

# City Scientists to assess island's shift

By Hemali Chhopia/ TNN

**Bangalore:** The tsunami



**HELL AND  
HIGH WATER**

shock-waves have moved the Andaman and Nicobar Islands northwards.

To study the impact of this development, the scientists from the Centre for Mathematical Modelling and Computer Simulation, Bangalore, are heading to the Andaman archipelago.

The team will assess these changes and its potential impact on the seismic vulnerability of the region.

Honorary emeritus scientist V.K. Gaur of C-MMACS told *The Times of India* on Wednesday that a group of scientists is leaving to measure how much each of the islands has moved.

"We have the old co-ordinates of the region. So it is possible to measure the distance the islands have moved," he said.

The team would assess the shift, the tilt and the tectonic changes in the re-

gion as a possible northward shift of the tectonic plates would affect a quake-prone region in the north-east.

"Sensors using GPS will be placed at various points to determine the new co-ordinates of the islands.

"The findings will be compared with old co-ordinates to measure the distance and direction of the shift," Kaur said.

Once this data is in place, mapping will also have to be revised.

After the undersea quake, Indian geologists have shown concern about the possibility that the Indian Tectonic Plate (that carries the sub-continent on its back) may have shifted north, affecting the seismic vulnerability of that region.

Military officials had confirmed that India's southernmost point in the Indian Ocean, a coral reef in the Nicobars called Indira Point, about 85 miles from Sumatra, had submerged under the waters. Reports from Port Blair had also stated that Indira Point has disappeared under a water column.

Scientists stated that only time would tell if the island will re-emerge or gone forever.