crafts can, however, be taken out by individual fishermen during the period.

Normally, a group of fishermen ranging from eight to 10 take up the sea voyage for a week or 10 days before returning with their catch. This is the only source of livelihood for them. Once ban on fishing is imposed, these people are expected to stay ashore and undertake repairs on their nets, boats and other equipment.

Fisheries authorities, along with Sagara Mitras, visit residences of boat owners and take a declaration from them stating that they are not taking up the sea voyage for fishing during the ban period. They also express their willingness to accept punitive action if their declaration is found to be false.

Elders in fisherfolk colonies play a key role in ensuring compliance during the ban period. Authorities also patrol the seas along the coast to find out any illegal fishing activity.

In case of any violation, officials bookcases and penalise violators to the tune of ₹ 2,500 to ₹ 5,000; depending on the gravity of offence. At times, the boats are also seized.

Fisheries joint director P.V. Satyanarayana said, "We are taking up enumeration of fisherfolk families who are strictly following the norm of not venturing into the sea. They will be compensated with ₹ 10,000 per family. Over one lakh families are expected to get the benefit in the state."

Andhra Pradesh: As annual trawling ban takes effect, fish becomes expensive

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/as-annual-trawling-ban-takes-effect-fish-becomes-expensive/articleshow/90945632.cms>

"With the 61-day annual ban on deep sea fishing along Bay of Bengal coming into effect from the midnight of April 14, tank fish and unpopular varieties of sea fish have become expensive by nearly 40 per cent. Andhra Pradesh has a 975-km-long coastline (the country's second longest coastline). The state has succeeded in implementing the ban on the east coast, enabling a safe breeding period for marine species.

Freshwater fish and prawn in Vizag city and other parts of the state have gone up by 30 to 40 per cent in the last few days. Traders say the price will increase as availability is decreasing due to rising temperatures, leading to death of the species. Fish such as Koramenu (red snapper) and

Matta Gidasa are selling at 700 a kg and 350/kg which were 550 a kg and 250/ kg two weeks earlier.

Similarly, other varieties of fresh water fish such as Catla, Rohu, Mrugala and Rup Chand and a few other fish are available between 150/kg and 300/kg depending on the size of the fish, due to non-availability of sea fish such as silver pomfret, seer and other varieties.

Fishing at Vizag, the largest fishing harbour in the state, has come to a standstill due to the ban, said Ch Satyanarayana Murthy, president of Dolphin Boat Operator's Welfare Association. Hoteliers in Vizag city said the supply of popular varieties of sea fish such as silver pomfret and seer have come down. "The supply from traders has dropped by 70 per cent. We are unable to serve sea fish dishes during the ban period," said T Satyanarayana of Andhra Pradesh Hotels Association (APHA).

Freshwater prawn (Vannamei prawn) too has become expensive with the price ranging from 400 to 600 per kg depending on quality and size. "Due to non-availability of seafood, we have switched over to freshwater fish and prawn and cut down the quantity of purchase due to high prices," said SS Murthy, a fish lover in Vizag city."

Andhra Pradesh: Uppada and seven other villages are facing erosion threat as geotubes installed along the coast

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2022/apr/16/geotube-damage-8-villages-in-andhra-pradeshface-erosion-threat-2442644.html>

"Uppada and seven other villages are facing erosion threat as geotubes installed along the coast between Kakinada city and Uppada in the mid-2000s at a cost of Rs 12.5 crore have been badly damaged due to high tides during cyclones and they need immediate replacement. Several houses of fishermen in Uppada and other villages have already been damaged due to soil erosion.

Though the Roads and Buildings Department had already given its consent to a proposal sent by the East Godavari district administration for constructing a 3 km geotube seawall at a cost of Rs 135 crore, the project is yet to take off.

Kakinada MP Vanga Geeta met Union Minister of Labour and Employment, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav and urged the Centre to replace the damaged geotubes to protect the fishermen's villages at Uppada from the erosion threat. The MP's appeal was also taken to the notice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The 19 km road between Kakinada and Uppada along the seacoast is popular as beach road.

There is a need to implement a concrete plan to protect the road from the constant erosion threat. According to official sources, more than 600 acres of land, 200 thatched houses and two temples adjacent to the coast have already been swallowed by the sea over the past few decades.

The National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) has identified Uppada as a high erosion-prone area in Andhra Pradesh due to the rough sea. According to the 2011 census, Uppada in U Kothapalli mandal has a population of 12,960 with 3,190 households. Majority of the households are fishermen.

Highlighting the erosion, Coastal Region Rights Protection Samithi founder D Satyanarayana has underlined the need for a change in the design of geotube reinstallation along the coast as there is not enough space between the sea water and the shore at Uppada to construct a seawall. Democratic Traditional Fishers and Workers Forum general secretary D Pal has suggested that saplings be planted along the coast to prevent erosion.

Vanga Geetha said as a member of the environment committee, she explained to Bhupender Yadav the need to take up geotube replacement on a priority basis to protect the fishermen's villages from erosion. A technical team will estimate the project cost after visiting Uppada, she added.

Andhra Pradesh: Ban on marine fishing from midnight of April 14

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/andhra-set-to-observe-ban-on-marine-fishing-from-midnight-of-april-14/article65317295.ece>

"Strong support from the fisherfolk helps for a safe breeding of marine fish species on the 975-km coastline

The 61-day annual fishing ban in the Bay of Bengal will come into force from the midnight of April 14 on the 975-km coastline in Andhra Pradesh State. Blessed with country's second longest coastline, the Andhra Pradesh State has succeeded in implementing the annual fishing ban on the East Coast, enabling a safe breeding period for the marine fish species.

The State government offers Rs.10,000 financial aid compensating the loss of livelihood for every individual who depends on the marine fishing and loses the livelihood during the ban period. A district-level survey is commenced along the coastline to identify the affected people to release the aid to manage the ban period. Kakinada coast: "Nearly 24,000 people depending on the marine fishing activity are expected to lose their livelihood on the Kakinada coast", said Fisheries Department Deputy Director (Kakinada) P.V.Satyanarayana.

The Kakinada coast comprises of two districts - Kakinada and Konaseema - which have above 150-km coastline. In Kakinada district alone, above 4,400 fishing boats including mechanized and traditional boats would be anchored from the midnight of April 14 and nearly 16,000 individuals would lose the livelihood. Realizing the importance of a safe breeding of the marine fish species, the fisherfolk community strictly observes the fishing ban on the Andhra coast. Violation of the fishing ban guidelines is a rarest of the rare on the Andhra coast as no boat operator desires to fish against the ban guidelines."

Andhra Pradesh: Works on Vizag fishing harbour to start in next three months

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/works-on-vizag-fishing-harbour-to-start-in-next-three-months/articleshow/90732774.cms>

"The proposed facelift of the existing fishing harbour in Vizag would start in the next three to four months as the tender process would start in the next couple of months. The 45-year-old fishing harbour in the port city lacks many facilities. Now, the facelift works of Rs 150 crore would be taken up under Sagarmala Project.

The facelift works would be completed in 18 months once the bidding process was over. The construction cost would be borne by the ministry of fisheries and animal husbandry under Prime Minister's Matsya Sampada Yojana, ministry of ports, shipping and waterways, and Visakhapatnam Port Trust Rs 50 crore each. The detailed project report (DPR) was finalized recently. As part of the DPR, there would be cold storages, a mechanical handling facility, an air-conditioned auction hall, and other facilities would be provided.

"The resurfacing of existing jetties in the harbour and three floating jetties would also be set up as part of the facelift works. It would be a world-class fishing harbour," the Visakhapatnam Port Trust chairman K Ramamohana Rao said. The present harbour is operational since 1976 with 11 jetties of an extent of 26 acres. More than 700 mechanized boats are operating from the fishing harbour and nearly one lakh people used to visit harbour for purchase on

Andhra Pradesh: Contributed 38% of seafood exports made by MPEDA in 2021-22 fiscal year

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/ap-contributed-38-of-seafood->

[exports-made-by-mpeda-in-2021-22-fiscal-year-say-officials/article65303843.ece](#)

"Andhra Pradesh has contributed 38% of the seafood worth 7,740 million US dollars exported by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in 2021-22 financial year. The exports figure was all time high in the history of the MPEDA as the Union Ministry of Commerce, Government of India had set a target of 7,809 million US dollars for the fiscal year, of which 99.12% was achieved, the officials said.

Andhra Pradesh has exported about 34% of the total exports from the country earlier, which increased to 38% the last fiscal, the MPEDA authorities said. Of the total exports, shrimp had a 70% share from Andhra Pradesh.

"Apart from shrimp, the MPEDA is exporting frozen fish, crab, squid, frozen cuttlefish and other varieties to the U.S.A., South East Asia, European Union and the middle east countries," said MPEDA Regional Joint Director A. Jeybal on Friday. A few shrimp varieties have a good demand in the international market. Andhra Pradesh tops in seafood exports in India, followed by Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Kerala, the officials said.

"We sent shipments from Visakhapatnam port (2,16,457 metric tonnes), Kolkata (1,16,419 MT), Kochi (1,43,552), Krishnapatnam (64,230 MT), Kakinada Port (8,968 MT) during the 2020-21 fiscal year," Mr Jeybal said.

The coronavirus pandemic has hit the exports in 2019-20 fiscal year, as many countries that are major importers of seafood products, banned imports, causing a huge loss to the aqua farmers, exporters and other stakeholders in the State. However, the exports have picked up and the MPEDA has achieved 99.12 % of the target, the MPEDA authorities said."

Andhra Pradesh: Missing since a week, six fishermen traced in sea off Srikakulam coast

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2022/apr/06/missing-since-a-week-six-fishermentraced-in-sea-off-andhra-pradeshs-srikakulam-coast-2438587.html>

"Six fishermen who had gone missing off Kakinada coast on March 30 have been traced in the sea off Srikakulam coast, said N Srinivasa Rao, joint director of fisheries department on Tuesday.

It may be recalled that six fishermen, including the boat owner, ventured into the sea near Parlopeta in Kakinada on March 30. Three days after they reportedly went missing on April 3, the fishers informed their relatives that their boat engine had failed and they couldn't communicate the same due to poor mobile signals.

Upon receiving the information, the relatives, along with local TDP leader Tummala Ramesh alerted the officials in the fisheries department, but their pleas allegedly fell on deaf ears. On April 4, the family members lodged a grievance with the district collector Dr Kritika Shukla at the grievance cell.

Acting on the collector's directions, a coast-guard helicopter and two other boats started search operations on Tuesday. Eventually, at 5 pm on Tuesday the coast guard helicopter traced the fishermen near Srikakulam and the family members were informed that all the fishermen are safe.

While three of the six fishermen stayed back to repair the engine, the rest started back to Kakinada through the transportation arranged by the district officials, Srinivas said.

Andhra Pradesh: Aqua hubs set to infuse life into domestic fish market

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/andhra-pradesh-aqua-hubs-set-to-infuse-life-into-domestic-fish-market/article65286967.ece>

"A poor marketing infrastructure, combined with an unhygienic process of selling, has deterred foodies from patronising the Chapala Pulusu — a signature dish of Nellore — in large numbers when compared to States like West Bengal and Kerala. Identifying the reasons for the low sales, the Fisheries Department has come out with an innovative scheme to promote ultra-modern aqua hubs and develop a well-knit domestic market and increase fish consumption to at least 15 to 25 kg per capita as against five to seven kg per capita now.

"In the absence of good marketing infrastructure, the demand for fish in upland areas too remains untapped. In such a situation, four aqua hubs are being promoted in Nellore, Atmakur, Kavali and Gudur at a cost of ₹8 crore to promote aqua products under the brand name 'Fish Andhra, Fit Andhra'," says M. Nageswara Rao, Joint Director of the Fisheries Department.

"The department has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bank of Boroda (BoB) to promote 200 to 250 units attached to each aqua hub costing ₹2 lakh each with marketing infrastructure in the district," Mr. Rao explains.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), 'ready-to-eat' stores with cold storage facilities are also being promoted in the coastal district which has produced over 5.08 lakh tonnes of aqua products, including fish. An entrepreneur keen on setting up a unit needs to invest only ₹30 lakh while BoB would provide a soft loan of ₹1.70 lakh for each unit attached to the aqua hub.

V. Padma, one of the women to start mini-retail outlets in the district, said the scheme designed by the department had shown the way to unemployed youth like her to eke out a living. Another entrepreneur named Krishna Reddy from Dhanalakshmpuram in the city said he sells not only fish but also crab and shrimp through his modern retail outlet. The mini-retail outlet has provided me with a golden opportunity to live with dignity, said another entrepreneur M. Mujeeb from Kovur."

Andhra Pradesh: Hundreds of Olive Ridley turtles have been found dead along the coast in Srikakulam district

<https://www.orissapost.com/hundreds-of-olive-ridley-turtles-found-dead-along-andhra-coast/>

"Hundreds of Olive Ridley turtles have been found dead along the coast in Srikakulam district in north coastal region of Andhra Pradesh during the last few days. The dead endangered Olive Ridleys were washed ashore along the coastal belt from Ratti to Baruva Kotturu village in Santabommali, Vajrapu Kothuru, and a few other mandals (blocks) in the district.

The carcasses of the dead turtles along the beach raised a stink in the coastal villages. According to fishermen, the dead turtles weighed up to 50 kg each. The length of the carapace is between 60 cm and 70 cm. Every year, during this season, the turtles come to north coast Andhra and adjoining south coastal Odisha travelling thousands of kilometers from their home for mass nesting.

Despite the conservation efforts being made by the forest authorities who take care of eggs and leave the hatchlings into the sea, they are unable to check deaths of turtles who come to lay eggs. Forest officials say the reasons for the deaths of these creatures are beyond their control. Majority of the turtles are killed after getting trapped in the plastic nets or after being hit by heavy mechanised boats, and authorities' efforts to create awareness against the use of plastic nets have not yielded desired results.

According to local fishermen, if turtles are trapped in the traditional nets, they are released immediately into the sea, but turtles get injured while trying to come out the nets. However, fishermen of the mechanised boats use heavy nets made of plastic. They collect the fish and throw the trapped turtles into the sea, but most of the turtles succumb to the injuries and their bodies wash ashore.

Every year, lakhs of Olive Ridley sea turtles come to India's east coast for nesting, travelling thousands of kilometers during breeding season from countries like Japan, Australia, and New

Zealand. According to wildlife experts, the turtles move to east coast to hatch eggs as rising temperatures are favourable for reproduction.

The turtles move towards Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu coasts from November to May to hatch eggs. However, the season peaks from December to March. A large number of them prefer certain coastal villages as their home along the 978-km-long coastline in Andhra Pradesh from Srikakulam to Nellore district. As these turtles are considered essential for preserving biodiversity, experts have called for coordinated efforts by various departments to save these turtles from mechanised boat nets which are proving death traps.

Vajrapu Kotturu, Palasa, Baruva in Srikakulam district and RK Beach, Bheemili and Sagarnagar in Visakhapatnam district are among the nesting spots of Olive Ridleys in north coastal Andhra. During the breeding season, about 1,000 nesting spots are found in this area. However, while heading to the coast for nesting, many meet tragic end after getting trapped in the mechanised boats. Officials say mechanised boats equipped with speed engines beyond the permissible capacity are proving to be death traps for Olive Ridley turtles on Andhra coast in recent years.

They feel that a complete ban on fishing or use of mechanised boats in the potential area could save the Olive Ridley turtles. The drop in the number of arrivals of Olive Ridleys during the breeding season has alarmed the wildlife experts. The Godavari estuary, with a 30-km long coastline, was once known as a safe nesting ground but in recent years, witnessed a sharp fall in the arrival of turtles. The estuary had seen 1,061 arrivals in 2018-19 season, but this came down to 640 in 2019-20 and dropped further to 471 in 2020-21.

Despite the challenges, the Forest Department is taking steps for conservation of Olive Ridleys. For last few years, it set up rookeries under in situ conservation method – collection of eggs and release of the hatchlings – while taking steps to protect the eggs from stray dogs, pigs and wolves, who move along the coast in search of food. In Srikakulam district, the sanctuaries have been established at Srikakulam, Kalingapatnam, Vajrapu Kotturu, and other areas. Each turtle lays around 100-150 eggs.

The incubation period is for 45 days. The people involved in conservation efforts trace the eggs by following the footprint of the turtles. Meanwhile, people in Visakhapatnam are saying goodbye to Olive Ridley turtle hatchlings. Every Sunday, the state's Forest Department releases hatchlings into the sea. It released about 1,000 hatchlings into the sea near Joduglupalam beach under turtle protection and conservation programme on March 27.

The Forest Department set up five base camps at RK Beach, Jodugullapalem, Chepala Uppada, Pedanyagayypalen and Muthyalamma Palem for conserving the eggs of Olive Ridleys. Five

farmers guard each camp and keep a watch on the eggs laid by the turtles. According to Visakhapatnam district forest officer Anant Shankar, the department has so far got 50,000 eggs. These creatures are known to have emotional bonding to the place where they are born. After taking birth there, the little ones head back home. After coming of age, they go back to the same location to lay the eggs."

Andhra Pradesh: Low catch sends seafood prices in Vizag soaring ahead of fishing ban

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/low-catch-sends-seafood-prices-in-vizag-soaring-ahead-of-fishing-ban/articleshow/90505689.cms>

"The rising seafood prices, particularly of top varieties such as silver pomfret, seer fish and crabs, in Vizag region have left the seafood lovers a worried lot. Even before the annual deep-sea fishing ban began, the seafood turned dearer and ironically, the prices of less-popular varieties of sea fish have also increased. The traders cite low catch of fish, prawns and crabs as the reason why the seafood lovers have to cough up more.

Seafood lovers say popular varieties such as silver pomfret or white pomfret (known as chanduva in local parlance) which are a species of butterfish and seer fish (konam in Telugu) have turned dearer as the fish (big size) was sold at 1,200 to 1,400 per kg on Sunday in the retail markets. The seer fish costs 800 to 1,000 per kg.

Forget about popular fish varieties, the price of crabs has increased by over 30 per cent in the retail markets. The mud crabs were sold at 700 per kg while marine crabs were priced at 320 per kg on Sunday. "The availability of crabs in the markets is very low," said Bhagat DN, a seafood lover in Vizag city. The price of good quality prawns is above 350 per kg, he added. The owners of restaurants in city are paying more to get popular varieties of fish to serve their customers. "Though we managed to get fish and prawns, it is now very difficult to get sufficient stock of crabs to serve the customers," said owners of a few restaurants.

Poor catch of popular varieties and high diesel prices have led over 70 per cent of the 700-odd mechanised fishing boats in the Vizag region to remain anchored. "The prices of seafood will further increase in the coming days as the annual deep-sea fishing ban will begin from the second week of April," said M Ramu, owner of a mechanised fishing boat.

President of Dolphin Boat Operators' Welfare Association, Ch Satyanarayana Murthy, said a fishing trip costs at least 4 lakh, higher by a quarter when compared to the previous year."

Andhra Pradesh: Three fishermen stuck in Pakistan jails, confirms External Affairs Minister

<https://english.sakshi.com/news/andhrapradesh/rajya-sabha-three-andhra-fishermen-stuck-pakistan-jails-confirms-external-affairs>

"Three fishermen from the State Andhra Pradesh are currently being held in Pakistani jails, stated Minister of State for External Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs V. Muraleedharan on Thursday.

This was in a written reply to a question raised by V. Vijayasai Reddy in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday about the status of Andhra Pradesh fishermen held in various countries including Pakistan and their release and what the government's measures were to bring them safely to India.

The Minister confirmed that only three fishermen from Andhra Pradesh are currently being held in various jails in Pakistan. Due to the strict secrecy laws in force in many countries, local authorities are reluctant to divulge the details of prisoners without the permission of their captives. The Minister said that even the countries that reveal the details of the hostages do not come forward to give information about the foreigners in their jails.

The Minister stated that the government would give top priority to the safety, security, and welfare of fishermen detained in jails abroad. Indian embassies in various countries provide all possible assistance to Indian fishermen detained in various foreign prisons on charges of violating immigration laws.

The minister said the Indian Embassies were working tirelessly to take the necessary steps for their release after confirming that the detained fishermen were Indians and to bring them safely back to India. He said Indian fishermen held hostage in prisons were frequently visited by Indian embassy officials in the respective countries who visited the detention centers and are providing them with the legal assistance as required.

Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu: Help resolve fishermen conflict

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/amaravati/help-resolve-andhra-pradesh-and-tamil-nadu-fishermen-conflict-mp-m-gurumoorthy/articleshow/90316083.cms>

"Tirupati MP M Gurumoorthy has sought the Centre's intervention to end the perennial conflicts between the fishermen communities of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu over fishing related activities in the Bay of Bengal in Nellore district bordering the neighbouring state.

Gurumoorthy, who accompanied representatives of the fishermen community and inspected fishing spots near Rayadaruvu village recently, has written a letter to Union fisheries minister Parshottam Rupala, pointing out that the Centre's inaction is leading to conflicts between the

fishermen communities of the two states.

Following an appeal by the AP government to the Centre to initiate steps to open the sea mouth near Rayadaruvu village, a central committee was constituted by the Central Water Commission with members from the CWC, the National Institute of Ocean Technology in Chennai and the Integrated Coastal & Marine Area Management in Chennai to conduct relevant studies and submit a detailed project report..

Andhra Pradesh: Our houses swallowed by sea – The agony of local villagers

<https://www.hydnews.net/2022/03/our-houses-swallowed-by-sea-the-agony-of-local-villagers-in-andhra-pradesh/>

Google Maps tells me I am approaching my destination. But the neighbourhood appears a bit altered from what I remember of it. There's no sign of the crumbling old house by the sea, whose coordinates I had saved on my phone the last time I visited Uppada. "Oh, that house? It is in the sea now – there!" says T. Maramma, casually pointing to a wave gushing in from the Bay of Bengal.

I vividly remember the old structure that had offered a stunning, yet sombre, backdrop as I photographed Maramma and her family members a few weeks before the nationwide lockdown of March 2020. Perched perilously on a narrow beach, it was the only portion remaining of what used to be a large home where Maramma's joint family lived until the early years of this century.

It was a building with eight rooms and three sheds [for animals]. Around a hundred people used to live here," says Maramma, a small-time local politician in her 50s, who once ran a fish business. A cyclone that hit Uppada just before the 2004 tsunami took away a big chunk of the building, forcing the joint family to move into different houses. Maramma continued to use the old structure for a few more years before shifting to a house nearby.

Maramma and her family are not alone; nearly everyone in Uppada seems to have moved home at least once because of the encroaching sea. Their calculations on when to quit a house are based on lived experience and the local community's instinctive reading of the seas. "We can sense that the house will go into the sea when the waves start to bulge forward. Then we move our utensils and everything to one side [and start searching for a temporary house to rent]. The old house usually goes [into the sea] within a month," explains O. Siva. At 14, he has already had to leave one house to escape the sea. Located in East Godavari district, along the 975-kilometre coastline of Andhra Pradesh, Uppada has witnessed a steady onslaught by the sea for as long as its residents can remember.

When Maramma's family moved into their then new home around 50 years ago, it was located far from the beach. "Our legs used to ache a lot when we walked home from the shore," recalls O.Chinnabbai, Siva's grandfather and Maramma's uncle. A deep-sea fisherman in his 70s or 80s, he remembers a time when the stretch leading from their home to the beach was dotted with houses, shops and a few government buildings. "That was where the shore was," Chinnabbai points towards a distant horizon where some ships fade into the evening sky. "Between our new house and the sea, there was a lot of sand too," Maramma reminisces. "When we were children, we would play in the sand mounds and slide through them."

Much of the Uppada of these memories now lies submerged in the sea. Between 1989 and 2018, Uppada's coastline eroded, on average, 1.23 metres every year; in 2017-18, the erosion was as much as 26.3 metres, says a study by researchers at the Andhra Pradesh Space Applications Centre, Vijayawada. Another study noted that over the last four decades the sea has claimed more than 600 acres of land in the Kakinada suburbs – with Uppada, in Kakinada division's Kothapalle mandal, alone losing around one-fourth of that. A 2014 study quoted fisherfolk living along the coast north of Kakinada as saying that the beach had shrunk by several hundred metres over the last 25 years.

The coastal erosion at Uppada, a few kilometres north of Kakinada town, is caused mainly by the growth of Hope Island – scientifically known as a 'spit' – a 21-kilometre-long linear sand body. That spit grew naturally northward from the mouth of Nilarevu, a distributary of Godavari River," says Dr. Kakani Nageswara Rao, a retired professor of the department of geo-engineering, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam. "The waves refracted by the spit are impinging on the Uppada coast, leading to its erosion. Probably initiated more than a century ago, this sand spit more or less attained its present form in the 1950s," explains the professor, who has been closely studying the coastal forms and processes along the Andhra coast for several decades. Official records dating back to the early 1900s confirm that the Uppada phenomenon was already recognised more than a century ago. The Godavari District Gazetteer of 1907, for example, notes that the sea had eroded more than 50 yards of land at Uppada since 1900 – in other words, the village lost seven metres of land every year in those seven years.

Since coastal zones in general are very dynamic regions, with the interplay of complex global, regional and local phenomena," says Dr. Rao, "the reasons for coastal erosion at Uppada are multidimensional." Global warming, melting polar ice caps and rising sea levels, besides increased frequency of cyclones in the Bay of Bengal, are a few of them. A drastic reduction in sediment loads at the river mouths, caused by burgeoning dams in the Godavari basin, further exacerbates the situation.

As its land disappears into the sea bit by bit, Uppada gets recreated in the memory of its people. One of the villagers asks me to watch the Telugu movie Naaku Swatantram Vachindi for a

glimpse of the village that resides in their memories and their stories. I see a different Uppada in the 1975 film: the village and the sea lie at a comfortable distance from each other, a gorgeous sandy beach separating them. The sea and sand, captured in single-frame shots — the beach was wide enough to allow the crew to shoot from various angles — form the background to key sequences in the film.

“I watched the shooting of the film. Some of the actors who came for the shoot even stayed in the guest house here,” says S. Kruparao, the 68-year-old pastor at a church in Uppada. “All that is in the sea now. Even the guest house.”

The District Census Handbook of East Godavari published in 1961 has a reference to a guest house, too: “There is a very comfortable Travellers Bungalow with two suites of rooms about a furlong from the sea-shore. This is said to have been built after the previous Travellers Bungalow was swallowed up by the sea.” So the guest house that the crew of *Naaku Swatantram*, occupied is at least the second one to have vanished under the waves.

The artefacts and structures taken in by the sea often resurface in archival records and in stories passed down through generations. Older villagers remember their parents or grandparents talking about a pedda rayi , a big stone, lying submerged in the sea for many years. The 1907 gazetteer describes something similar: “A ruin about half a mile out at sea still catches the fishermen’s nets, and children hunt the beach at spring tides for coins which are occasionally washed up from what must be a submerged town.”

The ruin also finds a mention in the 1961 handbook : “Old fisher-folk say that sailing out in their boats or catamarans for fishing, their nets or lines are often caught by the tops of buildings or trunks of trees about a mile from the shore, and that to their own knowledge the sea has been encroaching on the village.”

The hungry sea has claimed a lot more of the village since then: almost all of its beach, countless houses, at least one temple, and a mosque. Over the last decade, the waves have also ravaged a 1,463-metre-long ‘geotube’ built in 2010 at an estimated cost of Rs. 12.16 crores to protect Uppada. Geotubes are large tubular containers filled with a slurry mix of sand and water that are used in shoreline protection and land reclamation. “In 15 years, I have seen large boulders of around two square feet melt into six-inch pebbles because of the friction of the waves,” says 24-year-old D. Prasad, a part-time fisherman who has grown up in the neighbourhood....</p></p>

Andhra Pradesh: Fishermen seek compensation for loss of livelihood during naval events in Vizag

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/fishermen-seek-compensation-for-loss-of-livelihood-during-naval-events-in-vizag/article65056075.ece>

"Ahead of the Presidential Fleet Review (PFR) and Milan-2022, members of the fishermen community, fish traders, and boat operators have expressed concern over the likely impact on their livelihood due to the restrictions imposed on fishing for a few days, and urged the State government to compensate them for the loss. The District Collector has already issued instructions to the fishermen not to venture for fishing in the anchorage / security area (the beach stretch from Tenneti Park to Dolphin Nose) from February 18 to March 4. "Fishermen who go for fishing for longer duration ranging from one to two weeks will not be affected. But those who operate small motor boats and traditional fishermen who depend on daily fishing activity will be affected," said P. Vasu, a fishermen from Jalaripeta. "We welcome such naval events in our city. But ,when our livelihood is affected, the government should come forward and consider providing us compensation," he said.

A few fisherwomen said the ban on the sale of fish at the harbour would affect them financially. "The harbour was closed for many days last summer due to COVID-19. It was again closed due to cyclones, they recalled. Plea to collector President of A.P. Mechanised Fishing Boat Operators' Association P. Apparao said they requested the District Collector to provide compensation to the fishermen, fish traders, boat owners, and those whose livelihood was likely to be affected due to the ban. "There are a number of fishermen and boat operators who rely on fishing in this stretch. As per our estimates, Rs.3.8 crore may be required for disbursement of compensation to the affected families," he said. Meanwhile, president of the Vysakhi Dolphin Boat Operators' Welfare Association Ch. Satyanarayana Murthy urged the government to engage local fishermen for transporting men and material to the ships in the anchorage. During the International Fleet Review in 2016, local boat operators had been given the opportunity, he said. "Restrictions will be in place only in the anchorage area. Fishermen can venture beyond that area for fishing." P. Lakshmana Rao Joint Director of Fisheries "Restrictions will be in place only in the anchorage area. Fishermen can venture beyond that area for fishing," Joint Director of Fisheries P. Lakshmana Rao said. He further said that the fishing harbour would not be closed completely, but they would not allow sale of fish or drying of fish on the roads leading to R.K Beach.

Andhra Pradesh: Migration of fisherfolk at its peak in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/migration-of-fisherfolk-at-its-peak-in-north-andhra-pradesh-jsp/article65048684.ece>

"Political Affairs Committee chairman Nadendla Manohar on Monday challenged Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to visit the coastal communities to see the reality of his

policies on employment. He claimed that the migration of fisherfolk in search of livelihood was at its peak in northern Andhra Pradesh. Speaking to newsmen at a press conference here, Mr. Manohar said that over 25,000 fisherfolk youth from Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts had migrated in search of employment. A majority of them migrated to Gujarat to eke out their livelihood in marine fishing. “We challenge the Chief Minister to visit the coastal communities to witness that nothing has been changed in terms of employment opportunities for the fisherfolk with his policies,” Mr. Manohar said. He asserted that the existing policies of the State government had led to the rise in unemployment. On Central aid offered to the fisherfolk groups for marine fishing, Mr. Manohar said the aid to buy nearly 150 boats was diverted to Gujarat after the State government cited non-availability of eligible beneficiaries. The financial aid for each boat is Rs.80 lakh. A State-level helpdesk of the party would start functioning from Tuesday to receive grievances of the fisherfolk. Presently, the help desk is dedicated to receiving the grievances on pending ‘annual fishing ban’ relief. “An estimated 2.5 lakh fisherfolk are directly and indirectly hit by the annual fishing ban on fishing in the State. Contrary to it, the State government identified barely 1.39 lakh fisherfolk for the relief package to compensate for the ban period. In reality, only 1.06 lakh beneficiaries received it last year”, said Mr. Manohar. The relief package is Rs.10,000 for each family that was affected by the annual 60-day fishing ban (April-June).

Andhra Pradesh: Policy on vending units harming fisherfolk’s livelihood

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/policy-on-vending-units-harming-fisherfolks-livelihood-alleges-jsp/article65045977.ece>

"Political Affairs Committee (PAC) chairman Nadendla Manohar on Sunday lamented that the State government’s policy on village fish vending units would eat up the livelihoods of more than 4.50 lakh fisherfolk. Mr. Manohar on Sunday launched the eight-day padayatra, titled Matsyakara Abhyunnathi Yatra, in Kakinada Rural in East Godavari district. It will conclude on the Narsapuram coast in West Godavari district on February 20. In Narsapuram, JSP chief K. Pawan Kalyan would announce the party’s policy on fisherfolk welfare and an action plan at a public meeting to be held on February 20. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the padayatra, Mr. Manohar stated that G.O. 217, which allows the setting up of fish vending units at the village-level, would have an adverse impact on coastal communities in general and the fisherfolk in particular. “Thousands of women are engaged in selling fish in the villages nearby the coast. The fisherfolk engaged in marine fishing would be the most affected section,” Mr. Manohar said. He expressed solidarity with the fisherfolk cooperative societies and assured that the party would fight against the proposal. Insurance “The Chief Minister had promised to offer ?10 lakh aid for

the death of fisherfolk at sea. Many eligible families are still waiting to get the compensation,” lamented Mr. Manohar. Mr. Manohar came down heavily on the government for failing to offer subsidy on diesel to boat operators. “A subsidy of Rs.9 is being given on 300 litres per boat. The subsidy must be extended up to 3,000 litres per month to enable lucrative fishing in the deep sea. The mechanised boat owners have been badly affected due to the steep rise in fuel prices,” Mr. Manohar said. On drinking water woes, Mr. Manohar claimed that nearly 560 coastal villages still lack access to safe drinking water in the Godavari region. Accompanied by the party’s East Godavari district president Kandula Durgesh and PAC member Pantham Nanaji and fisherfolk leaders were present.

Andhra Pradesh: A changing environment is forcing people to leave home

<https://science.thewire.in/environment/india-ghost-villages-changing-environment-forcing-people-leave-home/>

"Uppada is a coastal village in the East Godavari district, around 18 km north of the Kakinada port in Andhra Pradesh. The village has faced ingress of seawater over the past few years. Half of the shoreline of the village has hardly any sandy beach left. High tidal surges hit against the partially damaged houses at the edge of the village coast as the basement of these houses are slowly getting eroded into the sea. Villagers claim that there are more than 100 such ‘ghost’ houses here, which were earlier inhabited but are now abandoned because of the damages. “Now, around 100 such houses lie in compromised situations and can break away into the sea any day. In the last two decades, hundreds of houses including a village market, school, temple and a bus stand have gone into the sea due to cyclones and sea erosion,” said 40-year-old S. Prasad, a resident of Uppada where, he said, the total population is around 20,000. - Several houses along the eastern Indian coast have been impacted by constant sea erosion, cyclones and other environmental factors. Those living there have abandoned these houses. - Some living in these vulnerable areas, close to the Bay of Bengal, voluntarily moved as the tidal waves hit their homes, while others were resettled by the government. - Inter-state migration from such coastal hotspots has also been reported from Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and some other states. - Experts say that a lack of a concrete resettlement policy for such internally displaced population are making things worse for these communities.

N. Kishore, another resident of the village claimed that a large population of the village has resettled in other areas like Naikar colony, P. Lakshmi Colony, Vengageta colony. Extreme weather conditions, impacted livelihoods and triggered the displacement of people in the Uppada village where the majority of the households were engaged in the fishing trade. “The whole village has suffered huge losses. Anyone can still see how several houses are almost set to go into the sea any day in the village,” said Kishore. He explained that the government in the last few years has added geotubes to reduce the damage to the village due to sea erosion which helped in checking the damages to the village lying along the coastal periphery to some extent.

Geotubes are artificial structures packed together and placed on the coast to prevent sea ingress into the land. Geographically, Uppada lies to the north of Kakinada port and in close vicinity of rivers like Pedda and Upputeru which drain into the Bay of Bengal. Experts have often linked presence of ports and sea mouths as triggering factors for increased sea erosion. Uppada is not alone in Andhra Pradesh when it comes to sea erosion. Around 237 km away towards the north in the Srikakulam district, Kalingapatnam is known for harnessing a British era port and known for its tourist potential. The damage from sea erosion is quite evident here too.

“Kalingapatnam was earlier 500 meters away from the sea but now it comes just before the coast and started eroding our roads, beaches and its nearby structures. There was a road here which used to extend up to 500 metres away from the beach. Not half of it has been destroyed by the ingress of seawater into the village,” Kal Ishwar, a fisherman from Kalingapatnam told Mongabay-India. Vaspalli Suresh, another 62-year-old villager from Kalingapatnam said, “The area is now flooded. Our temple and crematorium have been engulfed by the sea. Several such structures went inside whereas such activities also hit the livelihood options for the local fisherman and also reduced the tourism potential of the site.” In Andhra Pradesh, out of its 974-km-long coastal stretch, regions such as Eastern and Western Godavari, Krishna and Guntur, Visakhapatnam are prone to erosion whereas the region between Kakinada to Uppada has seen severe damages due to coastal erosion. According to the estimates by Chennai-based National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), an autonomous institute of the Union government, 30% of the coast in Andhra Pradesh is prone to sea erosion which includes around 290 kms of the coast of the state. Extreme weather triggered displacement. Several pockets of areas along the coastal districts of Odisha are witness to years of suffering of the coastal communities who were forced to migrate sometimes even overnight. In Satabhaya in Kendrapara district, seven villages slowly got into the sea and later the communities were resettled in Bagapatia.

Take the example of faster erosion in Udayakani in the Puri district of Odisha. This village during 1999 saw sudden tidal surge leading to large scale inundation of their areas, forcing them to migrate. Similar is the tale of nearby Chhenua village which was resettled twice. Rabindra Nath Pradhan, resident of resettled Chhenua village, around two kms away from the sea coast now, told Mongabay-India that it was their own agricultural land once bought by their forefathers which helped them to resettle here as they did not get any land-related aid from the government. “We came here in 2000. Around 40 households were there in the village. All the houses got smashed in 1999 due to the severe cyclonic storm. All of them moved into the land. All were able to survive as the cyclone came during the day, otherwise, we might not have come out safely,” Pradhan said. Pradhan and other villages claimed that villagers of Chhenua and Udayakani had to take shelter temporarily close to the green belt along the coast with some help from the government before resettling to other areas after the construction of a few swelling units on their farmlands close to the beach. Villagers of Udayakani and Chhenua claimed the Odisha government gave around Rs. 22,000 to each of the affected families then but no land as

compensation. Gobind Pradhan, 85, a resident of Udayakani told Mongabay-India that the cyclones hitting their areas, sea erosion and floods have often taken a toll on their farming activities too besides impacting the overall health of the affected villages. “Due to extreme weather, the green belt between sea and the land has been destroyed. Many casuarina and mangrove forests are damaged and dried now.

Due to regular flooding, we cannot grow many crops here while the salinity of water in our areas has increased leading to problems in drinking water availability,” Pradhan said. Resettlement woes However, despite government assistance, resettlement of coastal areas especially among fishermen communities have been a Herculean task for the government too. In the Southern Odisha district of Ganjam, close to the Odisha-Andhra border, Ramayapatnam has faced the worst wrath of sea erosion. Here around 10 villages are in dilapidated condition and look vulnerable in any extreme weather condition. Here the government has constructed around 400 new houses in a nearby resettled colony for their safety but hardly five families have moved to those concrete houses provided with electricity, water and good roads. Mohini is a resident of Ramayapatnam and often helps his family in the fishing trade. Most other women in the village do the same work. She told Mongabay-India, “Very few of us moved to the resettled colony as most of the villagers here are involved in fishing and hardly anyone wants to go there as it will distance themselves from the seashore where they get easy access to the sea despite understanding the associated risks.”

Experts claim that several of the resettlements in Odisha and many other coastal states suffer due to a lack of vision and policy documents. Ranjan Panda, Water and Climate Change expert from Odisha told Mongabay-India, “Majority of coastal states of India lack a clear cut policy for resettlement. This comes when the people who get displaced under such conditions are often poor and marginalised.” This is because when the sea takes away your land, there is hardly any provision on paper to compensate it with land and money unlike, other cases where if a company or mining company takes your land you are compensated properly and this is happening when 40% of Odisha coast is prone to sea erosion.” He also advocated for an assessment of the land available near coasts where resettlement could be done, assessment of coastal displacement hotspots to ensure better planning for resettlement and climate mitigation adaptation plans. Migration and extreme weather Experts have also linked intrastate and interstate migration of people from the coastal regions of the country due to extreme weather. Bhubaneswar-based Umi Daniel, head of the migration unit of Aide et Action, an NGO claims that coastal populations are skill-based communities and often migrate to other states for better revenues. “In several coastal regions of Odisha people are seen migrating.

In the coastal district of Ganjam in Odisha, about 700,000 migrants are working in Surat. This is a huge number. It has a long history in migration. If you start from Balasore, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur to Puri, you will see migration is prominent,” he said. “Coastal Odisha is having

better education and also better skills. For instance, take the case of Pattamundai in the coastal district of Kendrapara. This is known in the country for harnessing highly skilled plumbers. You will find them across the country and they are very good at their work. They started moving out because of the skills they had. You will find people of coastal Odisha in Kerala, coastal Gujarat and other areas,” Daniel added. A study by the Centre for Migration and Labour Solutions in Odisha also claimed that in coastal Odisha districts the household level-migration is more where mostly the male members migrate to other areas leaving behind their family members and women who are dependent on the money sent by them. Daniel, who was part of the study, also talked about the onus on women in such coastal areas especially in financial hard times like the COVID-19 pandemic who are left alone to fend for themselves and their kids. He, however, claimed that cyclones and sea erosion are not alone linked to extreme weather-related migration. Other triggering environment factors

“Climate-induced weather is not linked to coastal areas. Areas in droughts, tribal areas also are affected due to migration. In Bolangir, there is 30 years of history of drought. Every second year you will see drought in the region. Here moisture reductions lead to crop failure. There are also triggering figures for migration and we see rampant migration from such areas too,” Daniel said. The theory of migration due to extreme weather in addition to erosion was also validated by Pratap Mohanty, Professor of the Department of Marine Sciences in Berhampur University in Ganjam district. Ganjam is said to be among the most migration-prone areas of Odisha. “Ganjam is a rainshadow region so it shows less rain. Agriculture here is not productive. Even if they engage in it they do not see much production and revenue. This is one of the reasons for migration from here. Erosion is not the only thing that triggers migration there are other environmental factors too like rain.

In Ganjam, migration is more from internal areas unlike coastal areas,” Mohanty told Mongabay-India. According to a 2021 study by ActionAid and Climate Action Network South Asia in India by the end of 2050, 45 million people will be forced to migrate to other areas due to extreme weather conditions. The study blamed the loss of farmlands of farmers, boats and other items during coastal Odisha as reasons for migration in this category while in Sunderbans in West Bengal collapse of traditional livelihoods, poverty, less infrastructure getting harmed by climatic factors were blamed behind climate-induced migration. Is climate change a reason? Mohanty has been researching coastal erosion along the Bay of Bengal for more than a decade and analysing the effect with the help of satellite images and regular ground observations along the Odisha coast. When asked which region along the Bay of Bengal is most prone to cyclones or sea erosion, he said it was Odisha because of its funnel type shape, presence of several river mouths, leading to higher sea surface temperature and shallowness of sea along the coast.

According to Mohanty, from 1891 to 2021, the coastal region in Odisha has seen 96 cyclones. The decade, in which it was highest, was between 1891 to 1900 when it witnessed a total of 20

cyclones. He claimed that data suggest that while the frequency of cyclones along the Odisha coast has decreased but their intensity has increased. Mohanty claimed that linking the increased intensity of cyclones with climate change directly would not be scientific. Debedatta Swain, Assistant Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar told Mongabay-India that “it is tough to link climate change with cyclones and sea erosion directly but if the global temperature is rising and subsequent sea levels rise, the impact will be directly on the coastal sites of India which could see a devastation of its coastal inhabitations,” According to a reply given by India’s federal government in the Indian Parliament, the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) monitors the changes in the shoreline of the Indian coast. The data claimed that it has identified 98 hotspots of sea erosion across the country whereas 59 of them are along the eastern India coastal states of Tamil Nadu (28), West Bengal (16), Andhra Pradesh (7), Odisha (5) and Puducherry (3). The list as per field experience claims that the list has only selected areas where the devastations are well recorded and ignores new emerging areas. Along to eastern Indian coast, several other regions such as Putturai, Muttam, Tiruchchendur, Kilathotam in Tamil Nadu, Sagar, Bagmara, Henry Island, Chaimari and others in West Bengal are also witnessing sea erosion and devastation due to extreme weather conditions.

Andhra Pradesh: NPSSF & DTFWF protests destruction of more than 500 acres of mangroves on Godavari River estuary

"More than 500 acres of mangroves are being cut down (photos attached) in Godavari River estuary near Gogulmattam in the district of East Godavari ostensibly for construction of hatcheries or food processing units. It is well known that mangroves serve as a protective shield against cyclones and coastal erosion. They also serve as nurseries for fish and reduce pollution load besides contributing in carbon sequestration and oxygen generation. These contributions have been officially recognised by the Government and there are statutory prohibitions on cutting down of mangroves that include the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification issued under the Environment Protection Act 1986. It is also evident from the scale of operation that the miscreants have direct connection with the Police and Administrative authorities without whose consent this kind of massive destruction could not go on for weeks together. The National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (NPSSF) and the Democratic Traditional Fishers Workers Forum (DTFWF) of Andhra Pradesh have written protest letters (copies attached) to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Chairman of the State Coastal Zone Management Authority of Andhra Pradesh, Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board and the Collector of East Godavari District to take immediate and effective steps to stop the destruction of mangroves and book the culprits including the government officials responsible for connivance. As a part of the campaign to protect mangroves and build up peoples' disapproval against the miscreants the local fishing community activists have prepared printed posters (copies attached) to be fixed on the door of every fisher household.

Andhra Pradesh: Nellore aqua farmers on cloud nine as shrimp prices shoot up

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2022/jan/22/nellore-aqua-farmers-on-cloud-nine-as-shrimp-prices-shoot-up-2409873.html>

"Aqua farmers in the district are overjoyed as the price for shrimp has increased significantly over the last two months. The price has shot up to Rs 1.5 lakh from Rs 1 lakh for one tonne of shrimp. Aqua culture has been taken up in approximately 30,000 hectares in 13 coastal mandals of Nellore district. It provides a direct source of livelihood to 40,000 farmers. While harvesting has been taken up in Kota, Vakadu, Chittampur, Chillakkur, Manubolu, Venkatachalam, Muthukur, Thotapalligudur, Indukurpeta, Kovur, Kodavalur, Vidavalur, Allur, Bogole and Kavali regions. Farmers are expecting a revenue of Rs 12,000 to Rs 13,000 crore this year. In the first phase of harvesting, 3.75 to 4 lakh tonnes yield was recorded. The second phase is underway and farmers expect to record a yield of approximately two lakh tonnes. Of the total, usually 90-95 per cent of local shrimp and prawns are exported to European countries, Middle East, the United States, Japan and others. With the rise in demand, the cost of shrimp has also increased over the last two months. While price of the 30 count shrimp increased to Rs 590 from Rs 450, the cost of 50 count shrimp shot up to Rs 405 from Rs 360. For the 70 and 100 count shrimp, the price has risen to Rs 340 and Rs 260 from Rs 300 and Rs 210. "There is now a good demand for shrimp in the open market resulting in the increase in prices over the last two months. Exports from the district have also begun with a good price this year. Farmers can now heave a sigh of relief," K Srihari Babu, a farmer from Vidavaluru mandal, said. Some of the farmers in the district have begun cultivating shrimp and fish in the same ponds. Majority of the mixed cultivation started with Roopchand fish. It has been giving good profits to the farmers. "We are getting orders from traders in Bengaluru for fishing products for the last one week. The price is also reasonable when compared to the last season. Majority of the fish products are being exported to Karanataka and also parts of Telangana," K Ramaswamy, a farmer from Indukurpeta mandal, said.

Andhra Pradesh: Families of deceased fishermen await promised ex gratia from government

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/families-deceased-fishermen-await-promised-ex-gratia-jagan-government-159950>

"Families of fishermen in Andhra Pradesh are eligible for an ex gratia of Rs 10 lakh in the case of accidental death while fishing under the YSR Matsyakara Bharosa scheme. Mosa Kanakaraju (54), a resident of Aminabad in East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh was out fishing at sea in his small boat, along with two of his sons, on December 2, 2020. As he cast his

net into the waters, he lost his balance and fell overboard. Despite trying their best, Kanakaraju's sons couldn't rescue him. The accidental death made the widow of the fisherman, Mosa Laxmi, eligible for ex gratia of Rs 10 lakh under the YSR Matsyakara Bharosa scheme – an amount that could never compensate for her husband's life but would be a big help to her family. However, over a year since applying for the ex gratia, the money has not been released to the family. Speaking to TNM, Mosa Rambabu, the eldest son of the deceased fisherman, said, "We have followed up several times with the officials in the Fisheries Department. The claim was sent from the district and was also sanctioned for release but we did not receive the money. My mother too visited the office several times. They keep assuring us that the money will come. Last we were told that the file is in the Finance Office," said Rambabu. Rambabu's family are not the only ones awaiting the release of ex gratia – nearly half the claims under the YSR Matsyakara Bharosa scheme are awaiting sanction of the eligible money.

Speaking to TNM, Kanna Babu, Fisheries Commissioner, revealed, "The department has received 116 total claims [from November 2019 to January 12, 2022] out of which 64 have been settled by sanctioning Rs 5 lakh each. The remaining 52 are yet to be cleared. The claims from April 2021 are awaiting clearance." The YSR Matsyakara Bharosa was launched by Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy in November 2019. The scheme enhanced the existing Rs 5 lakh ex gratia that was being given to the families of deceased fishermen to Rs 10 lakh. Explaining the process, a Joint Director of Fisheries from one of the districts said, "Before the launch of this scheme, the deceased fishermen's families were eligible for only Rs 5 lakh. After this scheme was launched, in the case of death, the fishermen's families are now eligible for a total of Rs 10 lakh, Rs 5 lakh from the fisheries department and Rs 5 lakh from the labour department." All fishermen between 18-60 years of age are eligible for the ex gratia in the case of accidental death while at sea. Under this scheme, they are also extended other subsidies and financial assistance. The scheme provided a diesel subsidy for fishermen and financial assistance during the annual fishing ban period between April and June...

Andhra Pradesh: Fishing ports to get infra boost at Rs 18,000 crore

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/politics/180122/aps-three-ports-nine-fishing-harbours-to-get-infra-boost-at-rs-18.html>

"Industries minister Mekapati Goutham said on Monday that works on three ports and nine fishing harbours will be taken up at a cost of Rs 18,000 crore in Andhra Pradesh. Taking part in a PM Gati Sakthi programme to explain the national master plan for multimodal connectivity, held virtually by the Union minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari, the state minister said the AP government had been according top priority to providing all basic transport facilities and is exploring new avenues to further the cause. Referring to AP's Panchasutras, the minister said. "We would develop ports and waterways, strengthen the telecom sector with fiber cable network, adopt new ways to enhance power generation and distribution,

link regional airways under the Udan scheme to ports and interlink roads under the Bharatmala scheme, and expand freight transport systems to reduce transport charges.” The minister said the AP government was ahead of other states in enhancing maritime-based wealth in addition to creating amenities at ports. “We are among the best in developing roads, rail routes and sea ports connecting airports so that multimodal transport cargo hubs and expansion of supply of natural gases would help the state achieve industrial and economic growth.” The minister said three ports -- Bhavanapadu, Machilipatnam and Ramayapatnam -- and nine fishing harbours are being set up in the state at a cost of Rs 18,000 crore. “We are also developing three industrial corridors --the Visakhapatnam-Chennai, the Chennai-Bengaluru and the Bengaluru-Hyderabad -- connecting all the districts in the state so that we can provide employment opportunity to the youths and develop the roads system, water families and power supply.”

Meanwhile, the Centre has asked the state governments that each of them appoint a nodal officer to coordinate the implementation of the PM Gati Sakthi programme. The states have been asked to submit their opinions on the programme by March 2022.

Andhra Pradesh: How aquaculture turned Kolleru Lake, known for its biodiversity, into fish ponds

<https://science.thewire.in/environment/how-aquaculture-turned-kolleru-lake-known-for-its-biodiversity-into-fish-ponds/>

"Until the 1980s, Kolleru Lake was a sprawling shallow body of water. At its deepest point during the monsoon season, the water only reached 10 feet, yet the lake covered a surface area of 904 sq. km. Located in the southeast state of Andhra Pradesh, Kolleru was among India's largest freshwater lakes. Known for its biodiversity, the lake was a popular stopover for migratory birds, such as flamingos, which fed from the shallows. Humans, too, derived sustenance from the lake: not just a wide variety of fish, but also rice. Local residents would sow seeds in the summer during the monsoon season and then harvest the rice later in the year, when the lake's boundaries had receded. - Until the 1980s, Kolleru Lake was a sprawling shallow body of water. At its deepest during the monsoon, the water only reached 10 feet, yet the lake covered 904 sq. km. - Today, many of the rice paddies farmers used to plant in the lake are gone, and the flamingos are beginning to disappear, too, along with a myriad other bird species. - As the local carp and shrimp industry expanded, the fish ponds to harvest them have been built farther into the lake, and the water has been severely degraded. Until the 1980s, Kolleru Lake was a sprawling shallow body of water. At its deepest point during the monsoon season, the water only reached 10 feet, yet the lake covered a surface area of 904 sq. km. Located in the southeast state of Andhra Pradesh, Kolleru was among India's largest freshwater lakes. Known for its biodiversity, the lake was a popular stopover for migratory birds, such as flamingos, which

fed from the shallows.

Humans, too, derived sustenance from the lake: not just a wide variety of fish, but also rice. Local residents would sow seeds in the summer during the monsoon season and then harvest the rice later in the year, when the lake's boundaries had receded. Today, many of those rice paddies are gone, and the flamingos are beginning to disappear, too, along with a myriad other bird species. Instead, the region is marked with houses, shops, roads, and human-made ponds. On any given day, fish farmers tend to their stocks – tossing feed into the water, extending nets, and otherwise contributing to a growing aquaculture industry centered on carp and shrimp. As this industry has expanded, it has fundamentally reshaped the region's topography. These fish ponds, once limited to the shoreline and shallows, are now being built farther and farther into the lake. As a result, scientists say, the water has been severely degraded. And not only that: What remains for most of the year cannot rightly be called a lake. "Open water we can see only during the monsoon period," said Meena Kumari Kolli, a geography researcher who earned her PhD from the University of Marburg in Germany. Kolli has used GIS mapping techniques to study how the region has changed over the past few decades. Outside of the rainy season, she said, there are now only fish ponds, dry marshlands, and weeds – "the lake actually doesn't exist." Aquaculture is the fastest growing food production industry in the world, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, and India ranks second globally in aquaculture fish production, contributing more than 8 percent of the world's farm-raised fish. Indian aquaculture has developed rapidly over the past few decades, said Joeri Scholtens, a fisheries researcher and an assistant professor at the University of Amsterdam.

Scholtens says that this kind of rapid growth is unique to India and was possible only because of the nation's abundant natural resources and government subsidies. The subsidies were part of the country's Blue Revolution, a program initiated by the central government in the 1980s to boost the economy by increasing production of marine products. That rapid development is a double-edged sword in Andhra Pradesh, India's top seafood exporter. Local communities overwhelmingly support aquaculture's expansion, but they also lament the loss of the lake as a source of food and drinking water. Scientists, meanwhile, insist that industry must be curtailed. They point not just to the pollution, but also to the dramatic declines in native fishes and migratory birds. The ecological imbalance will only get worse, they say, if the region's aquaculture is allowed to expand.

Andhra Pradesh: Curbs in Vizag villages lifted, panel formed to solve ring net fishing row

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2022/jan/10/curbs-in-vizag-villages-lifted-panel-formed-to-solve-ring-net-fishing-row-2405116.html>

"Prohibitory orders clamped on six fishermen villages following violent incidents over ring net fishing will be lifted on Monday. The ban on fishing by traditional and ring net

fishermen will also be lifted as per the decision taken at a high level talks held with fishermen by a group of ministers here on Sunday. Briefing mediapersons after the meeting, ministers Kurasala Kannababu, Sidiri Appalaraju and Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao said a committee with both traditional and ring net fishermen and officials was formed to find a solution to the contentious issue of fishing. There will be six members from each fishermen group in the committee, which will be headed by joint collector M Venugopala Reddy. Marine SP, law and order DSP and fisheries joint director will be its members. The minister hoped the committee will find an amicable solution to the issue before January 20. He said the ban on fishing on the coast has been lifted. Earlier speaking at the meeting, YSRC MP Vijayasai Reddy said there was a need to find the root cause of the problem. Kanna Babu said Vizag is known as a peaceful district. The meeting with fishermen by the ministers and Vijayasai Reddy was organised as per directive of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. Fishermen should cooperate in finding a peaceful solution to the problem, he demanded. Muttamsetti said the problem should be solved keeping the interests of the fishermen community in view. District collector A Mallikharjuna said everyone should exercise restraint to help the committee find a solution to the problem. Stringent action will be taken if there is any conflict between the groups, he warned. Commissioner of police Manish Kumar Sinha said till the committee finds a solution to the problem, directives of the High Court will be implemented. DIG Ranga Rao, MLA Vasupalli Ganesh Kumar, fishermen corporation chairman Kola Guruvulu and fishermen leaders were present. Fishing ban lifted Traditional fishermen can do fishing along the coast. Ringnet boats having transponders will be allowed fishing beyond 8 km from the coast. Action will be taken if anyone violates the guidelines.

Andhra Pradesh: Association wants commission to check fish availability

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2022/jan/10/assn-wants-commission-to-check-fish-availability-2405117.html>

"Expressing shock and anguish over the bloody conflict between traditional small fishing communities and those fishing with ring seines made of smaller mesh size nets and equipped with sonar fish finders, National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (NPSSFW) demanded constitution of a commission with the participating of small and traditional fishing communities to assess the situation including availability of fish stock, sustainable fishing and the livelihood priorities. In a press release, NPSSFW convener Pradip Chatterjee and Democratic Traditional Fishers Workers Forum general secretary D Pal said with over-fishing by mechanized boats, the share of small-scale traditional fishing communities has dwindled from more than 85 per cent of the total marine catch in 1960 to less than 18 per cent in 2019-20. Such a situation in Kerala saw sharp decline of Oil Sardines after 2012.

Andhra Pradesh: Post clashes, fishing ban hits Vizag coast

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/post-clashes-fishing-ban-hits-vizag-coast/articleshow/88741548.cms>

"The simmering discontent between the traditional fishermen and those using ring nets has resulted in fishing ban threatening the livelihood of community members ahead of the Sankranti festival. This also means that seafood lovers may miss their favourite dishes for some time. It may be recalled that tension prevailed at Vasavanipalem, a fishing hamlet in the coastal area of Vizag city on Tuesday, after two groups of fishermen clashed over use of ring nets. Six boats belonging to the two groups were damaged after some set them on fire. Eight persons were injured in the incident. The clash broke out between the fishermen of Chinajalaripeta and Pedajalaripeta over the use of ring nets in the restricted area of Bay of Bengal. The use of ring nets is banned by the AP government within 8 km from the coast. When a group of fishermen with ring nets were venturing into the waters for fishing in the restricted area, the other group with traditional nets protested and entered into a heated argument with them, both on the coast as well as in the sea. The argument led to clashes causing damage to the boats. "Normally, we earn between Rs 500 and Rs 700 a day by catching fish and selling them in the market. The demand for fresh sea fish is high in Vizag city. Now, we may lose our livelihood for some time as the district administration has imposed ban on fishing. We don't know how many days the ban will continue," said V Yellaji, a fisherman who uses traditional fishing net. "Over 10,000 fishermen depend on motorboats and traditional nets for fishing. But some use ring nets illegally. The clash has impacted our livelihoods. We are appealing the district administration to form a special team to seize the 70 ring nets in use and protect the livelihood of thousands of fishermen who use traditional nets," said T Parasayya, leader of the fisherfolk community. "Ring nets deplete the fish stock as the nets catch small ones too. There is a need for a total ban on ring nets to save the marine species and to protect the livelihood of fishermen community," said Ch Satyanarayana Murthy, president of Dolphin Boat Operators' Welfare Association.

Andhra Pradesh: Development works at the fishing harbour to benefit fishermen

<http://www.uniindia.com/development-works-at-the-fishing-harbour-to-benefit-fishermen-ap-minister-kannababu/south/news/2614219.html>

"Andhra Pradesh Minister for Agriculture, Cooperatives, Marketing and food processing Kurasala Kannababu has said that developmental works would be taken up in fishing harbour and also along the coast to benefit the fishermen. During his visit to fishing harbour at Vakalapudi on Thursday along with MP Vanga Geeta Viswanath, Special secretary agriculture Poonam Malakondaiah, fisheries commissioner K. Kannababu, civil supplies corporation MD G. Virapandyan, district collector Chevuri Harikiran and Joint collector Revenue wing Sumith Kumar, the Minister has interacted with the fishermen on their problems, He also interacted with the officials on the need for fishing harbour modernization with a fool proof action plan. Special secretary Poonam Malakondaiah said that fishing harbour would be modernized at a cost of

Rs.10 Crores. She said arranging of sheds, dredging and marketing facilities besides development of approach roads to the fishing harbour would be taken up. Since aqua hubs are coming up state wide, she said, arrangements would be made from this harbour for fish supply especially the dried fish to those hubs. Efforts are also being made to set up processing units with the partnership of fishermen, she added.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishing harbour nearing completion

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/fishing-harbour-nearing-completion/article38160666.ece>

"The State government is preparing to commission the Ameenabad fishing harbour on the Kakinada coast by the year-end as the construction activity is likely to be completed by September. Special Chief Secretary (Agriculture) Poonam Malakondaiah, Fisheries Department Commissioner K. Kannababu and Kakinada MP V. Geetha on Thursday inspected the ongoing construction work at the harbour site at Ameenabad in East Godavari district. The authorities of MRKR Constructions and Industries Private Limited, the executing agency, explained to them the status of the project which facilitates anchoring of 2,500 fishing boats and provide employment to nearly 50,000 families directly and indirectly. Fisheries Corporation director T. Maremma, joint director of Fisheries N. Vijaya Kumar and other officials were present.

Andhra Pradesh: Coastal fishing banned indefinitely in Visakhapatnam

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/060122/coastal-fishing-banned-indefinitely-in-visakhapatnam.html>

"Barring bigger vessels sailing out from the harbour, Visakhapatnam district administration has banned fishing along the coast from Peda Gantyada to Bheemli, a stretch of 55 kilometres, for an indefinite period. The ban is owing to ongoing tussle overuse of ring nets within the eight-km coastal zone in Bay of Bengal. The announcement comes just about a week before Sankranti, which is going to affect the livelihoods of fisherfolk running into thousands. Enforcing the ban are riot police and regular policemen of four police stations, who have fanned into fishing villages of Peda Jalaripeta, Vasuvanipalem and Jodugullapalem, where prohibitory orders under Section 144 are in force. In addition, there are two patrol boats on the sea implementing ban orders. "The government is very particular about conserving marine life. We are hence implementing orders of High Court and state government, as well as suggestions of technical committee, which has prohibited use of ring nets within eight kilometres of the shore," fisheries joint director P. Lakshamana Rao said on Thursday. He told Deccan Chronicle that

there are 83 ring nets in Visakhapatnam, 11 of them licensed. Licenses of eight of these nets have been cancelled and three have not been renewed. This follows government orders not to renew or issue fresh licenses for use of ring nets, Lakshamana Rao underlined. Ring nets are used by nearly 2,000 of about 10,000 traditional fisherfolk in Visakhapatnam.

With limited resources and manpower, it is difficult for Fisheries Department to keep a tab on ring nets. Ring nets are mostly used in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts of the state. "We will allow fishing after peace returns to the area. Even when we allow it, ring net boats will have to operate beyond eight kilometres, failing which we will invoke AP Marine Fishing Regulation Act and take action against erring fishermen, Lakshamana Rao declared. Peda Jalaripeta village president Teddu Parsanna told this correspondent that they have made ring nets an issue as they had been affecting their livelihood. "If ring net owners take away the entire fish, what will the remaining 10,000 fisherfolk families get from traditional fishing," he asked. Parsanna underlined that they are only demanding implementation of the High Court order on use of ring nets. Government must look into the matter and save their livelihoods, he stated.

Andhra Pradesh: Two fishermen leaders held for clashes in Visakhapatnam

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/2-fishermen-leaders-held-for-clashes/articleshow/88721877.cms>

"Coastal police arrested two fishermen leaders for their alleged involvement in setting fishing boats on fire in the Bay of Bengal. Government authorities are now trying to pacify the traditional fishermen and also the ring net fishermen who chased each other in the blue waters on Tuesday. It may be recalled that around six boats were either partially or fully damaged after a few fishermen set them on fire on Tuesday. Tension has gripped villages including Vasavanipalem, Mangamaripeta, Chepaluppada, Jalari Yendada and Peda Jalaripeta areas. Section 144 of Cr.PC is clamped in the villages. Fisheries minister Sidiri Appala Raju, along with minister M Srinivasa Rao, district collector, and police commissioner urged the fishermen to go fishing with coordination. He said fishermen should follow rules and regulations. He added a technical committee has been formed with state and Central government employees to resolve the problem. Persons who have boats under Marine Fisheries Regular Act should have licences for the nets. Fisheries department commissioner K Kannababu said ring nets should be used beyond 8 km jurisdiction. City police chief Manish Kumar Sinha told TOI that cops would follow the high court order on the issue. "Fishing is banned for some time as Section 145 has been imposed by the district collector."

Andhra Pradesh: Tension grips Vasavanipalem as two fishermen groups clash over use of ring net

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/tension-grips-vasavanipalem-as-two-fishermen-groups-clash-over-use-of-ring-nets/article38113263.ece>

"Tension gripped Vasavanipalem area, a fishing hamlet in the coastal area of Visakhapatnam city, as two groups of fishermen clashed over the use of ring nets in the restricted area of Bay of Bengal on Tuesday. According to the police, eight persons were injured in the clash and five boats belonging to both the groups were burnt. The clash broke out between the fishermen of Chinajalaripeta and Pedajalaripeta. The use of ring nets has been banned by the State government within 8 km from the coast. But according to one group of fishermen, the other group has been continuing the practice. It was allegedly affecting the fish catch of the group using the traditional fishing nets. On Tuesday, a group of fishermen with ring nets ventured into the waters in their boats for fishing, in the restricted area. Upon knowing about the development, the other group of fishermen, who use traditional nets, entered into a heated argument on the coast as well as in the water. The group using traditional nets rushed into the waters with their boats and surrounded the boats using ring nets.

After a heated argument, the group poured petrol and diesel on the boats of the other group and set the boats afire. Thereafter, the other group retaliated and burnt a couple of boats belonging to the rival group. In the incident, five boats were gutted and eight fishermen were injured, said IG (Visakhapatnam range) L.K.V. Ranga Rao. The police had to deploy a huge force of about 200 men, including from the armed reserve and Coastal Police, to bring the situation under control. Till late in the evening no arrests were made, but the police have booked cases under various IPC Sections of assault, rioting and destruction of properties. Though the police force was able to separate the clashing groups on the shore, they found it difficult to bring the situation under control in the mid sea. Even Coast Guard had to intervene and send its fast attack boats and helicopters to control the situation. More than 12 villages in the district have been opposing the use of ring nets citing that the nets catch small fish, leading to depletion of marine life. The nets also harm endangered marine species such as Olive Ridley turtles.

Andhra Pradesh: 'Reovirus' wreaks havoc on wild crab cultivation

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/reovirus-wreaks-havoc-on-wild-crab-cultivation-in-ap/article38121084.ece>

"Mud Crab Reovirus (MCRV) has been found to be the reason for the mass mortality of wild crab (*Scylla serrate*) in Andhra Pradesh. Joint research by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) and Centre for Advanced Study in Marine Biology (Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu) has confirmed the presence of MCRV in the samples collected from Nagayalanka fields and open markets in Krishna district. Since 2019, the mortalities were noticed by the MSSRF in the areas of Machilipatnam and Nagayalanka in Krishna district. MCRV, also known

as Sleeping Disease, has taken a toll on wild crab in every farming method; crab fattening and crab polyculture in which shrimp and wild crab are cultured in the same pond and exclusive mud crab ponds. In 2014, the Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA-Chennai) introduced the crab fattening technology in Andhra Pradesh. Nature of virus “MCRV is responsible for the mass mortality of wild crabs. The viral pathogen belongs to the family of ‘Reoviridae’. It mainly affects the connective tissue of hepatopancreas, gills, and intestine,” SSRF Director (Coastal Systems Research) Dr. Ramasubramanian and Dr. Ayyagari Gopalakrishnan (Annamalai University) said. In 2007, the MCRV paralysed the wild crab species cultivation in China.

Andhra case A group of wild crab farmers recently appealed to the CIBA-Chennai Scientists to help decide the future course of action in the wake of rising mortality of the wild crab in the Diviseema region of Krishna district. “We are still to get any word from the CIBA scientists on the measures to tackle the mass mortality and management of the existing ponds,” Nagayalanka-based brackishwater farmers told The Hindu. According to the A.P. State Fisheries Department, the total area under wild crab cultivation in Andhra Pradesh is around 25,000 acres including 4,500 acres in Krishna district by 2019. The wild crab cultivation is in the districts of Nellore, Prakasam, Guntur, Krishna, and Godavari districts. Beginning from 2019, at least 60% of cultivation has been affected due to mass mortality in the State. Wild crab is directly exported to the South-east Asia region from coastal Andhra Pradesh. However, it has a large market in Europe, according to MSSRF.

