

CIFT, CSL sign MoU to design, build modern fishing vessels



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THE Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) have joined hands to design and construct fishing vessels.

The two entities signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard at CSL here the other day in the pres-

ence of their CMDs (chairman and managing director), directors and senior officers. As per the agreement, naval architects of CIFT, a subsidiary of Indian Council of Agricultural Research under the Ministry of Agriculture, will design the vessel which CSL, a 'Miniratna' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Shipping, will build us-

ing quality materials and equipment. "At present, there is no specific standard for building fishing boats. They are built at traditional boatyards in an almost amateur fashion using substandard materials and equipment. No modification is possible on such vessels. The materials used to build a fishing vessel should be of superior quality to ensure long life and

less maintenance," said a senior CIFT scientist. "Besides building a ship of superior quality, there will be government monitoring on the construction of vessels. The government has issued certain guidelines and specifications for building the vessels which will be complied with," the scientist said.

The MoU aims at creating

benchmarks and standards in design and construction of fishing vessels besides enabling end-to-end solutions to the fisheries sector in India, leveraging programmes of 'Make in India' and 'Blue Revolution' of the Union Government. Since the boats are built with government subsidy, orders have to be placed through the government. Those looking to get a

boat built by CSL have to prepare and submit their proposals to their respective governments which will scrutinise them before clearing and forwarding it to the builders.

The Tamil Nadu Government has already declared 70 per cent subsidy for boats built under the scheme. The decision of the state government is expected soon.

