



NGO Information Bulletin

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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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NEWS RECAP

For the past months, flooding and other disruptions caused by the monsoon have made for daily news, pushing tsunami related information to the backburner. Much of the current focus of tsunami news now appears to be placed on the oncoming 1 year anniversary, and on the efforts made since the tsunami in matters of prevention and rehabilitation.

Several new spending announcements have been made in advance of the anniversary, notably the Government of India and the Indian Red Cross.

Disaster Management remains a primary focus of activities, as the region has witnessed its share over the past year. A new disaster management bill, which was largely inspired by efforts to recover from the tsunami has been passed by the central government,.

Meanwhile, re-construction continues to progress, albeit more slowly than predicted, with much work having been put behind schedule due to the floods. 1 year after the tsunami, few affected families will be living in new houses.

Education

▶ **Pondicherry**

Waiver of fees for students of tsunami hit schools urged

The All India Fish Workers' Federation has urged the government to pass necessary legislation waiving the fees of tsunami-affected students studying in private schools. In a memorandum to Chief Minister N Rangasamy, the federation pointed out that as part of tsunami relief measures, the government had announced that it would undertake to pay the fees of fishermen's children studying in private schools.

After 10 months no government order has been issued in this regard resulting in private schools insisting on the payment of fees, despite the government announcement.

Source: [See The New Indian Express print version, 06-12-05](#)

Monsoon and floods

New tsunami settlement flooded in Kargil Nagar

The rains pounding Chennai and the rest of Tamil Nadu have once again displaced the tsunami-affected people living in temporary shelters North of Chennai.

At Eranavur, three clusters of over 1756 new interim shelters were flooded once the rains set in. For scores of families it was the fourth or fifth round of displacement in less than a year after the tsunami.

At another resettlement in Eranavur, with new brick-and-tile constructions, over half the houses in one of the three phases of the new settlement went under waist-deep water and people had to be evacuated again - to tents on higher grounds or to their relatives' houses a few kilometres away.

(indiadisasters, 10 December, 2005)

Source: <http://www.indiadisasters.org/update/>

Causeway on Nagapattinam coast opened for traffic

The causeway connecting the coastal villages of Akkaraipettai and Kallar on the Kaduvaiyar River, the estuary on the Nagapattinam coast that was breached due to heavy flow of floodwaters recently, was restored for pedestrian and vehicular traffic on Sunday. Beforehand, people had been crossing the river only through boats from Akkaraipettai to reach Kallar.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/12/05/stories/2005120502250300.htm>

87,000 hectares of paddy fully affected in Nagapattinam district

Paddy crops in about 87,000 hectares were destroyed by the recent heavy rains and flood in the Cauvery delta region of Nagapattinam district, according to Jagmohan Singh Raju, Commissioner of Agriculture.

Collector J. Radhakrishnan said that compensation to the tune of INR 1.25 crores was given to farmers in the tsunami-affected areas in the district and pointed out that out of the 4,300 hectares of

agricultural land covered with sand silt due to tsunami, the farmers had cleared it in 3,200 hectares and started raising the paddy and other crops.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/12/07/stories/2005120708920300.htm>

Declare floods a national disaster, says Dalit Panthers leader

With 22 of 30 districts in the State hit by the recent floods, the Central Government must declare a national disaster and accordingly decide on the size of the relief package, said the leader of the Dalit Panthers of India.

In terms of devastation, the floods had caused much more damage to crops and property than what was inflicted by the tsunami. Given the magnitude of losses, the State Government was facing a daunting task of providing for not only relief but also for "rehabilitation and reconstruction" of the affected districts.

He also called upon the State Government to enter into an agreement with non-government organisations in rehabilitation works.

The Dalit Panthers of India have sought a compensation of INR 15,000 per acre of crop losses, INR 10,000 for the fully damaged houses, and monthly maintenance of INR 3,000 to farm labourers for next six months, and secure houses.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/12/13/stories/2005121302640300.htm>

Reconstruction

Update on reconstruction in Nagapattinam District

Nagapattinam Collector J Radhakrishnan said that a total of 20,000 permanent houses were being constructed in the district. About 2000 permanent houses which are nearing completion in various locations, should be handed over to the tsunami survivors by the one year anniversary of the tsunami. Construction work for the remaining houses in 79 locations are progressing well. The permanent shelter construction work will be completed before March, 2006', he said.

The Collector added that memorials for tsunami victims were being constructed at two places in Nagapattinam and would be opened on Dec 26. Radhakrishnan pointed out that the living standards of the fishermen community had significantly improved after the tsunami attack.

Source:

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IET20051208012210&Page=T&Title=Southern+News+%2D+Tamil+Nadu&Topic=0&>

Update on reconstruction activities in Pondicherry

The Government of Pondicherry has signed a total of 13 MoUs with 12 NGOs and with the Government of Maharashtra for undertaking reconstruction of houses in 21 settlements in Pondicherry and Karaikal. 4,947 houses are planned for tsunami-affected families. In the Karaikal region, where there are low-lying sites, the Project Implementation Agency (PIA) has simultaneously undertaken the job of filling up the low-lying sites using the World Bank funds.

