

# DECCAN Chronicle

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## World looks up to India for bulletins on tsunami

India on Wednesday proved its scientific prowess as a regional tsunami service provider (RTSP), exchanging bulletins with over two dozen countries in the Indian Ocean region on the tsunami wave movement in real time. And Hyderabad, where RTSP India is located, played the key role in keeping several national tsunami early warning centres posted of the amplitude of tsunami waves as they traveled from the epicentre. The warning was withdrawn, as the wave movement was not expected to trigger a tsunamigenic event. India became an RTSP nation on October 12, 2011 and Wednesday's 8.5-magnitude earthquake in the Indonesian island of Sumatra was the first major tremor since. It offered a real firsthand experience for tsunami scientists in India, as the earthquake generated tsunami waves. The tsunami team at the city-based Tsunami Early Warning Centre (TEWC) issued six public bulletins within three hours, recording three earthquakes each in the north Indian Ocean and off the west coast of northern Sumatra. Only one of them was of 8.5 magnitude, the rest being 7 or lower on the Richter scale. "RTSP India monitored sea-level gauges near the epicentre and reported tsunami wave activity," TEWC head Dr T. Srinivas Kumar said. "It was the first major earthquake after the Indian Ocean tsunami mock drill on October 12, 2011. We shared real-time data with other RTSPs and countries in the Indian Ocean rim." Located at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) in Pragathi Nagar here, TEWC provided seismic and tsunamigenic information to Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, France (La Reunion), India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Yemen. Soon as the earthquake was recorded at a depth of 10 km off the west coast of northern Sumatra, an evaluation message from Hyderabad read: "Sea level observations have confirmed that a TSUNAMI WAS GENERATED." Following the message, Indian Ocean rim countries put their official machinery on high alert and tsunami sirens were sounded in a few countries, including Indonesia. The real-time wave movement was also provided to member-nations. Senior earthquake scientist Dr RK Chadha said since the earthquake in Sumatra was of a high magnitude tremors were felt in several parts of South India, including Chennai, Vijayawada, Nellore, Kakinada, Visakhapatnam, Ongole and Machilipatnam.

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