Andhra Pradesh: Harbours to come up in all coastal districts

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/srikakulam-harbours-to-come-up-in-all-coastal-districts-722459>

"Harbours will be constructed in all the nine coastal districts in the state for effective use of sea resources, said minister for animal husbandry and fisheries S Appala Raju. He laid the foundation for stone for bridge across local rivulet Upputeru between coastal villages of Padapanapeta and Sunkaripalem in Gara mandal on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, the minister explained that the government was seriously thinking of making use of natural resources along the sea coast and was planning to establish harbours as part of the plans. ""Currently we have only two harbours in the state though we have 988 km long sea coast. The government is committed to the development of aqua zones to improve fisheries in coastal villages,"" he said. He asked officials to identify suitable areas for aquaculture zones. District collector Srikesh B Lathakar, fisheries department officials and local YSRCP leaders attended.

Andhra Pradesh: Apply for fish vending units: Government

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2021/dec/28/apply-for-fish->

[vending-units-andhra-pradesh-government-2400416.html](#)

"The fisheries department has appealed to youth and fishermen to apply for mini-fish vending units at their respective secretariats in Nellore district. The department has identified four aqua hubs in the district--at Nellore, Kavali, Atmakur and Gudur--under the Fish Andhra' scheme that aims to provide employment to unemployed youths. Each aqua hub will consist of 250 vending units, thereby allowing even people from the upland mandals such as Udayagiri, Marripadu and Atmakur to get fresh fish and prawns. "The vending units will ensure fair price for aqua products and also benefit the unemployed youths in the district. Even the consumers will get quality products. The process for receiving requests for fish vending units is underway. Volunteers at ward/village secretariats are accepting the applications," said joint director-fisheries Nageswar Rao.

Andhra Pradesh: Uphold traditional fishermen's rights, union urges State government

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/uphold-traditional-fishermens-rights-union-urges-state-govt/article37956399.ece>

"Fishermen from across South Coastal Andhra Pradesh have decided to step up their agitation demanding that the State government ensure implementation of the Andhra Pradesh Marine Fishing (Regulation) Act in letter and spirit with a view to protecting the fishing rights of traditional fishermen along the vast coastline allegedly encroached upon by their counterparts from Tamil Nadu. Fishermen from over 250 coastal villages in the region, including more than 160 villages in Nellore district and over 70 villages in Prakasam district, suffered a huge loss followed alleged incursions by their counterparts in the neighbouring State within eight nautical miles from the shore reserved for traditional fishermen, complained a group of fishermen who met here under the banner of 'Samudra Theera Matsya Karima Union' to chalk out an agitation programme. Using sophisticated boats fitted with high-speed engines, fishermen from Cuddalore, Nagapatinam and Thuthookudi in Tamil Nadu and from Puducherry are not only taking away their catch but are also damaging their fishing nets forcing them to incur huge losses, according to union president M. Zakaria.

Their repeated pleas to the State government to hold high-level talks with Tamil Nadu have gone in vain, complained a community leader A.V. Ramana from the coastal village of Chakicherla, near Ulavapadu in Prakasam district, on Tuesday. Hence, they have decided to hold protest meetings at the mandal and district levels to exert pressure on the government to come to their rescue, they said after calling on Fisheries Joint Director Chandrasekhara Reddy here. The fishermen wanted the marine police to stop fishermen from the neighbouring State in the high seas and protect their livelihood. Each time their fishing nets are damaged, they lose their livelihood for 10 to 15 days and incur additional costs on purchasing new fishing nets, they rued. Fearing steep losses, some of them have stopped going into the sea for fishing, they said. They also

decided to pool funds from the affected villages for the purchase of boats with high-speed engines for patrolling in the high seas.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishermen harrassed by Tamil Nadu mechanical boat operartors

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/ap-fishermen-harrassed-by-tamil-nadu-mechanical-boat-operartors-719459>

"Urging the government to intervene, the fishermen from coastal districts of Nellore, Prakasam and Guntur districts on Sunday said that the the mechanised boats and trawlers from Talmil Nadu are attacking and damaging boats their boats. The fishermen from these districts also alleged that the mechanised boats from Tamil Nadu are damaging their nets, boats and even attacking them personally. They are demanding the State government to implement the Andhra Pradesh Marine Fishing (regulation) Act, 1995 in true spirit and protect them from the atrocities of the fishermen syndicate of the Tamil Nadu. The Andhra Pradesh government announced up to 8 kilometres of the sea as the reserved zone for traditional crafts, and any authorised officer can seize mechanized fishing trawlers or vessels. Also, the mechanized vessels of length 15 meters and above, with weight more than 25 tonnes also should not fish in the reserved waters. But the heavy mechanised boats with powerful engines from Union Territory Puducherry, Cuddalore, Nagapatnam, Tuttukudi and other places of Tamil Nadu are venturing into the reserved zone for the traditional wood crafts in the Andhra Pradesh area and are damaging the boats and nets, alleged the fishermen leaders.

The leaders of the 'Samudratheera Matsyakara Karmika Union' from the Nellore, Prakasam and Guntur districts, including their president M Jakraiah, vice president G Demudu, treasurer Avula Venkataramana explained that the traditional fishermen from the coastal villages are fishing in the sea with the country crafts and boats made by wood for generations. They said that they used to have a good rapport with the fishermen community in Tamil Nadu also and they used to cooperate with one another. However, for the last few years, the fishing companies in southern Tamil Nadu brought fishing trawlers of length more than 15 meters and run with 500HP motors to fish along the coastal line of south India. Venkataramana said that as the traditional fishermen, they lay nets of length about 100 meters by tying between two boats or using floats in the evening and bringing the catch in the mornings. But, the heavy trawlers from Tamil Nadu are damaging the nets and taking away the catch, he complained. He said that the local fishermen are facing threats from the Tamil Nadu boat drivers and fishermen and they even tried to run over the boats. He explained that they are spending lakhs of rupees on boats and nets, and will lose livelihood for weeks and even months until they are repaired or brought new ones after the Tamil Nadu boats damage them. Venkataramana and others said that the local fishermen are vexed by

the steel made heavy and powerful fishing trawlers fishing in the Andhra Pradesh region, and no official has resolved their complaints for months.

They said that the Kerala state, in which fishing and consumption of marine products is high, is strictly implementing and penalising the Tamil Nadu trawlers, and that is why they are venturing into the Andhra Pradesh region. They demanded the government to strictly implement the AP MFR Act and see no mechanized boat, even from Andhra Pradesh, fish in the reserved region. They demanded the government to equip the marine police and coastguard with speed boats so that they could patrol on the sea and stop the Tamil Nadu boats from venturing into the AP region. The fishermen from the Nellore, Prakasam and Guntur districts are assembling at the Dr BR Ambedkar Bhavan in Ongole on Monday to discuss their further course of action and invited the local fishing officials also to the meeting. The fishermen leaders are of the opinion that when the government is not able to protect them and listen to their pleas, they may also not respect its instructions like paying registration charges for the boats, taking voluntary breaks from fishing, etc.

Andhra Pradesh: Fisheries policy beneficial to corporates only

<https://www.thehansindia.com/news/cities/visakhapatnam/visakhapatnam-fisheries-policy-beneficial-to-corporates-only-718636>

"The livelihood of the fishermen is unsafe and the fisheries procurement process is giving way to many doubts, pointed out All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) national general secretary Amarjeet Kaur. Speaking at a 'Chalo Delhi' event organised here on Tuesday, she said the fisheries policy released by the Union government for the integrated development of fishermen was a boon to the businessmen and a bane to the traditional fishermen. She opined that the guidelines indicate that the fishermen would continue to be fishermen forever. If the fisheries procurement is done in public-private partnership, it would be beneficial to national, international private companies, said Amarjeet Kaur. She alleged that pollution continues to harm fish, and the government departments indulge in the blame-game. National president of All India Fisheries Workers Union J V Satyanarayana Murthy alleged that the government policy looked like a threat to the very survival of fishermen. He criticised the government for being negligent towards fishermen and called upon the community to fight for its rights. Satyanarayana Murthy raised an objection that it was unsafe and risky to connect to international markets without carrying out any comprehensive analysis. He said the action plan announced by the Andhra Pradesh government would not do any favour to the fishermen and that they would not be given adequate incentives. General secretary of All India Fisheries Workers Union P Raju demanded a special ministry for fishermen and fisheries universities across the country. CPI leader and Rajya Sabha member Binoy Viswam, national working committee members and samiti members were present.

Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal: Cyclone Jawad: IMD issues red alert; ‘very heavy’ rainfall likely in 3 states tomorrow

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/cyclone-jawad-imd-issues-red-alert-very-heavy-rainfall-likely-in-3-states-tomorrow-10-points-11638495996137.html>

"Issuing extensive warning in the view of Cyclone Jawad, India Meteorological Department (IMD), it is likely to touch the coast near Puri in Odisha around noon on 5 December. Earlier in the morning, the weather office said, depression over Bay of Bengal intensified into deep depression and likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm during next 12 hours. Meanwhile, heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected in Odisha, parts of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal in the next few days. IMD has been issuing regular bulletins with the latest forecast to all the concerned States. What we know so far: 1) IMD said Cyclone Jawad is likely to hit the coast of North Andhra Pradesh-Odisha around the morning of December 4. Very heavy rainfall is likely to start in north coastal Andhra Pradesh and south coastal Odisha by Friday evening. The intensity of rainfall is likely to increase on Saturday. 2) Odisha: Red alert has been issued for 4 Odisha districts, Orange alert for 7 and Yellow alert for 4 districts predicting ‘heavy’ to ‘very heavy’ rainfall. Fishing activities will remain prohibited till 5 December. Odisha is likely to be the worst-affected state. 3) In Odisha, as many as 266 rescue teams including National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Fire Services and Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force will be deployed in coastal districts. 4) Umashankar Das, a scientist at the IMD, as quoted by ANI, said advised people to remain indoors. Das also said that the wind speed in coastal areas would be around 60-80 kmph from the afternoon of December 4. There is a possibility of landslides in hilly areas. 5) East Coast Railway has decided to cancel as many as 95 trains. It further said in a tweet, as per forecast of Met Dept., Cyclone 'Jawad' may hit Odisha on 3rd - 4th Dec. For the safety of passengers 95 Trains originating from different destination and passing over ECoR and originating from ECoR have been cancelled. 6) West Bengal: Heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected in parts of West Bengal from 3 to 6 December, the weather office said. The NDRF has deployed eight teams in state - 2 teams have been deployed in Kolkata and one each in South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, East Midnapore, West Midnapore, Hooghly, and Nadia. 7) Andhra Pradesh: In view of the cyclone, all schools across the Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam districts will be closed today and tomorrow. Around 65 ongoing trains were cancelled from the Visakhapatnam district for Dec 3 & 4, a senior official said. 8) Jharkhand: Cyclone Jawad is likely to have moderate impact in Jharkhand. IMD officials said that no warning had been issued for Jharkhand in view of the cyclone. Light rainfall is expected in some districts between 3 to 6 December. 9) On Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a review meeting with senior officials on Jawad. As per his office, the PM Modi directed officials to take every possible measure to ensure that people are safely evacuated

and to ensure maintenance of all essential services such as Power, Telecommunications, health, drinking water etc. and that they are restored immediately in the event of any disruption.

Andhra Pradesh: Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam to receive rain amid cyclone

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/weather-alert-visakhapatnam-vizianagaram-srikakulam-to-receive-rain-amid-cyclone-717691>

"A low-pressure area formed in the vicinity of southern Thailand on Tuesday morning. It entered the Andaman Sea area at night and then travel west-northwest and will strengthen on Thursday entering the southeastern and eastern central Bay of Bengal. It is expected to move northwest on Friday and turn into a cyclone, which is expected to make landfall on Saturday morning. The meteorological department said the cyclone was unlikely to cross the coast in north Coastal Andhra and would move towards West Bengal and Bangladesh. The winds are expected to reach 70-80 kmph on Saturday and fishermen have been warned not to go fishing in the sea till Friday. The cyclone is expected to have a severe impact on north Coastal Andhra districts Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, and Srikakulam districts from Friday. There is a chance of showers in some places, heavy showers in other places on the 4th. Authorities have suggested postponing the rice harvest from Srikakulam to the West Godavari district. Heavy rains were also expected in East and West Godavari districts and moderate rains in the southern coastal districts and Rayalaseema. Nellore, Chittoor, Kadapa, and Anantapur districts have already been hit by heavy rains for the past two weeks. Now the concern began with the news that the cyclone would have an impact on north Coastal Andhra.

Andhra Pradesh: Dip in fish variety fuels fishermen exodus

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/dip-in-fish-variety-fuels-fishermen-exodus-in-andhra-pradesh/articleshow/87596623.cms>

"As many as 20 varieties of fish have disappeared from the coastal waters off Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh in the last two decades, hitting the livelihoods of thousands of fishermen and further fuelling migrations. The decrease in varieties of available fish has mostly affected fishermen using traditional boats, forcing an exodus of an estimated 5,000 from the community in recent times. The varieties that command a high price in the local market are no longer found near the coastal belt, and traditional fishermen do not go beyond five nautical miles into the sea. Officials of the fisheries department say a change in the sea temperature has caused several fish varieties to migrate to relatively cool areas. Pollution in the Prakasam coast is also believed to be another reason for the fish to move away. Among the fish no longer found in coastal waters are eel, milk fish, spotted snakehead, catfish, flathead, grunter, Indian shad, and Indian carp, says senior fisheries scientist Anantha Nagesh Babu. "The price of Pulasa (Hilsa) is going through the roof because its availability has dipped," he adds. Another common fish,

Murrel, has now become a rare breed. “We used to sell Murrel for Rs 100 per kg about five years ago. Now, the price has gone up to Rs 600. But there is not enough catch,” says Srinivasa Rao, a fisherman . Says Nagesh Babu, “Due to changing climatic conditions coupled with anthropogenic activities like sea pollution, these fish are either disappearing or migrating to safe locations away from coastal waters.” “We used to get stock worth Rs 1.5 lakh after six days of fishing. After meeting the boating expenses, we were left with about Rs 80,000 to Rs 90,000. A team of seven fishermen would share the amount. That was about a decade ago. Now, we do not get even Rs 5,000 each after a trip,” says Jaladi Samson, a fisherman from Vodarevu.

Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh: Farmers, fishermen alert: IMD predicts extremely heavy rains

<https://krishijagran.com/news/farmers-fishermen-alert-imd-predicts-extremely-heavy-rains-in-parts-of-tamil-nadu-andhra-pradesh/>

"On November 10 and 11, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted unusually heavy rain in various regions of Tamil Nadu and neighboring Andhra Pradesh. Due to the depression building over the Bay of Bengal, the downpour is predicted to inundate highways and may trigger riverine flooding, according to the warning. ""Isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall is probable throughout Tamil Nadu on November 8 and 9 and heavy to very heavy rain in a few spots with isolated extremely heavy showers is very possible on November 10 and 11."" the meteorological service stated in a bulletin on Monday. ""During the same period, severe to very heavy rain with exceedingly high rains at isolated locations is also probable across south coastal Andhra Pradesh,"" it added. Rainfall between 64.5 and 115.5 mm is considered heavy, while rainfall between 115.6 and 204.4 mm is considered very heavy, according to IMD norms. Rainfall more than 204.4 mm is considered exceptionally heavy. Fishermen have also been warned not to venture into the seas ahead of the rains, according to the IMD. Localized landslides, moderate damage to roads, susceptible structures, horticulture, and standing crops are also possible in some locations, according to the report. Meanwhile, in response to the IMD warning, the Tamil Nadu government has declared local vacations for nine districts on November 10 and 11. Chennai, Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Chengalpattu, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, and Mayiladuthurai are the districts in concern. Five people have died as a result of the rains that have been falling in the southern state for the past several days, and 538 huts and four houses have been destroyed. Chennai experienced the highest rainfall in six years with the arrival of northeastern monsoon, bringing back memories of the 2015 floods. It caused flooding in the city's central and northern areas.

Andhra Pradesh: Caught between climate change and shell mining, Irukkam island faces extinction

<https://scroll.in/video/1009862/eco-india-irukkam-island-stares-at-extinction-as-shell-mining-devastates-the-marine-ecosystem>

"For locals on Irukkam island, primary sources of income like fishing and agriculture are declining. Full video is available at: <https://youtu.be/6rqTaKKkQuc>

Andhra Pradesh: Srikakulam: Ghost villages on shore speak of drought in sea

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/srikakulam-ghost-villages-on-shore-speak-of-drought-in-sea/articleshowprint/87596078.cms?val=3728>

"D Matchelesam village lies quiescently on the shores of Bay of Bengal, 15km from Srikakulam town in Etcherla mandal of Andhra Pradesh. At first glance, it looks no different from any other fisher village. But, as you walk through this tiny hamlet, the haunting emptiness of the place hits home. Over the years, nearly 90% of the resident fishermen have moved out of the village in search of a livelihood. D Matchelesam, once a relatively prosperous place, is now one of numerous ghost hamlets dotting the coast. About 1,000 fishermen have shifted out of the village in the last two decades. In the neighbouring village of Budagatlapalem, that number stands at 800. In yet another village, Badivanipalem, about 500 fishermen have taken to other activities. Migrations aren't new to Srikakulam. The latest wave, the third in the past 150 years, began in the 1980s with many fishermen from the district shifting to Paradip in neighbouring Odisha. For nearly two decades, the phenomenon hardly attracted attention. But the ever-increasing exodus has of late stirred a debate, with growing demands for corrective measures. While conservative government estimates put the number of migrated fishermen from the district at 10,000, many experts say the actual figure is higher.

A continually dwindling catch leading to diminishing returns from the sea and lack of fishing infrastructure have been the main reasons why Srikakulam fisherfolk are forced to seek employment elsewhere. Overfishing and pollution from effluents discharged into the sea have been long standing problems. Adding to this mix in recent decades is global warming. There's evidence of long-term changes in seawater temperature, acidity, deoxygenation, increasing intensity of cyclones and sea level rise in the Bay of Bengal, all of which impact the marine ecosystem and productivity, habitats and biological processes. Fishing "droughts", that is, failure of a fishing season, are becoming more common. According to a research study by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, the marine environment along Andhra Pradesh is steadily warming. The study also observed early maturation of species. Fishermen from Srikakulam now dominate fishing activities in various ports of Gujarat. They are found in every major port city of the country, be it Mangalore in Karnataka, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Balasore and Paradip

in Odisha or Goa and Mumbai. Koda Suryanarayana, 37, from D Matchelesam village, migrated to Gujarat when he was just 14. “The migration began about three to four decades ago when fishermen from Srikakulam started establishing settlements in the port cities of Odisha,” says he. Another migrant to Gujarat, Mylapalli Hari (38), says they hardly earn Rs 15,000- 20,000 a month in other states based on nature of work and specialisation. “The continuous employment opportunity through the year is what makes migrations attractive. Back in Srikakulam, we may not even earn Rs 200 to 300 a day. The youth from the community is slowly moving away from fishing,” he adds. Fisheries joint director P V Srinivasa Rao says assured income seems to be the major factor driving fishermen migrations. “Climatic conditions do not support fishing throughout the year in Srikakulam,” said Srinivasa Rao.

Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh: Extremely heavy rains on November 10-11; Chennai, Puducherry, Karaikal on Red Alert

<https://weather.com/en-IN/india/news/news/2021-11-09-tamil-nadu-andhra-pradesh-in-for-extremely-heavy-rains>

"Following a very wet weekend, which saw the city of Chennai witness its rainiest day since 2015 on Saturday, November 6, the state of Tamil Nadu as well as its capital city will be in for another bout of extremely heavy downpour this coming week. Coastal Andhra Pradesh, too, will experience similar conditions, all thanks to a new system that is currently brewing in the Bay of Bengal. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a cyclonic circulation over southeast Bay of Bengal is set to influence the formation of a low-pressure area in the same region during the next 12 hours. Upon formation, this system will move west-northwestwards, concentrate into a depression, and reach the northern coast of Tamil Nadu by early Thursday morning, November 11. Its presence will bring widespread light to moderate rains across Kerala, south Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu for the entirety of this week. However, the impact on Tamil Nadu and south Coastal Andhra Pradesh will be more severe, as they will experience isolated heavy to very heavy showers today, followed by heavy to very heavy rains at a few places along with isolated extremely heavy falls on Wednesday and Thursday. Squally weather, with wind speeds reaching 40-50 kmph and gusting to 60 kmph, will prevail over southwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal, while also bombarding the south Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu coasts for the next three days.

Therefore, fishermen have been advised not to venture into these areas for this forecast period. In view of these predictions, the IMD has issued an orange alert ('be prepared' for rough weather) over Tamil Nadu for today. For tomorrow and the day after, the advisory over Tamil Nadu will be upgraded to a red warning ('take action' to keep safe from the extreme weather), while an orange alert will be placed over Andhra Pradesh. Within Tamil Nadu, the districts of Puducherry, Cuddalore, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, Karaikal, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Kallakuruchi, Ariyalur and Perambalur will be on a red warning on Wednesday, as per the IMD's regional met

centre in Chennai. Come Thursday, the red warning will be shifted on to Chennai, Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Puducherry and Cuddalore districts. Several other districts across the South Indian state will remain under an orange alert for the next three days. Meanwhile, since the beginning of the post-monsoon period on October 1, Tamil Nadu has recorded above-average precipitation. Between October 1 and November 8, it has registered 346.1 mm rainfall, marking a 43% 'excess' as compared to its long-term average for this period. The rainfall over Andhra Pradesh in this time frame, at 169.9 mm, has been 18% below average, but perhaps the upcoming heavy rain spell may bring the overall rain figures closer to 'normal' by the end of this week.

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana: Heavy rains predicted in the two states for next five days

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/weather-update-heavy-rains-predicted-in-ap-telangana-for-next-five-days-714201>

"The Indian Meteorological Department has issued warnings to two Telugu states and forecasted moderate to heavy rains in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra for the next five days. It suggested that all fishermen in coastal areas, including Visakhapatnam, should not go fishing till the 13th of this month. The weather department said that the surface periodicity will bring rains due to the low pressure that will form in the next three days. Meanwhile, several districts, including Nellore, are already receiving heavy rains. Also, the meteorological department on Saturday warned of heavy rains in Telangana along with AP in the next three days. It said that the surface periodicity formed over the AP in the west-southwestern Bay of Bengal, enveloping the surface periodicity at an altitude of 8.5 km above sea level, causing rains in both states. The fishermen who have already gone hunting in the sea are advised to reach the shores by the 9th of this month. Meanwhile, Inland areas in the Nellore district were inundated by three days of torrential rains. Heavy rain fell in Allur mandal of Nellore on Saturday due to which all areas were inundated.

Andhra Pradesh: Aminabad modern fishing harbour to be ready by 2023

<http://www.uniindia.com/~aminabad-modern-fishing-harbour-to-be-ready-by-2023-ap-minister/States/news/2548789.html>

"Andhra Pradesh Minister for Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Dr Seediri Appalaraju has said that the modern fishing harbour under construction at a cost of Rs 422 crores at Aminabad in Kothapalli mandal, 30kms from here, would be completed by 2023 for its inaugural by the Chief Minister. The Minister along with Pithapuram MLA Pendem Dorababu and MP Vanga Geeta visited the modern fishing harbour works on Friday and reviewed the progress with the officials and representatives of the AP Maritime Board. Later addressing the fishermen of the coastal area villages, the Minister described the fishing harbour as a real boon to the fishermen

community as it would provide facilities for deep sea fishing which is inevitable in view of the availability of varieties of exportable fish in deep seas. He said by the time of completion of the Aminabad fishing harbour, all the fishermen would be supplied with deep sea fishing vessels with concessions.

""In order to improve the living standards of the fishermen ensuring them permanent income, retail outlets would be opened extending support to the fishermen. Special insurance scheme also being formulated to ensure adequate compensation to the damaged fishing boats"" he added. Responding to the representations of the fishermen association leaders on enhancing the concession on diesel, setting of bio diesel plant, compensation to the boats damaged and security wall for Uppada coast from erosion, the Minister has assured them that he would take up the issues to the notice of the Chief minister for speedy redressal. The Minister earlier inaugurated the water tank at Subbampeta and inspected the Uppada road which eroded due to tidal affect. ZP Vice chairman Burra Anubabu , RDO Chinnikrishna , JD fisheries Srinivasarao, AD Sravani were among those accompanied the Minister during the tour.

Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu: Biodiversity takes a hit as aqua farmers smuggle bloodworms

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/in-other-news/201021/biodiversity-takes-a-hit-as-aqua-farmers-smuggle-bloodworms.html>

"As smuggling of bloodworms from several brackish water bodies has become rampant affecting the local biodiversity, the forest authorities advised aqua farmers to culture them in their ponds and avoid penal action in parts of Andhra Pradesh. Several lakes including Pulicat with brackish water have become vulnerable for smuggling of blood worms to hatcheries located in parts of East and West Godavari, Nellore, Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and other areas in the state. There are nearly 300 hatcheries in the state. Aqua farmers who culture Vannamei shrimps after importing brooders from Hawaii, Singapore, Mexico and other nations use bloodworms to feed them with an expectation that it helps quick growth, lay more eggs and get more number of hatchlings so that they get good price in both international and domestic markets. Those who raise ornamental fish also feed them with bloodworms with an expectation that such feed helps the fish to have strong pigmentation and help them earn good money by selling them. As a kilogram of bloodworms fetches Rs 2,000 to Rs 4,000 and have huge demand to use as feed, they are being caught from the beds of water bodies and are being smuggled to hatcheries.

All the collected bloodworms mainly from Venadu Island of Pulicat lake get transported to the market in Chennai as there are a number of hatcheries located in Tamil Nadu also in addition to parts of Andhra Pradesh. Though the forest authorities have been booking cases under the provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and also under AP Forest Act, 1967, the illegal

practice of collection of bloodworms and smuggling them out to various destinations, is going unabated. Moreover, collection of bloodworms from water bodies is affecting the local biodiversity as thousands of migratory birds which feed on them are being deprived of such feed forcing them to move to other places in search of food while fish in the water bodies which also feed on them are also losing their source of feed resulting in their deaths. This again results in some local fishermen who eke out their livelihood by catching fish in local water bodies and sell them to the customers losing their source of livelihood. To overcome all these problems, the forest authorities have come up with an idea to advise the aqua farmers having hatcheries to culture bloodworms in their own ponds so that they need not encourage the illegal practice of catching them and smuggling them and facing penal action. Sullurpeta divisional forest officer D. Ravindranath Reddy said, “We are advising aqua farmers to culture bloodworms on their own to feed their shrimps and fish to avoid the illegal practice of smuggling. We are also sensitising aqua farmers to adopt such a practice.”

Andhra Pradesh: Aquaculturists upbeat as prices stabilize

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-karnataka/aquaculturists-upbeat-as-prices-stabilise/article37101693.ece>

"After a slump in the wake of COVID-induced economic crisis, the prices of shrimps have now recovered bringing cheers to farmers in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh. All aqua farms in the coastal region are active with farmers gearing up to make good of the favourable situation to maximise returns. They mainly cultivate pacific white-leg shrimp ((*Litopenaeus Vannamei*) in the districts of SPSR Nellore and Prakasam to cater to the demand for the produce in the USA as also European countries. “There has been a jump of over Rs. 100 per kg in the rates now. A count of 30 fetched a price of Rs. 530 per kg, 40-count Rs. 430 per kg, 50-count Rs. 360,” says a shrimp farmer from Tangutur Ramesh Reddy. Meanwhile, conscious of cutting costs to maximise returns, a progressive farmer K. Nishant Reddy urges fellow shrimp farmers to adopt intensive production method to stay in contention even when other production factors remained unfavourable. Overseeing the water quality in his farm at Koduru, near T.P.Guduru mandal, the GenX farmer says the aqua farmers could make big gains “by growing shrimp in Biofloc at higher stocking densities of 200 pieces/m² and achieving an average harvest volume of 4 kg per m²”. By doing so, shrimp farmers could achieve a production of 160 tonnes of shrimp in one hectare per year.

They could harvest shrimp four times in a year by going in for ‘biofloc nursery’, explains the shrimp farmer. Bioflocs are aggregates of algae, bacteria, protozoans and other kinds of particulate organic matter which helps the farmers to meet about 20% of the feed cost on their own.

Andhra Pradesh: Tops in fishery, lags in consumption

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/state-tops-in-fishery-lags-in-consumption/articleshow/87144847.cms>

"Though Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of seafood in the country, the state lags behind when it comes to its consumption. Fish is a good source of protein and omega-3 fatty acids which help heart. While the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends per capita fish consumption to be 18 kg, it is just 8.07 kg in Andhra Pradesh. The state has a 974-km coastline and has rivers, canals, reservoirs, lakes and other waters bodies suitable for fishing and setting up of fish tanks. As per estimates, Andhra Pradesh produces over 42 lakh tonnes of fish per year and exports it to various parts in the country and abroad. People from Lakshadweep consume more fish, 105.6 kg per person, followed Andaman and Nicobar Islands which has an annual per capita fish consumption of 59.01 kg. Speaking to TOI, P Laxman Rao, joint director, fisheries department, said the fish consumption in state is low when compared to most of the states in the country. AP is not alone in lack of appetite for fish in the country, fish is the 'last thing' in a few other states. "Aiming to provide fish to every household and increase its consumption to help the aqua farmers, AP government has decided to set up aqua hubs and supply quality products to consumers at affordable prices. People can get live fish, fresh fish and ready to eat fish and also dry fish at the hubs. Vizag city will contribute 15 fish hubs," said Laxman Rao. Consumption of chicken is more compared to fish in AP. The average demand for chicken meat (broiler and country chicken- 'Naatu Kodi') is over 10 lakh kg per day in the state. "Some people don't choose fish claiming it is smelly and needs to be cleaned patiently. So, there is more demand for broiler chicken than fish," said T Appala Raju, president of Broiler Chicken Association in North Andhra Pradesh. Besides omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin D and B2, fish is rich in calcium and phosphorus and is a good source of minerals such as zinc, iodine and iron. Eating fish at least two times a week is good for health, expert feel.

Andhra Pradesh: Detailed Project Report for Visakhapatnam harbour facelift by next month

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/dpr-for-vizag-harbour-facelift-by-next-month/articleshow/87071033.cms>

"A Delhi-based consultancy agency is preparing the fresh Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the renovation of the fishing harbour in Vizag city. The much-hyped project has been in

limbo due to various reasons. Vizag fishing harbour is one of the oldest in the country, but it now lacks proper sanitation facility, toilets, drainage system, storage facility, proper road, lighting, platform to dry fish and even rubber fenders to tag the boats safely. It may be recalled that cyclone Hudhud had caused damage to the harbour in October 2014. The fisheries department had submitted a DPR prepared by Marine Products Export Development Authority under the Union ministry of commerce and industry to the Centre in 2016. It proposed development of the harbour by adding modern amenities at a cost of Rs 100 crore. But, the project failed to take off. Speaking to TOI, joint director of fisheries department, P Laxman Rao, said the New Delhi-based agency recently visited the Vizag fishing harbour and Visakhapatnam Port to prepare the DPR. In the previous DPR, the total cost of project was pegged at Rs 100 crore. As per the new DPR, the cost is between Rs 150 and Rs 200 crore. The agency will visit the harbour again and submit the fresh DPR to the Union government by next month, Rao, added. “Though Vizag city made big strides on the development front in the past few years, the fishing harbour remained in poor state. It has now turned into a dumping yard. During rainy seasons, situation slips from bad to worse. There is an urgent need to develop the fishing harbour to create better opportunities to the fishermen said, Ch Satyanarayana Murthy, president, Dolphin Boat Operators’ Welfare Association.

Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh: Union Minister allays fears over Marine Fisheries Bill

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/union-minister-allays-fears-over-marine-fisheries-bill/article36887737.ece>

"Allaying the fears of fishermen, Union Minister of State for Fisheries L. Murugan has maintained that the Marine Fisheries Bill-2021 was drafted to protect the interests of traditional fishermen and the marine wealth. “The Bill has addressed the concerns of traditional fishermen. The Bill, drafted after wider consultations with all the stakeholders, aims at protecting the marine wealth as well as those who eke out their living by venturing into the sea,” the Union Minister said while addressing a meeting of fishermen on Thursday. He asserted that the Centre was committed to protecting the interests of fishermen. “That is why a separate Ministry has been created for fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying for the first time in this country and the goal is to unleash the full growth potential of these sectors and improve the income of all the stakeholders,” said Mr. Murugan. The Centre, he said, would develop five major fishing harbours across the country including the one proposed in Visakhapatnam as model ones with a view to turn them into hubs of economic activity. Auction of water bodies Fishermen at the meeting resolved to step up agitation against the auctioning of traditional water bodies in the State. They feared that the move would deprive them of their traditional fishing rights, if commercial exploitation was allowed by big private players. Mr. Murugan promised to intervene to resolve the issues pertaining to fishing between the fishermen from Nellore district and their counterparts in Tamil Nadu amicably. “The choked mouth of the Pulicat Lake will be opened to

save the fragile ecosystem for the benefit of fishermen,” he said. Participating in the meeting, BJP State in-charge Sunil Deodhar lamented that fishermen from Andhra Pradesh were migrating to other States because of the ‘anti-fishermen policies’ of the YSRCP government. BJP State president Somu Veerraju exhorted the fishermen to be prepared for a protracted struggle to press for scrapping the ‘controversial’ G.O. 217. “The rights of fishermen on canals, tanks and reservoirs should be restored,” he said.

Andhra Pradesh and Odisha: IMD predicts rainfall in these states as another cyclone may form in Bay of Bengal

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/imd-predicts-rain-in-these-states-as-another-cyclone-may-form-in-bay-of-bengal-11633680434200.html>

"The India Meteorological Department(IMD) in its latest bulletin a low-pressure area is very likely to form over north Andaman Sea around 10 October 2021. It is likely to become more marked and move west-northwestwards towards south Odisha and north Coastal Andhra Pradesh coast during subsequent 4-5 days. Different weather models have, however, created fear among the people as October is considered the 'cyclone month' for the state. Most of the major cyclones that hit Odisha coast took place in October. Sarat Sahu, a former director of the Met office, said while the present weather situation appears to be conducive for a cyclone, it is premature to say anything about it so early. A conclusion can be drawn only on October 13. The present director of the Meteorological Center, H R Biswas too said that nothing can be said about the possible cyclone now. ""One can make a forecast only after the formation of a low pressure,"" he said. Meanwhile, Southwest monsoon has further withdrawn from some more parts of Gujarat, most parts of Rajasthan, entire Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and some parts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh today, the 08th October 2021. The withdrawal line now passes through Dwarka, Mehsana, Udaipur, Kota, Gwalior, Hardoi and Lat. 30°N/ Long. 81°E. Conditions are becoming favourable for further withdrawal of southwest monsoon from some more parts of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh during next 2 days.

Here is the weather prediction by IMD for the next five days: 08 October: Heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands and heavy rainfall at isolated places over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim, Konkan and Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, South Interior Karnataka, Rayalaseema and Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning and squall (speed reaching 50-60 kmph) very likely at isolated places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands and with lightning at isolated places over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim, Odisha, Assam and Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura, Chhattisgarh, West Madhya Pradesh, Konkan and Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, south Gujarat state, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, Telangana, Rayalaseema, Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Squally

weather (wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph) very likely over Eastcentral Arabian sea, Andaman Sea and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas. 09 October: Heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands and heavy rainfall at isolated places over Konkan and Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Rayalaseema and Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning and squall (speed reaching 50-60 kmph) very likely at isolated places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands and with lightning at isolated places over Odisha, Konkan and Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathawada, south Gujarat state, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, Telangana, Rayalaseema, Interior Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Squally weather (wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph) very likely over Eastcentral Arabian sea, Andaman Sea and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas. 10 October: Heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Konkan and Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Coastal and South Interior Karnataka, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal and Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning and gusty wind (speed reaching 40-50 kmph) very likely at isolated places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands and with lightning at isolated places over Konkan and Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathawada, south Gujarat state, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, Rayalaseema, Kerala and Mahe and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Squally weather (wind speed reaching 45-55 kmph) very likely over Andaman Sea. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas. 11 October: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Konkan and Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Coastal and South Interior Karnataka, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal and Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning and gusty wind (speed reaching 40-50 kmph) likely at isolated places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands and with lightning at isolated places over Konkan and Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, south Gujarat state, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, Rayalaseema, Kerala and Mahe and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Squally weather (wind speed reaching 45-55 kmph) likely over Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas. 12 October: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Konkan and Goa, Karnataka, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal and Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning and gusty wind (speed reaching 40-50 kmph) likely at isolated places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands and with lightning at isolated places over Konkan and Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, Rayalaseema, Kerala and Mahe and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Squally weather (wind speed reaching 45-55 kmph) likely over Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishers protest ban on fishing with ring nets

<https://www.thehansindia.com/news/cities/visakhapatnam/visakhapatnam-fishers-protest->

[ban-on-fishing-with-ring-nets-709832](#)

"Leaders of the AP Fisheries Association (affiliated to AITUC) and CPI state assistant secretary JV Satyanarayana Murthy demanded that the government should take immediate action against the ban on fishing with ring nets for fiber boat operators in the Bheemunipatnam of Visakhapatnam district. A protest was held here on Wednesday from the Saraswathi Park to the Visakhapatnam Collectorate office, demanding the government to allow fishing with ring nets. Speaking on the occasion, JV Satyanarayana Murthy objected to the restrictions placed on fishermen. He pointed out that fishing with ring nets is carried out in all districts across Andhra Pradesh including, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Kakinada, Nellore, Ongole and Krishna districts. He said 25 families were dependent on each boat and about 83 operators and their family members lost their livelihood due to the restrictions. Fisheries Association state leader E Nandanna alleged that the ring nets were given to the fishermen living in Yendada area and not given to the fishermen of Bheemunipatnam. He said there were no restrictions on fishing with ring nets anywhere in the country like it is in Visakhapatnam. After the demonstration, they handed over a representation to the district officials. Fisheries Association leaders Chelluri Bujji, Nukalamma, Vamanamurthy, Nallayya and K Apparao were present.

Andhra Pradesh: Nizampatnam fishing harbour to be developed with Rs 450 crores

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/nizampatnam-fishing-harbour-to-be-developed-with-rs-450-crores-709680>

"The State government has decided to develop Nizampatnam fishing harbour at a cost of Rs 450 crore during the second phase expansion. The officials will start the work on October 8. First they will start sea mouth strengthening work. The sea mouth will be strengthened both sides of sea 1.5 kms each for the convenience of the boats coming to the seashore. The officials are making necessary arrangements to start dredging works. There is a possibility of big catchment of fish at Nizampatnam Port after Vizag. As a part of developing the port, the government will construct godowns, cold storage units and one-and-a-half kilometres long jetty. The government is planning to develop the harbour taking future needs into consideration. The Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy decided to develop one port in nine coastal districts in the State and giving top priority for port development, marine and aqua culture. Fishing harbour development work is expected to be completed within one-and-a-half years. Rajya Sabha member Mopidevi Venkata Ramana Rao visited Nizampatnam harbour on Tuesday and conducted a review meeting with the officials. Speaking to the media, he said, ""If fishing harbour is developed, fish catchment will increase. Cold storage unit facility would be available at the harbour. Similarly, 50 types of activities will start."" ""The government will develop Machilipatnam harbour at a cost of Rs 450 crore, Uppada Harbour at a cost of Rs400 crore and given necessary sanctions for the development. After Gujarat, there is a scope for development of ports in the state,"" he added.

Andhra Pradesh: 177 sq.km around Coringa declared Eco-Sensitive Zone

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/177-sqkm-around-coringa-declared-eco-sensitive-zone/article36815224.ece>

"The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change has declared 177.30 square kilometres surrounding the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) in order to protect the sanctuary and its ecosystem from future threats in the Godavari estuary in Andhra Pradesh. The total extent of the sanctuary is 235.70 square kilometres, including the entire Hope Island in the Bay of Bengal. The gazette of the ESZ was published on September 22 based on the draft prepared by the State government. On the sea side of the sanctuary, the ESZ extends from 500 metres to 5 km excluding port limits, 50 metres towards the northern boundary, and up to 11.5 km towards the southern side. From Kakinada city side, the ESZ is restricted to 50 metres from the boundary line of the sanctuary. The future development needs of Kakinada city, present activities of Kakinada port, and the primary livelihood activity (fishing) of the villagers settling around the sanctuary were the factors that necessitated the decision. The main objective is to protect and conserve the Fishing Cat, Indian Smooth-coated Otter, Olive Ridley Turtles and the bird species in the sanctuary. The State government has been directed to prepare a Zonal Master Plan within two years to protect the ESZ.

Odisha and Andhra Pradesh: Cyclone Gulab may have caused damages worth Rs.2,000 crore

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/cyclone-gulab-may-have-caused-damages-worth-rs-2-000-crore-101633114418467.html>

"The economic impact of cyclone Gulab that hit Andhra Pradesh and Odisha coasts is estimated to be around Rs.2,000 crore, with much of it being borne by farmers, according to RMSI, a global disaster risk management firm. "Gulab is a very unique cyclone as it made landfall in AP, crossed large parts of India and moved out into the Arabian Sea over Maharashtra and intensified again," said Pushpendra Johari, senior vice-president-sustainability, RMSI. The bulk of the losses is estimated from agriculture (about 70%), followed by damages to buildings at about 20% (including 50% residential, 32% industrial and 18% commercial), according to RMSI's assessments. Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts in Andhra Pradesh and Ganjam and Gajapati districts in Odisha faced maximum winds due to Gulab while East Godavari, West Godavari, Guntur, Krishna, Prakasam, Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam districts in Andhra Pradesh saw floods. In Odisha, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Puri, Jajapur, Jagatsinghpur, Baleswar, Khorda and Cuttack also saw flooding, according to RMSI.

"The governments of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh proactively took measures to reduce impact. Odisha's chief minister Naveen Patnaik set a 'zero casualty' target in the coastal districts of the

state as the Odisha government evacuated as many as 3,049 people and shifted them to 204 relief shelters. Forty-two teams of the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force and 24 squads of the National Disaster Response Force, along with about 102 teams of fire brigade personnel were dispatched to seven at-risk districts,” RMSI said. However, there are reports of several fishermen from both Andhra Pradesh and Odisha missing, despite early warnings issued by nodal agencies. And agriculture bore the brunt. “Crop was in its final stages in Andhra Pradesh. Due to heavy rain, standing crop fell. There was a lot of water stagnation because of which other than paddy, all crops, including vegetables which were in flowering stages, are damaged. I think the loss is huge for farmers,” said GV Ramanjaneyulu, executive director, Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, Hyderabad. Gulab, though it did not intensify into a severe cyclone, came during the harvest season, compounding the effect of the cyclone.

Andhra Pradesh: Co-op system, fisheries, dairies to get big boost

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/in-other-news/290921/co-op-system-fisheries-dairies-to-get-big-boost.html>

"Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said efforts were on to strengthen the cooperative system, restore Chittoor Dairy and to ensure sustainable economic development of women through Aasara and Cheyutha schemes. The Chief Minister said in the past, dairies in the cooperative sector were diverted for self-interest and some turned cooperative dairies into their private companies, destroying the cooperative sector in the state. The Chief Minister held a review meeting on Jagananna Palavelluva scheme and fisheries department and said it became inevitable for dairies across the state to increase the price of milk procured from farmers after Amul entered the market. He said now the income had increased from Rs 5 to Rs 15 per litre. During the review meeting held in his camp office on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said some vested interests had destroyed cooperative services dairies for their self-interests. He said most of the cooperative service dairies were made to be dysfunctional in order to benefit Heritage Dairy. He said the state government had been implementing YSR Cheyutha and Aasara schemes for sustainable economic development of women who had bought cattle to increase their income. The state government had been constructing BMCUs to support them, he added. “A transparent cooperative system will benefit women,” he said and directed the officials to strengthen the cooperative system in villages and to restore Chittoor Dairy.

The officials informed the Chief Minister that Amul had purchased 71,373 litres of milk in November 2020, another 14,46,979 litres in August 2021 and a total of 1,10,06,770 litres of milk so far. Average purchase of milk had increased from 6,780 litres to 51,502 litres per day, they informed. The Chief Minister unveiled Jagannanna Palavelluva guidelines for secretaries and a training handbook designed by the Andhra Pradesh Dairy Development Cooperative Federation. “Aqua hubs and retail shops are being set up across the state not only to provide nutritious food to the people, but also to provide better prices to aqua farmers by increasing local consumption.

We have received complaints that exporters and processing companies are forming a syndicate and cutting the rates for aqua farmers. The government is stepping into pre-processing, processing and retail sectors to solve this problem. Officials should create awareness, promote and provide training on cultivation of sea foods that have good opportunities for exports,” he said and directed the officials to ensure new aqua laws were strictly enforced. The Chief Minister instructed the officials to ensure subsidies for the aquaculture sector are directly reached to the farmers and asked them to come up with more appropriate ideas to benefit aqua farmers. He released the ‘Fish Andhra’ logo on the occasion.

The officials informed the Chief Minister that around 40,000 people would be directly employed through aqua hubs and affiliated retail stores and added that around 75–80 aqua hubs and 14,000 retail outlets would be made available by January 26 and pre-processing and processing units would be ready by December next year. They said steps were being taken to set up 10 processing plants and 23 pre-processing plants so that syndicate could be checked and farmers would get better prices. The officials informed the Chief Minister that works related to four fishing harbours at Juvvaladinne, Nizampatnam, Machilipatnam and Uppada were started and they would be ready by June-July next year. They said steps were being taken to start the works at the remaining five harbours in December 2021 and they would be completed within 18 months.

Andhra Pradesh: Rs 5 lakh compensation for people affected by cyclone Gulab

<https://www.siasat.com/rs-5-lakh-compensation-for-people-affected-by-cyclone-gulab-ap-cm-jagan-2198323/>

"Andhra Pradesh chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy today said the state government will sanction at the earliest Rs. 5 lakh to families of those who have lost their lives and livelihood due to the cyclone Gulab at the earliest. On Monday, police officials and other government officials were also pressed into service for rescue operations in the flood-hit state. “Please don’t hesitate when it comes to money. While distributing food and water, please do not compromise on quality. Doesn’t matter if the best of the quality is given to the people. Wherever required, please open camps liberally. Don’t hesitate, money is not an issue,” said Jagan Mohan Reddy during a meeting with government officials. The AP chief minister ordered state government officials to relocate the displaced people to relief camps and ensure best of the quality food, water and medicines are provided to them. He emphasized the officials to be more humanitarian in their approach towards the affected people. With regards to disaster relief work, Reddy said in Vizag the pumping out of water has begun and substantiation work has already been done. He asked the officials to aggressively start the relief work in other low lying areas. Due to turbulence in the sea on account of the cyclonic storm Gulab, two fishermen from Andhra Pradesh’s Srikakulam died and one went missing after a boat capsized in the Bay of Bengal on Sunday.

Heavy rains lashed north coastal Andhra Pradesh under the impact of cyclonic storm 'Gulab' which has weakened into a deep depression after crossing the Andhra-Odisha coast, officials said on Monday. Visuals from the Vizag railway station showed that the station on Monday was partially submerged in water, and trains there have also been suspended. The cyclone Gulab triggered record September rain in the port city Visakhapatnam, which received a 24-hour rainfall of 282 mm on Monday, an all-time record for the month of September. The last time the city recorded such heavy rain in September was in 2005 when Cyclone Pyarr, which formed in the Bay of Bengal, crossed the coast near Kalingapatnam – a track similar to that followed by Gulab. As of Monday evening, the IMD (India Meteorological Department) issued an orange alert in north Andhra Pradesh as well as south Odisha coasts. Under the influence of cyclonic storm Gulab, Krishna district has been receiving heavy rainfall since the wee hours of Monday. Various parts of the Srikakulam district also continued to receive heavy rainfall due to Cyclone Gulab. Several roads are submerged, trees and electricity poles are uprooted in some areas. The power supply is interrupted in most parts of the district. The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) said ten big trees had uprooted and blocked this route, some electricity poles had also fallen, and they were cleared with the help of JCBs. Fishermen have also been advised not to venture into the sea along and off AP and Yanam coasts on Monday. People residing in hillocks have spent sleepless nights due to fear of landslides. Many families living in those areas moved down to their friends and relatives places, for safety. GVMC Commissioner G. Srijana through social media platforms facilitated control room numbers and appealed to people to contact in case of any need for assistance. In an alert message, Commissioner GVMC Dr G Srijana informed the citizens to contact GVMC helpline numbers 1800 4250 0009 or 0891 2869106 in case of any emergencies. Instructed all the department officials to remain vigilant.

Odisha and Andhra Pradesh: Cyclone Gulab: Two fishermen from Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh lost their lives while one another went missing as the cyclonic storm made landfall on Sunday evening

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/cyclone-gulab-3-dead-in-odisha-and-andhra-pradesh-101632679062312.html>

"Three people were killed in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh as Cyclone Gulab made landfall in the coastal region of the two states on Sunday evening, officials said. One person was swept away in Odisha's Ganjam district and two fishermen from Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh lost their lives while one another went missing as the cyclonic storm made landfall on Sunday evening. Special relief commissioner of Odisha Pradeep Jena said, "After making landfall at 8.30 pm, the cyclone was moving towards Koraput and Malkangiri districts where it is expected to cause potential damage due to wind and rain. We are expecting widespread rains in Malkangiri, Koraput, Ganjam, Gajapati and Rayagada districts till tomorrow afternoon. There was no danger to any other coastal districts". In Ganjam district, a man was swept away in Gosaninuagaon

block while three members of a family in Kharput block of Malkangiri district escaped narrowly from coming under a tree that fell on their house, the officer said. In Srikakulam of Andhra Pradesh, two fishermen in a boat died after five of the six fishermen fell in the sea off Mandasa coast due to strong waves. While three reached ashore safely and two others died, and one fisherman is still missing, officials said.

One of the six called his village over phone and informed that their boat lost balance and five of his fellow fishermen were lost in the sea. Subsequently, his mobile phone too went silent, indicating that he too might have gone missing. The Andhra Pradesh fisheries Minister contacted the Navy authorities to carry out a rescue operation. The three north coastal districts of Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam had been receiving moderate to heavy rain under the influence of Gulab. Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority Commissioner K Kanna Babu reviewed the situation with the district Collectors and other officials in Visakhapatnam and directed them to be on high alert. He said NDRF and SDRF teams have been positioned in the three north coastal districts for rescue and relief operations. In Srikakulam district, 182 persons from Vajrapukothuru mandal have been moved to relief camps, according to the Collector L Sriresh Balaji Rao. Before the cyclone made landfall, around 39,000 people in Odisha's Ganjam and Gajapati district had been evacuated by the districts. Officials said people did not show interest for evacuation process as there have been comparatively less wind speed and rains. In Gajapati district, a road was sealed following landslides in a mountain. The East Coast Railway has cancelled 34 pairs of trains due to Cyclone Gulab. The ECoR has also rescheduled 13 trains and diverted at least 17 trains so far, according to its bulletins. "In view of the forecast of heavy rain with cyclonic wind, all necessary precautions have been taken by ECoR," it said. Meanwhile, the South Central Railway informed in a release that eight trains on the Vijayawada-Howrah route were diverted via Kharagpur, Jharsuguda, Bilaspur and Balharshah. Two other trains that were supposed to begin journey on Sunday, have been rescheduled for Monday.

Andhra Pradesh: Visakhapatnam selected for Fish Andhra Scheme Pilot Project

<https://english.sakshi.com/news/andhrapradesh/andhra-pradesh-visakhapatnam-selected-fish-andhra-scheme-pilot-project-143670>

"YSRCP MP Vijayasai Reddy took to his Twitter and said that Visakhapatnam has been selected for the "Fish Andhra Scheme" pilot project. He tweeted that ""The upcoming fish hubs shall ensure organized marketing facilities, increased consumption and more employment. 40% subsidy will be given to entrepreneurs and fishermen."" Andhra Pradesh state department of Fisheries has come up with a new scheme under the brand name ""Fish Andhra"" by establishing aqua hubs in line with Pradhana Mantri Mathsyas Sampadha Yojana (PMMSY), a central government scheme. A total of 100 aqua hubs would be set up and around 14,000 outlets of different sizes and nature would be set up across Andhra Pradesh under this scheme. Each aqua

hub constitutes 140 beneficiaries and the project cost is Rs 5.50 crore. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said that four fishing harbours Uppada(East Godavari), Nizampatnam (Guntur), Machilipatnam (Krishna) and Juvvala Dinne (Nellore) should be completed by December 2022.

Andhra Pradesh: How MGNREGS plots green jobs to fight climate change

<https://thewire.in/environment/how-mgnregs-plots-green-jobs-to-fight-climate-change>

"On the outskirts of Amaravalli village on India's east coast, Marada Suguna has been hard at work planting mangroves. Hired through India's rural employment scheme, she is on the frontline of a project by the Andhra Pradesh state government to protect fishing villages from storms and coastal erosion. "I have seen the sea move forward into our land and one of our village roads has disappeared," Suguna told the Thomson Reuters Foundation over a video call from her work site. "I think this mangrove plantation we are doing will help because it will stop the water and prevent the soil from eroding," she added. "I feel it is important work." Suguna is among millions of Indians who find jobs under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the world's largest such programme that provides at least 100 days of work annually to every rural household. Credited with alleviating poverty, empowering women and giving work to people who lost jobs to the COVID-19 pandemic, the scheme is now also helping to create climate resilience in communities affected by frequent floods, droughts and erosion.

The Indian government has recognised MGNREGS as a key tool to address climate change, and issued new guidelines in 2019 highlighting the need to use climate data and vulnerability assessments to plan the type of work done under the programme. The scheme, which has 140 million workers, has prioritised natural resources management in recent years, focusing on water conservation, agroforestry and reviving degraded land. The job scheme captured 102 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2017-2018 through tree planting and projects to improve soil quality, according to a study published in May by researchers at the Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Science. The research, which used data analysis and field reports to estimate the emissions reduction benefits of MGNREGS, found that drought mitigation activities such as tree planting and grassland development were most effective in storing carbon. "A lot of the work taken under the scheme focuses on natural resource management and our research shows that the benefits are there on the ground," said study co-author N.H. Ravindranath. Climate consensus Cyclonic storms that form in the Bay of Bengal have become fiercer and more frequent – particularly in the last decade – as sea surface temperatures have risen, several studies have found. Paddy farmer M. Satyanarayan said villages in the East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh had started considering mangrove planting as a form of defence since the 1996 cyclone that killed at least 1,000 people. "It was around that time that talk of mangroves began in our

villages,” said the 40-year-old from Chollangipeta village.

“Initially people objected ... saying it would eat into the grazing grounds for their livestock. Slowly, they came around. I have seen the fury of the sea and the protection mangroves can provide.” Village councils in India, which have the final word on what work will be undertaken locally under MGNREGS, are increasingly green-lighting projects that can help tackle climate change. However, Sudha Narayanan, a research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute, said the scheme monitors the number of workdays created and wages paid but is not mandated to track the longer-term benefits of the work. “Trees are planted but often they don’t survive,” she said. “Similarly, village ponds created for recharging groundwater are used for irrigation and nobody is monitoring.” “It is important to measure the impact of all these works to understand if it is actually mitigating climate change,” she added. As part of its pledge under the 2015 Paris Agreement, India – the world’s third-biggest carbon emitter – is supposed to reduce its carbon footprint by 33-35% from 2005 levels by 2030. Taking root Andhra Pradesh is piloting the restoration of mangroves in degraded areas along the coastline in three districts across 20 acres (8 hectares) as part of its climate change initiative through MGNREGS.

The state has also tasked people employed under the scheme with making one million seed balls, using indigenous plant seeds wrapped in clay to increase green cover on degraded land. “More green cover will increase carbon sequestration and our interventions should eventually lead to carbon credits,” said Girija Shankar, commissioner of the state’s rural development ministry. To that end, the state is measuring the CO2 emissions the scheme is able to avert, and is already seeing success in its water conservation programmes, he added. In neighbouring Tamil Nadu state, more than 1,000 village councils in two districts seen as highly vulnerable to climate change have approved 15 resilience measures under a pilot project. “The MGNREGS mandate has traditionally focused on providing jobs to those who need them,” said Sowmithri V.R., technical expert with German development agency GIZ. GIZ is working with several Indian states including Tamil Nadu on the project, with a focus on water conservation, creating mini forests, reviving degraded land and agroforestry. “The present focus is on ways to build climate resilience into the labour programme,” Sowmithri said. “The idea is to create jobs that create climate-resilient assets.” Suguna said she understood how planting mangroves would protect her village and her fisherman husband’s livelihood. “Once these saplings take root, they will become our protectors against the high tides, storms and erosion,” she said. “My husband hardly goes out to sea anymore, complaining that the catch has reduced. I hope my hard work and the mangroves will bring back the fish also.”

Andhra Pradesh: Ongole: Fishers protest auction of fishing rights

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/ongole-fishers-protest-auction-of-fishing->

[rights-707375](#)

"The members of the Prakasam district Fishermen Cooperative Organisations Joint Forum and the Fishermen Joint Action Committee Andhra Pradesh organised a protest at the district Collectorate on Monday and demanded that the government immediately withdraw the GOMS 217, released to auction the fishing rights at the water tanks and reservoirs. Fishermen JAC president R Krishna, Fishermen Welfare Society president T Ravi, vice-president K Tirupati Rao said that the State government has decided to auction the public resources like water tanks and reservoirs of an area more than 100 hectares, in online mode and issued GOMS 217 in this regard. They alleged that the government is trying to make a profit to the middlemen, brokers and its party leaders by calling for the online auction. As of now, they said that the fishermen cooperative societies are taking the tanks and reservoirs on lease by paying the fixed amount to the fisheries department to release fish seeds and catch them after they grow up. They said that the income earned on the sale of the fish is being shared equally among the fishermen in the society. The fishermen leaders explained that with the online auction of these ponds, tanks and reservoirs, the traditional fishermen families who are dependent on the local tanks will be forced out by the auction holders coming from other places, and they lose their livelihood. They opined that the government is going to damage the lives of the fishermen, in the name to provide entrepreneurship opportunities to the unemployed and improve livelihood to the public. They alleged that the government has decided to implement the online auction for 27 ponds and tanks in the Nellore district as a pilot project, and demanded it drop the idea permanently by cancelling the GOMS 217.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishermen stage 'dharna' denouncing online auctioning of fishing tanks

<http://www.uniindia.com/fishermen-stage-dharna-denouncing-online-auctioning-of-fishing-tanks/south/news/2511506.html>

"A large number of fishermen under the aegis of fishermen joint action committee have staged 'dharna' in front of the collectorate here on Monday in protest against the government's action for issuing GO no : 217 for online auctioning of the fishing tanks. The protesters raised slogans denouncing the government, saying it would help the bigwigs bringing misery to lakhs of fishermen. Addressing the protesters former MLA Vanamadi Kondababu said that fishermen belonging to 3500 fishermen cooperative societies were depending upon these 3415 fishing tanks for eking their livelihood. He alleged that the state governments decision would be disastrous as over forty lakh fishermen would be deprived of their livelihood .Later, a delegation comprising action committee state convener Ampolu Satyanarayana, fishermen association leaders Karri Chittibabu, Nagidi Nageswerarao, Vadrevu Virababu, Tummala Ramesh met the DRO Sathibabu and presented a memorandum demanding immediate withdrawal of the controversial GO no : 217 and save lakhs of fishermen from distress.

Andhra Pradesh: The Government of AP has no right to sell off fishing communities' livelihood

https://indianlegal.icsf.net/images/resources/externalNews/docs/legal_india/documents/31860036.pdf

"The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development & Fisheries (Fish) of your Government has, under their Order G.O.Rt.No.217 Dt.18.08.2021, decided to put the fisheries of public water bodies of 100 hectares and above on open auction revoking traditional fishing rights of fishing communities and their cooperatives in such water bodies. It has been further decided that the revenue earned through open auction will be subdivided among - (i) the members of concerned primary fishermen cooperative societies (PFCS), (ii) Gram Panchayat, (iii) Fisheries Department (AFCOF) and (iv) Water Resource Department respectively by 30%, 10%, 20% and 40%. The Operational Guidelines appended to the above order unambiguously state that the main purpose of the Government in formulating and issuing the above order is to increase revenue earning. It is conspicuous that the fisheries cooperatives are offered only 30% of the revenue earned through auctioning of fisheries while the other 70% is to be taken away by Government Departments and Panchayat.

The National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (NPSSFW) and the Democratic Traditional Fishers Workers Forum (DTFWF) of Andhra Pradesh strongly oppose the above decision of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to sell out public water bodies to private entrepreneurs to earn more revenue. The Government decision blatantly violates the inalienable right of traditional fishing communities on water bodies and fish resources. Public water bodies are used by traditional fishing communities for livelihood through generations. Fishing and fish farming in these water bodies are their traditional and customary rights. A substantial part of the fish harvested from these water bodies by local fishers are sold by the women fish vendors. Leasing out the water bodies to private entrepreneurs would devastate their family income.

The Government's duty is to act as the custodian of the livelihood rights of traditional fishing communities. The Government cannot and should not take away the constitutional rights of fishing communities to their livelihood and sell the water bodies to investors and entrepreneurs. It may not be out of place here to remind that revenue earning is not the only responsibility of the Government, its greater responsibility lies in protecting the life and livelihood of the citizens. The fishing communities, fisheries cooperatives and fish workers' organisations of Andhra Pradesh have totally disapproves the above order and are protesting against the decision taken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Small scale fishers and fish farmers will be compelled to hit the street and demonstrate against the draconian order if it is not withdrawn forthwith. The National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (NPSSFW) and the Democratic Traditional Fishers Workers Forum (DTFWF) of Andhra Pradesh demand – 1. Stop open auctioning of water bodies with immediate effect and withdraw G.O.Rt.No.217 Dt.18.08.2021. 2. Issue water

title to all fishers and fish farmers traditionally attached to public water bodies conferring the right to fish or farm fish in those water bodies as well as the right to protect the water bodies and their fish resources.

Andhra Pradesh: 240 fishermen at sea rescued

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/240-fishermen-at-sea-rescued/articleshow/86243774.cms>

"Timely intervention by officials in Visakhapatnam and Ganjam in Odisha saved the lives of 240 fishermen on Wednesday. Thirty mechanised boats off Vizag harbour were stranded in the sea close to Ganjam due to a depression in the Bay of Bengal. The fishermen were rescued after sending SOS calls to officials. District authorities and Vizag police commissioner Manish Kumar Sinha contacted Ganjam officials for the safety of the fishermen. "As many as 240 fishermen had gone out to sea six to seven days ago before the depression in the Bay of Bengal," joint director, fisheries department, P Lakshmana Rao said.

Andhra Pradesh: Farmers irked over mass fish death in Visakhapatnam

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2021/sep/14/farmers-irked-over-mass-fish-death-in-visakhapatnam-2358410.html>

"A large number of dead fish found floating in a pond at Parawada in Visakhapatnam created a flutter on Monday, September 13, 2021. Farmers, who farmed fish in the water body, locally known as Pedda Cheruvu, alleged that industrial units in the area had polluted it. They said they recently staged a week-long protest demanding immediate steps be taken to check the pollution of groundwater due to pollutants from the industries. About 110 acres is under cultivation in the ayacut of the tank. Expressing concern over the alleged pollution of the tank water, the farmers said though they had brought the issue to the notice of officials any measure to mitigate the problem was yet to be taken. State pollution control board executive engineer Lakshminarayana said a team of officials visited the tank and found the water to be clear. "There were no pollutants in the tank," he said and added samples from the water body were sent to a lab for analysis. Fisheries joint director P Lakshmana Rao told TNIE that there are 130 fish tanks in the district under the department's jurisdiction and Pedda Cheruvu is not one of them. "The tanks under panchayats are not looked after by the fisheries department. At Pedda Cheruvu, depletion of oxygen may have caused the death of fish." Incessant rains and cloudy weather for the last three days may have resulted in depletion of oxygen levels, he observed. He said a few months ago fish in large number died en masse at Rushikonda Beach due to depletion of oxygen. "Generally, private aqua farmers aerate the tanks to increase its oxygen level. However, Parawada farmers may not have the equipment to aerate the tank."

Andhra Pradesh: Auction of fish tanks to benefit fishermen: Minister Appalaraju

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/auction-of-fish-tanks-to-benefit-fishermen-minister-appalaraju-705351>

"Minister for Fisheries and Dairy Development S Appalaraju said that the State government issued orders to auction the fish tanks to free them from the hands of some middlemen. The Minister said that over 582 tanks were present in the State and the government has decided to auction 333 tanks. At first, the auction of tanks will be carried out at 27 minor irrigation tanks of the total 88 tanks in Nellore district on pilot basis. He said 30 per cent of revenue earned through auction will be credited to the concerned fishermen society to provide regular income to fishermen. He said that the State government has been implementing several schemes for the welfare of fishermen. The Minister condemned the false campaign of opposition parties on the auction of fish tanks.

Andhra Pradesh: Chandrababu Naidu urges fishermen to restore full fishing rights

<https://english.newstracklive.com/news/chandrababu-naidu-urges-fishermen-to-restore-full-fishing-rights-sc2-nu303-ta303-1181008-1.html>

"Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday urged Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to withdraw GO 217 and restore full right to fishermen societies across the state to catch fish on tanks, canals and reservoirs. The financial situation was in danger. Those dependent on long-running community businesses were losing their livelihood. In a letter to the Chief Minister, Naidu stressed the need to provide financial assistance to the backward classes who were running their livelihood on the basis of community businesses and handicrafts. TDP The chief lamented that the BC sub-plan had been diluted and BC removed from all decision-making platforms in the government. This was in stark contrast to how BC had been involved in all decisions since 1983. In the previous government, subsidized loans were given to millions of BC youth through corporations and associations. Under the sub-plan, priority was given to BC development and welfare. Alleging a crude deal with the BC communities, Naidu said his party would strongly oppose GO 217 as it was aimed at jeopardizing the existence of the fishing profession. They lost their positions of leadership in local bodies by 16,800 BC after reducing the state from 34 per cent to 24 per cent. The government was campaigning a lot on corporations that had no money and no duties. Not a single rupee of money or loan was given to these corporations or associations in the last two and a half years.

Andhra Pradesh: No traces of Pulasa in Godavari this monsoon

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/no-traces-of-pulasa-in-godavari-this-monsoon/articleshow/85843403.cms>

"Monsoon is well and truly here, but the state is yet to see a steady supply of the sought-after Pulasa. August, the month when fisherfolk depend on a good catch, has seen abnormally low numbers of the fish compared to last year. Experts point out that lack of conservation, overfishing and polluting are behind the steep fall in numbers. "We have hardly earned Rs 10,000 till date because there was no catch. We only got small ones weighing half-a-kilogram. Usually, we would get Rs 1 lakh by the end of August," said V Pothuraju, a fisherman in Yanam. In fact, two kilograms of Pulasa sold for a whopping Rs 17,000 near Yanam a few days ago. In a normal year, the fish would sell for Rs 2,000 per kg. Fisheries department official said the catch two decades ago would be around 40 tonnes. Now, it has dwindled to two to four tonnes. "The statistics are not perfect as we never calculated the catch. Because it is a migratory fish, it will come for breeding in the Godavari basin in the monsoon season. When it comes from saltwater to freshwater, many changes would take place in the fish and its taste would also change," additional director of fisheries, East Godavari, P Koteswara Rao told TOI. Fishermen also opt for a catch of Pulasa over other varieties due to the profit the fish brings. However in the absence of breeding, fisherfolk catch the fish irrespective of size, resulting in gradual depreciation of numbers. "Pulasa is tastier due to fatty acids in the fish and the fat content would be between 20-30%. There is no breeding of Pulasa in the state. Research and development should be taken up by the government. A study should be conducted, conservation and management aspects should also be taken care of," zoology researcher P Srinivasa Rao said.

Andhra Pradesh: Row over right to landing and marketing at Kakinada harbor

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/row-over-right-to-landing-and-marketing-at-kakinada-harbour/article36159005.ece>

"The conflict between two mechanised boat operators' associations on the right to landing and marketing at the Kakinada harbour in East Godavari district has deepened. Two weeks ago, the Kakinada Mechanized Fishing Boat Owners' Welfare Association (KMFBOWA) had stopped the boats of its rival, Sri Bhyravapalem Mechanized Fishing Boat Owners' Welfare Association (SBMFBOWA), from entering the harbour, which was the only anchoring and marketing facility for the 590 registered mechanised boats in operation on the Kakinada coast. Members of the rival association had to stop venturing into the sea for fishing as the boat operators did not have access to anchoring and marketing facilities. "We are not being allowed to enter the harbour for the past two weeks. We are operating 130 boats. We are entitled to use the harbour as per the existing fishing regulations, but unable to enjoy the right," SBMFBOWA secretary Penapothu Veerraju told The Hindu on Saturday. "As per the A.P. Marine Fishing (Regulation) Rules, 1996, fishing boats registered in real craft have the right to operate their vessels across the coast and land their fishing boats anywhere in the coast of Andhra Pradesh," the Fisheries Commissioner, K. Kannababu, said in a guideline issued in July. "The KMFBOWA has been stopping the boats of its rival from entering the harbour as the latter is allegedly offering the catch at lower prices and

weakening the market potential at the harbour,” said Fisheries Joint Director (East Godavari) T.V. Satyanarayana. “No association has the right to stop any fishing boat to enter the harbour for landing and marketing the fish. The meeting called for with both the associations on Friday had to be cancelled as they resorted to physical abuse,” Mr. Satyanarayana said. In 2020, the two associations had entered into an agreement under the aegis of the Revenue Department. As per the agreement, 17 boats of the SBMFOWA were allowed to land and market per day at the Kakinada harbour.

