

Tsunami drill on 7th and 8th September

By -

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An advertisement for 'digITal Goa SMS & Whatsapp News Service'. The background is a dark blue gradient. At the top, the text 'digITal Goa SMS & Whatsapp News Service' is written in white and red. Below this, there are two icons: a smartphone with an 'SMS' bubble and a green WhatsApp logo. To the right is a map of Goa with the text 'Goa News' and a circular arrow icon with '360°'. In the center, there are two white boxes with black text: 'Instant updates of major news developments' and 'Other News Across Goa + National Headlines + Events of the day + Exclusive News Roundup of Goan News Papers'. At the bottom, the slogan 'We Know What You Want to Know!' is written in a large, white, serif font.

India, along with 23 other Indian Ocean Nations will participate in a major Indian ocean-wide [Tsunami](#) mock drill on September 7 and 8, 2016.

The drill will involve the evacuation of around 35,000 people from the coastal communities mostly in Odisha and also in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, [Andhra Pradesh](#), Tamil Nadu, [West Bengal](#), Kerala, Gujarat and Goa. The end-to-end warning system from tsunami detection and forecast, threat evaluation and alert formulation, alert dissemination to public and their awareness and response will be put to test during this mock drill.

The drill, known as IOWave16, is being organised by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the [UNESCO](#), which coordinated the setting up of Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS) in the aftermath of the December 26, 2004 tsunami.

The Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC), based out of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences,

is capable of detecting tsunamigenic earthquakes within 10 minutes of the occurrence of earthquake on the sea bed and issue timely tsunami advisories to disaster management officials as well as to the vulnerable communities. This state-of-the-art warning centre, operational since October 2007, has all necessary computational & communication infrastructure for the reception of real-time data from seismic & sea-level networks, tsunami modeling, as well as generation and dissemination of tsunami bulletins for the entire Indian Ocean region. The ITEWC functions as one of the Tsunami Service Providers (TSP) for the IOTWMS and provides operational tsunami information to all the Indian Ocean rim countries. ITEWC will participate in this drill both in its capacity as National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) and as one of the Tsunami Service Provider (TSP) for the Indian Ocean region.

IOWave16 will comprise two scenarios: the first will simulate an earthquake with a magnitude of 9.2 south of Sumatra, Indonesia, on 7 September at 0830 IST and the second will simulate an earthquake with a magnitude of 9.0 in the Makran Trench south of Iran and Pakistan on 8 September (1130 IST). Both exercises will be conducted in real time lasting for about 12 hours and ITEWC will issue 15 tsunami bulletins to both national and regional stakeholders through GTS, email, fax, SMS as well as web.

The major objectives of IOWave16 include testing the efficiency of communication links between TSPs, NTWCs, Disaster Management offices and local communities at risk. The drill will also facilitate exercising the standard operating procedures of the emergency services and evaluating their state of readiness to handle tsunami like emergency situations. Most importantly, IOWave16 is expected to enhance the awareness and preparedness among all stakeholders including the vulnerable communities.

In India, IOWave16 is being coordinated by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) with support from [National Disaster Management Authority](#) (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the Coastal States/UTs.