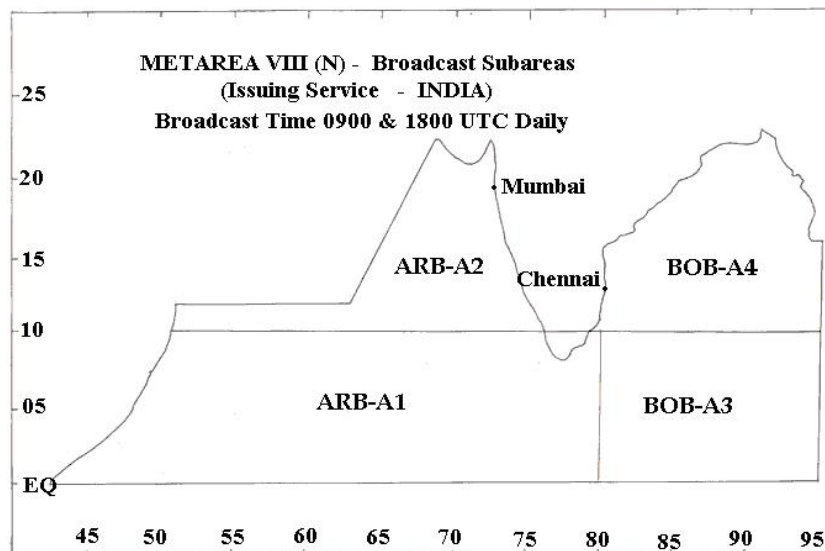


REPORT ON GMDSS ACTIVITIES BY INDIA

India is one of the Issuing Services of the WMO Marine Broadcast system for the GMDSS. The designated area of responsibility is METAREA VIII (N).

Generation of GMDSS Bulletin



The weather forecast and warning bulletins are prepared by:

1. Area Cyclone Warning Centre (ACWC), MUMBAI for the Arabian Sea (ARB-A2)
2. Area Cyclone Warning Centre (ACWC), Kolkata for the Bay of Bengal (BOB-A4)
3. IndiaN Ocean and Southern Hemispheric Analysis Centre (INOSHAC), Pune for the Indian Ocean north of the equator (ARB-A1 & BOB-A3).

After compositing the bulletins from the first two sources with their own, INOSHAC PUNE sends it to the Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre (RSMC), New Delhi, for final editing. The bulletin is then routed through RTH New Delhi for its onward transmission to CES, ARVI. This scheme was first implemented by the India Meteorological Department in June 1996.

Frequency of Broadcasts

To start with as a routine only, one GMDSS bulletin for METAREA VIII (N) was broadcast at 0900 UTC. From October 1998, a second bulletin is also broadcast at 1800 UTC. During Cyclone situations, additional bulletins (up to 4) are also being issued for GMDSS broadcast depending on the requirement.

In addition, India is also issuing weather and warning bulletins to the NAVTEX transmitting stations located at Mumbai and Chennai.

Modality of transfer of GMDSS bulletin to CES ARVI

GMDSS BULLETIN is transferred to CES ARVI in manual mode using a dedicated telex terminal connected to the "store and forward switching computer" of the CES ARVI. The procedure involves dialing, login, entering C codes, Start of the message (BT), text and end of the message characters. On an average, it takes 5 minutes to transmit the message to CES ARVI at the normal telex speed of 50 baud. It takes another 2-3 minutes for the message to be received at the

monitoring terminal to check its correctness and clarity.

The operational GMDSS broadcast is currently operating smoothly without any noticeable problems. The feedback response received from a few shipping companies are very encouraging.

Contents of GMDSS bulletin

SECURITE

SHIPPING BULLETIN FOR MET AREA VII NORTH OF EQUATOR VALID FOR 24 HOURS FROM 2002 07 18 0900
UTC: 18 JULY 2002

PART I:

NO STORM WARNING

PART II:

YESTERDAYS LOW PRESSURE AREA NOW LIES OVER NW BAY AND ADJOINING ORISSA (.)

THE OFF-SHORE TROUGH OVER THE ARABIAN SEA NOW RUNS FROM SAURASHTRA COAST TO KERALA COAST (.)

WEATHER SEASONAL OVER REST METAREA VIII (N)

PART III:

ARB-A1 ARABIAN SEA EQ TO 10 DEG NORTH AND WEST OF 80 DEG E

- I. WIND :- SW/W 15/20 KTS GUSTING TO 25/30 KTS IN RA/TS
- II. WEATHER :- SCT RA/TS
- III. VISIBILITY :- POOR IN RAIN
- IV. STATE OF SEA :- MOD

ARB-A2 ARABIAN SEA NORTH OF LAT 10 DEG N

- I. WIND :- SW/W 20/25 KTS GUSTING TO 30/35 KTS IN RA/TS
- II. WEATHER :- SCT RA/TS
- III. VISIBILITY :- POOR IN RAIN
- IV. STATE OF SEA :- MOD TO RGH

BOB-A3 BAY OF BENGAL BETWEEN EQ TO 10 DEG N AND EAST OF 80 DEG E

- I. WIND :- W/SW 15-20 KTS GUSTING TO 25/30 KTS IN RA/TS
- II. WEATHER :- FWDS RA/TS
- III. VISIBILITY :- POOR IN RAIN
- IV. STATE OF SEA :- MOD

BOB-A4 BAY OF BENGAL NORTH OF LAT 10 DEG N

- I. WIND :- W/SW 20/25 KTS BEC CYCLONIC TO THE N OF 17 DEG N AND W OF 88 DEG E. WIND GUSTING TO 30/35 KTS IN RA/TS
- II. WEATHER :- WDS RA/TS
- III. VISIBILITY :- POOR IN RAIN
- IV. STATE OF SEA :- MOD TO RGH

ISSUED BY INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Availability of Ship's weather observations

Reception of adequate number of ship's observations over the Indian Seas continues to be the main problem faced by the forecasters in India. M/s VSNL, which is the authorised service provider of INMARSAT system in India, has activated code – 41 facility, under which all ships observations received through CES ARVI are routed to RTH New Delhi. All shipping organisations are being periodically requested to make use of this facility for transmitting their ships observations.

Latest Input:

We continue to transmit two GMDSS bulletins per day (0900 UTC and 1800 UTC) through LES, Arvi (frequency is increased to four in case of cyclonic conditions). However VSNL (INMARSAT service provider in India), has recently indicated that they are finding it difficult to maintain the service as equipment at LES Arvi is very old and is beyond economic repairs. This was discussed in the meeting recently convened by Director General of Shipping, Mumbai and was attended by representatives from various offices including the IMD. IMD representatives discussed the importance of weather warnings and bulletins for NAVAREA-VIII and requested VSNL not to close down LES Arvi. We have also written to the VSNL, that MSI broadcast through other means like the Internet is not dependable, and requested their cooperation in continuation of INMARSAT- C services.

In India at present, there are only two NAVTEX stations (one at Chennai and other at Mumbai). Recently, we have written to Director General of Shipping, Mumbai, to get a few more NAVTEX stations installed in the East and West Coast for the benefit of Shipping Community.

A survey was conducted to find out the reception of NAVTEX broadcast by the ships. Around 85% of the Indian ships reported that they are receiving NAVTEX broadcast properly.