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INCOIS scientists bag national honour

- Special Correspondent

A team of scientists from the Hyderabad-based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has been bestowed with the National Geosciences Award for the development of an Ocean Forecast and Information System for maritime safety and boosting the country's blue economy.

The award has been instituted by the Union Ministry of Mines.

The team led by Malayali scientist T.M. Balakrishnan Nair and comprising R. Harikumar, P.A. Francis and K.G. Sandhya developed the system which monitors the state of the ocean and issues alerts to fishermen, oil industries, shipping, ports and harbours, maritime boards, coastal tourism departments, marine police, Navy and Coast Guard.

By predicting the sea state during the severe cyclones Phailin and Hudhud, the system had helped to save lives and property. Almost a million people are estimated to be using the information on a daily basis for planning their operations in coastal waters and the deep sea.

The state-of-the-art system uses numerical ocean models and ocean observation systems to generate data. With the deployment of the system, India has become one of the few countries with the capability to offer ocean forecast services.

INCOIS has extended the system to the Maldives, Seychelles and Sri Lanka.

The team has also developed a range of products for forecast along shipping routes, web map services, forecast for ports and harbours, marine interactive safety tool, search and rescue aid tool and offshore wind energy maps.

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