

Centre seeks land for tsunami warning centre

Local MRO asked to verify site in Ranga Reddy

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HYDERABAD: The Ministry of Science and Technology has approached the Ranga Reddy district administration for a 10-acre site to set up a full-fledged tsunami warning centre at Gajularamaram here.

The communication, which was received by the district Collector's office two days ago, wanted the site adjacent to the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) where an interim early warning system is already operational.

"The local Mandal Revenue Officer has been asked to verify the site and based on his report, we will inform the

- **Site adjacent to Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services favoured**

- **Additional land sought to accommodate huge paraphernalia**

State Government about the land," RR District Joint Collector V.Seshadri said.

Topography suitable

The tsunami observatory would be part of the INCOIS, which initially started with 50 acres. Since the new facility would come up with huge paraphernalia that include a series of big antennas, the additional land was sought.

The topography of the land adjacent to the existing cam-

pus being found suitable, the district administration was approached. About six big antennas, some of them with a diameter of seven metres, will be set up here along with key infrastructure needed to receive real time data.

Budget available

The existing facility is not adequate to accommodate all that and we proposed for more land," INCOIS Director Sailesh Nayak said.

The budget required for equipment and civil works was available and work would begin once the land was made available, Dr. Nayak said. "The topography is important for locating the antennas and we found the adjoining land to be suitable for the purpose," he added.

Decision left to State

The district administration said once the status of the land was assessed the same would be informed to the State Government with a copy marked to the Ministry of Science and Technology. "It is for the Government to decide and work out the modalities," Mr. Seshadri said.