

Inauguration of the state-of-the-art Ocean State Forecast Laboratory at INCOIS, Hyderabad

INCOIS achieved yet another milestone in its Ocean State forecasting services with the inauguration of the in-house developed state-of-the-art Ocean State Forecast Laboratory. This was inaugurated by Dr. M. Rajeevan, Honorable Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India on 3 March 2017 at INCOIS, Hyderabad. This is a Decision Support System consisting of Forecast Assessment and Support Tool (FAST) along with an associated multiple video display system for better decision taking from a range of model outputs and observations. This would be very useful for the forecasters, who are responsible for forecasting of the ocean state from a suite of models and observations. All the components of the system like communication issues and health of the instruments deployed in the deep sea can also be monitored continuously.

The Decision Support System which forms the backbone of this is developed to assess the multi-model forecasts vis-a-vis a suite of observational data from different platforms consisting of wave rider buoys, deep sea met-ocean buoys, ship based wave height meters, land based and ship based automatic weather stations, as well as deep sea based RAMA buoys. All these data are being received in real-time at INCOIS. The satellite data derived from IR sensors (cloud imageries) and scatterometers (wind distribution) are also included presently. FAST will make real time inter comparison of the models with observations and monthly performance report of the forecast. The simulated data on winds, waves (both wind waves and swell waves), Depth of 20 deg. isotherm, Mixed Layer Depth, Sea Surface Temperature and currents are very useful to a large user community ranging from fishermen to weathermen