

KaWaCHaM

January 24, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



KaWaCHaM Latest News

Recently, the Kerala government launched KaWaCHaM, one of the world's fastest weather alert systems.

About KaWaCHaM:

- KaWaCHaM' stands for **Kerala Warnings Crisis and Hazards Management System**, and the word kavacham in Malayalam translates to 'shield', symbolising protection.
- It is an **advanced disaster warning system** that integrates alerts, sirens, and global weather models to improve the state's early disaster preparedness and public safety.
- It is designed to **enhance rescue and rehabilitation efforts** during extreme weather events driven by climate change.
- **Funding:** It is developed with funding from the **National Disaster Management Authority and the World Bank** as part of the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project.

Key Features of KaWaCHaM

It includes **hazard assessment, alert issuance**, and action planning according to threat levels.

The project aims to install 126 sirens and strobe lights on tall towers, government buildings, and schools.

- Each **siren has three colours**—red, yellow, and orange—in the strobe light and is equipped with eight loudspeakers.
- These sirens can broadcast warnings up to **1,200 metres away** and provide essential information about emergency camps and safety precautions.
- The system will include **pre-recorded voice messages and audio alerts** to provide various warnings.
- Under the project, the **state integrates all early warning systems** into a framework that disseminates knowledge, issues warnings, monitors developing crises and ensures responses.
- It has been created to assess hazards, issue alerts, and take action based on the threat level.

Working Of KaWaCHaM

- KaWaCHaM **collects data from various sources**, including weather networks such as India Meteorological Department, INCOIS, and CWC, private and public agencies, social media networks, and the Internet.
- The warnings will cover sea attacks, heavy rainfall, strong winds, and extreme heat.
- It is headed by the state emergency operation centre, will operate at the taluk (subdistrict) level and cover all vulnerable areas.

KaWaCHaM FAQs

Q1: What is the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)?

Ans: It is the apex body for Disaster Management in India and is headed by the Prime Minister of India.

Q2: What is the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP)?

Ans: It is the centrally Sponsored Scheme and assisted by the World Bank programme for mitigating risks of cyclones in eight (08) cyclone prone coastal States of India.

Q3: What is the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)?

Ans: It was established as an autonomous body in 1999 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and is a unit of the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO).

Q4: What is the meaning of weather?

Ans: Weather is the state of the atmosphere, describing for example the degree to which it is hot or cold, wet or dry, calm or stormy, clear or cloudy

Q5: Which state launched the KaWaCHaM System?

Ans: Kerala

Source: DTE

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/kawacham/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.