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Tsunami Ready Programme: UNESCO-IOC

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Why in News

Recently, the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO** (also known as UNESCO-IOC) has **approved the recognition of two communities of Odisha viz., Venkatraipur and Noliasahi as Tsunami Ready Communities.**

With this recognition, India has become the **first country in the Indian Ocean Region** to achieve the honor from the UNESCO-IOC.

Odisha is the **first state in India** to have such recognised communities.

Key Points

- **Tsunami Ready:**
 - It is a **community performance-based programme initiated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO** to promote tsunami preparedness through active collaboration of public, community leaders, and national and local emergency management agencies.
 - The **main objective** of this programme is to improve coastal community's preparedness for tsunami emergencies, to minimize the loss of life and property and to ensure a structural and systematic approach in building community preparedness through fulfilling the best-practice indicators set by the **Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS) of UNESCO-IOC.**

- **Implementation in India:**

- Tsunami Ready in India is implemented by the **National Board (Ministry of Earth Sciences- MoES)** under the **Chairmanship of Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Centre (INCOIS)** with members drawn from MoES, **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA), Andaman & Nicobar Islands Directorate of Disaster Management (DDM) and INCOIS.
- **INCOIS (an autonomous body under the Ministry of Earth sciences)** is also **providing tsunami advisories to Indian Ocean region (25 countries)** as a Tsunami Service Provider as the responsibility assigned by UNESCO-IOC.
 - The **Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC), INCOIS is the nodal agency to provide tsunami advisories to India.** It is coordinating with the Disaster Management Officials (DMOs) for implementation of Tsunami Ready programme in India.
 - It conducts **IOWave Tsunami mock exercises biannually** in coordination with ICG/IOTWMS and also conducts **mock exercises at national level in alternative years** in coordination with MHA and NDMA and State Disaster Management Agencies (SDMA) to strengthen the readiness to handle the emergency situations with stakeholders.

Tsunamis

- These are a series of waves usually **generated by movement of the sea floor.** These movements are **caused by different types of geophysical phenomena** such as **earthquakes, landslides and volcanic eruptions.**
- The word tsunami is a **Japanese word**, represented by two characters: tsu, meaning, "harbor", and nami meaning, "wave".
- The tsunami waves behave very differently in deep water than in shallow water as their **speed is related to the water depth.**
- They **frequently occur in the Pacific**, where dense oceanic plates slide under the lighter continental plates. When these plates fracture they provide a vertical movement of the seafloor that allows a quick and efficient transfer of energy from the solid earth to the ocean.

Source: PIB