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1. Karunanidhi announces 22,000 more houses for tsunami-affected areas

The Hindu dated 1st February 2007 reported that Tsunami hit areas in the state will get 22,000 more houses, Chief Minister M.Karunanidhi announced. The construction will be carried out under the Rajiv Gandhi Tsunami Rehabilitation Project at a cost of Rs.550 crore while addressing a function at the Valivalam Desikar Polytechnic College after receiving 450 permanent houses built for the tsunami-affected by the Mata Amritanandamayi Math. He praised the Math for spending more than Rs.80 crore in Tamil Nadu for tsunami relief and rehabilitation work, including construction of houses. Swami Ramakrishna Puri of the Math said they had spent more than Rs.200 crore for tsunami relief in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and had constructed 7,000.

2. Matha inspects tsunami houses

The Indian Express reported on the 2nd February, 2007 that “Matha Amritanandamayi undertook an inspection of the permanent shelters constructed for the tsunami survivors of fishermen colony in Keelapattinacherry in Nagapattinam district by the Math. According to the sources as many as 650 families of the colony lost their houses in the killer tidal wave of 2004. The Math undertook construction of 650 permanent houses for the victims at an estimated cost of Rs 2 crore on an 35 acre site granted by the Government at Sambathottam. The Matha handed over the keys of the 400 permanent houses completed to Chief Minister. The Matha inspected the residential complex, tagged “Amirthapuri” and acquainted herself with the additional work to be undertaken to the houses. She also inspected drainage work is to be undertaken and a sullage treatment plant is to come up.

3. Collector as Carpenter

Indian Express dated 3rd February 2007 reported that In a novel venture, about 248 school students in the tsunami hit Silladi village near Nagapattinam designed and created a children's park within a span of five days. Nagai Collector Tenkasi S Jawahar joined the students and contributed his mite in manual labours as a carpenter. The International City Manager Association (ICMA) a US based organization offered Rs.50 lakh for constructing a state of art children's park at the tsunami hit Silladi village near Nagapattinam. ICMA decided to get inputs from the children for work. The park design work was undertaken by Nether Associates, an US organization. Prior to starting the construction design, the organization consulted the school students in that village and to their surprise; it received over whelming response from them. Many students offered creative suggestions. Finally, the blue print for the park was prepared almost by the student themselves. Around 248 students and villagers had taken part in the construction work.

4. Nagapattinam has scope for marine based units

Hindu dated 3rd February 2007 reported that The coastal district of Nagapattinam has tremendous scope for starting marine-based industries and the Government is encouraging entrepreneurs to start such industries said Tenkasi .S. Jawahar. Inaugurating a seminar on 'Marine based products and seafood industries' organised by the Nagapattinam District Centre and Nagapattinam District Small and tiny industries association, said that the district had 187 km long coastline and more than one lakh people were engaged in fishing activities and 15,000 others in salt production. The Collector pointed out that the fishermen bringing a catch of average 600 tones of fish, worth more than Rs.1 crore every day. He also said that Government was to bring about a 'blue revolution' in the district by starting marine-based and sea food industries by exploiting the potential available in the district. He also pointed out that the government would make arrangements for getting financial assistance form commercial banks for starting the industries.

5. Minister: Welfare board for fishermen soon

The New Indian Express dated 3rd February 2007 reported that KP Sami, Minister for fisheries has said that the Tamil Nadu Government would soon establish a separate welfare board for the fisher men in the state. Inaugurating a diesel outlet at Nagore to supply fuel to the fishermen on Nagapattinam area at subsidized rates, the Minister said that the Government was according top priority for the welfare of fishermen, who eke out their livelihood by battling the nature everyday. He also announced that a fish landing centre at a cost of Rs.2 crore would be set up at Nagore with World Bank assistance. Works in this connection would commence soon, he said. The Minister further said that dredging operations at a cost of Rs.40 lakh would be carried out in the Kaduvaiyar estuary at Nagapattinam. Referring to Centrally – sponsored scheme of providing education assistance for tsunami hit children the Minister said that so far 26,000 children in the district has been provided Rs.300 a month as a scholarship and 17,000 more children would be soon covered. District

Collector Tenkasi S Jawahar who presided over the function said that the diesel outlet at Nagore was having capacity of 36000 litres. Over 700 mechanized boats, 2100 fiber glass boats and 10000 catamarans in Nagapattinam area would be benefited through the outlet.

