Nationwide testing of indigenous Cell Broadcasting system underway to ensure swift dissemination of warnings during natural and man-made disasters

Test messages in English and Hindi may be received on mobile phones; no action required from recipients during system validation phase

C-DOT-developed system now operational across all 36 States and UTs; alerts issued in 19+ Indian languages for disasters and weather events

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The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of India, has been actively enhancing mobile-enabled disaster communication systems across the country to provide timely information to citizens.

NDMA has successfully operationalized Integrated Alert System (SACHET), developed by Centre of Development of Telematics (C-DOT), which is based on Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) recommended by International Telecommunication Union (ITU). This system is already operational in all 36 States and Union Territories (UTs) of India and sends various disaster or emergency related alerts through SMS to mobiles of citizens affected in a particular geo-targeted area. This system has been extensively used by disaster management authorities to issue over 6,899 crore SMS alerts in more than 19 Indian languages during various natural disasters, weather warnings, and cyclonic events.

To further strengthen alert dissemination in time-critical disaster situations such as tsunamis, earthquakes, lightning strikes, and man-made emergencies like gas leaks or chemical hazards, Cell Broadcast (CB) technology is being implemented in addition to SMS. In Cell Broadcast System, the alerts are sent to mobile phones in the affected area in a broadcast mode and hence the dissemination of alerts happen in near real time. The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier R&D center of the Department of Telecom, has been entrusted with the indigenous development and implementation of the Cell Broadcast-based public emergency alerting system.

As part of the Pan-India rollout, testing of the CB system is being conducted to ascertain the efficacy and proper functioning of the system before it is rolled out. This testing will last for 2-4 weeks covering entire country. During this period, test messages in English and Hindi may be received by the public on their mobile handsets. These “test messages” will be received only by mobile handsets that has CB test channels enabled. During testing phase, these messages may also be received multiple times, through test channel, to test proper functioning of the system in the entire network of mobile towers (Base Station Trans receivers-BTS). These test messages are part of a planned nationwide testing exercise and require no action from recipients.

The content of the test message will be as follows:

English:

This is a TEST Cell Broadcast message sent by the National Disaster Management

Authority in coordination with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India, as part of testing the Cell Broadcast solution for disseminating alerts. During the testing of the Cell Broadcast solution, you may receive this message multiple times on your mobile handset. Please ignore these message(s); no action is required at your end.

Hindi:

, (NDMA) (DoT), ,

Once successfully tested and operationalized, the CB system will be used to disseminate alerts in multiple Indian languages across all mobile handsets— regardless of test channel settings—ensuring a wide and inclusive public reach during actual emergencies.

DoT requests the co-operation of the public during this important testing phase and reiterate that all test messages during this period are purely for system validation purposes and no action is required from the recipient side.

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