



## Quake, tsunami alert spark

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CHENNAI: The tsunami generated by the earthquake in Indonesia led to a 10 cm rise in sea water level in Chennai and Visakhapatnam besides a 40 cm increase in Campbell Bay in the Nicobars, Dr Satheesh C Shenoi, Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad said on Wednesday.

Speaking to Express from Hyderabad, Dr Shenoi said data generated through infrastructure, including tide gauges and tsunami buoys in Andaman and Nicobar, suggested that the tsunami was weak and would not affect India's coastline. "Change in sea water level is not unusual. In view of the earthquake this can be expected," he said.

Shenoi said the Indonesian quake occurred at 2.11 pm. "In six minutes, we were able to detect this. Within eight minutes our first bulletin was out." The first bulletin cautioned that a quake of this magnitude could possibly trigger a tsunami. By 2.48 pm, the second bulletin was released. In this bulletin, three islands in Andaman and Nicobar were put on warning. Tamil Nadu and Andhra coastline were put on alert and the rest of India was put on watch. In the third bulletin issued at 3.38 pm, Kerala was put on alert. By 6.30 pm, in the 6th and final bulletin, all alerts were withdrawn. Interestingly, all the Indian Ocean Rim countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Mozambique and Iran were alerted within eight minutes of the earthquake in Indonesia by INCOIS.