



TRINET NEWSLETTER *DECEMBER 2007*

SOI: Save Our Shores

Cyclone Sidr and High Tides

Even as we move towards the third anniversary of the tsunami disaster, the apprehensions about the increasing vulnerability of our shores is on the rise. This is apparently because consequences of rough weather on the coastal areas seem to be intensifying as well as having a greater spread in their impact. In mid November, Cyclone Sidr crossed Bangladesh wreaking havoc on the low lying areas, damaging a quarter of the Sunderbans. It has been designated as a "very severe cyclonic storm", a category 4 cyclone with wind speed of 215 kmph reaching a maximum of 250 kmph, just a little short of the Supercyclone of 1999. The damage due to the cyclone in Bangladesh was mainly due to the gales. The cyclone caused extensive sea swells as well in areas far away from Bangladesh – along the Coromandel coast of India. Two or three days before the cyclone made landfall, there were reports in the media about rough seas and seawater entering into many hamlets. In some of the districts in Andhra Pradesh, fishermen who came to the beach to go fishing in the early hours found their craft missing – apparently during the high tide, there had been a surge that took away the boats – which were found washed up elsewhere on the shore, quite damaged. In northern Tamil Nadu, houses were washed away by swell tides. According to other news reports, tidal waves up to 3m height hit some parts of the Tamil Nadu coast and fears about the 2004 tsunami surfaced.

High Tides and Erosion

Every year, the east coast of the Indian subcontinent faces storms and cyclones as part of the North Indian Ocean Cyclone Season. Sidr was the fourth named storm of the season. While the west coast experiences high wave activity during the South-West monsoon period, on the east coast, high wave activity is seen in both South West and North-East monsoon periods, with extreme wave conditions occurring during the frequent cyclones in the North-East monsoon period. The east and west coasts are also different in the width of the continental shelf – narrow in the east and wider (60-340 km) in the west. The sources of sediment are the rivers, mainly the Ganga-Brahmaputra that drain into the Bay of Bengal and the Indus that drains into the Arabian Sea. A 2006 report by V. Sanil Kumar et al. says that while oscillation of the Indian shoreline is seasonal resulting in an annual change in the profile, half the beaches that do not regain their profile on an annual basis are eroding. Overall, it appears, 23% of the Indian shoreline is eroding. The table from Sanil Kumar et al. gives an idea of the type of coastline and the extent that is affected by erosion.

Table 1. Types of coastline in different maritime states

State	Sandy beach (%)	Rocky coast (%)	Muddy flats (%)	Marshy coast (%)	Total length* (km)	Length of coast affected by erosion** (km)
Gujarat	28	21	29	22	1214.7	36.4
Maharashtra	17	37	46	–	652.6	263.0
Goa	44	21	35	–	151.0	10.5
Karnataka	75	11	14	–	280.0	249.6
Kerala	80	5	15	–	569.7	480.0
Tamil Nadu	57	5	38	–	906.9	36.2
Andhra Pradesh	38	3	52	7	973.7	9.2
Orissa	57	–	33	10	476.4	107.6
West Bengal	–	–	51	49	157.5	49.0
Daman and Diu	–	–	–	–	9.5	–
Pondicherry	–	–	–	–	30.6	6.4
Total mainland	43	11	36	10	5422.6	1247.9
Lakshadweep	–	–	–	–	132.0	132.0
Andaman and Nicobar	–	–	–	–	1962.0	–
Total					7516.6	1379.9

*According to the Naval Hydrographic Office.
**Information collected from respective states.

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Karnataka and Kerala are obviously badly affected. P. Venugopal points out in an article written almost ten years ago: "The state (*Kerala*) has a very heavy monsoon, a steep foreshore, mud banks, vast sheets of backwaters, 44 rivers draining out to the sea and the heaviest density of

population along the coastal belts. It is the combination of these factors that has accentuated the ill-effects of sea erosion in these parts."

Sediment starvation

Why do shores erode? When waves hit a shoreline and then retreat, the force of water impacts the shore, takes with it some of the sediment that is part of the shore ecosystem and deposits it elsewhere. This is littoral drift.

Littoral drift is the movement of beach material in the littoral zone by waves and currents, includes movement parallel (longshore drift) and perpendicular (cross shore transport) to the shoreline.

(www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm)

Along the east coast of India, longshore transport is southerly from November to February, northerly from April to September and variable in March and October.

