

Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC)
ESSO - Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS),
Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India, Hyderabad

Press Brief on IOWave18 Tsunami mock Exercise on 4th September, 2018

India, along with 23 other Indian Ocean Nations, is participating in a major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise (drill) on 4th & 5th September, 2018. The Exercise, known as IOWave18, is being organised by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, which coordinated the setting up of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS) in the aftermath of the 26 December 2004 tsunami.

Today's IOWave18 Exercise comprised of a simulation of an earthquake with a magnitude of 9.0 in the Makran Trench south of Iran at 1130 IST. The exercise is being conducted in real time lasting for around 12 hours and ITEWC will issue 15 tsunami bulletins in all, to both national and regional stakeholders through GTS, email, fax, SMS as well as on website.

In India, IOWave18 is being coordinated by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) with support from National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the Coastal States/UTs.

In Today's exercise three states from the western coast of India participated down to community level with evacuations i.e. Maharashtra (five districts) , Gujarat (two districts) , Goa (two districts) and Agatti in Lakshadweep Islands (where officials alerted fishermen along with notable participation from marine and coastal police) The end-to-end warning system from tsunami detection and forecast, threat evaluation and alert formulation, alert dissemination to public and their awareness and response was put to test during this exercise.

Major General (Retd) Dr. V.K. Naik, Senior Consultant, NDMA acted as the observer for this exercise and contacted the participating states down to community level to verify their receipt of bulletins and responses.

Tomorrow on 5th September '18 the exercise will continue with the second scenario simulating an earthquake with the magnitude of 9.3 at Northern Sumatra, Indonesia at 0830 IST . All eastern coastal states are expected to participate till community level.