

43% of TN coast facing erosion: NCCR

Natural Events, Construction Activities Led to Erosion: Study

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Nearly 43% of the 991.47km long Tamil Nadu coast is facing erosion, a shoreline change assessment made by city-based National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) has revealed. In that, 16.16km or 1.63% of the coast has seen high erosion, 37km or 3.75% moderate erosion and 369.69km or 37.28% has seen low erosion. The assessment made for the 1990-2018 period has also seen nearly 24% of the coast accreting or accumulating sand and around 34% of the coast is stable.

ROUGH TIDE, TOUGH RIDE

National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) released shoreline changes atlas for TN coast for the period 1990-2018. The shoreline change data will go into marine spatial planning, a tool for blue economy initiatives and sustainable coastal development

TAMIL NADU HAS THE SECOND LONGEST COAST

Total length of TN coast	Erosion	422.94km	Accretion	235.85km			
	Stable	332.69km					
Total length of India coast	6,907.18km	Erosion	2,318.31km	Stable	2,733.86km	Accretion	1,855.03km

The researchers said both natural events like cyclones, sea level rise, waves and tides as well as activities like construction of ports and harbours, seawalls and beach sand mining led to erosion and accretion. On Tuesday, E V Velu, minister for public works, highways and minor ports department, released the shoreline change atlas for Tamil Na-

du, during a workshop on marine spatial planning.

NCCR director M V Ramana Murthy said the marine spatial planning (MSP), in which shoreline change assessment is one of the components, will be a key tool in blue economy initiative and sustainable coastal development. MSP is one of the verticals in the draft blue economy policy

which aims at optimal utilisation of all sectors of the maritime domain (living, non-living resources, tourism, ocean energy, etc.) for sustainable development of coastal areas. "This shoreline changes assessment data will help in deciding ideal locations for ports and harbours in the future. Selection of the right location and proper management of

the port will reduce the problem of erosion," he said.

NCCR researchers used images of five satellites, field data and shoreline models to assess the long-term and short-term shoreline changes and develop 526 maps for the Indian coast including 80 maps for TN and Puducherry.

At the marine spatial planning workshop, stakeholders from departments including Tamil Nadu pollution control board, ministry of environment, Tamil Nadu forest department, Tamil Nadu tourism development corporation as well as labs involved in coastal research discussed present and future projects and the data gap.

The project was part of an Indo-Norwegian collaboration, said Tune Usha, group head, coastal hazards and training and capacity building groups, NCCR.