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# INCOIS buoys at Seychelles to predict high waves on Kerala coast

The buoy data to be analysed daily to track high swell events originating from the Southern Ocean and arriving at the southwest coast of India

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**HYDERABAD:** Earth System Science Organisation - India National Centre for Ocean Information Services or ESSO-INCOIS, announced the successful deployment of a wave rider buoy, 27 nautical miles off the fishing harbour at Frigate Island, Seychelles last week.

The buoy deployment was carried out in coordination with the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) and the Seychelles National Meteorological Services (SNMS). Ocean data collected would be useful to validate the Wave and Sea Surface Temperature (SST) forecasts to Seychelles in real

time and also fine tune the forecasts further, explained T.M. Balakrishnan Nair, scientist and head of Ocean Science and Information Group, ESSO-INCOIS.

The buoy data would be analysed daily to track high swell events originating from the Southern Ocean and arriving at the southwest coast of India.

The observations will help strengthen and improve the capability to predict the occasional 'High Wave events' that often attacks the Kerala coast causing damages to the coastal villages and the fishing boats, he pointed out.

Under the project, two shore stations were established at Mahe Island Airport and at the Army base to receive

wave and sea surface temperature data in real time. Data collected are directed to the INCOIS - FTP server and to RIMES Headquarters, Bangkok, in Thailand.

Precise information is also obtained by the agency through the INSAT at half-hour intervals.

Mr. Nair also stated that a 'Buoy drift alert system' was also implemented for easy retrieval and safety of the buoy. Officials from SNMS, ESSO-INCOIS and RIMES, were all equipped to receive any alert if the buoy drifts more than 200 metres from its position.

## **Integrated system**

The exercise is part of the 'Integrated Ocean Information System' for Indian Ocean

Countries being established by the ESSO-INCOIS through RIMES and a follow up to the ESSO-INCOIS' Ocean State Forecasting System for Seychelles and Sri Lanka inaugurated by Union Minister for Science and Technology Mr. Harsh Vardhan in July last year.

The ESSO-INCOIS is an autonomous body established in 1999 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) mandated to provide ocean information and advisory services to society, industry, government agencies and the scientific community through sustained ocean observations and focussed research. Ocean state forecasts are imperative for safe navigation and operations at sea.