Along the west coast, longshore sediment transport is generally towards the south from January to May and in October.

The source of much of the sediment that the waves take with them is the many rivers that flow into the sea. When dams are built across rivers, the reservoir traps the sediment that the river brings down and soon the dam is silted up. But this also means a reduction in the quantum of sediment that reaches the sea. Some studies made in the Godavari delta are revealing. This river, the second longest in India, spreads over 5100 sq km. Studies have shown that the extensive sediment deposition by this river over a few thousand years has resulted in the delta bulging seaward overlapping the continental shelf by about 30-35 km (Malini and Rao, 2006). The authors point out that there has been a significant reduction in the sediment load between 1971 and 1998 due to construction of dams in the catchment. Coastal subsidence along with apparent sea level rise has resulted in sustained erosion and the loss of 18.36 km² of coastal land and has in turn led to the displacement of coastal communities and loss of coastal vegetation as well. A study of the Mahanadi delta in Orissa has also come up with similar conclusions (Mohanti).

Can the conclusions of this study be applied to the Cauvery Delta and specifically, Nagapattinam district? Worst affected by the 2004 tsunami, the district is alternately hit by droughts and floods. It is the tail end of the Cauvery delta and not much water originating from the Cauvery flows down the irrigation channels these days – many of these are also overgrown with weeds and silted up. This is actually a double problem. When there are heavy rains locally, the silted up channels are unable to

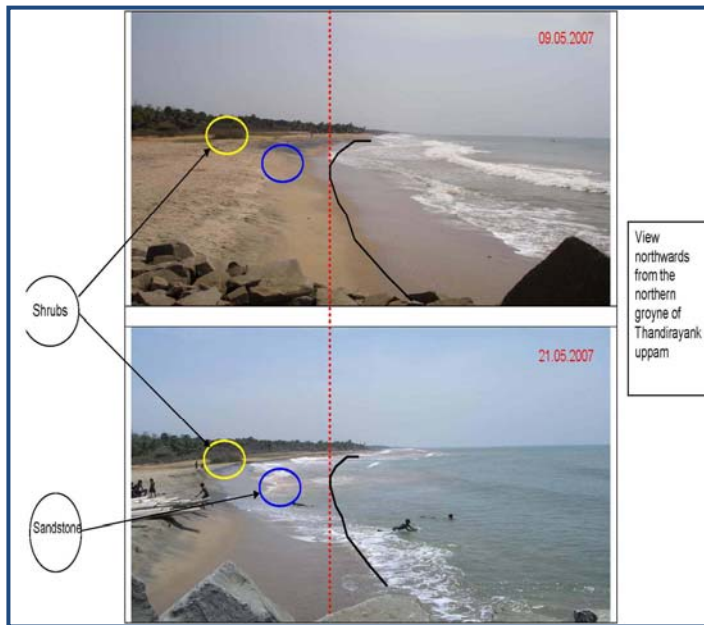
carry away the excess runoff and there is flooding. When there is not much sediment transport down the river to feed the hungry sea, is the sea level rise predicted due to climate change going to have a greater impact on the coastline, and the vulnerable populace? Post-tsunami harbours and ports are being constructed to boost the fishing sector. The Karaikal port is to be dredged to make it deeper and better for larger craft. Are activities as these going to have other impacts on the shoreline as well?

Man-made causes of erosion

The shore is where the sea dissipates its pent up energy. Erosion and accretion are natural processes. However, their rates can be and are being artificially altered when we build structures on the shore that modify the wave patterns. The major causes of erosion include harbours and ports, sand mining, dams and any construction that affects littoral drift. Again, when we are talking about shore erosion, it is the beach erosion that is of consequence as that this is the part of the shoreline that is extensively made use of for various purposes by human beings since time immemorial. Fishermen have used beaches to berth craft, land fish, repair nets etc., and even reside as close as possible to the shoreline (picture courtesy SIFFS). No doubt small jetties, wharfs and other structures have been put up to enable landing and related activities, but it is only in recent times that larger harbours and ports have been constructed and protective structures such as breakwaters and groynes built that appear to have had an impact on the littoral drift sufficient to cause visible and more rapid erosion.



