

Ocean forecasting system unveiled

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences here inaugurated the Ocean Forecasting System for Comoros, Madagascar, and Mozambique at the third Ministerial Meeting of Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Asia and Africa (RIMES), held at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, on Friday.

The ocean forecast and early warning information on high wave, currents, winds, tides, sub-surface ocean conditions cater to users like fishermen, coastal population, tourism sector, coastal defence officials, marine police, port authorities, research institutions and offshore industries of these countries.

Safety at sea

These ocean services are aimed towards safety at the sea.

The system would offer oil spill advisory services, high wave alerts, port warnings, forecast along the ship routes in addition to tsunami and storm surge warnings and help in search and rescue operations.

New system launched

M. Rajeevan, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, and Chair, RIMES Council, launched the system for operational use in the presence of David Grimms, President of World Meteorological Organization (WMO); Wesley Nukund, Minister for Disaster Management, Papua New Guinea; Soulaïmana Kaambi, Deputy Minister, Comoros; Abdullahi Majeed, Minister of Disaster Management, Maldives; Anura Priyadharshana Yapa Yapa, Minister of Disaster Management, Sri Lanka; Subbaiah, Director of RIMES; Balakrishnan Nair, Head, ISG, INCOIS and Director General of Metrology and Disaster Management of 48 countries of Indian and Pacific Ocean region.

The INCOIS has already been providing these operational services to the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Seychelles.

The Ministerial council and the WMO lauded and placed on record the initiatives of INCOIS/India in providing the ocean forecast and early warning services to the Indian Ocean countries and taking a leadership in ocean services in the Indian Ocean region.

Real-time data

“The Ocean Forecast System developed for the Indian Ocean countries and the real-time data from their territories also help to improve the ocean forecast and early warning system for the Indian coast too,” said Balakrishnan Nair, Head, Ocean Science and Information Services, Hyderabad.

Wave surge (*kallkadal*) and coastal flooding that occurred from July 28 to August 3 in 2016 along Kerala and West Bengal were well predicted and real-time data from Seychelles were highly beneficial for predicting these incidents, as many of these remotely forced waves originated from the southern and western Indian Ocean, he added.

The ocean forecast and early warning services were most essential for safe navigation and operations at sea and the blue economic growth of many of these Indian Ocean rim countries and island nations.

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