

More boats back, meet tomorrow on future precautions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOCHI

Three more fishing boats, which had left the Kochi shores before Cyclone Ockhi, safely returned to the Kochi harbour on Thursday, even as the fishing community here is set to discuss the future course of action at a workshop on Saturday.

The workshop will be addressed by scientists and researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, National Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory, and Marine Products Export Development Authority.

The day-long workshop will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday at Grand Canyon Hotel in Fort Kochi. Inspector General of Police (Ernakulam Range) P. Vijayan will inaugurate the workshop. The meet assumes significance in the wake of the mass destruction and loss of life caused by the cyclone. The workshop will also be a forum in which the future course of action will be discussed in detail.

Meanwhile, three boats returned with 36 fishermen on board. They had ventured out of Kochi before the cyclone warning was issued but were not actually caught in the heavy winds and high waves, said Charles George of Matsya Thozhilali Aikya Vedi on Thursday.

The boats that returned on Thursday are *Saint House*, *Mermaid*, and *Ocean Hunter*, sources at the fisheries harbour said. The Public Relations Department (PRD) had on Wednesday said 50 boats had set out from Kochi in search of boats and fishermen.