Andhra Pradesh: Lack of conservation, overfishing, and pollution cause the dwindling number of the famous Pulasa fish in River Godavari

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/visakhapatnam-no-traces-of-pulasa-fish-in-river-godavari-this-season/articleshow/85801727.cms>

"Lack of conservation, overfishing, and pollution cause the dwindling number of the famous Pulasa fish in River Godavari. The catch of Pulasa has come down abnormally this year compared to last year. Fishermen got only a few in the month of August, which is the main month of the catch. People are taking rounds to places where the boats were anchored in certain pockets at three tributaries of River Godavari - Vainateya, Vasistha, and Gowtam for the rare fish. ""We hardly earned only Rs. 10,000 till date because there was no catch. We only got small ones weighing half a kilogram. Usually, we would get Rs. one lakh by the end of August,"" one of the fishermen in Yanam, V.Pothuraju said. Two kilograms of Pulasa fish was sold for a whopping price Rs. 17,000 at Yanam surroundings a few days ago. Earlier, people used to buy Pulasa Rs. 2,000 per kg. Pulasa also known as hilsa or tenulosa ilisha, is a migratory fish and appears in River Godavari in Monsoon. It would come for breeding in this season. According to fisheries department officials, there were around 40 tonnes of catch two decades ago. Now, it has come to two to four tonnes of catch.

""The statistics are not perfect as we never calculated the catch. Because it is a migratory fish called Hilsa when it is in the sea. It will come for breeding in the River Godavari basin in the monsoon season. When it comes to saltwater to freshwater, many changes would take place in the fish and its taste would also change,"" the Additional Director of Fisheries in East Godavari P Koteswara Rao told TOI. People would make the advance payment to the fishermen of Dowleswaram, Yanam, Kotipalli and other parts of East Godavari. Fishermen also interestingly go for the catch of Pulasa as they would get more money than the routine varieties. There was no chance of breeding of the fish as there is no fisheries engagement and fishermen are eagerly catching the fish where size doesn't matter. It has been resulting in the gradual depreciation of the numbers. ""Pulasa is tastier due to fatty acids in the fish and the fat content would be 20% to 30% in it. There was no breeding of Pulasa in the state. Research and development should be taken by the government. A study should be conducted, conservation and management aspects should also be taken care of,"" a researcher in Zoology P Srinivasa Rao said. Conservation of

Hilsa is around 60% 70% in Bangladesh because the country has sanctuaries, conservation period and also gear restrictions mean size of nets, Additional Director Koteswar Rao said. “Here, small fishes below half a kilogram are also caught by the fishermen. Naturally, the number would come down. We won’t get the Pulasa in the future,” Researcher Srinivasa Rao said.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishermen from Kakinada protest hike in fuel prices

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2021/aug/29/fishermen-from-andhras-kakinada-protest-hike-in-fuel-prices-2351333.html>

"Fisherman in East Godavari’s Kakinada have gone on a holiday of sorts to protest against the hike in fuel prices and the lack of response from the State government towards their demand for further subsidy on diesel cost. Around 550 mechanised boats have stopped going into the sea since August 22 even as the fishermen associations have threatened to intensify the agitation by extending their ‘fishing holiday’ to other parts of the State. It may be noted that the State government provides Rs 9 as subsidy on one litre of diesel to the fishermen. The fisherfolks in Kakinada and Bhairavapalem in I Polavaram mandal recently submitted a petition to the fisheries department with their demand for decrease in diesel cost and hike in the subsidy amount. District fisheries joint director PV Satyanarayana said the agitation, which entered its sixth day on Saturday, has slightly affected seafood exports, and that discussion with the higher-ups on the issue are underway. Veera Swamy, president of the Kakinada mechanised boats welfare association, said earlier the subsidy amount was `6.50 when the price of one litre of diesel was Rs 33. “Even as the fuel costs have jacked up almost three times since, the government is giving Rs 9 as subsidy.”

Telangana and Andhra Pradesh: Now at odds over fishing in 2 rivers

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/teLANGANA-andhra-now-at-odds-over-fishing-in-2-rivers-101629487987989.html>

"Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, which are sparring over sharing of Krishna and Godavari river waters, are now gearing up for another standoff over fishing on Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers. These rivers run through the border of the two Telugu-speaking states and are conducive for fishing. Most of the fishing activity takes place at Nagarjuna Sagar reservoir, Srisailam backwaters and Pulichintala project on the Krishna, and Somasila and Sunkesula projects on the Tungabhadra. Telangana fishermen are miffed that their counterparts from Andhra Pradesh enter into frequent brawls with them and ruin their business. A couple of weeks ago, around 15 Telangana fishermen were allegedly attacked by a few Andhra fishermen at Pulichintala project. This is among a series of attacks that have taken place since the bifurcation

of the two states in 2014. Following the latest brawl, the Telangana government decided not to allow Andhra fishermen to enter into Telangana waters in the Krishna basin to catch fish. On Thursday, fishermen met Telangana animal husbandry minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav to work out a plan of action for stopping the attacks. Yadav assured that the K Chandrasekhar Rao government will keep a strict vigil on the entry of fishermen from the neighbouring state. A top official from the Telangana Fisheries Cooperative Society, on the condition of anonymity, said, "It has been decided that a strategy to avoid frequent brawls will be discussed by the government at all fishing hamlets and stern action will be taken. There is no clarity yet on what type of action would be taken up. Once we figure out the needs of the fishermen, we will submit a plan of action to the state government."

The Telangana government is also miffed that Andhra Pradesh does not release fishlings in its reservoirs. "Whatever fish is available is only because of the efforts made by the Telangana government. We have been releasing about 10 crore fishlings every year in July and September from 2015 unlike Andhra Pradesh, which does not do it. This has made fishermen from Andhra to fish in our territory," said the fisheries society official. Another bone of contention of Telangana is the issue of licence to fishermen. The state says that it has given licences to 5,800 fishermen in the border districts of Gadwal, Wanaparthy, Nagarkurnool, Nalgonda and Suryapet. However, fishermen have complained that many who did not possess permit cards were also fishing and most of them hail from Andhra. Telangana officials say that if a decision is taken on joint fishing, then Andhra too should release fishlings. The fisheries department officials want Andhra Pradesh to spend money on fish production.

Andhra Pradesh: Heavy rain to lash north coastal Andhra for next two days

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/ap-weather-report-heavy-rain-to-lash-north-coastal-andhra-for-next-two-days-701835>

"The Visakhapatnam Meteorological Department has forecasted heavy to very heavy rains in the next 48 hours on the north coast and light to moderate showers along with the south coastal areas. It warned that winds of 40 to 50 kilometers per hour would blow and fishermen would not go hunting into the sea. The surface periodicity formed in the west-central Bay of Bengal is still ongoing, with the effect rains likely with thunders and lightning. "Light to moderate rains are likely in some parts of Rayalaseema," Meteorological Department officials said. Meanwhile, several places in the West Godavari district received rain on Sunday. The average rainfall in the district is recorded at 13.8 mm with a maximum rainfall of 70.4 mm at Jangareddygudem followed by Eluru 51.4 mm. The East Godavari district also received showers at several places. Heavy to moderate rains lashed several places in the Guntur district since Sunday evening. Along with Guntur city, Sattenapalle, Medikondur, Phirangipuram, Pedakurapadu, Krosuru, Mangalagiri, Tadepalli, Duggirala, and other mandals received moderate to heavy rains.

Andhra Pradesh: Rising sea levels to devour parts of Vizag by 2100: IPCC

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/rising-sea-levels-to-devour-parts-of-vizag-by-2100-ipcc/articleshow/85228850.cms>

"The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which issued a 'code red' for humanity in its latest report, has listed Visakhapatnam among 12 Indian cities projected to witness a rise in sea levels leading to submergence of low lying areas. The 6th Assessment Report for sea level projections was released on Monday. NASA released a report on Tuesday giving median projections of global and regional sea-level rise, relative to a 1995-2014 baseline for various timelines. Its sea level projection tool, an online data visualisation tool, reveals that sea level will rise by at least 0.54 metres (around 1.77 feet) by 2100 in Visakhapatnam. Visakhapatnam city is already witnessing sea erosion in areas like Uppada. The city has also seen frequent cyclones. Already witnessing sea erosion: Greens At the highest confidence scenario, the city will most certainly see a sea level rise of 0.25 metres (0.8 feet) by 2100. The lowest confidence level scenario has projected a rise of 0.78 (2.5 feet). Other coastal cities in India likely to be impacted similarly are Mumbai, Chennai, Cochin, Tuticorin, Paradip, Kandla, Okha, Bhavnagar, Mormugao, Mangalore and Khidirpur Sea level projections are based on data gathered from satellites and instruments on the ground, as well as analyses and computer simulations.

Environmentalist and former IAS official EAS Sharma told TOI, ""If sea level rises by 2 feet by 2100 some of the areas near the coast, like Sagar Nagar will get submerged without protection from hills. Besides, the government is giving permissions for industries and beach resorts within or close to the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ). An area of 500 metres is earmarked as CRZ. The zone is regularly violated."" He said, ""The Centre has diluted CRZ regulations from time to time. Investments like coastal corridor roads and nuclear power plant at Kovvada will go waste. We are already witnessing sea erosion at Uppada. Such erosions will be a common scenario henceforth."" Experts feel Visakhapatnam's development is linked to the need to protect the coast and marine resources. The CRZ restrictions, spelt out from time to time by the high court in several judgements, need to be complied with. IPCC report on Sea Level Rise and Implications for Low-Lying Islands, Coasts and Communities said, ""In absence of adaptation, more intense and frequent ESL events, together with trends in coastal development will increase expected annual flood damages by 2-3 orders of magnitude by 2100 . However, well designed coastal protection is very effective in reducing expected damages...""

Andhra Pradesh: Srikakulam: 3 fishermen drown as boat capsizes

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/srikakulam-3-fishermen-drown-as-boat->

[capsizes-701665](#)

"In an unfortunate incident, three fishermen drowned in the Bay of Bengal on Saturday near Kalingapatnam in Gara mandal. According to the information, the deceased were identified as Rayithi Narayana Swamy (58), Pukkalla Gannayya (54) and his son Pukkalla Ganesh (24), all natives of the Bandaruvanipeta village in Gora mandal. They ventured into the sea for fishing on a country-made boat. Due to the rough weather and disturbance in the sea, they were returning to the shore and their boat capsized. On receiving the information, the police and tahsildar rushed to the beach and sent a team of professional swimmers to fish out the bodies. The body of Ganesh was fished out at Bandaruvanipeta beach and other two were fished out at Gullavanipeta beach in Polaki mandal. On learning about the incident, Deputy Chief Minister D Krishna Das and Minister for Animal Husbandry S Appala Raju expressed shock and assured to look after the welfare of the kin of the deceased. They directed officials concerned over phone to make necessary arrangements to provide immediate aid to the families of the deceased.

Andhra Pradesh: Work for proposed Juvvaladinne fishing harbour gains pace

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2021/aug/06/work-for-proposed-fishing-harbour-gains-pace-2340978.html>

"The district administration has handed over 45 acres of land out of required 78 acres for construction of the proposed Juvvaladinne fishing harbour in Bogole mandal of the district. Cold storage, auction rooms, retail shopping place and 28 other structures would also be constructed along with a dock for mooring 1,250 boats at the harbour. At present, there are more than 75 fish landing centres. Of these, Iskapalli, Utukukuru, Mypadu, Pathapalem, Upputeru at Krishnapatnam, Tamminpatnam, Arkatpalem, Kothapatnam, Kondur, Dugarajapatnam, and Pulinjerikuppam are important centres. The harbour is to come up at a point where the Chippaleru waters coming from upland areas of Jaladanki join the Bay of Bengal. The fishermen in the coastal belt have been facing difficulties due to lack of facilities such as foot bridges, jetties, anchorage, fish landing and chartered distribution points that would make their job easier. Kavali MLA R Prathap Kumar Reddy said that the proposed fishing harbour will generate more revenue for the fishermen of the coastal belt. The State government is committed for the welfare of the fishing community, he added. It may be recalled that the Centre had deputed a team of officials in August 2014 to explore possibilities of constructing a mini harbour and finally decided on Juvvaladinne village of Bogole mandal. As part of the efforts, experts from WAPCOS, Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery and Central Water and Power Research Station conducted surveys and submitted a report.

Andhra Pradesh: 'Fish Andhra' brand: Bank of Baroda supports state government in

setting up 100 aqua hubs

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2021/jul/31/fish-andhra-brand-bank-of-baroda-supports-andhra-pradesh-government-in-setting-up-100-aqua-hubs-2338058.html>

"The State Department of Fisheries designed a novel scheme under the brand name "Fish Andhra" by establishing aqua hubs in line with Pradhana Mantri Mathsyas Sampadha Yojana (PMMSY), a central government scheme. The Bank of Baroda is supporting the implementation of the project. Commissioner (Fisheries) K Kanna Babu and Bank of Baroda, Vijayawada region, deputy general manager Ch Raja Sekhar said a well-structured design and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) have been devised for implementation of the Fish Andhra Project through the Bank of Baroda as a sole banker across AP, a press release issued here stated. Under the project, 100 aqua hubs would be set up and around 14,000 outlets of different sizes and nature would be set up across the State. The concept involves the setting up of a hub and spokes model. Each aqua hub constitutes 140 beneficiaries and the project cost is Rs 5.50 crore. The funding pattern of the aqua hub is 15 per cent beneficiary contribution, 40 per cent government aid and 45 per cent bank loan. The Bank of Baroda has come forward to assist and finance the entire 14,000 beneficiaries for setting up aqua units under this Fish Andhra Scheme

Andhra Pradesh: Proposals worth Rs 186 Lakhs approved under Matsya Sampada Yojana

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2021/jul/31/proposals-worth-rs-186-lakhs-approved-for-andhra-pradesh-under-matsya-sampada-yojana-2338082.html>

"Union Minister for Fisheries, Parshottam Rupala informed that the Department of Fisheries has approved proposals to the tune of Rs 2,523.41 lakh for seaweed cultivation under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands as well as Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu during 2020-21. Replying to questions raised by Rajya Sabha member Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy in the House, Parshottam Rupala stated that the Government of Tamil Nadu had submitted a project proposal on the establishment of Multipurpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu at a total project cost of Rs 296.43 crore. The Minister also informed that a project proposal was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to establish 6,000 seaweed rafts and 1,200 monoline/tube net including inputs for which the government has already identified the beneficiaries. The project will be taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 186 lakh. To another question raised by the MP, Parshottam Rupala explained that the Andhra Pradesh government has informed that different fishing zones for various types of fishing vessels have been notified under the Andhra Pradesh Marine Fishing (Regulation) Rules, 1996. Detailed report on South Coast Railway Zone The Rajya Sabha MP also questioned whether a detailed project report (DPR) for the creation of South Coast Railway

(SCoR) has been submitted to the Railway Board by the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) and if Rs 170 crore have also been allocated in 2020-21 to start the work on DPR. Replying to this, Union Railway Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw stated that the DPR submitted by Officer on Special Duty for SCoR, which inter-alia contains the estimates for setting up of the new SCoR Zone, is currently under examination of the Board.

Andhra Pradesh: Stating that the eight new fishing harbours would give the required impetus to maritime trade in the State and provide livelihood to thousands of fishermen

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/govt-keen-on-tapping-maritime-potential-of-state-venkata-reddy/article35616904.ece>

"The government is keen on developing the Bhavanapadu port by 2024 as it has the potential to spur economic activity in the north coastal region and provide employment to many, A.P. Maritime Board chairman K. Venkata Reddy has said. "The officials have already prepared the detailed project report (DPR) for the project coming up at an estimated cost of ₹3,670 crore in Santabommali mandal of Srikakulam district. The tender process too has begun," Mr. Venkata Reddy told The Hindu. Bhavanapadu port "After kick-starting the process for the construction of the Ramayapatnam port in Prakasam district and the Machilipatnam port in Krishna district, the government has turned its attention to the Bhavanapadu port as it is going to be the lifeline for the North Andhra region," said Mr. Venkata Reddy. Stating that the eight new fishing harbours would give the required impetus to maritime trade in the State and provide livelihood to thousands of fishermen, he said, "The State's 975-km-long coastline can be utilised to the optimum. Fishermen migrating to Gujarat, Maharashtra and other places in search of livelihood will soon lead a happy life in their native districts." "The government has begun the process for construction of fishing harbours at Juvvaladinne (Nellore), Nizampet (Guntur), Uppada (East Godavari), and Machilipatnam (Krishna). The tender process will begin soon for the projects at Kottapatnam (Prakasam), Biyyaputippa (West Godavari), Pudimadaka (Visakhapatnam), and Budagatlapalem (Srikakulam), he said. "The ports and fishing harbours will lead to development of all the coastal districts. The government's initiative will attract huge investments and industries to the State. Andhra Pradesh will progress on a par with Gujarat in maritime trade soon," Mr. Venkat Reddy said.

Andhra Pradesh: 45 acres handed over for fishing harbour

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/45-acres-handed-over-for-fishing-harbour-698665>

"District Collector KVN Chakradhar Babu said that they had handed over 45 acres of land out of required 78 acres for the fishing harbour proposed to be built at a cost of Rs 300 crore at Juvvaladinne in Bogole mandal. He visited the site on Wednesday along with the officials and asked them to speed up the process. The Collector said compensation should be paid to the farmers for the rest of 33 acres of land and it has to be handed over to the agency that constructs the harbour. He visited the mouth of the sea along with representatives of the construction agency and discussed with them the plan of construction and other issues. Later, interacting with the media, the Collector said that cold storage, auction rooms, retail shopping place and 28 other structures would be constructed with a docking facility of 1,250 boats at the harbour. He opined that the fishing harbour helps the fishermen to continue their livelihood facility yearlong and the agency is planning to construct it and hand it over to the beneficiaries. Further, the Collector said there are 998 Sachivalayam offices in the entire district and 668 have been functioning in their own offices. They are shortly adding accommodation facilities for more than 300 Grama Sachivalayam offices, he added. He said the Spandana programme is being implemented at all Sachivalayam offices between 3 pm and 5 pm everyday for resolving issues of the local population. Chakradhar Babu asked the staff members of the Sachivalayam to issue house sites, Aarogyasri cards, pensions, and others promptly. He said some Sachivalayam offices have cleared issues within hours of submission of applications and asked the staff members to follow such ideal procedures. He said the district is at the top in terms of biometric attendance of Sachivalayam staff members. The Collector also said they were reducing procurement of 1010 variety of rice as the government is distributing slender rice. Kavali RDO Seena Naik, tahsildar Bala Muralikrishna, MPDO Nasar Reddy and others were present.

Andhra Pradesh: Rs. 3,997 crore to be spent on augmenting fisheries infra

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/rs-3997-crore-to-be-spent-on-augmenting-fisheries-infra/article35552267.ece>

"Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has asked the officials to augment the infrastructure in the fisheries sector at an estimated to cost about Rs. 3,997 crore by the end of next year. The facilities planned as part of the initiative include fishing harbours, fish landing centres and aquaculture processing units. During a review meeting on agriculture and its allied sectors here on Monday, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy said the fishermen needed better infrastructure for achieving higher growth rate and that emphasis should be laid on processing units which would ensure substantial revenue. Officials informed the Chief Minister that the department had not only set the ball rolling for the construction of fishing harbours but also for setting up floating jetties in 20 locations. An action plan has been prepared for improving the facilities at 340 fish landing centres at a cost of Rs. 91 crore. The construction of four fishing harbours is in progress, the officials informed Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy who wanted those to be expedited. Nadu-Nedu programme As far as the farm sector is concerned, the Chief Minister ordered that

priority should be given to the establishment of food processing units, multi-purpose centres and community hiring centres. “Focus should be laid on improving the facilities at market yards under the Nadu-Nedu programme, and on the e-marketing system and farm mechanisation,” he said. Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy further exhorted the officials to speed up the establishment of millet seed-cum-processing units. Officials said land had been identified for the facilities. The Chief Minister also discussed the status of the bulk milk cooling centres, functioning of the Rythu Bharosa Kendras and the procurement of paddy and cotton. He also enquired about the action taken to ensure the payment of minimum support prices (MSP) for various farm produces. Agriculture Minister K. Kannababu, Minister S. Appala Raju and Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Mission Vice-Chairman M.V.S. Nagi Reddy were among those present in the meeting.

Andhra Pradesh: Flood reached 11.6 feet at Dowleswaram, 9.6 lakh cusecs discharged into sea

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/flood-reached-116-feet-at-dowleswaram-96-lakh-cusecs-discharged-into-sea/article35532086.ece>

"Officials sounded high alert at Polavaram and Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage (SACB-at Dowleswaram) with the officials discharging about 9 lakh cusecs from Polavaram project and SACB to the downstream on Sunday. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) 10th Battalion and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Police, Revenue and Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) officials swung into action in the flood affected villages. AP State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has alerted the officials deployed on flood duty in West and East Godavari districts, and asked them to evacuate the people staying in low lying areas. APSDMA Commissioner K. Kanna Babu has said that two NDRF teams were deployed in Chintur and one team was positioned at V.R. Puram mandal to take precautionary measures as the discharge was increasing. “Villagers are requested to cooperate the officials, and not to venture into flood water for fishing, taking bath and travel on small and countrymade boats as the flood is heavy,” Mr. Kanna Babu said. Speaking to The Hindu, Godavari Conservator, Dowleswaram Circle, G. Srinivas Rao said the water level at Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage was 11.6 feet, and the irrigation officials were releasing 9.6 lakh cusecs by 2 p.m. “We are discharging the flood water into Bay of Bengal by lifting all 175 gates, and cautioned the officials and the villagers, staying in the low lying areas and on the river bed to be alert as the discharge is heavy,” Mr. Srinivas Rao said. At Polavaram spillway, the water level was 33 metres and the discharge was about 9 lakh cusecs, the officials said. Flood water was being released to the downstream from all the gates from Polavaram Project.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishing in troubled waters: No cheers for Vizag fishermen as fishes vanish, demand drops

<https://newsmeter.in/regional/andhra-pradesh/fishing-in-troubled-waters-no-cheers-for->

[vizag-fishermen-as-fishes-vanish-demand-drops-680717](#)

"The first fishing voyage to the sea has failed to bring cheers to fishermen of the Vizag region. Mechanized boat operators said they are not earning much due to low catch and low demand for fishes. After the 61-day long deep sea fishing ban of the government ended, the fishermen set sail for the sea on June 16 from Vizag Harbour. Some mechanized boats returned to the harbour with their catch. But they were disappointed as the catch was far below their expectation. "We went on the first voyage with a lot of hope. But, we could hardly recover our expenses of Rs 60,000 incurred during the 14-day voyage," said PC Appa Rao, president of AP Mechanized Boat Operators' Welfare Association. Some boats returned with the brown prawn and other popular varieties. "As exporters are not interested to purchase the brown prawn citing low demand, we sold the catch in the domestic market at low prices," said Appa Rao. Normally, the first outing to sea after the ban fetches returns worth over Rs 4 lakh. But, this time they could manage to fetch catch worth around Rs 2.5 lakh only which is sufficient to meet fuel and other expenses only. The drop in brown prawn prices has set alarm bells ringing among mechanized fishing boat owners in the Vizag region. The marine food exporters are not ready to shell out more for brown prawns. Citing that the demand for the Indian farmed Vannamei Shrimp is high in other states and abroad, the seafood exporters are offering low prices and very few are purchasing brown prawns.

"Brown prawn should fetch us at least Rs 420 a kg. Then we will earn some profits. Otherwise, we will incur more losses," said Ch Satyanarayana Murthy, President of Visakha Dolphin Boat Operators' Association. Pollution is the biggest reason for the low catch. Fishermen said due to the untreated effluents released by various industries into the sea, several fish species die and many do not breed. Deficient pre-monsoon rain is also another factor for the poor catch. The seafood lovers said Silver Pomfret or white pomfret (popular as Chanduva in local parlance) which is a species of butterfish and seer fish (konam in Telugu) have vanished from the market. Key highlights 1) Out of 24 exporters in Vizag, only 3 to 5 purchase brown prawn (marine prawn) 2) Vizag fishing harbour operates over 700 mechanized boats and trawlers 3) Price of seer fish and silver pomfret range between Rs 700 and Rs1,000 a kg 4) Andhra Pradesh has been contributes over 45 per cent of the total export revenue in the seafood sector. 5) Andhra Pradesh exported 2,79,992 MT of marine products worth Rs 15,831.74 crore during 2020-21 6) Andhra Pradesh exported 2,93,314 MT of marine products worth Rs15,498.64 crore during 2019-2020.

Andhra Pradesh: Sets target to increase aquaculture production to 12 MT per annum

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/andhra-pradesh-sets-target-to-increase-aquaculture-production-to-12-mt-per-annum/article35332276.ece>

"Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has said aquacultures hubs are being set up in the State to benefit both the farmers and the customers. The government has set a target of

increasing the aquaculture production in the State from 4.36 lakh metric tonnes per annum at present to 12 metric tonnes per annum. Reviewing progress of the works undertaken by the Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department on Wednesday, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy said achieving the target would ensure the availability of aqua products to customers at affordable prices, while the farmers would get fair prices. He asked the officials to expedite the land acquisition for the aquaculture university proposed in the State and hold discussions with the Central Government pertaining to providing insurance to the aqua sector. Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy said that awareness should be created on the integrated aquaculture labs and quality checkings. "The government has already launched 14 such labs and 21 more will be launched in November. The labs should be linked with the Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs). There should be no adulteration in aqua seed and feed.

Animal feed and other related products should be available at the kiosks in RBKs," he said. Cage fish culture The officials informed the Chief Minister that works pertaining to five fishing harbours and one fish land centre had been started. Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy asked them to focus on cage fish culture and mariculture and prepare an action plan to make farmers move forward in this regard. The officials were told start cage fish culture and mariculture in three locations each as pilot projects. Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy said each mandal should be considered as a unit and the required veterinary dispensaries should be set up. The mandals without dispensaries should be mapped. He asked the officials to prepare an action plan for the implementation of Nadu-Nedu programme in veterinary hospitals and determine the infrastructure facilities need be developed. Amul Palavelluva project The officials informed the Chief Minister on the progress of Andhra Pradesh Amul Palavelluva project. The programme has been started in Prakasam, Kadapa, Chittoor, Guntur and West Godavari districts and will be extended to Vishakapatnam and Anantapur districts in August, they said.

Andhra Pradesh: Readies DPRs for construction of two cargo jetties

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/amaravati/ap-readies-dprs-for-construction-of-two-cargo-jetties/articleshow/84420063.cms>

"After dilly-dallying for over three years, the state government has readied Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for construction of two cargo jetties - at Manchineallapet in Srikakulam and Chinthapalli in Visakhapatnam. The DPR for construction of another jetty at Budagatlapalem in Srikakulam is expected to be ready shortly. The state government is gearing up to float tenders for construction of the new jetties. In fact, the state government had proposed construction of new jetties in seven locations including Budagatlapalem, Chinthapalli, Manchineelapeta, Bhimili, Visakhapatnam fishing harbour, Rajayyapeta and Biyyaputhipa almost two years ago. The state requested the Centre to grant the financial assistance to take up the projects for the benefit of the fishermen under Coastal Berth Scheme (CBS), which is part of Sagaramala project. The Centre readily agreed to extend its support and directed the state

government to ready the DPRs but it asked the state government to give 50 per cent as matching grant to its support. Sources said that each project would cost around Rs 30-40 crore. The delay in readying the blue-print and unwillingness of the state government to share the burden is believed to have resulted in the delay of launching the project works. The state government had recently communicated to the Centre that the experts had visited the locations and submitted their reports on Manchineelapetta, Chinthapalli and Budagatlapalem. It said that it was waiting for inputs from the experts on the remaining four locations. "The nodal officer is being persuaded for the pending inputs. We will forward the inputs as and when we receive," the state told the union ministry of shipping and ports.

According to sources, the government had finalized the DPRs for Manchineelapetta and Chinthapalli and had uploaded the required documents for final clearance from the Centre. It also said that the DPR for Budagatlapalem was under finalization and the documents would be uploaded shortly. It said that DPRs of other locations, including Visakhapatnam fishing harbour, were pending due to the delay of inputs. The Centre is of the view that a floating structure, because of its inherent advantages, is an attractive solution. The floating jetties have the advantage over the conventional quay and fixed concrete structures as they are a cost-effective solution and much cheaper than the price of conventional structures. Also setting up of floating structures is much faster when compared to conventional jetties. Usually, floating structures can be built in 6-8 months as compared to 24 months for conventional structures and its environmental impact is minimal. "Expansions are easily feasible due to modular construction techniques," the Centre said.

Andhra Pradesh: Opposes Centre's proposed Ports Bill

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/andhra-pradesh-opposes-centres-proposed-ports-bill/articleshow/84255227.cms>

"Andhra Pradesh has opposed the Indian Ports Bill 2020, proposed by the central government as the bill would deprive the states of their major source of revenue. The state government had prepared a note on the new bill which was sent to the central government for consideration. The state said that AP is one of the champion states that could propel the Indian economy forward. It is also a resource rich state with access to airports and seaports. and thus has huge potential to promote exports from the state. The state further sought to remind the Centre that it 'is developing three seaports at Bhavanapadu, Machilipatnam and Ramayapatnam'. The state further said that fisheries sector contributes to 1.61 per cent of global and 24 per cent of national fish production. It is also ranked first in total fish production and shrimp production in the country, the document said. The government said that 65 per cent of cultured shrimp produced in the country is from AP which has 90 processing units. Referring to the bill, the state government said that it provides for constitution of a Maritime Port Regulatory Authority which

will be vested with the powers or regulated by the central government. This would mean that the Centre wants to take “away the powers of the state maritime boards/state governments.” The “state ports being the main drivers of the state economy, the states will be deprived of the right of driving the economy, if the control of the state ports is taken away. It is the state governments which provide the land and infrastructure for development of the minor ports,” the state government said. However, AP has placed an alternative to the present draft bill suggesting that the central government “may at least consider exempting the existing operational ports and the ports which are under construction in the maritime states.

Andhra Pradesh: Big boost to aqua industry in the State

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/big-boost-to-aqua-industry-in-the-state/article35109305.ece>

"Govt. plans to set up 100 aqua hubs and 8,000 retail live fish vending kiosks soon. Here is a good news for fish lovers. Fisheries Department officials are planning to set up 100 aqua hubs and about 8,000 retail live fish vending kiosks across the State. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will launch the project, estimated to cost ₹300 crore, soon. A model aqua hub was recently opened at Ganguru on the outskirts of Vijayawada. E-Marketing “Aqua hubs will be established with a brand name and will have e-marketing facility too. The project will give a boost to the aqua industry in the State,” Commissioner (Fisheries) K. Kannababu told The Hindu on Friday. “The aim is to supply nutritious diet and sell fresh fish, shrimp and crabs at reasonable prices to the people. Aqua hubs will also help increase the domestic consumption and enhance marketing facility to the farmers,” he said. The total production had increased from 20 lakh metric tonnes (MT) to 42 lakh MT in the last five years. Production of inland fisheries had increased from 14 lakh MT to 30 lakh MT between 2015 and 2020. Contribution of the fisheries sector to the GSDP was 8.67%, with gross value addition of ₹50,660 crore, in 2019-20. The industry is providing employment to about 19 lakh people directly and indirectly in the State,” Mr. Kannababu said. “We are planning to set up eight to 10 aqua hubs in each district. The kiosks proposed at the town and village levels will be linked to the hubs. During the pandemic, the farmers have suffered huge losses due to poor marketing facilities. Aqua hubs will addressing the marketing issues and providing remunerative prices in the future,” he said. Joint Director (Marine) V. Venkateswarlu said the aqua hubs would be operated by the Aqua Farming Societies (AFS), promoted by the Fisheries Department. The Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs), individual farmers, fishermen and unemployed youth registered with the hubs could run the retail kiosks, he said. “Depending on the demand, we will open more aqua hubs and retail fish kiosks, which will provide employment to more people, particularly in the rural areas,” he added. Employment “Aqua hubs and retail kiosks will provide employment to more than 20,000 people in the State,” Mr. Venkateswarlu said. Assistant Director B. Pavan, who is monitoring the project, said the Fisheries Department would check the quality of the products

being marketed through the aqua hubs at different levels. “The project, supported by the Pradhan Manthri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) will be maintained with good standards. The Fisheries Department will set up the aqua hubs and hand them over to the AFS,” Mr. Pavan said

Andhra Pradesh: Fisherfolk in Vizag worry after low first voyage catch

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/fisherfolk-in-vizag-worry-after-low-first-voyage-catch/articleshow/84045812.cms>

"The first voyage to sea after the end of the annual 61-day ban on fishing failed to bring cheer among fisherfolk in Visakhapatnam. Operators of mechanised boats said the first voyage was not a profitable one due to the low catch and low demand for some varieties. After the ban on deep sea fishing ended last month, fishermen set sail on June 16 from Vizag Fishing Harbour. Some boats returned in the last two days with their catch but fish quantity and variety of prawns, disappointed fishermen said, has been far below expectations. “We went on the first voyage with lot of hopes. But, we could meet only expenses worth over Rs 60,000 from the voyage,” said PC Appa Rao, president of AP Mechanised Boat Operators’ Welfare Association. Some boats returned with brown prawn and a few other varieties. “As exporters are not interested in purchasing brown prawn due to low demand in other states and countries, we sold the catch in the domestic market at low prices,” said Appa Rao. Normally, the first outing to sea after the end of the ban fetches returns worth over Rs 3 lakh. “This time, we managed catch around Rs 2 lakh only that can just meet fuel and other expenses,” fishermen added. The drop in prices of brown prawn is another cause of worry for the sector. Citing that demand for Indian-farmed Vannamei shrimp is high in other states and abroad, seafood exporters are offering a low price for brown prawn. “If we get at least Rs 420 a kilos for brown prawn, we will get some profits in the trade otherwise we will incur more losses,” said Ch Satyanarayana Murthy, president of Visakha Dolphin Boat Operators’ Association. Fishermen are banking on a good catch of silver pomfret and tuna in the coming days to get some profits from the trade.

Andhra Pradesh: VMRDA draft master plan projects boost to fisheries

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/vmrda-draft-master-plan-projects-boost-to-fisheries/articleshow/83999232.cms>

"The draft master plan-2041 prepared by Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority has proposed seven fishery development nodes in Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts in areas like Revupolavaram, Muthyalammalem, Chinnamangamaripeta, etc. The VMRDA region has a nearly 250 km coastline dotted with 80 fishing villages, which is 26% of the coast length in Andhra Pradesh. Fishing is a traditional occupation in the region. Andhra Pradesh has favourable agro-climatic conditions for the growth of fisheries and aquaculture sector. The state is contributing as much as 29.7% of national fish

production. It is a major exporter of shrimp in India with a share of 40.4% in total value of seafood exports of the country during the 2019-20 financial year. The sector is providing employment to nearly 26.5 lakh people. Fisheries contribute 7.4% of the gross state domestic product of Andhra Pradesh. Hence, due importance is being given to conserve and harness this traditional occupation in the region in the VMRDA draft master plan-2041.

Apart from the fishery development nodes, the other prominent suggestions given in the draft plan for this sector are to increase infrastructure facilities, employment-based allied industries, and proposal of new fishing harbours in areas like Etcherla, Kalingapatnam, Bheemili and Pudimadaka. Key objectives of the recommendations are to sustain fish production, promote fishermen welfare, address critical gaps in the infrastructure for the value chain, and to promote domestic fish consumption in the state. Skill development and creating fishing infrastructure will boost the declining active fishermen. Provisioning of mini harbours or jetties will increase the number of crafts, which will eventually increase the economy of fisherfolk. The envisaged logistic connectivity, proposed development plans, and exporting facilities would make the region advantageous for these establishments. The master plan also proposes encouraging the primary sector by adopting sustainable agricultural practices and technologies. This will conserve fertile agricultural land and help in optimum use of available resources without hindering the rural fabric. Providing required infrastructure and easy access to markets will boost the local economy and aid in easy transfer of agricultural commodities.

Andhra Pradesh: Tuna fish boat owners seek Minister's intervention for boats landing in Vizag fishing harbour

<http://www.uniindia.com/tuna-fish-boat-owners-seek-minister-s-intervention-for-boats-landing-in-vizag-fishing-harbour/south/news/2432667.html>

"The tuna fishing fibre boat owners of Dummulapet and Parlaopet have called on the Minister for agriculture and cooperation Kurasala Kannababu at his camp office here on Saturday and sought his intervention in arranging permission for landing of their boats in Vizag fishing harbour during fishing times. They told the Minister that during deep sea fishing for Tuna fish they would be stopping their boats in Vizag fishing harbour for safety purposes as their boats due to rough weather would be drifting away towards Tamilnadu or Orissa side. By the time they would be coming back to Kakinada either they would be out of fuel midway or the fish catch would be perishing as such they were stopping at Vizag fishing harbour for selling their fish.

Andhra Pradesh: Transport Minister lays foundation stone for Rs 348 crore Gilakaladindi Fish Harbour works

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2021/jun/28/stone-laid-for-rs->

[348-crore-gilakaladindi-harbour-2322504.html](#)

"Minister of Transport and I&PR Perni Venkataramaiah laid the foundation stone for phase two works of the Gilakaladindi Fish Harbour on Sunday. The development works for the harbour are being taken up at the cost of Rs 348 crore. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said, the development of fishing harbors at Machilipatnam and about 10 other places across the State mark the beginning of better facilities for fishermen. Although, the dredging work has been taken up now, he said, 10.50 lakh cubic metres of sand, up to a depth of 14 feet will be removed so that fishermen have no problem for the next 50 years. The Minister further added that the Krishna River silt on the south side of the sea was causing siltation and to prevent this, a 1,240 metre long wall would be constructed on the south side and 1,150 metres on the north side. He also informed that the government has agreed to build a 790-metre 'K' wall to accommodate 500 boats at a time. Mayor M Venkateswaramma, RDO NSK Khajavali, Port Officer Dharmasastha and other officials were also present.

Andhra Pradesh: Fish kiosks, mini outlets to be set up in Vizag district

<https://www.thehansindia.com/news/cities/visakhapatnam/fish-kiosks-mini-outlets-to-be-set-up-in-vizag-district-692929>

"Fish kiosks, mini retail outlets and ready-to-eat food joints will dot Visakhapatnam city and Anakapalle in the coming months. In a bid to increase the per capita fish consumption and employment opportunities, the Fisheries Department is bracing to set up such centres in the district. In tune with the first phase of the endeavour, two hubs will be set up in Visakhapatnam district and the selection of location is in progress. Since the fish production in Visakhapatnam is high and consumption is comparatively low, the government of Andhra Pradesh is considering steps to make fresh fish products available to the public and thereby increase their consumption. Apparently, the idea is to set up aqua hubs and create more job opportunities. ""Like all other essential supplies, the facility to deliver seafood at the doorstep is also not far from the reality,"" explains P Lakshmana Rao, Deputy Director of Fisheries. In Visakhapatnam, two aqua hubs at a cost of Rs 1 crore each, 10 live fish vending units at Rs 20 lakh each, two insulated vehicles at a cost of Rs 20 lakh per unit and 10 fish kiosks at a cost of Rs 10 lakh each have been sanctioned, adds Lakshmana Rao.

The aqua hubs will offer live fish, fresh fish, prawns, crabs and other varieties. Retail outlets and kiosks will be facilitated for their sale. Seafood dishes will also be on the offer. An e-commerce website for the purpose is getting readied. Orders for the seafood products can be placed through the website and they will be delivered at the address mentioned. In addition, women (SC/ST category) can avail 60 per cent subsidy for setting up of outlet, while the general category can make use of 40 per cent subsidy. An app is introduced for the applicants, who want to set up the hub and outlets. A survey is being carried out with the support of MPDOs, ward secretaries and

volunteers to identify eligible candidates to set up outlets across the district and the officials intend to set up over 150 outlets in the coming days.

Andhra Pradesh: Minister Perni Nani inaugurates fishing harbour dredging works at Machilipatnam

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/minister-perni-nani-inaugurates-fishing-harbour-dredging-works-at-machilipatnam-692922>

"Minister for Transport Perni Venkatramaiah (Nani) inaugurated the much-awaited dredging works for construction of fishing harbour here on Sunday. The State government has sanctioned the fishing harbour by allocating Rs348 crore. Speaking on the occasion, Nani said the long-cherished dream of fishermen in Machilipatnam will be fulfilled with the construction of the fishing harbour. He said Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy took the initiative for construction of fishing harbours in the State and allocated the funds. He said the jetties will also be constructed as part of the harbour. Fishermen will have no difficulty in fishing after construction of the harbour. Mayor Moka Venkateswaramma, Bandar RDO N Khajavali, officials from Ports, Fisheries and other departments attended the event.

Andhra Pradesh: Godavari, Vizag boat operators clash over fish landing facility

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/godavari-vizag-boat-operators-clash-over-fish-landing-facility/article34897719.ece>

"Fisheries Department officials from East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts have decided to conduct joint talks by the end of June, in a bid to resolve a long-pending tussle between mechanised boat operators of the two coastal districts over the fish landing facility at Visakhapatnam harbour. Kakinada-based mechanised boat operators met East Godavari Joint Director (Fisheries) P.V. Satyanarayana here on Monday, seeking the State government's intervention to allow them to use the fish landing facility at Visakhapatnam harbour for landing of their boats and marketing their tuna catch. Over the past few years, the boat operators in Visakhapatnam have allegedly been restricting the East Godavari mechanised boats to land at the Visakhapatnam harbour, forcing the latter to return to their hometown of Kakinada for fish landing and marketing. In a representation submitted to the Joint Director, a group of mechanised boat operators led by Tummala Kondala Rao, Tummala Ramesh and E. Ramu stated that barely 10% of the boats engaged in tuna fishing prefer to land at the Visakhapatnam harbour. In East Godavari, nearly 450 boats are engaged in tuna fishing by venturing into the deep sea in the region stretching from Odisha to Tamil Nadu coasts. The East Godavari fishermen say that they would prefer to land at the Visakhapatnam harbour as the fish would no longer remain fresh after 10 days of fishing, particularly when they return from the Odisha coast. An estimated Rs. 1 lakh is spent on fuel and commodities during the 10-day fishing voyage, they said. 'Joint talks' "I

have discussed the issue with my counterpart in Visakhapatnam. It has been decided to conduct joint talks by June-end by inviting boat operators from the two districts and arrive at a permanent solution,” Mr. Satyanarayana told The Hindu .

Andhra Pradesh: Kakinada tuna fishers unwelcomed at Vizag

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/in-other-news/230621/kakinada-tuna-fishers-unwelcomed-at-vizag.html>

"Kakinada deep sea tuna fishing fibre boat operators are facing problems in getting anchorage and also facilities for selling their catch, purchasing ice and for other things at Visakhapatnam fishing harbour. They allege that some of the Vizag fishing harbour leaders are not allowing them to sell their catch and utilise the facilities there. Fibre boats go on high seas, hundreds of kilometres away up to Odisha and Tamil Nadu as the Central and the state laws allow them to take up fish hunt anywhere in India. These fibre boats mostly hunt tuna fish with big nets. However, some leaders in Vizag fishing harbour union are not allowing Kakinada deep sea fibre boat owners into their harbour on the pretext that the prices of their catch would fall. Though the problem has been faced by the Kakinada boat operators for the past two years, they are somehow managing it. But, after completing the conservation period, the Kakinada operators went on fish hunt and tried to anchor their boats at Visakhapatnam harbour, were not allowed to do so. “Nearly 250 fibre boats from Kakinada are engaged in tuna fish hunting. Hardly 10 per cent of them go to hunt in Bay of Bengal. They are allowed both by the central and the state government laws to undertake fishing anywhere and it is not correct to stop them from anchorage at Visakhapatnam fishing harbour.

The Kakinada boat operators have the fishing gear to go into the deep sea and fish there and they find it convenient to anchor at Visakhapatnam and sell the fish there. But some of the local fishermen at fishing harbour are not allowing them, saying that the prices in the local market are affected,” said Tummala Ramesh, an office-bearer of Dummulapeta, Parlopeta (Kakinada) deep sea tuna fishing fibre boat owners association. He said that they catch tuna fish in the deep sea with their special fishing gear and, therefore, there is no competition between the tuna fish and other fish at Visakhapatnam harbour. He said that in 2016, a similar problem arose, but it was sorted out by the officials. He requested both the officials of both districts to intervene and resolve the issue. The association submitted a memorandum to the Joint Director of Fisheries at Kakinada.

Andhra Pradesh: 222 fish vending units to come up in Prakasam

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2021/jun/21/222-fish-vending-unitsto-come-up-in-prakasam-2319290.html>

"The district administration is planning to start aqua product marketing hubs across Prakasam in

order to enhance the per capita consumption of fish, prawns and affiliated products, as per the State government's directives. The government's plan is to make available fish, prawns, crabs and other affiliated fisheries products across the district available in aqua hubs, fish kiosks, live fish vending units, fish vending cum food carts, fish food e-rickshaws, and mini retail outlets to consumers. In this regard, the District Fisheries department is planning to set up 222 units in two phases at an estimated cost of Rs 18.19 crore. The government has already sanctioned one aqua hub in Ongole in the first phase. Also two live fish vending units, one value added unit, four retail kiosks and 100 mini retail outlets will be set up in the first phase at a cost of Rs 3.75 crore. The remaining Rs 14.44 crore would be spent in the second phase. "The objective is also to facilitate more infrastructural marketing facilities for various fisheries products and also increase per capita consumption of fisheries products. Accordingly we are going to implement the same plan in the district. Those interested in setting up aqua hubs, mini retail outlets among others should rush their applications on or before this month-end," Joint director, Fisheries, A Chandrasekhar Reddy told TNIE on Sunday. For detailed information, one may contact telephone number 94408-14738.

Andhra Pradesh: Improving the lot of fisherfolk

<https://www.thehansindia.com/amp/editors-desk/improving-the-lot-of-fisherfolk-691171>

"With monsoon setting in, the 61-day ban on fishing activities has come to an end and the fishermen are ready to go into the sea. Normally they wait for this day with high hopes of a great catch. But this year, their spirits seem to have been dampened by the surge in fuel price, ice and essential supplies which has poured cold water on the plans of fishermen as most of them defer fishing until the situation improves. In all there are over 2,000 mechanised boats in Andhra Pradesh and of them about 700 boats operate from Visakhapatnam fishing harbour, about 600 from Kakinada and others operate from Machilipatnam, Nizampatnam, Krishnapatnam and Vodarevu fishing harbours. Normally, each mechanised boat catches 400-500 kg of shrimp and two to three tonnes of fish in a 15-day voyage. But since the last two fishing seasons, there has been a decline in the shrimp catch. Fishermen claim that the catch had come down by more than 50 percent and this had led to severe losses to the boat operators. The operational cost of boats has also shot up from Rs four lakhs to about Rs 10 lakhs per trip. This has forced the operators to cut down on the number of boats to be operated this season.

Normally depending on the count of the shrimp, the fishermen get about Rs 350 per kg on an average. But for the past two years it has been observed that the catch has come down while the operational expenses have been increasing. Another major problem is that of marketing. The fishermen feel that the government should focus attention on measures to reduce their operational costs and improve marketing possibilities. They rue that all successive governments focus more on giving some cash doles under fancy names and fail to focus attention on long term measures that need to improve their prospects. Another major problem is lack of retail outlets.

Chennai and Bengaluru have large number of outlets. Andhra Pradesh should study the marketing and other systems that are in place in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and other states and ensure that the fishing once again becomes a promising profession. Its time, the governments stop looking at fishermen as vote banks and dole out some sops and come up with viable strategies to improve their fishing techniques and create better marketing opportunities. If that is done even without sops, fishermen can be a potential vote bank for any ruling party. Its time, a change takes place in the mindset of the political executive and the bureaucracy too advises the government appropriately on those lines.

Andhra Pradesh: Marine fishing resumes after two months

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/marine-fishing-resumes-after-two-months/article34835050.ece>

"Rolling up his sleeves, fifty-year-old Narayana, along with other scores of fishermen, gather enthusiastically on the Kothapatnam sea shore in the district. Many of them are setting sail for the first time on Wednesday after the two-month fishing holiday ended on June 14. The holiday was imposed by the State government on April 15 on the east coast to conserve fish and other marine resources during the breeding season. Fishermen, who spent the two months in mending nets and overhauling mechanised boats, resumed the activity from 69 landing centres across the coastal mandals in Prakasam. As many as 2,300 motorised crafts and 42 mechanised boats were back in action. "We are hopeful of better catch season this year as officials have predicted a normal southwest monsoon," said a community elder Prabhu Prakash Naidu from Kothapatnam Pallepalem.

As they prepare to go about their usual business, they iterate their demand for enhancement of fuel subsidy. "We take the trouble travelling long distances for a good catch. The unprecedented hike in the price of diesel has made fishing unviable," a group of fishermen at Pakala complained. About 10,000 fishermen families in Prakasam district have been provided with a financial assistance of ₹10,000 to compensate for the loss of income during the fishing holiday, said Fisheries Joint Director A. Chandrasekar Reddy. However, about 3,000 fishermen did not get the benefit for various reasons like mismatch of names in the Aadhaar card, ration card and savings bank account in the coastal mandals of Ongole, Kothapatnam, Chirala, Vetapalem, Chinnaganjam, Nagulapapadu, Tangutur, Singarayakonda, Ulavapadu and Gudluru. Efforts were being made to correct the discrepancies, he added.

Andhra Pradesh: Ice & fuel prices tie down fishing boats to coast

<https://www.thehansindia.com/news/cities/visakhapatnam/visakhapatnam-ice-fuel-prices->

[tie-down-fishing-boats-to-coast-691196](#)

"Even as the 61-day-long ban comes to an end, the fishing harbour is yet to bounce back to life in Visakhapatnam. The surge of fuel price, ice and essential supplies have poured cold water on the plans of fishermen as most of them defer fishing until the situation improves. Last year, the cost incurred for a fishing trip was about Rs 3 lakh to Rs 4 lakh. Now, it costs around Rs 8 lakh to Rs 10 lakh per trip. Depending on the boat's capacity, each trip might last for five days to three weeks. Around 700 mechanised boats are registered with the Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour. Of them, only 40 to 50 per cent of the boats are planning to set out for fishing on Wednesday night. Sharing their woes with The Hans India, vice-president of Matsya Parisramikula Sankshema Sangham V Thathaji said, "'Compared to last year, the number of mechanised boats has been reduced by 20 per cent. Even if lakhs of rupees were invested for each fishing trip, there is no guarantee that we could reach at least break-even. Ever since the breakout of the coronavirus pandemic, the situation is unlikely to improve.'" In Visakhapatnam, close to 15,000 families depend on fishing, while 20,000 families rely on its allied sectors. The boats were anchored at the harbour on April 15 at midnight. There are as many as 739 upgraded vessels and 3,400 engine boats in Visakhapatnam. Traditional boats sum up to 1,000. Stressing on the precautionary measures to be considered, Deputy Director of Fisheries P Lakshman Rao says, "'Since the boats remained idle for 61-days, the maintenance works need to be completed before venturing into the sea.'"

Keeping the sea condition in view, the Deputy Director of Fisheries recommends group fishing. Since the weather is not conducive, fishermen are advised to use the GPS facility to ensure tracking of the vessel. The Fisheries Department has been building awareness about Covid-19 safety protocols for the past few days. Announcements on safety measures are made through a public addressing system at the Fishing harbour. Tough to keep boats afloat Though the fishing season begins, the rise in the cost of supplies, ice and fuel has added to the difficulties of fishermen. As a result, the boat owners are yet to ready the finance required for the fishing even as the 61-day-long annual fishing ban concluded. Not just that, the steep hike in the diesel prices which is close to a century is going to add to the woes of fishermen. Ice, which is extensively used for shelving the catch both onboard the vessel and offshore, has gone beyond the common man's reach as its price has been hiked by 50 per cent. In addition, the price of most essential supplies has increased more than 50 per cent. With 20-30 per cent of the mechanised boats being run, availing loans from private finance firms, the financial burden of the fishermen has only doubled during the current year with increased costs.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishing ban ends midnight, fishermen prepare for sea

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/fishing-ban-ends-midnight-fishermen-prepare-for-sea/articleshow/83520313.cms>

"The 61-day annual ban on fishing along the Andhra Pradesh coast will end on June 14 midnight. However, only 50 per cent of the mechanized boats will venture out due to shortage of labour, logistics and funds. Over 700 mechanized boats and fishing trawlers at Vizag fishing harbour are engaged in deep-sea fishing targeting popular varieties of fish such as seer fish, silver pomfret, tuna and tiger prawn. Around 300 to 350 mechanized boat operators are preparing to resume fishing from June 16 from various locations in the district aiming to catch export quality prawn and fish. "Initially, we decided to postpone fishing activity till June 30. But some boat operators are reluctant to postpone. Hence, we decided to resume fishing from June 16. Fishermen community will participate in the annual Gangamam Jatara festival in Vizag city on June 15 before resuming the fishing activity," said Ch Satyanarayana Murthy, president of Dolphin Boat Operators' Welfare Association. Due to shortage of ice, crew members and financial problems, the remaining mechanized boat owners will resume fishing after one or two weeks. Each boat owner will spend at least Rs 3 to 4 lakh (diesel, ice, groceries and a few others) for a 10-to-15 day trip, he added. Some boat operators are expecting that the first trip after the ban on trawling will result in a good catch of prawn and fish. But a few others are skeptical as in many times they had failed to get a good catch during the initial trip. Seafood lovers in Vizag said they will get popular varieties of fish and quality prawn most likely from the last week of June. Due to the annual fishing ban, seafood lovers had no chance to relish silver pomfret, seer fish and tiger Prawn. The fish and prawn from Vizag harbour are sent to various parts of the country as well as foreign destinations. Boat operators fear a decline in transport due to partial lockdown in various parts of the country.

Andhra Pradesh: Vizag Port continues to lead in seafood exports

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/vizag-port-continues-to-lead-in-seafood-exports/article34758938.ece>

"High-value aquaculture shrimp production has facilitated Vizag Port to continue to be the leading port in India in handling seafood exports in terms of dollar earnings for FY21. In addition, the shipments from Odisha also find their way through Vizag, as the ports in Odisha are not supporting reefer cargo. Vizag port has earned 28 per cent out of the total \$5.96 billion out of marine exports. The port achieved a figure of \$1681 million, while it handled 18.83 per cent of the total quantity of 11,49,341 tonnes of seafood India exported. In rupee terms, the share was ₹12,362.71 crore. Also read: Private terminal operators seek revival measures as policy changes clip cargo USA and China are the major importers of Indian seafood consignments. Besides Vizag, the ports of Kochi, Krishnapatnam and JNPT has also played a major role in facilitating seafood export despite being affected by the Covid pandemic. However, there was a 11 per cent drop in exports compared to the previous year. . As per the export's figures released by Marine Products Exports Development Authority, Pipavav Port was in the 2nd position in terms of quantity handled at 1,85,817 tonnes (16 per cent). The share of Kochi in quantity terms was

12.49 per cent at 1,43,552 tonnes. In US dollar terms, the port facilitated earnings of \$681 million (11.43 per cent) and ₹4,994 crore in rupee terms. Factors for decline in exports Official sources in the sector cited host of factors for the decline in exports of marine products which included reduced fish landings due to less number of fishing days; logistics issues due to scarcity of containers at seaports; increased freight charges; decline in the exports of high value chilled and live products due to limited flight availability and high air freight costs. The scarcity of containers had created difficulties for exporters in executing orders in the US markets. Closure of HoReCa segment also affected the demand for seafood. Besides, the continued lockdown in major EU countries has made the retail, restaurant, supermarkets and hotel consumption sluggish. State of emergency in major cities of Japan also hit the demand and consumption.

Andhra Pradesh: State comes first in marine exports in 2020-21 fiscal

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2021/jun/06/andhra-pradesh-comes-first-in-marine-exports-in-2020-21-fiscal-2312399.html>

"Visakhapatnam port stood top among major ports in the country in marine exports during the 2020-21 financial year. Vizag port has achieved 18.8 per cent of total exports and in terms of revenue, its share was 28.28 per cent. The port handled 2.16 lakh tonnes of marine products worth Rs 12,362.71 crore. However, there was a 10.47 per cent decrease in exports when compared to 2019-20. The declining trend was mainly due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Krishnapatnam port, with 5.59 per cent of total exports and 8.61 per cent of revenue, stood fourth in the country. Despite negative growth in marine exports, Andhra Pradesh stood first in volume of exports and revenue in the 2020-21 financial year. AP exported 2.79 lakh tonnes of marine products in the year and earned Rs 15,831.74 crore revenue. Of the total marine exports, 2.72 lakh tonnes were frozen shrimp and 3,942 tonnes of frozen fish. The USA, China and Japan were the top three importers. However, the Covid pandemic and sluggish overseas markets cast shadow over the seafood sector as the country exported 11,49,341 MT of marine products worth Rs 43,717.26 crore (US\$ 5.96 billion) during fiscal year 2020-21, registering a decline of 10.88 per cent compared to the last fiscal year.

Frozen shrimp contributed to 74.31 per cent of export revenue followed by frozen fish with 6.75 per cent. "The pandemic drastically affected seafood exports during the first half of the year, but it revived in the last quarter of 2020-21. Also, the aquaculture sector performed better during this fiscal by contributing 67.99 per cent of exported items and 46.45 per cent in quantity, which is 4.41 per cent and 2.48 per cent higher, respectively, than those in 2019-20," said K S Srinivas, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) chairman. The USA continued to be the largest importer of marine products with 41.15 per cent and China was a distant second with 15.77 per cent. He said several other factors impacted seafood exports during 2020-21. There were reduced fish landings due to less number of fishing days, slow logistic movements and market uncertainties. Scarcity of workers in fishing and processing plants, paucity of containers

at ports, increased air freight charges and limited flight availability affected exports, especially of high-value chilled and live products, he said.

Andhra Pradesh: Focus on developing fishing harbours: CM

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/focus-on-developing-fishing-harbours-cm/article34702903.ece>

"Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday reviewed the projects of the Agri Infra Fund with the Ministers and senior officials of the departments of Agriculture and its allied sectors such as Marketing, A.P. Dairy Development Cooperative Federation, Fisheries, Food Processing Society and Animal Husbandry. Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy directed the officials to focus on developing fishing harbours at Kakinada, Kothapatnam (Prakasam district) and Pudimadaka (Visakhapatnam district). The officials explained that the projects had an outlay of Rs.15,743 crore. "I want complete integration of facilities provided to the farmers. Multi Purpose Facility Centres should be set up at the Rythu Bharosa Kendras. Farmers should get access to dry storage facilities, drying platforms, PDS warehouses, Janata Bazaars, and all these 16 projects should be taken up on a war-footing. We are setting up 4,277 dry storage facilities, drying platforms, 60 PDS warehouses, 1,483 milk procurement centres, cold rooms, turmeric boilers, 10,678 milk collection points," said Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy. He said that 9,899 Bulk Milk Cooling units and 8,051 Automatic Milk Cooling units would be built over the next one year, and the estimates were Rs.1,885.76 crore for the BMCs and Rs.942.77 crore for the AMCs. Land acquisition would commence for the construction of these units, he said.

Milk procurement The officials explained that milk procurement through Amul Dairy was going on, and so far 50.01 lakh litres was procured from 12,342 farmers and bills worth Rs.23.42 crore were paid. In the first phase, four fishing harbours – Uppada (East Godavari), Nizampatnam (Guntur), Machilipatnam (Krishna), and Juvvaladinne (Nellore), would be completed by December 2022, the officials said. In the second phase, fishing harbours would be built at Budagatlapalem (Srikakulam), Pudimadaka (Visakhapatnam), Biyyaputippa (West Godavari), and Odarevu (Prakasam). **Food processing** The State government would also build 10,111 food processing units in every parliamentary constituency and would also begin millet processing units. The government would also build 10,750 custom hiring centres on a par with the Rythu Bharosa Kendras. Hightech farm mechanisation hubs would be set up at 175 places in the State. Minister for Agriculture K. Kanna Babu, Special Chief Secretary Poonam Malakondaiah, Special Chief Secretary (Industries) Karikala Valavan, Secretary (Finance) S.S. Rawat, Principal Secretary (Marketing) Y. Madhusudana Reddy, Commissioner (Marketing) P.S. Pradyumna, and APDDCF Director Ahmed Babu were present.

Andhra Pradesh: Covid brings down seafood exports

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/andhra-pradesh-covid-brings-down-seafood-exports-689195>

"The Covid pandemic and sluggish overseas markets cast their shadow over India's resurgent seafood sector as the country could export only 11,49,341 MT (metric tonne) of marine products worth Rs 43,717.26 crore (US\$ 5.96 billion) during FY 2020-21, according to MPEDA chairman KS Srinivas. In a statement here on Thursday, Srinivas said in 2019-20, India exported 12,89,651 MT seafood worth Rs 46,662.85 crore (US\$ 6.68 billion). Compared with this, 2020-21 export mark a decline of 6.31 per cent in rupee terms and 10.81 per cent in dollar value. ""The pandemic drastically affected seafood exports during the first half of the year, but it revived well in the last quarter of 2020-21,"" he said. The chairman said frozen shrimp contributed 51.36 per cent in quantity and 74.31 per cent of the total dollar earnings. USA remained its largest importer (2,72,041 MT), followed by China (1,01,846 MT), EU (70,133 MT), Japan (40,502 MT), South East Asia (38,389 MT), and the Middle East (29,108 MT). The MPEDA chairman said frozen shrimp remained the principal item exported to USA while exports of Vannamei shrimp showed an uptick of 6.75 per cent in quantity.

However, its import of Black Tiger shrimps decreased by 70.96 per cent and 65.24 per cent in quantity and dollar terms, respectively. China, with an import of 2,18,343 MT of seafood worth 939.17 million dollars, remained the second largest market with a share of 15.77 per cent in dollar earnings and 19 per cent in quantity terms. Srinivas said besides the pandemic impact, several other factors negatively impacted seafood exports during 2020-21. On the production side, there were reduced fish landings due to less number of fishing days, slow logistic movements and market uncertainties. Scarcity of workers in fishing and processing plants, paucity of containers at seaports, increased air freight charges and limited flight availability affected exports, especially of high-value chilled and live products. The situation in overseas market was another dampener. In China, container shortage, increased freight charges, and Covid testing on seafood consignments caused market uncertainties. In US, scarcity of containers made it difficult for exporters to execute orders in time. Closure of hotels, restaurants also affected the demand. In Japan and EU, Covid-induced lockdowns made the retail, restaurant, supermarkets and hotel consumption sluggish.

Andhra Pradesh: Ushering in a blue revolution for ports and fisheries sector

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/video/andhra-pradesh-government-ushering-in-a-blue-revolution-for-ports-and-fisheries-sector/764042>

"The state with a humongous coastline, precisely 975 km, Andhra Pradesh ranks first in coastal aquaculture and freshwater aquaculture in the country. An ingenious government has

launched Welfare Schemes and Infrastructure projects that will improve the income for their fishermen communities. Andhra Pradesh is now truly cruising its way to a port-led economic and industrial development, assisted by fisheries and aquaculture centres seeking to usher in a Blue Revolution.

Andhra Pradesh: Krishna tops in marine exports

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/krishna-tops-in-marine-exports-in-andhra-pradesh-688827>

"Krishna district ranks first in marine products exports in the State. The district exported 13,83,110 tonnes of marine products to other States and countries in 2020-21. The district has coastline of 111 km and fish is cultivated in 49,000 hectares and prawn cultivated in over 19,000 hectares in the district. Besides, fishing in the sea is providing livelihood to a large number of families in the coastal villages. The fish and prawn grown in the district are exported to north eastern States, Odisha and West Bengal. Tiger prawn is exported to other countries. In order to give further boost to the marine production, the state government is setting up fishing harbour in Machilipatnam at a cost of Rs 348 crore in association with the Central government. The State government will spend about Rs 8000 crore for construction of fishing harbours in the State in association with the Central government.

Under the Matsyakara Bharosa scheme, the State government is sanctioning Rs10,000 financial assistance to the fishermen during the fishing ban period. A total of Rs119.87 crore was distributed to 1,19,875 fishermen families for the year 2021-22 and Rs109.23 crore distributed to 10,9237 families in the financial year 2020-21. The State government had allocated Rs50.30 crore for setting up of 35 aqua labs in nine coastal districts. In Krishna district, aqua labs will be set up in Kaikaluru, Gudivada, Avanigadda, Machilipatnam and Kankipadu areas. These labs will be useful to test the quality fish seed and prawn seed and feed. Krishna district Collector Md Imtiaz in a press release said the State government is giving subsidy on the purchase of diesel to the fishermen. The subsidy price increased from Rs6.03 per litre to Rs9 after the YSRCP government came to power. Subsidy is being given to a total of 2231 registered mechanised boats, he added. Similarly, the ex-gratia to the fishermen families increased from Rs5 lakh to Rs10 lakh in case of death of fisherman in the sea while fishing. The scheme is applicable to 1,12,977 families in the district.

Andhra Pradesh: Narsapuram harbour tender call by September

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/narsapuram-harbour-tender-call-by-september/articleshow/83096422.cms>

"The Andhra Pradesh government is planning to call tenders to construct a major fishing harbour at Biyyaputippa in Narsapuram of West Godavari district by September this year. The

Rs 450 crore-project is expected to come up in 600 acres land and is intended to stop migration of fishermen from the delta area. The harbour is part of the state government's proposal to make eight fishing harbours in the state at a cumulative cost of Rs 3,000 crore. While the government has already called tenders for four fishing harbours in the first phase, the Narsapuram fishing harbour is part of the second phase. West Godavari district has a 19km-long coastline and sees nearly Rs 250crore worth of exports in marine products every year. But there are no jetties or adequate places to anchor boats properly in the area. As of now, the fishing boats are anchored at a bund of river Godavari. Narsapuram MLA M Prasada Raju said, "We have planned to develop link roads from the proposed fishing harbour. Land acquisition has already been done for that. This fishing harbour will turn Narsapuram and its surrounding areas into a developed space."

Andhra Pradesh: COVID-19 hits fish farmers hard in Nellore

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2021/may/24/covid-19hitsfish-farmers-hard-in-andhra-pradeshs-nellore-2306751.html>

"Amid the looming Covid crisis, pisciculture in Nellore district stands affected with no demand from other parts of the country. Fish exports to neighbouring Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Telangana from Nellore district have plummeted. Around 15 metric tonnes of fish has been produced across Nellore district every year, generating a revenue of Rs 400 crore. Farmers cultivate fish in freshwater ponds and local tanks. Cultivation of fish is taken up in 27 major tanks in the district. Around 75,000 families are solely dependent on pisciculture. Harvesting of fish is held in the months of April, May, June and July every year. "Though there is a good price for Korameenu (Red Snapper), Rohu, Katla, and also Roopchand in the open market, there is no expected sale in this season due to the pandemic. With major hotels remaining closed, there were no orders from neighbouring Chennai, Odisha, Hyderabad and Bengaluru," said K Dasaradharamaiah, a farmer from Buchireddypalem mandal. Meanwhile, curfew restrictions have affected the export of fish. Envisaging huge demand for fish, farmers have started harvesting through mixed cultivation. Roopchand fish, which grows up to 70 to 100 gm per month, is a major player in mixed cultivation. But fall in demand has left the farmers in despair. "Our attempts to export fish to other states have failed, as there was no logistics support. Traders have also not come forward to purchase the fish in this month. We expect at least some exports in June," said M Suresh Reddy, a farmer from Allur mandal. Meanwhile, Fisheries department officials suggested that the farmers halt the harvesting of fish. "The situation is expected to get better in June and July," said sources in the Fisheries department.

Andhra Pradesh: More than 100 aqua hubs to be set up to aid fishing community amid Covid-19 surge

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/more-than-100-aqua-hubs-to-be-set-up-in->

[andhra-pradesh-to-aid-fishing-community-amid-covid-19-surge-101621410796378.html](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/timely-help-during-annual-fishing-ban-jagan/article34590620.ece)

"Andhra Pradesh chief minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy on Wednesday said that over 100 aqua hubs will be set up in the state to help the fishing community, including the aqua farmers, at a time when the second wave of the coronavirus disease is ravaging the country. The chief minister said as many as 120 shops will be set up under each of hubs, which will be made accessible to the fishing community with the next two years. This will ensure a fair price for aqua products and also families selling fish. "To ensure that our farmers do face further loss in their livelihoods we have invested ₹50 crore for integrated aqua labs across 35 constituencies. Farmers who are registered with Rythu Bharosa Kendras are being supplied with quality seeds, feed and related services," informed the CM. Families who have lost livelihoods due to Covid-19 are being taken care of under the YSR Matsyakara Bharosa Scheme. The scheme was launched on November 21, 2019, on the occasion of World Fisheries Day, to extend financial assistance to the fishermen for the annual ban on fishing by mechanised boats from April 15 to June 14 On Tuesday, the chief minister allocated ₹119.88 crore to aid 1,19,875 fishing families in the state. "Despite challenges faced by us due to the Covid-19 pandemic our government allocated ₹120 crore for the poor and the needy in the state," said the chief minister, adding that Rs.10,000 proposed to be provided to the families will help them ride out of the crisis that the pandemic has posed. The chief minister said as many as ₹332 crore has been given to families involved with fishing since the inception of the scheme.

