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Sujana's remark creates a buzz

Special Correspondent

HYDERABAD: An off-the-cuff remark by Union Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Y.S. Chowdary that Hyderabad has the potential to create political tsunamis created a flutter, at least for a few moments, at a function here on Friday.

He made the remark in a lighter vein at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) in the presence of his senior colleague and Union Minister for Science & Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan when the latter delivered the inaugural speech at a national seminar on tsunami early warning system. During his speech, Dr. Harsh Vardhan said he

was not aware of the existence of INCOIS till he took over the portfolio recently. "Initially, I wondered why the institution is located in Hyderabad which is far away from the coastline but Secretary to the Ministry Shailesh Nayak explained to me that INCOIS was strategically located in Hyderabad which was less vulnerable to earthquakes," the Union Minister said.

There was silence for few moments before the hall erupted into laughter when Mr. Chowdary intervened and said: "Hyderabad may not have the problem of tsunamis but it has the potential to create political tsunamis. Political tsunamis occur here and we have witnessed them in the past."

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Tsunami warning soon in all vulnerable areas

B. Chandrashekhara

HYDERABAD: Union Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Harsh Vardhan has said that the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) will soon extend its GIS-based 3D protocol on tsunami warning to all vulnerable areas in the country with new methodologies and improved warning procedures.

The protocol is in place for Cuddalore and Nagapattinam of Tamil Nadu, and 3D mapping will be ready for the rest of the tsunami-prone areas too.

At the inaugural session of

a national workshop on "Indian tsunami early-warning system: progress, challenges and future road map" organised here on Friday to commemorate 10 years of the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami, Dr. Harsh Vardhan said details of every person living in vulnerable areas would be mapped. The pilot project in Cuddalore and Nagapattinam would be extended to other areas.

Hailing the efficacy of the system developed by INCOIS, he said it did not issue even one false warning during the seven years of its existence, even when advanced countries such as Japan had issued several false alerts.