



## Massive Tsunami Drill Begins on Indian Ocean Region

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**New Delhi:** Massive tsunami drill has begun this morning. 23 nations on the Indian Ocean are participating in the drill, with the coordination of UNESCO. The drill will last more than 15 hours.

A tsunami is usually triggered by an earthquake, land slide or a volcanic explosion under the sea. The energy released by these events travels in a wave over long distances, causing massive damage in coastal belts.

Most of coastal India is at risk and mock drills help keep the systems ready to handle any eventualities.

The first drill was conducted at 8.30 am, with a 9.2 magnitude simulated quake in the south of Sumatra. A tsunami by a real quake in the area will hit the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the whole of east coast, including Chennai.

The seismic event will be recorded by the Indian Tsunami Early Warning Center in Hyderabad and within 10 minutes, the center will issue its first advisory. A tsunami from the Indonesia region usually takes around 3 hours to hit India, so there will be sufficient time to evacuate the people.

Special efforts are being made to evacuate nearly 40,000 people after the warning has been issued.

On Thursday, an earthquake of 9 magnitude will be simulated in the Makran Trench, south of Iran and Pakistan. India's west coast would be in the way of a resulting tsunami.

The Tsunami Warning Network was established after the 2004 tsunami that killed more than 3 lakh people in the Indian Ocean region. India set up its Tsunami Warning Center in 2007 at a cost of Rs. 85 crore. India is sharing its tsunami warning advise with Pakistan.