

# **NGO Information Bulletin**

## **ADER NGO Information & Documentation Office**

No: 6, Chanda Sahib street, Pondicherry, 605 001. India.

Telephone: +91 413 520 0606 Fax: +91 413 520 0607

Email: [infoinde@ader-france.org](mailto:infoinde@ader-france.org)

Due to the number of NGOs present in South India, and the increasing complexity of the post-tsunami humanitarian landscape, ADER and the *Fondation de France* are collaborating to produce a bi-weekly English, French and Tamil NGO Information Bulletin.

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## **BI-WEEKLY NEWS RECAP**

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Flooding and adverse weather conditions these past two weeks have hindered the progress of housing reconstruction projects, driving up the prices for construction materials, and disrupting their supply. Many projects are now unlikely to reach the objectives set for the 1 year anniversary of the tsunami.

The rains have also rendered life miserable for the inhabitants of temporary shelters, now dilapidated, and frequently built on land that is liable to flooding. Delays in the construction of permanent housing will ensure that these shelters last far beyond their projected lifespan.

Finally, local government and many Indian NGOs have been focussed on providing emergency shelter and relief for those whose homes and crops have been damaged or destroyed by floodwaters. The response has been particularly generous due in part to the upcoming elections in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.

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### **Disaster Management**

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#### *India to host disaster centre*

South Asian nations agreed on Thursday to set up a disaster management centre in India to help the region better handle calamities like the tsunami, earthquakes and floods that ravaged it over the past year.

The agreement came at a meeting of South Asian officials in the Bangladeshi capital, ahead of the Nov. 12-13 summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/DEL145945.htm>

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## Fishing

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▶ **Kerala**

*Variety of fish increases off the Kerala coast:*

Nearly one year after the tsunami struck India's Kerala coast, a sudden increase in the presence of certain varieties of fish is worrying seafood exporters and fishermen. While the exporters say the tsunami and a sudden increase in some fish varieties are co-related, fisheries experts say a systematic study has to be conducted before such conclusions can be drawn.

Large quantities of Puffer fish are destroying fishermen's nets. Such numbers of the fish have never been seen before in the waters off Kerala's coast.

Source: [http://www.gg2.net/viewnews.asp?nid=3230&tid=breaking\\_news&catid=Breaking%20News](http://www.gg2.net/viewnews.asp?nid=3230&tid=breaking_news&catid=Breaking%20News)

▶ **Tamil Nadu**

*Fishermen's gesture to quake victims*

More than 20 000 tsunami-hit fisherman families in Cuddalore district have joined hands to collect money for purchasing woollen blankets for the survivors of the recent killer quake in Jammu and Kashmir.

This aid was sent in return for aid received from Kashmir after the tsunami.

Source:

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IET20051104105327&Page=T&Title=Southern+News+%2D+Tamil+Nadu&Topic=0&>

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## Livelihoods

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*Project for marginalized tsunami-hit*

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Government, has proposed a \$ 15 million livelihoods project for marginalised tsunami victims. The project for six tsunami-affected districts is expected to be launched before the first anniversary of the tsunami.

It intends to focus on communities not covered by other programmes: wage labourers, fish vendors, small farmers, sea shell vendors and those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who were directly or indirectly affected by the tsunami are the targeted beneficiaries. The project will last for eight years.

An important component will be establishing market linkages for the tsunami victims in the area. Software support will be provided to facilitate market linkages for the sale fish and other related products. The project will also provide insurance and disaster funds in the selected villages.

See: [The New Indian Express 3-11-2005, Pondicherry Edition](#)

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## Media

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### *Alleged corruption in tsunami aid*

The Indian Ocean tsunami generated a record amount of aid -- more than \$11 billion -- but the enormous inflow of cash to countries with a history of corruption has raised fears some money has gone into the wrong pockets. An article published by *Reuters Alertnet* examines the issue as it pertains to the three most affected countries: India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thefacts/reliefresources/11315551833.htm>

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## Monsoon and floods

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### *Officers to monitor rain havoc, floods*

Deputy Collectors have been appointed in seven taluks in Nagapattinam district (Nagapattinam, Keevalur, Vedaranyam, Thirukkuvilai, Tharangampadi, Mayiladuturai and Sirkazhi) to monitor and report on the floods, caused by heavy rain during the northeast monsoon.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/11/06/stories/2005110607490300.htm>

### *Update on flooding in tsunami affected Tamil Nadu*

The coastal districts of Cuddalore and Nagapattinam were battered by incessant and torrential rain during the first week of November, with more low pressure systems expected to form over the Southwest of the Bay of Bengal.

