

PARLIAMENT QUESTION: SAGAR VANI SYSTEM

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The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), provides a comprehensive range of ocean-based early warning and advisory services. The services are available across all coastal States/UTs including Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

Ocean Information Services are being provided across all 12 coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh (Anakapalli, Bapatla, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema, West Godavari, Kakinada, Krishna, Prakasam, Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore, Srikakulam, Tirupati, Visakhapatnam, and Vizianagaram) and 6 coastal districts of Odisha (Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, and Ganjam). In Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district, services are extended through 5 Fish Landing Centres (FLCs), supporting fishing communities in nearby villages in initiating their fishing activities. Similarly, 11 FLCs are covered in Jagatsinghpur district and 20 FLCs in Puri district, facilitating access to ocean information for local stakeholders.

Approximately 8 lakh fishermen and other coastal stakeholders across all the coastal states/districts of India are receiving Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) advisories and other INCOIS services. In particular, approximately 103,915 users in Andhra Pradesh and 158,711 users in Odisha are being reached directly by INCOIS through multiple communication channels, including WhatsApp, email, SMS, Telegram, SAMUDRA mobile application, etc. In addition to these direct communication channels, the same services are further disseminated through partner organizations such as NGOs, Reliance Foundation, M.S. Swaminathan Foundation, State Fisheries Departments, etc. thereby extending their reach to a wider user base.

INCOIS disseminates ocean-related alerts and advisories through a robust multi-channel communication framework, including SMS, mobile phones, email, website, mobile applications, community radio, social media platforms, satellite-based communication systems (GEMINI platform, VOIP phones), etc. Additionally, Potential Fishing Zone advisories and Ocean State Forecasts are provided in local languages to enhance accessibility and facilitate effective utilization by coastal communities and fishermen. INCOIS also issues alerts through the Common Alert Protocol (CAP)-based SACHET platform, enabling seamless transmission of ocean warnings and alerts to State and District authorities for further dissemination to the public.

INCOIS has developed the multilingual SAMUDRA (Smart Access to Marine Users for Ocean Data Resources and Advisories) mobile application as a one-stop platform for accessing its ocean information services. The app provides real-time alerts on ocean hazards such as tsunamis, storm surges, high waves, and swell surges, enabling users to take timely precautionary measures. It also delivers PFZ advisories to help fishermen identify probable fish aggregation areas, thereby improving catch efficiency and supporting livelihoods. In addition, SAMUDRA offers five-day Ocean State Forecasts to assist mariners, fishermen, and coastal communities in advance planning, risk reduction, and enhanced maritime safety. All these dissemination channels are being utilized in Konaseema district of Andhra Pradesh, as well as in Jagatsinghpur and Puri districts of Odisha.

To improve last-mile delivery of ocean advisories to fishermen in remote coastal areas, INCOIS undertakes sustained outreach and capacity-building initiatives across coastal States/UTs. These activities include awareness programmes, workshops, training sessions, tsunami mock drills, and the implementation of the Tsunami Ready programme, carried out in collaboration with State agencies, local authorities, educational institutions, and coastal stakeholders.

Additionally, INCOIS also conducts targeted outreach programmes for coastal communities and fishermen, including user interaction workshops and training sessions, to enhance preparedness, operational safety, situational awareness, and risk mitigation, particularly for those operating in distant and offshore waters. Such awareness programmes, beach cleanliness drives, and mock exercises have been conducted in Konaseema district of Andhra Pradesh, as well as in Jagatsinghpur and Puri districts of Odisha. Under the Tsunami Ready programme, five coastal villages each in Jagatsinghpur and Puri districts of Odisha have been recognized as Tsunami Ready communities by UNESCO-IOC

This information was submitted by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences and Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh in Lok Sabha on 1st April 2026.

NKR/JKP

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