

**Tsunami Warning Centre to be functional by September**

VISAKHAPATNAM: The Tsunami Warning Centre of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) at Hyderabad will start its full-fledged operations from September 2007. The Tsunami Warning Centre is being established at a cost of Rs 125 crore and it will be a major breakthrough in detecting tsunamis for India and nearby countries.

INCOIS Director Shailesh Nayak told newsmen here on Monday that INCOIS detected 28 earthquakes in the sea near Indian coastal areas which could have possibly turned into tsunamis. Fortunately, these earthquakes died before reaching the coast, thus averting a major mishap.

Presently, INCOIS is able to detect the earthquake occurred in the middle of the sea and confirm whether it would turn into a tsunami within 30 minutes after its occurrence. However, efforts are on to further reduce this time in view of the safety of people living in coastal areas, he said.

Apart from providing information on tsunami, INCOIS has taken up pilot projects on forecast in about 20 coastal villages of Pondicherry which were identified as vulnerable to ocean calamities.

It is also taking up projects on ocean wave forecast. Andhra University will provide technical expertise to INCOIS in such projects, Shailesh Nayak said.