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## Centre to focus on Oceanography

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Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Y S Chowdary said that an International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography is being set up by the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.

This was being done as a part of a commitment of the Union government in helping the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)/United Nations Educational and Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in their efforts in capacity building in areas of Operational Oceanography.

The Union Minister was the chief guest at the foundation laying ceremony for the building complex of the International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCO-Ocean) here on Monday.

The building complex is being constructed within the campus of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) at Pragathi Nagar.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the Centre wants to promote Operational Oceanography for it plays an important role in translating the benefits of Science for the common public, a few examples being potential fishing zone advisories for fishermen, ocean state forecasts for mariners, tsunami and storm surge early warnings and many more.

Malkajgiri MP Malla Reddy said that the youth were playing an important role in nation building. INCOIS director Dr Satheesh Shenoji explained the purpose of the training centre and its contribution in providing Oceanographic services to the general public, who depend on the sea for their livelihood and commercial activities.

Since INCOIS has already been at the forefront of providing such operational services, the Government of India chose to establish ITC Ocean at INCOIS. Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) also signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with IOC/UNESCO on July 4, 2013 to co-operate in the capacity development programmes.

Dr Satheesh also remarked that this centre shows the confidence of international community in the achievements of India, especially in the field of Operational Oceanography. For this, the Govt already allocated Rs 100 crore over a period of five years. He mentioned that the ITCO ocean building complex will comprise of the Academic block and an International Hostel.

**Tags** Y S Chowdary (<http://metroindia.com/search/tags/Y-S-Chowdary>) International Training Centre (<http://metroindia.com/search/tags/International-Training-Centre>) Operational Oceanography (<http://metroindia.com/search/tags/Operational-Oceanography>)



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