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India guards Pakistan

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Their soldiers may be standing along the northern and western borders looking eye-to-eye with fingers well trenched on the triggers of most sophisticated rifles and canons. But the Indian scientists ensure the safety of Pakistan from natural disasters like tsunamis and cyclones!

It may sound unbelievable to ordinary mortals but the truth is that the tsunami buoys and bottom pressure recorders developed by the scientists of Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) Hyderabad and the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) Chennai, protect all countries along the Indian Ocean Rim including Pakistan from the fury of the nature.

The Tsunami Buoys and Bottom Pressure Recorders (two each) installed in the Arabian Sea (some 400 km off Mumbai Coast) provide the scientists of the Regional Tsunami Early Warning Centre at Hyderabad with real time data about the behavior and characteristics of the Arabian sea and the Indian Ocean on a round-the-clock basis. "Any abnormalities noticed in the Coast of Makran adjoining Pakistan are analysed by the scientists of the RTEWC and the results are conveyed to the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan. They will get nearly 20 minutes to launch the rescue and evacuation measures in the eventuality of a tsunami," Dr Satish Shenoi, director, INCOIS, told DNA.

Srinivas Kumar, head, the RTEWC, Hyderabad, said the Tsunami Buoys and BPRs are installed in Bay of Bengal also. "We can detect even minute characteristics of the seas ranging from Gulf of Malaca to the Makran Coast and detect the possibilities of a tsunami within seconds. All countries along the Indian Ocean Rim depend on us for early warnings on tsunamis and cyclones originating in this region," said Dr Kumar.

The Ministry of Mines, Government of India, did not have to think twice before selecting the tsunami warning system developed by Dr Kumar and his associates as the best scientific achievement by the country in 2011. "The achievement should be seen in the backdrop of the tsunami waves in 2004 December, which ravaged more than a dozen countries and claimed more than 2,00,000 lives," said Dr M Atmanand, director, NIOT.

The Bottom Pressure Recorders and buoys detect sea surface and bottom temperature, pressure, wind speed and direction and transfer the data in a flash of a second to the RTEWC. "These data are sufficient to detect a possible tsunami attack hidden in the bottom of the sea," said Dr Shenoi. The beauty of this scientific achievement, according to Dr Atmanand, is that a sense of love and concern could disarm even your enemies.

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