

DECCAN Chronicle

Hyderabad * Tuesday * 26 July 2011

NEW-AGE TECH

3D GIS maps to help secure coastal belt

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

July 25: The coastal belt will now be more protected from tsunamis and cyclonic floods as the city-based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (Incois) is due to come out with multi-hazard vulnerability maps. These maps will pinpoint the exact areas liable to be submerged in case of natural calamities.

"We know coastal areas

are vulnerable to tsunamis, cyclonic floods and storm surges. But till now we did not know which areas were prone to be submerged. Using the latest digital technology we are now mapping the entire coastal belt. This will help us zero in on the exact localities which have a high risk of being affected when a natural disaster hits the coast. Using the maps, we can take precautionary measures and prevent loss of lives," said Incois scientist

The mapping will consider all coastal hazards arising from sea level rise, coastal erosion, wave action, storm surges and tsunamis.

Dr RS Mahendra.

He said Incois is ready with multi-hazard vulnerability maps of the Tamil

Nadu and Andhra coasts which will focus on all disaster-prone areas.

In highly vulnerable areas along the coast with high population density, Incois will come out with special 3-D GIS maps, which will be even more accurate and highly informative. The mapping will consider all coastal hazards arising from sea level rise, coastal erosion, wave action, storm surges and tsunamis.

The Incois team used

parameters like historical storm surge heights, future sea level, future shoreline and high resolution coastal topography to identify areas prone to natural calamities. The coastal population is under threat due to future storms, erosion and accelerated sea level rise. "The Incois maps will become vital tools for coastal disaster management in the event of a natural crisis and to take a suitable decision on future developments," he added.