



Soon, 3D protocol to detect tsunamis faster

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Hyderabad: The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) is developing a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based on 3D protocol, which will ensure that the coastal areas are better prepared to face tsunamis and cyclones. Through this protocol, scientists will be able to identify buildings and their surrounding areas, likely to be affected in the event of a tsunami, quickly and thus help in faster evacuation.

Addressing the media after the inaugural session of a national workshop on 'Indian tsunami early warning system progress, challenges and future road map' in the city on Friday, Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Harsh Vardhan, said details of both living beings and structures



Union minister Harsh Vardhan and his deputy Y Sujana Chowdary at a conference on challenges in tsunami early warning system, held in Hyderabad on Friday

in the coastal areas would be available in the 3D protocol. The pilot project is underway at Cuddalore and Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu and would be replicated in other areas based on its success, the minister said. According to sources, 3D protocol field surveys are likely to be conducted soon in Machilipatnam and Kakinada.

Harsh Vardhan recalled that a tsunami had hit the Indian coast in 1945 but people got to know of the destruction caused by such calamities only post the tsunami of 2004 in south-east Asia, which adversely affected Tamil Nadu too. The Indian Tsunami Early warning Centre (ITEWC) at INCOIS is gathering information not only for the benefit

of the countries in the Indian Ocean, but also in the Pacific Ocean, the minister said.

Currently, ITEWC is capable of detecting tsunami-genic earthquakes within 10 minutes of its occurrence and issue alerts to all concerned. Referring to the flawless functioning of ITEWC, he said that the Centre did not issue even one false alarm during the last seven years of its existence.

Union minister of state for science and technology Y Sujana Chowdary said the government wants to involve the private sector in its efforts to put in place a strong tsunami advance alert system. "A trained workforce will help the government handle disaster management better," he said.

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— **Harsh Vardhan**, UNION MINISTER FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES