

**Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)
Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India, Hyderabad**

Press Release

IOWave25 Tsunami Mock Exercise

India, along with several other Indian Ocean nations, is participating in a major Indian Ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise IOWave25, organized by the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS) under UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). The IOWave25 exercise is being conducted in four scenarios across the region on 15th September for Sunda Trench, 15th October for Makran Trench, 25th October for Fani Maore Volcano and 05th November 2025 for Sumatra Trench. The purpose of mock Exercise is to increase tsunami preparedness, evaluate response capabilities in each state and improve coordination throughout the region. The drill will facilitate exercising the standard operating procedures (SOPs) of the emergency services and evaluating their state of readiness to handle tsunami like emergency situations. The aim is to exercise all levels of the tsunami warning and response chain, with a primary focus on the local coastal community level.

The Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC), established and operated by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), functions as one of the Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) for the Indian Ocean region. It provides tsunami advisories to India and 26 Indian Ocean rim countries. ITEWC will participate in the IOWave25 exercise in its dual capacity as both the National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) for India and as a TSP for the Indian Ocean region. During the mock exercise, ITEWC will issue test tsunami bulletins to both national and regional stakeholders through GTS, email, fax, SMS as well as on website.

In India, the IOWave25 exercise is being coordinated by INCOIS, in close association with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). Coastal Disaster Management Organizations (DMOs) of States and Union Territories, the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, NDRF, critical coastal installations, ports and harbours, and other maritime stakeholders will actively participate in the exercise. Out of the four regional scenarios, India will take part in two: (i) A simulated magnitude 9.0 earthquake in the Makran Trench (off Pakistan coast) on 15th October 2025 at 11:30 IST, covering the West Coast of India and Lakshadweep Islands, (ii) A simulated magnitude 9.2 earthquake in the Sumatra Trench (off Northern Sumatra, Indonesia) on 05th November 2025 at 08:30 IST, covering the East Coast of India and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Each exercise will run in real-time for 12 hours, during which ITEWC will issue 15 test bulletins. Due care will be taken to ensure the public is not inadvertently alarmed.

“These exercises will provide a valuable opportunity for all stakeholders to test their tsunami warning and response mechanisms, enhances public awareness, and strengthens overall preparedness. They also help to identify and address any gaps in the warning and communication chain,” said Dr. T. M. Balakrishnan Nair, Director, INCOIS.

IOWave25 Exercise will offer an excellent opportunity for Tsunami Ready implementing States and UTs to demonstrate their level of preparedness in line with the indicators of the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP). The exercise will help evaluate the effectiveness of community-based preparedness measures, response mechanisms, and public awareness initiatives towards achieving and sustaining “Tsunami Ready” status.

In preparation for the IOWave25 exercise, an online workshop was jointly organized by IOTWMS and INCOIS with more than 120 officials during 4–6 August 2025 with an aim to familiarize coastal state stakeholders with the exercise framework and streamlining their SOPs. A detailed IOWave25 Manual, including exercise procedures, test bulletin formats, and feedback forms, have been circulated to all participants. Post the Mock-exercise feedback exercise will in identifying potential gaps in communication channels and operational procedures, ensuring improved coordination and readiness for future tsunami threats.

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INCOIS, Hyderabad