Andhra Pradesh: Timely help during annual fishing ban: Jagan

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/timely-help-during-annual-fishing-ban-jagan/article34590620.ece>

"Chief Minister Y.S Jagan Mohan Reddy has said that the 'YSR Matsyakara Bharosa' scheme is aimed at providing succour to the families of fishermen during the annual fishing ban. On Tuesday, the Chief Minister credited Rs.119.88 crore directly into the bank accounts of 1.19 lakh fishermen (at the rate of Rs.10,000 each). "The amount will be of help to the families of fishermen dependent on the sea. On the one hand, COVID-19 has made life miserable and, on the other, the ban is making survival difficult for them. I am happy as the coverage is now extended to more fishermen. So far, we have credited Rs.332 crore into the accounts of the beneficiaries," he said. Stating that every welfare scheme was designed to bring smiles on the faces of women, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy said schemes such as 'Amma Vodi', 'Goru Mudda', 'Rythu Bharosa', 'Cheyutha', and pensions were rolled out to empower women. Subsidy on fuel The previous government was reluctant to give fishermen a mere Rs.4,000 and extend a subsidy of Rs.6 per litre on diesel, he said. "Now, the government is giving a subsidy of Rs.9 per litre and the scheme covers 26,823 boats and 100 fuel stations. The government has provided smart cards to transfer the subsidy to the fuel station owners by spending another Rs.48 crore," he added. "The government is also paying ex gratia to the kin of those who die during fishing. An amount

of Rs.6.7 crore has been disbursed to 67 fishermen families,” the Chief Minister said. For aqua farmers The government was supplying power at a subsidised rate of Rs.1.50 per unit for the benefit of 53,550 aqua farmers, he said, and added that it entailed an expenditure of Rs.780 crore.

“The government has also set up 35 integrated aqua labs at a cost of Rs.50.30 crore with the aim of providing the aqua farmers all assistance, from seed to feed. We are integrating the labs with the Rythu Bharosa Kendras,” Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy said. To provide sustainable livelihood to the fishermen, he said the government had begun commissioning eight fishing harbours. In the first phase, fishing harbours would be set up at Nizampatnam (Guntur), Machilipatnam (Krishna), Uppada (Godavari), and Juvvaladina (Nellore) at a cost of Rs.1,509.8 crore. In the second phase, the harbours would come up at Budugatlapalem (Srikakulam), Pudimadaka (Visakhapatnam), Biyyaputippa (West Godavari), and Kothapatnam (Prakasam). “These fishing harbours will be game changers and ensure sustainable livelihood for the fishermen,” he said. The government was also keen on setting 100 aqua hubs with retail shops enabling fishermen to sell directly their produce, he said. A fisheries university would be set up in West Godavari district, he added. Further, an amount of ₹75 crore was paid to 14,927 families in Mummadivaram constituency in East Godavari district as they lost their livelihood due to digging by the ONGC. Minister for Fisheries S. Appala Raju spoke. MP M. Venkata Ramana Rao, Chief Secretary Adityanath Das, Special Chief Secretary (Agriculture) Poonam Malakondaiah, and Adviser Ambati Krishna Reddy were present.

Andhra Pradesh: Nellore: Collector distributes Rs 14.26 crore to fishermen

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/nellore-collector-kvn-chakradhar-babu-distributes-rs-1426-crore-to-fishermen-686860>

"District Collector KVN Chakradhar Babu said 14,263 fishermen in the district are now getting benefit from the government for losing their livelihood due to the ban on fishing for a period of two months. He informed on Tuesday that Rs 14.26 crore has been released under Matsyakara Bharosa programme for the fishermen spread over 118 coastal villages. Each family gets an assistance of Rs 10,000 and the amount would be deposited into their bank accounts, he said. He also said there would be a great benefit to the fishing communities with the upcoming fishing harbour at Juvvaladina village in Bogole mandal being constructed at a cost of Rs 300 crore. There are 6,000 aqua farmers in the district, and they are being supplied power at a subsidised charge of Rs 1.50 per unit. Chakradhar Babu explained that they had provided ex gratia to three fishermen families at Rs 10 lakh each to those who lost their family member in accidents during the fishing activity. There are 78 fishing assistants in the entire district for providing services to the community. The Collector and other senior officials handed over the assistance of the third phase to the fishermen beneficiaries.

Andhra Pradesh: No fish markets on Sundays

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/no-fish-markets-on-sundays/article34546478.ece>

"VMC officials have said that fish markets in the city will be closed every Sunday hereafter as a precaution against COVID spread on Wednesday. Veterinary Assistant Surgeon Ravichand, in a release, said all the fish markets were ordered to close and no sale of fish will be allowed in and around them on Sunday. He said the sale of fish at open places, colonies and door to door vendors would be allowed.

Andhra Pradesh: UNDP mission to restore nine wetlands in A.P. begins

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/undp-mission-to-restore-nine-wetlands-in-ap-begins/article34493010.ece>

"The forest authorities have launched the works pertaining to the restoration of 5,000 hectares of mangrove cover in the Krishna and Godavari estuaries and 200 hectares of salt marshes as part of the five-year project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The programme titled 'Enhancing climate resilience of India's coastal communities' is being funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Of the 24 landscapes identified in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra for restoration at a cost of Rs.298 crore, nine are in the State. As part of the programme, the coastal communities would be provided with climate-adaptive livelihood options for the restoration of the targeted landscapes by mid-2025. 'Fish bone method' "Funds for the first phase of works have been received and the GCF project has already begun in the State. Of the 5,000 hectares of targeted mangrove cover, around 4,250 hectares are in the Krishna and Godavari estuaries in the surrounding areas to the Coringa and Krishna Wildlife sanctuaries. The mangrove restoration will be done by adopting the fish bone method," Wildlife Management (Eluru Division) Divisional Forest Officer C. Selvan told The Hindu. First phase grant The project has begun with the first phase grant of more than Rs.1 crore including Rs.40 lakh allotted for the Eluru division, Rs.40 lakh for Rajamahendravaram division and Rs.30 for Kakinada area, he said. The restoration of around 200 hectares of Bantumilli marshy land in Krishna district and Nowpada swamp in Srikakulam district are the major targets of the project. Legal battle In the case of Nowpada swamp, the fishermen have won the legal battle against setting up a thermal power plant. Some of them died in the police firing at Kakarapalli in early 2011. The landscapes are Telineelapuram bird migratory habitation (Srikakulam), Coringa Wildlife sanctuary (East Godavari), Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary and Bantumilli wetlands (Krishna), Pulicat Lake and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary (Nellore). The wild crab-fattening method, direct involvement of coastal communities in the mangrove restoration, cultivation of mussel are among the areas designed to provide the climate-adaptive livelihood options to the coastal

communities for conservation and restoration of the targeted wetlands, said Mr. Selvan.

Andhra Pradesh: Second wave of pandemic rubs salt into the wound of Prakasam farmers

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/second-wave-of-pandemic-rubs-salt-into-the-wound-of-prakasam-farmers/article34444759.ece>

"The prevailing heatwave conditions in later part of the March kindled the hopes of Raghava (53), a salt farmer from Kothapatnam village Prakasam district, that he would reap a good harvest. As the April proceeded, his hopes shattered as a majority of the workers who scrap salt from pans have contracted coronavirus infection. The situation is no different in other coastal villages such as Chinnaganjam, Motumala, Biramkunda, Singarayakonda, Padarathi and etc., where the salt extraction is the main economic activity during this part of the year, in the absence of fishing and farm operations. It is like the bitter memories of the Cyclonic storm Laila snatching away their ready-to-harvest produce in May 2010 coming back hunt them again. The farmers are spending sleepless nights as the salt is ready to be scrapped and just one spell of unseasonal rain will force them into heavy losses. The weather system developing in the Bay of Bengal also has kept the salt farmers on tenterhooks.

Thanks to 61-day fishing holiday, fishermen used to compete with farm hands for work at the sprawling salt pans in summer. Now, a majority of the agricultural workers and fishermen are not coming for work as the pandemic did not spare the coastal mandals. The authorities have enforced micro-containment activity to stop the spread of the infection. It is the time the salt extraction work was at its peak, a group of salt farmers from Motumala village told The Hindu. They had a tough time this year as the Cyclonic storm Nivar had forced them to prepare salt pans again from the scratch. "As a result, salt production has been delayed by more than a month," explained K. Venkateswara Rao, who had taken up salt production in six acres of land. "We are finding it difficult to find workers to take to safety the extracted salt," added another farmer, S. Jeeva Rao. The pandemic has not only hit hard their health condition but also adversely affected their livelihood, laments a middle-aged farmer Koduri Srinivasulu. The Union and State governments should come to the rescue of salt farmers and workers by announcing ex gratia, said Centre of Indian Trade Union Kothapatnam mandal secretary S. Swamy Reddy. Minimum support price The authorities should fix minimum support price for salt on the lines of the farm produce to avoid the unpleasant situation of salt farmers selling away their produce at a throw-away price to traders who formed themselves into a syndicate, he said. Salt, which is procured at less than Rs.100 per quintal at the pan level, is however, sold more than 10 times higher the price to consumers. And the farmers are not in a position to show the extent of loss incurred as heavy rain during the middle of the extraction season leave the entire pan in a sheet of water and diluting the salt content, said Andhra Pradesh Agricultural Workers Union mandal secretary P. Prakasam, while stressing on evolving liberal guidelines to assess the production loss due to

natural calamity.

Andhra Pradesh: Prices of freshwater fish rises in parts of State, meat becomes popular

[https://www.nyoooz.com/news/visakhapatnam/1570430/prices-of-freshwater-fish-rises-in-parts-of-andhra-pradesh-meat-becomes-popular-/-/](https://www.nyoooz.com/news/visakhapatnam/1570430/prices-of-freshwater-fish-rises-in-parts-of-andhra-pradesh-meat-becomes-popular-/)

"With the deep-sea fishing ban currently in effect, prices of freshwater fish have risen by nearly 30 per cent in parts of Andhra Pradesh. Traders attribute this price rise due to the decline in availability owing to rising temperatures. Popular varieties of freshwater fish such as Koramenu (red snapper) and Matta Gidasa are selling for Rs 700 and Rs 400 a kilo respectively. Only a couple of weeks back, Koramenu was selling for Rs 500 a kilo while Matta Gidasa went for Rs 250 a kilo. Other freshwater fish such as Catla, Rohu, Mrugala and Rup Chand are selling between Rs 150 and Rs 300 per kilo. Ch Satyanarayana Murthy, president of Dolphin Boat Operators' Welfare Association, said that the annual deep-sea fishing ban has triggered the price rise of freshwater fish. Fishing activities at Visakhapatnam harbor have come to a standstill, he said. In restaurants too, seafood delicacies have seen prices shoot through the roof due to a shortage of stock. "Restaurants are not serving seafood dishes during the ban. We hope for the situation to improve in the last week of June," said Akella Venkata Ramana Murthy, president of Andhra Pradesh Hotels Association (APHA). Meanwhile, chicken prices have come down significantly from Rs 220 per kg to Rs 160 per kg. Chicken-sellers say that consumption of chicken has decreased dramatically during the summer resulting in a decrease in chicken prices. The broiler chicken business is good only on Sundays, but very low on other days, say traders.

Andhra Pradesh: Fish Farmers in dilemma after drop in price and exports

<https://krishijagran.com/agriculture-world/fish-farmers-in-dilemma-after-drop-in-price-and-exports/>

"While production of fish in Andhra Pradesh has not decreased, exports to other states, especially to the North and North Eastern states, have slowed due to price fluctuations. The closure of markets in the north, particularly in Delhi, has had an impact on the price of fish from the state. The bulk of the fish shipped to Northern states are Rohu and Catla, with the Pangasia range coming in last. Where there is a greater demand for fish from the province, such as Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh, movement restrictions have been levied, and Delhi has been put under lockdown. "Despite the state's emergency steps by suspending perishable goods shipment after the Covid first wave last year, the Covid-imposed lockout disrupted the supply chain. Since nearly all states' markets were closed, fish farmers in the state had lost money. Today, there is no such situation because there is no shutdown, but restricted

access to markets in the north, especially Delhi, Asia's largest market, is affecting fish prices,” said Nagi Reddy, a fish farmer in Krishna district. Pangasia, the favorite variety of those in Delhi and Punjab, is experiencing a price decline, according to another fish producer from the neighboring West Godavari district. “Several farmers have yet to harvest in significant quantities for fear that the Covid condition will worsen,” he added. There have been no signs of a reduction in fish exports, according to a senior official in the Fisheries Department. “The volume of exports has decreased in comparison to previous years. That may be due mostly to an increase in local demand. However, due to market closures in some Northern states this week, rates could be affected,” he added. Farmers are now concerned about a potential labor crisis in the coming days, as the state's Covid condition worsens. They're now at a loss as to what to do to avoid further damages.

Andhra Pradesh: Dip in prices, exports put fish farmers in dilemma

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2021/may/01/dip-in-prices-exports-put-fish-farmers-in-dilemma-2297195.html>

"Though there has been no decline in the production of fish in Andhra Pradesh, its export to other states, particularly to North and North Eastern states is witnessing a slowdown due to fluctuating prices. Closure of markets in the north, particularly in Delhi, has affected the price of the fish from the state. Rohu and Catla make the majority of the fish exported to Northern states with the Pangasia variety coming last. Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, where the demand for the fish from the state is more, have imposed restrictions on movement of people and Delhi is under lockdown. “During the Covid first wave last year, the Covid-imposed lockdown has disrupted the supply chain, despite the state’s emergency measures of taking up transportation of perishable goods. As the markets in almost all states were closed, fish farmers in the state had suffered losses. Today no such situation is there as there is no lockdown, but the limited accessibility to markets in the North, particularly Delhi, Asia’s largest market, the prices of the fish are getting affected,” Nagi Reddy, a fish farmer in Krishna district said. Another fish producer from neighbouring West Godavari district said prices of Pangasia, which is the preferred variety of those in Delhi and Punjab, is witnessing a drop. “Several farmers are yet to harvest in large scale fearing that Covid situation may deteriorate,” he said. A senior official in the Fisheries department said there has been no reports of any drop in fish exports. “Compared to previous years, there is a drop in the quantum of the exports. It could be mainly attributed to the increase in the local consumption. However, the prices might get affected this week due to closure of markets in some Northern states,” he explained. Farmers are now worried about possible shortage of workers in the days to come, with worsening Covid situation in the state. They are now in a dilemma as to what to do to avert the possible losses.

Andhra Pradesh: Annual sea fishing ban triggers rise in price of freshwater fish in parts of

the State

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/annual-sea-fishing-ban-triggers-rise-in-price-of-freshwater-fish/articleshow/82263397.cms>

"With the deep-sea fishing ban currently in effect, prices of freshwater fish have risen by nearly 30 per cent in parts of Andhra Pradesh. Traders attribute this price rise due to the decline in availability owing to rising temperatures. Popular varieties of freshwater fish such as Koramenu (red snapper) and Matta Gidasa are selling for Rs 700 and Rs 400 a kilo respectively. Only a couple of weeks back, Koramenu was selling for Rs 500 a kilo while Matta Gidasa went for Rs 250 a kilo. Other freshwater fish such as Catla, Rohu, Mrugala and Rup Chand are selling between Rs 150 and Rs 300 per kilo. Ch Satyanarayana Murthy, president of Dolphin Boat Operators' Welfare Association, said that the annual deep-sea fishing ban has triggered the price rise of freshwater fish. Fishing activities at Visakhapatnam harbour have come to a standstill, he said. In restaurants too, seafood delicacies have seen prices shoot through the roof due to a shortage of stock.

"Restaurants are not serving seafood dishes during the ban. We hope for the situation to improve in the last week of June," said Akella Venkata Ramana Murthy, president of Andhra Pradesh Hotels Association (APHA). Meanwhile, chicken prices have come down significantly from Rs 220 per kg to Rs 160 per kg. Chicken-sellers say that consumption of chicken has decreased dramatically during the summer resulting in a decrease in chicken prices. The broiler chicken business is good only on Sundays, but very low on other days, say traders.

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Andhra Pradesh: Rs 3,450 Crore credit potential projected for AP Fisheries FY 2021-22: NABARD <https://english.sakshi.com/news/andhrapradesh/rs-3450-crore-credit-potential-projected-ap-fisheries-fy-2021-22-nabard-134257> "The State Focus Paper (SFP) prepared by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) projected that the fisheries sector in Andhra Pradesh would require Rs 3,450.92 crore loans in the current financial year 2021-22. This is 26.81 per cent more than what was projected last year. NABARD also appreciated that the state government's efforts in making various measures to enhance the livelihood of the fishermen. In the report, it said that AP Government had increased the subsidy on diesel for fishing boats and had provided them with financial assistance for two consecutive years in the name of the YSR Matsyakra Bharosa a guarantee scheme given to the fisherman during the hunting ban in the season. It also commended the steps taken to encourage aqua farmers, to supply quality certified inputs through Rythu Bharosa Centres, and to set up fishing harbours and fish landing centres. In this context, NABARD stated that the demand for credit in this sector has increased significantly compared to the past. As part of the SFP, NABARD has projected a credit potential of Rs 2.31 lakh crore under priority sectors for AP for

the fiscal year 2021-22 which was an increase of 9 per cent over the potential assessed for the fiscal year 2020-21.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishing comes to halt for 61-days from today

<https://www.thehansindia.com/news/cities/visakhapatnam/visakhapatnam-fishing-comes-to-halt-for-61-days-in-state-from-today-681832>

"In a bid to protect fisheries during the marine breeding season, the 61-day-long annual ban comes into effect from April 15 in the state. Even as the state government is providing Rs 10,000 as financial support for the fishermen to make do for the banned period enforced by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy, the community finds the sailing hard for the next two months. In Visakhapatnam alone, close to 29,000 people are dependent on fishing for their livelihood. Except the traditional fishing, mechanised and motorised boats will stay away from fishing till June 14. However, according to the records, only 20,000 fishermen have been registered to receive the government grant during the ban. The exercise of enumeration will begin on April 19. "A list of beneficiaries will be readied by April 25. On submission of the details such as Aadhaar card, ration card, bank account and boat owner's certificate, the amount will be directly deposited to their bank accounts after verification," explains P Lakshman Rao, Deputy Director of Fisheries. Before bringing out the final list, objections for the enumeration will be accepted for three days. "For transparency, the final list will be uploaded in an App," adds the Deputy Director of Fisheries. The boats will be anchored at the harbour from April 15 midnight. According to a survey, there are as many as 739 upgraded vessels and 3,400 engine boats in Visakhapatnam. Meanwhile, traditional boats sum up to 1,000. With the motorised boats coming to a halt from Thursday midnight, the fishermen association representatives rue that the ban is going to worsen their situation further as they have already been hit by the pandemic-induced loss and rise in fuel prices.

Andhra Pradesh: Rise in invasive fish species a threat to biodiversity

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/rise-in-invasive-fish-species-a-threat-to-biodiversity/articleshow/82073442.cms>

"A freshwater fish from northern South America was recently let into Nekkampur lake and the result was havoc with the fish eating up eggs of native species and destroying the balance of the city's already fragile aquatic ecosystem. A suckermouth catfish, an invasive species banned in Telangana by the fisheries department, was released into Nekkampur lake on Sunday morning by unknown persons. "This however, is not an isolated incident," said Madhulika Choudhary, founder of Dhruvansh, an NGO, adding the past six months have seen a number of exotic fish species released into the city's lakes. In March, crocodile fish introduced in Nekkampur lake were later found dead. Instances of invasive species being dumped in lakes by

aquarists and increasing in numbers have also surfaced in Bengaluru, Kolkata and elsewhere in the country. “These fish eat the eggs of other fish and pose a threat to biodiversity if there is no other predator in the lake. They end up killing indigenous species. Nor do these species hold value for fisherfolk,” Choudhary said. The unauthorised release of exotic species into the city’s lakes also extends to red-eared terrapins that are bred in aquariums till they grow too large and are let into natural water bodies. “Similar to the catfish that is initially kept as a pet, these terrapins are aggressive and alter the biodiversity of an ecosystem,” Choudhary said. In 2016, the government issued a GO imposing restrictions on the culture of exotic fish such as tilapia to conserve aquatic biodiversity. In the same year, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) passed an order prohibiting the cultivation of African catfish in Telangana. But in spite of such efforts, species diversity in water bodies in and around the city is falling. “Ameenpur lake has only tilapia despite farmers cultivating other species,” said Shilpi Sharma, regional director, Telangana State Biodiversity Board. “Exotic fish species are not only hardy, they are bottom-dwellers and there are no suitable nets to selectively harvest them.” But the biggest hurdle may still be low levels of awareness among aquarists. “We plan to ask the government to create awareness so that pet shop owners don’t stock certain species. As much as 99% of exotic fish species in India ends up in aquariums,” Sharma said.

Andhra Pradesh: Pandemic, fuel prices put brakes on fishing in Vizag

<https://www.thehansindia.com/business/pandemic-fuel-prices-put-brakes-on-fishing-in-vizag-681526>

"FOR over five lakh fisherfolk who depend on catching fish in the sea for their livelihood, the annual holiday known as yearly ban has come into force in Andhra Pradesh months before notification was issued by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy for its implementation for 61 days on the East Coast from April 15. Fishermen have stopped venturing into the sea due to a variety of reasons viz. Covid-19 pandemic, low remunerative price and exorbitant increase in fuel cost making fishing unviable. Further, the outbreak of the second wave of the virus has almost brought fishing operations to a standstill. Visakhapatnam is the largest fish landing centre in India with annual export turnover of Rs 8,000 crore. Other major fishing centres are Kakinada, Nizamapatnam, Machilipatnam and Krishnapatnam. ""The situation is very bad and the fishermen hope that the government will come to our rescue by doling out some sops,"" Arjili Dasu, a fishermen activist from Pudimadaka, the largest fishing village in AP, told Bizz Buzz. Fishing ban is enforced every year in the Exclusive Economic Zone beyond territorial waters on the East Coast comprising West Bengal, Odisha, AP, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and on the West Coast consisting of Daman & Diu, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep Islands separately for conservation and effective management of fishery resources and sea safety reasons.

The ban will be implemented on the West Coast from June 1 to July 31. The ban is applicable for all motorised boats. While thanking the YSRCP Government for enhancing the compensation being given to each ban-affected fish worker from Rs.4,000 to Rs.10,000, fishermen associations have sought an increase in compensation in view of prolonged loss of livelihood due to the pandemic. ""During the current season, only a few boats could go fishing for just two to three months. I have not sent my boat even for a single day as it is not viable and the pandemic has cast its spell on the fishing community creating a lot of insecurity among them. Jalaripeta, the largest fishermen locality in the city became a hotspot for coronavirus last year as it is heavily populated with no scope for social distancing,"" said Ch Satyanarayana Murthy, president of Dolphin Boat Operators' Welfare Association. He said it would be better to give rice and other provisions to fish workers due to corona-induced loss of livelihood.

Andhra Pradesh: District administration to implement 'fishing holiday' strictly

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/rajamahendravaram-district-administration-to-implement-fishing-holiday-strictly-681446>

"After the government order, the district administration has initiated steps to implement 'fishing holiday' for two months from April 15 to June 14 effectively. Every year, the government announces the holiday to increase marine wealth in the sea. The government increased fishing holiday to 60 days from earlier 45 days. After two months fishing holiday, the fishermen can get livelihood for ten months easily as the marine wealth increases considerably. The government is taking steps to pay Rs 10,000 of Matsyakara Bhruthi to fishermen families for two months. The fishing boats such as country boats and mechanised boats remained anchored four days ago in Uppada, Suryaraopeta, Moolapadu and other places. East Godavari district has 160km coastline from Antarvedi to Addaripeta and there are 88 seashore villages in the 13 seashore mandals. The fisherman population is 3.50 lakh and of them 34,000 fishermen get livelihood mainly on fishing. Officials of Fisheries Department along with marine police and navy personnel will continue inspection in the sea and if any fisherman goes into the sea for fishing, case will be registered against him.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishing ban from April 15, fisherfolk to get Rs 10,000 aid

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/fishing-ban-from-april-15-fisherfolk-to-get-rs-10k-aid/articleshow/81994333.cms>

"The state government on Friday imposed the 61-day annual ban on fishing activities in seawater under territorial limits of Andhra Pradesh from April 15 to June 14. In an attempt to protect fisheries and biodiversity during the marine breeding season, the government enforces the ban every summer, restricting fishing activities by mechanised and motorised vessels fitted with inboard or outboard engines, excluding non-motorised crafts, as per the AP Marine Fishing

Regulation Act, 1994. Ch Satyanarayana Murthy, president, Dolphin Boat Operators' Welfare Association, said there are over 2,000 mechanised boats in Andhra Pradesh. But even before the ban, the majority of mechanised fishing boats were anchored at harbours following losses due to low catch of popular fish, he added. Meanwhile, the long-pending demand of fishermen to increase financial assistance during the 61-day fishing ban has been fulfilled with the state government enhancing financial support for fishermen from Rs 4,000 to Rs 10,000.

Andhra Pradesh: Sriharikota island eroding, and Chennai's multiple ports are at fault

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2021/apr/08/sriharikota-island-eroding-and-chennais-multiple-ports-are-at-fault-2287238.html>

"Sriharikota island, India's spaceport and a critical facility, is eroding. This is partly because of the growing port infrastructure in Chennai, say coastal scientists conducting shoreline studies to understand the problem. When contacted by Express, M Srinivasulu Reddy, controller at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-Shar), said, "Yes, we are experiencing a little erosion, especially on the northern strip of the island. We requested scientists from the Chennai-based National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) to undertake studies and recommend solutions. We are yet to receive a report from them." As for how much area of the island, which is home to ISRO's rocket launch station, has been lost, Reddy said, "We don't know. NCCR scientists are studying it." But as per rough estimates, based on Google Earth images and visual evidence from the ground, at least 200-300 m of the beach has been eroded in the past decade. Express has visited at least half a dozen villages abutting Sriharikota island on the north. Only the Pulicat Lake bar mouth separates these traditional fishing villages from the highly-guarded Sriharikota island. Fishermen in Navapetta, Monapalem, Kondurpalem, Srinivasapuram, Vadapalem, Manjakuppam and Govindapalipalem villages say that though there isn't a drastic change in the coastline, "beaches are eroding slowly and steadily". Growing port infra in Chennai erodes spaceport in Sriharikota

A Arumugam (51), a fisherman from Rayadaruvu village, says the erosion at Sriharikota has been getting worse every year. "The old pier bridges have been taken over by the sea, so the Shar authorities built new ones, and even they are under threat now." Arumugam, who holds a marine fisheries identity card issued by the Union Ministry of Agriculture, said Sriharikota is the country's pride and needs to be protected at any cost. "Our coasts are protected because of Sriharikota barrier island. Many children from fishing villagers here study at schools in Sriharikota. It's our lifeline in many ways." On taking a boat ride along the island, Express witnessed the partially-submerged bridges. Compared to other areas along the coastline, the wave energy near Sriharikota Island was intense. When contacted, a top NCCR official told Express that Shar authorities contacted NCCR some three months ago regarding the problem of sea erosion. A report on changes in the Sriharikota shoreline will be ready by June and submitted

to Shar authorities. “For the last two months, our team has been conducting shoreline studies along Sriharikota Island and further up north. Our initial assessment shows the coastal areas are subject to erosion due to both natural and anthropogenic activities. However in recent days, low-pressure systems and sea-level changes have increased and hence more erosion is noticed at Sriharikota. The net littoral drift is towards the north and hence eroded areas are usually noticed north of any development.

The only way to manage the coast is to balance the sediment budget with proper analysis of natural and man-made activities.” The noticeable structures that scientists are referring to and that can block the longshore sediment transport impacting Sriharikota island are breakwaters built by multiple ports in Chennai. Remember, Sriharikota island is located north of Chennai ports. It is a well-established fact that ports with protruding breakwaters built on a coast cause alteration to the flow of sediments along the shore and trigger erosion north of the structures, while helping beaches grow on the south. This is the reason north Chennai beaches are eroding and Marina Beach, which is south of Chennai port, benefits from a constant sand supply. Rajesh, member of Marine Coastal Security Police at Dugarajapatnam in Nellore district, also confirmed that a team of coastal scientists carried out studies up to 12 nautical miles into the sea last month. In Puducherry, scientists from the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) deployed wedge-shaped nearshore artificial reefs to fight sea erosion in 2017. It was a first-of-its-kind eco-friendly design developed and successfully implemented in India, breaking way from conventional solutions like seawalls and groyne fields, which are becoming increasingly unpopular worldwide as they are known to shift the erosion further north. However, these submerged soft structures like the one deployed in Puducherry allow the sand to bypass, thereby helping beach formation on the either side.

After nearly two decades, today there is about 300 m of beach in Puducherry, restoring some of its lost glory. Besides, Nellore district collector KVN Chakradhar Babu says the Sriharikota Island and the adjacent Pulicat estuary has been declared an ecologically-sensitive area and erosion is a matter of serious concern. This means building hard structures like a seawall or groynes are not recommended. “Shar authorities have not flagged the issue of erosion with the district administration as yet. We are ready to provide any assistance, if needed, in terms implementing anti-erosion measures,” Chakradhar said. When does a littoral current occurs? A littoral current occurs when waves break at an angle to the shoreline. The waves’ current and their turbulence lead to movement of the sand along the shoreline. As waves approach the beach at an angle, the up-rush of water, or swash, moves the sand at an angle, according to oceanography experts.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishing harbour braces for facelift

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/fishing-harbour-braces-for->

[facelift/articleshow/81937625.cms](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/centre-sanctioned-100-crore-for-modernisation-of-fishing-harbour-says-vpt-chairman/article34231172.ece)

"The 45-year-old fishing harbour in Vizag will get a facelift soon. The Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT) is currently making slight alterations to the detailed project report (DPR) prepared by the Andhra Pradesh fisheries department in order to give the fishing harbour a holistic makeover at a cost of Rs 100–120 crore. VPT will submit the DPR to the central government in a month and work is scheduled to be completed within a year of receiving funds from the Centre. As part of the changes, VPT has planned cold chain facilities at the harbour. "Fishermen lose lakhs of rupees due to lack of facilities to store the catch. We are planning to construct a cold storage in 10 acres land and also have plans for a processing plant," said VPT chairman K Rama Mohana Rao. Further, existing jetties would be developed to facilitate unloading of marine products brought through boats. A finger jetty may also be constructed. Auction halls of the catch with modern facilities including an effluent treatment plant, solar powered lighting, CCTV cameras and other amenities will be set up at the harbour area. Vizag is the largest export centre for seafood, mostly frozen shrimp, with a turnover of Rs 8,000 crore. The fishing harbour has 11 jetties that were set up in 1976 in 24 hectares land with an estimated cost of Rs 4.5 crore. The VPT chairman said that they have decided to bring in significant improvement in sanitation and hygiene in the harbour area as per international standards. "After completion of development works, our fishing harbour will be one of the cleanest fishing harbours not only in the country but the world," he said.

Andhra Pradesh: Centre sanctioned ₹100 crore for modernisation of fishing harbour, says VPT Chairman

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/centre-sanctioned-100-crore-for-modernisation-of-fishing-harbour-says-vpt-chairman/article34231172.ece>

"The proposed modernisation of the fishing harbour is on course and the Union government has already sanctioned ₹100 crore for it. The Union government has also assured to scale up the sanction to ₹150 crore, if the modernisation proves profitable to the fishing community and value is added to the existing facility, said Visakhapatnam Port Trust Chairman K. Rama Mohana Rao. Speaking to The Hindu here on Saturday, he said that the idea is to develop the fishing community and the focus is on giving the right infrastructure that would develop them. Apart from taking up repairs at the existing harbour, as part of the project the VPT would modernise the loading and the unloading facility, construct an auction hall for fish sale, develop a finger jetty if possible, a resting hall with all facilities for the crew and set up proper drainage and water facility. But the important part will be to develop a state-of-the-art cold storage facility with a fish processing centre. "This would add value to the fishing community. People can utilise the facility to add value to their product and we would rope in a few players under the public private partnership (PPP) mode," he said. The VPT Chairman said that efforts are on to check the feasibility of building a floating jetty.

Andhra Pradesh: Ameenabad fishing harbour works to begin in April

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/ameenabad-fishing-harbour-works-to-begin-in-april/article34210194.ece>

"The Hyderabad-based M.R.K.R. Constructions and Industries is all set to begin the construction of the fishing harbour proposed at Ameenabad on the Uppada coast of East Godavari district in April. "The company will begin the works with dredging operations on the project site in April," Fisheries Department Joint Director (East Godavari) P. Koteswara Rao told The Hindu. The Fisheries Department has proposed the harbour in the Survey No. 74-82, to facilitate anchoring of 2,500 boats and handling of 1.10 lakh tonnes of fish per annum. The harbour will have a 1.5 km-long training wall as per the project design. The WAPCOS has conducted the topography and sub-soil surveys and the Madras University has carried out the High Tide Level (HTL) survey. Cost sharing The State government will bear Rs.20.04 crore of the total project cost of Rs.350.44 crore, while Rs.330 crore will be funded by the Centre from the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) and NABARD Infrastructure Development Assistance (NIDA). Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board Port Officer (Kakinada) G.V. Raghava Rao said an agreement for the construction of the fishing harbour was signed with the M.R.K.R, firm on March 18. The project design and other technical parameters are yet to be received from the firm," he said. Referring to the agreement with the MRKR, Mr. Raghava Rao said that a target had been set to complete the construction of the fishing harbour within 24 months after the works commenced. In November, 2020, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy laid the stone for the Ameenabad harbour in a virtual meeting.

Andhra Pradesh: Anantapur to develop aqua-culture hubs

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/anantapur-to-develop-aqua-culture-hubs-679210>

"As part of state government's policy to establish aqua-culture hubs in all districts, the district is readying itself for establishment of an aqua-culture hub, which will procure river and sea food including fish, prawns and crabs. The government will zero in on fishery societies which are already engaged in pisciculture in reservoirs and village tanks or anyone interested in setting up the hub and willing to work under Fisheries department should have a registered society which will set up the hub under the Prime Minister Mathsyasampada Yozhana. Under the scheme the hub should be established in 25 cents of land available and registered in the name of the society. River and sea fish, prawns and crabs will be procured from coastal districts and stored in the hub having all the infrastructure facilities including deep freezers and even fishponds and tanks for selling live fish and prawns etc. Under the Central scheme Rs 40 lakh subsidy will be extended to society which will have to invest Rs 10 lakh as its share and the

remaining Rs 40 lakh as loan from the commercial banks or the society can invest the entire Rs 60 lakh as its share and avail the Rs 40 lakh subsidy from the government. The aqua-culture hub will supply the sea and river food to all corners of the district. Those fish traders from different parts of the district can transport their sea and river food to their fish sale counters spread over the entire district.

The Fisheries department primarily identified a place close to HLC canal located at the vicinity of Fisheries office itself. It also visited the Singanamala Tank, the largest one in the district in the Singanamala constituency. Some fisheries societies in Singanamala evinced interest but after studying the magnitude of activity as the chief supplier of the sea and river fish products backed out. A few more from other regions possessing land are planning to try their luck by registering a new society for the cause and are exploring possibilities in this regard. Fisheries Department in-charge deputy director Shamamma told The Hans India that the objective of the government is mainly to make fresh sea and river food available to people in all districts and places which does not have access to sea food. The idea is to make even live fish and prawns and crabs available to people. Another reason is to popularise sea and river food as they are highly nutritious and free from negative fats. Even mobile fish sales outlets can straight away carry their products on wheels to any place and destination of their choice and supply them to consumers at their doorsteps. Fisheries Societies have hailed the government initiative as a boon to the fish farmers community as well as to fish consumers.

Andhra Pradesh: NGT panel finds damage to 30% mangroves in Kakinada

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/ngt-panel-finds-damage-to-30-mangroves-in-andhra-s-kakinada-101616784810601-amp.html>

"A joint committee constituted by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to look into the cutting of mangrove forests in the coastal area of Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh's East Godavari district for a housing project, has confirmed destruction of nearly 30% of the mangrove area at the site. The committee also directed the district administration not to proceed with the township project and to take "remedial measures" for "rejuvenation of mangroves". In its report submitted to the southern bench of the NGT on March 17, the committee observed that out of the total extent of mangroves spread over 116 acres, work has been taken up on 58 acres for "Navaratnaalu-Pedalanadirki Illu" (nine jewels-house sites for the poor) programme, thereby affecting mangroves in an extent of 30% of the filled-up area. The house sites' distribution programme was launched on December 25, but the preparatory work like identification of sites and levelling of sites began in March 2020. "The mangrove area also falls under Coastal Regulatory Zone-I area (CRZ-I), which is ecologically sensitive and the geomorphologic features of this zone play a role in the maintaining the integrity of the coast.

As per CRZ notification 2011, no new construction shall be permitted in CRZ-I," the committee

noted. District collector D Muralidhar Reddy, who was also one of the members of the committee, said the government had initiated the process of change in the CRZ category of the said land from CRZ-I to CRZ II, as the land is not a notified forest land, but a waste land as per the revenue records. The NGT, in its order dated March 18, directed that the district administration should not proceed with further development of the township in the said area till the necessary permissions from the competent authorities are obtained. The tribunal directed that the government take remedial measures for rejuvenation of mangroves and other trees in that area considering the eco-sensitiveness of that area. "Besides, considering the nature of damage alleged to have committed, the government must quantify the damage caused to the environment taking into account the amount required for re-rejuvenation of the mangroves and loss of green cover and restoration of the same in that area to protect the environment," the tribunal said and posted the case to April 26. The committee, however, felt that there is no threat to the existing Coringa Wild Life Sanctuary due to the housing project, which is located at about 3 km away. The committee was constituted on April 30, 2020, following a petition filed by environmentalist Satyanarayana Bolishetty in the NGT, challenging the state government's decision to fell and remove mangroves and fill up the land to develop house sites for the poor. The six-member committee comprises C Palpandi, scientist from ministry of environment and forests (MoEF), K Prijilal, research officer in MoEF, district collector D Muralidhar Reddy, conservator of forests, Rajahmundry, N Nageshwara Rao; District Forest Officer, East Godavari, B Sunil Kumar Reddy and environmental engineer of Andhra Pradesh Coastal Zone Management Authority A Rama Rao Naidu.

Andhra Pradesh: Automated feeder transforms scope of fish growth, production

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/automated-feeder-transforms-scope-of-fish-growth-production/articleshow/81556389.cms>

"The use of automated fish feeder has enhanced fish production and growth through sea cages by around 30%, according to scientists of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI). Earlier, the fish were fed manually by fishermen twice a day. Through automated programmed devices, feeding has increased to six times a day. Funded by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), CMFRI Visakhapatnam Regional Centre had been pioneering sea cage culture of two marine fin fish species, namely orange spotted grouper (*Epinephelus coioides*) and Indian pompano (*Trachinotus mookalee*). Currently, there are five cages of Indian pompano and 10 cages where Groupers are being cultured in the Bay of Bengal off RK Beach. Speaking to TOI, senior scientist and scientist-in-charge at CMFRI Vizag, Subhadeep Ghosh, said, "Earlier, fishermen used to go out in boats and feed the fish kept in sea cages twice a day. But now we have switched from manual feeding to automated feeder machine, which is pre-programmed to give the pelleted feed six times a day. Using a mobile app, the amount of feed and timing can be pre-decided. After switching to automated feeders, we noticed that the fish

registered a higher growth rate or increase in weight from 500-600 grams to 750-800 grams per fish. The production per cage has also gone up from about 1.5 to nearly two tonnes.” Recently, partial harvest of half a tonne of Indian pompano was undertaken by CMFRI for exporting to Kerala as per demand. C Suvarna, chief executive of NFDB Hyderabad, who was present at the harvest site, said, “Marine fin fish culture is gaining momentum in India due to its taste and high nutritional value. To popularise the culture techniques for these two species in pond as well as in cages, the project was taken up by CMFRI, Vizag centre. These pilot projects will motivate the fisherfolk and farmers to take up culture of these high-value fish, which have got both a domestic and an export market.”

"Union Minister Andhra Pradesh: Gets Rs.85,576 crore under Sagarmala project

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/ap-gets-85576-crore-under-sagarmala-project/article34023637.ece>

of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways (independent charge) Mansukh L. Mandaviya has said that as many as 92 projects have been sanctioned to Andhra Pradesh under the Sagarmala project at a cost of Rs.85,576 crore. Some of these projects have been completed, some are under implementation and others under consideration, said Mr. Mandaviya while replying to an unstarred question posed by Rajya Sabha member V. Vijaya Sai Reddy on Monday. Giving the breakup, Mr. Mandaviya noted that 22 projects with the theme of port modernisation were initiated at an estimated cost of Rs.4,717 crore, 54 projects were undertaken at a cost of Rs.47,854 crore under the connectivity enhancement head, 10 projects at a cost of Rs.32,053 crore as part of port-led industrialisation and nine projects with the theme of coastal community development were initiated at a cost of Rs.952 crore. The projects undertaken at the Visakhapatnam port are being done under the auspices of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT). Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been prepared for construction of passenger jetties at Barua and Kalingapatnam ports in Srikakulam district and Bheemunipatnam in Visakhapatnam district. Road extension The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has approved the extension of the port connectivity road from Sheelanagar in the city to the Anakapalle–Anandapuram NH-16 bypass road at an estimated cost of Rs.2,352 crore.

The proposal for construction of a 4-lane road from the Gangavaram Port to Atchutapuram SEZ, and the widening of the Gangavaram Port–Gajuwaka NH-16 from the existing four-lane to a six-lane road are under consideration. The other projects under consideration are Gangavaram Port to VPT four-lane coastal road project and construction of a flyover from the Sea Horse junction (Old Town) to the dock area. Mr. Mandaviya also explained that the development works on the Centre of Excellence in Maritime, Shipbuilding in Visakhapatnam have been completed at a cost of Rs.574 crore. He said that approval had been given to the development of a four-lane road from the Outer Harbour to the Convent junction at a cost of Rs.500 crore. Eco-tourism circuit The Hope Island in Kakinada has been developed as an eco-tourism circuit of world-class

standards. A DPR is being prepared for construction of a fishing harbour in Nellore district at an estimated cost of Rs.242 crore. A new port is being developed by the GMR Group at an estimated cost of Rs.2,123 crore in the Kakinada SEZ and a jetty is being constructed at Bhavani Island in Vijayawada at a cost of Rs.22 crore under the auspices of the Tourism Department.

Andhra Pradesh: Eye on 30% domestic market, government plans 100 aqua hubs; first one at Penamaluru

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2021/mar/04/eye-on-30-domestic-market-government-plans-100-aqua-hubs-in-andhra-first-one-at-penamalur--2272000.html>

"Aquaculture was one of the sectors that was severely affected during the Covid pandemic. Almost all the stakeholders of this export-oriented sector suffered as the business transactions slowed down. Important lesson learnt was that lack of a proper domestic market will become a major disaster for the sector in case of a Covid like pandemic in future. Taking note of it, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy came up with a solution — set up Aqua Hubs across the State to boost the domestic market up to 30 per cent. Shortly, the first of the proposed Aqua Hubs is going to come up at Penamaluru in Vijayawada. According to senior officials of the Fisheries department, the Chief Minister wanted an Aqua Hub in every Assembly constituency to help those depending on aquaculture, marine fishing and traditional fishing in rivers and ponds earn a steady income by providing a proper marketing platform. Subsequently, the department has come up with a proposal to set up 100 Aqua Hubs across the State in two phases. In the first phase, 25 Aqua Hubs are being planned and in the second phase 75 more will be constructed. Construction of each of these Aqua Hubs is estimated to cost around Rs 1 crore. These Aqua Hubs, which will be constructed in a uniform design and facilities, will have live fish storage tanks, chilled room, cold room fish processing room, blast freezer, marination room, ice crushing machine and water chiller. Key roles of the Aqua hubs, which will be maintained by Aqua Farmers Societies (AFS) will be aggregation, value addition, supply chain management and quality assurance.

These will be linked to integrated laboratories, which are expected to be grounded by the end of May. "Aqua farmers, traditional fishermen, marine fishermen, fish processing units will supply fish and other aqua products to these Aqua Hubs, which in turn route them out to retail units like live fish markets, mini fish vendors, kiosks, mobile fish vendors, nutri or food carts. These hubs will not only facilitate manual markets, but also e-platforms for the sale of fish products," explained a senior official of the department. After learning a lesson during Covid pandemic, focus is on domestic markets. With doctors recommending protein and vitamin foods, fish products are on the top of the food chart. "It will be a win-win situation for both growers and vendors and ultimately it will benefit the end consumer," he said. The project will be linked with the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. The aqua products from AP will be marketed

under a brand name at both domestic and international markets. Big boost to aqua products 1) 100 Aqua Hubs will be set up across the state in two phases. 2) 25 Aqua Hubs are being planned in the first phase and 75 in second phase. 3) Rs 1 crore estimated cost of each of these Aqua Hubs. 4) 30% domestic market target. Facilities Aqua hubs will have fish storage tanks, chilled room, cold room fish processing room, blast freezer, marination room, ice crushing machine and water chiller.

Andhra Pradesh: Time ripe to unlock the potential of Blue Economy: Jagan

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/time-ripe-to-unlock-the-potential-of-blue-economy-jagan/article33975039.ece>

"Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has said that true value of "Blue Economy" is unlocked only when all the allied sectors, which are directly and indirectly dependent on the ocean such as aquaculture, maritime & coastal tourism, chemical & bio-technological exploration, ship building and other port led industries provide sustainable employment and growth opportunities. Mr. Jagan was speaking at the "Maritime India Summit 2021", which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually, from his camp office here, on Tuesday. "The draft of the first-ever National Fishing Policy released by Government of India in September 2020 is an example of the steps taken in that direction. Now, 95% of India's trading by volume and 70% by value is through maritime transport. Indian ports handled approximately 1.2 billion metric tonnes of cargo traffic in the year 2019-20 and much required policy reforms like 100% FDI, Make-in-India, Sagar Mala and Bharat Mala have been introduced to ensure exponential growth in this sector," Mr. Jagan said. Stating that the importance of Blue Economy in a nation's growth story extended much beyond the maritime trade and the export- import statistics, Mr. Jagan said Andhra Pradesh was ranked No.1 in the country in Ease of Doing Business rankings 2020, and one of the factors that contributed to this achievement was the State government's efforts in developing port infrastructure, support ecosystem and encouraging port-led industrialisation.

"We are drawing inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his focused agenda to take India's maritime economy to the next level, Andhra Pradesh has taken up a lot of transformative steps to leverage its coastal line of 974 km, which is the second longest in India and the longest on the eastern coast of the country," he said. Andhra Pradesh has one major port in Visakhapatnam, five functional State ports and 10 other notified State ports with world class facilities that handle more than 170 million tonnes of cargo per annum, second only to Gujarat. The State shared 4% of total Indian exports and aimed at reaching 10% share by 2030, said Mr. Jagan. To further unlock this potential offered by the long coastline, the State government had undertaken development of three greenfield ports at Ramayapatnam, Machilipatnam and Bhavanapatnam on an innovative model that mitigated all risks associated with greenfield port development, thereby making the port operation a risk-free proposition for the private sector.

After the development of the port by the government, the operator of the port would be selected on competitive bidding basis ensuring maximum revenue realisation for the government. These all-weather, deep-drafted ports were all set to be operational by 2023, creating an additional capacity of at least 100 million tonnes of cargo per annum in the short term, with a potential to grow leaps and bounds in the long term, Mr. Jagan added.

Andhra Pradesh: Aquaculture infra set to get major boost

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2021/feb/20/aquaculture-infra-set-to-get-major-boost-2266531.html>

"While the existing eight government aquaculture laboratories in the state are expected to be upgraded by March-end, 27 more integrated facilities for research in the sector are likely to begin operations in the later half of this year. The same is part of infrastructure development for the effective implementation of three Acts passed in 2020: Andhra Pradesh State Aquaculture Development Authority (APSADA) Act, AP Aquaculture Seed (Quality Control) Act, and AP Fish Feed (Quality Control) Act. The primary objective of the three Acts is to safeguard the interest of aqua farmers, streamline the process of acquiring licence and other permissions, and ensure that the quality of seed and feed meets international standards. "Quality is paramount to ensure that no aqua export gets rejected on the pretext of quality, presence of antibiotics beyond permissible levels, and delay in the processing of permissions," P Koteswara Rao, head of the State Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kakinada told TNIE.

There were 14 issues which used to consume time, and were reportedly the reasons for the delay in the issuance of licences. "Now, all those loopholes have been plugged. Specific time has been allocated for issuing the licences and permission for aquaculture registration, and to seed and fish feed factories. When the time for a particular service elapses, the permission or licence, if not reissued already, will be deemed to have been given," he explained. In the past, there were several complaints of corruption in the procedure. Lack of any legal provision used to force the farmers or entrepreneurs to seek police help or take a legal recourse. However, the newly-introduced legislations will ensure legal actions are initiated in case of irregularities. "Action can be initiated against those who provide inferior seed or feed when there is proof that quality standards were not adhered to. The existing labs and the ones to come up will take care of these issues. Random sample testing, apart from acting on the complaints, will be done," Koteswara Rao explained. Nearly 60 per cent of the input in aquaculture, be it freshwater or brackish, are seed and feed. The quality checks are expected to bring down the cost by 10 to 15 per cent even as there is an increase in production by 15-20 per cent.

Andhra Pradesh: Engineers work on Polavaram dam on Godavari for smooth passage of Pulasa fish

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/engineers-work-on-polavaram-dam-on-godavari-for-smooth-passage-of-pulasa-fish-101613240941824.html>

"Engineers working on the Polavaram major irrigation project, being constructed on Godavari River in Andhra Pradesh's West Godavari district, are making a special arrangement in the massive spillway of the dam for the smooth passage of a peculiar variety of fish found in the river. Popularly known as "Pulasa Chepa" (Hilsa fish, scientific name: *Tenulosa ilisha*), it is actually a marine fish variety, but enters the Godavari river during the months of July and August for breeding. From Antarvedi in East Godavari district, where the river joins Bay of Bengal, the fish swims upstream of the river for more than 200 miles for breeding and returns to the sea by October-November. Due to its taste and availability only for a limited period in the Godavari river, Pulasa fish is in high demand not only in coastal Andhra, but also across the state and it fetches around Rs.4,000 per kg for fishermen during the peak season. However, the construction of the Polavaram dam across the river has posed a big threat to the Pulasa fish, as its movement to the upstream of the river would be curtailed.

"This was one of the issues raised by the Union ministry of environment and forests before considering granting environmental clearance for the Polavaram project. It asked the state water resources department to work out a mechanism for the passage of Pulasa fish," Polavaram project chief engineer B Sudhakar Babu said. Subsequently, the state government consulted the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Kolkata, to study on what kind of changes could be made in the design of the gates for the passage of Pulasa fish upstream and downstream of the river. "It is perhaps the first time that the CIFRI studied the physiology and behaviour of Pulasa fish in choosing its path in the river and designed a specialised Fish Ladder Gate to be erected on one of the piers of the spillway to enable the unhindered passage of fish during the season," the chief engineer said.

According to Satish Babu Angara, general manager of Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited which is executing the project, the fish ladder gate is about 252 metres in length and has three vents at various levels of the spillway so that the fish could move freely even if water levels keep changing. "We have made this arrangement in the second pier of the dam, keeping in view the path of the Pulasa fish. The fish ladder gate can be adjusted according to the water level," Satish said. Each vent of the fish ladder gate will be of six feet height and four feet in width, which will provide enough space for the fish to pass through during the season, the chief engineer said. The project works are moving at a fast pace now. The erection of 52 spillway pillars, each measuring a height of 52 metres, of the dam was completed on Thursday. "We shall complete the erection of gates shortly, apart from bridge and slab works on the spillway by June," Satish said

Andhra Pradesh: Call for immediate intervention to conserve marine resources

<https://www.thehansindia.com/news/cities/visakhapatnam/call-for-immediate-intervention-to-protect-marine-resources-672291>

"Former Union Energy Secretary EAS Sarma raises concern over turtle and marine life conservation. Appealing to Secretary to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MEFCC) RP Gupta and Chief Secretary Aditya Nath Das, Sarma said a letter was already dashed to the Union Environment Minister on national turtle conservation action plan, the large scale damage to turtles and other marine resources taking place along Andhra Pradesh coast. The damage is a result of industrial pollution and overexploitation of the coastal resources, he mentioned. Attaching images of carcasses of turtles and dolphins deposited along the coast of Srikakulam near Etcherla and Visakhapatnam near Bheemunipatnam, the former Union Energy Secretary appealed to the ministries concerned to intervene with immediate effect. "I have received further information from the local fishing communities on the widespread damage of the marine species extending south of Visakhapatnam along the coast," he said. Sarma laid emphasis on urgent interventions sans which there will be an irrevocable loss of the marine resources. Earlier, in his communication to MEFCC, Sarma stated how the local fishermen were dependent on the marine resources. He appealed to the authorities that the Andhra Pradesh Marine Fishing (Regulation) Act, 1995 requires them to extend protection to traditional fishing activity in preference to mechanised fishing so as to permit the conservation of the marine resources. "Had the State enforced this law, it would have helped conserve the rare species such as turtles and dolphins," he added.

Andhra Pradesh: Travails of over 600 fishermen families driven out by oil drillers

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/travails-of-over-600-fishermen-families-driven-out-by-oil-drillers-672126>

"Owing to drilling operation undertaken by Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPC), nearly 600 families have moved away from coastal Balusutippa village of Katrenikona mandal in East Godavari district and settled down at Injaram village of Tallarevu mandal on the banks of River Godavari. The fishermen hunt for red prawns which are in great demand. For the last 10 years they have been hunting and doing brisk business of red prawns. Originally, the prawns are available in the sea at Kakinada. But owing to receding sea water, the prawns have moved away from this area to Tallarevu mandal which became the hunting area for these families. It is interesting to note that children of 8 years old are enthusiastically participating in fishing. They are evincing more interest in hunting rather than pursuing education. They are reluctant to go to school.

They get an income ranging from Rs 500 to 5,000 per day. Of course, they get this amount depending upon their luck in hunting. All the families lead their lives completely on the boats. Their boats are like their house where they cook and eat food, sleep and carry out other domestic

activities. Women are also participating in fishing. In the night time they hang blinking lanterns to a single pole erected on the boat. They confess that they don't have any skill except hunting. A fisherman Malladi Sathibabu told 'The Hans India' that they come to the Tallarevu area soon after the Diwali celebration was over. He said that they lost their livelihood in view of the drilling operation undertaken by GSPC. Officials paid their compensation to 16,514 people in 2013. However, some of the fishermen did not receive the amount. He candidly stated that there is little encouragement from the government for the fishermen. He complained that they are unable to receive the government welfare schemes. He appealed to the government to help them financially. Another fisherman D Lakshmana Rao stated that in case of health problems, they go to Yanam of Puducherry government hospital instead of Kakinada Government Hospital as it is far away from their area. More than 764 fishermen have been waiting for a compensation amount of Rs. 6 crore from the government. In fact, the amount had to be paid to the fishermen by the GSPC. During the oil and gas drilling period, the GSPC promised to the government as well as the fishermen to provide a compensation amount of 78.24 crore to 16,514 fishermen who lost their livelihood on fishing ban due to the GSPC drilling. However, the GSPC has not been releasing the compensation.

The fishermen agitated against the company and exerted pressure on the government three years ago. But the then TDP government didn't heed their demand and ignored them. The then Opposition leader YS Jagan Mohan Reddy who was on Padayatra, had promised to the fishermen to provide the remaining compensation amount to the fishermen, if he came to power. After coming to power, Jagan Mohan Reddy released an amount of Rs 72.24 crore for 15,222 fishermen last year. Due to the failure in finding addresses of the fishermen and some technical reasons, remaining fishermen couldn't get the compensation. Now those fishermen have been waiting for the compensation. Deputy Director of Fisheries PV Satyanarayana told 'The Hans India' that the lists of the beneficiaries have been prepared and identified the beneficiaries and also submitted a report to the government for the purpose. He expressed hope the government would release the remaining funds by the end of March 31.

Andhra Pradesh: Krishna backwaters turn hub of mariculture in A.P.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/krishna-backwaters-turn-hub-of-mariculture-in-ap/article33777238.ece>

"A nearly 25 km stretch of the backwater channel in the Krishna estuary is flourishing with mariculture, for which it has emerged as a hub in Andhra Pradesh. High-value fish varieties like Asian sea bass and Indian pompano are being successfully cultivated here. It's the prime livelihood option for many families belonging to some Scheduled Castes and Yanadi tribe people living by the backwaters along the stretch in Nagayalanka, Pedapalem and Edurumondi in the

Diviseema region. The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI-Visakhapatnam), the National Fisheries Development Board, NABARD and the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF-Chennai) are encouraging mariculture in the Krishna estuary by extending technical, scientific and financial assistance to the local communities. Humble beginning A decade ago, the CMFRI experimented on cage cultivation in support of a Diviseema-based progressive farmer, T. Raghu Sekhar, who later popularised it in the Krishna estuary.

“At least 80 floating cages have been installed by the CMFRI and funded by the NFDB. A majority of them are owned by Dalit families and Yanadi tribe people in which they cultivate Indian pompano. Mariculture is a lifeline for the landless poor,” says Mr. Raghu Sekhar. CMFRI-Visakhapatnam in-charge scientist Subhadeep Ghosh tells *The Hindu*: “In Andhra Pradesh, the Krishna estuary has emerged as the hub for mariculture in the brackish water. Since 2019-20, we have installed nearly 80 high density polyethylene (HDP) and galvanised iron (GI) cages here. The cages float on the water. We have already harvested a crop of Indian pompano.” UN role The MSSRF has chosen to promote the cultivation of Asian sea bass variety through the floating cages. MSSRF coastal systems research principal coordinator R. Ramasubramanyan says, “We have installed 10 cages, providing livelihood options with the adaptation fund granted by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The timely supply of seed and training will yield more results in mariculture, apart from uplifting the landless families.”

Andhra Pradesh: West Godavari: Flush with agro, aqua units

<https://www.thehansindia.com/business/west-godavari-flush-with-agro-aqua-units-670159>

"WITH its fertile lands, prosperity fuelled by agriculture, West Godavari is considered one of the prosperous districts in Andhra Pradesh with no dearth of entrepreneurship to make it one of the leading hubs for food processing industries and aquaculture. The district is situated on the west banks of River Godavari. It is well known as the rice granary of Andhra Pradesh. The total area of the district is 7742 Sq. Km. The gross cropped area is 72,4584 hectares. It has a population of 39.37 lakh as per 2011 census. Kolleru lake, the biggest fresh water lake in India, is situated in the southwestern part of the district. The drainage is mainly dendritic in the northern part. Drainage density is more in the northern part. The delta area is served by the Godavari canal system and hundreds of drains. The gross district domestic product (GDDP) is \$7.5 billion with agriculture contribution estimated at \$3 billion, according to the Economic Development Board of Andhra Pradesh.

West Godavari has varied industries set up with massive investment providing employment to many and contributing to GDP. As the multi-purpose Polavaram project is under construction, the district prospects for investment opportunities in agro-based and food processing, including poultry and aquaculture units, are further brightened. The district with its vast delta area and enterprising individuals is home to sugar mills, sanitary ware, food processing, bottling, aqua and

poultry feed units. The Sarvaraya Group and Jeypore Sugar factory are well-known names. The district over the years has emerged as a leading centre for Vannamei (white-leg shrimp) farming due to its culinary value and demand in overseas markets for low price. The Sarvaraya Group's Andhra Sugars hit the headlines when it made solid, liquid and cryogenic fuel for ISRO's GSLV with technical guidance from the nation's premier space agency way back in 2012. In four years from 2014-15, 14 large and mega projects with an investment of `849.28 crore have gone into production providing employment to 2545. During the same period, 2090 MSME units registered with an investment of `1,929.87 crore employing 25,165. The Industries Department has identified several potential activities including paper board making, straw board making, milk chilling, processing, ice cream making, ready-to-eat foods, fish oil, automobile components and sanitary ware.

The district under food-based industries segment at present has edible oils, sugar, coffee powder, aqua processing units, ready-to-eat items like potato chips, bakery products, papads and chilly powders; It also has several cashew processing units and plastic, construction, packing based enterprises. The District Industries Centre has identified certain major thrust areas, which include food and agro-based, mineral, textile sectors. The total area under horticulture crops in the district is 1.204 lakh hectares. The district is one of the major producers of mango and oil palm. The major horticulture crops are mango, lime, banana, oil palm, coconut, cashew, cocoa, vegetables, spices and flowers. There is scope for cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants. The major crops grown are paddy, sugar cane, maize, tobacco, red gram, green gram, black gram, groundnut, sun flower and pulses. There is also good potential for investment in palm oil processing, rice bran oil

Andhra Pradesh: Fishermen 'capture' 100 Tamil Nadu men, boats

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2021/jan/28/andhra-pradesh-fishermen-capture100-tamil-nadu-men-boats-2256065.html>

"Yet another tussle between Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu fishermen over violation of zonal restrictions was reported. In the fresh incident, the fishers of Isakapalem under Allur mandal are said to have captured 100 persons with 18 boats after a chase, as the TN men were found to be fishing in AP waters on Wednesday. The captured men and boats were shifted to a temple in Isakapalli village, and association leaders were informed of the same. It may be noted that there have been numerous reports of Tamil Nadu fishermen crossing the sea border with mechanised boats, creating disturbances between the fishermen communities in the two states. "Though the officials say that they will file a case against the Tamil Nadu fishermen if they venture into Andhra Pradesh, no action has been taken yet. The police say this is due to lack of evidence," said A Polaiiah, a fishermen from Allur.

Andhra Pradesh: Over 10,000 fisherfolk in East Godavari await biometric ID cards

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/over-10k-fisherfolk-in-eg-await-biometric-id-cards/articleshow/80469945.cms>

"Over 10,000 fishermen in East Godavari district are yet to receive biometric identity cards that can be accessed by authorised agencies to strengthen coastal security and reduce the threat of terror attacks from the sea route. The idea behind biometric cards had been proposed by the Centre in 2009 following the terror attack in Mumbai in 2008. The task of generating the cards had been handed over to the Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL). Under the initiative, the customs department and Indian Coast Guard will verify the credentials of resident and marine fisherfolk in coastal villages with the help of card readers. The readers will check the authenticity of the cards issued by the fisheries department. The machines will also examine the authenticity of resident cards recorded in the National Population Register. However, with ECIL having withdrawn from the initiative and over 10,000 fishermen yet to receive their cards, repeated pleas raised by the fisheries department with higher officials have not yielded results. Deputy director of fisheries, East Godavari, P V Satyanarayana said, "We are making repeated requests to get the work done for the remaining fishermen."

Andhra Pradesh: East Godavari district ranks third in fish, prawn production in Andhra Pradesh

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/east-godavari-district-ranks-third-in-fish-prawn-production-in-andhra-pradesh-668818>

"Collector DMuralidhar Reddy said that the State government is successfully implementing the state-of-the-art priority programmes in East Godavari district with the objective of public welfare, development and higher living standards. The 72nd Republic Day celebrations in Kakinada Smart City were marked by pomp and gaiety on Tuesday. Superintendent of Police Adnan Nayeem Asmi, Joint Collectors Dr G Raja Kumari, Keerthi Chekuri, Municipal Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar and others were present. The Republic Day celebrations by the district administration at the Police Parade grounds featured cultural programmes by the school students. Collector Muralidhar Reddy unfurled the national flag. He said that various schemes undertaken by the State government for the welfare of youth, workers, farmers, women, students and the poor are extended to every deserving person. He said that to support farmers, the State government is providing Rs 13,500 per farmer family through the YSR Rythu Bharosa-PM Kisan scheme. He said that 4,64,229 farmers received Rs 517.57 crore in the district. The amount was deposited directly in the bank accounts. He said that 1,129 Rythu Bharosa Centres have been set up in the district to provide various services to the farmers in advance. He said that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy recently laid the foundation stone for the construction of a fishing harbour at Aminabad on the Uppada coast at a

cost of Rs 420 crore. He said that the district ranks third in the State with 3 crore seven lakh tonnes of fish and prawn production. He said that Rs 726 crore has been deposited to 4,83,622 mothers who are enrolling their children under the Amma Vodi scheme. He said that 190 centers have been set up in the district for distribution of Covid-19 vaccine as per the guidelines and standards of the both Central and State governments.

Andhra Pradesh: Four fishermen injured as boat catches fire at Kakinada fishing harbour

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/four-fishermen-injured-as-boat-catches-fire/article33638952.ece>

"Four persons suffered burns after the boat, in which they were preparing to venture into sea for fishing, caught fire reportedly owing to short circuit while switching on the engine, at Kakinada fishing harbour in East Godavari district on Friday. The injured have been identified as Boddu Nookaraju, Malli Yerrayya, Mugi Dhanayya and Dydupalli Suribabu. The boat is registered with the East Godavari district Fisheries Department. All the four belonged to Visakhapatnam district and were engaged in fishing from Kakinada Harbour. Nookaraju's condition was said to be critical. All of them had been shifted to Government General Hospital in Kakinada, East Godavari SP Adnan Nayeem Asmi said. The fire occurred when the crew attempted to start the engine by joining two wires of the battery. They had filled the oil tank before starting the engine and the fuel that fell on the boat led to the spread of the fire to the remaining part of the boat, the police said. The Port police and port authorities swung into the action to control the fire, but a major portion of the boat was gutted by then. The incident occurred at around 1.30 p.m. Probe ordered Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ch. Venu Gopala Krishna has ordered an inquiry into the incident. The Minister visited the hospital and inquired about the health of the injured. The district officials will probe the incident. The State government is prepared to provide medical treatment to the injured. The owners of the fishing boats should ensure safety of the crew, Mr. Venu Gopala Krishna said.

Andhra Pradesh: Bird flu scare pushes up demand for fish, prawns in Andhra

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2021/jan/18/bird-flu-scare-pushes-up-demand-for-fish-prawns-in-andhra-2251608.html>

"The bird flu scare has increased the demand for aqua products. Even though Nellore and Chittoor districts have not reported any case of bird flu so far, majority of the urban people have switched over to consumption of fish and prawns from chicken. The prices of Roopchand, Rohu and other varieties of fish have gone up from Rs 120 to Rs 200 a kg with the rise in demand for aqua products. On the other hand, the prices of chicken have declined to Rs 160 from Rs 180 a kg. Due to bird flu scare, people are not ready to buy chicken even if its prices declined in both Nellore and Chittoor districts. Not only on Sundays, fish and prawns are much in demand in

other weekdays. “The demand for fish and prawns has been on the rise in the open market for the last one week. The prices of a few varieties of fish have increased to Rs 220 a kg,” said K Srihari Babu, a vendor at the fish market in Nellore. Aquaculturists of Nellore export their produce to Chittoor and Kadapa and neighbouring Tamil Nadu and Karnataka where they get a good price. Aqua farmers are hopeful of reaping good profits in view of the rise in demand for fish and shrimp this season.

Andhra Pradesh: Government of Andhra Pradesh The AP YSR Matsyasaroma Scheme 2021 is being implemented for the fishermen community under the leadership of CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

<https://themiracletech.com/latest/ap-ysr-matsyasarosa-scheme-2021-for-fishermen-rs-10000/>

"Government of Andhra Pradesh The AP YSR Matsyasaroma Scheme 2021 is being implemented for the fishermen community under the leadership of CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. State government. Earlier on 21 November 2019, AP YSR Matsyakara Bharosa scheme was launched. Now AP Govt. Disbursement of Rs. 10,000 to fishermen for Rs. In this scheme, the government provides financial assistance to fishermen for mechanized, motorized and non-motorized fishing nets. AP YSR MATSISERA BHAROS Scheme 2021 Apply Online Fishermen now have Rs. 10,000 from the earlier amount of Rs. 4,000 due to coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown. AP Government Will give benefit of the scheme to fishermen who have already benefited Rythu Bharosa, Vaan mitra And YSR Pension Kanuka Plans. In this article, we will share with you all the benefits, incentives and all other procedures related to the scheme. We will give your 1000 rupees.

We will also share with you step by step process to check the status of payment. We will also share with you all the step by step process, through which you can check the beneficiary list of the scheme. Fishermen who have received pension benefits like Rayathu Bharosa, Vahna Mitra, will also get holiday assistance under the scheme. AP YSR Fishery Bharo Scheme Registration / Application Form To apply for the scheme, you have to follow the simple procedure given below: – Phase 1: First of all, visit the official website of the Government of Andhra Pradesh <http://www.ap.gov.in/> stage 2: On the homepage, you can click on the notification link for YSR Matsyakara Bharosa Yojana step 3: A new page will appear on your screen. step 4: Read the instructions on the page carefully Andhra Pradesh government schemes 2021 Popular schemes in Andhra Pradesh: Andhra Pradesh Ration Card List 2021 Ap ration card application form pdf download AP YSR Kapu Nestam Scheme Step 5: Enter the information asked on the registration form Step 6: Upload all the above documents Step 7: Click on Presented Buttons to complete the process of filling up the AP YSR Mermaid Yojana Scheme registration / application form. Benefits of Fishery Benefit Scheme Important features and highlights of this AP government. The scheme of fishermen for fisheries is as follows: – - 10,000 (previously Rs. 4,000) to

fishermen amidst enhanced COVID-19 lockdown of Rs. - Diesel grant to beneficiaries of AP YSR Matsyaseva Bharosa scheme in Rs. 9 per liter which is Rs. 6.03 ago. AP Government Has identified 81 filling stations for this purpose. - Earlier, financial assistance was given only to fishermen who use mechanized and motorized boats. But the current distribution will also benefit fishermen who use hunting rafts. - A total of 1.09 lakh families of fishermen will be benefitted from the AP YSR Matsya Nestham Scheme. - In addition, fishermen families are provided with ex-gratia who die while hunting. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakhs.

