

+ Decoding the tsunami threat

School and college students attend open house at INCOIS



Schoolchildren making sense of the functioning of Tsunami Early Warning Centre at INCOIS on the occasion of 3rd World Tsunami Awareness Day on Monday. •BY ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

A special model exhibition and other demonstrations marked the open house programme at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) on the occasion of the 3rd World Tsunami Awareness Day here on Monday.

Students from nine colleges and schools visited the campus to interact with scientists to understand the functioning of the Tsunami Early Warning Centre located on campus with the help of audio-visual aids.

Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR-Bangalore) scientist C. P. Rajendran gave a special lecture on the occasion detailing the basics of tsunami science, and available data along with an overview of historical and geological tsunami records.

Geologic evidence in Andaman and Nicobar for major tsunamis in the 5th, 10th, and 14th centuries CE and six pre-1960 events over the past 2000 years.

Tsunamis, though low in frequency, cause irrep-

arable damage and the only way to mitigate such disasters is to keep public alert and aware, Mr. Rajendran said.

UN General Assembly has instituted World Tsunami Awareness Day and called on all countries, international bodies and civil society to observe the day, in order to raise tsunami awareness and share innovative approaches to risk reduction.

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO works to coordinate national and regional tsunami early warning services, raising global awareness about effective actions, policies and practices to reduce exposure to disaster risk through its four Tsunami Warning and Mitigation Systems for the Pacific, Indian Ocean, Caribbean, and North-Eastern Atlantic, Mediterranean and Connected Sea regions.

Tsunami early warning centre here is recognised by IOC-UNESCO as a Tsunami Warning Service Provider for the Indian Ocean serving 25 Indian Ocean Rim countries, a press release said.