



1st – 15th December 2006

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1. UN organisation signs livelihood support pact

On the 1st December 2006, Hindu reported that the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok, has entered in to an agreement with the Development Promotion Group (DPG) a Chennai based organisation to initiate a community based livelihood programme under the pro-poor public – private partnership projects in Nagapattinam. UNESCAP, in July 2005, signed a trust fund with the Republic of Korea for projects on multi hazard preparedness and comprehensive risk reduction. Three areas – introducing practice in community based early warning systems in Sri Lanka, livelihood support for affected communities in India through public private partnership and strengthening support for affected communities in India through public private partnership and strengthening support for orphans and separated children in Indonesia – were identified for UNESCAP intervention. R.Bhakther Solomon, Chief Executive Officer of DPG said that the UNESCAP and the NGO would achieve the goal of livelihood support for affected communities through the field project in Nagapattinam district. UNESCAP observed that the collaboration of the NGO to facilitate partnership was crucial for the success of the project. The organisation will identify a project to benefit about 30 to 40 families and the feasibility of study is under progress. Mr. Solomon said that DPG was actively engaged in tsunami rehabilitation services and it was now working in Nagapattinam district on a permanent shelter development program.

2. Clinton wants the Cuddalore model replicated elsewhere

The Hindu dated 2nd December 2006 reported that Former U.S.President and United Nations Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery Bill Clinton the model the small town had adopted for post-tsunami reconstruction and rehabilitation and

want it to be replicated not only in other tsunami-hit areas but also the rest of the world. He expressed that he wanted to make this part of the UN strategy for future disasters, further he felt this is a good model for economic diversification and housing construction not only for places devastated but also where poor people have substandard housing and not much economic opportunity. He lauded the speedy pace at which houses were built for each family that had lost its home while ensuring that education, water sanitation standards were on par with the mandate he had set. He further commended the efforts to provide alternative livelihood for the for those who had suffered multiple loses during the tsunami

3. WB – aided road sector project to be completed by 2008

The Indian Express dated 2nd December 2006 reported that The World Bank aided TN Road Sector Project, undertaken at an outlay of Rs.2100 crore to cover a distance of 740 kms across 11 districts (from Arcot in Vellore to Thoothukudi) will be completed by 2008 as scheduled. This was disclosed by the Minister for Highways, Vellakoil M P Saminathan. Of the total budgetary allocation of Rs3.267 crore for improving the road infrastructure, it had been programmed to spend Rs.804 crore and the maintenance of the road Rs2463 crore on new projects and extension works he said.

4. Misbehaviour of teacher soaks road block

The Indian Express reported on the 8th December, 2006 that “Traffic on Porayar – Mayiladuthurai road via Sankaranpandal was disrupted for several hours as hundreds of students of a higher secondary school at Tirukkalacherry resorted to a rasta rook along with the people of two villages demanding action against a teacher who allegedly tied t misbehave with a girl student. Rajesh (35), a native of Mayiladuthurai is working as a graduate teacher in Hameedha Higher Secondary School, Tirukkalacherry, in Nagapattinam district. He had arranged for a special class for class X students on Dec 2. After completing the special class, he had gone to the staff room and asked girl studnt to fetch him water. When the girl went to there with water, Rajesh has reportedly tried to misbehave with her. But she had managed to escape.

5. ADB aid for Nagapattinam

The Hindu dated 8th December 2006 reported that A number of development works in the tsunami affected areas of Nagapattinam district including the development of the port are being carried out financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Collector Tenkasi S Jawahar said. He also said that the banks and NGOs had been instructed to identify women self help groups in the seven affected blocks of Nagapattinam, Vedaranyam, Keezhayur, Thalainayar, Sembanarkovil, Sirkazhi and Kollidam for providing more financial assistance.

6. Gurukulam gets Irelands support

The Hindu reported on the 9th December, 2006 that “The Government of Ireland has provided financial assistanc of 26, 00 Euros to the six decade old Kasthurba Gandhi Kanya Gurukulam, said Pat Bourrne, Vice Consul of Ireland in New Delhi. The assistance is for the hostel project for trainees of the Gurukulam training said Mr.Bourne. The Gurukulam provides education exclusively for girls in rural areas in Vedaranyam in the district. It is providing education and training for 50,000 girls.