

English Release 21-October 2011



· Disqualification of Smt. Umlesh Yadav, MLA from Uttar Pradesh for filing incorrect account of election expenditure - suppression of expenditure incurred on "Paid News"

Min of Agriculture

· Shri Pawar Calls for Reforms in Agriculture Marketing

Min of Consumer Affairs, Food & **Public Distribution**

- · FCI Releases its Operational Report
- · National Consumer Helpline Records 12,830 calls in September 2011

Min of Defence

- Indo Oman Air Exercise Eastern Bridge - II Concludes at Jamnagar
- Indo-French Joint Military Training: Ex Shakti - 11
- Admiral Nirmal Verma Draws Attention of Chiefs of Navies to Criticality of United Action Against Piracy
- Interceptor Boat ICGS C-153 to Join Coast Guard Fleet at Porbandar tomorrow

Ministry of Finance

• Need for Better Co-Ordination Between Monetary and Fiscal Policies for Improving Overall Economic Stability and Growth: FM

Min of Health and Family Welfare

• NIMC Inspects Clinics in Delhi and Maharashtra for PC & PNDT Act **Violations**

Min of Labour & Employment

· Protection and Safeguarding the Interests of workers in is the Responsibility of Labour & Employment Ministry - Mallikarjun Kharge

Ministry of Earth Science

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Mock Tsunami Drill -Exercise IOWave11 issues 15 Bulletins Successful RTSP for Entire Indian Ocean Region

The mock tsunami drill, i.e. Exercise IOWave11, was successfully concluded yesterday evening. The exercise was carried between 06 30 Hrs to 18 30 Hrs IST yesterday which re-enacted the events of December 26, 2004, with a 9.2 magnitude earthquake off Northern Sumatra. During the drill, Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC), based out of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences generated and disseminated 15 tsunami bulletins to both its National and Regional Contacts.

This drill also saw UNESCO handing over the responsibility for Indian Ocean tsunami advisories to the Regional Tsunami Advisory Service Providers (RTSPs) of the region (India, Australia, Indonesia). At the regional-level, ITEWC, which is recognized as one of the RTSPs, issued bulletins to 23 other countries in the region. At the national level, this was a first-of-its-kind tsunami drill that involved evacuation of the coastal communities. By the time reports last came in, Disaster Management Authorities of Andaman & Nicobar, West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Lakshadweep, National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Home Affairs, Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, National Disaster Response Force, National Hydrographic Office, Port Authorities of Chennai, Ennore, Kandla, New Mangalore, Paradeep and Nuclear Power Stations of Koodankulam, Madras and Tarapore participated in the drill. Each agency is learnt to have taken the drill down to different levels, involving their field units, district-level officials, mandal-level officials, line departments and public, as appropriate. Authorities executed village/community level evacuation in Maharashtra (Chowk, Arnada, Palm, Chikle, Varsoli, Chanje, Murud, Srivardhan, Kasop, Deobad), Odisha (Purnabandha, Narasinghpurpatana, Pipal, Ramnagar, Nuagaon, Krushnagar) and Puducherry (Pillai Chavadi). A host of last-mile communication systems such as sms-based alerts, megaphones, etc were used by the local authorities to alert coastal population.

During the drill, the ITEWC successfully exercised its enhanced decision support system capable of generating and disseminating national and regional bulletins simultaneously using SMS, Fax, email, Web & GTS. While the centre has been providing national bulletins since October 2007, successful participation in this drill marks its graduation to an RTSP for the entire Indian Ocean region.

Dr. M. Sashidhar Reddy, Hon. Vice Chairman, NDMA visited INCOIS to witness the tsunami drill. He appreciated the efforts of ITEWC for spearheading the drill and congratulated all the participating agencies. He reiterated the need to have such drills to enhance tsunami awareness and preparedness.

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Min of Minority Affairs

- The Share Capital Contribution to National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation Crosses Rs. 1,062 Crore
- Over Rs. 76 Crore Released by National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation under The term Loan and Micro Financing Schemes

Min of Road Transport & Highways

 Physical Planning & Works Minister of Nepal Calls on DR. C. P. Joshi

Min of Social Justice & Empowerment

National Policy for Welfare of Senior Citizens

Min of Textiles

 NIFT & FIT New York Establishe Academic Linkages

Min of Urban Development

 Kamal Nath emphasizes the need to have user friendly guidelines and processes including online systems and calls for fast-tracking decisions in DDA UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova and Executive Secretary of Intergovenmental Oceanographic Commission congratulated the representatives of the three RTSPs through a video-conference. Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO, Shri. Vinay Sheel Oberoi also joined the video conference from Paris and conveyed his congratulatory message.

Union Minister for Earth Sciences, Shri Vilas Rao Deshmukh congratulated the scientists and officials of MoES, NDMA and MHA for successfully organizing IOWave 11, involving all regional and national stakeholders.

Dr. Shailesh Nayak, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences commended the efforts of INCOIS and participating agencies for successfully executing IOWave11 tsunami drill and also demonstrating its capability as an Indian Ocean RTSP. Dr. Nayak also recalled the efforts of NIOT, SOI, IMD, ICMAM and other institutions in establishing and maintaining the tsunami and earthquake observation networks.

KP

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