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No fear of tsunami in India, say experts

TNN | Apr 12, 2012, 02:14AM IST



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HYDERABAD: There is no fear of [tsunami](#) hitting the east coast of India following the massive [earthquake](#) off the coast of Indonesia's Aceh province, according to the [Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre](#) (ITEWC) at the Indian National Centre for [Ocean Information Services](#) (Incois) in Hyderabad.

T [Srinivas Kumar](#), head of the ITEWC, told TOI on Wednesday evening that based on observations and model simulations, there was no threat of a tsunami in India. "There is no threat to the east coast. We will, however, be constantly monitoring the developments," he said.

Incois recorded the 8.5 magnitude earthquake off the west coast of northern Sumatra at 2.08 pm (IST) with a depth of 10 km at 2.4 N latitude and 93.07 E longitude. Incois has described the earthquake as 'great'. It recorded the earthquake within six minutes eight seconds of it occurring off the west coast of north Sumatra.

"Earthquakes of this size sometimes have the potential to generate tsunamis. But so far there is no confirmation about any triggering of a tsunami. The centre will monitor sea level gauges near the epicentre and report if any tsunami wave activity has occurred," Incois said.

By the time it issued its third bulletin, the centre put out three places in the Andaman and Nicobar islands as being under the 'alert' category and several other places under the 'watch' category.

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The centre subsequently issued more bulletins but its fourth bulletin issued at 5.33 pm put the magnitude at 8.2 magnitude.

In its fourth bulletin, the centre put the 'threat status' as 'warning' for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The 'warning' was for the Indira point in Great and Little Nicobar Island, Komatra and Katchal island and North Sentinel island, Flat island, Car Nicobar and Little Andaman.

For as many as six places in coastal Andhra Pradesh, the threat status was put as 'alert' which resulted in the state government machinery gearing up for a possible tsunami. The places included Sriharikota in Nellore, Machilipatnam in Krishna, Kottapatnam region in Prakasam, Kakinada in East Godavari, Visakhapatnam, and Koyyam in Srikakulam district. The `alert' was also for Panaji in Goa, Thiruvananthapuram and Alleppy in Kerala, Cuddalore, Mahabalipuram, Nagapattinam, Chennai and Koodankulam in Tamil Nadu. Some other places were also put in the 'watch' category.

The National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) here has also been monitoring the seismic activity. The head of the seismic observatory, D Srinagesh, told TOI that the centre had recorded the 'giant' earthquake as being of 8.6 magnitude. Another earthquake, perhaps an aftershock of the magnitude of 8.2 was also recorded at 4.13 pm, while the first one of the 8.6 magnitude was recorded at 2.08 pm.

It may be mentioned here that the Tsunami Early Warning Centre under Incois, an autonomous body under the Union ministry of earth sciences, was set up in Hyderabad in October 2007. The decision to establish the TEWC was taken in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami that hit the coasts of India and other Indian Ocean nations. The centre has real-time network of seismic stations, Bottom Pressure Recorders and tide gauges to detect tsunami-genic earthquakes and to monitor tsunamis.

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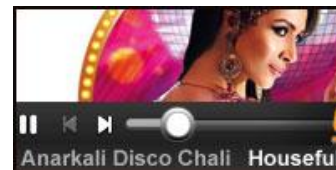
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