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Govt launches two apps to send alerts on earthquake parameters and oceanic disturbances

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NEW DELHI: The government on Thursday launched two Mobile apps - 'India Quake' for dissemination of earthquake parameters and the other one 'Sagar Vani' to disseminate ocean related information and alerts (like high waves and Tsunami early warnings) to the user community in timely manner for their safety.

Developed by the National Centre for Seismology (NCS), the 'India Quake' will automatically disseminate relevant parameter (location, time and magnitude) after the occurrence of earthquakes.

"The app will make information dissemination faster with no restrictions on the number of recipients. Any citizen can download this App and get the real time earthquake location information on his/her mobile", said the ministry of earth sciences (MoES) in a statement.

It said, "Other than scientific and administrative benefits of the App, it will help in reducing panic amongst people during an earthquake."

Currently, the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) operates national seismological network with 84 stations across the country. These stations are connected to NCS headquarter through VSAT for real time data communication. In the event of an earthquake, the NCS locates them using data from its network and disseminate earthquake parameters to all the concerned government departments and other stakeholders through SMS, email and fax. However this causes some delay in dissemination and also restricts the number of recipients.

"To overcome this, a Mobile App has been developed by the NCS for automatic dissemination of earthquake parameter after the occurrence of earthquakes", said the ministry.

Both the apps -- India Quake and Sagar Vani -- were launched by the MoES and science & technology minister Harsh Vardhan on the occasion of the ministry of earth sciences' foundation day here.

The 'Sagar Vani' is a software platform where various dissemination modes are integrated on a single central server. The App has provisions of multi-lingual SMS, Voice Call, Audio Advisory, Social Media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and Digital Display Boards for dissemination of information.

The system also has facility to provide access to various stakeholders (NGOs, State Fishery Departments and Disaster Management Authorities) so that they too will be able to further disseminate these ocean-related information and alerts to the user community - residents of coastal areas and fishermen.

"This 'Sagar Vani' system compares with the most advanced countries' services in terms of speed of delivery, omni channel capabilities and diverseness of services. With this system, the services will be disseminated in local languages using advanced artificial intelligence and machine learning capabilities", said the ministry.

It said, "For the first time in India, we are also using the power of television and cable network mediums for topical and alert dissemination services".

Presently, the advisories are being disseminated to the stakeholders from different service sections and through various stakeholders and partners, which might cause delay in dissemination of the services.

"In order to effectively and timely disseminate the advisories, directly from the lab to the end user, an Integrated Information

Dissemination System (IDS) -- "SAGAR VANI" -- has been developed by the ESSO-Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) under through the Gaian Solutions Pvt. Ltd.", said the ministry.