All fishermen in the age group of 18 to 60 years can take advantage of this. CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy announced the increase in benefits after reviewing the pathetic conditions of the fishermen during his 3,648 km long journey. All the beneficiaries are rejoicing and Rs. Has expressed its happiness as an unprecedented help. 10,000 AP comes from the government. During coronavirus lockdown. Eligibility Criteria For YSR Matsya Bharsa Scheme To apply for this scheme, you have to follow the following eligibility criteria for AP YSR Matsyakara Bharosa Yojana as specified by the respective government offices: – 1. Applicant must be resident of Andhra Pradesh state. 2. Applicant should be a businessman. 3. Fishermen should operate mechanized, motorized and non-motorized fishing nets. List of documents required for fisheries scheme The following documents are required to be submitted along with your AP YSR Matsyakara Bharosa Yojana application form: – - Aadhar card - Voter ID Card - Passport size photo - vocational certificate Beneficiary List All fishermen in the state of Andhra Pradesh are eligible to apply for the scheme and payment of Rs 10000 will be directly transferred to their bank account for fishing. Other benefits for fishermen in AP AP Government The integrated Aqua Lab has been allocated at 46 locations for Rs. Will be installed in 56.53 crores Rs. These labs are to test the quality of water, sand, feed, and seeds for the benefit of aquaculture. AP Government Has also allocated Rs. 720 crores for providing electricity to aqua farmers at a cost of Rs. 1.5 per unit to benefit about 53,550 farmers. Another major decision is to provide rights to fishermen on leased canals at nominal cost and provision for input subsidy.

Andhra Pradesh: Minister imposes temporary ban on seine and bottom crawler nets

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/ongole-minister-imposes-temporary-ban-on-seine-and-bottom-crawler-nets-665386>

"The animal husbandry and fisheries minister Dr. Sidiri Appalaraju announced that they are imposing a temporary ban on the use of bottom crawler and seine nets with less than 0.5-inch hole, up to 8 kilometers from the shore on the sea. Minister Appalaraju along with his cabinet colleague Balineni Srinivasa Reddy, MP Mopidevi Venkataramana conducted a meeting with the fishery officials and fishermen from Vadarevu and Katarivaripalem in the district collectorate on Monday evening. He discussed the dispute between the fishermen from two villages, the types of fishing nets they are using, and their demands. He said that the government will take necessary action to protect the livelihood of the next generations. He opined that the clashes were

unfortunate and announced to stop the arrests in the future and promised to liftoff the earlier cases after discussing with the chief minister. He said that they would pay the compensation for the physical losses of assets and take action as per the Marine Fisheries Regulations Act. The minister Appalaraju announced that they are ordering the study of the bottom crawler nets and seine nets with less than 0.5 inch holes and prohibiting the use of them up to 8 kilometers in the sea, until a decision is taken on the received report.

Minister Balineni Srinivasa Reddy said that some persons tried to use the disputes between the fishermen for their political gain and assured all assistance from the government. MP Mopdevi Venkataramana advised them to not take their own decisions when the government is trying to cooperate with the fishermen community in all aspects. He assured that they would take a decision that was agreeable to both parties and also as per the acts in force after the report is received. The collector announced that it is banned to use mechanized and motorized fishing boats up to 8kilometers from the shore, and ordered the fishermen to cooperate and coordinate with one another.

Andhra Pradesh: When a sacred river offers shelter, livelihood to 4 families

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/companions-of-the-sacred-sabari-on-tri-state-border/article33475225.ece>

"For nearly two decades, the sacred river Sabari and a group of four migrant fisherfolk families have remained steadfast companions near Chintoor village along the tri-State border of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Chattisgarh in East Godavari Agency. The strong survival skills of the fisherfolk motivated them to make the river their permanent home by developing a tiny settlement by it. Migrating from Dowleswaram village in the Godavari delta in early 2000, the four families decided to make a living by taking up fishing in the Sabari, and are operating four houseboats in which they live as well as fish on the tri-State border. Their habitat now comprises four house boats, four temporary houses on the sands of the river, where four families with 25 people have settled, eking out a livelihood by fishing in the river. "We have ten children with us. All of them attend school in Chintoor village," says Voliseti Durga, one of the eight women who live in the settlement and join their families for fishing. The eldest in the settlement, Gudem Venkateswarlu, narrates how life is by the river.

"Except the children, everyone including women go for fishing in the Sabari, covering the stretch of 13-km river until Konta in Chhattisgarh, Motu in Odisha and Chintoor. We never fish in the Sileru that joins the Sabari at Konta," he says, adding that many a times, they go for fishing during the night. A majority of the day's catch is sold at their settlement that is thronged by locals, while the rest is sold in Chintoor village. Another family elder, Voliseti Kamaraju, 40, says: "We never felt the need to return to our native place. Life by the Sabari is comfortable thanks to the low cost of living. Here, we have everything we want — water, fish, family and a

market.” Post the floods in the Godavari and Sabari, many fisherfolk began thronging this area for fishing but later returned to their native places. “Recently, local authorities have sanctioned a ration card to my family. Our children have enrolled at the government school in Chintoor. Here, we have never faced any problems as the Koya tribe is always there to help us at any time,” says Durga, Mr. Kamaraju’s wife. On October 23 last year, Nutti Harikrishna and Nutti Vijaya got married on this settlement. The bride, Ms. Vijaya, belongs to Dowleswaram. “I wanted my marriage to be performed along the Sabari. We even invited our relatives and guests from outside for the wedding,” Mr. Harikrishna says. “I am happy to live in the houseboats and spending the days with my husband going fishing,” Ms. Vijaya says.

Andhra Pradesh: Govt set to install security equipment in fishing boats

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/govt-set-to-install-security-equipment-in-fishing-boats/articleshow/80075866.cms>

"The state government is preparing to implement schemes relating to the safety, security and hygiene of marine fishing boats over the next five years under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampad Yojana (PMMSY). As per the budget outlay, the government will provide subsidy to install bio-toilets and transponders in all 2,300 mechanised boats. Transponders would be also be fitted in all 25,000-odd motorised boats in the state. “Normally, we have seen welfare schemes under PMMSY. But, recently the state government has announced the outlay of different projects to be undertaken under PMMSY in the next five years. It’s good to see that two projects pertaining to safety, security and hygiene of fishermen have also been included,” Arijili Dasu, a fishermen activist from Andhra Pradesh told STOI. A survey conducted after the lockdown was eased revealed that all marine fishing boats in the state should be fitted with bio-toilets. Meanwhile, the Union fisheries ministry is keen to install transponders in all marine fishing boats in the country following instances of fishing boats crossing Indian marine limits and drifting into foreign waters. In October 2019, a boat from Visakhapatnam entered Bangladesh water and its eight crew members were arrested and spent four months in Bangladesh jail. In a similar incident in November 2019, two fishing boats from Gujarat had entered Pakistan’s waters and the 17 crew members on board—all from Andhra Pradesh—were lodged in a jail in Karachi till January 2020. “BSNL would fit these transponders through which fishermen onboard would be in constant touch with marine forces, port officials, associations and owners back on land. A trial for these transponders was conducted in August 2020 in Visakhapatnam and it was successful,” a senior fisheries official told STOI.

Andhra Pradesh: More Srikakulam ryots switch to prawn farming

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2021/jan/02/more-srikakulam-ryots-switch-to-prawn-farming-2244317.html>

"Farmers of several coastal villages of Santsbommali, Etcherla, Ranasthalam, Polaki, Sompeta, Ichchapuram and other mandals of Srikakulam district are switching to prawn cultivation from paddy and other agriculture crops. As the paddy cultivation leaves the farmers in debt due to insufficient irrigation facilities in the area, they are slowly switching to prawn farming. Moreover, the prawn farmers in the coastal villages are making good profits. Another reason is the availability of salt water for prawn farming in the coastal areas. Initially, farmers of Seethanagaram village of Santhabommali mandal and few villages of Etchela mandal have started the prawn cultivation. "I have been cultivating prawns in five acres of land for the last five years and I have never suffered a loss," said Ram Mohan Rao, a farmer from M Sunnapalli of Santhabommali mandal. He said that several other farmers in the village have switched to prawn farming. To promote prawn cultivation, the district fisheries department has been creating awareness among the farmers on various schemes. "The State government will grant 40 per cent subsidy on converting the agriculture lands for the prawn farming," said fisheries department joint director Sreenivasa Rao. He told TNIE that the State government was also providing subsidy on purchasing the feed and medicine for prawn farming. "About 60 per cent of the investment in the prawn farming will go to feed and medicine," he added. Prawn farming has extended to over 2,000 hectares in various coastal mandals in the district, he said and appealed to the farmers to contact the local fisheries officials for technical inputs regarding prawn cultivation. Similarly, the District Cooperative Marketing Society is mulling to set up a few prawn processing units in the district.

Andhra Pradesh: Tension prevails in Visakhapatnam as row over use of ring seine intensifies

<https://www.thehansindia.com/news/cities/visakhapatnam/tension-prevails-in-visakhapatnam-as-row-over-use-of-ring-seine-intensifies-664479>

"Mild tension prevailed in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday as row over use of ring seine net intensifies between fishermen communities located at Pedajalaripeta and Vasavanipalem. When the fishermen from Vasavanipalem set out for fishing into the sea using ring seine, they were stopped by the fishermen from Pedajalaripeta. About 100 boats were engaged to stop the fishing activity of the Vasavanipalem fishermen. They were asked to discontinue fishing using ring seine net and return to the shore. Laying emphasis on using gillnet and other traditional fishing gear, fishermen from Pedajalaripeta pointed out that ring seine net has negative impact on fish stocks that involves catching even non-target species and hence the net should not be used for fishing. Meanwhile, police intervened and brought the situation under control. Fishermen from Vasavanipalem, who went for fishing in nine boats, returned to the shore, discontinuing the fishing.

Andhra Pradesh: Ring nets banned in coastal waters in district

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/ring-nets-banned-in-coastal-waters-in-district/article33458509.ece>

"The use of ring nets in the coastal waters in the district has been banned, pending further orders, according to the Joint Director of Fisheries K. Phani Prakash. The ban has been necessitated due to frequent disputes between the fishermen of Kotha Jalaripeta and those of Jalari Endada, Uppada and Mangamaripeta on the use of ring nets. The Kotha Jalaripeta fishermen had complained to the Fisheries Department that the use of ring was resulting in the depletion of fish resources close to the coast and near the Fishing Harbour. Mr. Phani Prakash said that the District Collector has appointed a technical committee to make the field-level study and submit a comprehensive report on the issue. A decision would be taken based on the report. In the meantime, the use of ring nets in the marine waters in the district has been banned. Those violating the ban would be taken to task.

Andhra Pradesh: Fisheries Restricts Entry Into Fishing Harbour

<https://english.sakshi.com/news/andhrapradesh/ap-fisheries-restricts-entry-fishing-harbour-128182>

"The Department of Fisheries has restricted the entry into the fishing harbour only to passholders as most of the people at the premises are not following COVID-19 norms. There have always been security issues and security personnel appointed. Police officials are taking out all the efforts to ensure vendors wear masks and maintain personal hygiene. Joint Director K Phani Prakash, Fisheries Department said that, already, 1,000 entry passes have been issued and eligible persons can apply for the passes. At the entrance, two gates were set up and police were held to ensure proper crowd management and also for surveillance. The fish harbour is always found to be overcrowded and especially on weekends, people throng to the harbour. Many times, public and retailers break the barricades and enter the fishing harbours. The fishing department for the first time issued passes.

Andhra Pradesh: Govt eyes domestic market in boost to brackish water aquaculture

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/govt-eyes-domestic-mkt-in-boost-to-brackish-water-aquaculture/articleshow/79844939.cms>

"The government has set a target of increasing area under brackish water aquaculture to two lakh hectares, up from 1.6 lakh hectares at present, which is the highest in the country. The decision was taken to encourage the domestic market for brackish water aquaculture products, nearly 95% of which is currently exported to the US, China and countries in Europe. If the area is increased, the products can be sold in the domestic market and in the near future, in the government's proposed YSR Janata Bazaars too, said P Koteswara Rao, principal, State Institute of Fisheries Technology and additional deputy director of the fisheries department. The

government has proposed setting up around 22,000 YSR Janata Bazaars in villages and towns. Rao said brackish water aquaculture is a suitable option for entrepreneurs who have suffered losses in business or those who have lost jobs in the pandemic as the government is offering incentives such as subsidised power at a rate of Rs 1.5 per unit. In a first in the country, the government has constituted a board, AP State Aquaculture Development Authority, to develop fisheries sector, he added. "A minimum of Rs 10 lakh per hectare is required. Even those with little or no education can do good business, but they must have the interest to acquire the skills, Koteswara Rao told TOI. Brackish water aquaculture requires a salinity to 5 to 15 PPT, which is favorable for Vannamei prawn. At present, nearly 95,000 persons carry out the trade with an annual production of eight lakh metric tonnes while another 500 have shown interest and close to 40 applications have been received in Visakhapatnam district. "Our mandal level committee is scrutinising the applications for issuance for license for brackish water aquaculture. We have received nearly 40 applications, said Phani Prakash, joint director, AP fisheries department, Visakhapatnam. Recounting a success story, a fisheries official said a farmer produced 17 metric tonnes of Vannamei prawn in 3.2 hectares of brackish aquaculture and sold the produce for Rs 85 lakh, earning Rs 27 lakh per hectare. With a minimum investment of Rs 10 lakh per hectare, the farmer made a profit of Rs 17 lakh. It is possible when all parameters are favourable, the official added.

Andhra Pradesh: Government bans fishermen from using purse seine ring nets

<https://newsmeter.in/regional/visakhapatnam/ap-government-bans-fishermen-from-using-purse-seine-ring-nets-671863>

"The Andhra Pradesh fisheries department has banned the use of purse seine ring nets in the Bay of Bengal with immediate effect to protect traditional catamaran fishermen and mechanised boat owners. The joint director of fisheries, Dr. K. Phani Prakash, in a release on 17 December said a recent survey found that 83 mechanised boats have been using purse seine ring nets in the district. Except for two boats, the department has banned the 81 boats from using the ring nets. He said mechanised boats fishing within 8 km from the shore were also banned to protect the interest of the traditional fishermen. He said the use of ring nets and fishing in close range has been creating tension among the fishermen leading to the breakdown of law and order. Issuing guidelines, the joint director said boats using less than half-inch nets would not be allowed to fish as per the AP Marine Fisheries Regulation Act 1995. Boats should not venture into the sea without registration and license, he said. Dr. Prakash warned the fishermen that the registration and license of boats would be immediately cancelled without notice and no benefits and subsidies would be given if they violated the guidelines. In case of any clashes, those with the ring nets would be held responsible, he added.

Andhra Pradesh: Confident of increasing seafood exports

<https://www.siasat.com/andhra-pradesh-is-confident-of-increasing-seafood-exports-2047368/>

"The impact of COVID-19 pandemic notwithstanding, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), is confident of increasing seafood exports from India, mainly Andhra Pradesh. MPEDA an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industries. Andhra Pradesh is considered an important hub due to its vast seacoast, the second largest after Gujarat. With vannamei (white-leg shrimp), a exotic species developed by aqua farmers becoming highly popular in the export market due to its low price and culinary taste, MPEDA, which is mandated by the Government of India to promote exports, is focusing on increasing aquafarms in AP, which has a lion's share of India's vannamei cultivation. India produced 7, 47,111 MT of shrimps last year, of which over 68% had come from AP's over 52,000 shrimp farms covering a water spread of 75,000 hectares. Visakhapatnam Port is a big centre for export of seafood through reefer containers. It has a world-class container terminal under PPP mode developed by Visakha Container Terminal Private Ltd (VCTPL), a joint venture of J.M Baxi Group and Dubai Ports (DP) World. Anil Narayanan, Deputy COO of VCTPL said during 2019-20, they had exported 35,000 tweety-foot units (TEUs) of reefer containers, 90% of its seafood mainly vannamei.

Despite dislocation in road traffic for sometime during lockdown, this year they were expecting to handle almost the same volume and increase it significantly in the next financial year. Fifty percent of seafood goes to the United States, Europe 10 pc, China 18 pc, Middle East 4.5 pc and South East Asia 7 to 8 pc. Recognising the growing importance of AP, MPEDA has launched India's first toll-free call centre here exclusively for aquafarmers. Now they can call for guidance 24x7 on toll-free number 1800-425-4648. K.S. Srinivas, MPEDA Chairman, said, "I request the aquafarmers to make use of the toll-free number 1800-425-4648 with IVRS (interactive voice response system) facility established at Vijayawada to clear their technical doubts from the experts and not to fall in the trap of quacks. It will also help them in seeking information about the various support schemes extended by the field offices of MPEDA. Dr. Karthikeyan, MPEDA Director, said the small-scale aquaculture farmers are encountering problems in getting proper guidance and technical support, especially during the culture period of farming. "It forces them to seek advice from inexperienced consultants and feed/input suppliers who hold sway over the majority of small aquaculture farms. This often leads to crop failures and quality issues, he pointed out. Bala Subramanian V, General Secretary, Prawn Farmers Federation of India, members of National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA) and other stakeholders also participated in the function. Shri K. Sivarajan, Deputy Director, MPEDA Regional Division, Vijayawada, proposed a vote of thanks.

Andhra Pradesh: Cops promise to solve fishermen's problems

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/dec/14/cops-promise-to->

[solve-fishermens-problems-2235949.html](#)

"The district authorities have banned the use of both small hole and large hole nets, after the clash between the two fishermen groups at Vodarevu village on Friday. Joint Collector J Venkata Murali said that the banned nets will not be allowed for fishing anymore. The Joint Collector reviewed the law and order situation in all the fishermen villages and enquired about the health condition of the victims of Friday's clash. "Within a couple of days, all the issues between the warring groups will be resolved and normalcy will be restored by returning the captured boats and nets of both the groups, he said. ASP B Ravichandra, Ongole RDO Prabhakar Reddy, Chirala DSP P Srikanth, Fisheries JD A Chandrasekhar Reddy and tahsildar Md Hussain interacted with the elders of the fishermen community to restore peace at Vodarevu and Kattavaripalem. Meanwhile, police reportedly took 12 fishermen into custody for Friday's clash.

Andhra Pradesh: Fish samples free from chemicals, pesticides, says lab reports

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/fish-samples-free-from-chemicals-pesticides-says-lab-reports/article33316114.ece>

"The fish samples collected from different places in Eluru and neighbouring villages are free from chemicals and pesticide residues. Scientists of various State and Central organisations, investigating into the reasons for the outbreak of the unknown disease, collected fish samples and sent them to the State Institute of Fisheries Technology (SIFT) laboratory. "We collected fish samples from the nearby tanks and canals and sent them to the SIFT for analysis, which confirmed that the samples were free from pesticides or any type of chemicals, said West Godavari Joint Collector Himanshu Shukla. Already, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), which tested the water samples, said that water was not contaminated in the affected areas. The National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) officials are further examining the water samples in their laboratory, Mr. Shukla said. "Results related to rice, meat, chicken and soil collected from Eluru town and the surrounding areas are under analysis, said the Joint Collector. The Central teams, which visited Eluru and the neighbouring villages, met Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi on Saturday and submitted a preliminary report on their findings. Central Health Secretary Rajesh Bhusan and other officials explained the health condition of the patients and the situation in West Godavari district. Doctors said that a final report would be submitted on the reasons for the neurotoxicity symptoms, which affected more than 600 persons in the district. Mr. Naidu, who responded immediately and alerted the Union Health Minister and the officials of various Central institutes on the outbreak of the illness, directed the scientists to monitor the situation from time to time and assist the State government in preventing such incidents. Health Minister Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas visited the patients who were discharged from Eluru Government General Hospital at their houses and enquired about their health condition on Saturday. The Minister,

along with the Joint Collector, District Medical and Health Officer Sunanda, Municipal Commissioner Chandrashekar, RDO Panabaka Rachana, visited the affected areas and advised the patients to take medicines, good diet and rest. District Coordinator of Hospital Services A.V.R. Mohan said the cases had come down in Eluru and two cases had been reported in the last one day. "Six patients are undergoing treatment in Vijayawada GGH and two are admitted in Eluru GGH, and their condition is stable, Dr. Mohan said.

Andhra Pradesh: Tenders for four fishing harbours finalised in Andhra, reverse bid saves Rs 60 crore

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/dec/11/tenders-for-four-fishing-harboursfinalised-in-andhra-reverse-bid-saves-rs-60-crore-2234650.html>

"The Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board (APMB) has finalised tenders for four fishing harbours in the State. The tendering process, which went through reverse tendering, has saved `60 crore to the State exchequer. The four fishing harbours include Juvvaladinne in Nellore, Nizampatnam in Guntur, Machilipatnam in Krishna and Uppada in East Godavari. The works of all the four fishing harbours were clubbed into a single tender and the tendering process started on November 7. Hyderabad-based MRKR Constructions and Industries Limited and PNC Infratech Limited participated in the bidding. MRKR Constructions won the bidding by quoting `1,264.85 crore for the four fishing harbours. Reverse tendering was held on December 9, in which MRKR Constructions won the bid by quoting `1,204.56 crore. The fishing harbours works will be completed in two years. APMB CEO NP Ramakrishna Reddy on Thursday said the board saved `60 crore after finalising the tenders for the four fishing harbours through reverse tendering. The government has plans to take up works of four more fishing harbours in the State. The new fishing harbours are proposed to give an impetus to marine fishing and stabilise the livelihood of 6.2 lakh fishermen in 555 fishing villages along the 976 km coastline of the State. Deadline of two port tenders extended The APMB, which also invited tenders for construction of Ramayapatnam port and Bhavanapadu port, has extended the deadline for submission of tenders for Ramayapatnam till December 17 and for Bhavana-padu port till December 28 on the request of potential bidders.

Andhra pradesh: Marine fish culture is the way forward to bridge demand-supply gap'

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/promote-fish-as-a-diet-to-check-malnutrition-says-venkaiah/article33274676.ece>

"Advocating that fish, being rich in protein, can help reduce malnutrition in the country, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu has said that the health experts and nutritionists must

promote fish as a diet and that it can help improve the immunity among people during the pandemic. Addressing the scientists and staff at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) here on Monday, the Vice-President called upon the health experts and nutritionists to bring awareness among the common people to include fish in their diet. “Fish is rich in omega-3 fatty acid, which is necessary for our body and good for cardiovascular health. This aspect needs to be promoted and conveyed to the common man. India has a long coastline of 8,000 km. Marine resources The country is endowed with a diversity of fish resources that have been supporting the livelihoods of millions of people for generations, he said. The Vice-President said that India ranked second in the world in marine resources with a production of 13.75 million metric tonnes. If the fish resources of rivers, lakes and tanks are included, it would go up to 22 million metric tonnes, he said. “The fisheries sector is providing employment to nearly 15 million people on the Indian coast. India is the fourth largest exporter of fish in the world and the sector is one of the major contributors of foreign exchange earnings, said Mr. Naidu and added that India should aspire to become number one in fish exports. Mr. Venkaiah Naidu also advocated for bridging the gap in demand and supply of the annual fish production in India.

Marine fish culture Mr. Naidu opined that capture fisheries and deep-sea fishing alone can not meet the demand and marine fish culture was the way forward. Stating that over 8,000 km of coastline offers immense potential for the development of mariculture, the Vice-President said cage farming was widely recognised as the most important technology for increasing fish production. He called for improving value-addition to fish, by maintaining the highest quality, consistency and reliability by better grading, quality assurance, and packaging of products. Earlier, Mr. Venkaiah Naidu visited the museums of the CMFRI and the CIFT and complimented both institutions for their excellent work in the fisheries sector. Minister of Tourism Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao, Collector V. Vinay Chand, Director of ICAR-CMFRI A. Gopalakrishnan, Scientists R. Raghu Prakash and K. Muraleedharan spoke on the occasion. ICAR-CMFRI head Subhadeep Ghosh, scientists and staff of CMFRI and CIFT were among the dignitaries who attended the event.

Andhra Pradesh: Covid-19 might prove to be a game-changer for India’s fisheries sector : Venkaiah Naidu

<https://www.5dariyanews.com/news/307536-COVID-19-might-prove-to-be-a-game-changer-for-Indias-fisheries-sector-Venkaiah-Naidu>

"The Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu today opined that COVID-19 might prove to be

a game-changer for India's fisheries sector as the pandemic has made people conscious of adopting healthy dietary habits. Addressing the scientists and staff at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) in Visakhapatnam today, the Vice President said that the fish is a great source of protein and holds the key for reducing malnutrition in the country, especially in children. In this regard, he asked the health experts and nutritionists to bring awareness among the common people about the many benefits of having fish in our diet. "Fish is rich in omega-3 fatty acids, which are necessary for our body and good for cardiovascular health. This aspect needs to be popularized and conveyed to the common man, he added. Shri Naidu said that from the pristine waters of the Himalayas to a long coastline of over 8000 kms, India is blessed with vast aquatic resources. "These waters are endowed with a diversity of fish fauna that has been supporting the livelihoods of millions of people for many generations, he added. Noting that India ranks second in the world in total fish production, he said that there still is a lot of potential to be harnessed in both inland and marine fisheries. He further said that with a modest start from being a small scale industry, fisheries have grown to become a very important socio-economic force for our country over the past few decades and currently provides employment to nearly 15 million people on the Indian coast.

India is the 4th largest exporter of fish in the world and the sector has been one of the major contributors of foreign exchange earnings, he said and added that India should aspire to become number one in export of fish. Observing that with the growing population and the increasing demand for animal protein, the domestic requirement of fish is estimated to increase significantly, Shri Naidu called for bridging the gap in demand and supply of the annual fish production in India. He opined that capture fisheries and deep-sea fishing alone cannot meet the demand and thriving marine fish culture is the way forward. Stating that over 8000 km of coastline offers immense potential for the development of mariculture, the Vice President said that cage farming is widely recognized as the most important technology in mariculture for increasing fish production. He lauded CMFRI and CIFT for good work in this regard and said that much more needs to be done. Recognizing that for many years, the lack of availability of quality fish seed has been a major concern, Shri Naidu said that efforts by the research institutes mitigated this problem to an appreciable extent, but there is still huge scope for innovation in this area. Similarly, he called for the need to improve our value-addition to our fish, by maintaining the highest quality, consistency and reliability by better grading, quality assurance, and packaging of our product. The Vice President wanted the Indian mariculture to be diversified by investing in innovative products such as nutraceuticals and ornamental fish. Finally, we need to focus on reducing post-harvest losses by creating the required infrastructure like cold storage, he added. The Vice President also wanted municipal bodies to take special interest in creating clean and attractive fish markets. Expressing concerns over the increasing frequency of extreme weather events caused by climate change, Shri Naidu said unfortunately its effect is mostly felt by the

seas and oceans through sea-level rise, ocean warming, and ocean acidification. “All this is having an adverse impact on marine life and the human lives that depend on it, he added. Expressing concerns over the pollution of marine and freshwater, the Vice President said that discarded plastics, other residual waste and industrial chemicals eventually find their way into our water bodies with devastating consequences for aquatic life and the habitats they depend on. He was also concerned about over-fishing with mechanized trawling and said that marine fisheries are over-exploited and a push is being made for deep-sea fishing. The small scale-fishers are the most affected, he added.

It is estimated that primary production of the global ocean is expected to decline further by 6% by 2100 and by 11 % in tropical zones. Emphasizing the urgent need to tackle the issues of fisheries in India, the Vice President suggested a three fronts strategy namely- sustainable management of resources and mitigation of the damage caused by climate change; improvement in value addition and post-production facilities for better price realization and leveraging technology to innovate in aquaculture and improve production capacities. The Vice President appreciated the Government for taking many initiatives for fisheries such as Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and the upcoming National Fisheries Policy for an ecologically healthy, economically viable, and socially inclusive fisheries sector. Shri Naidu further emphasized the need for enhancing the access to credit, developing cold chains and good upcountry market linkages, and providing better infrastructure for post-harvest storage, handling and value addition. “Ultimately, government efforts should be complemented by greater R&D support from the research institutes, increased private investment in fish and shrimp hatcheries, and establishment of aquaculture estates, feed mills and ancillary industries, he added. Please remember that the research conducted by you should translate into improving the lives of fishermen and benefit them, he told the scientists of CMFRI and CIFT. Appreciating the farmers for the record food grain output during the pandemic, Shri Naidu said “I salute the farmers including the fish farmers. The Vice President asked the research institutes can to encourage the small fishermen to adopt modern sustainable practices through innovative marine fish cultures and better extension programmes. Opining that with growing awareness about the health benefits of fish, and with the right inputs and technologies, he said that fish farming can become more lucrative in the coming years and lift the millions dependent on it out of poverty.

That is the real objective of the 'Blue Revolution' initiative, he underlined. Stating that our long coastline should be our strength and not our weakness, Shri Naidu called for exploring the waters once again, confidently, to feed our own people and as a leader and net security provider in the region. The prior to interaction with the scientists, Vice President also visited the museums of CMFRI and CIFT in the Visakhapatnam today and complimented both institutions for their excellent work in fisheries sector. This was the vice President's first in-person visit to any scientific institution since the onset of Covid-19 pandemic. On this occasion he also dedicated snapper seeds to the nation. Shri Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao, Minister of Tourism Culture and

Youth Advancement, Andhra Pradesh, Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan, Director, ICAR-CMFRI, Dr. R. Raghu Prakash, SIC, ICAR-CIFT Research Centre, Shri K. Muraleedharan, Institute Management Committee Member of ICAR-CMFRI, Shri Subhadeep Ghosh, Head, ICAR-CMFRI, Scientists and staff of CMFRI & CIFT were among the dignitaries who attended the event.

Andhra Pradesh: Cyclone Nivar shatters aqua sector in Nellore

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/cyclone-nivar-shatters-aqua-sector-in-nellore-659763>

"Aqua farmers incurred severe losses due to the Cyclone Nivar in the district with ponds in more than 5,000 acre completely damaged. Aerators, ponds suffered huge damage because of heavy rains and strong gales. Fisheries officials estimated that the loss is around Rs 34 crore in the entire coastal mandals in the district while in Vidavalur mandal alone, aqua ponds in 1,500 acre were lost. Aquaculture is an important source of revenue in the district. Aquaculture normally depends on electricity where aerators are used for supplying oxygen to shrimps. As this supply system has been disrupted, shrimps were severely affected with the spread of diseases. Strong winds due to cyclone interrupted power supply in rural areas affecting the crop. Coastal mandals in the district received high amount of rainfall on November 26 and 27 under the influence of cyclone. Farmers are cultivating aqua in Kota, Vakadu, Chittampur, and Chillakkur in Gudur division, Manubolu, Venkatachalam, Muthukur, TP Gudur, Indukurpeta, Kovur, Kodavalur, and Vidavalur in Nellore division, Allur, Bogole, and Kavali in Kavali division. Most of the ponds were in the harvesting stage in Indukurupeta, Kavali, Kovur and also in Vidavaluru, Bogole Mandals and received severe impact due to the torrential rains. A farmer P Ramanaiah from Indukurupet said that shrimp culture requires aerators for life support and healthy growth of shrimps, but they were washed away in floodwater. "Normally, ponds need around 5-6 hours of power supply a day for running the aerators. But there was no power supply for more than two days in many coastal mandals due to the strong winds. The shrimp which rely on aerators were seriously affected at the time of the harvesting stage," he said. Around 55,000 farmers are eking out their livelihood through aquaculture on around 1.05 lakh acre in the district. The cost of cultivation has also increased up to Rs 4.70 –5 lakh per hectare. Farmers in the district had produced 3.69 lakh tonne shrimp during 2017-18, while it was 4.13 lakh tonne in 2019-20. The production had increased by 30 per cent in the district. District earns around Rs 16,000 crore every year on aquaculture. Officials have started enumeration of the in the district. It may be recalled that they have been facing hardships due to import restrictions in many countries owing to Covid for some 7-8 months and the recent cyclone added to their woes.

Andhra Pradesh: 'Pomfrets blessing' for rain-hit villages in Godavari

<http://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=777249>

"In a blessing in disguise, the heavy rains in October gave rise to the peculiar phenomenon of pomfret fish swimming back from the sea towards a lake in Andhra Pradesh's Godavari district, enabling the local fishermen to catch them easily. "Because of heavy rains, Upputeru was inundated with heavy inflows and a lot of 'chanduva' (Telugu for pomfrets) fish swam back into it from the sea, enabling the fishermen to net them and sell," Ganga, a local fish seller who tours villages with her wares in a basket, told IANS. A natural outlet to Kolleru, a massive freshwater lake abutting West Godavari and Krishna districts, Upputeru is located between the deltas of Krishna and Godavari rivers and empties into the Bay of Bengal. Selling pomfrets in a basket is not big deal but providing them in villages such as Seesali, Chinnapulleru, Kalla, Kallakuru and the vicinity assumes significance as these areas seldom see sea fish on sale. All these villages regularly get a supply of freshwater fish, early in the mornings, hawked by basket-borne women. "They can buy sea fish but for that they have to travel near to the coast. Sea fish is usually not hawked around in the bylanes of these villages," said Talluri Raj Kumar, a local YSRCP leader and an aquaculture farmer. Pomfrets, small sharks and other saltwater fish are easily available by the beach in places such as Perupalem and other coastal villages in this district with a coastline of 19 km.

The pomfrets which Ganga brought were unusually bigger than what were generally available in the supermarkets of big cities such as Hyderabad or Bengaluru. "I loved the pomfrets. My grandmother cooked 'chepala pulusu' (fish curry) and also fried them in Andhra style, matching local Godavari cuisine," said Amulya Jacinth, a Class 5 student who lives in Bengaluru but currently spending time at her grandmother's home as she came here before the Covid lockdown. The pomfret party did not last long though. Ganga brought them only twice and now they are not available any more. Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh Fisheries Department had no idea about the brief pomfrets availability in these villages. "We have no idea about pomfrets swimming back into the Upputeru and being caught and sold by the fishermen," said Fisheries Commissioner K. Kannababu. Though short-lived, pomfret, an international delicacy whose fillets are popular in most of the luxurious five star hotels across the world, did come as a blessing in disguise to the area hit by devastating rains and floods.

Andhra Pradesh: Fish feed bill tabled in Andhra Assembly

<http://www.uniindia.com/fish-feed-bill-tabled-in-andhra-assembly/south/news/2249831.html>

"Andhra Pradesh Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, Seediri Appalaraju introduced the Andhra Pradesh Fish Feed Bill in the State Legislative Assembly here on Monday. Besides introducing the Andhra Pradesh Fish Feed (Quality Control) Bill 2020, the Minister also introduced the Andhra Pradesh Aquaculture Seed (Quality Control)

(Amendment) Bill 2020, the Andhra Pradesh Fisheries University Bill, 2020 and Andhra Pradesh Animal Feed(Regulation of Manufacture Quality Control Sale and distribution) bill 2020.

India: Rains likely in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, coastal Andhra Pradesh; Low pressure to become depression soon

<https://www.deccanherald.com/national/south/rains-likely-in-tamil-nadu-kerala-coastal-andhra-pradesh-low-pressure-to-become-depression-soon-921414.html>

"A well-marked low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal is very likely to concentrate into a depression on Monday and bring moderate to heavy and extremely heavy rainfall over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and coastal Andhra Pradesh over the next four days, the IMD said. Tamil Nadu Fisheries Minister D Jayakumar said in view of the forecast, steps have been taken by the government for the safe return of 200 plus Tamil Nadu boats -engaged in deep sea fishing- with the help of Coast Guard, who have also been provided with the location of the vessels. Of the total 218 boats, eight have returned safely, he said. Authorities in Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and Lakshadweep have been requested to allow Tamil Nadu boats in their fishing harbours and to render them assistance, the Minister said. The low pressure area on Saturday over south Andaman sea and adjoining areas of southeast Bay of Bengal has organised into a well marked low pressure area, the Regional Meteorological Centre here said. An updated RMC bulletin said the well-marked low-pressure area ""is very likely to concentrate into a depression during next 24 hours and likely to intensify further thereaer. It is likely to move west northwestwards and reach near south Tamil Nadu coast around December 2.""

Under the influence of the system, light to moderate rainfall or thundershower is likely over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal starting from Sunday and it could continue upto December 3 in the state and till December 1 in the regions falling under the union territory. The showers, in such regions, starting with isolated places, could extend to many areas and then spread to most places during the next four days, the bulletin said. On December 1, heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places over Tirunelveli, Tuticorin and Kanyakumari districts. The next day, southern districts including Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram could experience extremely heavy showers and the following day, heavy rainfall is likely over the same regions. The IMD tweeted, ""Scattered to widespread rainfall activity very likely over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal, Kerala & Mahe, Lakshadweep, south coastal Andhra Pradesh and south Rayalaseema during 01st-03rd December, 2020."" Also, the department said, ""Isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall with moderate thunderstorm & lightning very likely over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal during December 1-3 and isolated extremely rainfall likely over south Tamil Nadu and south Kerala on 02nd December 2020."" In Kerala, a red alert has been sounded for Idukki district on Wednesday and fishermen restrained from putting out to sea from the midnight of November 30. An Orange alert has been issued for Thiruvananthapuram,

Kollam and Pathanamthitta districts on December 2 and a yellow alert for Alappuzha, Kottayam and Ernakulam districts on the same day. Red alert indicates heavy to very heavy rainfall of over 20 cm in 24 hours, an Orange alert (6 cm to 20 cm) and yellow alert (6-11 cm). Jayakumar said a virtual meeting of fisheries officials of south Tamil Nadu was held and they were also advised to contact the fishermen involved in deep sea fishing through means like satellite phones to coordinate their safe return to nearest locations. Control rooms at Kanyakumari and Tuticorin districts (04651-226235 and 04612320458 respectively) and at the headquarters here (044-29530392) are functional 24 x 7, the Minister said in a statement.

Andhra Pradesh: Modernisation of fishing harbour to take off soon

<https://www.thehansindia.com/news/cities/visakhapatnam/visakhapatnam-modernisation-of-fishing-harbour-to-take-off-soon-658991>

"The fishing harbour in Visakhapatnam is bracing for a major transformation in the coming days. In a move to fill the infrastructure gaps and strengthen business, the harbour will be revamped with modern amenities. As the state government is keen on establishing eight fishing harbours in Andhra Pradesh, it also sets its focus on modernising the existing harbours along with setting up the new ones. In tune with the decision taken at the cabinet meeting, the harbour in Visakhapatnam is getting a facelift at a cost of Rs 100 crore. From installing CCTV cameras to facilitating ice-crushing machinery and providing solarpowered lighting, the harbour in the Port City is soon to have fishermen-friendly infrastructure. ""With the improved amenities that also focuses on maintaining hygiene standards, the fishing harbour is set to get a leg-up with the upgraded infrastructure. This apart, an effluent treatment plant is also on the cards,"" says K Phani Prakash, Joint Director of Fisheries. Elaborating further, he adds, ""Once the funds get sanctioned, the modernisation work will commence and is expected to be wrapped up in a year."" A couple of days back, Joint Collector M Venugopal Reddy held a meeting with the members of the Fishing Harbour High-Level Managing Committee and sought suggestions for the modernisation works which include facilitating extra halls, boundary wall and jetty repair works at the harbour. Sharing details with The Hans India, president of AP Mechanised Boat Owners' Association PC Appa Rao says ""A request has been made to the authorities concerned to form a sub committee. In addition, we have also appealed to facilitate mechanised boat repair works to be carried out at the harbour itself."" For a long time now, the project that aims at enhancing the socio-economic conditions of the fishermen and plug infrastructure gaps has been gathering dust. However, with the DPR being readied, the project is poised to take shape soon.

Andhra Pradesh: Bickering among fishermen vitiates peace in coastal villages

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/chirala-bickering-among-fishermen-vitiates-peace-in-coastal-villages-658207>

"The continuous and unending disputes of the border between the fishermen villages of Vadarevu and Katarivari Palem near Chirala and other coastal fishermen villages in Guntur and Krishna districts increasing the threat of law and order disturbances in the area. It was a common practice for fishermen from the coastal villages in the state to go for fishing at the best places to make a good catch, in the waters of the Bay of Bengal. The fishermen from the Vadarevu near Chirala also venture into the sea and fish at distant places. But for the last few years, they are complaining that the neighbouring Katarivari Palem fishermen are obstructing their fishing and confiscating the catch along with the nets and machinery and abducting the fishermen for entering the waters near to their village. Velpula Ramana, former sarpanch of the Vadarevu said that Katarivari Palem fishermen are imposing heavy fines to release the fishermen of the Vadarevu village. He said that last Saturday, the Katarivari Palem fishermen chased five boats of fishermen from Vadarevu. He said that the Vadarevu fishermen managed to seize two boats of the Katarivari Palem with the help of other fishermen who came for support to them. The abducted fishermen were handed over to the police and complained attacking them in the sea. Pikki Narayana, a fishermen leader from Vadarevu said that the locals are upgrading their skills and equipment with the latest trends to get more catch.

He said that the Vadarevu fishermen catching more fish have become a problem and a reason to envy for others and they are not allowing them to fish in the spots near to their villages. He said that as the neighbouring fishermen are opposing them, the fishermen from the Nizampatnam and Machilipatnam area are also started opposing them for fishing and abducting the fishermen for using the advanced nets and machinery. But, the fishermen from the Katarivari Palem say that the Vadarevu fishermen are not giving a chance for fishing. A fisherman, requesting anonymity said that the Vadarevu fishermen are using nets with small holes and are becoming a threat to even small fish and reducing the fish population in the area. He said that they are not opposing all fishermen, but only those who are using the tiny hole nets and mechanized boats that are disturbing the growth of the fish in the area and influencing the fish hunt in the future. However, the police are trying to bring the fishermen to good terms by advocacy. Dasari Prasad, SI of the marine police station in Vadarevu said that the issue was there for a long time and the higher officials are working on it. He said that they will bring an amicable solution between the two villagers by counselling about marine laws and see there will be no law and order issues in the future.

Andhra Pradesh: Dry fish business takes another hit due to cyclone

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/ap-dry-fish-business-takes-another-hit-due-to-cyclone/articleshow/79434430.cms>

"Cyclone Nivar has dealt another blow to the already reeling dry fish business in the state, especially in the southern districts of Prakasam, Guntur, Nellore, and Krishna. Owing to heavy rainfall due to the cyclone and a lack of proper storage facilities, tonnes of dry fish stock have

been destroyed across the state. “The four districts of South Andhra jointly produce around 100 tonnes of dry fish every day. Whatever the fishermen had stocked since Saturday has developed fungus owing to the rain, AP Traditional Fish Workers' Association general secretary, Naga Anjaneyulu Lakanam, told TOI. Around 10,000 fishermen, mostly women, are involved in the business of dry fish in these four states. There are around 22,000 people involved in this trade across the state. “Normally we start drying fish while on the boat itself. Once we land, it takes a couple of days to process the dry fish. If processed properly, the fish can last between 15 and 25 days without cold storage facility or refrigeration. But because of the incessant rainfall and a lack of proper storage facilities at the harbours, all our produced got spoilt, said M Bulaya, a local fisherman. Under the present scheme of things, dry fish traders are left with no other options but to sell their spoiled stock to poultry farms.

“It can be used as cheap quality fodder at poultry farms. Generally, we sell salmon, snapper, varieites of prawn and other dry fish at Rs 600 to Rs 1000 per kilo in the wholesale market. No matter which variety you are selling, at the poultry farms, the soiled dry fish won't fetch more than Rs 30 per kg, said Arijili Dasu, general secretary of National Fisher Folk Forum. Normally, AP produces around 5 lakh tonnes of dry fish a year which is mainly exported to the eastern and northeastern states, and to a few tribal pockets of Malkangiri in Odisha and Chattishgarh. Around 10% of the produce is consumed locally, mostly in the tribal areas of the agencies.

Andhra Pradesh: Lack of experts a challenge to AP fisheries dreams

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/nov/26/lack-of-experts-a-challenge-to-ap-fisheries-dreams-2228269.html>

"State's objective to emerge top in fisheries sector, be it aquaculture, inland fishing, marine fishing, fish processing exports in next one decade can only be possible with sufficient number of experts of these sub fields. However, there is a wide gap between demand and supply, when it comes to experts. The lone College of Fisheries Sciences in Muthukur of Nellore district is only able to produce around 40 experts per year, while the aquaculture sector alone is growing at 10 to 15 per cent per annum. To bridge the gap, the State government has decided to set up a University of Fisheries in West Godavari district. If everything goes as planned, the university will start functioning from the next academic year. In September this year, the State cabinet approved the AP State Fisheries University Ordinance 2020 and decided to spend Rs 300 crore on the proposed varsity in a span of five years. Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, during the foundation stone-laying of the fishing harbours couple of days ago, said that works pertaining to the AP State Fisheries University will commence in 3-4 months. “Lack of skilled personnel in the sector is resulting in aqua farmers suffering losses and the proposed varsity will fill the gap. There is a great demand for experts in the fisheries sector, as sea food exports follow stringent guidelines and even a single violation of terms and conditions might result in a loss of

several crores of rupees.

Once the university is established, not only experts can be produced, but also research and development activity, extension activity can be taken up more vigorously, explained P Koteswara Rao, Principal, State Institute of Fisheries Technology. There is an increasing demand for Bachelor in Fisheries Sciences (BFSc), MFSc courses, which have different specialisations and once the fisheries university is established, several courses tailor made for the needs of the sector can be introduced. "There is high demand for hatchery technicians, feed technicians, aquaculture technicians, fisheries marketing, pharmacology and experts in other sub sectors of fisheries. With the plans of setting up more fish processing plants in the State in future, demand for these experts will only grow, Koteswara Rao said. Fisheries university in WG to fill gap - State govt has decided to set up a University of Fisheries in West Godavari district - The university might start functioning from next year - Rs 300 cr will be spend on the proposed varsity in five years - Works will commence in 3 to 4 months - Maharashtra Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Naud and West Bengal have exclusive universities for fisheries sciences

Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu: Fishermen warned not to go to sea

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/cyclone-nivar-live-updates-cyclone-tracker-tamil-nadu-chennai-puducherry-cyclone-imd-latest-update-andhra-pradesh-120112500028_1.html

"Cyclone Nivar made a late-night landfall near Puducherry. The tropical storm has weakened from a ""very severe cyclonic storm"" to a ""severe cyclonic storm"" with a wind speed of 100-110 km per hour, gusting up to 120 km per hour, the weather office said in a statement. Nivar would move northwestwards and weaken further into a cyclonic storm during next 3 hours, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. The Chennai airport has suspended operations in view of the Cyclone Nivar. The airport authority announced on Wednesday evening that aircraft operations at the Chennai airport would remain suspended from today evening (7 pm) to tomorrow morning (7 am). Authorities in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry have taken a slew of measures to handle the situation arising out of the cyclonic storm, which has led to heavy rainfall in several regions. The Railways has cancelled over a dozen special trains on November 25 and 26 scheduled to either originate from and terminate in the southern states of the country in view of the impending cyclone Nivar, and offered full refund.

Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh: India's southeastern coast braces for powerful cyclone

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/11/25/indias-southeastern-coast-braces-for-powerful->

[cyclone](#)

"Local Indian authorities banned public gatherings and closed shops as more than 1,000 rescue personnel mobilised against a powerful cyclone barrelling towards the southeastern coast, bringing heavy rains and strong winds. Cyclone Nivar is set to cross the coasts of Tamil Nadu state and the small territory of Puducherry as a "very severe cyclonic storm late on Wednesday, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said. Parts of Andhra Pradesh, a coastal state north of Tamil Nadu, are also forecast to be slammed by the cyclone. A "very severe cyclonic storm is the fifth-strongest category on the IMD's scale of seven storm types. The heavy rains and strong winds were likely to damage houses and roads, uproot power lines, destroy crops and break trees along the coast of northern Tamil Nadu and southern Andhra Pradesh, the weather office said in a statement. "This will slowly intensify, maybe tonight or tomorrow, and turn into a very severe cyclonic storm with wind speeds of around 120 kilometres per hour (75 miles per hour) and gusting up to 145 kilometres per hour (90mph), IMD's Director-General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra told reporters in New Delhi. More than 1,000 personnel from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been deployed to assist local efforts on possible evacuations of residents from vulnerable coastal areas.

Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami declared Wednesday a public holiday and said it could be extended. "People living in regions vulnerable to the storm and in houses deemed not safe should be immediately shifted to relief centres, Palaniswami said. The Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry Kiran Bedi said public gatherings would be banned from late Tuesday until early Thursday. Shops in Puducherry, except those for essential services like pharmacies and petrol stations, were to be shut until the cyclone passes. In parts of Mahabalipuram, about 60km (37 miles) from Tamil Nadu's capital Chennai, local fishermen dragged their boats to safety along the coast. The cyclone's centre is expected to pass some 175km (108 miles) northeast of Sri Lanka's northernmost Kankesanthurai coastal town early on Wednesday. Fishermen in the northern area were advised not to go out to sea. No evacuation orders were issued but heavy rains were forecast, particularly in the island nation's north. More than 110 people died after "super Cyclone Amphan ravaged eastern India and Bangladesh in May, flattening villages, destroying farms and leaving millions without electricity.

Andhra Pradesh: Vizag: Scientists caution against AMR in fisheries

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/scientists-caution-against-amr-in-fisheries/articleshow/79375639.cms>

"Scientists engaged in fisheries research are calling for greater awareness regarding use of antimicrobials during World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) observed November 18–24. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), antimicrobials include antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals and antiparasitic drugs. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR), that is, the

ineffectiveness of disease fighting agents or medicines in fisheries in growing and transmission of AMR bacteria from fish to humans can pose health risks. Scientists say that there is a need to find ways to mitigate AMR in fisheries. In this context, the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT)-Vizag centre is working on a project titled 'Support mitigation of AMR risk associated with aquaculture in Asia' in association with UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). CIFT is studying the antimicrobial resistance profile and aquaculture practices in the farming of freshwater fish and brackish water shrimp in Andhra Pradesh. The study is expected to provide base line information on the level of AMR in the aquaculture system and provide inputs for implementing AMR mitigation strategies. Scientist-in-charge, CIFT, R Raghu Prakash said, "People should use antibiotics only under doctor's supervision and avoid over-the-counter purchase. There are fewer drug options available for mankind as no new class of antibiotic has been added in the last 30 years. "Inappropriate use (overuse, misuse and non-label use) of antibiotics is the single largest driver of AMR.

The emergence of multidrug resistant (MDR), extensively drug resistant (XDR) and pan-drug resistant bacteria (PDR) is a huge threat to human and animal healthcare systems, Raghu Prakash added.

Andhra Pradesh: Marine pollution, mechanised boats pose threat

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/marine-pollution-mechanised-boats-pose-threat/article33156117.ece>

"Marine pollution and extensive usage of mechanised boats for fishing all along the sea coast of Srikakulam district has turned into a bane for the existence of Olive Ridley sea turtles in spite of the concerted efforts by the Forest Department and non-governmental organisations for their protection. Thousands of turtles used to come to Srikakulam coast for mass nesting as the beaches were clam and clean. However, the situation has changed in the last one decade with the extensive 'development', beach sand mining and fishing activity. Now only a few areas see the movement of Olive Ridley turtles which usually starts in November and ends in March. Forest officials in the district established 16 hatcheries at various places including Baruva, Gangallapeta, Matyalesam, Totavuru, Geddivaru, Bandaruvanipeta and Kalingapatnam to protect eggs from predators, poachers, tidal inundation and beach erosion. The Forest Department has trained locals for safe collection of eggs.

As many as 2.2 lakh eggs were laid every year by the turtles till 2014-15 but the number later came down to 1.5 lakh. Special care is being taken in the current season to protect the turtles that have been declared as endangered species, District Forest Officer Sandeep Krupakar Gundala tells The Hindu. "We have given special training to selected villagers for protection of sea turtles. They are actively involved in collection of eggs and protection of hatcheries. We are

also asking mechanised boat owners not to come very close to sea coast since the migratory path of turtles will get disturbed,"" he says. Increased economic activity Chief Executive Officer of non-governmental organisation Green Mercy K.V. Ramanamurthy urges the government to ban beach sand mining and other industrial activity along the sea coast. ""The turtles which come from the Pacific region need a peaceful atmosphere for nesting. Their number has come down significantly as a 100 km sea coast area is full of habitations and witnessing increased economic activity. It has to be controlled for the protection of turtles,"" he explains.

Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry: Cyclone Nivar is expected to hit on Wednesday

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/cyclone-nivar-heads-towards-south-coast-list-of-major-cyclones-in-india-since-2019/story-xuP9iVNniTmXcZLZ6OzVnK.html>

"Cyclone Nivar, which is brewing in the Bay of Bengal, is moving towards the southern states and Union territory (UT) of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Expected to make landfall on Wednesday, Nivar is likely to cause heavy rainfall in these places. However, it is not the first major cyclone which will have hit a state this year or in the last 12 months. Here are some major cyclones to have occurred in India since 2019: 1. Cyclone Amphan: India's first major cyclone of 2020, Super Cyclonic Storm Amphan caused major damage in West Bengal, as well in the neighbouring country of Bangladesh. Odisha, another eastern state, was also hit by Amphan though it was spared the sort of damage that the cyclone caused in West Bengal. Formed on May 16, Amphan dissipated on May 21, leaving widespread destruction in its trail, claiming over 100 lives, most of which were from West Bengal. 2. Cyclone Nisarga: Severe Cyclonic Storm Nisarga struck the Indian subcontinent within just two weeks of Amphan, most severely affecting India's financial hub of Maharashtra, where all fatalities due to the cyclone-six-took place. The state of Gujarat and the UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (DNHDD) were also put on high alert though both escaped Nisarga's wrath. Formed on June 1 and dissipated on June 4, Nisarga was the strongest tropical cyclone to strike Maharashtra since June 1891. 3. Cyclone Fani: Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm Fani caused major damage in Odisha, being the strongest tropical cyclone to hit the state since 1999. Though Fani also affected other states like West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, as well as neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka, it was Odisha that bore its brunt. Fani, which formed on April 26 April 2019 and dissipated on May 5, claimed 89 lives in all. Odisha was praised by the United Nations for its handling of the crisis. 4. Cyclone Bulbul: Another cyclone which affected both West Bengal and Bangladesh, Bulbul was a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm. A tropical cyclone, Bulbul began forming on November 5, 2019 and dissipated on November 11 and claimed a total of 41 lives. Only the second to make it to category 3 hurricane strength, with the first instance being in 1960, Bulbul also affected neighbouring countries like Myanmar and Thailand, besides Bangladesh. 5. Cyclone Vayu: Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Vayu was a

strong tropical cyclone which claimed a total of eight lives in June 2019. Vayu was the strongest cyclone to hit Gujarat's Saurashtra region since 1998. It formed on June 10, 2019 and dissipated on June 17. Vayu, which was named by India after the Sanskrit and Hindi word 'vayu' or wind, impacted more than 6.6 million people in the northwestern parts of the country. 6. Cyclone Maha: Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm Maha mainly affected the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Kerala. Maha began as a depression, further intensifying to become Cyclonic Storm, Very Severe Cyclonic Storm and, finally, Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm. Formed on October 30, 2019, Maha dissipated on November 7

Andhra Pradesh: World Fisheries Day: AP to get four fishing harbours, 25 aquahubs

<https://english.sakshi.com/news/andhrapradesh/world-fisheries-day-ap-get-four-fishing-harbours-25-aquahubs-126554>

"Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will lay foundation stone to four fishing harbours and 25 aquahubs on November 21 on the occasion of World Fisheries Day. The Chief Minister will virtually lay foundation stone for fishing harbours in Nellore, Guntur, Krishna and East Godavari districts at a cost of Rs 1510 crores. The State government proposes to bring up eight fishing harbours and four fish landing Centers at a cost of Rs 3000 Crore, to put the maritime wealth of the State in optimum use. In the first phase tenders have been called for four fishing harbours at Juvvaladinne, Nizampatnam, Machilipatnam and Uppada costing around Rs 1510 Crore, aiming to complete in the next two years. The tenders will be finalized in second week of December. Although Andhra Pradesh has the second longest coastline of about 974km in the country, the previous government neglected the maritime activity and only established small fishing harbours. The State government laid proposals for constructing a good number of fishing harbours and fish landing centers to benefit the 6.3 lakh fisherman population in the State who are depending on fishing and allied marine activities. Through the new fishing harbours, it is expected that an additional 2.37 lakh tonnes of fish and prawn catch worth nearly Rs 500 crore will be added as GVA (Gross Value Addition) to the State and 85,000 direct and indirect employment would be generated. The State government will be developing these green energy harbours with modern facilities such as cold storage units, fish processing units, chill centers, boat handling, and repair facilities. It is planned to provide one or two coastal cargo berths in the fishing harbours wherever feasible to facilitate export operations.

Andhra Pradesh: Krishna chosen as 'Best Marine District' in country

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/krishna-chosen-as-best-marine-district-in-country/article33136935.ece>

"Krishna district has been selected for the 'Best Marine District' award in the country by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. Krishna Collector A. Md. Imtiaz, in

a press conference here on Thursday, said that it was a proud moment for the district to be recognised at the national level and the award would be presented at the World Fisheries Day 2020 celebrations on November 21 at New Delhi. He said that the marine development programmes, aqua farmer welfare programmes and other initiatives being implemented were studied across the country and three 'Best Districts' were announced. Krishna had been announced as the Best Marine District while Kalahandi of Odisha as Best Inland District and Nagaon of Assam had been declared as Best Hilly and North Eastern District. Mr. Imtiaz said that Union Minister Giriraj Singh would present the award and a cash prize of Rs.3 lakh. The district has 111 kilometre of coastline and freshwater fish is cultivated in 49,000 hectares while saltwater fish and shrimp are cultivated in 19,000 hectares. He said aqua farmer welfare and aquaculture development schemes being implemented by the State government have helped the district bag the award and recognition. On the other hand, Vaisakhi Bio Marine Pvt. Ltd, A.P., has been announced as one among the three Best Shrimp Hatcheries and Sai Aqua Feeds, A.P. has been named one of the three Best Fisheries Enterprises.

Andhra Pradesh: World Fisheries Day to see launch of aqua hub project

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/world-fisheries-day-to-see-launch-of-aqua-hub-project/articleshow/79309937.cms>

"With chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy scheduled to inaugurate aqua bazaars and aqua hub project on Saturday, Visakhapatnam is getting ready to house its first outlet of the sort at RTC Complex. A total of 150 state-of-the-art fish markets are slated to come up under this project. Joint director fisheries K Phani Prakash said, "November 21 is celebrated as World Fisheries Day. On that day, our chief minister will inaugurate the project. As per the project plan, these fish markets will be known as 'aqua bazaars' in rural areas while a hub-and-spoke model would be adopted in urban areas. Aqua hubs will come up in big cities from where produce would be distributed to retail outlets. Aqua bazaars and outlets will essentially have four parts: a live fish section, ice fish and prawn section, frozen section and a dressing section to clean, cut and pack. State fisheries minister Seediri Appalaraju said, "Despite being one of the largest fish and prawn producing states in India, almost all our produce is exported globally. Fish consumption in Andhra Pradesh is very low. This project is supposed to increase the rate of fish consumption in the state and use the state's fish and produce within the state more. A senior fisheries department official said that the state has started forming Fish Farmers Producers Organizations (FFPOs) under the MACS Act of 1995 or Companies Act of 2013. These FFPOs would be of three types: marketing, pre-processing and processing; and will take care of the supply chain.

Andhra Pradesh: 'Cover fisherwomen under matsyakara scheme too'

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/cover-fisherwomen-under->

[matsyakara-scheme-too/articleshow/79251065.cms](https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/nov/16/youngsters-pool-in-money-construct-house-for-fisherman-in-srikakulam-2224087.html)

"Citing that the YSR Matsyakara Bharosa scheme is an example of gender inequality, fishermen associations have urged the government to expand the scheme to cover the 60,000-odd fisherwomen in the state. "There are around 60,000 fisherwomen across the state. They don't go out on the sea as their male counterparts but are involved in fish trade in the harbour areas and at different fish markets. The fishing ban also affects them and it is a clear example of gender inequality. So we have requested the state government to extend this facility to the fisherwomen as well, Arijili Dasu, general secretary of Visakhapatnam district fishermen welfare association, told TOI. Fishermen in the age group of 21-60 years who operate motorised and non-motorised boats during the marine ban period/lean period from April 15 to June 14 are eligible for the scheme. "Fisherwomen are eligible under this scheme in other south Indian states like Tamil Nadu. Since 2004, the Tamil Nadu government is paying Rs 4,500 each to the fishermen and fisherwomen of that state, added Dasu.

Andhra Pradesh: Youngsters pool in money, construct house for fisherman in Srikakulam

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/nov/16/youngsters-pool-in-money-construct-house-for-fisherman-in-srikakulam-2224087.html>

"Tekkala Nagaraju, a 55-year-old fisherman who lost his livelihood under the impact of Covid-19, was in for more trouble after the heavy rains six months ago severely damaged his house. His repeated requests to the authorities for a new house under a government scheme fell on deaf ears, and he was forced to live under a tree, come rain or shine. Nagaraju, of Devunaltada village in Srikakulam district's Vajrapukotturu mandal, has been living alone since his wife died and children migrated. With no house either, his life turned miserable until the local youngsters noticed his plight. They decided to build him a low-cost house with an asbestos roof, and pooled in Rs 30,000 for this. "Nagaraju approached the officials seeking shelter in the village several times. Vexed with their poor response, he approached some youngsters in the village. When the issue was brought to our notice, we immediately decided to build a structure for him to live in, said Chinta Murali, who helped construct the house. Nagaraju's children left him in the village and migrated outside the State, Murali said, adding that there was no one to look after the fisherman. "Thanks to these youngsters, I am now able to sleep under a roof, said Nagaraju. They even gave the fisherman essential supplies for the next two months. "I lost my source of income due to the lockdown, but these supplies will help me survive till the situation improves, Nagaraju said. "We have been involved in social service in the villages of Vajrapukotturu mandal. We earlier pooled in Rs 10,000 to construct a house for a victim of the heavy rains, Saini Damayanti, of Saninivanipeta, Murali told TNIE.

Andhra Pradesh: Seeks central aid of over Rs 5K crore for restoration of damaged

infrastructure

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/rainsap-seeks-central-aid-of-over-rs-5k--crore-for-restoration-of-damaged-infrastructure/1972988>

"The Andhra Pradesh government on Monday requested the Centre to grant Rs 5,279 crore for restoration of infrastructure damaged due to heavy rains and floods in the state during August-October this year. AP Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney told the visiting Inter-ministerial Central Team, led by Joint Secretary Saurav Ray, that the state suffered gross damage to the tune of Rs 6,320.83 crore due to heavy rains and floods in rivers Krishna and Godavari in different spells during August, September and October. Total amount required for relief and restoration of damaged infrastructure is estimated at Rs 5,279.11 crore, of which Rs 840.07 crore is required as per National Disaster Relief Fund norms for relief and temporary restoration of damaged infrastructure. An amount of Rs 4,439.14 crore is required for permanent restoration of damaged infrastructure," the Chief Secretary told the IMCT at a high-level meeting in the Secretariat here. "Generous support by the Government of India will help the state rpt help the state, which is already in critical financial position due to Covid-19," she said. In her presentation, the Chief Secretary said AP received heavy rains from August 13 to October 17 due to four low-pressure systems and one deep depression formed over the Bay of Bengal. The floods in Godavari and Krishna rivers were caused due to incessant rains in upper catchment areas of the two river basins in Telangana, Maharashtra and Karnataka, besides heavy rains in the state. The state as a whole received a cumulative rainfall of 444.5 mm as against the normal 351.2 mm during the period, which was 26.6 per cent in excess.

Out of 670 "mandals" in the state, 387 mandals in 12 districts have been affected due to incessant rains and floods in Godavari and Krishna rivers, she pointed out. While 45 people were killed in rain-related incidents like wall collapse, drowning and landslides, five more were reported missing, despite the best possible search and rescue efforts by NDRF and SDRF. Also, 8,784 houses were fully damaged in the affected districts while a large number of cattle were also killed. The Chief Secretary explained that agriculture crops like paddy, maize, cotton, black gram, pulses and sugarcane, suffered damage to an extent of 2,12,588 hectares. Paddy alone suffered the worst damage in 1,40,485 hectares, Sawhney said, adding that cotton was the next in an extent of 25,068 ha. Horticulture crops, including vegetables, banana, papaya and turmeric, worth Rs 483 crore were also damaged. About 2657 fish and prawn farming ponds to an extent of 5,819.7 hectares were damaged in West Godavari, Krishna, East Godavari, Guntur and Visakhapatnam districts, the Chief Secretary added. Road network, rural water supply schemes, irrigation tanks and drainage systems in urban local bodies also suffered extensive damage. The IMCT inspected a photo exhibition at the Secretariat on the damage. The IMCT later split into three different groups and visited Anantapuramu, Krishna and Guntur districts for an on-the-spot inspection of the damage suffered. The teams will visit East and West Godavari districts on

Tuesday.

Andhra Pradesh: Four fishermen go missing off Vizag coast

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/four-fishermen-go-missing-off-vizag-coast/article32922480.ece>

"Four fishermen from Peda Jalaripeta area here, who went for fishing on August 21, have reportedly gone missing. Their family members sought the help of officials for search operation. According to the locals, O. Atchyutha Rao (21), N. Appalaraju (21), P. Veerraju (22) and O. Gurunath (18) ventured into the sea in a boat along with 10 other boats around 2 a.m. on Wednesday. However, they did not return till Thursday evening, while all others who went with them returned. "They are not new to the sea. Since childhood, they are venturing into the sea for fishing. May be because of the high-tides, they might have drifted to some other parts, said T Raju, a resident of Peda Jalaripeta. The locals have informed the same to the Marine police and officials from Fisheries Department about the missing youth, who later launched a search operation. Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu met the families and expressed hope for their safe return. A few fishermen opine that due to high tide, the boat might have drifted towards Kakinada coast. A few are about to leave for Kakinada hoping for their return.

Andhra Pradesh: New fishing harbour at Pallipalem

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/oct/19/new-fishing-harbour-at-pallipalem-2212109.html>

"The district authorities have prepared a detailed project report (DPR) for the construction of a new fishing harbour at a cost of `325 crore near K Pallipalem beach in Kothapatnam mandal in Ongole revenue division. The proposed fishing harbour will accommodate 820 fishing boats and also traditional fishing boats. Authorities estimated that there is a possibility of getting 27,500 metric tonnes of fish catch per annum in the harbour.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishermen welcome move to expand harbour

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/fishermen-welcome-move-to-expand-harbour/articleshow/78609419.cms>

"Fishermen in Machilipatnam have welcomed the state government's nod to expanding the fishing harbour. The state government has issued government order number 35 sanctioning Rs 2 crore to start the tender process for harbour expansion works worth Rs 348 crore. Krishna district has a 111km-long coastline. Around 9,000 fishing families from Machilipatnam, Avanigadda and other parts of the district are dependent on this fishing harbour located at Gilakaladindi in Machilipatnam. The fisheries department had proposed modernisation of the

harbour in 2010 at an estimated cost of Rs 150 crore. However, the project costs have escalated with delay. Responding to requests from fishermen, minister Perni Venkata Ramiah restarted the project and got it approved from the government. Joint director of fisheries department SK Lal Mohammed said, "Harbour dredging, protective wall construction, cold storage facility and others will be part of the development project. Andhra Pradesh Infrastructure Development Corporation will soon call for tenders.

Andhra Pradesh: IMD issues 'red warning' to five coastal districts

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/imd-issues-red-warning-to-five-coastal-districts-in-andhra-pradesh/articleshow/78631052.cms>

"A 'red warning' was issued to five districts of the state by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday in the wake of the deep depression that has formed over the Bay of Bengal and is likely to cross the AP coast on Tuesday morning. The IMD warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall at some places with extremely heavy rainfall at one or two places in Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam and the two Godavari districts. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is also likely to occur at isolated places in Krishna, Kurnool, Guntur and Prakasam districts. Some areas of the state received over 200mm rainfall over the last two days under the influence of the deep depression. Vizag city area received over 180mm rainfall since Sunday, while the airport area received around 165mm of rainfall. "Rains along with squally winds with a maximum speed of 70-kmph will prevail at most places of the five districts due to the influence of the deep depression, IMD regional director S Stella said. The IMD has issued 'orange warning' to Krishna and Kurnool districts, which specifies heavy to very heavy rains at isolated places. All the other districts are likely to receive light to moderate rains. All ports in the state have been issued cautionary signals (signal number 3), while the fisheries department has been instructed to issue alerts at the fishing harbours and warn fishermen against venturing into the sea. West Godavari collector R Muthyala Raju said all coastal mandals have been put on high alert. "The deep depression will cross the state between Narsapur (West Godavari) and Visakhapatnam. We have put the district administration on alert to ensure that power supply and telephone lines are restored and roads are cleared at the earliest if required, he said. East Godavari joint collector Lakshmi Sha said cyclone shelters have been set up in Amalapuram area and rehabilitation centres are also in place. "The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and disaster response force of the state have been kept on standby. A dedicated helpline (180-4253077) has been set up in the district collectorate. The Kakinada-Uppada beach road has been closed as a precautionary measure, the joint collector said. Meanwhile, two shops situated in the municipal complex on the main road at Peddapuram town in East Godavari district collapsed due to heavy rains on Monday. Another four shops are on the brink of collapse. Fortunately, there was no loss of lives as the shop-owners had left the shops an hour before the structures crumbled. Also, as most shops in Peddapuram market remain closed on Mondays, there were very few

people in the municipal market complex. Peedapuram RDO Malli Babu said that civic authorities had issued notices to vacate the 45-year-old municipal complex, but the shop-owners did not pay heed.