Some shorelines have known to be prone to erosion and interesting local knowledge on stabilizing the drifting sand has been developed over time – the use of sand binding spinifex is one example, another is the use of palmyra leaves to allow sand to accrete against them to build up the dunes so that what is behind the dune is protected. These, however, take time to establish. Meanwhile, a simpler solution is to build a wall – with the reasoning that anything behind a wall is protected by the wall. And the simplest of all walls is the RMS – a pile of rocks (maybe designed with specified width and slope, but a pile of rocks nevertheless) that is the favourite along Indian shores. However,



as we are learning, one village's protective wall can result in another village's ruin. Thus it is so in the Thandirayankuppam in Villupuram district which is affected by the building of seawalls south of the village and the extent of erosion has been photographically documented – an example is included here (courtesy Prashant Hedao/ACDC). Similar is the case of the build up of the Marina beach south of the Chennai port, and the erosion of areas such as Royapuram north of the port where GIS images have been used to show the change over time. In fact, rates of erosion have also been calculated and the maximum observed is reported to be about 6.6 m/yr at Royapuram between Chennai and Ennore.

Protecting the coast:

In the 'Manual on Protection and Control of Coastal Erosion in India' (NIO, 1980), authors P. Bruun and B.U. Nayak write that **"Some of the most important rules in planning of any coastal protective measures are: (a) to look at the problem on a broader scale and to be farsighted, and (b) to plan coastal protection in full consideration with what is in the neighbourhood.** In other words, coastal protection should always be handled by a large group of people, a public organization or a city council which would be able to take an overall view of the problem for the benefit of all concerned." They also point out the need to distinguish between regulatory steps (those that are normally intended to control the construction or erection of all coastal structures to ensure that no structure will be placed or no action will be taken which will have harmful effects of an order of magnitude which will be against the interest of all concerned) and steps

towards improvements. According to them, "Regulatory steps should include rules for the location of buildings on shores, particularly with respect to their minimum distance (set back) from an eroding dune, rules for the maintenance of dunes and coastal platforms and rules regarding the removal of beach material. Such removal should always be prohibited from all eroding shores."

...the situation in India favours the use of seawalls mainly of the revetment type which stops the dune erosion, but it may not necessarily stop the beach erosion. Most often they do not, because erosion will continue to occur due to an imbalance in the material supply/loss system ...
Bruun and Nayak, 1980. p 70

Finally...

Have you ever stood on the beach and had a wave wash over your feet? It is a great sensation – the waves draw back, the sand grains shift hurriedly and you dig in your feet to maintain your position. The shifting sand grains is what makes the coastal sands ecologically inhospitable – apart from crabs and clams that burrow rapidly as the waves reach out to them as they scuttle on the beach. But it is this sandy expanse that also serves as a protective barrier between human beings and a turbulent sea. This needs to be protected for practical as well as aesthetic reasons.

Good fences, the poet said, make good neighbours. It does not follow however that sea walls make good barriers against the sea. Walls are ugly, require constant maintenance, are eco-unfriendly and do not permit traditional activities such as beach landing of craft. And if there are high speed winds like those generated by a cyclone like Sidr, the rocks of the seawalls could become dangerous flying missiles causing more damage than protecting. A reading of the concept note on the proposed CZM notification from the MoEF gives one the feeling that hard options such as these are going to be extensively favoured especially since it is implied that once such a 'protection measure' is in place, any activity can be allowed behind such a barrier.

Writing after a study of the changes in the shoreline along the Ennore (North Chennai) coast after the construction of the Ennore port in 2001, Kasinatha Pandian et al (2004) conclude that **"The behaviour of coastal processes is not understood completely due to lack of proper monitoring mechanism and insufficient cooperation among different agencies involved in the developmental activities"**. This

was echoed at a recent meeting at Auroville (see report below). One hopes that the future will bring greater wisdom on the kinds of protection measures to be created and also the need for cooperation in the wake of the MoEF making definite moves from a 'regulation' to a 'management' regime along the coast. There are so many academic institutions working on shore protection – the CWPRS and CESS, various IITs and Universities. There is a Coastal Protection and Development Advisory Committee (CPDAC) already in existence though not much seems to be heard about it in recent times. High time it takes positive holistic action especially with global warming and sea level rise becoming issues of importance today.

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Meetings, Workshops

Consultation Meet on Restoration & Protection of Tamil Nadu & Puducherry Coastline, 3 Nov 2007.

Auroville Coastal-area Development Centre (ACDC) and Pondicherry Citizens Action Network (PondyCAN) organized a day-long consultation with over 50 participants with the aim of understanding the reasons behind the erosion of the coast of Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu. Dr Z.S. Tarapore in his capacity as Chairperson said that the purpose of the seminar was to understand the problems, both natural and man-made, of the coast and what has to be done and how it is to be done. Aurofilio Schiafina provided the background to the consultation and explained that north of the Pondicherry harbour, the coastline was eroding while it was accreting to the south of the harbour. He said that coastal erosion was advancing at about 350 m/yr and that since the harbour was constructed in 1989, eight km of the shoreline was completely eroded while more than 30 km was affected. He concluded that the erosion was principally because of a man made disruption of the littoral drift, originating with the construction of the Pondicherry harbour and aggravated by the hard coastal protection measures adopted (sea walls and groynes). Dr Rajat Roy Chaudhari of the NIOT said that he was aware of Dr Rauf Ali's ideas of using tyres and geosynthetic textiles as soft solutions to reduce the erosion. He pointed out that groynes work well in a sediment cell where net sediment transfer is nil. He said that a demonstration project could be funded if based on good strong research. Cdr John Jacob Puthur, Retd Naval Hydrographer said that any obstruction, even a navigation channel, would cause erosion. There were earlier obstructions along the coast but these were small and did not have much of an

effect – erosion wise. Only after the sea wall was built that the problem arose. Mr Kudale of the CWPRS gave a detailed presentation on the causes of erosion and the various methods of coastal protection. Dr Sunder of IIT explained that there were two aspects – taming the water and taming the sediment - and that solutions had to be site specific. Mr Ajay Pradhan of the DHI described the various management methods that they had worked with in different areas of the world such as Copenhagen city and La Norigel in France. The discussion that followed was quite intense and then the panelists went on to look at the specific solutions, short term and long term, for the Pondicherry area under discussion. It was pointed out that such erosion was anticipated and sand bypassing system was designed but had fallen into disuse and had to be reactivated. Also, possibilities of redesigning the harbour including re-aligning the groynes and breakwaters could be looked into. Future models also would need to take into account sea level rise, and a monitoring system was necessary to look at effects of groynes and seawalls that seem to be coming up all over the place.

In the afternoon session, Prashant Hedao of Auroville explained the landscape terrain along the Coromandel coast including the historical information about the sand dunes in existence along the coast. Mr C.V.Sankar, Officer on Special Duty (R&R), Government of Tamil Nadu, said that the question of erosion had been brought into sharp focus after the tsunami. He said that there was a need to look at all manner of solutions as shelterbelts may not solve the problems

everywhere. Post tsunami, people were also prepared to look at hard solutions. Maintenance issues were being incorporated into projects and a separate non-lapsable permanent fund was being created for this. Mr Anbarasu, Secretary PWD, Puducherry said that post tsunami, geographical boundaries had been made irrelevant and called for a joint machinery for better environmental management. Mr Navnit, Collector of Villupuram district said that the government is usually in a fire-fighting mode, acting only when a natural calamity occurs. Post tsunami construction with easy financing led to the preference for hard options such as groynes and breakwaters. He said that there was an urgent need of a bouquet of

solutions to be made available for discussion with the community especially with regard to sustainability. Options weighing relocation versus hard options also need to be looked at. Mr Govindarajan, CE, PWD-WRO, Chennai Circle pointed out that there were practical problems in executing works because of the way funds were released stretching over multiple financial years.

At the end of the panel discussion, there was extensive participation from the audience and immediate, long term and administrative solutions were listed with specific reference to the Pondicherry harbour and erosion occurring north of Pondicherry.

2nd Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Nov 7-8, 2007:

This Conference held at Delhi was the follow up to the first conference held in China two years ago. The goal of this conference was to review the action taken by the national governments and other stakeholders for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action as a follow up to the Beijing Action for Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia, to share and exchange best practices and lessons learned from disaster risk reduction in various fields and to develop a vision and roadmap for disaster risk reduction in Asia. Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh called upon modern societies to come together to deal with manmade disasters – be they industrial or those caused by terror attacks. He also said that “Disasters know no political boundaries and we are all equally vulnerable to them.” Following on the two day deliberations, the Conference adopted the Delhi

Declaration with 26 action points along the following themes: *Hyogo Framework for Action, Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, Early warning and preparedness, Climate change, Integration of DRR into recovery and reconstruction, Partnerships and Regional mechanisms*. The declaration concludes saying that the biennial Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which was started in Beijing in 2005 was to be expanded as the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, with participation of the national governments, regional and sub-regional organizations, the UN agencies, International Financial Institutions and other stakeholders including the civil society, scientific and technical organizations, the private sector and the media. The complete declaration can be read at <http://www.amcdrrindia.com/declaration4.asp>.