Since November 5<sup>th</sup>, over 1.30 lakh people were evacuated from low-lying areas of these two districts, which are still in the process of recovering from last year's tsunami. They have been accommodated in 441 relief centres in the districts, as well as in schools and community centres.

In several hamlets, the NGOs engaged in the construction of houses for tsunami-hit people have participated in relief and rescue operations.

The rain related death toll stands at 147 since the onset of the northeast monsoon.

Sources:

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IET20051109132949&Page=T&Title=Southern+News+%2D+Tamil+Nadu&Topic=0&>

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IE920051108112037&Page=9&Title=Chennai&Topic=0&>

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IET20051111101019&Page=T&Title=Southern+News+%2D+Tamil+Nadu&Topic=0&>

### *Samba paddy crop has been badly affected, especially in the coastal areas*

Since 2000, nature has been unkind to farmers of the Cauvery delta region, especially those in Nagapattinam district. After alternating droughts and floods, as well as the tsunami, the current spell of rain has damaged or destroyed thousands of hectares of farmland. Rice paddies in the area were submerged after more than four days of continuous rain from November 4<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Many farmers, along the coastal region have lost their crops, as the rainwater inundated fields with 15 to 20 day-old transplants. For some, this is the fifth consecutive year they have lost their livelihood.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/11/10/stories/2005111007100500.htm>

### *Stampede for aid causes 6 victims*

Six women died in a stampede for flood relief aid on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Dozens of others were injured in the crush outside a college building in Chennai. Hundreds of people had gathered for money and food to be distributed to flood victims. Officials said the stampede began after a rumour that the distribution had already started.

Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/4414226.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/4414226.stm)

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/11/07/stories/2005110707430400.htm>

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## **Reconstruction**

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### *Over 100 tsunami shelters gutted in fire; no casualties*

As many as 102 temporary shelters provided to tsunami victims in Nagapattinam were totally gutted in a fire on November 1st, but no casualties were reported. The fire broke out while children were lighting crackers on top of the roof of the sheds, on which thatch leaves had been spread.

About 400 people who lived in these shelters have been rendered homeless. The administration will give each of the families INR 2000 in cash, five kg of rice, a dhoti and saree.

This is the third fire in temporary shelters since June, and once again raises the question of the appropriate material for temporary shelter construction. Thatch roofs are cooler than sheeting, but are fire prone, especially in high density camps. Double layered sheeting is probably most appropriate, but is much more expensive.

Sources:

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IET20051101221640&Page=T&Title=Southern+News+%2D+Tamil+Nadu&Topic=0&>

<http://www.hindu.com/2005/11/03/stories/2005110308750300.htm>

### *Scarcity of land a major problem for housing reconstruction*

The high cost of private land and the scarcity of land beyond the 500 meters of coastal regulation zone has become a major obstacle in providing housing to tsunami victims in some parts of Tamil Nadu, including Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, and Kanyakumari.

Though various NGOs were willing to construct houses, the district administrations are finding it difficult to acquire lands, in the sites sought by fishermen. In Nagapattinam and Cuddalore districts they prefer land near the backwaters so that they can bring their boats nearer to their homes.

Source:

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IET20051108003830&Page=T&Title=Southern+News+%2D+Tamil+Nadu&Topic=0&>

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## **Studies**

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### *Tsunami is not likely in next 50 years : study*



Newspapers are widely reporting a study that states that there is no possibility of tsunami occurring at least for another 50 years in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu. Apparently, the possibility of a tsunami would arise only if there were an earthquake measuring nine on the Richter scale near the Sumatra fault. However, this type of earthquake occurs once in 50 years. The study was carried out by the Department of Disaster Management and several research institutes. Earthquakes measuring 7 or 8 in the Richter scale "might occur now and then, [but] they will not be a cause for tsunami". The study underlines government efforts to reassure coastal dwellers who still look at the sea with apprehension.