Source: [The New Indian Express print version, 11-12-2005.](#)

Most tsunami victims still homeless - Fritz Report



Nearly a year after the Indian Ocean tsunami, almost all of the aid recipients in villages hit by the waves are still living in temporary shelters or camps, according to a survey released on December 6th. In Indonesia, 100 percent of the respondents still lived in camps or temporary shelters run by the government or by aid groups, as did 92 percent in India and 78 percent in Sri Lanka, the survey found.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/NC5235480.htm>

Relief & Rehabilitation

The Central Government has provided 2,347.19 crores for tsunami package

Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram has said that the government has provided INR 2,347.19 crores to Tamil Nadu under the for Tsunami Affected Areas. It has arranged for external assistance from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. "The total outlay for tsunami relief and rehabilitation in Tamil Nadu will be INR 4,025.56 crores," he said in a release from New Delhi.

Mr. Chidambaram's statement comes in the wake of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa's charge that the Central Government had released only INR 679.61 crores for tsunami relief.

Giving a detailed break-up of the package the Finance Minister's statement noted a relief and contingency fund allocation of INR 617.20 crores, fishermen's subsidy of INR 441.08 crores, bank loans for INR 566.47 crore and a housing package of INR 650 crore.

In external assistance a sum of INR 1,909.68 crore had been provided by the World Bank and a sum of INR 637.29 crore by the Asian Development Bank including a grant of INR 388.51 crore. The total value of INR 2,678.37 crore in external assistance had been provided for, the statement noted.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/12/10/stories/2005121016170600.htm>

Indian Red Cross Society sanctions INR 10.89 crores for tsunami rehabilitation

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) has sanctioned INR 10.89 crore to Tamil Nadu for undertaking rehabilitation projects in the tsunami affected districts, with INR 6.08 crore allocated for the districts of Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur and Pudukkottai.

Nagapattinam was the worst affected, accounting for 76 per cent of the deaths followed by Kanyakumari and Cuddalore.

The funds have been allocated for the construction of school buildings, multi-purpose service centre buildings, cold storages and ice plants, fish drying platforms, sewage treatment plants, cargo autos and crèche buildings in the tsunami affected areas in the state.

Source:

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IET20051210021906&Page=T&Title=Southern+News+%2D+Tamil+Nadu&Topic=0&>

Ration card renewal for tsunami-hit

Tsunami-affected people who are yet to renew their temporary family ration cards can renew them by submitting proper applications at the office of the Assistant Commissioner (Civil Supplies) on or before December 16.

After the tsunami struck the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, temporary family cards were issued to the affected people and it was announced that the cards would be valid for a period of six months or till the issue of fresh cards.



Source:

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IE920051213235252&Page=9&Title=Chennai&Topic=0&>

Research

Tsunami spurred research, revealed needs, say scientists

The catastrophic Indian Ocean tsunami that struck almost a year ago has done much to spur scientific research and preparations for similar disaster, but experts also point to areas that need more attention and challenges yet to be met.

Much of the current approach to tsunami preparation is about warning systems and getting people out of the way. But there are also serious questions about how practical it will be to evacuate large numbers of people in towns that are difficult to access.

However, the tsunami has caused a surge of student interest in study and research on this field, which could be tapped to better prepare the scientists of the future who will continue to deal with the threats posed by these catastrophic events.

Source: http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181_1564383,0004.htm

NEW ONLINE RESOURCES

- ▶ The government of Tamil Nadu has published an update of its tsunami related activities dated November 22nd
<http://www.tn.gov.in/tsunami/tsunami-relief.htm>
- ▶ Recent flood situation reports are available on the TNTRC website
http://www.tntrc.org/downloads/Flood_Report1_28Nov05.pdf
http://www.tntrc.org/downloads/Flood_Report2_28Nov05.pdf
- ▶ TRINet has posted the minutes of an *Interactive Session on Disaster Mitigation and Reduction: Planning Strategies from Lessons Learnt*
<http://www.trinet.in/downloads/1decrep.htm>
- ▶ A document entitled *Brainstorming and Construction Strategies for Chennai District* (28 November 2005) is also available on their site: <http://www.trinet.in/downloads/28novsdrep.htm>
- ▶ The Fritz institute has published an excellent study called *Recipient perceptions of aid effectiveness: Rescue, Relief and Rehabilitation in Tsunami affected Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka* on its website
<http://www.fritzinstitute.org/PDFs/findings/NineMonthReport.pdf>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Organiser	Date/ Time	Place
Exhibition: The first anniversary of the tsunami disaster	TRINet & TNTRC Contact: tamil.kumar@tntrc.org info.trinet@gmail.com	19-12-05 to 20-12-05	Chennai, TamilNadu.
Seminar: International Conference on Disaster Management and Trauma Counselling	Sudha Bhogle at bangaloreuniversity@counsellor.com	21-12-05 to 22-12-05	Bangalore, Karnataka.