6. Fire razes 12 houses

The Indian Express dated 5th February 2007 reported that “For the fourth time in a row a fire that broke out in MGR Nagar here destroyed 12 houses. The cause of the fire is attributed by the people to the handiwork of anti social elements who want quick action against the culprits. A number of hutments are located in MGR Nagar on the Karaikal bypass road these. The inmates of these dwellings have been demanding houses in alternate locations as they also bore the brunt of the tsunami.

7. Rs.1.22- crore aid for tsunami hit- students

The Hindu dated 10th February 2007 –Pudukottai - reported that A cash relief of Rs.1, 22, 50,800 was distributed to tsunami affected students of 54 schools in the coastal taluks of Manamelkudi and Avudayarkoil in the district. In all 3,744 students received the assistance, sanctioned from the Prime Ministers Tsunami Relief Fund. Distributing the cheques meant for the calendar year 2006 at a function held at Government Higher Secondary School at Meemisal, the Union Minister of State for home, S.Regupathy said that each student would get Rs.300 a month. Steps would be taken to include all the eligible students who had been left out in the earlier list.

In the pipeline

- As many as 2,792 houses would be constructed for the tsunami hit families in these two taluks, at an expenditure of about Rs.2 lakh each.
- Referring to a plea made on the occasion, he said steps would be taken to construct an auditorium and compound wall around the school campus.
- It would also get a laboratory an additional block of class rooms and toilets on outlay of Rs.75 lakh to be sanctioned by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

8. NGO sets up water works

The Indian Express dated 10th February 2007 reported that A water works was inaugurated at Aarukattuthuai near Vedaranyam on behalf of PCI, the NGO that has been undertaking tsunami rehabilitation in the area. AS part of its multifarious activities, a water works was set up to meet the needs of the people for protected water. Paul McVey of PCI participated in the function in the presence of S.K.Vedarathnam MLA, Schmidt bob, Council chairman Meenakshisundaram, Padmavathy Jagnathan and DSP B.G.Chandrasekaran were guest of honor and spoke on the occasion.

9. Participatory gender audit conducted

The Hindu dated 13th February 2007 reported that A Chennai based Development Promotion Group, a nongovernmental organization that was carrying out development works, including rehabilitation activity, in works including rehabilitation activity in 500 villages in the tsunami affected areas in Nagapattinam district had subjected itself to the participatory gender audit with the help of an external expert Hettie Walters from Wageningen International, the Netherlands. R.Bhakther Solomon, Chief Executive Officer of DPG said that the exercise – a new concept was conducted in the last 20 days and all the projects of the organization were assessed. He said the PGA was a self assessment methodology for development programmes that focus on improving the organizations performance with respect to gender equality and women empowerment. HE also said that the PGA team had made a recommendation to the DPG to formulate the clearer gender sensitise projects and programme objectives replacing the general description like community, farmers, land owners, Dalits, tribals and fishermen.

One of the conclusions was that it was possible for DPG to create a stronger profile and reputation as a gender sensitive organization and create a stronger policy and the formulation of objectives in this regard.

10. Gurukulam gets tsunami rescue hall

The Hindu dated 13th February 2007 reported that The Kasturbha Gandhi Kanya Gurukulam at Vedaranyam has been provided with tsunami rescue hall, disaster preparedness compound wall and two water purifying plants. CARE India an NGO has assisted these projects to the Gurukulam. S.Paramasivan, Advisor, Tsunami Response programme to CARE India, inaugurated the hall named as ‘Annachi Padmashri V.Appakutti Multi purpose Training hall’ cofounder of the Gurukulam. Mr.Parmasivan an expert in water and sanitation and national coordinator for the WASH, a UN body based in Geneva, lauded the services of Gurukulam to the society during normal and disaster times.