

## INCOIS sizes up emergency preparedness

44 coastal districts and 375 villages participate in mock tsunami drill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

Till 8.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the entire east coast of the country was put on high alert and people living in select villages on the coastline across different States were evacuated as a preparatory measure in case of a tsunami on the second day of 'IO-Wave18', the mock drill conducted across 24 nations of the Indian Ocean.

The second earthquake simulation was 9.3 at northern Sumatra, Indonesia, at 8.30 a.m. and within minutes, real-time alerts lasting for 12 hours to help generate 15 bulletins to both international, national and regional stakeholders were sent through global tracking systems, email, fax, SMS and websites.

"In all our previous exercises, we have noticed that emails were found to be the most effective means of communication to reach the authorities concerned at the community level. We will soon know which mode had the better reach this time," said E. Pattabhi Rama Rao,

Head, Ocean Observations & Data Management Group-Tsunami & Storm Surge Early Warning Services Group, INCOIS, who also coordinated the drill.

INCOIS with the support of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) conducted the exercise with the participation of east coast States from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu down south.

INCOIS Director S.S.C. Shenoi explained that Odisha saw over a lakh people from 328 villages of six districts participating this time.

Also, more than 1,000 people were evacuated in Andaman & Nicobar islands, 1,200 in three districts of West Bengal, over 5,000 people in 13 districts of Tamil Nadu, more than 8,000 persons in nine districts of A.P. and 100 evacuees in Puducherry.

Altogether, 44 coastal districts and 375 villages of nine States and Union Territory participated in the mock tsunami drill.



Major General N. Srinivas Rao, General Officer Commanding, TS and A.P. Sub Area, interacting with the authorities of INCOIS on Wednesday. • BY ARRANGEMENT

## Army officer visits INCOIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

General Officer Commanding, Telangana and Andhra Sub Area, Major General N. Srinivas Rao visited the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) on the sidelines of State-level Tsunami Mock Drill: IOWave-18 held for nine coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh and other States on the second day.

The officer was briefed about the activities being carried out by INCOIS as

part of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines and specifically with regards to the latest exercise by its Director S.S.C. Shenoi.

He also visited the Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC) based at INCOIS and appreciated the services being extended to various government agencies through its research activities. He suggested closer interaction with disaster management authorities to make them tsunami-ready.