

West Coast begins tsunami mock drill

Second drill will be conducted at 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday

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At the stroke of 11.30 a.m. on Tuesday, an earthquake with a magnitude of 9.0 in Makran Trench south of Iran was simulated triggering evacuation of about 90,000 people living in certain vulnerable coastal villages of Goa, Gujarat and Maharashtra as part of a major Indian Ocean wide tsunami mock drill - IOWave18.

India along with 23 other countries are participating in the two-day exercise which is fifth in the series in the last nine years and is being organised by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, which has coordinated the setting up of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS) after the December 26, 2004 tsunami.

"The exercise is being conducted in real time lasting for around 12 hours and the IOTWMS will issue 15 tsunami bulletins in all through satellite, email, fax, SMS and on website to coastal States on the west coast and countries of the Indian Ocean too," explained S.S.C. Shenoi, Director, Indian Nation-



Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services officials engaged in the tsunami mock drill on west coast.

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al Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) here.

Four villages of two districts in Gujarat in Kutch and Jamnagar, four villages in four districts of Maharashtra and North Goa and Agatti in Lakshadweep Islands had participated.

"Karnataka and Kerala too have been involved but they expressed their inability to take the exercise to the coastal villages communities because of the current flood situation. We will be testing the warning system from tsunami detection and forecast, threat evaluation and alert formulation, alert dissemination to public and

their awareness and response of departments, etc," said E. Pattabhi Rama Rao, Head, Ocean Observations & Data Management Group - Tsunami & Storm Surge Early Warning Services Group, INCOIS.

National Disaster Management Agency's senior consultant Maj. Gen. V.K. Naik, as the observer contacted the participating States down to community level to verify their receipt of bulletins and responses. On Wednesday, the exercise will continue simulating an earthquake of magnitude 9.3 at Northern Sumatra, Indonesia at 8.30 a.m. (IST).