



Inauguration of Marine Interpretation Unit
At Forest Research Centre for Coastal Ecosystem
Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh



By

His Excellency, Honourable Vice-president of India

Shri M. VENKAIAH NAIDU

November 23, 2021



The Honourable Vice-president of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, inaugurated “Marine interpretation Unit” at Forest Research Centre for Coastal Ecosystem (FRCCE), Visakhapatnam on 23.11.2021. by 10 AM. FRCCE is a centre under administrative control of Institute of Forest Biodiversity (IFB), Hyderabad which are under the umbrella of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun, MOEF & CC, Govt. of India. It is engaged in marine research since 1931 to invent measures for protection of woods used as catamaran, boat, steamer, jetty, harbour etc, from bio-fouling marine organisms. As a milestone of success, FRCCE has established Marine Interpretation Unit in 2021 to disseminate knowledge on marine environment and associated marine organisms to coastal communities, students of marine biology, as well as researchers.

The inauguration ceremony was organized by FRCCE Head, Dr S. Chakrabarti (Scientist-G) under guidance and special instructions from Vice-Presidents’ Secretariat at New Delhi. Dr Ratnaker Jauhari, Director, IFB, from Hyderabad joined the FRCCE team at Visakhapatnam. Shri T. Srinivas (Scientist–B) with the assistance all technical and supporting staffs, coordinated the preliminary arrangements by following protocol of Govt. of India. TA M. Ganesh, Technician T. Anusha, Manikanta Reddy and G. Mounika took active part in the process and accomplished it perfectly.

Dr. Ratnaker Jauhari, Director, IFB, greeted Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu with a flower bouquet, on his arrival to the office primases. He opened the curtain of inaugural plate as well as cut the ribbon to announce the interpretation unit open for public.

Head FRCCE and Director IFB appraised each and every specimens present in the hall, viz., large display boards denoting genesis and history of the centre since 1931; 4 display units exhibiting damaged wood pieces caused by biofouling agents like Gastropods, Bivalves, Isopodes etc; 6 display units showing comparison between wood treated with protective chemicals and untreated; samples of wood showing progressive stages of wood degradation by microbials; central glass enclosure having preserved marine biofouling agents. Moreover, Dr. S. Chakrabarti described the status of biodiversity of Eastern Ghats and also birds of east coast. He showed few instruments used in research which are now obsolete or phased out. His Excellency expressed his views on Biodiversity, Mangroves and their importance to the society. Vice president also appraised of the evolution of light microscope exhibiting advancement from simple to digital technology. A rare bryozoan *Steginoporella buskii* collected from brackish water of Coromandal Coast and a section of jetty pile of *Lagerstroemia microcarpa* (Ben Teak) perforated by Teredinid mollusc were elaborated to him.

At the end, FRCCE arranged a plenary session of his visit for presenting some mementoes and gifts. Dr. S. Chakrabarti presented an Ammonite fossil which was collected from Gamshali village near Malari in Garhwal range of Western Himalaya, to his excellency Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu. A colour laminated blow-up of Common Kingfisher, as a token of remembrance, was presented to Vice-president by Director, IFB. A folio depicting activities done by FRCCE during last two years was also handed over by Shri T. Srinivas. The mangrove nursery and a small display of books was also arranged and was appreciated by his Excellency.

Glimpses of the Programme



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