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NIOT's Robo-Boat, Life Buoy to aid oceanographic studies, SAR operations in isles

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PORT BLAIR, JUNE 22/--/ Established in the year 1993, National Institute for Ocean Technology (NIOT), an autonomous society under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, is now making news for developing innovative technologies for ocean research as also for search and rescue operations. ***(Contd. on page-6)***

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As per reports, NIOT has designed and developed Robo Boat, a remotely operated oceanic surface vehicle fitted with ocean and atmospheric sensors that can be used for survey and monitoring of conditions at sea and measurement of oceanographic parameters. The main objective of the platform is used for remote rapid data collection at sea. The platform is capable of working in rough sea environments and climatic conditions with provision to mount oceanographic sensors. Low power and high endurance components are used for control and data acquisition, as per reports. Sea Surface Robo-Boat is a mobile platform which gives an added advantage of improved range and data acquisition capabilities which helps to validate the data collected from moored buoy systems after deployment. The control of the vehicle is done with the help of 4 channel 2.4GHz transmitter and receiver module. The Robo Boat can be equipped with a suite of sensors for measurement of ocean surface and upper ocean parameters. The 3.3 mtr long, 0.66 mtr wide and 0.4 mtr height Robo Boat has been designed to aid oceanographic studies particularly air-sea interaction. Due to its size, it can be manoeuvred in narrow areas including estuaries and close to icebergs and can be used to collect data in open ocean surface and sub surface to corroborate with data collected by buoys. NIOT also developed another technology, which is like a life buoy fitted with thrusters and can be used for search and rescue operations. Developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India, the technology seeks to stimulate the use of technology by commercialization under Make in India Initiative and National Research Development Corporation will facilitate for smooth transfer and licensing of the technology with affordable Licencing terms and conditions, as per reports.