Andhra Pradesh: To prevent pharmaceutical effluents and untreated sewage polluting the sea coast

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/andhra-pradesh-hc-asks-pcb-gvmc-to-curb-sea-pollution/articleshow/78308690.cms>

"The high court on Thursday directed the Pollution Control Board and the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) to take necessary steps to prevent pharmaceutical effluents and untreated sewage polluting the sea coast. Rajendra Singh, who is known as water man of India, and Bolisetty Satyanarayana moved the high court with a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking directions to constitute an expert committee to study the effects of pollution and suggest remedial measures. The high court bench comprising Justice Rakesh Kumar and Justice J Uma Devi heard the petition on Thursday and directed the respondents to file counters. The bench also passed an interim order to take necessary action to prevent sea coast from getting polluted. The petitioners argued that the pharmaceutical waste coming out of various industries located in Parawada Pharma City is polluting the sea water. They cited the recent death of a large number of fish at Rishikonda beach. They argued that the fish are dying because of the chemical waste being released into the sea. The petitioners also mentioned that the surrounding water bodies have also been contaminated with chemical substances as proper care is not being taken to treat waste materials. Even the GVMC is releasing untreated sewer and plastic waste into the sea. The flora and fauna of the sea coast is getting affected with unchecked pollution, they have said. The petitioners also contended that the officials failed to take action to control pollution of the coast despite giving a number of representations. The pollution of sea water not only affected the marine biology but also hit the livelihood of fishermen, they said. Those who are completely dependent on fishing are facing problems as the fish are dying due to pollution. Even the fishermen are developing various health complications either by fishing in contaminated water or by consuming contaminated fish.

Andhra Pradesh: Ranks first in fish, prawn production

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/minister-s-appala-raju-announced-andhra-pradesh-ranks-first-in-fish-prawn-production-646829>

"Andhra Pradesh stood in first place in production of fish and prawns with 71 per cent of

share in aqua production, announced Minister for Fisheries S Appala Raju. Accompanied by Collector R Muthyala Raju and MLA M Prasad Raju, he visited lands suitable for setting up of Aqua University at a cost of Rs 500 crore at Biyyaputippa of Narsapuram mandal. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the state has achieved the distinction of being on the top of the aqua production in the country because of coordinated efforts of the farmers of aqua industry. Aqua farmers need not worry about permissions and the same would be given in two weeks. The state government has extended a subsidy of Rs 750 crore to aqua farmers towards power supply, he said. The Minister said the government is taking all steps for setting up eight fishing harbours, three ports and three fishing landing centres in the state as it is keen to develop fishers' families educationally and financially. The foundation stone for aqua university will be laid after a Bangalore-based team submits its detailed project report.

Andhra Pradesh: 'No Work Without Agreement' – say Migrant Vessel Crew Fish Workers

"The occupational problems of vessel crew fish workers, more particularly that of migrant vessel crew fish workers, had burst out into the open during the Covid-19 pandemic induced lock-down. Stranded at the fishing harbours without proper food and shelter, without wage, exposed to infection and unable to return home, these wretched fish workers had to even come out on the streets to demand their right to decent shelter and adequate food or to get passage to home. Many of them fell ill, a few of them even died at the harbours. The government and the boat owners exhibited abject cynicism to the miserable condition of the migrant fish workers - - The owners stopped payment during the lock-down in spite of the advisory of the Ministry of Labour Welfare to continue with workers' payments; - The owners and the Government took almost no initiative to provide them with proper shelter, food and medical facilities in spite of the Honourable Supreme Court's directions in the matter; - More often than not the migrant fish workers were made to pay hefty sums as the cost of their travel to return home. More than three hundred thousand migrant fish workers are employed as vessel crew fish workers on the trawlers and mechanised fishing boats at different harbours of the West and East Coasts of the country. There are no proper agreements, irregularities in working conditions including payment, no proper or adequate life and accident insurance cover, no medical facilities, no travelling allowance for going to the workplace and returning home. NPSSFW had to move the Human Rights Commission to bring justice to the migrant fish workers stranded at Verabal, Gujarat. NPSSFW had launched a successful campaign in collaboration with many friends and concerned people to make proper arrangements for the return of migrant fish workers from Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra. Particularly at Kollam of Kerala the blood of agitating migrant fish workers was spilt by police lathi charge.

It may be mentioned that though most of the vessel crew fish workers are migrant workers, many local workers also work on the larger fishing vessels. They also face similar difficulties at work. It may also be mentioned here that the Government of India, though a signatory to the 'ILO

Convention 188 on Work in Fishing' of 2007, is yet to ratify the Convention and initiate necessary statutory or executive steps presumably for the pressure of mechanised fishing boat owners' lobby on the Government. NPSSFW has been demanding implementation of 'ILO Convention 188 on Work in Fishing' and has been assisting the Vessel Crew Fish Workers in building up their collectives. The Democratic Traditional Fishers Workers Forum of Andhra Pradesh (DTFWF), an NPSSFW affiliate, has been instrumental in developing migrant fish workers' collectives in Andhra Pradesh. The migrant workers of Andhra Pradesh, for the first time, came together to consider the problems they face at their workplaces and decided on a charter of demand which they, with the help of NPSSFW and activist lawyers, developed into a model draft agreement (copy enclosed) to be signed by the boat owner and the vessel crew fish worker. This was almost a bolt from the blue to the mechanised fishing boat owners. They did never think that their stranglehold over the fish workers would encounter such a challenge. Boat owners and leaders of boat owner associations (some of whom are in different fish workers' organisations as well) rushed from Gujarat and Maharashtra to Andhra Pradesh to persuade the fish workers to go back and start fishing. The fish workers presented the boat owners with the draft model agreement and asked them to agree to it. Some of the boat owners were willing, others dissuaded them. They approached the Fisheries Minister of Andhra Pradesh. But the Hon'ble Minister said that the workers' demands were just and small, the boat owners should agree to it. The boat owners then returned to their places with the comment that they will discuss the demands with their colleagues and then get back. Only the future knows what is in store for the vessel crew fish workers' movement, but one thing is certain - the situation to exploit vessel crew fish workers will never be the same.

Andhra Pradesh: Centre vows support to 8 fishing harbours in State

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/amaravati-centre-vows-support-to-8-fishing-harbours-in-state-646186>

"The Central government assured that it would support the eight fishing harbours proposed to be built in the state, according to industries minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy. Addressing a press conference at Mangalagiri on Thursday, Goutham Reddy said Union minister for industries Piyush Goyal had assured that the Centre would either invest directly or support indirectly for the development of these fishing harbours.

He said that during his recent visit to New Delhi, he met Goyal and requested the Centre's support for the development of these harbours. Apart from constructing fishing harbours, the government also prepared plans for developing infrastructure for connectivity. The state government is expecting support from the Central government on connectivity too. He said tenders would be called for construction of two ports on December 15, 2020 and the Detailed Project Reports were completed for them. Apart from that, another proposal for construction of a third port is in progress, he added. Goutham Reddy said that the Union government was planning

to establish two petro-chemical corridors and AP has the advantage to get them. He said a bulk drug park proposed by the Union government is likely to come up at East Godavari district. The state government has experience in handling the pharma industries, and the manufacturing companies have also been evincing interest on AP, he added. The minister said NITI Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar would visit the state to see himself development of school infrastructure under the Naadu Nedu programme in October. ""He expressed interest on the programme after knowing about it. He will visit at least one school in Visakhapatnam district,"" he said. The minister, who also holds IT portfolio, said the government was planning to develop Vizag as the world's cloud computing centre.

India: Small shrimp prices rebound in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh to follow once harvests end

<https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2020/09/17/indian-small-shrimp-prices-rebound-in-gujarat-andhra-pradesh-to-follow-once-harvests-end/>

"In contrast to the sharp drop seen in the chief Indian vannamei shrimp farming state of Andhra Pradesh this month, prices for smaller shrimp in the state of Gujarat have been continuing to rise since the start of September. As reported by Undercurrent News on Sept. 4, prices for smaller, 100-count shrimp had been falling rapidly in Andhra Pradesh as a result of mass early harvests caused by heavy rains and disease issues. This in turn led to a glut of small-sized animals on the market, an issue compounded by a relative lack of demand from processors.

Andhra Pradesh: Children in fishing communities sail away from family business

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/children-in-fishing-communities-sail-away-from-family-biz/articleshow/77985133.cms>

"Be it dwindling catch or alternate safe employment, the number of fishermen in Visakhapatnam the largest marine fish producing district in Andhra Pradesh is declining fast. Several surveys and studies have shown that the younger lot from fishing communities are reluctant to take up the business. Speaking to TOI, Arjili Dasu, executive director of Fisherfolk Foundation, said, "In the 90s, there were more than 75,000 fishermen in Visakhapatnam district. The number of fishermen in the district now is just around 48,000. This shows that there has been a 36% decline over the last two decades. Experts claim that younger generations are looking for alternative jobs after their parents retire. The tradition of fishing families is dying out. Many children of these families are pursuing higher education and choosing nine-to-six jobs. Others are working as labourers in real estate and other industries. The average age of active fishermen in Visakhapatnam is 50-55 years.

According to experts, one of the prime reasons for this shift in paradigm is declining catch off the shores of Bay of Bengal. Fishermen say that fishing is a tiring profession fraught with risks

with low returns. 70-year-old M Bulaya, who has been a fisherman for a long time, said, "Now it takes us 7 days to match the catch we used to get in three days in 2004. Moreover, you have to face the danger of cyclones, being lost at sea, territorial problems of neighbouring countries and the chance of developing sea sickness. "This is no longer a lucrative profession. We ourselves don't encourage our children to take up the profession, Bulaya said

Andhra Pradesh: MSP, cold storage facilities should be provided to aqua farmers: AP CM

<http://www.uniindia.com/~misp-cold-storage-facilities-should-be-provided-to-aqua-farmers-ap-cm/States/news/2138972.html>

"Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday said that aqua farmers should get MSP (Minimum Support Price) and the government should provide basic infrastructure for pre-primary and secondary processing. During a review meeting on Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Departments here, the Chief Minister told the officials that aqua farmers should get the MSP besides providing preprocessing, IQF and cold storage facilities. 'These facilities, which will help the farmer to store their produce to get remunerative price, should be linked to Janata Bazaars which boost the morale of the farmers and keep the middlemen and private syndicates at bay', he said. The Chief Minister highlighted that for the first time, the state government had started Market Stabilisation Fund and released Rs 3,200 crores to save the farmers from middlemen and have spent money on tobacco farmers. By next year Janata Bazaars should start functioning and they should be linked to aqua products. Godowns at village level, cold storages at mandal level along with grading and primary food processing units are coming up. Cage culture in reservoirs should be brought in a sustainable manner, he directed.

The officials explained about the progress in shipping harbour projects and about the YSR Cheyutha scheme. The Chief Minister stated that suggestions should be taken from Amul while buying cattle and partner them in matters of feed, rearing and other technical aspects besides a tie-up in sheep rearing. Minister for Animal Husbandry S Appalraju, Special Chief Secretary Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Poonam Malakondaiah, Fisheries Commissioner Kannababu and other officials took part in the review meeting.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishermen leaving without 'official' permission

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/fishermen-leaving-without-official-permission/articleshow/77858621.cms>

"Though the government has made it mandatory for migrant fishermen to seek permission from collectors of their respective districts before leaving the state, many of them have reportedly left AP without seeking any permission. Fishermen association leaders said on Monday that it will become difficult for them to restrict other fishermen from leaving for

employment outside the state if the trend continues. “Recently, two groups of around 24 fishermen from Srikakulam flew down to Gujarat from Visakhapatnam airport. They have not taken the mandatory official permission from the district collector's office. We are receiving such information from other districts as well, Arijili Dasu, state leader of fishermen's associations, said.

Following the nationwide Covid-19 lockdown in March, the AP government helped rescue over 10,000 migrant fishermen, who were stranded in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and other states. The government also collected details of migrant fishermen and made it mandatory for them to seek permission from district collectors before leaving the state to seek employment outside. Officials at the district collectorate office refused to comment on the issue stating that they are not aware of any such developments. “We are not sure whether any fishermen have left the state. We have to find out, said a senior official. Some fishermen, however, admitted that some of them have left for Gujarat and other states, and that they too want to join them soon. They said they have been jobless since the last four-five months and their families are surviving on government schemes, rations and loans. “Our sethjis (boat owners) in Gujarat want us to join work. They are also arranging flight tickets for us, said Cheekari China Danayya, a local fisherman.

Andhra Pradesh: On path to achieve 30% growth in fish production, claims Excise Minister V Srinivas Goud

<https://www.thehansindia.com/teelangana/on-path-to-achieve-30-growth-in-fish-production-claims-excise-minister-v-srinivas-goud-642834>

"A lot of focus is being given on give fillip to traditional occupations, the Minister for Prohibition and Excise V Srinivas Goud said. Releasing fish seedlings in the Bommakuru Reservoir in Narmetta mandal on Sunday, the minister said that the Telangana government is committed to uplift the communities whose livelihood is traditional occupations. ""With the government giving a boost to the fisheries segment, the State is on the path to achieve a 30 per cent growth in the fish production,"" Goud said. The move has helped the fishermen communities – Mudiraj and Bestha, immensely to improve their economies, he added. On the agriculture front, Telangana has become a rice bowl, thanks to the vision of the Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao who has been focusing on ensuring irrigation facilities, the minister said. Later, the minister unveiled the statue of Sarvai Papanna at Mandela Gudem under Raghunathpally mandal. Speaking on the occasion, Goud said that Papanna had fought for the downtrodden and defied the rulers fighting bravely against the atrocities on suppressed sections of society, he added. The minister also participated in the Haritha Haram programme. Station Ghanpur MLA Thatikonda Rajaiah, Jangaon MLA Muthireddy Yadagiri Reddy and District Collector K Nikhila were among others present.

Andhra Pradesh: Boat owners seek subsidy on transponders

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/boat-owners-seek-subsidy-on-transponders/articleshow/77790864.cms>

"The fishermen associations in the state have sought subsidy from the Centre and state governments to install transponders in all the 2,700-odd mechanized fishing boats in Andhra Pradesh. They ensure security post 26/11 Mumbai terror attack and monitor fishing boats crossing the Indian marine border. "The cost of each transponder would be around Rs 13,000. Given the present condition, boat owners would not be able bear the cost. So we have requested the state government to provide 90% subsidy with the help of the Centre, while the boat owners would pay the rest 10%, said Arijili Dasu, executive secretary of District Fishermen's Youth Welfare Association (DFYWA). The DFYWA, along with a few other fisheries unions in Andhra Pradesh have forwarded the same request to the state government. Such transponders would help track the location of the fishing boats and the crew can exchange information through text messages with the control room on shore and vice versa.

Andhra Pradesh: Industrial outflow kills fish in Sangareddy tanks

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tehrangana/2020/aug/25/industrial-outflow-kills-fish-in-sangareddy-tanks-2187738.html>

"Fishermen in Sangareddy are accusing polluting industries in the district of damaging their livelihood. In the Jinnaram mandal, some industries have reportedly released chemical effluents along with floodwater. As a result, fish seeds released in the tanks have died. Local fishermen complain that following the recent heavy rains, some industries in Kistaipally village released polluted chemical water which reached the village tank. Fishermen say they released `2.5 lakh worth fish seeds but all of them have died. In the past, a similar incident took place in Gaddapotharam village where fish died on a large scale. After the issue became controversial, officials took action. Two days back, identical complaints have emerged from fishermen in Kistaipally and Gaddapotharam villages of Jinnaram mandal. RC Puram Pollution Control Board executive engineer K Ravikumar agrees that they have received several complaints. He says he has visited the spot to check the fish deaths. Ravikumar says the PCB has issued notices to five polluting industries in Kistaipally area and is awaiting their reply. District Fisheries Department AD M Sujatha says that they received a couple of complaints from Gaddapotharam village. She adds that the matter comes under the PCB's jurisdiction. "There won't be any compensation from our department for the fish deaths, she states. Notices served on 5 polluting industries RC Puram Pollution Control Board executive engineer K Ravikumar agrees that they have received several complaints. He says he has visited the spot to check the fish deaths. Ravikumar says the PCB has issued notices to five polluting industries in Kistaipally area and is awaiting their reply.

Andhra Pradesh: Dead fish wash ashore on Visakhapatnam beaches

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/videos/toi-original/dead-fish-wash-ashore-on-visakhapatnam-beaches/videoshow/77634881.cms>

"A large number of dead fish wash ashore in area between Rushikonda and Sagar Nagar beaches. Experts say the fish most probably died due to lack of oxygen caused by inclement weather. Certain areas of the sea can have depleted oxygen level in water if bad weather continues for some days.

Andhra Pradesh: East Godavari: Four fishermen went missing in Bay of Bengal at Bhairavapalem

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/east-godavari-four-fishermen-went-missing-in-bay-of-bengal-at-bhairavapalem-639399>

"In a shocking incident took place at Uppada in East Godavari district four fishermen struck in the Bay of Bengal for fishing. Going into details, on the 11th of this month, four fishermen from Uppada suburb of Aminabad went for fishing in a boat. However, while on their way back, they informed to their family members by phone that the boat engine was damaged at Bhairavapalem and later their phone has not worked since then. The family members of the fishermen are worried about this. Pithapuram MLA Pendem Dorababu asked Collector to take windfall measures for fishermen. The Indian Coast Guard personnel carried out the rescue measures on the orders of the Collector. In this view, 20 fishermen on 5 boats went in search yesterday however with incessant rains, the two boats that came back. Fishermen belonging to the submarine with another boat are in the rescue operations.

Andhra Pradesh: Now, tech to help track fishing boats

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/now-tech-to-help-track-fishing-boats/articleshow/77553080.cms>

"In order to track and communicate with fishing boats at mid-sea, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) recently installed transponders on 10 fishing boats at Visakhapatnam harbour. Officials said this is part of a mega-project initiated by the Union fisheries ministry and fisheries department of different states and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the project from New Delhi on Independence Day. "The Prime Minister would inaugurate the project of transponder installation on Independence Day. The cost of installation of transponders will be around Rs 13,000. The Union government would fund 65% of the cost and we have requested the state government to fund 25%, said Arijili Dasu, secretary of District Fishermen's Youth Welfare Association. Officials at the state fisheries department said coastal Andhra Pradesh is prone to cyclones and tracking fishing vessels during cyclones remains a challenge in

the region. Officials of the executing agency, BSNL, told TOI that transponders would help crew members exchange information through text messages with the control room on shore. "Text messages can be sent in any Indian language upto a distance of 200 to 300 km from shore. Through this, both the sender and responder can share location details and raise an alarm, said Mahesh Patil, BSNL marketing official.

Andhra Pradesh: Water levels in Godavari continue to increase in last two days Water levels in Godavari increase in last two days

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/aug/14/water-levels-in-godavari-continue-to-increase-in-last-two-days-water-levels-in-godavari-increase-in-2183262.html>

"With heavy rains in Godavari Basin, Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage in Dowleswaram and Polavaram projects witnessed heavy inflows. With heavy to very heavy rainfall expected in the next two to three days, the Central Water Commission (CWC) said that the water levels are expected to further rise and advised caution. "Heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely over Odisha, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Telangana during next two three days. River Godavari is also getting good flows due to rain in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Telangana. Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh is getting around 19,000 cumecs (6.7 lakh cusecs) with increasing trend. There is forecast of heavy to very heavy rainfall in Telangana and AP also for next two to three days. Close watch is to be maintained, the CWC's flood forecasting report noted. The inflows to Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage in Dowleswaram are on the rise, according to officials. As of 6 pm, 4.14 lakh cusecs inflow and 4.16 lakh cusecs outflow. The officials operated all 175 crest gates to regulate the flow. About 12,000 to 14,000 cusecs were diverted for the Godavari delta, the officials said. As per the trend of the inflow due to the rainfall forecast, the discharge is expected to surge further. With heavy inflows, the water level at Polavaram, according to CWC's report, was at 21.56 metres.

The levels at the cofferdam increased to almost 25 metres in the day and the water level at spillway is also on the rise. Due to the heavy inflows and incessant rainfalls, the communication to around 20 villages in the Agency area has reportedly been disrupted. The officials initiated precautionary measures to bring down flood threat. On the other hand, the inflows to Srisailem, which surged to 2.5 lakh cusecs a few days ago, have come down to 52,000 cusecs as of 6 pm, while the outflow was recorded to be 54,000 cusecs. Though the inflows to Almatti and other upper Krishna Basin projects is expected to rise in the next couple of days, the trend in Srisailem reservoir is falling as the discharge from the upper riparian states has come down. As against the full reservoir level (FRL) of 885 ft, the reservoir has water till 865.1 ft with about 122.72 TMCft. The gross FRL capacity of the reservoir is 215.81 TMCft. Nagarjuna Sagar Project, as of 3 pm, recorded an inflow of 40,200 cusecs and an outflow of 7,800 cusecs. Water at present is at 563.5 ft as against the full reservoir level (FRL) of 590 ft. The current storage is at 240.60 TMCft with

a flood cushion of 71.45 TMCft. The Vijayawada irrigation officials operated the crest gates of Prakasam Barrage as water from upper Krishna tributaries resulted in surplus water. About 20,100 cusecs of inflow and 20,600 cusecs of outflow were recorded at 7 pm. In the morning, the officials partially lifted the gates to release a surplus of 7,500 cusecs downstream

Andhra Pradesh: Boat catches fire, six Andhra fishermen escape unhurt

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/aug/09/boat-catches-fire-six-andhra-fishermen-escape-unhurt-2181112.html>

"Six fishermen had a miraculous escape when a boat in which they were sailing caught fire near fishing harbour in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. The incident occurred while they were returning in the boat to shore. However, none of them was injured. Inspector of I Town police station Umakanth said the fishermen went for fishing in the morning. When they were just a few minutes away to reach the shore, fire broke out in the boat. The fishermen said a spark from the boat engine triggered fire, which soon engulfed the boat. All the fishermen jumped into the sea so as to save themselves and immediately port personnel rescued them, Umakanth said.

Andhra Pradesh: To create 9 new harbours, modernise Visakhapatnam port

<http://www.businessworld.in/article/AP-to-create-9-new-harbours-modernise-Visakhapatnam-port/08-08-2020-306277/>

"The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to create nine new harbours and modernise the Visakhapatnam port, said the state fisheries minister Seediri Appalaraju on Friday. The minister told reporters that the state government will soon lay the foundation of a fisheries university in Andhra Pradesh. ""A subsidy is being given on petrol and diesel to fishermen who go for fishing in the sea. The state government has decided to create nine new harbours and to construct six new fishing jetties. Arrangements are also being made to supply fishnets and boats on subsidy to fishermen this year,"" said Appalaraju. The minister further said that arrangements are being made the foundation for aqua form and aqua hub in the state. ""New reforms are being brought in aqua policy so that the sector is much more developed. The transparent policy is being brought in the aqua sector,"" he added.

Andhra Pradesh: Procure shrimp through MPEDA in Andhra Pradesh, says NaCSA member

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/procure-shrimp-through-mpeda-in-andhra-pradesh-says-nacsa-member/article32255088.ece>

"National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA-Kakinada) General Council Member Sykam Bhaskara Rao on Sunday appealed the State government to ensure procurement of shrimp

by the Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA). It is learnt that the shrimp farmer had been badly hit due to the spread of COVID-19, which impacted on the availability of workers in the processing units, disturbing the export operations. In an official release, Mr. Bhasakara Rao has said; “The monopoly in the shrimp trade could only be tackled only when the MPEDA begins the procurement of the shrimp, which prices are normally dictated by the individual exporters. Despite Andhra Pradesh being the leading shrimp exporting State, there is no regulated marketing system in place to guarantee the remunerative price for the shrimp. “A majority of the farmers engaged in the shrimp cultivation is small or middle scale farmers. The financial assistance from the Centre must be spent on creating shrimp purchasing centres, where the fair trade will ensure remunerative price for the farmer, said Machilipatnam-based Mr. Bhaskara Rao

Andhra Pradesh: Fishing harbours go empty, fish prices skyrocket in Vizag markets

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/fishing-harbours-go-empty-fish-prices-skyrocket/articleshow/77186731.cms>

"With supply of marine and inland fish drastically reduced, fish prices skyrocketed at all harbour markets in Visakhapatnam on Sunday. Traders said that fish supply at landing centres has reduced over the last few weeks as fishermen are not venturing into the seas after many of them tested positive for Covid-19. Arjili Dasu, secretary of District Fishermen's Youth Welfare Association, said, “There are over 100 positive cases in fishing villages in Visakhapatnam. Under such circumstances, fishermen are not venturing out to sea. “This has led to a scarcity in the market which has led to an increase in price. The price would increase further unless supply restores, Dasu added. The Visakhapatnam harbour, which usually sees huge crowds especially on weekends, wore a deserted look on Sunday morning. The number of vendors in the market was few and far between. Ummidi Yallarao, a wholesaler, said that news of fishermen being affected with the virus has spread and there is an apprehension among traders that fishing harbours could be sites of infection. A few traders too have tested positive, he added. The price of pomfret, which usually ranges between Rs 600 and Rs 800 per kg in landing centres sold for Rs 1,500 to Rs 1,800 a kilogram on Sunday. “Transportation costs have gone up significantly since the lockdown. This is not the right time to buy and sell fish. We are hardly making any profit, Yallarao told TOI. Fisheries associations however maintain that stopping fishing activities is not a good idea especially at the beginning of the season. They have sent a set of proposals to the fishing department to ensure that no overcrowding takes place in harbours and that people visiting markets follow Covid-19-related standard operating procedure (SOP). But the fisheries department doesn't seem to be in a position to implement the SOP at the moment as many department officials too have tested positive for Covid-19 and are currently in quarantine, said Arjili Dasu.

Andhra Pradesh: Aqua Authority to boost sector, augment farmers' income: Appalaraju

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/jul/27/aqua-authority-to-boost-sector-augment-farmers-income-appalaraju-2175321.html>

"Seedhiri Appalaraju formally assumed charge as the Minister for Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairy Development on Sunday. The first file he signed was to constitute Aquaculture Authority, which was announced by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy recently. Addressing mediapersons here, Appalaraju thanked the Chief Minister for reposing faith in him. "As I belong to the fishermen community, getting the portfolio of animal husbandry and fisheries gives me immense pleasure, he said, while promising to strive for the uplift of fishermen and development of animal husbandry and fisheries. Stating that the Aqua Authority will boost aquaculture sector, the minister said it will help aqua farmers, who seek remunerative prices for their produce. Unlike the former TDP government, which confined itself to making empty promises, the Chief Minister has adopted a more practical and pro-active approach and is fulfilling promises instead of making empty ones, he said. "As much as Rs 700 crore has been allocated in the budget to livestock sector, which will help the dairy farmers. The recent partnership with Amul, will help the cooperative dairy sector immensely, he said. He praised the Chief Minister for implementing several welfare programmes in the State. He said fishing harbours will be set up at four different locations in the State.

"The works will be taken up shortly and completed soon. Already funds have been released for three harbours, he said. Earlier, Appalaraju along with his family members were welcomed with Purna Kumbham and he performed puja in the chamber allocated to him. He along with his wife also took the blessings of Deputy Chief Minister (Revenue) Dharmana Krishna Das.

Andhra Pradesh: Tribals hold protest, demand fish seed

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/tribals-hold-protest-demand-fish-seed/articleshow/77186742.cms>

"A few tribals, who are dependent on fishing in Tatipudi reservoir, staged a protest in their boats in the reservoir on Sunday. They demanded the state government release fish seed into the reservoir and form a fisheries' society for them. The fishermen said they had to part with their lands in Chilakalagadda panchayat in Anantagiri mandal due to construction of the reservoir in 1972. "Since then, we have been eking out a living by fishing in the reservoir. In the past, 200 tribal fishermen contributed Rs 500 each for fish seed. Officials from the ITDA or the fisheries department are turning a deaf ear to repeated requests, they said.

Andhra Pradesh: Fund nod to bio-toilets on fishing boats

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/fund-nod-to-bio-toilets-on-fishing->

[boats/articleshow/77157611.cms](https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/jul/27/aquaculture-farmers-of-the-state-stare-at-heavy-losses-despite-rise-in-production-2175320.html)

"The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) has cleared the decks for funding the installation of bio-toilets on board 2,180 mechanised fishing boats in the state. NFDB will finance the project under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampad Yojna scheme. "Our survey on what needs to be done to maintain hygiene onboard following the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic revealed that bio-toilets on board are the need of the hour. We had approached a few agencies specialised in installing bio-toilets and drew up an expenditure plan. Funds have been sanctioned and we will now focus on the project, Arijili Dasu, executive secretary of Visakhapatnam District Fishermen's Youth Welfare Association told TOI. On May 26, Union minister of fisheries Giriraj Singh announced the PMMSY scheme and termed it as "a scheme to bring about Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector in India, with the highest ever investment of Rs 20,050 crores. Construction of bio-toilets on fishing vessels is a key feature of this scheme. On June 25, TOI reported that fisheries associations in the state had drawn up a proposal to set up bio-toilets on board all mechanised boats and were in talk with NFDB for funds. Mechanised boats normally stay at sea for seven to 21 days at a stretch.

Andhra Pradesh: Aquaculture farmers of Andhra Pradesh stare at heavy losses despite rise in production

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/jul/27/aquaculture-farmers-of-the-state-stare-at-heavy-losses-despite-rise-in-production-2175320.html>

"The months from April to June is the harvesting season for fish and prawn in the State as the temperatures are conducive for processing, packing and export. But unfortunately, with the COVID-19 crisis, the aquaculture sector was badly hit and the damage is yet to be assessed, but experts say that significant losses could not be ruled out. Aqua farmers say though they are producing enough, there is a lack of market for their produce due to COVID-19 crisis and subsequent worker shortage. Further, market transactions across the country have slowed down, which has resulted in price drop. Shrimp and fish farming is extensively taken up in twin-Godavari districts (East and West), Krishna, Prakasam, Nellore and to an extent in Guntur districts. Situation is not so good in any of the districts and all the aqua farmers are doing now is to pray for the return of normalcy. Of the fish produced in Andhra Pradesh, 75 to 80 per cent of Indian major carps (Catla, Rohu and Mrigal) are consumed in Eastern India and in North India, while 90 per cent of Pangasius is consumed in North India. A majority of the shrimp produced is exported to the US, European Union, China and Japan. Local consumption of the fish and shrimp is less. In other other words, the domestic market is not the main income generation avenue for the aqua farmers.

In Nellore district, aquaculture is taken up in 11,400 hectares in all 12 coastal mandals. Mostly it

is shrimp, which is marketed to other countries. However, during the first half of the lockdown -- from the last week of March to June first week -- aqua exporters are facing twin-pronged problems, shipping to other countries has been restricted and lack of manpower for packing. Exports of aqua products to other countries have dropped in April and May by 30 per cent this year when compared to last year. In Prakasam, shrimp/pisciculture is taken up in 29,000 acres and the harvest was good this year. Though the farmers supplied shrimp to processing plants, shortage of workers has proved to be a stumbling block. "Since lockdown restrictions are in force, we are facing shortage of skilled labourers as most of the aquafarm caretakers are from Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Odisha, West Bengal and other places. They went to their native places in April-end and haven't returned yet. Somehow we are pulling through. Usually, we sell our produce to the local processing unit agents and they, in turn, export it to China, UK, America and the like. But due to ongoing stand-off between India and China, exports to that country were hit and taking it as pretext, export agents are not offering a good price for our produce, K Suresh Kumar, an aqua farmer from Ongole said. Speaking to TNIE, Suryamitra Group of Companies managing director Surya Rao Irrinki said shortage of workers is the major problem. "Due to shortage of workers, 300 tonnes of produce in the company unprocessed. It is perishable and if it is not processed in time, we will suffer heavy losses, he said. Only 150 out of 1,000 workers are coming to the company, though it is taking all protective measures. Owing to huge demand from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and other places, fish farmers in Nellore harvested the crop, but owing to restrictions, the prices have dropped. Krishna district fisheries department joint director Sk Lal Mohamed said due to dip in the demand, there has been a fall in fish exports. About 350 to 400 truckloads of fish used to be exported to other States earlier; it has reduced to 150 and 200 trucks now.

Andhra Pradesh: Srikakulam town under lockdown again, 60000 migrants return home in total

<https://in.news.yahoo.com/aps-srikakulam-town-under-lockdown-110533914.html>

"With coronavirus numbers on the rise, lockdown has been enforced in Srikakulam town of Andhra Pradesh from Saturday. The Collector declared that for 14 days, Srikakulam district will be under lockdown. Only essential and emergency services will remain open. Shops will be open from 6 am to 1 pm. In the second week of this month, a partial lockdown was announced in Srikakulam town. There were restrictions in timings and shops were allowed to be open only until 1 pm. With the support of the public, partial lockdown was earlier enforced in Ichchapuram, Palasa, Mandasa, Tekkali, Narasannapeta, Ranasthalam, Rajam and Srikakulam. Srikakulam district had made it to the news for being coronavirus-free until late April. It is in the last two months that the district has seen a spike in the number of cases. Speaking to TNM, Collector J Nivas said, "Our first case in the district was reported as late as April 24. There was no case before that. Once the lockdown was lifted in June, we had around 700 cases and now in July

presently, we have around 2,000 positive cases. According to the medical bulletin released on July 18, Srikakulam district has recorded a total of 2,034 COVID-19 cases and 16 people have lost their lives in the district due to the pandemic.

When asked what is the biggest challenge that the district is facing, Collector Nivas said, “The migrant population is our biggest challenge. Srikakulam district has the highest number of people working as migrant labour in other states. 60,000 people have already reached Srikakulam from states like Telangana, Tamil Nadu and also from other districts in the state. This is the official number, based on those who have crossed through the checkpost. There may be various other means by which they have reached the district, too. Even now, every day, people are returning to Srikakulam from Telangana. The Collector mentioned that the district has a high migrant population because a lot of people travel to neighbouring states and districts in search of livelihood. Nivas added, “The agriculture pattern in the district is that they do single-crop cultivation due to lack of water resources for a second crop. From December, they have no work, and that is when they move to other states for work. A lot of people go to Gujarat and other states for fishing by around September. A big chunk of the migrant workers are fishermen returning from Chennai and Gujarat. Speaking about the arrangements in the district, the Collector said the administration is well prepared. He said, “We have three COVID Care Centres, we are increasing that to four now. These can accommodate around 3,000 people. Around 200 people are in home isolation. We have 1,700 beds in hospitals out of which 1,100 are beds with oxygen lines and 164 ICUs. We want hospitals to cater to only critical patients. Currently, we have around 20-30% vacancy in hospitals, ideally it should be 50%. The pressure is building and hence we want to reduce the inflow into hospitals. Arranging for beds in hospitals is not the challenge, arranging medical staff and doctors is the real challenge. Srikakulam town is following a 50:30:20 strategy to tackle the virus. 50% of the patients are in home isolation. 30% are in COVID Care Centres and 20% are admitted in hospitals. The administration is hoping to ramp up testing and has introduced various surveys and schemes to detect cases early and help people recover fast.

Andhra Pradesh: Fish farmers stare at massive losses

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/fish-farmers-stare-at-massive-losses/articleshow/77073727.cms>

"Fish farmers in Krishna delta are staring at massive losses due to a slump in prices. Fish grown in the sweet waters of Krishna delta region used to command high prices in the past. However, the farmers were severely hit during the current season due to outbreak of Covid-19. With people struggling to earn a livelihood, consumption of fish has gone down. In many big markets, there are restrictions on sale of fish. The district administrations have not allowed local fish markets to operate for fear of spread of Covid-19. “The situation might not ease unless the working class, the major consumers, wins back its livelihood. Fish farmers are not getting half

the price that they fetched during the last season, said state agriculture mission vice-chairman and fish farmer, MVS Nagireddy. Although chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has taken personal initiative to get big fish markets in some areas to operate, the localised restrictions are still hitting sales, he explained. Farmers who cultured Katla and Rohu in the Krishna- Godavari delta are going through tough times. Farmers were incurring nearly Rs 4 lakh loss per acre of crop due to the dip in the price. "Only improved revenues of the common man will increase consumption and demand. We don't know when the economy would return to normalcy, said Nagireddy.

Andhra Pradesh: Industrial effluents pose threat to Pulasa fish in Godavari

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/industrial-effluents-pose-threat-to-pulasa-fish-in-godavari-633868>

"Now it is the time for fish lovers who await eagerly to taste 'Pulasa' which is having a different taste when compared to other variety of fish. Pulasa is only available between June and August and its cost also varies depending on its size and weight. People like to purchase Pulasa though its price is skyrocketing. People enjoy the taste of this variety of freshwater fish. The tasteless 'Ilisha' metamorphoses itself into a delicious Pulasa. The biological name of Pulasa is Hilsa. The fish starts its journey upstream as the sweet Godavari water starts merging into Bay of Bengal. The fish is available in the sea with the name of Ilisha during the rest of the year. Many people mainly officials and politicians send Pulasa to their top bosses to get their blessings. As the travel of Ilisha ends at Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowleswaram many fishermen wait at the barrage to catch it. According to an official of the Fisheries department, Ilisha swims 90 km from Bay of Bengal to Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowleswaram for 12 hours and transforms into a tasty variety and a delicious food item to fish lovers. A matured Hilsa lays nearly 0.1-2.0 million eggs in fresh water and after one year it reaches into a size between 40 cm and 60 cm prior to their migration into freshwater. Ilisha comes into freshwater for breeding purpose. According to a fisherman Dhanam, the cost of one kg of Pulasa costs from Rs 2,000 to Rs 4,000 also and the price may increase depending on its size and weight. From June to August, many fishermen wait for Pulasa to earn fast buck. But the industrial effluents being released into River Godavari posing problem to Pulasa, he added.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishing hit after exporter contracts virus

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/fishing-hit-after-exporter-contracts-virus/articleshow/76929478.cms>

"Fishing activities at the Pudimadaka fishing harbour the second-largest fish landing centre in Visakhapatnam district has been hit hard after a fish exporter from Visakhapatnam recently tested positive for Covid-19 and other traders stopped visiting the harbour. As sales dropped,

only 700 to 800 of the 7,000 fishermen from the six adjacent villages of Pudimadaka panchayat are venturing into sea. With prices falling, they are forced to sell their catch at 30% to 50% below the usual price. “Although, no fishermen from these six fishing villages have tested positive, traders and exporters are simply not going to the fishing harbour after one of them tested positive a day after visiting the harbour. This is having an impact on the 20,000 people who live in these villages, Arijili Dasu, a fisherman activist told TOI. At the fishing harbour, fishing activities have started dwindling. Over the last few days, most fishermen have not ventured into the sea as the number of prospective customers has fallen. “While tuna costs around Rs 100 to Rs 150 per kg at the harbour market, we sold it for only Rs 70 to Rs 80 per kg on Saturday. Preserving the fish is a costly affair so with lack of customers we are forced to sell at a low price, said B Satya, a fisherman from Pudimadaka, located around 50 km south of Visakhapatnam. Meanwhile, fishermen activists and the district fisheries administration have decided to hold an awareness programme to encourage traders and exporters to return to Pudimadaka. “The situation is unfortunate. There is no proof that the concerned exporter got contaminated with the virus at the harbour. We are trying to make them aware of this, a senior district fisheries official told TOI.

Andhra Pradesh: Pandemic fear forces fishermen to stay home, stay safe

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/pandemic-fear-forces-fishermen-to-stay-home-stay-safe/article32054209.ece>

"It has been over a month since fishing activity came to a grinding halt in the State's biggest fish landing point, Ameenabad Landing Centre (ALC), off the Uppada coast in the district following the spread of COVID-19 in the fisherfolk habitations. In early June, the two panchayats – Ameenabad and Uppada – had voluntarily imposed a ban on fishing as the virus started spreading in their habitations. As on Saturday, 40 persons tested positive in the two panchayats, even as medical reports of some more persons were yet to announced. “We had to stop venturing into the sea for fishing as traders would arrive by vans from Kerala, Karnataka, Odisha, and Kolkata at the ALC. Post the annual fishing ban (that ended this year on June 1 instead of 14), the catch will be abundant till August. However, the spread of COVID-19 is forcing us to remain indoors for a few more weeks, Vanka Kondababu, former deputy sarpanch of Ameenabad, told The Hindu.

The voluntary ban is necessitated as fishing is done collectively by a group on boats, each comprising a maximum of 10 persons. ‘No official ban’ “There is no official ban on any activity of fishing – be it venturing into the sea by boats, trade, and transportation. It is the fear of the spread of coronavirus that forced the fisherfolk at the ALC to stop the activity. Nearly 100 to 150 mechanised boats belonging to the Uppada coast are landing at Kakinada harbour. But nearly 750 to 800 catamarans remain anchored at the ALC, Assistant Director (Fisheries), Kakinada, N. Srinivasa Rao, said. Fishermen from Uppada, Ameenabad, Moolapeta, and Kontapeta are the

worst-hit. Absence of fishing impacts the local economy and livelihood of small-scale fishermen using fiber boats. Women, who buy fish from the landing centre and sell it in the nearby areas, are also hit hard. “We cannot blame anybody for the prevailing situation. However, fishing during the initial weeks after the breeding season (April-June) is lucrative for all kinds of boats that catch Tuna and other species, said Ch. Sanjeev, a boat operator from Uppada.

Andhra Pradesh: Two decade-long wait of Uppada fishermen set to end

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/two-decade-long-wait-of-uppada-fishermen-set-to-end/article32016720.ece>

"A fishing harbour at Uppada-Ameenabad off the Kakinada coast is set to become reality with the State government deciding to enter into an agreement with the Government of India and NABARD to obtain a loan of above Rs.330 crore for the Uppada-Ameenabad harbour from the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) and NABARD Infrastructure Development Assistance (NIDA). At present, Ameenabad is the safest landing point for above 1,000 fishing boats operating from East Godavari district. According to GO No. 116 issued on Monday, of the estimated cost of Rs. 350.44 crore, the State government will chip in with Rs.20.04 crore Surada Nageswara Rao, an elderly fisherman of Uppada, said: “We have been waiting for the fishing harbour for over two decades. The Jagan mohan Reddy government appears to be serious about it and we are pinning hopes on it as it has cleared all the financial hurdles. Visible movement: “It was only a few years ago that there was visible forward movement, recollected Mr. Nageswara Rao, referring to the Environmental Public Hearing on the project held in August 2018.

The Department of Fisheries has proposed to develop the harbour with fish handling capacity of 1.10 lakh tonnes per annum by constructing a 1.5 km-long training wall, enabling 2,500 boats to anchor. The site R.S.No. 74-82 has been readied and topographical and subsoil surveys were carried out by WAPCOS, a consulting agency, while High Tide Line survey was done by Madras University. The Ameenabad site is the biggest fish landing centre among the 28 landing centres along the 161-km-long coastline in the district. “Located 20 km from the Kakinada harbour, the Uppada-Ameenabad harbour will be the safest one for landing in these parts in the event of cyclones or bad weather. All the clearances have been obtained, preparing the ground for the commencement of the construction work, Joint Director (Fisheries-East Godavari) P. Koteswara Rao said. Of the four harbours in the State, only two Kakinada and Visakhapatnam are in full operation round the year, and Machilipatnam and Nizampatnam harbours have mostly been abandoned due to littoral drift, an effect that causes deposition of sand in the navigation channel.

Andhra Pradesh: Women of fisherfolk community in Visakhapatnam make masks

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/women-of-fisherfolk-community-make-masks/articleshow/76821711.cms>

"Following a rise in Covid-19 cases among members of the fisherfolk community in the city, some organisations are imparting training on making masks to women in the community. The training also includes designing masks with cartoon motifs that can attract children. In the last couple of weeks, areas inhabited by the fisherfolk community in the city, including fishing harbour, alaripeta, Peda Jalaripeta and Appughar have seen around 250 Covid-19 positive cases. The fishing harbour has been temporarily closed. Awareness is being generated to make people here wear masks. Narava Prakasa Rao, secretary of the organisation Bala Vikas Foundation (BVF) said, "Since the fisherfolk community lives in close proximity to one another, once a positive case is spotted, the virus spreads in no time within the community. We decided to engage the women of the community in stitching masks for their own use and also as a source of livelihood. To encourage the habit of wearing masks, the NGO Vizag Smiles in collaboration with BVF, has trained five women from the community, who in turn are teaching other women. So far, 25 women have been trained this month.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishermen in Andhra Pradesh trapped between low price, catch

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/fishermen-trapped-between-low-price-catch/articleshowprint/76821633.cms>

"The lockdown imposed from mid March followed by the annual fishing ban in mid-April rendered thousands of fishermen in the state jobless. But the fishing season, which commenced in the first week of June, has not brought any relief to the fishermen. Owners of mechanised boats said the prices of brown prawn are on the decline and they are incurring losses. General secretary of Dolphin Boat Operators' Welfare Association, D Ganga Raju said marine food exporters have fixed the price of a kg brown prawn at Rs 330, which is untenable. Exporters are more focused on Indian-farmed Vannamei shrimp, which has a high demand in other states and abroad. "If we get at least Rs 420 per kg for brown prawn, we will get some profits, he said. Meanwhile, seafood price is on the rise, especially popular varieties such as silver pomfret and seer fish.

Traders cited low catch of the popular varieties as the reason for it. In the retail market silver pomfret or white pomfret is being sold at Rs 1,300 to Rs 1,500 per kg. Seer fish costs Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,200 a kg or even more depending on the size, D Sudhakar, a seafood lover and resident of MVP Colony told TOI. The price of both the varieties at the fishing harbour where the prices are usually lower than that at retail markets is also above Rs 1,100 and Rs 800 a kg respectively, he added. A fishing boat owner, M Naidu, told TOI that a majority of the fishing boats are returning with a catch of brown prawn (around 600 kgs a boat), whose price is dipping, while some boats are returning with low quantity of popular fishes, which is pushing up prices and

driving away buyers. “In this entire scenarios, we continue to lose, Naidu said.

Andhra Pradesh: 450-crore FIDF loan for three fishing harbours

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/450-crore-fidf-loan-for-three-fishing-harbours-in-ap/article32006893.ece>

"The government is going to enter into a tripartite agreement with the Department of Fisheries of the Government of India and the National Bank For Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) for sanctioning a Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) loan of Rs.450 crore for the construction of three fishing harbours Uppada in East Godavari district, Machilipatnam Phase-II and Nizampatnam Phase-II, according to G.O No. 116 issued by Special Chief secretary (Fisheries) Poonam Malakondaiah. It was stated that each one of the projects will be provided Rs.150 crore. The total project cost is nearly Rs.1,016 crore Uppada Rs.350 crore, Machilipatnam Rs.286 crore and Nizampatnam Rs.379 crore). The Infrastructure and Investment Department is the implementing agency and the Fisheries Department has been permitted to avail NIDA (NABARD Infrastructure Development Assistance) loan for 90% of gap funding (over and above the FIDF loan) to the tune of approximately Rs.509 crore. The government of Andhra Pradesh will be sanctioning Rs.56 crore towards 10% gap funding as its share in the total project cost. Administrative sanction The State government had earlier given administrative sanction for Rs.1,016 crore to take up the three projects and permitted fund-raising from the Government of India for meeting a part of the expenditure, after the Commissioner of Fisheries wrote a letter in May seeking necessary clearances from the State government.

Andhra Pradesh: Migrant fishermen yet to be reimbursed

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/migrant-fishermen-yet-to-be-reimbursed/articleshow/76666905.cms>

"The Andhra Pradesh government had sanctioned a fund of Rs 3 crore to reimburse migrant fishermen who returned to the state during the lockdown. However, fishermen who had spent their own money to return from Gujarat are yet to receive the reimbursement. The state government, at the time, had asked fishermen to pay Rs 3,000 per head to return, which would be reimbursed later. Many of these fishermen had taken loans from boat owners in Gujarat to make the payment. But now, when the boat owners are asking for the money back, these fishermen are in trouble as the government's reimbursement is yet to arrive. “Now sethjis (boat owners in Gujarat) are asking for the money back and that too with interest. Where will we get such a huge sum of money? We took the loan on government's assurance that it would reimburse the amount, said M Bulaya a fisherman from Srikakulam who goes to fish at Veraval Port in Gujarat every

year.

It was near the end of April that the state governments of Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat had arranged buses to bring back around 4,600 fishermen who were stranded in Gujarat due to the lockdown. At the time, the government had calculated the cost at Rs 3,000 per head. Fisheries department officials told TOI that the department has not been able to disburse the amount because the funds allocated for this are yet to arrive. Even if they want to use funds from other sources, they will need permission from the revenue department as those funds have been sanctioned for other purposes, officials said. “We are hopeful that the funds will be released soon and we will start the disbursement process without wasting any more time, a senior fisheries department official said. Despite repeated attempts by TOI to reach out to state fisheries minister Mopidevi Venkata Ramana, the minister was not available for comment. On Friday, fisheries associations wrote a letter to chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy requesting him to disburse the funds at the earliest. Activist Arijili Dasu said, “A formal request has been sent and we will go on agitation if the demand is not met. This year, we aren't sure how many fishermen will actually be able to migrate to other areas. Hence their income is at stake.

Andhra Pradesh: Over 2,000 mechanised boats set to get bio-toilets

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/over-2k-mechanised-boats-set-to-get-bio-toilets/articleshow/76588645.cms>

"Over 2,000 mechanised boats in the state are set to be equipped with bio-toilets. The National Fisheries Development Board, under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana scheme, will finance the initiative. At Rs 30,000 per toilet, the project is estimated to cost around Rs 6.5 crore. “We will fund the project and prepare guidelines for it within the next two or three days, Rathin Raj, executive director of National Fisheries Development Board told TOI. On May 26, the fisheries minister Giriraj Singh had announced the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana scheme, which aimed to “bring about a Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector in India, with the highest ever investment of Rs 20,050 crore. Construction of bio-toilets on fishing vessels is one of the key aspects of the scheme. For years, boat owners in Andhra Pradesh managed without toilets on the mechanised boats, despite their long and arduous stay, some of which lasted for almost three weeks, at sea.

“Recently we had done a survey on what needs to be done to maintain hygiene onboard following the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. The survey revealed that bio-toilets were the need of the hour. Although the fishing season is on in full swing, we are confident that we would complete the project by the end of the year, Arijili Dasu, the executive secretary of Visakhapatnam District Fishermen's Youth Welfare Association told TOI. A team has been formed comprising members from different boat owners' associations to execute the project. It has roped in a Hyderabad-based sanitation company to procure the bio-toilets, which will be

tailor-made for the fishing boats. “These bio-toilets would be fitted on board and these can actually recycle the waste using bacteria that can be used for plantation and other purposes, said Kodur Venu, the owner of the company.

Andhra Pradesh: Government focusing on rejuvenating blue economy

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/jun/23/ysrc-government-focusing-on-rejuvenating-blue-economy-in-andhra-pradesh-2160154.html>

"The state government has initiated several measures to improve the blue economy, which is not only expected to rake in more revenue, but also augment employment. According to the Socio-Economic Survey, fish production improved to 41.75 lakh metric tonnes (MT) in 2019-20 compared to 39.92 lakh MT in the fiscal year 2018-19. Andhra Pradesh has favourable agro-climatic conditions for growth of fisheries and aquaculture sector. Contributing over 24 per cent to national fish production, the State is a major exporter of shrimps in India with a share of 36 per cent in total value of sea food exports. The sector is also given employment to 14.5 lakh persons. To utilise the State's coastline, construction of fishing jetties and fish landing centres have been planned and, to this end, Rs 100 crore was allocated during 2019-20. Promotion of deep sea fishing, open sea cage and seaweed culture, promotion of alternative species for brackish water aquaculture, promotion of value-added products, cold chain facilities, promotion of new technologies, cage culture in suitable reservoirs, supply of nets, boats and other inputs on subsidy basis, aqua zonation for area expansion, organic aqua farming are part of strategy adopted by the government.

Apart from improving infrastructure, the State, focusing on welfare of the fishermen, is implementing YSR Matsyakara Bharosa to provide financial aid to them, during the ban on fishing in the sea. Under the said programme, relief being provided to the fishermen has been enhanced from Rs 4,000 to Rs 10,000 per family. In 2019-20, an amount of Rs 102.33 crore was spent to benefit 1,02,332 fishermen families. Fishing on high seas is a perilous activity and the fishermen ply their trade risking their lives to support their families. In case the fishermen lose their lives, a compensation of Rs 5 lakh is paid per family till 2018-19. The same was doubled in 2019-20 to Rs 10 lakh.

Andhra Pradesh: 14 positive cases crop up at Fishermen Colony

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/visakhapatnam-14-positive-cases-crop-up->

[at-fishermen-colony-628615](#)

"Fear has gripped residents of Fishermen's Colony near Appu Ghar as 14 coronavirus positive cases were reported in the area on Tuesday. A person who runs a tea stall in this area was infected with Covid-19. Three days ago, his wife and son also tested positive. Later, some of the locals too got infected with the virus. Cluster containment was taken up in the area. Medical and Health officials conducted swab tests for the primary contacts of the tea vendor. A total of 14 positive cases were registered in the same area, including four women and two children. Also Read - Coronavirus update: Andhra Pradesh reports 299 new cases, tally hits 5854 With the registration of 14 cases, the authorities blocked the approach roads of the colony and notified as red zone. District administration has sanitised the area on Wednesday. Locals fear that a few more cases will crop up in the area. However, the cases registered in this area are yet to be included in the official bulletin. According to Covid19 special officer P V Sudhakar, number of active cases as on Wednesday in Visakhapatnam was 163 and discharged – 164. Five more new clusters have been added to the list, including ITI Junction, Official Colony and Malkapuram.

Andhra Pradesh: 8 major fishing harbours, 4 fish landing centres to construct in AP with Rs 3,000 cr : Minister

<http://www.uniindia.com/8-major-fishing-harbours-4-fish-landing-centres-to-construct-in-ap-with-rs-3-000-cr--minister/south/news/2036140.html>

"Andhra Pradesh Minister for fisheries and East Godavari district incharge Mopidevi Venkataramana has said that eight major fishing harbours and four fish landing centers would be constructed across the state at a cost of Rs 3,000 Crore. He told media persons at Collectorate here on Friday that Andhra Pradesh was in first place in aqua products and its share was 50 percent in countries of total aqua products market. He claimed that Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy was keen on developing aqua culture and as such, during the present Corona lockdown period much needed market facilities was provided to aqua products by taking up the matter with Odisha, West Bengal and other state governments. In order to provide better marketing and storage facilities, he said, a series of cold storages were being set up all over the coastal areas. Pointing out that there is a dearth of technical personnel for aqua field, the Minister said that a marine university would be started in the state soon. He also said that Andhra Pradesh state Aquaculture Development Authority Act 2020 draft was ready and would be finalized soon after consulting the stakeholders and intellectuals. Earlier the Minister has laid the foundation stone for the Fisheries administrative offices building complex at Yetimoga and inspected the boat building yard under revival there. He also inaugurated the modern fish market constructed at a cost of Rs.78.68 lakh in Peddapuram town. Fisheries Commissioner K Kannababu, Collector Muralidhara Reddy were among those who attended along with MLAs and MPs of the district.

Andhra Pradesh: Recurrent hikes in diesel price leave fishermen in dire straits

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/recurrent-hikes-in-diesel-price-leave-fishermen-in-dire-straits/article31845922.ece>

"The recent increase in diesel price has put fishermen on a sticky wicket at a time when high operational cost is preventing many of them from undertaking long voyages. "Fishing is no more remunerative for us due to high operational cost and the recent increase in diesel price is adding to the burden, rues P.C. Appa Rao, president of Andhra Pradesh Mechanised Boat Operators' Welfare Association. Diesel cost in north Andhra region has gone up from Rs.62 a litre to Rs.67 in the last few days. "We will be happy if the government increases the per litre diesel subsidy from Rs.9 to Rs.12, says Mr. Appa Rao. Rising operational cost has forced many boat operators to undertake short voyages . Many fishermen from Visakhapatnam, one of the leading hubs for fish exports with a turnover of around Rs.8,000 crore per annum, are opting of short voyages of about 100 to 120 nautical miles from the coast (up to Donkuru near Bhavanapadu) to reduce their cost of operations. Normally, mechanised boats go on voyages for 12 to 15 days. Lack of ice Further, the paucity of ice is also giving the fishermen the jitters. Twenty-odd ice plants in the city are not in a position to cater to the demand as the fishing ban was cut short by two weeks, giving them no scope for preparations ahead of the new fishing season.

Workers engaged by the ice plants are mostly from Odisha who have gone back to their native places in the wake of the pandemic, which, the factory owner say, is another hindrance for resuming the normal production. Subsidy arrears A long voyage costs Rs. 3.5 lakh to Rs.4 lakh which includes the diesel and crew cost, and provisions for food for the crew members. Even as the government has increased the diesel subsidy from Rs.6.03 per litre to Rs.9, the arrears from 2017 to 2019 amounting to Rs.1.73 crore are yet to be cleared. "The release of the amount will help us undertake long voyages," said Dolphin Boat Operators' Welfare Association president Ch. Satyanarayana Murthy. Further, the reluctance shown by exporters to buy sea-captured brown prawn is also another dampening factor. Demanding financial aid for the boat owners, Mr. Murthy says the government should extend soft loans so that the fishermen can recoup the losses incurred during the lockdown and annual fishing ban.

Andhra Pradesh: Social distancing goes for a toss in fish market

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/visakhapatnam-social-distancing-goes-for-a-toss-in-fish-market-628082>

"There is a lurking fear to enter meat shops and fish markets as there is hardly any safety Covid protocol being followed in these places. Come Sunday, fish markets at fishing harbour, Gopalapatnam, Akkayyapalem, Pendurthi and Gajuwaka, among several other areas witness huge footfalls. Unmindful of social distancing, many were seen bargaining to bring home fish and meat. Though some of the buyers and sellers were armed with masks, there is hardly any maintenance of physical distance between them. In fish markets, no social distancing markings or other safety protocols were followed. Keeping the crowd in view, many fears to enter the markets on Sundays. At a time when coronavirus is growing at an alarming rate in the district, there is a need for the district administration to look into the issue and consider measures to resolve it as safety and hygiene protocols go for a toss in markets. In a place where scores visit to buy fish and meat, safety protocols should be tightened as it attracts large crowds on a regular basis.

Andhra Pradesh: Wholesalers brace for hike in fish price as transport costs escalate

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/wholesalers-brace-for-hike-in-fish-price-as-transport-costs-escalate/articleshow/76375311.cms>

"As the new fishing season begins in the state, wholesalers expect fish prices to rise on account of the increase in cost of transportation after the lockdown was eased. Local retail markets in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are expected to bear the brunt of price escalation, with rates expected to increase three-fold. "Transportation cost has increased by at least 25 to 30 per cent. To add to this, stringent checks at state borders are resulting in delay of deliveries. A lot of our stocks are getting spoiled before they can reach retail markets. All these reasons put together would see a huge increase in price of fishes within a week, Ummidi Yallarao, a wholesaler told TOI. Every year, Andhra Pradesh exports its marine and freshwater catch to Karnataka, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and parts of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal. From June 1 to July 31, when fishing is banned on the west coast of India, AP also exports fish to Maharashtra and parts of Gujarat. Traders said after the start of the new fishing season on June 1, autorickshaw drivers and mini-van drivers are charging almost twice the fare from landing centres to wholesale markets in the state. "After purchasing these fishes we are also paying an increased transportation rent to hire intra-state and interstate trucks. There is no alternate way to get rid of this problem, Arijili Dasu, a fishermen activist told TOI. Fishermen who had ventured out at the beginning of the season said the catch in the first two weeks of the new season has been good, with some species available in large quantities. "Despite the good catch we are compelled to sell fish at a high price to wholesalers because transportation costs to wholesale markets have increased, said M Bullaya, a fisherman.

Andhra Pradesh: Migrant fishermen want toilets on board

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/migrant-fishermen-want-toilets->

[on-board/articleshow/76347914.cms?](#)

"In an attempt to maintain hygiene on board, the fisheries association in Andhra Pradesh carried out a survey of migrant fishermen who travel to Gujarat every year, about their problems and the manner in which they can protect themselves from Covid-19. Following the survey, a set of five demands has been drafted and sent to the Union minister of fisheries and the state governments of Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. All five demands are aimed at maintaining hygiene in vessels, harbours and landing centres of Veraval and other ports in Gujarat. Arjili Dasu, an activist working for the welfare of fishermen said, "Although migrant fishermen make more money in Gujarat compared to their counterparts, their basic needs are not taken care of. Conditions on vessels and harbours are miserable. Such things should not be allowed in the wake of a pandemic. "We think vessel owners and others concerned should take care of the health and hygiene of these fishermen, added Dasu.

One of the key demands of the fishermen is to set up bio-toilets in every vessel. These fishermen have to stay mid-sea for as long as 29 days at a stretch and then come back to landing centres. "We hardly get any sleep in those 29 days as most boats only have one dingy cabin with no less than eight members on board. There are no toilets on board. Many fishermen have fallen off boats to their death as they sit at the edge of boats to relieve themselves, said Kvirir Mahesh, a fisherman. He further said: "We are able to bathe for only four of the 29 days as there isn't enough fresh water on board. Moreover, fishermen's associations had demanded that the number of voyage days be reduced from 29 to 15 and that fishermen are allowed five days rest after every voyage. The further demanded that boat owners should not force fishermen to go near the Pakistan border and that there should be mandatory life and medical insurance for these fishermen and their families.

Andhra Pradesh: Lockdown turns out to be a boon for Vizag fishermen

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/lockdown-turns-out-to-be-a-boon-for-vizag-fishermen/article31798531.ece>

"The lockdown imposed to check the spread of COVID-19 which delivered a blow on the livelihood of fishermen appear to have turned out to be a boon for them. The mechanised boats which ventured into the sea a week ago after the annual fishing ban expired, returned to the shore on Wednesday with a bumper catch and the scientists attribute it to the lockdown. The lockdown imposed in the March followed by annual fishing ban in mid-April rendered jobless thousands of fishermen in Visakhapatnam, among the major fishing hubs along the east coast. Experts say that the fishing holiday owing to the lockdown preceding the annual ban has augmented the fish population during the post-breeding season.

Calm sea environment "The rich harvest is attributed to no fishing activity after the peak

breeding season from November to February. The calm marine environment due to reduced human activity during the lockdown has helped in the growth of fish species, Shubhadeep Ghosh, Principal Scientist, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), told The Hindu. As most of the fishermen preferred near-shore fishing, they could successfully lay their nets on the breeding grounds, leading to a good catch, he explained. The mechanised boat owners mostly preferred to go towards Kakinada, Kalingapatnam or Gopalpur this time in search of catch. Due to increasing operational cost and ice shortage, many did not opt to go towards Odisha's Paradip, a favourite rendezvous for fishermen from North Andhra region. Beehive of activity The Vizag fishing harbour, the largest exporting centre with an estimated annual turnover of over Rs.8,000 crore, became a beehive of activity with many boats returning to the shore in the early hours on Wednesday. Many fishermen also returned with a rich harvest of konam. Even the fiber boats, which venture into the sea from Pudimadaka, about 50 km from the city, returned with a good catch of tuna, catfish, snapper and marlin fish, said A.P. Fisherfolk Foundation founder Arjili Dasu. According to Joint Director of Fisheries K. Phaniprakash, the fishermen would get a bumper catch of brown prawn and tiger shrimp, most sought-after varieties for exports, during the initial days of the new season. No social distancing Meanwhile, a huge rush was witnessed at the fishing harbour as agents and customers thronged the place, paying no heed to social distancing norms. "The fishermen have urged the authorities to maintain order at the auction centre, complaining that social distancing has gone for a toss there, said Mr. Phaniprakash

Andhra Pradesh: Short voyage gives hope of big catch ahead for fishermen

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/short-voyage-gives-hope-of-big-catch-ahead-for-fishermen/article31752459.ece>

"The short voyage undertaken by a few boats that returned to the shore on Thursday has raised the hopes of a rich harvest post ban period among the fishermen of North Andhra. A few dozen mechanised boats and beach landing crafts returned with a good catch of brown prawn. Some captured miscellaneous fish like vanjiram, gulivendula, ribbon fish, senku, small lizard and goat fish. "We got a good catch of brown shrimp but it fetched with head-on only ?350 per kg. We expect it to go up further once seafood exporters come forward to buy from us after completion of long voyages of a week or two, Vasupalli Raju, whose two boats returned after a short voyage, told The Hindu. Early start The new fishing season was launched from midnight of Tuesday after holding Gangamma Jatara though the permission to venture into sea was given from midnight of Monday. Pre-monsoon showers generally ensure a big catch for fishermen. "Generally, boats which go on day fishing to Bheemili or nearby areas or up to Kalingapatnam on a 12-hour voyage return with a good catch. The real results will be known after a long voyage for at least a week or so, Laxman Rao, Assistant Director of Fisheries, clarified. Unprepared The annual fishing ban, an initiative by the Government of India for conservation by facilitating

breeding, began as scheduled from April 15 to June 15 in the entire east coast. It was prematurely ended on May 31 springing a big surprise to many. The ice plants here were not prepared to supply ice for refrigeration of fish on-board the boat. The boats neither could complete annual overhauling due to shortage of money and time. Enough boat crew were not available as many migrated back to their native places due to COVID-19 pandemic, said Dolphin Boat Owners' Welfare Association president Ch. Satyanarayana Murthy.

Andhra Pradesh: Govt to set up fishing harbours across coastal Andhra to increase Fishermen's wealth

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/govt-to-set-up-fishing-harbours-across-coastal-andhra-to-increase-fishermens-wealth-626040>

"The Minister of Fisheries and Livestock, Mopidevi Venkataramana, said that fishing centres would be set up with Rs 280 crore. On Wednesday, he told the media that 4 fishing harbours and 8 fish land centres are being set up throughout the state. Fisheries will be completed in two years. He said the exports of seafood products would boost fishermen economically. These centres will be set up in 9 districts along the coast to increase fish resources, he said. Also, Irrigation Minister Anil Kumar Yadav said that the port of Ramayapatnam will be completed soon. Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said that the fisheries and aqua sector is developing. He added that processing plants would also be set up adjacent to the fishing harbour.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishermen prepare to go out to sea after 2 months of fishing ban

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/videos/toi-original/visakhapatnam-fishermen-prepare-to-go-out-to-sea-after-2-months-of-fishing-ban/videoshow/76133783.cms>

"Local fishermen in Visakhapatnam were seen preparing their boats as the annual fish conservation ban comes to an end on June 2. The two-month fishing ban is imposed by Andhra Pradesh government every year to conserve the fish in their breeding season. Fishing using motorboats and mechanised fishing boats is prohibited for a period of 61 days.

Andhra Pradesh: Deep sea fishing resumes, boats out again

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/deep-sea-fishing-resumes-boats-out-again/articleshow/76162797.cms#:~:text=Visakhapatnam%3A%20Deep%20sea%20fishing%20along,fishing%20ended%20on%20May%202031.>

"Deep sea fishing along the Visakhapatnam coast resumed on Tuesday. Fishing

operations were put on hold since March 23 and the ban on fishing ended on May 31. Even though the ban ended a few days ago, fishermen resumed fishing only on June 2, said Arjili Dasu, executive director of Visakhapatnam Fishermen Youth Welfare Association. The delay in resumption of fishing activities is being attributed to the lack of adequate people to take up fishing due to the lockdown. Before venturing out into the sea, the fishermen offered prayers to Goddess Gangamma. Around 750 mechanised boats and 5,000 motorised boats are deployed for deep sea fishing in Visakhapatnam. "Of these, 300 mechanised boats and 80 per cent of the motorised boats went on short trips (lasting two to three days) on Tuesday. If catch is abundant they may carry on fishing for a week, Arjili Dasu told TOI. Dr K Phani Prakash, joint director, fisheries said that the state government has already credited the ban incentive of Rs10,000 per head to all 20,273 fishermen in the first phase. In the second phase, 1,016 fishermen will receive Rs10,000 each, he said. "We have sent the second phase list to the commissioner and will distribute the amount when we receive orders, Prakash said while adding that the government has given orders for oil subsidy and other welfare mechanisms such as distribution of rice along with the ban incentive.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishermen hit by ice shortage as new season begins today

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/fishermen-hit-by-ice-shortage-as-new-season-begins-today/article31726608.ece>

"After a long gap, the fishing harbour here turned into a beehive of activity on Monday, a day before commencement of the new fishing season. The fishermen anchored the boats from March 24 after the announcement of lockdown and later the annual fishing ban came into force from April 15. Taking into consideration the loss of livelihood suffered by them preceding the ban, the annual holiday to facilitate breeding has been reduced to 47 days. Instead of June 15, the ban ended on May 31. The AP Mechanised Boat Operators' Welfare Association and the Dolphin Boat Operators' Welfare Association informed the Fisheries Department that they would delay commencement of the new season by a day after holding Gangamma Jatara to express their obeisance to the Goddess of Water. June 2 falling on Tuesday is considered auspicious for the Goddess. It is a tradition among fishermen to offer turmeric water and coconuts during prayers seeking good harvest before going on a voyage. The premature end of ban period has led to severe shortage of ice as the 20-odd plants are left with little time to prepare it. Further, they are short-staffed as many workers from Odisha had gone home due to COVID-19 lockdown. "We expect that the problem will be solved in a week or so, D.V.R. Raju of the Visakha Ice Plant Owners' Association told The Hindu. Rationing A sort of rationing has been done forcing only a few boats to load ice containers. As a result, only a few boat will venturing into the sea and that too for a voyage lasting one or two days. "Out of 700-odd mechanised boats we are expecting 20-30% to undertake short voyages initially due to shortage of ice, Joint Director of Fisheries K. Phaniprakash said. In order to prevent crowding at the Zero Jetty, the venue of auction,

alternative venues are being arranged in the harbour area. Police assistance has been sought to enforce social distancing at the auction venues and the vending place for retailers.

