

— | Country's first tsunami warning centre to begin work in Hyderabad from June 15 | —

# India to alert nations on tsunami

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CHENNAI

**June 7:** From next Sunday, India will become the 'official' Regional Tsunami Warning Centre for countries in the Indian Ocean Region. Scientists of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) at Hyderabad are busy with last-minute checking of a host of hi-tech equipment and software developed by the country's

scientists. "For the last two months, we are working with the Pacific Tsunami Centre at Hawaii. Now, it is time for us to function independently," said Dr Shailesh Nayak, director, INCOIS.

Dr Nayak told this newspaper that from June 15, INCOIS would monitor, analyse and disseminate all information regarding tsunami, earthquake and the intensity of the possible inundation to all the countries falling under the Indian

Ocean rim. "It is a gradual process. To begin with, we will collect all information about earthquakes in the Indian Ocean region. We have the capability to detect

tremors well in advance and can confirm whether they are tsunamigenic," said Dr Nayak.

The INCOIS scientists can also predict the travel time

and intensity of the earthquakes. "Depending upon the data supplied to us by the countries about their topographies, we can analyse the quakes thread-

## What is special about INCOIS

- Scientists can predict the travel time and intensity of quakes
- INCOIS will soon be a storehouse of advance information
- INCOIS will provide details about the ocean behaviour
- It is now possible to minimise the disaster of tsunamis

bare," said Dr Nayak, a remote sensing specialist.

The second phase, expected anytime in the next six months, will see INCOIS predicting even minute abnormalities in the ocean behaviour. "With this information, we would be able to predict to the dot about the intensity of the likely inundation due to the tsunami attack," said Dr Nayak.

INCOIS will provide routine details about the ocean behaviour and other para-

meters to countries in the Indian Ocean rim based on the bilateral agreement. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in its meeting held in Malaysia in April this year had recognised INCOIS as a full-fledged tsunami warning centre. The foolproof tsunami warning system developed by INCOIS scientists led by Dr Nayak had come in for special appreciation by the international agency.