

City to be tsunami spotter hub

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Hyderabad

The first-of its-kind early warning system for tsunamis in the Indian Ocean will be set up in Hyderabad within a few months.

The facility, developed with indigenous technology, will be located at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services in the city.

It will be connected with field stations across the country and will analyse wave movement in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea to detect tsunamis triggered by under-sea quakes.

Indian tide gauge network centres are being set up simultaneously at many coastal areas including Nizampatnam in Guntur. The State already has two such centres at Visakhapatnam and Machilipatnam.

There is also a Global Spectral Model centre at Visakhapatnam and an Analogue Earthquake Centre at Vijayawada.

Sources said that the early warning system in Hyderabad would share crucial information with international community in case of earthquakes beyond a magnitude of six on the Richter scale.

It will be linked with Port Blair, Bhuj and Shillong for effective and quick monitoring of data.

The facility at INCOIS and the India Met Department in New Delhi have equipment which can analyse wave formation data and issue warnings within 10 and 20 minutes.

The Hyderabad centre will monitor the two tsunami-prone zones, Andaman-Sumatra trench and the Makran coast. It will be the sole centre which will have the capability to detect tsunamis generated in the two zones.

An Interim Tsunami Warning Centre has been functioning round-the-clock at INCOIS for the past two years and has been getting data from various agencies including the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre.