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Tharangambadi, a 'health tourism' hub

The New Indian Express dated 16th November 2006 reported that "The historic Danish town of Tharangambadi in Nagapattinam district attracts a throng of tourists, both native and foreign. Particularly, a large number of tourists from Scandinavian countries visit the town every day for its major attraction of the ozone rich beach (ranking next only to Switzerland). The ozone breeze is said to possess rejuvenating effect and Tharangambadi is a hub of 'health tourism' in that sense.

Bank team visits coastal areas in Nagapattinam

The Hindu dated 17th November 2006 reported that A team of World Bank officials from New Delhi inspected vulnerable coastal areas in Nagapattinam to probe the feasibility of constructing houses within 1000 metres from the sea. Senior social development specialist, World Bank I.U.B. Reddy, and Mr.Sankar interacted with local fishermen to elicit their views on the construction of houses in situ within 1000 meters or in some other places.

Disaster Preparedness

The New Indian Express dated 18th November 2006 – Nannilam reported that "the local unit of the Fire and Rescue Services organised a demonstration on disaster preparedness in the banks of Mudikondan river recently. Station Officer P.Murugesan and his team guided the public on different aspects of disaster preparedness and management, fire fighting and first aid.

3000 evacuated as heavy rain lashes Nagai district

The New Indian Express dated 18th November 2006 reported that “Following the incessant heavy rains in Nagai district, two rivers – Mulliyaru and Manankondan – near Vedaranyam are in spate. Over 3000 people from 18 hamlets around Thahaattur near Vedaranyam have been evacuated to safer places by the district administration as water had started entering the villages. According to official sources, Mulliyaru and Manankondan are over flowing and the PWD officials have placed nearly 5000 sand bags along the banks of these rivers. Revenue and PWD officials are monitoring the situation round the clock.

Nearly 3000 people from 18 hamlets including Thahattur, Suriyankadu, Kothankadu, Athiyandkadu, Subramaniankadu, Kuttigaundarkadu, Petthathcikadu and 11 other hamlets have been moved to safer places and the district administration is providing them food and drinking water. Fishermen of many hamlets in the district have been warned not to venture into the sea. District Collector Tenkasi S Jawahar has ordered the civil supplies department to ensure supply of essential commodities in the district without giving room for shortage.

Programme for Children affected by tsunami

The Hindu dated 19th November 2006 reported that “ More than 700 children from 16 tsunami hit villages in Nagapattinam district on Saturday expressed their talents in a mega children’s festival at Velankanni organised by the People’s Development Association a Madurai based non-governmental organisation engaged in tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction. Children from the Child Development Centres of the PDA and the students of UNICEF-PDA bridge course performed entertainment like dance, drama and music. Jacinta Joseph, Executive Director PDA who inaugurated the festival said that the objective of this event was to give the children of tsunami hit villages an opportunity to express their talents and abilities.

Tsunami victims turn violent in Andamans

The New Indian Express dated 19th November 2006 reported that “Nearly 1500 tsunami victims are presently agitating in Hut Bay Island of South Andaman region demanding better permanent shelters and rehabilitation package. Mr. Manoranjan Bhakta the lone member of Parliament said that “We are holding the meeting with islanders of hut bay and giving them our full support.” The situation became tense after the police forcefully dispersed the huge crowd of agitators in Hut Bay, who later burnt a government jeep of local tasihldar and pelted stones and threw glass bottles at police station. Agitated islanders are demanding streamlining of the rehabilitation process. They are also demanding single permanent shelter unit for a single family and shifting of some sites chosen for construction of permanent shelters.

A group of congress workers later staged a demonstration in front of the Secretariat building of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The local unit of BJP also organised a public meeting at Tiranga Park of the Port Blair to show their support to the agitators.

Flood prevention project in April

The Indian Express dated 21st November 2006- Trichy reported that TN Transport Minister K N Nehru said that the Rs 295 crore comprehensive flood prevention project would begin in April next year, while the Rs.5 crore project envisaged as a temporary measure would begin in December. After inspect Puthur Aarukann Mathagu, Shanmuga Nagar Uyyakondan canal, Fathima Nagar he told reporters.

Vedaranyam – Nagapattinam canal to be desilted

The Hindu dated 24th November 2006 reported that “The 56 km Vedaranyam – Nagapattinam canal will be desilted at a cost of Rs. 11 crore and the district administration will send a proposal to the Government soon in this regard said U.Mathivan, Minister for Dairy Development at Vedaranyam. Mathivanan and Ko.Si.Mani, Minister for Cooperation, on Thursday inspected the rain-affected areas in Vedaranyam taluk in the district along with the Collector, Tenkasi.S.Jawahar and other officials. The Ministers said that the bunds of the Mulliyar river that breached at several points would be strengthened the bunds of Uppanar river at Sembodai. Mr.Mathivanan, who heard the grievances of the people of Thagattur village at Vedaranyam, assured that action would be taken to provide shelter for the people affected by the flood waters due to recent rains. Mr.Tenkasi S Jawahar said that several works would be taken up under the Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Projects in Vedaranyam area.

Special Panel

The Collector pointed out that a special panel of revenue and irrigation officials had been formed to monitor the situation in the villages arising out of heavy rains and floods.

NABARD's potential – linked credit plan for Nagapattinam district

The Hindu dated 24th November 2006, reported “The potential linked credit plan (PLP) prepared by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for the district has projected a credit flow potential of Rs.554 crore for the year 2007-08. The Collector, Tenkasi S Jawahar, who released the credit plan at the district consultative committee meeting of the bankers, appreciating the efforts of the NABARD in bringing out a comprehensive document. He appealed to all the bankers and Government departments to make use of the document and implement the plan to exploit the potential available in all sectors.

Weightage for crop loans

K.Palanisamy, Assistant General Manager, NABARD Nagapattinam said that due Weightage was given for crop loans and the plan envisaged a credit flow of Rs342 crore towards short term loans for crop production, accounting for 62 per cent of the total potential outlay. Potential for term loan for agriculture and allied activities has been projected at Rs.54 crore, non-farm sector at Rs13 crore and other priority sectors comprising educational loans housing loans etc at Rs142 crore.The plan highlights the importance of covering all crop loans under Kisan Credit card (KCC) and coverage of loans under unorganized sector with Swarojgar Credit Card (SCC).

Rural schools students get insurance cover

The Hindu 24th November 2006 reported that “The students of Panchayat Union Middle School in B.Mettur village in Uppiliapuram block got a rare ‘Children’s Day’ gift recently. All the 485 students, including about 300 girls, were covered under ‘student’s safety insurance scheme’. The insurance cover would enable the next of a kin of a student to get a relief of Rs.15000 in case of any eventuality from the New India Insurance Company during the current the academic year. As the scheme would not evoke any immediate response from parents, who cannot pay the premium, a philanthropist and local business, R.Karuppiah, has sponsored the entire premium amount of about Rs.2,800. He handed over the policy documents given by the insurance firm to the Assistant Elementary Education Officer, A.Pugazhendhi, during the Children’s Day celebrations at the school. A few students lost their lives in fatal accidents and instances of children being drowned were also reported. These tragic incidents led to the introduction of this scheme, Mr.Pugazhendhi told.

Rs.5.85 cr. Aid to women SHGs

The Hindu dated 25th November 2006 – Pudukottai reported that “ A sum of Rs.5.85 crore has been sanctioned to women self-help groups in Manamelkudi and Avuaiyarkoil blocks as parts of tsunami relief measures, the Collector, S.J.Chiru, said. Speaking after distributing revolving fund under livelihood assistance programme for the tsunami-hit areas at Manamelkudi near. Mr. Chiru said that Rs.12 crore had been sanctioned for executing relief packages to benefit the tsunami victims. There were as many as 1500 SHGs in these two blocks. As many as 1,343 SHGs were provided with revolving fund to the tune of Rs.3.76 crore. A total of 2,073 physically challenged persons were given Rs.2.7 crore as livelihood assistance. The banks rose to the occasion and sanctioned loans to the tune of Rs.5.85 crore to help the victims. The Collector said that under the tsunami emergency assistance scheme, the district would get a grant of another Rs.3.33 crore. Intensive training was being imparted to the members of the women SHGs to enable them to take up economic activities. He also appealed to the SHGs to float federations for availing themselves of various Government sponsored programmes. A study on providing housing facilities to those willing evacuate coastal habitations and settle else where would be taken up. Houses would be constructed utilizing Government assistance.

The Project Officer (tsunami) A.Natarajan said the Indian Bank, State Bank of India, Central Bank of India and the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Bank in and around Meemisal had sanctioned loans to the SHGs.

World Vision India’s gesture to tsunami survivors

The Indian Express dated 26th November 2006 reported that “As part of its Nagapattinam Tsunami Rehabilitation Program, World Vision India, an NGO handed over houses to 111 tsunami affected families at Nambiyar Nagar. These families have been relocated to the houses constructed in Kadambadi at a cost of Rs.2 Lakh each. Formally handing over the keys to MLA V Marimuthu, president

of World Vision Canada Dave Toycen thanked the government and the community for the support extended during the relief works.

Executive vice-president of the organisation Dirk Booy, Group Executive – Field Ministers World Vision India L R Joshi, special deputy collectors Shanmuga Sundaram and Kandaswamy were present.

As part of its tsunami relief work World Vision would provide 5861 houses in the affected areas across India, out of which 3000 houses have already been constructed. As many as 1347 houses are part of the relief package for Kallar, Thideerkuppam and Nambiyar Nagar villages in Nagapattinam on the land allocated by the government, said World Vision's Nagapattinam Project Manager Andrews Devarajan.