

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

## India unveils tsunami warning system

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HYDERABAD: India on Monday unveiled its own tsunami early warning system put together by its scientists, three years after being caught off guard by the giant killer waves that wreaked havoc along the country's southern coastline.

The National Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in the Indian Ocean was dedicated to the nation by Minister of Earth Sciences Kapil Sibal in Hyderabad at an impressive ceremony attended by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy, top scientists and senior government officials.

The tsunami warning centre, which has taken shape at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) here, will issue alerts for the killer waves within 30 minutes of an earthquake.

"We had promised to put in place a tsunami warning system soon after the December 2004 tsunami devastated many coastal parts of the country. We deliver the system today," Sibal said after the inauguration.

The Centre has been established by Ministry of Earth Sciences at a cost of Rs.125 crore in collaboration with Department of Science and Technology, Department of Space and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The Centre will generate and give timely advisories to the Ministry of Home Affairs for dissemination to the public for which a satellite-based virtual private network for disaster management support has been established.

This network enables early warning centre to disseminate warnings to the MHA, as well as to the state emergency operations centres.