National Workshop on Tsunami Risk Management, NDMA, New Delhi, 29th November 2007:

The workshop which drew a fair crowd of academics, officials from various ministries and personnel from civil society organizations was inaugurated by Gen N.C. Vij, Vice Chairman of NDMA . The Keynote address was delivered by Dr P.S. Goel, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, instrumental in the development of tsunami early warning system, supposed to be one of the best in the world. The EWS had three levels – watch, alert and warn – depending on the likelihood and the magnitude of the tsunami. The predictions were found to be correct in the case of the September 12th tsunami. NDMA has prepared a set of guidelines on the management of tsunami. This was developed by the constitution of a number of core groups to look at various aspects of management and intense discussions amongst them. An overview of the guidelines was presented by Dr Ravi Sinha of IIT-Bombay who explained the

‘ten pillars’: 1) Early Warning Systems, 2) Awareness and Preparedness, 3) Capacity development (including education, training, R&D and documentation), 4) Design and construction of new constructions, 5) Protecting lifeline and priority structures along the seafront, 6) Regulation and enforcement, 7) Response, 8) Disaster Management Plan, 9) Toolkits for tsunami risk management and 10) Recognition of the necessity of multi-hazard approach. The workshop saw extensive discussions with participants pointing out some crucial points that need to be added to the guidelines to strengthen them including the addition of a separate chapter on the response in islands and the inclusion of social aspects in the guidelines which appear to be rather physical-vulnerability oriented. There were also discussions on how separate guidelines for various hazards have to be made initially, and then integrated.

Update from the TN Government

A day-long training programme on Disaster Resistant features in construction of Houses and Construction Techniques and Materials was organized by the Project Management Unit of the Revenue Administration, Disaster Management and Mitigation Department on 21 Nov 2007. Revenue Officials in the rank of SDC, DRO, Tahildars and other officials at district level working in tsunami related projects participated. The workshop created an awareness with district officials regarding

disaster resistant features in construction of houses, buildings, quality aspects, natural hazards and its devastation in affected areas. Such programmes are to be further organized at the district level.

The coastal district officials (DRO/SDC) meeting to be held at Chennai on 04-12-2007

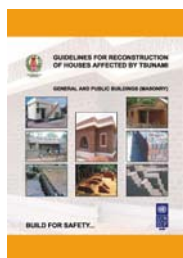
<http://www.tn.gov.in/tsunami/Training-Workshop.html>

Useful Reads

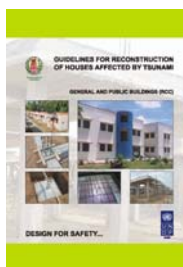
Guidelines for Reconstruction of Houses Affected by Tsunami: General and Public Buildings (Masonry). UNDP, 2007. <http://www.un.org.in/untrs/>

Guidelines for Reconstruction of Houses affected by tsunami: General and Public Buildings: RCC. UNDP, 2007. <http://www.un.org.in/untrs/>

A number of public buildings were damaged during the 2004 tsunami. Many have been reconstructed by various philanthropic organizations as well as the government. With the increase in the frequency of natural hazards, it seems meaningful to reconstruct buildings from a multi-hazard perspective, especially in coastal areas, where cyclones especially are a recurring event. Though these guidelines have been specifically framed for the reconstruction of public buildings considering for the communities which have been affected by the tsunami of 26th December 2004 in coastal districts of Tamil Nadu, these will also be helpful for the construction of houses in other districts apart from the coastal districts which are prone to cyclones and earthquakes. Public buildings such as schools, hospitals etc. should be suitably



planned and designed. For such buildings, analysis and design can be carried out as per this guideline.



One set of guidelines deals with masonry structures (also applicable for buildings which are partly RCC and partly brick work) while the other deals with RCC structures. Apart from the technical details provided in the chapters, Appendix 1 gives a list of IS codes and other references. Appendix 2 gives information on building categories for various multi hazard resisting features while Appendix 3 provides advice for design for the physically challenged and aged. The last page gives a map of the wind and cyclone zones in Tamil Nadu while the back cover has a map of the earthquake prone zones of Tamil Nadu.

Law and legal issues in international disaster response: a desk study. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, 2007.

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/idrl/research/publications.asp#deskstudy>

This desk study compiles the findings of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent's research and consultations with stakeholders over the last few years about existing legal frameworks and regulatory problems in international disaster response.



It draws on over two dozen legal and operational case studies, a wide-ranging global

survey of major stakeholders, and the discussions in a series of formal regional forums including high level representatives of governments, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, UN agencies, NGOs and other interested parties. It finds that, although few practitioners are fully aware of it, there is in fact a large number of international instruments, including treaties, resolutions,

guidelines, codes and models, designed to guide international relief operations. However, this international regulatory framework, increasingly known as "international disaster response laws, rules and principles" or "IDRL", has a number of gaps, including limits in geographic reach of pertinent instruments (often due to lack of ratification), restrictions in scope (either to particular types of disasters, or to a particular sector or activity), and failures to address major players (particularly NGOs and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement). There are also potential areas of overlap, in particular with regard to various systems for funnelling requests and offers for international assistance.

Moreover, few national legal systems are adequately prepared for the potential of receiving international assistance, leading to ad hoc rule-making and confusion in the aftermath of a disaster, just when it can least be afforded. The study also finds that there is a consistent set of legal and regulatory problems plaguing international operations, including both barriers to access and issues of quality. Both types of problem have been aggravated by the recent growth in both the size and the diversity of the international disaster response community, which now regularly includes not only "traditional" relief actors but also many that are new to the field. (from the Executive Summary)

Rehab News Snippets

Tamil Nadu

Housing and Infrastructure

Houses handed over to tsunami-hit families:

Nagapattinam: A total of 2,177 houses constructed in the tsunami-hit villages of Chellur and Kaadampadi in the district, at an estimate of Rs.50 crores were handed over to the beneficiaries on Saturday. Funded by the service organisations, 'Caritas India' and 'CRS,' the houses were constructed by the Thanjavur Multi-purpose Social and Service Society. In Chellur, the State government allotted 12 acres. About Rs.4.20 crore was spent on levelling the ground and providing cement roads. A sum of Rs.11 lakh was spent on providing power supply to 731 houses in the area.

http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/29/stories/200710295986070_0.htm

Less number of houses for tsunami-hit: Chennai:

The number of new tenements for the tsunami-affected residents of Nochikuppam and Srinivasapuram may go down from the originally planned 7,230 to about 7,000 in order to make space for road expansion work. Faced with stiff resistance from residents, the Chennai Collectorate has been unable to finalise the list of allottees in this belt. Funds for this World Bank aided project were released in March 2007. Minister for Slum Clearance Suba Thangavelan on Thursday said revenue officials had recently been able to make a breakthrough and survey the area. The list would be ready soon, he said.

http://www.hindu.com/2007/11/30/stories/200711306164030_0.htm

Rally against coastal resettlement policy: Chennai: Thousands of people besides community leaders

from coastal villages of Chennai, Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram organised a protest rally here on Wednesday, protesting the State Government's policies on coastal resettlement and the treatment of the fisher communities. S. Anjali, a community leader from Nochikuppam, said that people from more than 100 villages had mobilised. "Today, more than 4,000 of us are here to show our solidarity and request the Government to heed our demands. All we want is the right to remain where we have been for generations. The tsunami has been used to push us all out. Our lives and livelihoods are based on fishing, what will we do if we are moved away from the sea," she said.

http://www.hindu.com/2007/11/01/stories/200711016106050_0.htm

TNSCB plans to construct 1-lakh houses:

Ramanathapuram: The State Government has decided to construct one lakh houses in different parts of the State through the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, according to Suba Thangavelan, Minister for Slum Clearance. As many as 3,000 houses would be built in the tsunami-affected areas, including Nagapattinam and Cuddalore. As many as 2,005 houses would be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 20 crore in Adyar bridge area, in Chennai, he added.

