

US firm proposes tsunami-warning stations for state

By Richa Bansal

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Ahmedabad: The US-based Sutron Corporation has proposed tsunami forecasting stations along the 1600-km-long coastline of Gujarat. And if the proposal is approved at the Vibrant Gujarat investors' summit starting Wednesday, Gujarat may well become the first state in India to equip itself with tsunami forecasting stations.

Ashish Raval, vice-president, Sutron Corporation, and a Gujarati by birth, says the company that monitors controls, manages, models, & forecasts in areas of hydrology, meteorology, & water resource management.

“We have been approaching the Gujarat government for two years now as we want to set up a network of 100 to 150 stations on land, rivers and major ports in the state for real-time flood forecasting and rainfall measurement. These stations would include around 20 tsunami stations along the coastline as well,” says Raval.

Raval hopes that after the recent havoc caused by the killer waves, the government may be interested in the project, which is likely to cost between Rs 10-15 crore. Sutron already has projects going on in India with the Central Water Commission, the Indian Meteorological Department and the Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment. It does real-time water measurement and weather monitoring for these organisations.

The company has installed tsunami stations in the US and the vision for the project in Gujarat involves establishing a network of stations to collect real-time data and transmit it through INSAT satellite to a ground station in Gandhinagar for regular analysis. Using this data, predictions can be made in advance through various modelling techniques — be it floods, rainfalls or tsunamis.