Source: <http://www.chennaionline.com/colnews/newsitem.asp?NEWSID=%7BBE28EF0B-9853-45A3-9B1E-CEC73F38B2FC%7D&CATEGORYNAME=National>

### *Decline in fish catch after tsunami*

An increase in fishing assets such as fibreglass-reinforced plastic boats distributed by NGOs in the wake of the tsunami has altered the fishing pattern and the social structure within the fisherman community, according to a study conducted by the *NGO Coordination and Resource Centre*. Catch data from the Arcottuthurai and Tharanganbadi fishermen societies indicate a steep decline in fish hauls, after an increase during April and May, 2005.

The study notes that the average monthly catch per fibreglass boat has come down from INR 19,863 in April to INR 8,025 in August. There has also been a reduction in the average number of fishing trips per month: more than 50 percent of the new crafts are waiting idle on the beach because of the low catch.

Source:

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IE920051112004202&Page=9&Title=Chennai&Topic=0&>

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## NEW ONLINE RESOURCES

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- ▶ TRINet has posted the minutes of a workshop entitled *Post Tsunami Rehabilitation in Fishing Communities* held on November 11<sup>th</sup> in Chennai.  
<http://trinet.in/downloads/trinetfishrep.htm>
- ▶ The central government's 2005 disaster management bill is available online at:  
[http://www.tntrc.org/downloads/Disaster\\_Management\\_Bill\\_LV\\_2005.pdf](http://www.tntrc.org/downloads/Disaster_Management_Bill_LV_2005.pdf)
- ▶ A report entitled *Women's Participation in Disaster Relief and Recovery* has been published by the NGO SEEDS. The pamphlet examines the roles that NGOs and government policy and procedures play in facilitating (or impeding) women's involvement in disaster situations.  
<http://www.disasterwatch.net/Brief/Seeds2005final.pdf>

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Organiser	Date/ Time	Place
<b>Workshop:</b> “The Sphere Project - “Sphere in Humanitarian Practice”	RedR India <a href="mailto:info@redrindia.org">info@redrindia.org</a>	16-11-2005	Trivandrum, India.
<b>Training:</b> Capacity building program on “Livelihoods Promotion and Market Development	<b>MART</b> Contact R. Gopi Krishnan, Ph: 044-55315594 mart_chennai@yahoo.co.in	17-11-05 to 19-11-05	Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
<b>Meeting:</b> Child Focused Meeting	<b>TNTRC</b> <a href="mailto:anuradha.vidyasankar@tntrc.org">anuradha.vidyasankar@tntrc.org</a>	18- 11-05 at 10.00 am	Tamil Nadu Tsunami Ressource Centre, Chennai.
<b>Seminar:</b> International Conference on Disaster Management and Trauma Counselling	Sudha Bhogle at <a href="mailto:bangaloreuniversity@counsellor.com">bangaloreuniversity@counsellor.com</a>	21-12-05 to 22-12-05	Bangalore, Karnataka.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Pondicherry

Laurent Tyers Information Officer Tel. +91 413 520 0606 Mobile : +91 98946 80458 Email : <a href="mailto:infoinde@ader-france.org">infoinde@ader-france.org</a>	M. Muruganadam Assistant Information Officer Tel. +91 413 520 0606 Mobile : +91 98946 22240 Email : <a href="mailto:infoinde@ader-france.org">infoinde@ader-france.org</a>
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### Paris

<b>ADER :</b> Association pour le Développement Economique Régional Gionata Simioni, Programme Manager 31 Rue de Reuilly, 75012 Paris - France Tel. +33 1 40 24 03 03 Fax: +33 1 40 24 09 77 Email: <a href="mailto:contact@ader-france.org">contact@ader-france.org</a>	<b>Fondation de France</b> Martin Spitz, Programme Manager : Email: <a href="mailto:martin.spitz@fdf.org">martin.spitz@fdf.org</a> Estelle Hédouin, Programme Information Manager: Email: <a href="mailto:estelle.hedouin@fdf.org">estelle.hedouin@fdf.org</a>
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