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Pondicherry

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Paris

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APPENDIX: EVOLUTION OF THE PRICE OF BUILDING MATEIRALS IN TAMIL NADU

Note: the following data was compiled from information provided by building societies in Chennai, Pondicherry and Thanjavur (which covers Nagapattinam district). It is intended to provide a basic indication of the prices of selected construction materials in different locations along the Tamil Nadu coast, as well to give an idea of their evolution since January 2005.

Evolution of the Price of Building Materials in Chennai

ITEMS	1 ST WEEK OF JANUARY 2005	1 ST WEEK OF MAY 2005	1 ST WEEK OF OCTOBER 2005	% Change in prices: January-October 2005
CEMENT: Rupees per pack				
BIRLA SUPER	165.00	165.00	165.50	+ 0.3%
ULTRATECH	157.50	170.00	163.75	+ 4%
ACC 43	160.00	165.00	160.50	+ 0.3%
ACC 53	164.00	165.00	160.00	- 2%
RAJASTRI	150.00	160.00	157.50	+ 5%
Reinforcement Steels – Rupees per kilogramme				
8 MM STEEL	27.00	55.00	31.00	+ 13%
10 MM STEEL	27.50	55.00	30.50	+ 10%
12 MM STEEL	27.00	55.10	31.50	+ 14%
16 MM STEEL	27.00	55.00	31.50	+ 14%
20 MM STEEL	27.50	55.00	31.50	+ 13%
25 MM STEEL	27.50	55.50	29.00	+ 5%
¾ GRAVEL (JELLY) 3 units*	5400	5400	7500	+ 28%
1 1/2 GRAVEL 3 units	4500	4800	7500	+ 40%
BURNED BRICKS 3000 Nos.	7500	6000	5500	- 37%
RIVERSAND 3 units	2600	2500	2500	- 4%

* 3 units are equivalent to one standard lorry load.

Source: List of Construction materials prices in Chennai, Kattumana Thozhail Publication.

Evolution of the Price of Building Materials in Pondicherry

ITEMS	1 ST WEEK OF JANUARY 2005	1 ST WEEK OF JULY 2005	1 ST WEEK OF OCTOBER 2005	% Change in prices: January- October 2005
<i>Cements: Rupees per pack</i>				
COROMANDL	165.00	158.00	153.00	- 8%
ULTRATECH	165.00	158.00	153.00	- 8%
ZUARI	152.00	158.00	147.00	- 3%
RAMCO	153.00	153.00	145.00	- 5%
BIRLAPLUS	158.00	158.00	148.00	- 7%
ARASU	145.00	143.00	143.00	- 1%
<i>Reinforcement Steels – Rupees per kilogramme</i>				
8 MM STEEL	25.60	26.70	24.50	- 4%
10 MM STEEL	25.20	26.10	24.00	- 5%
12 MM STEEL	25.20	26.10	24.00	- 5%
16 MM STEEL	28.00	29.90	27.10	- 3%
20 MM STEEL	27.50	29.60	26.50	- 4%
25 MM STEEL	27.50	29.60	26.80	- 3%
¾ GRAVEL (JELLY) 3 units	5100	5400	5400	+ 6%
1 1/2 GRAVEL 3 units	4100	4100	4400	+ 7%
BURNED BRICKS(4000) 4000 Nos.	7200	6800	6700	- 7%
RIVERSAND 3 units	1600	1600	1800	+ 11%

Source: The Pondicherry Cooperative Building centre Ltd.

Evolution of the Price of Building Materials in Thanjavur

ITEMS	1 ST WEEK OF JANUARY 2005	1 ST WEEK OF JUNE 2005	1 ST WEEK OF OCTOBER 2005	% Change in prices: January- October 2005
Cements: Rupees per pack				
RAMCOSUPER	165.00	150.00	152.00	- 9%
BIRLA PLUS	163.00	148.00	150.00	- 9%
DALMIA	163.00	152.00	155.00	- 5%
Reinforcement Steels – Rupees per kilogramme				
8 MM STEEL	29.10	25.00	25.00	- 16%
10 MM STEEL	28.60	26.00	26.00	- 10%
12 MM STEEL	28.60	26.00	26.00	- 10%
16 MM STEEL	28.60	26.00	26.00	- 10%
20 MM STEEL	28.60	26.00	26.00	- 10%
25 MM STEEL	28.60	26.00	26.00	- 10%
¾ GRAVEL (JELLY) 3 units	4500	4700	5000	+ 10%
1 1/2 GRAVEL 3 units	3600	3800	4200	+ 14%
BURNED BRICKS(4000) 4000 Nos.	5200	5400	5600	+ 7%
RIVERSAND 3 units	1850	2400	3000	+ 38%

Source: Builders' Association of India. Thanjavur Centre