Andhra Pradesh: Boat operators to resume fishing on June 2

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/boat-operators-to-resume-fishing-on-june-2/article31700176.ece>

"With the new fishing season scheduled to start here from June 2, the Fisheries Department has decided to adopt a multi-pronged strategy to ensure social distancing for sale of catch brought to the shore from next week. Joint Director of Fisheries K. Phaniprakash told The Hindu that a meeting was organised on Thursday with the representatives of boat operators, seafood exporters and other stakeholders to ensure social distancing post voyage to prevent unseemly incidents that were witnessed at the fishing harbour immediately after imposition of lockdown. Incidentally, fishermen are caught unawares over the Centre's decision to reduce the period of annual fishing ban and resume fishing from June 1 instead of June 15 as per original schedule. The decision to reduce the ban period has been taken following representations from Tamil Nadu and other States and keeping in view the loss of livelihood during lockdown for the past two months. The boat operators' associations in Visakhapatnam have decided to delay resumption of fishing activity by a day to celebrate Gangamma Jatara on June 2 (Tuesday). During the meeting with the stakeholders, it was decided to enforce social distancing strictly with the help of the Police Department and regulate the sale at the fishing harbour. Ice shortage The venue for sale of catch would be shifted to a new place near the office of the Fisheries Department.

The auction would be allowed at two or three nearby areas, instead of Zero Jetty, to prevent congestion. About 20 ice plants are located in the city at the fishing harbour, Madhurawada, Gajuwaka, Autonagar, Gantyada, Gambheeram, Bhogapuram and other places. The boats, depending on size and duration of voyage, need to carry 40 to 100 tonnes of ice, the price of which has been increased this time from Rs. 1,400 to Rs. 1,500 per tonne. Visakha Ice Plant Owners' Association president D.V.R. Raju said most of their workers from Odisha had left for their native places due to COVID-19. "We need at least three days to make preparations. Due to lockdown, almost all the ice plants have been closed. We will try to supply limited quantity, he stated. Dolphin Boat Operators' Welfare Association president Ch. Satyanarayana Murthy said they would try to ensure social distancing as far as possible.

Andhra Pradesh: Tenders invited for fish landing centre

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/nellore-tenders-invited-for-fish-landing-centre-624612>

"The district administration had started the process of inviting tenders for the

construction much-awaited fish landing centre proposed at Isakapalli Palem seacoast. The estimated cost of the project is Rs.2.30 crore and the state government had recently sanctioned Rs.1.50 crore for construction of the centre at Isakapalli Palem in Allur mandal. The funds would be utilised for constructing a long platform, auction hall, peeling centre, boat anchoring facility, guard room, and a compound wall. According to officials, there are 349 fish landing points in the entire state of Andhra Pradesh in which 75 are located in Nellore district. They are located in Iskapalli, Utukukuru, Mypadu, Pathapalem, Upputeru close to Krishnapatnam, Tamminpatnam, Arcotpalem, Kothapatnam, Kondur, Dugarajapatnam, and Pulinjerikuppam in the district. The state government had sanctioned fish landing centres in Guntur, Krishna, Prakasam and Nellore districts. There are 12 coastal Mandals from Kavali to Tada in the district where more than 100 fishermen villages with about 1.98 lakh people from fishermen community are residing. Officials said around 16,213 fishermen are depending on fishing for their livelihood. Usually, fishermen catch around 150 -170 tonnes of fish products from the sea during normal days. They put 90-100 tonnes of fish for sale to the local traders. They also store fish for trading activity. A senior official from the fisheries department said that the R&B department is planning for construction of the Fish Landing Centre at Isakapalli Palem coast.

Andhra Pradesh: Take us back to Srikakulam, appeal 71 fishermen

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/may/20/take-us-back-to-srikakulam-appeal-71-fishermen--2145608.html>

"About 71 migrant fishermen, stranded in Madh Island of Maharashtra, have appealed to the district administration to take them back to Srikakulam like other migrants. It was six months ago that the fishermen of Vajrapukotturu, Santabommali, Sompetta and Ichchapuram mandals in the district migrated to Madh Island. "We earned Rs 600 per day by making fishing nets. Due to lockdown, we have lost our means of livelihood. The situation got so worse that one of the fishermen, G Mallesu of Vajrapukotturu mandal died of high fever, Kari Somesu, who hails from Hukumpeta of Vajrapukotturu mandal, said. With no money in hand due to ongoing lockdown, the fishermen appealed to Srikakulam District Collector J Nivas and Palasa MLA S Appala Raju. They managed to survive for quite some time with the essentials and money extended by the Collector and the MLA. Despite several appeals, the State government did not make any attempt to take us back to Srikakulam, the fishermen alleged. Initially, the fishing boat owners supplied them essentials for some time during the lockdown. Later, for some reason they stopped the support, he said. With no alternative in sight, the fishermen now go for wage works by avoiding the police.

Andhra Pradesh: Cyclone Amphan damages boats, blows away roofs of mud huts

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/cyclone-amphan-damages-boats->

[blows-away-roofs-of-mud-huts/articleshowprint/75855353.cms](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/fishermen-hamlet-reels-under-amphan-impact/article31636285.ece)

"Cyclone Amphan has damaged around 350 boats and a few mud houses of the fishermen in the three fishing villages of Kadapalem, Kondapalem and Pudimadaka villages of Visakhapatnam district. The storm hit the shores adjacent to their villages at around 9.30 am on Wednesday and blew away the boats and thatched roofs of the mud houses, said the villagers. A team from the district fisheries department reached the spot in the afternoon to ascertain the losses. "We demand compensation so that these fishermen can repair their boats. The fund should be released with immediate effect so that they can start repairing and complete them by June 16. At present, the mandatory fishing ban is in force and the fishing season will resume from June 16, said Arijili Dasu, a fishermen activist. The 350 boats damaged in the cyclone are traditional small fishing boats. Each cost around Rs 10,000 to Rs 12,000.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishermen hamlet reels under Amphan impact

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/fishermen-hamlet-reels-under-amphan-impact/article31636285.ece>

"At least 35 houses collapsed after seawater entered Sooradapeta, a habitation on the Uppada coast near Kakinada city in East Godavari district on Wednesday. However, no casualty has been reported. The sea had turned rough since Tuesday under the influence of Cyclone Amphan. . The revenue and police authorities had evacuated about 400 persons, all of them fisherfolk, till reports last came in. They were accommodated in four government schools in Uppada panchayat. According to the preliminary report prepared by the Fisheries Department, several houses were partially damaged and could collapse any moment. Fisheries Development Officer, Uppada, Ch. Umamaheswara Rao told The Hindu that the damage was being enumerated. "People living next to the geo-tube, erected to prevent sea erosion in recent years, are being persuaded to shift to relief camps, he added. Rehabilitation plan "We are carrying out a detailed study to determine the number of families living on the shoreline of Uppada to provide them permanent housing facility far from the shore. Directives in this regard have been issued by Collector D. Muralidhar Reddy and Pithapuram MLA P. Dorababu, said Kakinada Revenue Divisional Officer G. Chinni Krishna. Many fisherfolk families on the shoreline have earlier been provided house sites near Uppada but they are reluctant to relocate. Mr. Dorababu accompanied by revenue officials inspected the Uppada coast. Meanwhile, village elders led by Surada Nageswara Rao expressed fear that their habitations would be severely damaged if the cyclonic weather continued.

Andhra Pradesh: Action plan to augment income of fishermen in Bhadradi

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/action-plan-to-augment-income-of-fishermen-in-bhadradi/article31634233.ece>

"An action plan has been readied to scale up inland fisheries production in the district encompassing an estimated 684 tanks, including three irrigation reservoirs, to augment income of fishermen and meet huge demand for fish known for its high nutritional value. The move gains prominence in the backdrop of substantial fish yield from inland water sources in the district in the present fishing season so far. Against the odds posed by the lockdown, as many as 56 fishermen cooperative societies had managed to net a fish catch of around 6,000 tonnes from a total of 684 tanks till now in the present fishing season, sources said. A huge volume of 1.78 crore fish seeds was stocked in these tanks under the aegis of the Fisheries department across the district during monsoon last year.

Fishing was under way in adherence to the physical distancing norms in all the 684 tanks and three main reservoirs – Taliperu, Tummala Cheruvu and Pedda Vagu in the district, said District Fisheries Officer K Varada Reddy. The fish yield from inland water sources had stood around 6,000 tonnes and the total catch from the inland fisheries was expected to reach 8,000 tonnes by the end of the fishing season, he said. Collector M V Reddy had visited the Singabhoopalam cheruvu in Sujathnagar mandal a few days ago to monitor implementation of preventive measures against coronavirus during fishing at the major tank, he said. A plan was formulated to stock around 1.80 crore fish seed in inland water resources in the district during the rainy season to ramp up inland fisheries production in the district. Fishing gear, mopeds and luggage autorickshaws besides mobile fish outlets were provided on 75% subsidy to several members of the 56 fishermen societies, including 35 tribal societies, mainly operating in the Godavari river-belt region under the Integrated Fisheries Development Scheme (IFDS), he added.

Andhra Pradesh: Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan to benefit 60K fishermen in East Godavari

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/atmanirbhar-bharat-abhiyan-to-benefit-60k-fishermen-in-east-godavari-623337>

"The Central government's recent economic package announced under the Atmanirbar Bharat Abhiyan benefit a lot to milk producers and fishermen in the district. Under the package, the government will commence Pradhana Mantri Matya Sampada Yojana shortly for overall development of fishermen community. As many as 60,000 fishermen families are living in 13 seashore mandals in the district. Due to the package, the value of marine wealth will also be enhanced and fishermen get additional income and all the fishermen will be covered under insurance scheme. At present, one fishing harbour in Kakinada and mini-harbour in Uppada are functioning. Because of the package, the government will construct cold storage units to store marine products until the fishermen gets good price for their produce. Under the package, the cattle will also get fodder grass under subsidy and all the 6.94 lakh cattle will get special identity number to get the subsidies. The district is producing as many as 24.70 lakh litres of milk daily. Moreover, many basic facilities also come up in the department. An official in fisheries department has said that a report will be sent to the government after going through the package

to utilise the funds.

Andhra Pradesh: Srikakulam tally mounts to 14 as seven fishermen test positive

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/seven-fishermen-returned-from-chennai-test-positive-in-srikakulam/article31607810.ece>

"Seven fishermen, who returned to native places in special buses from Chennai, tested positive taking the total number of COVID-19 cases to 14 in the Srikakulam district. Officials said they were being shifted to hospitals in Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam. The fishermen belonged to Srikakulam, Itchapuram, Sompeta and Kaviti mandals. Apart from Chennai, more than 800 fishermen returned to Srikakulam district from Veraval of Gujarat in the first week of May. Their medical reports are yet to come from laboratories in Kakinada and Visakhapatnam. The district administration collected blood samples from 1,405 persons on Sunday as the situation turned alarming with the spurt in positive cases among the fishermen. Additional District Medical and Health Officer B. Jagannatha Rao said that results of as many as 3,858 tests would reach the district in a few days.

"The persons with COVID-19 symptoms have already been sent to special quarantine centres in the district. Special care is being taken for their speedy recovery. Five out of 14 patients recovered quickly. It is a good sign although cases number had gone up in the district, said Mr. Jagannatha Rao. With the increase in positive cases, District Collector J. Nivas directed officials to be on alert and implement lockdown rules strictly in containment zones, including one in P.N. Colony of Srikakulam. 'Relax norms' Meanwhile, people living in P.N.Colony have been requesting district officials to relax norms since only one case was identified and no other case has been detected in the last three weeks. "Life becomes horrible in containment zone as people are not allowed even to visit pharmacies. We request the Collector and other officials to review the situation and relax norms since more than 20,000 people living in P.N. Colony and surrounding areas are facing problems, said P. Srikanth, a resident of the colony.

Andhra Pradesh: Mira Bhayandar: 119 fishing boat helpers from Andhra Pradesh stranded in Uttan

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/mumbai/mira-bhayandar-119-fishing-boat-helpers-from-andhra-pradesh-stranded-in-uttan>

"As many as 119 fishermen from Andhra Pradesh who worked as khalasis (helpers) on fishing boats in the coastal areas of Uttan near Bhayandar have been stranded since the enforcement of the nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of the deadly coronavirus. Their frantic save-our-souls (SOS) appeal has attracted the attention of a former legislator from Andhra Pradesh, who has highlighted their plight and sought help from the local authorities for transport

facilities to bring back the stranded fishermen safely to the state. “Many helpers have continued to accompany fishermen on their journeys. However, villagers are taking care of them. I myself have submitted online applications for around 87 migrants from Andhra, seeking travel permission on their behalf, said fishing community leader Bernard D'mello. Most of these fishermen have taken refuge in the Pali Bunder area. “I am in consultation with my higher-ups to chalk out a way for their safe, homeward journey. said Assistant Police Inspector Satish Nikam. The fishing villages of Uttan, Pali, Dongri, Bhatte Bunder and Chowk house around 750 fishing boats in the region and provide employment to more than 2,400 migrants from various states, especially Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Odisha. Although there are no restrictions on venturing into the sea, fishing activity has slowed down in this coastal belt near Bhayandar, due to logistics and vending issues which have cropped up owing to the lockdown. Last week, the Andhra government had brought back more than 4,000 of its fishermen stranded at Veraval port in Gujarat. Public transport buses were pressed into service to ferry the fishermen.

Andhra Pradesh: Nod for Pudimadaka fishing harbour

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/nod-for-pudimadaka-fishing-harbour/article31577143.ece>

“Our long-cherished dream will soon come true, says a jubilant fisherman activist, V. Jagga Rao, from Jalaripalem hamlet of Pudimadaka revenue village in Atchutapuram mandal. The recent announcement of the government to construct nine fishing harbours with an outlay of ₹3,000 crore revived the hopes of the fishermen in the State's largest fishing hamlet, Pudimadaka, near here. They are now in a celebration mood, notwithstanding the lockdown, as the proposal for construction of a modern fishing harbour has been cleared. Mr. Jagga Rao told The Hindu that despite several surveys confirming the feasibility of the fishing harbour, none took up the issue with such seriousness. Pudimadaka has a population of 18,500, the highest in any fishing hamlet in the State. The harbour, once ready, will benefit fishermen from Rambilli, S. Rayavaram, Parawada, Peda Gantyada, Nakkapalli and Payakaraopeta mandals. A study conducted by the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering Fishery, Bengaluru, had also found that the proposal would benefit many for organised and sustainable fishing. Along with the fishing harbour, there is also a proposal to develop Pudimadaka into a tourist destination, without taking up huge constructions as per the Coastal Regulation Zone guidelines. Handling capacity Joint Director of Fisheries K. Phaniprakash said a modern fishing harbour with an investment of Rs.350 crore would be built at Pudimadaka to provide decent livelihood to the fishermen of the area. The fishing harbour is proposed to handle nearly 30,000 tonnes per annum. It will have landing facility for 700 motorised boats, along with several catamarans. It will have facilities such as boat repair, cold storage, net weaving and auction hall. Though there is a proposal to relocate the Visakhapatnam fishing harbour to Bhimili to enable the Visakhapatnam Port Trust to expand in the area, it has been shelved due to vehement opposition by the fishermen associations

and political parties.

Andhra Pradesh: Naidu objects to usage of Mangrove land in the coastal belt for housing sites

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/naidu-objects-to-usage-of-mangrove-forest/article31563232.ece>

"The government is filling up the land with soil. What would happen to people in the event of cyclones, he asked Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday took objection to the State "government decision to clear the Mada forest in East Godavari district to provide housing for the poor. Mr. Naidu said that wiping out the Mada Forest would destroy the livelihood of more than 54,000 fishermen and their families living in the region. Devastation and destruction of livelihoods: He further said how the government was clearing the Mada forests recognised by the United Nations Organisation. "The government is filling up the land with soil. What would happen to people in the event of cyclones? What about the safety of people who construct houses there, he asked. Their solidarity to 'Save Mangrove' campaign of students who are protesting against destruction of mangrove forests which were being developed as the first shelter bed along the coast from Srikakulam to Godavari districts. The mangrove strengthening was going on since the 1996 super cyclone. The mangroves were badly required to prevent coastal erosion. Eucalyptus trees being developed as a second shelter bed in coastal areas should be also be protected.

Andhra Pradesh: Freshwater fish flood market in Vizag

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/freshwater-fish-flood-market-in-vizag/article31521718.ece>

"The fall in exports as a fallout of COVID-19 and subsequent lockdown has led to flooding of freshwater fish in the lanes and bylanes of the city. "Another reason for the unusual supply is said to be bumper production of aquaculture fish, mainly the white-leg fish, known as Vannamei, an exotic species grown in large quantity at Bhimavaram and other coastal area, Joint Director of Fisheries K. Phaniprakash told The Hindu. 'Pocket-friendly' Fish lovers are very happy as during the lockdown the consumption has gone up steeply and they have not felt the absence of sea fish. Due to the 62-day annual ban, mechanised boats are not venturing into the sea. "We are very happy as the prices of prawns (small size) and Rohu are wallet-friendly, said Prantik Mukherjee of the Bengali Association, Waltair. While prawn is available for Rs.250 per kg, Rohu is sold at Rs.200. "Roopchand, a fish brought from Bhimavaram, is sold like hotcakes

in the Gajuwaka area. It looks and tastes like pomfret and is priced at Rs.200 to Rs.250 per kg, Ummidi Nalini, a vendor, said. A large quantity of fish from the Godavari captured near Kakinada is also finding its way to the city. Market watchers say curbs imposed on vehicle transport during the lockdown is also preventing many traders from transporting the perishable item in reefers to overseas destinations in container ships and lorries to the northeastern States. Vendors benefit The situation is helping the vendors make both ends meet during the lockdown. "As margins are low, the State government should give a cash compensation of Rs.10,000 to all the vendors, said Arjili Dasu, executive director of the A.P. Fisherfolk Foundation. He hailed the decision to credit money to the bank accounts of those hit by annual ban by Wednesday under the YSR Matsyakara Bharosa scheme. Sea fish rates have seen an abnormal increase in the city as it is supplied only by the traditional fishermen for whom the annual ban is not applicable as they go for fishing in catamarans.

Andhra Pradesh: 3000 migrant fishworkers are waiting for help

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/may/04/covid-19-with-two-lakh-from-andhra-stranded-across-india-government-working-to-bring-them-home-2138909.html>

"The state government is working to bring stranded Telugus back to Andhra Pradesh from across the country, and is also taking steps to send people of other states back to their hometowns in coordination with the authorities of those states. It is estimated that two lakh people from Andhra Pradesh are stranded in other states. Officials here are in touch with their counterparts in other states to find out how many are willing to return home, so arrangements can be made to transport and quarantine them. Priority will be given to migrant workers, followed by pilgrims and students. So far, the state has details of 12,542 people stranded in other states. Of them, 4,000 fishermen have been brought back from Gujarat. Work is on to bring home about 3,000 fishermen from Tamil Nadu, said state COVID-19 task force chairman MT Krishna Babu, adding that 1,100 others are stuck in Odisha. ""The Rajasthan government said around 9,000 people from our state are there. We are awaiting district-wise details so arrangements can be made,"" he said.

The AP government has received about 500 applications on spandana.ap.gov.in. ""It is easy to apply, and people who face difficulties may apply through the nearest tahsildar. All we ask for is accurate details, such as name, age, occupation, location and where they want to go, and reason, so we can organise their transportation,"" Krishna Babu said. On their return, these people will be quarantined for 14-days in a special facility or at home. Health minister Alla Nani said nine special trains are being arranged to bring people back to Andhra Pradesh. About 10,500 people from the state are awaiting clearance to return from abroad owing to reasons such as expiry of visas, unauthorized stay, and closure of universities. Of them, 6,000 are from Gulf nations, it was said during a video conference with the Cabinet Secretary. With regard to the movement of

people between AP and Telangana, permission of both states is required. Those with No Objection Certificates (NOCs) sent on WhatsApp may cross the border checkpoints. Preference will be given to groups (not more than 10 people) in case of a marriage or emergency. State geared up to send home thousands of workers. As many as 12,794 migrant labourers from various states are stranded in Andhra Pradesh and housed in 402 relief centres. Efforts are being made to send them back in coordination with the governments of other states. About 4,000 workers from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Odisha have been identified in Nellore district. In Krishna district, there are around 3,000 workers from Maharashtra alone. More than 3,000 agriculture labourers from Maharashtra will be sent back on two Shramik Trains from Vijayawada to Ballarsha, most probably on Monday.

“We sent their details to the Maharashtra government, sought its consent, and notified the railways. We will sent them back once consent is given, said Krishna Babu. From Odisha, 1,925 migrant labourers are in AP, and their details were shared with the neighbouring state. “Once the Odisha government gives its consent, we will arrange a train for them, Krishna Babu said. The Madhya Pradesh government has said 5,500 of its citizens are stranded in Andhra Pradesh. The AP government, in coordination with other states, will make arrangements to run Shramik trains from Chittoor to Jabalpur, Vijayawada to Ratlam, Visakhapatnam to Coimbatore, Anantapur to Bhopal, Renigunta to Bhubaneswar, Renigunta to New Delhi, Eluru to Ghorakpur and Eluru to Patna to shift stranded migrant workers. These workers will be given special passes, and taken from relief centres to railway stations, where they will be given tickets. Stay where you are, don't rush to state borders, says CM Jagan. As it is expected that a large number of people will rush to the state, creating logistic and organisational problems, CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Sunday appealed to people to stay where they are and not rush to the state's borders as relaxations have only been granted for migrant labourers, as per the Central govt guidelines. He further urged people not to approach the borders, saying they could be putting their own lives at risk

Andhra Pradesh: Government to disburse Rs. 10,000 to fishermen today under YSR Matsyakara Bharosa scheme

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/ap-government-to-disburse-rs-10000-to-fishermen-today-under-ysr-matsyakara-bharosa-scheme-621008>

"The state government headed by chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will provide Rs 10,000 financial aid to all the fishermen on Wednesday, which will benefit a total of 1,09,231 beneficiaries. The government would deposit the cash directly into the beneficiaries' bank accounts as they have lost their jobs for three months this year due to a ban on fishing amid lockdown imposed over coronavirus outbreak. Against this backdrop, the state government is assisting fishermen with YSR Matsyakara Bharosa scheme. The fishermen expressed their pleasure as the unprecedented aid comes in during the ban. Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan

Reddy has increased the financial aid from Rs 4,000 to Rs 10,000 as promised during the election. Last year on World Fisheries Day, the government provided the money to 1,02,380 people. Since the YSR Congress came to power, the number of beneficiaries has increased from 1.02 lakh to 1.09 lakh with the help of those who are hunting traditional boats. In the meanwhile, the minister Mopidevi Venkataramana said that the fishermen in the state will never forget the support of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Andhra Pradesh: Stranded fishermen excited to meet families after 9 months

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/stranded-fishermen-excited-to-meet-families-after-9-months/article31484697.ece>

"The excitement in their voice was evident as Rayathi Bobbili (32) of Bukka Veedhi in the city, and Manmadh (42) of Bheemunipatnam, who were part of the stranded fishermen from Andhra Pradesh and returning from Gujarat, as this correspondent spoke to them over phone on Friday. It may be recalled that 4,125 fishermen from Andhra Pradesh, including 418 from Visakhapatnam and various parts of the district, were stuck at the Veraval Port in Gujarat due to the lockdown. They are being brought back home by buses following intervention by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. "We went to Veraval in July last on an eight-month contract to work on fishing trawlers operated from the port. We had completed our contract in mid-March and were planning to return, when the nationwide lockdown was imposed. Since then, we were living on the boats eating whatever the authorities gave us, said Mr. Manmadh, recalling the harrowing experience. Manmadh, who works as a cook on the trawler, is paid ₹10,000 a month. There would be nine fishermen on each trawler that goes out for fishing. He longs to meet his wife and his school-going daughters aged 11 and 9 years.

"A total of 24 fishermen from our area (Thota Veedhi) went to Gujarat. We work for eight months at sea and spend the remaining four months with our families back home, he said. "We haven't had proper food since the bus left Gujarat on the night of April 28. We were given potato chips, biscuits, mixture and some bland 'rotis' (pulkas). We were crammed in the two-tier sleeper bus with four persons sitting on each berth. I have been talking to my family every day and I am excited at the prospect of meeting them after nine months, he said. Echoing his feelings, Rayathi Bobbili said that all the medical tests were conducted in Gujarat and hopes that they would be sent home without any further delay. "The bus is at Karimnagar now and the driver, who is from Rajkot, doesn't seem to know the route properly, he said around 3 p.m. on Friday. "A total of 418 fishermen are from Visakhapatnam district, while a majority of the remaining are from Srikakulam district. The fishermen from Andhra Pradesh are arriving in 54 buses. We will receive and accommodate them at the Railway Kalyana Mandapam, near New Colony, and the Port Kalyana Mandapam at Salagramapuram. They would be examined by a team of doctors and their blood samples taken, Joint Director of Fisheries Phani Prakash said. The buses with fishermen from Visakhapatnam are expected to reach Vizag late on Friday or in the early hours

of Saturday.

Andhra Pradesh: Last 5,116 fishermen to return home soon

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/last-5116-fishermen-to-return-home-soon/articleshow/75542191.cms>

"The state government has prepared a list of 5,116 fishermen from Andhra Pradesh who are stranded in five states – Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa and Tamil Nadu and at various districts of Andhra Pradesh. According to fisheries department officials, they will be brought back shortly by special trains or buses. "With the help of nodal officers of the states the fisheries department has prepared a list on Monday. Now, coordination is on to find out a suitable mode to bring back the stranded fishermen, said Arijili Dasu, a fishermen activist in the state. According to government data, 2,883 fishermen are stranded in Tamil Nadu, 772 fishermen in Karnataka, 250 in Maharashtra, Kerala and Goa have 185 and 50 fishermen, respectively. And another 976 migrant fishermen are stranded in different districts within the state. "If our information is right then these 5,116 fishermen are the last set of stranded fishermen from the Andhra Pradesh who got stuck due to the lockdown. Efforts from the government are on to bring them back home. Once they return, they would quarantined at their home districts, said an official from the fisheries department.

Andhra Pradesh: Thunderstorm, showers likely today

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/may/03/thunderstorm-showers-likely-today-2138554.html>

"Thunderstorm with gusty winds, between 30 and 40 kmph, is likely to occur at some places in the State on Sunday and Monday. A maximum temperature of 41 degree Celsius to 43 may be recorded at places in Rayalaseema besides moderate rainfall on Sunday, according to Met officials. The low pressure area formed over the South Andaman Sea and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal on Friday continued to persist over the same region. Issuing a warning to fishermen in North Andhra and South Andhra coast, the Indian Meteorological Department advised them to avoid fishing until further notice. The warning was issued to fishermen in West Bengal, Northwest Bay of Bengal, North and South Andaman, and North and South Odisha coast as well. It is likely that the low pressure may become more marked in the next 24 hours, intensify into a depression during the subsequent 48 hours and intensify further thereafter. It is likely to move north-northwestwards gradually till May 6.

Andhra Pradesh: 4,500 fishermen stranded in Gujarat to reach home today

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/4500-fishermen-stranded-in->

[gujarat-to-reach-home-today/article31467286.ece](https://www.newkerala.com/news/2020/76629.htm)

"More than 4,500 fishermen from the Andhra Pradesh, who were stranded at Veraval port in Gujarat owing to the lockdown, are being brought home in 65 buses and they are expected to reach their native districts by Thursday afternoon, Minister for Marketing, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Mopidevi Venkata Ramana Rao has said. "Bringing back the fishermen is an herculean task. The process began after Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy spoke to his Gujarat counterpart Vijay Rupani and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Mr. Ramana Rao told the media here on Wednesday. Initially, the government had thought of bringing the stranded fishermen through the sea route, but the plan was shelved due to logistical issues. Rs.3 crore allocated "Bringing the fishermen by road involved a lot of paperwork. Of the 65 buses, 57 have started their journey. As per the update, they have crossed the Gujarat border. A senior officer Satish Chandra has been deputed for the work. A sum of ₹3 crore has been allocated from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for the task," Mr. Ramana Rao said. Most of these stranded fishermen are natives of Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts. "As per the protocol, the fishermen will be shifted to quarantine facilities immediately after their arrival. If their samples test negative in RT-PCR tests, they will be allowed to go home and put under home quarantine, said the Minister. Fishermen from north coastal districts usually go to Veraval port in Gujarat and Mangalore for work during this season every year. Recently, 1,700 fishermen were brought back from Mangalore port.

Andhra Pradesh: To develop 8 harbours for local fisher-folk

<https://www.newkerala.com/news/2020/76629.htm>

"The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to create livelihood opportunities for local fisherfolk by constructing eight fishing harbours and a jetty in the state. At a review meeting here on Thursday, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said that if adequate facilities are provided, local fishermen need not migrate to other states for livelihood. Around 4,000 local fishermen stranded in Gujarat, due to COVID-19 lockdown, are expected to return to AP on Friday. They had left for AP from Gujarat by bus, on April 27, following Chief Minister's intervention. Estimated to cost about Rs 3,000 crore, the project is expected to be completed within three years. Under the project, a jetty and a fishing harbour will be developed at Srikakulam, while fishing harbours will be set up in Visakhapatnam, Krishna, Prakasam, Nellore, Guntur, West and East Godavari districts. State Fisheries Minister Mopidevi Venkatramana took a dig at the previous TDP regime for setting up only three fishing harbours in the state. the YSRCP government's decision would enrich fishermen's lives, the Minister said. ""The previous TDP government had spent only Rs 40 crore for the seaports in Gundayapalem in Prakasam and Antharvedi in East Godavari district. The YSRCP government under Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is going to spend Rs 3,000 crore for 8 fishing harbours and a

jetty. This would enhance fishing activity and the income of fishermen", the minister said. Under the project, major fishing harbours would come up in Badagatlapalem in Srikakulam, Pudimadaka in Vizag, Uppada in East Godavari, Narsapuram in West Godavari, Machilipatnam in Krishna, Nizampatnam in Guntur, Kothapatnam in Prakasam and Juvvaladinne in Nellore district. One jetty would also come up in Manchineellapeta in Srikakulam district.

Andhra Pradesh: Discussion over mechanised boat fishing to begin after May 3 held

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay.aspx?newsID=703105>

"Due to the coronavirus pandemic whole country is under lockdown. One of the important means of livelihood of coastal district people is fishing. Now the boating and fishing is completely stalled because of lockdown rules. The fishermen and other industries associated with fishing are in financial distress. Under the prevailing circumstances MLA Raghupati Bhat had a meeting with DC G Jagadeesha and SP N Vishnuvardhan in which discussion was held to allow mechanised boat fishing at Malpe Port after May 3. Discussion was held to allow 40 mechanized boats per day to go for fishing and 40 to return after fishing and to sell the fish through fisheries association instead of auction by maintaining social distance and wearing masks. Yashpal Suvarna, president of Dakshina Kannada Fisheries Federation, Krishna S Suvarna, president of Malpe Fisheries Association, presidents of various fisheries associations, deputy director of fisheries K Ganesh, additional fisheries directors Kirana and Shivakumar, were present during the discussion.

Andhra Pradesh: COVID-19: Andhra Fishers Rescued From Gujarat The Human Face Of A Sector In Turmoil

<https://www.indiaspend.com/covid-19-andhra-fishers-rescued-from-gujarat-the-human-face-of-a-sector-in-turmoil/>

"For five weeks now, even as the government exhorted citizens to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds several times a day, Yarayan Somesh had avoided using water, except when absolutely necessary. Stranded on a trawler docked off the fishing port of Veraval in Gujarat, ever since the countrywide lockdown was announced on the evening of March 24, 2020, this 18-year-old fisherman from Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh told IndiaSpend this week that he had just eight litres of water per day for all his needs--even while being surrounded by water. Somesh is one of an estimated 15,000 fish-workers who had found themselves marooned near landing points and harbours on India's western coast, battling physical hardships and psychological trauma when the lockdown was announced. Two have died on boats, and at least two others are known to have been injured. On April 28, 2020, Somesh and over 4,000 other fish-workers were repatriated to Andhra Pradesh in 54 private buses organised by the Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh governments. There are over 10,000 others who are stranded along the

coasts of Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka and still need help, according to estimates by fishermen associations.

These fishers represent the human face of the ongoing turmoil in the country's fisheries sector which contributes Rs 1.75 lakh crore--\$26.3 billion, nearly equivalent to the Centre's COVID-19 relief package for the poor--to India's gross value added, and employs 16 million people. The sector is now staring at lost revenues and livelihoods. Mounting losses, derailed exports, jobs at risk The lockdown is inflicting a daily loss of Rs 224 crore on the sector, the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), the country's only national centre for research on fisheries and fish-processing, has estimated in a new report accessed by IndiaSpend, which is yet to be made public since government approval is pending. The bulk of the losses will be borne by the mechanised fishing sector: The report estimated that the mechanised sector will see daily losses in the range of Rs 197 crore while the small-scale, non-mechanised fishing sector will experience losses to the tune of Rs 27 crore a day. "Fishing has come to a halt, exports have been derailed because countries are refusing to import seafood, restaurants are shut and hence, local demand has also dipped, Ravishankar CN, director of the Kochi-based CIFT, told IndiaSpend, explaining the cascading effect of the lockdown and the COVID-19 pandemic. The effect on livelihoods would be pronounced due to the nature of the sector in India, Ravishankar stressed. "Unlike other countries, fisheries in India is still a livelihood sector, with most people working on daily wages. It is not corporatised. As a result, daily-wage earners as well as small fishermen will be badly hit due to this disruption, he said. Fishers' associations also emphasise the impact of the lockdown and the pandemic on a workforce dominated by casually employed migrants, many from below-poverty-line (BPL) families.

On the western coast, where the fishing season lasts till May 31, followed by the annual monsoon fishing ban until July 31, two months of the season have been wiped off, with no fishing, and consequently, no sales. (On the eastern coast, the ban, meant to encourage fish breeding, is from April 15 to June 15.) Many fish workers employed on the west coast are unlikely to be able to work until August 2020. Government yet to announce relief The industry would face a crisis if the government does not reach out with relief measures, of which there have been none so far, said Pradip Chatterjee, convener of the National Platform for Small Scale Fishworkers (India), an association with 50,000 fisherpeople from 18 states. "We demand that the government pay Rs 15,000 per month per family to fish-workers to sustain them during this period, and financial assistance to help offset losses for the small-scale fishermen who own boats but will not be able to absorb these losses, said Chatterjee. Somesh, who spoke to IndiaSpend on his mobile phone from the fishing vessel on which he lived with nine others before they were repatriated, said he has heard that workers would be paid their wages during the lockdown. "But, till we get the money in our hands, no one is believing this. Chatterjee said that the association was receiving complaints from many fishworkers about unpaid wages.

“As soon as fishing stopped due to the lockdown, many boat-owners stopped paying wages to their workers. This has had an immediate impact on the workers because they will be going back home empty-handed, he said. Cast away on water, not allowed to set foot on land “We were not given the option of returning to land when the lockdown was announced, Somesh told IndiaSpend. So he and his co-workers had no choice but to remain on the 16-foot wide and 80-foot long fishing vessel, with a covered area the size of a small room and a lone toilet till the afternoon of April 28, 2020. The vessel's owner, based in Veraval, delivered food (rice, pulses, vegetables, oil and spices) once a week, along with some 500 litres of water, which was not sufficient for their needs, Somesh said. “We got 70-80 litres of water every day between the 10 of us. Each of us had 8 litres a day, with which we needed to bathe, clean and drink, he said. A person needs between 50 and 100 litres per day to meet their basic needs, a World Health Organization (WHO) estimate shows. There are no government figures for the number of stranded fish-workers. However, fishing associations and civil society actors estimated that at least 15,000 fishworkers had been living on vessels on the western coast since the lockdown. While some media reports have said that 4,000 workers are stranded in vessels docked off Veraval, the Andhra Pradesh Traditional Fish Workers' Union (TFWU), representing the predominantly Andhra workforce, said the number is over 5,000. Most of the stranded fisherfolk work on vessels that go to the sea for multi-day fishing expeditions, ranging between 15-20 days, said Velji Masani, a boat-owner, and president of the Akhil Bharatiya Fishermen's Association. Most were out on fishing expeditions when the lockdown was announced and had to be summoned back by owners.

While vessels have toilets and space for the fish-workers to rest and sleep, workers are not used to staying in them for more than a fortnight at a stretch, Masani pointed out. Many workers themselves opted to stay on their boats, not realising how long the lockdown would stretch out, he said. While stating that boat owners would pay workers for the duration of the lockdown, Masani pointed out that owners were also losing money, both because work had come to a standstill, and on the expenses they were incurring. “Each owner was spending approximately Rs 45,000-Rs 50,000 a month on getting food and water supplies to these workers. Owners are suffering tremendously too, he said. Not all boats have toilets, according to Somesh. “Some fish-workers either used the toilets on the vessels around them or went in the open, on the deck, he recalled, adding that workers were expressly forbidden from debarking when they dock at Veraval harbour, facing the landing point, to pick up their rations. When they stepped out on April 28, 2020, it was the first time in five weeks that any of these workers had stepped on land. Psychological trauma, death Masani, whose association has been coordinating with about 800 boat owners whose boats and workers had been stranded along the Gujarat coastline at various landing points--from Porbandar to Mangrol, Okha, to Diu and further south, in Navsari and Valsad--said he worries that physical hardships aside, the lockdown is now having a deep psychological impact on fish-workers. Anxiety was a precipitating factor in the deaths of two

fish-workers from Andhra Pradesh, stranded off the Veraval coast, according to Masani. Forty-five-year-old T Jagannathan, hailing from Gara Mandalam sub-district in Srikakulam, who had stopped eating, and had become increasingly anxious about contracting COVID-19, died on April 9, 2020, TK Rahman, head of the TKFU said. K Raju, also from Srikakulam, who was only 22 years old, reportedly died of a heart attack on April 22, 2020. “His wife had recently delivered a baby, said Masani.

“His colleagues told us that he kept expecting to be rescued, and became worried when this did not happen.” Two others are reported to have fallen off their vessels and grievously injured themselves. “As days stretch into weeks, the workers are getting restless. Often, some stop eating, and others fight amongst themselves. The frustration is starting to show, Masani said. Since their mobile phones worked, the stranded workers were able to speak to their families. However, they had little else to do, as they huddled together, five to 15 to a vessel, in the only roofed area, housing the steering wheel as well as other electronic equipment, to shelter from daytime temperatures crossing 30 degrees Celsius. State governments have neglected fish-workers during the lockdown, Chatterjee said. They had not adhered to the Union Health Ministry's directions to state governments asking them to ensure proper living conditions for migrant workers, house them in relief camps/shelter homes, and also arrange counselling for mental health problems. He said his organisation was planning to move the National Human Rights Commission to draw attention to the plight of fish workers. However, following the two deaths, political pressure started building on the Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat governments, asking them to repatriate these fishworkers. Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi had asked the government to move the fishworkers to a relief camp, whereas former Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu had urged the Gujarat government to rescue the workers. Initially, media reports last week had indicated the governments were likely to repatriate the stranded Andhra Pradesh fishers by cargo ships, after conversations between the chief ministers of the two states. However, Masani said that local boat owners expressed their displeasure to the Gujarat government about this plan. “Cargo ships are expensive and they would take about eight days to reach, whereas buses would take about two days. Hence, we urged the government to consider buses instead of the ships, says Masani.

A thriving sector, powered by unorganised migrant workers The fisheries sector is a major employer in India, providing a livelihood to over 16 million people. Over the last five years, the sector has seen a steady growth of over 6% in its production. In 2017-18, it produced 12.59 million metric tonnes (MMT) of fish, up from 9.40 MMT in 2012-13, according to the Handbook on Fisheries Statistics, 2018, produced by the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husband and Dairying. The report pegged the sector's contribution to the gross value added in 2017-18 at Rs 1.75 lakh crore. The sector is a major export earner: In 2017-18, the country exported over 1.3 million metric tonnes of fish worth Rs 45,106 crore, according to the handbook. In 2018-19, this figure rose to an estimated Rs 46,600 crore, according to the CIFT report, which called fish “the

most important agricultural commodity exported from India. The CIFT report has warned that the disruption caused by the lockdown, including the closure of seafood processing plants, has the potential to affect national and global food and nutritional security needs. While most other countries have halted imports, China has eased some import restrictions, the report said. “Seafood processing firms vary from simple processing targeting localised markets to high-end activities targeting the export market. Closure of these firms affects the market supply of processed and packed food products in the domestic and international markets. As of July 2019, the ministry handbook said, there were over 269,000 registered fishing vessels across the country. Of these, 65,876 were non-motorised vessels operated mostly by small-scale fisherfolk. In addition, 136,000 vessels were motorised vessels, while 66,198 vessels were mechanised vessels, many of them taking multi-day fishing trips with anywhere between seven and 15 crew on board.

Behind this sector's growing economic clout is migrant labour, both intra-state and inter-state, Marianne Manuel, assistant director at Dakshin, a non-profit focusing on advocacy on marine conservation, pointed out. “Mechanised fishing, almost exclusively, depends on migrant labour. In addition, even allied sectors like ice-factories, cold storage facilities, also extensively employ migrant labourers, Manuel told IndiaSpend. (Mechanised vessels, also called trawlers, use trawl nets as fishing gear and are fitted with stronger engines and a larger catch, alongwith cold-storage facilities on board. Motorised and non-motorised fishing, on the other hand, is done with smaller boats, meant largely for single-day trips.) The Andhra-Gujarat nexus Gujarat, despite being the state with the longest coastline at 1,600 km, has only 64,395 traditional fishing families, as against 517,000 in Andhra Pradesh with a coastline of just 974 km, according to the handbook. As a result, workers from Andhra Pradesh, especially skilled fishing workers, as well as those from other fishing states such as Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, flock to Gujarat and find employment in its fishing industry. About 25,000 fishworkers from Andhra Pradesh migrate to Gujarat every season, from August to April, a 2016 research paper by Manas Roshan for the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers, titled ‘A study of Migrant Fishers from Andhra Pradesh in the Gujarat Marine Fishing Industry,’ estimated.

The migration is backed by a strong economic rationale--from higher pay to better opportunities, the study said. Most fish-workers are paid anywhere between Rs 7,000 and Rs 25,000 per month, depending on their seniority and role. Most skilled workers spend their time on various tasks, from lowering fishing nets to repairing them to segregating the catch, according to the species. “In many fishing states, such as Andhra Pradesh, mechanised fishing is taking over areas where, earlier, small-scale, local fishing communities used to fish, said Chatterjee. “The near-shore areas are now over-fished due to these mechanised boats, forcing the local fishing communities to migrate to other areas in search of livelihoods. “There is no collective bargaining by the workers because there are no exclusive unions or associations to represent them, pointed out Siddharth Chakravarty of The Research Collective, a New Delhi-based organisation focusing on

development issues. (Most of the associations do not specifically represent migrant fish-workers.) As a result, the workers had been unable to demand better living conditions, and this impacted them during the lockdown, too, Chakravarty said. “Since the workers are not organised, the boat owners were liaising with government authorities after the lockdown. There was a sense that fishing might resume soon and hence, the boat owners were possibly not too keen on getting their workers to deboard, he said. As a result of their being unorganised, there are also few data on the migratory patterns among fishworkers.

Impact of the lockdown and pandemic on women fish-workers The losses incurred as a result of the lockdown may have a disastrous impact on already struggling fish-workers and smaller boat-owners in the industry, experts have warned. Over 600,000 of the 818,000 traditional fishing families in the country fall below the poverty line, according to the 2018 Fisheries Statistics of India. The bulk of these were in Tamil Nadu (183,000) and Andhra Pradesh (150,000). The social security net around these families is thin and inadequate, according to Dakshin's Marianne Manuel. “There is no sector-specific social security net. They cannot access the generic welfare benefits like the public distribution scheme because they are migrants, staying away from their families, she said. Many within the sector are also anxious about possible disruption that the COVID-19 pandemic will cause in the way the industry operates. There have already been glimpses of such changes. For example, in West Bengal, the government has been selling the fish produced in its farms through online orders taken via mobile applications. In Assam, the government has asked wholesalers to initiate door-to-door deliveries of fish, media reports indicated.

Most of these models eliminate a very crucial and gendered component of the industry--fish-selling women. Of the 16 million people employed in fisheries activities, 5.5 million are women, according to government data. “Women form the bulk of the labour involved post-harvest and sale of fish, almost exclusively for motorised and non-motorised fishing vessels, as well as a big chunk of the mechanised fishing vessels. They are a major stakeholder in the industry but they often go unnoticed, said Manuel. Thus, disruptions in the way the industry organises these activities will affect these women first. “One of the big questions facing this industry, going ahead, is what the role of women is going to be like. No one seems to have the answer, yet, she said

Andhra Pradesh: Fisherman dies in Srikakulam district

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/fisherman-dies-in-srikakulam-district/article31467124.ece>

"A 59-year-old fisherman died when he went for fishing in the early hours of Wednesday. According to police, Mylapalli Pentayya belonged to Danipeta village of Ranasthalam mandal in Srikakulam district. The Ranasthalam police shifted the body for post-mortem and registered a

case. Srikakulam Fishermen Association president Duda Sudhakar urged the government to grant compensation to the family of the victim. He said that fishermen community had lost livelihood following the lockdown and they were forced to venture into the sea.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishermen start journey from Gujarat's Veraval to Visakhapatnam in buses

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/andhra-fishermen-start-journey-from-gujarat-veraval-to-visakhapatnam-in-buses-6383446/>

"Over 3,800 fishermen from Andhra Pradesh, who were stranded in Gujarat over the last one month due to the coronavirus lockdown, will be sent back to Visakhapatnam in 67-odd buses, covering 2,200 kilometres, officials said. "The state government will be dispatching 3,862 fishermen from Andhra Pradesh today and tomorrow in 67-odd buses hired specially for this purpose. They will be undertaking a two day-long journey to Visakhapatnam, Manish Bharadwaj, Secretary, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department told The Indian Express. The first lot of fishermen left Veraval in 27 buses on Tuesday evening. A medical check-up of the fishermen was done before they boarded the buses, officials said. "Though we have issued 7,000 tokens to fishermen allowing them to venture into the sea for fishing, the fishermen from Andhra Pradesh wanted to go back home and resume fishing later on, Bharadwaj said adding that transportation was being undertaken in coordination with officials of Andhra Pradesh government. The official said that the fishermen from Andhra Pradesh who were in smaller numbers in other fishing harbours of the state like Mangrol were brought together at Veraval in Gir Somnath district for the transportation on Tuesday.

Officials said that these fishermen were working for the fishing boat owners in Gujarat. Officials said that some of the boat owners were also not willing to undertake fishing expeditions. "The fishing ban period will also start from June 1. So it made sense that they could go back to their villages, the IAS official said adding that the fishermen usually spend two months at their homes and the rest 10 months on their boats. The move came a week after Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy had called up Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani regarding the stranded fishermen. The Indian Express had reported that the fishermen from Andhra Pradesh were part of the larger group of 8000-odd fishermen who arrived at the Veraval fishing harbour between March 18-28, and got stranded due to the lockdown. The other fishermen were largely from Navsari and Valsad districts of South Gujarat. The state government had earlier sent back the stranded fishermen from Maharashtra, along with those from Valsad and Navsari, along with the boats. The district administration and the local boat owners' association had arranged for food for these stranded fishermen during their month-long stay in Gujarat during the lockdown.

Andhra Pradesh: Government sanctions Rs 3 crore to bring home stranded fishermen

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/govt-sanctions-rs-3cr-to-bring-home-stranded-fishermen/articleshow/75436197.cms>

"The state government will spend Rs 3 crore to bring back the 3,900-odd fishermen stranded in Gujarat since March 23 due to the nationwide lockdown. The fishermen, most of them from Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts, have been forced to stay in the cabin of their boats since the lockdown was imposed. They made several calls to the officials here and to their relatives who represented the issue to the respective district collectors and officials of the state fisheries department. The AP government had written to its Gujarat counterpart to help the fishermen during the lockdown and help them return home. With the lockdown likely to end by next week and the threat of coronavirus still active, officials decided to bring them back to the state. On Tuesday, chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy cleared the release of Rs 3 crore from the chief minister's relief fund (CMRF) to meet expenses to bring back the fishermen from Gujarat.

"The state government held talks with the Gujarat government. Around 70 buses have been arranged by the government to bring them here. Around 30 buses will start on Tuesday night and another 40 buses will start on Wednesday, a senior official of the state fisheries department told TOI over phone. "The fishermen got stranded at Veraval in Gir Somnath district. The Veraval fishermen's association has also been helping them. They would now be coming to their native places and should reach here by the end of the week, said the official. Srikakulam district collector J Nivas had also written to his counterpart in Gir Somnath district to make arrangements for the transport of the fishermen. The district collector also promised to meet the transport and other expenses and clear the advance payments made for the transport by the Somnath district administration. "They should reach Vijayawada on Friday night or Saturday morning, said Arijili Dasu, who is a member of the monitoring team formed by the state government to ensure a safe return for the stranded fishermen. Every year around 10,000 fishermen from the coastal villages of Srikakulam district migrate to Gujarat for eight months in August and September. The 3,900 fishermen had gone to Gujarat in September last year. The state government first tried to bring them by sea, but as no passenger ships are available, it was decided to bring them back by road and the Gujarat government was requested to arrange the buses.

Andhra Pradesh: Will aid Andhra Pradesh to bring back stranded fishermen: Nirmala Sitharaman tells CM Jagan

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/apr/27/will-aid-andhra-pradesh-to-bring-back-stranded-fishermen-nirmala-sitharaman-tells-cm-jagan-2135828.html>

"Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy spoke to Union Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman on Sunday and sought the Centre's help to bring back the stranded Telugu fishermen from Gujarat. He also spoke to Union Home Minister Amit Shah about the spread of Covid-19 in the state and the containment measures being implemented. Disclosing this at a review meeting, Jagan said, "I informed her (Sitharaman) that senior IAS officer Satish Chandra is coordinating with officials from Gujarat for the safe return of the fishermen. Responding positively, she assured me that they will be brought back at the earliest, and designated an official from her ministry for the task.

Andhra Pradesh: Aqua authority soon to monitor hatchery activity

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/aqua-authority-soon-to-monitor-hatchery-activity/article31447925.ece>

"The State government will soon set up an aquaculture authority to monitor the hatchery activity from seed level to marketing and will ensure MSP to farmers. Addressing a press conference on Monday, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Minister Mopidevi Venkata Ramana said the authority would monitor the activity from brooding to shipment. The imported prawn seeds would be kept in the quarantine facility for five days. The seeds would be brought to the State only after ensuring that there was no virus. As part of it, the seeds would be distributed to farmers only after the seed was kept at Rajiv Gandhi Aqua Quarantine Centre for five days, he said, adding out of 550 prawn hatcheries in the country 420 were located in the State. According to him, the State has the largest number of hatcheries in the country, and with the lockdown, brooding seed has become a Herculean task. As 80 % of the broader prawns are to be imported from the US, with the lack of proper cargo facilities, there arises a gap in the production activity. In this regard, the State government has already written to the Union Ministry of Commerce and Fisheries to permit the cargo for aqua production and sale.

The farmers were requested not to sell their aqua products in distress as the ports have opened up and exports would pick up once there was movement of the cargo ships, he said, adding, "As of now, exports of the aqua produce have begun in various ports across the State, soon the cargo services will be made fully functional. Referring to the stranded fishermen in Gujarat, the Minister said that Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has already spoken to Union Minister Nirmala Seetharaman regarding the issue and he was constantly pursuing the matter. Reacting to State president Kanna Lakshminarayana's comment that the State government was purchasing the rapid test kits at higher cost, the Minister said that the government had already clarified in this regard. The lowest price offered to other States would be taken into account while making the payments.

Andhra Pradesh: 30 more fishermen reach Srikakulam from Chennai

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/apr/23/30-more->

[fishermen-reach-srikakulam-from-chennai-2134048.html](#)

"Two days after the last boat arrived at Donkuru in Ichchapuram mandal, 30 more fishermen arrived at Gollagandi village of Sompeta mandal on Wednesday in two motorised boats from Chennai defying lockdown. They started from Chennai on April 17. It may be noted here that 82 fishermen had arrived in Idduvanipalem and Donkuru coastal villages in six boats on April 18, 19 and 20 from Chennai. However, the police intercepted them and sent them to quarantine centres. According to sources, the Srikakulam fishermen purchased each boat at `1.3 lakh from their Chennai counterparts to reach their native villages. As a strict vigil is being maintained along the coast by setting up 40 check-posts in various villages, the police caught the fishermen and shifted them to quarantine centres. On the other hand, eight fishermen managed to reach Palasa from Paradeep of Odisha. Of the eight, six belong to Nuvvalarevu village of Vajrapukotturu mandal and two to Kakinada. According to Palasa police, the group came to Behrampur (Odisha) from Paradeep by car and from there they reached Ichchapuram by foot. They reached Palasa by a Visakha dairy van and when the police checked it at Laxmipuram toll plaza, the duo were caught. Immediately, the police shifted them to quarantine centre in Palasa. Meanwhile, fishermen villages on the coast are scared as the exodus of fishermen from different States has been continuing unabated from April 18. Srikakulam along with Vizianagaram are the two districts in the State that have not recorded even one coronavirus case. SP RN Ammi Reddy directed the police manning the check-posts to maintain 24x7 vigil along the coast to prevent unauthorised entry of fishermen from other States. Speaking to TNIE, the SP said criminal cases were registered against the fishermen who came to Srikakulam from other States by violating nationwide lockdown.

Andhra Pradesh: Lockdown: fish prices soar

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/lockdown-fish-prices-soar-in-city/article31410112.ece>

"The 61-day annual ban on fishing by motorised boats and the lockdown imposed to check the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in the steep rise in the prices of fish in the city. Only a few traditional boats are allowed to venture into the sea during the annual ban that began on April 15 to allow breeding of fish in the entire east coast. Fish lovers in the city now rely on the freshwater fish brought from the Godavari River, Raiwada Reservoir and ponds. With many people are working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the demand for fish is also very high. People grab whatever stock is available in the market during the relaxation time to buy essentials in the morning hours, a senior official of Fisheries Department said. Transportation issues Fishermen say that unlike previous years, they find it difficult to transport the stock owing to the lockdown. With the gap between the demand and the supply widening, the prices of fish have gone up. Rohu (silavati) and katla, which was available somewhere between Rs.140 and Rs.150 a kg are now being sold for Rs.180 to Rs.200 in MVP Colony, Thatichetlapalem,

Akkayyapalem, Jail Road, Dandubazaar, Gajuwaka and other markets.

Vanjaram (big size), among the most sought-after fish, which used to be available at Rs.600-Rs.700 per kg is now being sold for Rs.800-Rs.1,000. Konam is also in high demand and it is being sold for Rs.1,000-Rs.1,200 depending upon the availability, while white pomfret is priced at Rs.1200-Rs.1,400 as per kg. The prices of small size prawn has gone up from Rs.200-Rs.250 a kg to Rs.300-Rs.400. The tiger prawn is also short in supply due to the ban on mechanised boats. Small fishes like netalu and kanagarti are now available at Rs.200 to Rs.400 per kg, which was available at Rs.150-Rs.200a kg before the annual ban. Even Bangarapapa is now being sold for Rs.400-Rs.500. "The prices have gone up and we have no choice other than shelling out more, said Joydeb Chakravarthy, a railway employee.

Andhra Pradesh: Two AP fishermen stranded in Gujarat dead

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/two-ap-fishermen-stranded-in-gujarat-dead/article31410192.ece>

"Two of the fishermen from Andhra Pradesh, who were stranded at Veraval in Gujarat following the nation-wide lockdown, died, the National Fishworkers' Forum said on Wednesday. Forum executive member K. Lakshmi told The Hindu that K. Raju, a resident of D. Matchyapalem in Srikakulam district, allegedly died due to fear of contracting coronavirus. Another fisherman, Jagannadham, of Gara mandal in the same district died due to lack of proper food while undergoing treatment, she said. The bodies of both the fishermen had been kept in a mortuary, she added. The fishermen were running short of provisions and being forced to stay in boats kept at the anchorage of Veraval, she said. Ms. Lakshmi said the forum had apprised the Chief Ministers of A.P. and Gujarat of the prevailing situation at Veraval and the plight the 4,800 fishermen, most of them from north Andhra, and sought their airlifting immediately on humanitarian grounds. She said that fishing would not resume at Veraval till August even if the lockdown was lifted on May 3 due to the economic impact of the pandemic on the boat owners. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy recently spoke with his Gujarat counterpart Vijay Rupani and sought his help in the issue.

Andhra Pradesh: Announces one-time aid of Rs 2,000 to 6,000 fishermen struck in Gujarat due to lockdown

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/andhra-pradesh-announces-one-time-aid-of-rs-2000-to-6000-fishermen-struck-in-gujarat-due-to-lockdown/articleshow/75292848.cms>

"Andhra Pradesh government on Wednesday announced one-time financial assistance of Rs 2,000 each to over 6,000 fishermen stuck in Gujarat in view of COVID-19 lockdown. A decision in this regard was taken by chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy after reviewing the

state's preparedness at large for combating COVID-19 disease amid rise in number of cases. "The Chief Minister has directed the authorities to ensure that one-time financial assistance of Rs 2,000 is given to each of the fishermen stuck in Gujarat," an official statement said. He also said that Andhra Pradesh is ready to provide support to the Gujarat administration in improving facilities being provided to the stranded fishermen. On April 21, Jagan had called on his Gujarat counterpart seeking measures at the earliest to support 6,000 fishermen from Andhra Pradesh. After the review meeting, the state government said COVID-19 testing is being done on a war footing mode and about 5,757 tests have been conducted in the last 24 hours. "AP leads the way in terms of testing and is ranked number 1 with respect to tests conducted per million in the country with the number standing at 830 at the moment," the statement said. The COVID-19 cases crossed 800 in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday.

Andhra Pradesh: Dry fish vendor of Suryapet market Corona superspreader

<https://telanganatoday.com/dry-fish-vendor-of-suryapet-market-corona-superspreader>

"It was a dry fish stall in Suryapet that was the fountainhead of sudden spurt in number of Coronavirus positive cases in Suryapet town. Puzzled by the sudden spurt in Coronavirus positive cases, authorities began a painstaking exercise of identifying the contacts of all positive cases and zeroed in on a woman running the dry fish stall in the market. Authorities say a majority of the positive cases originated from the fish stall and the woman running it was a primary contact of a Nizamuddin returnee, it was found. Officialdom went on a high alert with at least six villages reporting positive cases of Coronavirus and Suryapet district standing in second place in the state with 75 Coronavirus positive cases. So far, COVID-19 cases were reported in six villages in addition to district headquarter Suryapet town. In view of allegation of delay in identifying Nizamuddin returnees and their contacts resulting in the surge of Coronavirus affliction, officials intensified efforts to trace the primary and secondary contacts and shifting them to quarantine centres in the district. Most surprising part is that half of the corona positive cases were reported from rural areas –Vardhamankota, Tirumalgiri, Apoor, Maddirala, Anantharam and Nereducharla in the district.

Among seven Markaz returnees in the district, one person was infected with corona virus, but the virus spread to more number of people creating unrest. Almost more than seventy per cent of the cases have been linked to vegetable market at Suryapet town and about 49 cases were reported in the district headquarter alone. Though the officials were claiming that the vegetable market was shut down immediately after lockdown, the business activity at the market continued till April 9 in view of the relaxation given to vegetable stalls and groceries shops. Though entire Suryapet town was declared as red zone and disinfectant measures, there was no decrease in the corona cases as the all the reporting positive cases were infection ones of nearly 20 days back. The officials were confident that positive cases would come down to minimum number in next five days. Speaking to Tealngana Today, Energy Minister G Jagdish Reddy said that the

precautionary measures taken up by the officials were succeeded in preventing community spreading in Suryapet town. After lock down, vegetable market was closed down and opened temporary vegetable markets at selected 11 places in the town. In addition to this, masks and sanitizers have been distributed to all the vegetable vendors at the markets. Special measures were taken up at the villages, where Corona positive cases were reported in the district, to curtail the spread of the disease, he added.

Andhra Pradesh: 27 more fishermen sail into Srikakulam, caught and quarantined

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/27-more-fishermen-sail-into-skulam-caught-quarantined/articleshow/75259110.cms>

"Srikakulam police on Monday registered cases against 27 fishermen who entered the district by sailing in from Chennai in a boat under the Epidemic Disease Act. These cases were lodged in addition to cases against fishermen who arrived in the district from Chennai on Sunday. A total of 83 fishermen from Tamil Nadu have arrived in the district. Ichapuram circle inspector M Vinod Babu and his team caught the fishermen at Donkuru beach at the border of southern Odisha and north-coastal Andhra Pradesh. Speaking to TOI, Vinod Babu said that all the fishermen have been quarantined at a government model school in Ichapuram town. Cases have been registered against the fishermen under Section 51(b) of the Disaster Management Act and Section 3 of the Epidemic Disease Act, he said. Among the fishermen who were caught on Monday, 17 are residents of Srikakulam district and the remaining are from Odisha. They began their journey on April 15 and sailed through the Bay of Bengal. Ichapuram (rural) sub-inspector K Lakshmi said that the 27 fishermen had gone on fishing expeditions to Chennai in November. After the lockdown was imposed, they bought a boat and set sail in a bid to reach their homes. "We have handed over the fishermen to revenue officials who have quarantined them for 14 days, Lakshmi told TOI. District collector J Nivas issued a warning to fishermen against sailing across the sea to reach home during the lockdown. He asked officials of the police, revenue and fisheries department to keep a close watch.

Andhra Pradesh: Boat builders struggle to make ends meet

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/boat-builders-struggle-to-make-ends-meet/articleshow/75259131.cms>

"For the 5,000 odd workers of boat building units in Andhra Pradesh, the lockdown could not have come at a worse time. The 61-day mandatory fishing ban is their peak business season as fishermen use this period to get their boats repaired. But not this year. "With the mandatory fishing ban on, all boats are docked in the harbour. This is the time when we carry out all major repair work. During this time, boat owners place orders for new boats or get their existing boats repaired or refurbished, said Merudu Dhanaraju, a contractor who gets orders from boat owners

and appoints mechanics for the job. There are around 150 to 200 contractors like Dhanraju in Andhra Pradesh, especially in Kakinda and Visakhapatnam. In April, these contractors help boat owners get their boats repaired and refurbished and hand them back mid-June. “We appoint the mechanics. If the mechanic is a migrant worker he gets a daily wage of Rs 1,500, including food and accommodation. Other non-migrants get Rs 800 to Rs 900 with breakfast and lunch, added Dhanaraju. For the remaining year, these workers do small repair work. But the wages are lower. Many do not get any work at all, he said. “As long as the lockdown continues their situation will worsen. Being an ancillary unit of the fishing trade, we have already appealed to the state and central governments to compensate their families, said Arijili Dasu, executive director of Fisherfolk Foundation, a community-based NGO for the fishermen of Andhra Pradesh.

Andhra Pradesh and Assam: To allow hassle-free movement of seafood trucks

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/andhra-urges-assam-to-allow-hasslefree-movement-of-seafood-trucks/1806838>

"Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday urged his Assam counterpart to take steps to ensure hassle-free movement of seafood meant for export from Andhra in the northeastern state. Reddy spoke to Sarbananda Sonowal over phone, following which the latter assured him of all necessary measures. Reddy reminded Sonowal that export in seafood from Andhra Pradesh is extensive and requested him to ensure that trucks with such products are not stopped at the inter-state borders. He also sought access for these trucks to the fish markets in Assam. According to the Chief Minister's Office, Sonowal requested Reddy to help the people of Assam stranded in Andhra Pradesh due to the lockdown. Reddy assured him of all possible help.

Andhra Pradesh: Enumerate fishermen within 20 days: Jagan

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/enumerate-fishermen-within-20-days-jagan/articleshow/75209230.cms>

"The state government has directed officials of the fisheries department to complete the enumeration of fishermen eligible for financial assistance during the annual fishing ban within 20 days. Chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy directed fisheries minister Mopidevi Venkata Ramana to monitor the process and ensure that eligible fishermen receive the benefit. A sum of Rs 10,000 will be granted to each fisherman as compensation. The first round of compensation was completed in November 2019 even though it was not the period of fishing ban. “We have directed all deputy directors and assistant directors in the districts to be in touch with boatmen associations and get the lists ready immediately, said Mopidevi Venkata Ramana. Fishermen have been asked to approach local village secretariats for assistance in enrolling their names. After the lists are screened, the compensation will be directly remitted into the bank accounts of

beneficiaries, said Mopidevi.

Andhra Pradesh: Stop devastation of coastal wetland with creek & mangrove cover demands democratic fishers workers forum

"The fisher people of Dummulpeta, Parloipeta and adjacent wards of Kakinada are deeply concerned about the destruction of nearly 300 acres of mangroves and reclamation of a creek that provide anchorage for thousands of small fishing boats to accommodate "Pedalandariki Illu programme of the state government and a container depot for Indian railways. The area, lying beside the Kakinada port, is a coastal wetland with mangrove cover. It should have been protected by the Government, instead it is being destroyed by Government projects. (Pictures enclosed) It is well known that mangroves provide fish habitats and fish spawning grounds. They protect and enhance bio-diversity. They provide natural protection against cyclones and erosion. They also filter out pollutants. Can we forget how the mangroves protect us from cyclones? Even the Forest Department and the Government of Andhra Pradesh admitted the role of mangroves in protecting human habitats from the cyclone. In recognition of the importance of mangroves the whole world along with India celebrates July 26 as the International Day for Mangrove. Coastal mangroves belong to the CRZ-I (I) category and are protected by Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification as ecologically sensitive area. Thus destruction of coastal wetland together with the mangrove cover not only devastates an invaluable natural asset of our people, but it also violates the law of the country. The small scale fishing communities thrive on nature's bounty. Their livelihood is inseparably linked to marine biodiversity and as such destruction of mangroves is destruction of their livelihood. We are aware of and recognise the need of housing for the poor and low income group people, but no knowledgeable and environmentally sensitive person can support destruction of mangroves or coastal wetlands for that.

Reclamation of the creek for additional land deprives the small scale fishers from anchoring their boats during periods when they do not or cannot go fishing into the sea. Boats are the means of their livelihood and a safe anchoring area is necessary to protect their boats during inclement weather including cyclones and storm surges. Destruction of the creek means destruction of the scope of their livelihood. At a time of global warming and rising sea levels coastal towns like Kakinada alongwith the habitations of coastal fishing communities are under threat of inundation by sea waters. It is learnt from experts that by 2030 the area earmarked for "Pedalandariki Illu programme will be submerged by the rising sea. A map (copy attached) developed by American scientists and submitted in the Climate Change Conference of the United Nations showing areas to be submerged in red vividly indicates it. One can go ahead with distribution of housing sites in that area only by ignoring the warnings of scientists. Can a government that cares for people

ignore the physical reality of sea level rise and go ahead with such a disastrous project? It may be mentioned that the Department of Forest, Government of Andhra Pradesh, in reply to the queries made by the Marine Fishermen Cooperative Society of Kakinada had under their RC. No:01/2018/KKD Range, Dt. 06.11.2019 informed that construction is not allowed in the concerned mangrove forest area. It is not out of place to remind that the Hon'ble President of India Sri Ramanath Kovind in a recent article warned - "We would do well to keep in mind the fact that at the end of the day we are merely biological organisms, dependent on other organisms for survival. Humankind's craving to control nature and exploit all its resources for profit can be wiped out in a stroke by an organism we cannot even see with the naked eye. If we destroy the balance in nature, we have to pay the price for it as we are doing now. DTFWF has written to the Collector and District Magistrate of East Godavari district with under intimation to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and the Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh urging immediate withdrawal of the "Pedalanderiki Illu project on Kakinada coast and stop further destruction of invaluable coastal natural assets like mangrove, coastal wetland and creek.

Andhra Pradesh: COVID-19: Fishermen from Andhra stuck in Odisha as state declares 'fishing holiday'

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/water/covid-19-fishermen-from-andhra-stuck-in-odisha-as-state-declares-fishing-holiday--70491>

"Thousands of fishermen from Andhra Pradesh are stuck in Odisha, amid the nationwide lockdown imposed to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The state government's fisheries department imposed a two-months-long 'fishing holiday' or restrictions on fishing by mechanised vessels from April 15 to June 14, 2020, to conserve fish during the breeding period. The fishermen from Andhra Pradesh usually leave for their homes at this time every year, but are now stuck in the state's fishing villages, including Paradip, Puri and Gopalpur. "My hopes of going back to my home in Kakinada (in Andhra Pradesh) were dashed, after the Prime Minister extended the lockdown till May 3, said T Raja Rao, a fisherman who operates in Sandhakuda, a fishing village near Paradip. Around 50,000 marine fishermen from Andhra Pradesh are now stranded in Odisha, according to Prasan Behera, the president of the Odisha Traditional Fish Workers' Union (OTFWU). The fishermen took to weaving fishing nets in this period. Several groups of men and women can be seen in the villages of Paradip, Gopalpur and Astaranga, mending and weaving large gill nets and small nets. Net-weaving was an important activity and a source of livelihood in most fishing villages during the holiday, said Ashok Rao, a fisherman from Paradip.

Fishermen were instructed to not venture into the sea during the holiday to avoid disturbances caused by trawl fishing, said Basant Dash, a joint director (marine) in the state's fisheries department. The trawling ban was introduced in 1998 to aid unhindered breeding of fish during

the rainy season, said Dash. Around 21, 832 fishing vessels, including 1,741 trawlers were registered in the state, according to the fisheries department. All mechanised fishing vessels in the state that includes 630 trawlers in the fishing harbour at Paradip are not allowed to venture into the sea at this time. The ban extends to 12 nautical miles off the Odisha coast. Small, non-mechanised boats measuring less than 8.5 metres-long that use nets with big gaps were exempted from the ban. Nearly 300 species of fish, including the much sought-after Hilsa and species of shrimp, breed during the monsoon. The fishermen who are exempted from the band are permitted to carry out fishing only in territorial waters and catch only pelagic fish, according to Dash. Pelagic fish are those that are not found near the shore or at the bottom of the sea. Several fishermen had welcomed the 'holiday', despite the lockdown, said Dash.

Andhra Pradesh: Livelihood of fishermen in Vizianagaram takes a hit

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/livelihood-of-fishermen-in-vzm-takes-a-hit/articleshow/75166855.cms>

"Fishermen from the Bhogapuram and Pusapatirega mandals in Vizianagaram district are facing hardships due to the annual fishing ban compounded by the lockdown to tackle Covid-19. The two mandals account for the 29-km beach stretch in Vizianagaram, which is home to the fisherfolk community of the district. There are roughly 35 hamlets and villages, with over 20,000 people who are dependent on fishing for their livelihood. According to sources, ban on fishing for the past month or so has hurt the fisherfolk a lot. "Many of us are totally dependent on fishing and allied activities for a living. There are more than 400 boats, many of them mechanised. Now, at the peak of the season, we have been told to shut shop, lamented P Gangayya, a native of Pusapatirega. While the fisherfolk hope for a special compensation for the loss, authorities have made it clear that compensation will be given only for the 61-day ban period from April 14 to June 14. T Sumalatha, deputy director, fisheries, Vizianagaram, said, "So far we have not received any official news regarding special compensation. As of now, they will be compensated only for the regular period, which is from April to June. Ironically, the ban due to coronavirus threat has worked well for those dependent on inland fisheries. With summer approaching, the harvesting and sale of inland fish is in full swing.

Andhra Pradesh: Boat owners seek solatium as annual fishing ban begins

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/boat-owners-seek-solatium-as-annual-fishing-ban-begins/article31350225.ece>

"The annual fishing ban on motorised boats began on the east coast of India from the early hours of Wednesday, with 700 mechanised boats staying anchored to the shore due to lockdown imposed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unlike previous years, the fishing ban came unofficially much ahead due to the coronavirus scare and the prohibitory orders issued by the

district administration on the sale and auction of fish at Visakhapatnam fishing harbour to enforce the social distancing norms. 61-day restriction The 61-day ban aims at conservation of the dwindling number of fish resources and allowing unhindered breeding for two months before the monsoon season. It is being implemented in all the States and Union Territories along the the east coast. The ban period is utilised by boat owners for repairs and overhauling of their vessels. Meanwhile, the boat owners have sought payment of a cash compensation of Rs.10,000 each due to heavy loss suffered by them during the lockdown. So far, the cash compensation announced by the State government is being extended only to the fish workers and the drivers. “Due to extraordinary situation and losses suffered by us, the cash compensation should also be given to all boat owners, said AP Mechanised Boat Operators' Association president P.C. Appa Rao. Letter to Minister In a letter to Fisheries Minister Mopidevi Venkataramana, he said the compensation should also be extended to women fish vendors who eke out a living by selling fish in the streets. The compensation amount, which used to be Rs.4,000, was hiked to Rs.10,000 after the YSRCP government assumed the office.

Andhra Pradesh: Immediate assistance is required for India’s marine fishers, says MS Swaminatha

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/immediate-assistance-is-required-for-indias-marine-fishers-says-ms-swaminathan/articleshow/75053412.cms>

"Agriculture scientist MS Swaminathan on Tuesday urged the Centre and state governments to provide an immediate relief package for fishing communities for the lockdown period. This package, however, should not be connected to regular compensation provided for the ban season, he said in a press release issued by the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation. “Small scale fisheries require considerable attention in three areas: pricing, marketing and organisation, said Swaminathan. “Many of these are long-term, but there are a few immediate issues related to the COVID-19. For one, the fishing ban coinciding with the biological breeding period should be safeguarded; otherwise the reproductive cycle of the fish will be interrupted with long-term consequences, he said. Restricted by the COVID-19 lockdown from March 20, the marine fishers are facing the annual fishing ban from April 15 until June 15 along India's east coast. This means they will be unable to fish for at least 90 days. “While the total lockdown in view of COVID-19 is important to arrest the spread of the virus, effective intervention is required to support fishers, said the report released by the MSSRF after a team of scientists of it interacted with fishers along the coast, assessing the situation for immediate and mid-term recommendations. “Small scale fishers who fish near the shore are struggling to market their catch with new norms and short time available for sales. Rates are about 30% lower now. It's high time the government fixed day-to-day earnings of small-scale fishers affected in all coastal districts, it said.

Income of fish vendors, mainly women, has been badly affected due to the pandemic as people

are purchasing less fish at lower rates. Lack of fish in the diet will have considerable impact on nutrition security, particularly of importance for marginalized communities. Migrants to Kerala and Karnataka for fishing activities are without work due to national lockdown and some households have been reduced to one meal a day. In the case of trawler fishers, those with storage facilities can preserve their catch from before March 20, for marketing later. Those without storage facilities are severely affected. For example, huge quantities of tuna were discarded in Chennai last week. "With the export market also on standby, the entire fishing sector chain and its allied sectors are adversely affected. With supply chain disrupted, thousands of ice-plant workers, diesel workers and youth are losing their daily wages, it said. "Enlarge the scope of work under MNREGS to include skilled work such as fish drying, or value addition, processing, net mending for immediate relief. This will particularly help rural women, including fisher women manage the household, said the report. In India, over nine million people directly depend on fisheries for their livelihood of which 80 per cent are small scale fishers. The industry employs over 14 million people and contributes to 1.1 per cent of the Indian GDP. The east coast of India covers four maritime states Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal and the Union Territories of Puducherry and Andaman and Nicobar islands. The report will be submitted to the authorities at the Centre as well as to the governments of the states and union territories along the east coast and shared with other relevant stakeholders.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishermen seek more facilities to check migration

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/srikakulam-fishermen-seek-more-facilities-to-check-migration-615886>

"Fishermen Union representatives here on Sunday appealed to the government to provide opportunities for fishermen in the State in order to arrest their migration to other States. The appeal was made in the backdrop of a large number of fishermen from State being stranded in other States in the wake of lockout. The fishermen from the State remained stranded in different States like Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat and others. Due to lack of opportunities locally, a number of fishermen from Srikakulam are migrating to other parts in search of livelihood. A sea port and a fishing harbour proposed at Bhavanapadu under Santhabommali mandal, fishing jetties proposed at Rallapeta and Budagatlapalem under Etcherla mandal and Kalingapatnam under Gara mandal would go a long way in helping the fishermen. But these projects are at proposal stage only, the representatives said. They recalled that during 2018 20 fishermen from Srikakulam were detained by the Pakistan marine security forces on charge that the former had crossed into their territory. D.Sudhakar, K.Narasinga Rao, M Sriramulu, V Yerrayya, M Gurumurthy, M Rama Rao appealed to the government to complete proposed sea port, fishing harbour and jetties.

Andhra Pradesh: Special train sought to bring back over 5,000 Andhra Pradesh fishermen

stranded along the Gujarat coast

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/special-train-sought-to-bring-back-stranded-fishermen/article31262426.ece>

"A majority of the fishermen were forced to stay at the coast of Veraval of Gir Somnath district, and are facing multiple health problems due to lack of food and shelter. Srikakulam District Fishermen Community Welfare Association convener Duda Sudhakar, and Fishermen Cooperative Association President Konada Narasinga Rao urged both the Union and State governments to arrange a special train to bring back over 5,000 fishermen stranded at various places along the Gujarat coast. Ignored by owners Addressing a media conference here on Sunday, Mr. Sudhakar said the fishermen who had migrated to Gujarat had been facing untold miseries with lack of basic facilities and shelter in Gujarat for the last two weeks. "The owners who engaged them in various works had forgotten their welfare. A majority fishermen were forced to stay at the sea coast of Veraval of Gir Somnath district. Many of them are facing multiple health problems due to with the lack of food and shelter. The government should bring them to here in a special train and put them in quarantine if necessary, he added. Mugi Gurumurthy, M.Sriramulu and Mylapalli Polisu, leaders of various associations urged the government to construct fishing jetties immediately in Rallapeta, Budagatlapalem and other places so that the migrated fishermen would get livelihood in Srikakulam district itself.

Andhra Pradesh: Operations banned at fishing harbour in Visakhapatnam

<https://www.yovizag.com/operations-banned-visakhapatnam-fishing-harbour/>

"Following the directives of Visakhapatnam District Collector V Vinay Chand (IAS), a ban on the harvesting, auction, and retail marketing of marine products has been imposed at the fishing harbour in the city, on Wednesday. The Visakhapatnam District Fisheries Department will enforce the ban until further notice. Reportedly, the officials from the District Fisheries Department held a review meeting with Visakhapatnam City Police, in wake of the coronavirus outbreak. The authorities concluded that it would be difficult to handle the crowd at the fishing harbour and accordingly reported the same to the Collector. Later on, the District Collector issued an indefinite ban on operations at Vizag fishing harbour. The annual ban, on fishing on the east coast of the country, usually begins on 15 April midnight for sixty days. The District Fisheries Department has banned all the activities at the fishing harbour in Visakhapatnam, fifteen days prior to the conservation period, due to the coronavirus pandemic. It may be noted that the number of coronavirus cases in Andhra Pradesh has been witnessing a spike over the last few days. While Wednesday saw as many as 67 cases being reported, 21 more samples, collected from different parts of the state, tested positive for coronavirus overnight. The count in the state has now soared to 132. With Visakhapatnam registering 11 cases, the district authorities are making efforts to contain the spread of the deadly virus. The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal

Corporation (GVMC) is carrying out disinfection drives in various locales of the city as a preventive measure. Furthermore, additional rythu bazaars have been set up to curtail crowd congestion and ensure social distancing.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishing, seafood sale banned at Visakhapatnam harbour

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/fishing-seafood-sale-banned-at-harbour/articleshow/74938051.cms>

"Following an order by the district collector, the fisheries department on Wednesday banned all modes of fishing at the harbour. The department also banned the sale of marine products at the fishing harbor. The ban would continue till further orders from the collector. The annual ban on fishing on the east coast of the country will begin from April 15 midnight for 60 days. Fifteen days before that conservation period, the district administration has banned all fishing activities at the harbour due to Covid-19 situation.

The fisheries, revenue, police, port management and boat owners have taken many measures to implement social distancing during the lockdown. But it has been noticed that people were not maintaining social distance in the harbor. K Phani Prakash, joint director, the fisheries department, said that they have taken many measures to control crowds during unloading, auction and retail marketing of marine products. But controlling crowds at the harbour has become a tough task for the authorities. The collector ordered the ban as the fisheries department informed the district administration that it was a tough task to control the crowd at the fishing harbour.

Andhra Pradesh: Migrant fishermen return safely

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/migrant-fishermen-return-safely/article31211714.ece>

"Mylapali Rama Rao, 46, jumped into frenzied dance of joy and jubilation when he reached his home in S. Rayavaram Manral in Visakhapatnam district on Monday evening. He along with nearly 1,300 fishermen reached their hamlets in 48 buses arranged by the State government after they fled Mangalore in Karnataka as soon as a nationwide lockdown was clamped to control COVID-19. They were detained at Palamaner checkpost in Chittoor district on March 28. After medical checkup, food and shelter the district administration there sent them in buses on the directions of the government on humanitarian grounds. They go every year on contract for fishing to Karnataka and other States. Agents engaged by mechanised boats take them with the promise of paying around Rs.10,000 to Rs.12,000 per month. They leave in August and return in April before the annual fishing ban. "We are very happy that all of them returned safely. They will be under quarantine at colleges and schools for 14 days, Joint Director of Fisheries K. Phaniprakash told The Hindu. The breakup of fishermen who reached their home

as follows: Nellore 676, Prakasham 263, Guntur 18, East Godavari 1, Visakhapatnam 113, Vizianagaram 8 and Srikakulam 31. Twenty-four fishermen from neighbouring Odisha who left Chittoor in a separate bus along with others will be reaching their homes in the early hours of Tuesday. "While profusely thanking Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for the timely action, we want that in future fishermen should be allowed to go to Gujarat and other States on migration through inter-State agreements, Arjili Dasu, chief executive of AP Fisherfolk Foundation, said. A large number of fishermen from Srikakulam are also stuck at Veraval in Gujarat due to imposition of lockdown.

Andhra Pradesh: Aqua sector grapples with labour shortage

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/nellore-aqua-sector-grapples-with-labour-shortage-614645>

"Manpower shortage is haunting the aqua sector in the district which fetches around Rs 15,000-Rs 16,000 crore a year to the state exchequer through exports. Fears among fishing communities who work in hatcheries and aqua ponds led to shortage of workers even for collecting produce. Further, locals workers are also afraid of working with mechanics from northern India who take care of machinery used in harvesting mistaking them for foreigners amid fears of coronavirus spread by people from overseas.

As a result, the aqua farmers are facing an acute shortage of labourers from coastal mandals which is posing a grave danger to the sector even as the for products is same. Aquaculture, which used to be taken up in around one lakh acre in 16 coastal mandals in the district, has come down to 50,000-60,000 acre. The revenues from the sector are around Rs. 15,000-16,000 crore per year, which accounts a major share of income from exports from the state. The aqua products are exported to Saudi Arabia, China, the US, South Africa, Israel, and other countries. Earlier, China was the major producer of aqua products, but the aquaculture in China was affected by various diseases.

Consequently, these countries are importing the products from India. Nellore farmers also used to export to the European countries. However, of late, they stopped imports due to fears on coronavirus. ""The main reason for fears among the local population is that spread of coronavirus and the warnings by the officials. Now they take symptoms of a simple cold, cough coupled with fever as Covid-19 and are staying away from work at hatcheries though it is their main livelihood. A very limited number of people are attending paddy harvesting, post-harvesting, and for works in the aqua processing units,"" said P Mastan, of Allur mandal who belongs to the same community. Apart from scarcity of workers, middlemen are creating doubts among farmers on the market situation though there shrimp yield is high. It was Rs 480 per 30-count prawn (30 pieces per kg) a fortnight ago and it came down to Rs. 400-410.

""Now the major difficulty is shortage of workers. Very few are available for collecting prawns from ponds due to various reasons. Farmers are facing price-related losses due to delay in the process. The rate per 30-count in 1999 was Rs 500 and the cost of feed was Rs 42 per kg. Now, in 2020, the cost of feed is only Rs 74.80 and still the farmers are getting Rs 480 for the same 30-count. Coronavirus threat is now impacting the prices indirectly,"" said Duvvuru Radha Krishna Reddy, president of AP State Prawn Farmer's Welfare Association. The district normally produces 5.75 lakh tonne aqua products every year.

According to sources from Kavali mandal, village collective institutions banned some some livelihood activities, with aqua sector being one of them. They are fearing the effect of coronavirus and prohibited the workers from attending the hatcheries and processing units. But the diktat is not being implemented in other coastal mandals. Between 30-40 per cent of workers are from Allur, Bogole, Indukurpet, Muthukur, TP Gudur and other mandals, Mastan says. Former minister and TDP senior leader Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy appealed to the government to support the aqua farmers who are facing difficult situation with shortage of workers. The culture includes the collection of produce, shifting to processing units, and arrangements for exporting. All these are affected due to fears of coronavirus. He said most of the workers from Kerala have also left the district causing more troubles to the sector.

Ban on sea fishing may lead to shortage of fish in Andhra Pradesh

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/74900931.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

"With the state government imposing a ban on fishing as part of the measures due to the 21-day Covid-19 lockdown, there are now fears over scarcity of fish in the market by mid-April. While the AP government on March 23 imposed the ban on sea fishing for Andhra fishermen till April 14 as a precautionary measure to check the spread of Covid-19, the Union ministry of fisheries' mandatory 61-day on fishing ban starts from April 15 and will be in force till June 14 across the east coast of the country, including the Andaman and Nicobar islands. "It literally means there won't be any deep sea fishing activity in the state for almost 80 days. Normally, Andhra fishermen spend more time in the sea during March-April to compensate for the 61-day mandatory ban period. But this year, they won't get that opportunity, said Arijili Dasu, executive director of Fisherfolk Foundation, a community based fishermen association in the state. The local fishermen are worried as they won't get to venture into the sea till mid-June. All their fish stock has already been sold to wholesalers and traders. "Going by the quantity the wholesalers and traders are hoarding now, it would last hardly till the end of April. There would be shortage of fish in the open market at least till end of June, a fortnight after the fishermen venture into the sea again, added Dasu. Though traditional fishing boats are exempted from the mandatory annual 61-day fishing ban, the catch volume for these boats has reduced considerably over the years. "We cannot venture out for more than five to 10 nautical miles with these boats. In those

areas fish population is very less. Our total catch is not enough even for the household consumption in Visakhapatnam district, says M Bulayya, a local fisherman. Also, with the government stopping daily auction of fish in all coastal districts in the state, it won't count for much even if they are allowed to go out for fishing. "This is because they don't have any storage facilities and whatever they catch can hardly last for a few days, says Dasu.

Coastal villages under the scanner in Andhra Pradesh

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/srikakulam-coastal-villages-under-the-scanner-614698>

"Coastal fishermen villages in the district have come under the official scanner. Fishermen from coastal villages under Itchapuram, Sompeta, Vajrapukotturu, Santhabommali, Polaki, Gara, Srikakulam rural and Etcherla mandals are migrating to Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, West Bengal and other States in search of livelihood. In the wake of total lockdown imposed to contain spread of coronavirus. In all the eight mandals, there are 104 fishermen villages. It is said that about one lakh fishermen have migrated to other parts of the country. Some of the fishermen with technical qualifications like ITI, Polytechnic and other diploma courses have also migrated to other parts as workers at fishing boats. Now in view of lockdown, they are slowly returning to their native villages. A district level officer in Medical and Health Department, who did not wish to be identified, expressed his inability to stop the fishermen from returning to their native places.

A special officer, deputed to monitor the measures taken to contain the spread of coronavirus, stressed the need to prevent the fishermen from returning without following the guidelines. Anyone who return from other States should be confined in isolation at least for 14 days, he said. Panchayat Secretary of Nuvvalarevu village A J Aadil Pasha wrote a letter directly to the District Collector regarding the migrant fishermen returning. Meanwhile, on Sunday distribution of ration to white card holders was launched across the district by volunteers. But in most of the areas the volunteers are not wearing masks while distributing ration.

No impact of Covid-19 on marine exports in Andhra Pradesh: Minister

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/amaravati/no-impact-of-covid-19-on-marine-exports-min/articleshow/74781909.cms>

"Covid-19 has not impacted export of marine products from the state, said fisheries minister Mopidevi Venkata Ramanarao on Monday and warned of serious consequences against those who exploit aquafarmers by spreading false information. Speaking to reporters here on Monday, the minister said the government has already directed district collectors and SPs to not prevent vehicles carrying aqua products to the nearest ports. He said the poultry sector has been

badly hit only due to misinformation. “Experts have already clarified that coronavirus cannot be transmitted by eating chicken or fish. But the apprehensions over the issue has already crippled the poultry sector in the state and it is high time to protect the aqua farmers, said Ramanarao. He said the government is taking all measures to help aqua farmers providing seed, feed and smooth transportation. The minister explained that marine exports resumed to European countries about 10 days ago after a brief recess and that they would take measures to ramp up the exports in the coming days, as AP is one of the leading exporters of marine products to the world.

Amaravati: Officials told to ground 4 fishing harbour projects in Andhra Pradesh

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/amaravati-officials-told-to-ground-4-fishing-harbour-projects-613681>

"Minister for Fisheries Mopidevi Venkata Ramana while reviewing the status of the proposed fishing harbours in the State under Sagarmala scheme, instructed the officials to ground the four fishing projects at Uppada in East Godavari, Vodarevu in Prakasam, upgradation of fishing harbours at Machilipatnam in Krishna and Nizampatnam in Guntur. It may be recalled that the Central government issued administrative approval for Rs 288.80 crore with 50 per cent financial assistance of Rs 144.40 crore from CSS-Blue Revolution (25 per cent) and Sagaramala (25 per cent). The Centre advised the state government to complete the projects in four years. In addition, the Centre had also accorded sanction for availing Rs 600 crore at the rate of Rs 150 crore for each project. It also requested the State government to enter into a tripartite agreement with Government of India and Nabard. It was also stated that the balance funds need to be accessed from Nabard Infrastructure Development Assistance (NIDA) loan with 10 per cent contribution from the State government. The Minister instructed the officials to take the concurrence of the Finance department to enter into the tripartite agreement with GOI and NABARD.

Usual hustle and bustle missing at fishing harbour in Andhra Pradesh

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/usual-hustle-and-bustle-missing-at-fishing-harbour/article31135916.ece>

"The usual hustle and bustle seen during Sundays was completely absent at the fishing harbour here. Hundreds of people from various corners of the city throng the fishing harbour where the fishermen sell fish brought to the shore by the mechanised boats. In anticipation of getting fresh fish at a lower price, many retail sellers also visit the market and buy a large quantity. The jam-packed market, which used to sell all types of fish, wore a deserted look on Sunday, as the country observed ‘Janata Curfew’ to express solidarity with the fight against COVID-19. “We have observed several bandhs in the past. I have not seen such a spontaneous response in my long career, said AP Mechanised Boat Operators' Welfare Association president

P.C. Appa Rao. He said that all the associations and societies working for the welfare of fishermen extended their wholehearted support to the call for observing 'Janata Curfew.' The fishing harbour is spread over 26 hectares. Visakhapatnam Port Trust takes care of the upkeep of the harbour.

Andhra Pradesh: Kakinada boat operators seek fish landing at Vizag harbour

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/kakinada-boat-operators-seek-fish-landing-at-vizag-harbour/article31004734.ece>

"Marine boat operators representing various societies from the Kakinada coastal belt met public representatives in Visakhapatnam seeking a permanent solution to use the Vizag harbour for tuna fish landing. The dispute over landing at the Visakhapatnam fishing harbour with tuna catch has deepened for boat operators from the Kakinada coast. On Friday, at least two dozen representatives of various marine fishing cooperative societies of the East Godavari district, led by Uppada boat operators, met Visakhapatnam BJP MLC P.V.N. Madhav and discussed the tussle over landing at the Visakhapatnam harbour with the tuna catch. "Nearly 250 mechanised boats from various fish landing points on the Kakinada coast are engaged in tuna fishing in the Bay of Bengal off the northern Andhra Pradesh coast. However, we are being denied landing at the Visakhapatnam harbour for sale of the tuna and ice procurement, former president of Uppada Marine Fishermen Cooperative Society Surada Nageswara Rao told The Hindu. Mr. Rao led the talks in Visakhapatnam on Friday. Boat operators from Uppada, Kakinada, Kumbabhishekam and other fish landing points attended the meeting. "We seek the intervention of Chief Minister Y.S.Jagan Mohan Reddy to find a permanent solution to our long-pending grievance, which is making way for fish landing at the Visakhapatnam harbour. Denial of landing at the Visakhapatnam harbour will make fishing more expensive, forcing us to spend more on fuel and other maintenance for fishing, Mr. Rao said. When contacted, East Godavari district Joint Director (Fisheries) P. Jaya Rao told The Hindu: "The issue of using the Visakhapatnam harbour for the fish landing by the mechanised boat operators from our district is yet to be settled. This issue has been taken to the notice of Fisheries Minister Mopidevi Venkata Ramana. The Visakhapatnam boat operators continue to deny the entry of their counterparts from East Godavari to use the Visakhapatnam fishing harbour, reportedly on the grounds of hike in the cost of ice and dip in the prices of tuna fish.

Andhra Pradesh Government to build nine fishing harbours

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/govt-to-build-nine-fishing-harbours/article31112033.ece>

"The State government will construct nine fishing harbours in two phases with an investment of nearly Rs. 2,902 crore, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said at a review

meeting on infrastructure and investments on Thursday. Four of them will be built in the initial phase with an investment of Rs. 1,304 crore and necessary support would be provided to the fishermen for deep sea fishing. Mr. Jagan ordered that the officials should come up with a proposal for the establishment of an airport in Prakasam district, and complete land acquisition and remaining works of the Bhogapuram airport. The CM said harbours earmarked for the first phase are Uppada (East Godavari district), Machilipatnam (Krishna), Nizampatnam Phase 2 (Guntur) and Juvvaladinne (Nellore). Harbours at Vadarevu and Kothapatnam in Prakasam district, Budagatlapalem and Edduvanipalem in Srikakulam and modernisation of Visakhapatnam harbour would be undertaken in the second phase.

Andhra Pradesh: Taste for seafood dips amidst coronavirus fears

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/taste-for-seafood-dips-amidst-corona-fears/articleshowprint/74618848.cms>

"The rise in number of coronavirus cases has led to a drastic fall in the sale of marine fish in Andhra Pradesh. According to an estimate by fishermen's associations in the state, sales have decreased by at least 30 per cent in the last couple of months. "Just like chicken there's a lot of misconception over consumption of fish. People are apprehensive they might get affected if they consume fish. Sale of fish has reduced drastically, said Arijili Dasu, executive director of Fisherfolk Foundation, a community-based fishermen's association in the city. Every year, Andhra Pradesh exports in bulk a portion of its marine catch to Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka, and even parts of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra. Since January, wholesalers supplying fish to neighbouring states have been reluctant to place bulk orders. At local markets across the state, wholesalers have reduced the number of orders. "Our estimate suggests that sale of marine fishes has dipped by at least 30 per cent and soon it will have an immense impact on the livelihood of the fishermen, added Dasu. Andhra Pradesh has around 3,55,000 fishermen, of which around 75,000 are deep sea fishermen. Amidst fears surrounding the consumption of fish, fishermen added that the lack of storage facilities is compounding their problems. Apart from the fishing harbour in Visakhapatnam, no other fishing centre in the state has storage facilities. "If we cannot sell fish in bulk it becomes very difficult for us to keep the fish fresh. Many of us have stopped venturing out into the sea. Even if we are going to the sea our catch is lower than our usual catch, said S Buliya, a fisherman. Fishermen's associations who were planning to organise awareness camps for wholesalers and customers have now had to postpone their plans in view of the upcoming elections to local bodies in the state. "This is not the right time to organise such awareness programmes. People are busy with the election. We would wait till the dates of poll results and considering the situation then we would decide on the awareness camps, said Dasu.

Dwindling catch spurs westward migration of north Andhra Pradesh fishermen

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/dwindling-catch-spurs-westward->

[migration-of-north-ap-fishermen/articleshowprint/74034956.cms](https://www.apnews.com/migration-of-north-ap-fishermen/articleshowprint/74034956.cms)

"To reach the shores of the Bay of Bengal, B Laxman must walk only half-a-kilometre from his single-storey house in D Matchylesam village in Srikakulam district. Yet the sea has little to offer the fisherman who migrates with his neighbours to Gujarat every year and spends eight months in a mechanised boat on the Arabian Sea. Migration is mandatory if he is to earn a livelihood. In 1993, when NT Rama Rao was chief minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh, the government had announced the construction of jetties along the 197-km-long coastline in Srikakulam district. Time passed, the government changed and the state was bifurcated, but the jetties remained only on paper. For the 35,000-odd fishermen in the region, venturing out to sea on a mechanised boat from the shore along their village remained a dream. Over the years, Laxman and other fishermen learnt how to manoeuvre mechanised boats and migrated to Gujarat, where their skills were in demand. "Owing to a lack of jetties here, we can venture out only on small boats and these small boats cannot be beyond a distance of five km from the coast. Fish population within a five km stretch is low due to overfishing and waste from factories. We are left with no other option but to migrate to states such as Gujarat, and even Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to earn our livelihood, Laxman said.

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The history of fishermen's migration from Srikakulam district goes back to 1982, when G Suryanarayana, a fisherman from Garamandal Mogdalparu village, went to Gujarat for the first time. Chintapalli Suryanarayana, an advocate and fisheries activist, recalls how his relative from the same village and employed with the Railways was in Gujarat at the time. He informed Suryanarayana about the prospect of fishing in Gujarat and introduced him to a boat owner at

Veraval port. “He was employed and returned with a handsome salary after a few months. The next year, he took along some other fishermen to Gujarat with him. Over the years it became a trend, added Chintapalli, who also belongs to a fisherman family. Migration, however, has brought with it its own set of problems. The hunt for a good catch often takes fishermen as far south as the coast of Karnataka and Kerala. Venturing into the sea adjacent to these states requires care, as “the local fishermen don't allow us to dock our boats on show, and if they do, they take away our catch. We are in trouble if we run out of fuel or develop a technical snag, said K Raju. But it is the area north-west of Okha, known as Pak Jalasandhi among local fishermen, that is especially problematic. The territory of Pakistan begins barely 450 km north-west of Okha and “at night when we anchor our boats, we have to be very careful. The boat may drift to Pakistani territory in case of inclement weather. We need to calculate where we drop anchor. Normally, I don't venture north of Dwaraka after sunset, said Laxman, who has been helmsman for over 15 years. Closer home, activists said constructing jetties is not enough, but fishermen need mechanised boats and the money to purchase them. “The only solution to this is to implement the deep sea fishing policy in Andhra Pradesh.

Under this scheme, fishermen would get 50 per cent subsidy to buy mechanised boats, said Arjilli Dasu, executive director of Fisherfolk Foundation, a community-based organisation for fishermen in Andhra Pradesh. While the foundation stone for a jetty was recently laid in Srikakulam district, the chief minister has promised to construct more jetties. A draft deep sea fishing policy is ready and needs approval before coming into effect. “It might take some more months or years now, added Dasu. Till that time, Laxman and other fishermen from north Andhra have only one road the Puri-Okha Express from Srikakulam Road Station to Rajkot, and then onwards to Veraval.

Andhra Pradesh migrant labourers in Andaman help develop their hometowns

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/mar/09/andhra-pradesh-migrant-labourers-in-andaman-help-develop-their-hometowns-2114357.html>

"It's been more than 60 years since they migrated to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, but these labourers from Srikakulam's Uddanam region haven't lost any love for their native villages. They aren't rich, but manage to pool in money to develop their hometowns and help the poor. Organised as the Andaman Society, these labourers, who work on fishing boats and construction projects, have built temples and entrance arches for villages, spruced up schools, and even help the poor pay their medical bills. Most of them hail from Kaviti, Sompeta and Vajrapukotturu mandals. “About 500 fishermen have migrated to Andaman and Nicobar Islands from Nadumuru village alone," village head Tarra Sekhesh said, adding that several fishermen leave for the islands every year. The village heads draw up estimates and send them to the Andaman

Society, seeking financial aid for projects, he explained. The society then discusses the proposal, and if approved, the money is transferred. They have sent about `15 lakh for the construction of temples in the village, and contribute at least `5 lakh for festivals of village deities, said village head Ganta Sanyasi, adding that based on written requests, they send `20,000 for medical treatment of poor patients. After a person's death, they contribute `10,000 for the cremation within just one-and-a-half hours, he said. They have contributed benches, chairs and computers to government schools, said Nadumuru Zilla Parishad High School teacher Sahukari Rajani. 'Have been doing this for past 30 years' "This practice (of contributing funds) has been going on for 30 years. Our ancestors started it after they migrated to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, said Mailapalli Shyam Sundar, secretary of the Nadumuru Andaman Society in Port Blair.

Desalination plant proposal a threat to fishermen's livelihood in Andhra Pradesh

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/desalination-plant-proposal-a-threat-to-fishermens-livelihood/article30967255.ece>

"Yuva Bharat Force, a voluntary organisation, has appealed to the State government to reconsider the proposal of setting up desalination plants along the coastal cities including Visakhapatnam, claiming that the move would affect the livelihood of fishermen. Israeli firm IDE Technologies, during a recent meeting with Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, has offered the technology to set up desalination plants in the State. Plankton growth "The desalination plants will release brine. The high concentration of salt in brine will take a toll on the fish growth. It will also take a toll on the growth of plankton, a major feed of fish, thereby forcing the migration of fish species into the deep sea. Brine will restrict the growth in the 70 to 80 km of desalination plants, Yuva Bharat Force president Mohammed Sadiq told the media here on Monday.

Groundwater contamination He further said that the effluent will also resulting in the increase in underwater temperature, posing a threat to the marine biodiversity, apart from contaminating the groundwater. Citing an estimate, Mr. Sadiq said that fishing was providing direct and indirect employment to around 14.5 lakh people in the State. "Fisheries sector contributes 0.4% to the GDP. Establishing desalination plants will result in loss of livelihood of fishermen, he said. Mr. Sadiq further pointed out that desalination plants were successful in less populous countries where the dependence on fisheries was negligible. "Population of Israel is less than 1 crore when compared to 4.5 crore in Andhra Pradesh. Israel needs only 65,000 tonnes of fish as the country imports about 65% of its requirement, he said. Research findings Quoting findings of a research conducted in Mediterranean Sea, he said fishery resources were being affected owing to the effluents discharged from desalination plants. Yuva Bharat Force members Devarakonda Markendile was present on the occasion.

Experts sound alarm over unscientific & reckless methods of fishing in Telangana and

Andhra Pradesh

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/experts-sound-alarm-over-unscientific-reckless-methods-of-fishing-in-t-and-ap/articleshowprint/74325663.cms>

"A serious decline in fish catch across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh since last monsoon has got experts worried. Besides climate change, one of the major reasons of the decline is being attributed to unscientific and reckless methods of fishing. M Vijay Gupta, fisheries scientist, told TOI, "In trolling, which is widely used in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, one or more fishing lines, baited with lures are drawn through the water in small and large water bodies alike. This results in trapping a large number of unintended species. Experts said that wherever there is such kind of fishing, there is a by-catch, the incidental capture of non-target species such as sharks, marine turtles, sea birds, and in some areas, dolphins. The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad has been long running schemes to encourage fishermen to switch from conventional fishing techniques (trawl fishing) to longlining in India under the Blue Revolution programme. Under the scheme, fishermen can claim up to Rs 15 lakh to convert conventional fishing techniques to longlining fishing and avail of training from National Fisheries Development Board.

A senior executive of NFDB, said: "Longlining is a commercial fishing technique using a long line with baited hooks attached at intervals. It helps in catching the intended breeds of fishes unlike other techniques where big nets and modern-day equipment trap other species as well. Trawl fishing is another inadvisable technique, which involves dragging nets across the sea floor to scoop up fish. This results in disturbing the seabed, while harming marine species, said officials. "After consulting fishermen, and with the research over the years, we have found that a number of modern fishing gears, strong and unnoticeable, are not only efficient at catching the desired fish species but also anything else coming in its path, said a principal scientist from Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI). Experts have cautioned that a collapse in fishing sector is imminent, but avoiding trawling and impulsive techniques alike can help the case. "There are proven solutions to deal with the issue. Fishing gear can be modified so that either fewer non-target species are caught, or if caught they can escape, he said.

Fishermen's associations in the Andhra Pradesh have decided to impart navigation and safety training to fishermen

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/navigation-training-for-ap-fishermen/articleshowprint/74290419.cms>

"Fishermen's associations in the state have decided to impart navigation and safety training to fishermen across the state following last year's incident, when eight local fishermen drifted into Bangladesh waters and spent more than three months in the neighbouring country's

jail before being released last month. “It has happened twice now when fishermen from the state entered the waters of neighbouring countries and got caught. We have therefore decided to hold a workshop on vessel safety and navigation for fishermen of the state, Arjilli Dasu, executive director of Fisherfolk Foundation, told TOI. The foundation is a community organisation which works for the interests of fishermen in AP. The workshop is scheduled to be held on March 28 in Visakhapatnam. Fishermen would be given a basic training on navigation and taught how to use vehicle monitoring system (VMS). “We want all boats involved in deep sea fishing to be fitted with VMS. The cost of installation for such system is around Rs 1 lakh. We have requested the state government to give a 30% subsidy to fishermen to install the system, added Dasu. The Union government is already giving a subsidy of 50% to install VMS through the Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA). If the state government agrees to the 30% subsidy proposal put forward by the associations, fishermen will have to spend only 20% of the installation cost. “With fish population reducing along the Andhra coastline, we have to travel to as far as Bengal for a good catch. Such a system would definitely shield us from entering the water of neighbouring countries, said N Buallaya, a fisherman.

Andhra Pradesh state contributed 36.16% of exports from the country in 2018-19

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/bright-future-for-seafood-exports-from-state/article30907386.ece>

"Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has predicted a bright future for seafood exports from Andhra Pradesh due to a steady rise in transportation of consignments from Visakhapatnam. MPEDA Chairman K.S. Srinivas told The Hindu that during 2018-19, India exported seafood worth USD 6.72 billion with a quantity of 13.92 lakh tonne. During the same period, exports from A.P. were 3.1 lakh tonne with a value of \$2.43 billion. The State contributed 36.16% and 22.54% in terms of value in dollar and quantity of Indian seafood exports during 2018-19. He said they would achieve the target set for current year. “The target fixed for this year is \$7 billion and we have crossed more than \$5 billion by December, 2019, he stated. Vizag port's share Asked whether Visakhapatnam was the leading hub for seafood exports, he said the city was the leading port for seafood exports with a quantity of 2.21 lakh tonne worth ₹11,913.07 crore (\$1.72 billion) in 2018-19. It was the topmost seafood exporting port and contributed 26% in terms of value and 15.59% in terms of quantity of total seafood export from India. Mr. Srinivas said world seafood exports accounted for \$165.9 billion in 2018. India contributed 4% of world seafood exports, in terms of value, in 2018.

China, Norway and Vietnam were the major seafood exporters in the world followed by India in 2018. On new destinations, he said currently India was exporting seafood to 115 countries including major seafood markets like the USA, China, EU, Japan, Vietnam and Thailand. Bulgaria, Hungary, Luxembourg and Belize were some of the other markets for frozen shrimp

with good demand and were yet to be tapped. “India is also having opportunities for marketing frozen cuttlefish, octopus and squid to Bulgaria and Argentina. Similarly, frozen tuna is another major offering from our side which is having a good demand in Bulgaria, Ecuador and Tunisia, he disclosed. Sustainable fishing Elaborating on the efforts made to promote sustainable eco-friendly fishing, Mr. Srinivas said MPEDA-NETFISH, a society to promote sustainable fishing, were conducting field-level programmes with fishers on sustainable fishing practices such as use of by-catch reduction devices and square mesh cod ends in trawl nets. In addition, NETFISH had also initiated hands-on training programmes on-board long line fishing vessels, he added.

Telangana and Andhra Pradesh: Rs 620 crore will be invested to boost marine production: NFDB

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/rs-620-crore-will-be-invested-to-boost-marine-production-in-t-and-ap-nfdb/articleshow/74090097.cms>

"In its efforts to increase aquatic production in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, NFDB is planning to come up with marine fish seed rearing centres. The move, in collaboration with Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi will help in developing seeds best suited for extreme climate, later to be put in the sea to increase the production, say officials. “An amount of Rs 620 crore has been earmarked for development of intensive aquaculture in ponds and tanks and the proposed activities are expected to generate substantial investments resulting in annual production of 26.5 lakh tonnes of fish, the NFDB said in a statement.

Officials say that the availability of fish seeds is satisfactory in certain parts of the country, whereas farmers in rural areas of T state at times face difficulties in procurement of quality seeds. “Transportation of seeds over a long distance adds to the cost of inputs, therefore to meet their requirements of supplementary stocking in the reservoirs and ponds, we are aiming to set up fish seed rearing units for production of quality fish seeds near them, a senior NDFB executive told TOI. “Most of the fish breeds like shrimps, tuna, and cuttlefish are majorly exported to USA, European countries, and China and it can hold a key in increasing our exports, he added. The authorities are also planning to develop seed production centres to help contribute substantially for the aquaculture production in the state during non-breeding seasons too

Andhra Pradesh: Dwindling catch spurs westward migration of north AP fishermen

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/dwindling-catch-spurs-westward-migration-of-north-ap-fishermen/articleshow/74034956.cms>

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Andhra Pradesh: Fishworkers demand harbour at Bhimili

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/fishworkers-demand-harbour-at-bhimili/article30721989.ece>

"The National Fishworkers' Forum has asked the government to expedite work on construction of a fishing harbour at Bheemunipatnam. After a two-day executive meeting of NFF and a conference of the women's wing held here recently, all-India chairperson Narendra R. Patil and general secretary T. Peter and district unit president Lakshmi told the media that fishermen were facing hardships as the development of a fishing harbour was being delayed due to procedural wrangles. Mr. Patil said that by spending ₹50 crore to ₹100 crore, a modern fishing harbour with all modern facilities would become a reality in less than a year. He also said that the area was an ideal fish landing centre. Demanding allotment of house-site pattas instead of assigned lands, Mr. Patil said that they also wanted guaranteeing of right to fish for all small and medium fishermen. He said they had decided to launch a vehicle yatra in May from Kutch in Gujarat to Kolkata via Kanyakumari, covering a distance of 6,000 km, to highlight the plight of fishworkers and create awareness on policies promoted in the context of Blue Revolution and Sagarmala. Mr. Patil said the NFF had resolved to protect the coasts and livelihood and would push for a Coastal rights bill that could ensure the rights of fish-workers. He also demanded the withdrawal of notification issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change exempting the oil and gas firms from seeking environmental clearance.

'Threat to livelihood' "This is definitely a violation of basic tenets by not paying heed to the fishworkers' voices in the path of development. The mariculture policy launched by the Central Government to encourage culture of fish also poses a threat to the livelihood of traditional fishermen, he said, demanding its withdrawal. The NFF also declared its resolve to fight for withdrawal of Marine Fisheries Regulation and Management Bill, claiming that it would jeopardise the interests of traditional fishermen, and sought uniform enforcement of the annual fishing ban to ensure conservation.

Andhra Pradesh: Stands first in fish production, shows Economic Survey

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/vijayawada/2020/feb/01/andhra-stands-first-in-fish-production-shows-economic-survey-2097351.html>

"Andhra Pradesh has left other States far behind in fish production. In the Economic Survey 2020 released Friday, AP with 34,49,560 tonnes (28,44,610 tonnes of inland fish and 6,04,950 tonnes of marine fish) of fish production in 2017-18 fiscal topped the chart. West Bengal came a distant second with 17,42,090 tonnes of fish production. The total fish production in the country stood at 1,25,90,280 tonnes. No other State had crossed 9,00,000 tonnes mark in fish production. Gujarat with the largest coastline in the country, stood third with a fish production at 8,34,530 tonnes. Odisha with 6,84,960 tonnes and Tamil Nadu with 6,81,940 tonnes of fish production got fourth and fifth places. According to the statistics provided by the Department of Fisheries for the Economic Survey, AP has emerged a clear winner. Its growth in fish production from around 20,00,000 tonnes in 2013-14 to 34,49,560 tonnes in 2017-18 could be described as the fastest among the States.

West Bengal recorded an increase in fish production from around 15,00,000 tonnes to 17,42,090 tonnes over a period of five years. The growth of fish production of other States over a period of five years was marginal. AP also emerged as one of the frontrunners in the country in Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the UN as it stood second in the country in the recovery of forest area in 2019 compared to 2017. As per the assessment in 2019, the total forest cover of the country is 7,12,249 sq km, which is 21.67 per cent of the total geographic area. There has been an increase of 3,976 sq km (0.56 per cent) of forest cover, 1,212 sq km (1.29 per cent) of tree cover and 5,188 sq km (0.65 per cent) of forest and tree cover put together at the national level compared to the previous assessment in 2017. AP stood second in the country by recording an increase of 990 sq km of forest cover, while Karnataka with an increase of 1,025 sq km of forest cover topped the list. Kerala with 823 sq km and Jammu and Kashmir with 371 sq km of forest cover got fourth and fifth places. When it comes to growth in the service sector, AP's share in Gross State Value Added (GSVA) in 2018-19 stood at 43 per cent. Among 33 States and Union Territories, AP stood at 23rd place. Its neighbour Telangana stood at the sixth place with 64.7 per cent of service sector share in GSVA in 2018-19.

However, if the service sector 5-year average growth is taken into consideration, AP stood third with 9.8 per cent, while Telangana with 11.2 per cent and Karnataka with 10.5 per cent got the two top positions. Visakhapatnam Port, one among the 13 major ports in the country, has achieved an impressive growth. Average Ship Turnaround time, which is a key indicator of the efficiency of the ports sector, has improved significantly. From 5.84 days in 2010-11, it improved to 2.51 days in 2018-19. 2nd for recording an increase in forest cover AP stood second in the country by recording an increase of 990 sq km of forest cover, while K'taka with an increase of 1,025 sq km of forest cover topped the list. Kerala with 823 sq km and J&K with 371 sq km of forest cover got fourth and fifth places

Andhra Pradesh: Livelihood restored for Andhra Pradesh Flood victims

<https://reliefweb.int/report/india/livelihood-restored-andhra-pradesh-flood-victims>

"The major portion of Andhra Pradesh state is surrounded by the river Godavari and Bay of Bengal Sea. The rains at the upper region will cause floods in the state frequently. East and West Godavari districts which are severely affected by the heavy downpour during July to September 2019 monsoon which triggered the floods, lead the destruction is such as death tolls, house destruction, and crop damage and loss of livelihood to the Weaker communities such as women, Socially backward, migrant rural labourers and fishing communities. Results show that most impact occurred near the coastal and in agency areas . Poverty and social ordering puts on the risk in the face of the heavy floods. As per sources a total of 38749 people was affected by the floods in river Godavari, and 17,632 were shifted to relief camps from the 45villages of Eight mandals in East and West Godavari districts.

The effected region of tribal and coastal area lies below the Polavaram dam which also said to be a cause for submerging of the villages. In this situation, Apart from the state Govt support, the Caritas India supported through an "Early recovery for the flood and landslide to the affected communitiesproject through the Social Service Centre, Diocese of Eluru, AP with a budget of 20.00 lakhs for duration of 3 months: (starting from 10th November 2019 – 10th February2020) to a total of 230 Beneficiaries from 6 villages of five mandals for off farm livelihood support (193 nos) and to the repairing of the houses (37 nos). As part of this, sewing machines were distributed to the 31 women in 4 four villages such as Alavaram, Amalapuram, Inavilli. This support has bought confidence among the communities for future sustainability.

Andhra Pradesh: Token harvest of Indian pompano grown in cages on January 28

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/token-harvest-of-indian-pompano-grown-in-cages-on-january-28/article30669898.ece>

"A token quantity of Indian pompano grown in cage culture by the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) will harvested here on Tuesday giving a shot in the arm to

the Centre's thrust on encouraging mariculture. Four HDPE marine cages of 6 metre diameter and 3.5 m water depth were stocked with Indian pompano fingerlings (20-25 gram) during May-June last year. Two cages were stocked with 2,500 numbers and the other two were stocked with 3,000 numbers. After a few months of culture, the fishes are ready for harvest. Fishes were initially fed artificial pellet containing 45% protein which was later reduced to 40% protein. Feeding regime was initially 5-8% of biomass, which was later reduced to 2-3% of biomass. Survival was more than 90% and the body weight at harvest ranged from 500 to 600 gram, said Shubhadeep Ghosh, Principal Scientist, Visakhapatnam Regional Centre of CMFRI. In a chat with The Hindu, he said on Tuesday that mariculture was the fastest growing sub-sector of aquaculture in the world. In contrast to the global scenario, where mariculture of finfishes is a well-developed industry, in India it is gradually emerging out from its infancy.

“One important aspect hindering the rapid progress of mariculture in the country is the non-availability of quality seeds of high value finfishes. However, in recent years, with success in breeding and seed production technology of several high value commercially important finfishes, thankfully due to the consistent efforts of ICAR-CMFRI, mariculture sector is poised to make a serious contribution to the fish basket of India, he stated. Presently, quality seeds are available for cobia, Indian and silver pompano and grouper round the year in various hatcheries of CMFRI at multiple locations. Dr. Ghosh said Visakhapatnam Regional Centre of the CMFRI had successfully developed in the recent past seed production technology for Indian pompano (*Trachinotus mookalee*) and orange spotted grouper (*Epinephelus coioides*) for the first time in the country. Subsequently, for developing techno-economically viable methodologies on nursery rearing and grow-out in cages and ponds, seeds have been distributed to research institutes, the State government-owned facilities and private entrepreneurs. He said, “Cage farming technology is widely recognised as the most important technology in mariculture for increasing fish production to meet the food-fish demand. In Andhra Pradesh and in the country as a whole, sea and estuarine cage culture technology is a new and recent activity.

Andhra Pradesh: Bangladesh issues release order for eight north AP fishermen

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/bangladesh-issues-release-order-for-eight-north-ap-fishermen/articleshow/73674930.cms>

"The Bangladesh government on Monday issued the release order for eight fisherman from north Andhra who have been in a Bangladeshi jail since October 2, 2019. The Indian high commission in Dhaka has confirmed the development. The Bangladesh Coast Guard had detained these eight fishermen who were sailing on a boat 'Amrutha' for straying into the neighbouring country's waters in October last year. The fishermen had been handed over to Mongla police in Bagerhat district in Bangladesh and a case was registered under the Marine Fisheries Ordinance, 1983. Bagerhat senior judicial magistrate court had sent the fishermen to jail custody. Confirming the developments, an official from the high commission's office told

TOI, “We have been pursuing this release order for the past few months and finally managed to convince them. On November 28, TOI reported that Bangladesh might release the eight fishermen soon after the police report claimed that no fishing nets or catch were seized from the boat and the vessel had entered the Bangladeshi territory owing to inclement weather. “Now that the release order has been issued, the process of sending them back will be initiated. Soon, the fishermen will be handed over to the Indian Border Security Force, Milon Banerjee, the fishermen's lawyer, told TOI. All eight fishermen are from Thippalavalasa village in Vizianagaram district, but have been living in Visakhapatnam. Earlier, Visakhapatnam MP MVV Satyanarayana had requested the Union minister for external affairs S Jaishankar to intervene in the matter to ensure the fishermen return home soon. In October 2019, 38 Indian fishermen were detained in Bangladesh, of which 30 fishermen were from West Bengal. The high commission had confirmed that the Bangladesh government had issued a release order for all the Indian fishermen. On January 6 this year, the Pakistan government released 22 fishermen from Srikakulam district who had been lodged in a Karachi jail since November 2018.

Andhra Pradesh: VIT- honours policemen, fishermen for selfless service

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/jan/27/vit-andhra-pradesh-honours-policemen-fishermen-for-selfless-service-2095052.html>

"On the occasion of the 71st Republic Day celebrations, VIT-AP University posthumously honoured APSRTC driver Y Guravaiah, who suffered a heart attack while driving, but managed to safely bring the vehicle with 76 passengers on board to a halt. Six fire service personnel, three constables and 20 fishermen, who saved the lives of many in the Godavari boat tragedy, were also honoured. Justice Siva Sankara Rao, chairman of the Judicial Preview Committee, unfurled the national tricolour and presented awards winners of various competitions organised for the purpose. During his address, he lauded the university authorities for choosing Republic Day and Independence Day to felicitate unsung heroes in remembrance of the selfless service to humanity. All the 30 unsung heroes received these awards and a cash reward of Rs 25,000.

Andhra Pradesh: Fishermen in Visakhapatnam fear harbour shift

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/fishermen-fear-harbour-shift-after-vizag-becomes-capital/articleshow/73589209.cms>

"With the port city all set to become the state's executive capital, there are apprehensions over the shifting of fishing harbour from beach road to the city's northern outskirts. Fishing associations have already written to the state fisheries department to desist from taking any such step. “Over 53,000 people, from Vizianagaram district in the north to Payakaraopeta in the south, depend on this fishing harbour, which is strategically located. It should not be shifted, said Arjilli

Dasu, executive director of Fisherfolk Foundation, a community body for AP fishermen. Many fishermen have settled down in Jaalaripeta neighbourhood along the harbour over the years and it would difficult for them to shift base with their families, he said. "We have written to the fishing department commissioner in Vijayawada voicing our apprehensions. We request the government not to shift the fishing harbour from its present location, added Dasu. In 2009, the government had floated a proposal to shift the fishing harbour from Jaalaripeta on beach road to Mulakuddu village in Bheemli, some 25 kilometres north of Visakhapatnam. The decision was taken to make way for expansion of Visakhapatnam port. The deep sea fishing harbour was established in 1976 on 24 hectares of land along the coastline. Traditional fishermen have been using it for fish landing since then. The fisherfolk want the government to concentrate on upgrading the harbour's existing infrastructure rather than shifting it, besides developing the retail market inside the facility. "Greenfield fishing harbour is not a good idea, particularly in Andhra Pradesh. The Bhavnapadu harbour in Srikakulam, which was constructed by the government to boost fishing operations in the area, was later rendered useless due to dredging issues. The existing fishing harbour has the gift of natural depth which is conducive for boat operations, said K Yerraiah, a local fisherman.

Andhra Pradesh: Step up vigil along coast: Andhra Pradesh SP

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2020/jan/22/step-up-vigil-along-coast-andhra-pradesh-sp-2092856.html>

"SP M Ravindranath Babu underlined the need to strengthen surveillance along the 127 km coastline of Krishna district to thwart any intrusion. He held a review meeting with marine and law and order police at Machilipatnam on Tuesday. The SP said awareness should be created among people living in the coastal areas and fishermen community about a possible threat from intruders. Village committees should be formed to involve villagers in community policing to strengthen surveillance, he said. The marine police stations at Gilakaladindi, Palakayatippa and Orlagonditippa should strengthen surveillance and issue biometric cards to the fishermen. The police with the help of the fisheries department should prevent the entry of unauthorised boats in the coastal waters. The marine police should maintain a register containing the details of fishing boats venture into the sea for fishing from the district. Awareness should also be created among fishermen about various schemes being implemented by the government for their economic uplift, the SP said.

Andhra Pradesh: BCG for education, health hubs in Krishna delta

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/vijayawada/2020/jan/04/bcg-for-edcationu-health-hubs-in-krishna-delta-2084812.html>

"The Boston Consulting Group (BCG), in its report on balanced and inclusive growth for

Andhra Pradesh, brought to the fore the disparities in development in different regions of the State and suggested ways to improve the development prospects of those regions. Briefing the media, Secretary (Planning) GSRKR Vijay Kumar said the group had visited different places across the State and compared the development with other countries and States, considering different parameters. According to him, for the study, they divided the State into six zones - Uttarandhra (Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam), Godavari delta (East Godavari and West Godavari), Krishna delta (Krishna and Guntur), Dakshinandra (Prakasam and Nellore) East Rayalaseema (Kadapa and Chittoor) and West Rayalaseema (Kurnool and Anantapur). Based on its analysis, the BCG suggested different set of development themes for each region. Godavari delta: Promote petrochemicals, plastic manufacturing, food processing, solar energy, horticulture and cash crops. Complete Polavaram project, improve road connectivity, water grid and promote Konaseema as a backwater destination. Krishna delta: Promote the region as education and health hubs, food processing zone, hi-tech organic agriculture, fisheries, multi-modal logistics hubs and develop Machilipatnam into a full-fledged port. Dakshinandhra: Promote automobiles manufacturing, paper pulp, leather and furniture MSME cluster, fisheries export. Undertake Godavari-Penna linkage and promote Mypadu as a beach destination. West Rayalaseema Promote textiles, logistics and auto parts, support organic horticulture cultivation, support water-saving measures like drip irrigation, implement Godavari-Penna linkage and improve highway connectivity. Promote Anantapur as a subsidiary to Bengaluru and Kurnool to Hyderabad to tap the spillover development.

Snapshot of AP 8 AP's position in terms of economy strength State has lowest GSDP and per capita income among the Southern States `1.6 lakh is AP's per capita income while for Kerala, Karnataka and Telangana, it is `2 lakh Rate of illiteracy more than national average 2.5 lakh crore - State's debt 8 districts - Krishna, Guntur, Kadapa, Kurnool, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, East Godavari and West Godavari, have low industrial potential 0.3 million - Tourist footfall due to untapped tourism potential 60 per cent - Fish production from Krishna and West Godavari 50 per cent - Agriculture production from Krishna and Godavari deltas Bottlenecks - Interior road connectivity, port connectivity Uttarandhra: Make it analytics and data hub and promote medical devices manufacturing, cash crop cultivation like cashew, coffee and turmeric. Implement water grid, Uttarandhra Sujala Sravanthi project and Bhogapuram airport. Develop Araku Valley into an eco-adventure tourist spot East Rayalaseema: Promote electronics manufacturing, steel plants, hi-tech agriculture like processing of tomato and cold storage units in the region and take up eco-adventure circuit around Gandikota and Belum Caves. Pointing out that Rayalaseema has less than 20 per cent land irrigated while Krishna and Godavari delta has irrigation coverage of 60-80 per cent, the BCG stressed the need of Godavari-Penna linking and expansion of canal carrying capacity, which it said is a critical factor. BCG also suggested setting up of high-quality seed production centres, agriculture stop points and modernisation of fishing boats

Andhra Pradesh: Govt. to encourage Indian pompano cultivation

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/govt-to-encourage-indian-pompano-cultivation/article30520207.ece>

"The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI-Visakhapatnam) has registered success in cultivation of Indian pompano in a brackishwater pond here, scientifically proving its commercial viability. CMFRI-Visakhapatnam in-charge scientist Subhadeep Ghosh claimed that this was the first scientific experiment that was successful in the country in the cultivation of the Indian pompano species in the pond. The harvesting of the Indian pompano cultivation was attended by Fisheries Minister Mopidevi Venkataramana, Avanigadda MLA Simhadri Ramesh and officials of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB). The NFDB has extended the financial assistance for the experiment which was done by the CMFRI scientists in collaboration with an aqua farmer, Bandi Sunil Kumar. Speaking to The Hindu, Mr. Subhadeep said: "The survival of the Indian pompano has been recorded 95% during the 11-month duration of the crop period. The growth has been recorded maximum of 750 grams in the open pond and one kg in the cage. These results support for the commercial viability for cultivation of the marine species in the ponds. Yield and profit The yield of the Indian pompano was three tons per acre. The profit is estimated between 25-30 % against the input cost per acre. On the experiment, Mr. Venkataramana said that the State government would explore the possibilities to encourage cultivation of the Indian pompano in the ponds. "The experiment by the CMFRI has established that the Indian pompano could be considered as an alternative to shrimp. The State government will create awareness among farmers to switch to the Indian pompano cultivation, apart from ensuring supply of the seed by setting up hatcheries, said Mr. Venkataramana.

Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh: The lucrative fish feed industry is killing traditional fisheries

<https://scroll.in/article/948677/in-karnataka-and-andhra-pradesh-the-lucrative-fish-feed-industry-is-killing-traditional-fisheries>

"Tonnes of fish caught through unsustainable fishing methods are being used by the fish meal and fish oil industry – also known as the FMFO industry – that supply feed to global aquaculture chains. These are wreaking havoc on fish stocks. The FMFO industry was considered a solace for fishermen as it purchased the trash fish, which is not edible, that came in with the catch. But the scenario has changed as the FMFO industries have now turned into a threat to the fisheries sector as the income from supplying to these industries is driving unsustainable fishing. A study in India, Vietnam and Gambia by Netherlands-based Changing

Markets Foundation highlights the hazards caused due to the present functioning of these industries. Tonnes of fish, including juvenile and edible ones, are being caught, processed and exported to various countries resulting in the collapse of fish stocks and marine ecology, imbalances in food security and causing severe environmental issues, pollution and overexploitation, said the CM. End to fisheries? As part of the study in India, two regions were selected – the Mangalore-Karwar belt and the Vishakhapatnam region of Andhra Pradesh. Indigenous fishermen communities across Indian coastal areas predict an end to fisheries soon. The topmost reason they cite is unsustainable fishing driven by the income from the FMFO industry. In 2017, India's aquafeed market was valued at US\$ 1.20 billion. Its domestic feed mills have the capacity to produce 2.88 million metric tonnes, said the study.

Vasudev Bloor, who is Karnataka Coastal Fishermen's Action Committee general secretary, said that as the FMFO industries buy waste fish or bycatch from the fishermen, the trawlers intentionally go for waste fish, including juveniles and non-edible species of fish, which were not earlier targeted for fishing. The CM report claimed that these companies are causing the decline of local fish stock. “Earlier only a small portion of the catch was waste and that used to be given to the FMFO industries. But things have changed and to generate more income, fishermen have started fishing everything in the sea. Juvenile catch is the most serious threat because of which many species have declined in the sea, said Bloor, while adding that the trawlers use small-sized nets which makes it easy to catch juveniles. Divya Karnad, a marine biologist and assistant professor at the Haryana-based Ashoka University, said that the FMFO industries originally started as a solution to the trash fish that had been generated in the catch. “Ideally, trawlers should take measures for bycatch reduction. They are not using doing so and that is why this waste is generated. Moreover, now fishermen are encouraged to bring more and more waste. Presently, trawl fisheries are mainly dependent on this bycatch income. If the FMFO plants were not there, many of the trawlers would have gone out of the sector, Karnad said.

Ineffective laws Karnad pointed out that each state in India has got specific laws to protect marine ecology but none of them has actually been implemented and the laws just remain on paper. For instance, as per the government rule in Karnataka, bottom trawling nets with mesh size more than 35 mm should be used and in other methods of fishing, nets with mesh size of more than 20 mm should be used. Vasudev alleged that there are many trawl boats that use smaller nets than prescribed measures. “Up to the 12 nautical miles, the state government can implement laws [regarding fishing]. From 12 to 200 nautical miles, we still have no rules, said K Sunil Mohamed, principal scientist at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute said. He stressed that overexploitation of the resources by using methods like bull trawling, where the net is tied between two boats and dragged for kilometres to catch fish and light fishing, where artificial lights used to attract fish to a particular spot for an easy catch, are being followed widely. According to the CM study, in both Mangalore and Malpe ports, the investigators found that bycatch mainly consisted of juvenile and extremely damaged fish. “At both harbours, the

investigation team found several piles of pelagic fish, including pomfret, juvenile mackerel, juvenile cuttlefish and silverfish, the study said. Juvenile fishing is considered a major reason for the decline of certain species. The CM study said that FMFO plants have to be blamed for the decline of Indian oil sardine in many parts of India. The study also revealed that in Vietnam, one of the world's leading fishmeal producers, unsustainable fishing practices has caused fish stock reduction and due to which boats are regularly fishing in foreign waters which is prohibited. The situation in the Gambia is not very different.

The country has one of the world's richest fishing grounds but despite that, the nation's food security is declining over the years. It is due to “fluctuating populations of Bonga fish [also known as shad], which experienced a crash of 40% between 2013 and 2014. The study even said, “Gambian fishmeal plants continue to be involved in social and environmental scandals. The study quoted the Indian government's Agriculture Ministry's 2017 National Policy on Marine Fisheries in India which had stressed on dangers of the fish feed industry. “Use of low-value fish species in the fish feed industry is becoming a matter of concern as it can lead to overfishing of such species and by-catch, and could undermine the integrity of the marine ecosystem. The spread of fish meal plants in some coastal states and their overwhelming demand for small pelagics [such as oil sardines] has led to overfishing, resulting in reduced stocks of small pelagics in some parts of the country, the policy said. Verge of extinction Sunil Mohamed said that juvenile catch could result in fish extinction as well as restrain fishermen from more profits. “In juvenile catch, we don't allow a fish to grow to its maximum size. With that, fishermen will not get good price[s]...[and] people will not get quality fish. Another issue with this that through juvenile catch, a chance of reproducing another generation been lost, Mohamed said. Shailendra Yashwant, environmental journalist and climate change activist, said that though fishermen are aware of the hazards of these industries, they are worried about the decline in the catch.

“They know the dangers posed by fish meal industry on the traditional fisheries. But the fishermen are desperate due to falling catches, reduced days at sea due to bad weather, rising operating costs, debt, the power of contractors and non-fishermen in the business, and thus, they are indulging in overfishing, including the catching of juveniles and wild catch, knowing well that there is a market for anything they catch. Those who can afford trawlers, and their numbers are increasing, are shamelessly literally scraping the bottom of the oceans to bring back catch, any catch, to survive, he said. The CM report said it's not just the trash fish that goes to FMFO plants. It points out that about 30%-40% of the catch in Karnataka goes to the FMFO plants including the species fit for human consumption. “Significant quantities of food rather than trash fish are being diverted to the fish meal plants...People rely on locally caught fish for their protein needs, and it is becoming harder for them to compete within the new system, said the study pointing towards the imbalances it creates on food security. It explained that agents of such plants bypasses the traditional auction system and get the entire fish in a vessel to the factory. Krishna, a fishermen association representative from Malpe in Karnataka, said that the FMFO

plants use sardine, mackerel, squid lizard fish and almost all the edible varieties. “Fishermen catch the juveniles...which will not have demand in the market.

So usually traditional fishermen don't catch them, but those in trawl boats are not traditional fishermen, they aim for money, he said. Food security at risk The CM report emphasised that sardine is a staple food in south India and its decline has affected food security. “In June 2019, media outlets reported that the drastic decline in sardines has left Kerala's fishermen in crisis and is affecting food security in the region, said the report. “We cannot find the original oiled sardine now. It has been lost. [Soon] we will lose other species too, Krishna said. Divya Karnad said since most of the FMFO is exported, it requires a minimum quality to meet the standards given by foreign countries, which lead these plants to go for quality fish than trash fish. “They cannot use semi-decayed fish to make the fish meal as it would not meet the standards of European countries. In order to meet the standards they use high-quality fish which is our food, said Karnad. “Trawl net fishers catch fish on a large scale, maybe in one net, they get five tonnes. When this large quantity is brought to the land, its price goes down, where the FMFO industries buy them in large quantities. So in a way, they promote destructive fishing, Karnad added. “There are certain species which are not edible that can go to the FMFO industry. But they are not the ones we consume.

Peruvian anchoveta is similar to sardines, but are not consumed directly by humans, while oil sardine is the staple food [in south India]. Sardine also has high nutritional values so it should not be included in the FMFO industries. When certain FMFO industries had tried to standardise sardine catch for the FMFO, we had objected to it, said K Sunil Mohamed. He added that there are many unhealthy practices that are being followed by the FMFO industries. “Apart from unsustainable fishing practices, they also get fish from boats by trapping fishermen. They pay an amount to fishermen in advance and get a full catch in their boat. The government doesn't have control over the number of industries coming up in the country, said Mohamed. Violation of norms The CM report also claimed that most of the plants located along the Indian coast are violating the Coastal Regulatory Zone regulations. It revealed that their investigators, while visiting a few FMFO plants in Ullal of Mangalore, had found that there were no waste treatment plants for the industries. “After fish oil and fish paste [were] extracted, the remaining wastewater, called stickwater, was dumped into the backwaters adjoining nearby mangroves. The units visited did not have a wastewater treatment plant, said the report. “They loot fish from the sea and dump waste into the sea after production.

If a poor fisherman has to build his house, he is tangled with CRZ rules but industries can easily bypass laws, said an official of the Karnataka government, who works with fishermen in Mangalore. “People living near the plants suffocate [because of the] putrid odour. These industries cause water pollution and air pollution. They dump effluents to the sea as well as to nearby rivers. Those who voice against them are being threatened by the companies. Is there a

solution? The study recommends soybean and palm oil production as an alternative to the FMFO. Fish feed made of food waste, mealworms, algae, is being globally discussed as sustainable alternatives. “In 2012 in Kerala, there was a huge decrease in Indian oil sardine stock when the government had introduced certain rules specifying the size of the fish to be caught in order to prevent juvenile catch. The mesh sizes and shape of the net were also prescribed by the government. So strict rules on mesh size and shape can reduce juvenile catch, said K Sunil Mohamed. He further said that Karnataka has also implemented laws against juvenile catch of certain species but they haven't taken steps on restrictions over mesh size. “There are recommendations given to Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra [by CMFRI]. We hope they will implement these restrictions soon. Regulations on the mesh size of the net are the only solution to control juvenile fish catch, he added. According to him, strict adherence to standards by the aquafarms can also be a solution. “There are certain standards prescribed by Marine Stewardship, Aquaculture Stewardship Council and International Fish Meal and Fish Oil Organisation, The Marine Ingredients Organisation.

The fish farms accredited by these standards accept only fish feed from sustainable fisheries. So pressure from the buyers for sustainable fisheries can be a solution, said K Sunil Mohamed. However, the CM study alleged that certification from these standards was not effective to curb unsustainable fishing. “Many of the unsustainable practices witnessed during investigations in India, Vietnam and the Gambia, have received a stamp of approval by one or more of these certification schemes, the study said.

Andhra Pradesh: Bandar Fishing Harbour to be developed soon, govt directs officials to prepare DPR

<https://www.thehansindia.com/andhra-pradesh/bandar-fishing-harbour-to-be-developed-soon-govt-directs-officials-to-prepare-dpr-594504>

"The AP government has been in a rush to develop a decorative harbour at Bandar over the past few years to provide state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure with international standards. For this, Rs. 280 crore would be required. There are often sand dunes at the shore of the sea, so there are no chances for fishing boats at all times. Operators are badly hit by the fact that they can go hunting just in time for the sea. Once the boat comes to shore, it is possible to go for hunting only when the sea is at peace. In the event of the storm, the organizers have to wait at least 12 hours onshore to get to the sea. The Harbor, built at Gilakaladilandi ten years ago at Rs.4.70 crore, does not benefit much. No full-scale measures have been taken to remove sand dunes at the seashore. Experts suggest that regular dredging should be carried out at harbours where sand dunes are formed. As the problem of sandbags persists, the boat operators are moving from Bandar Fishing Harbor to Kakinada, Visakhapatnam and Krishnapatnam Harbours. The problems in the harbour were brought to the attention of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan

Reddy, another MLA, Minister Perni Nani and another minister Mopidevi Venkata Ramanarao. He urged the authorities to take immediate steps to build the fishing harbour. Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS) has been entrusted with the preparation of the DPR (Comprehensive Project Report) on the current conditions in Bandar Harbour, the steps to be taken to expand the harbour and the development activities. This company will look after exports and Import Facilities, Administration Building, Fisheries Restrooms, Radio Communication Tower, Boat Building, Ice Plants, Keywall Extension, Protective Water Supply, etc. piloting. Tenders will be invited for the expansion of the harbour once all permits have been received, Minister Mopidevi Venkata Ramana Rao said.