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=1ET20071119232259&Page=T&Headline=TNSCB+plans+to+construct+1-lakh+houses&Title=Southern+News+-+Tamil+Nadu&Topic=0>

Focus on improvement of living conditions in slums:

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board's (TNSCB) consultative meeting here on

Tuesday with non-governmental organisations, researchers and academics dwelt on ways to improve living conditions in low-cost housing colonies and slums. The aim of the daylong discussion, attended by representatives of several organisations in the city, was to facilitate improvement in the living conditions of slum-dwellers, who moved to low-cost houses post-tsunami. Though the State Government had provided basic facilities such as housing, school and medical centres at the newly established colonies, the relocated people there continued to face inadequacies in basic services, said TNSCB Managing Director T. K. Ramachandran.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/11/21/stories/2007112161580500.htm>

Bicycles, lanterns and freezer boxes for fishermen: Chennai: Tsunami-affected fishermen in Chennai will receive bicycles, first aid kits, rechargeable electric lanterns, life jackets, freezer boxes and fishing nets through a Central government grant under the Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package. Fisheries Minister K.P.P. Sami on Friday distributed a set of the relief materials to 10 fishermen. He said the tahsildars concerned would be in charge of distributing the materials to 2,270 beneficiaries in the district. Each set is worth Rs. 40,000.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/11/03/stories/2007110359760400.htm>

Aid disbursed to fishermen: Tuticorin: The Minister for Animal Husbandry, P Geetha Jeevan, disbursed additional welfare assistance to the tune of Rs.3.41 crore to 1,244 fishermen belonging to tsunami-hit families from 15 coastal hamlets in the district, at a function held at Amali Nagar near here on Monday. Each of the beneficiaries received a kit containing a 'heavy duty bicycle', first aid

22,000 families to get new houses: Thiruvananthapuram: Nearly 22,000 fishermen families vulnerable to sea erosion are to be shifted to safer nearby locations under the Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme, Revenue Minister K.P. Rajendran has said. The Minister called a meeting of top officials of his department here on Friday to speed up the process of identifying land for rehabilitating these families.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/11/10/stories/2007111060430400.htm>

Maharashtra to build houses in Alapad: Thiruvananthapuram: The Maharashtra

'Ecosan' toilet with solar lighting opened: Nagapattinam: An ecological sanitation toilets-cum-bathroom complex with rainwater harvesting and solar panel lighting facility has been constructed at the panchayat office in the tsunami-hit Kameshwaram village in Nagapattinam district. This highly eco-friendly model was the joint venture of the Society for Community Organisation and Peoples' Education, (SCOPE), FIN, an NGO of France, Kameshwaram panchayat, ETHOS, an architectural consultant of Kolkatta and students of National Institute of Technology Tiruchi.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/11/11/stories/2007111158080300.htm>

Livelihoods

box, ice box, portable solar light, life jacket and fishing nets. Official sources said that the beneficiaries were selected from among 3,442 persons who had received the first installment of relief in 2005.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/31/stories/2007103150750200.htm>

Collector assures more amenities for fishermen: Pudukottai: The district administration will initiate action for the provision of additional amenities to the fishermen of coastal villages in and around Manamelkudi, the Collector D. Uthirakkumaran said. Presiding over the special mass contact day programme at Vichoor near Manamelkudi on Tuesday, the Collector said that steps would be taken for the supply of additional assistances of a bi-cycle, First-aid kit and a lantern to all the fishermen without omission.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/11/22/stories/2007112252450300.htm>

Kerala

government will build 25 houses in Alapad fishing village in Kollam district for the tsunami-affected families, the Revenue Minister's office said in a press release on Tuesday. Tenders have already been invited from builders for construction of houses. Revenue Minister K.P. Rajendran discussed the details of the project with Maharashtra Chief Secretary Johny Joseph. Construction would start immediately. The Maharashtra Government would spend Rs.12 crore in the tsunami-affected areas of Kerala. Of this, Rs.3 crore was for improving the facilities at the taluk hospital at Karunagappally. The land required for the new houses at Alappad had

already been handed over to the Maharashtra government, the press release said.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/11/14/stories/2007111451550300.htm>

Artificial reef before next monsoon: Thiruvananthapuram: The Rs.5-crore multi-purpose artificial surf reef to be set up off the coast of Kovalam will be completed before next season. Department of Harbour Engineering is setting up the submerged surf reef for Kerala Tourism to change the nature of waves at Eve's beach and to make Kovalam a premier surfing destination. The 500-metre-long reef, to be made out of giant non-woven geo textile bags filled with sand, will remain submerged with its crest

Puducherry

Govt. seeks Rs.270 crore more for tsunami houses: Puducherry: Chief Minister N.Rangasamy on Monday said that the government had asked for allocation of Rs.270 crore more from the Centre for construction of additional houses for the tsunami victims. Shortly after holding discussions with Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs

remaining just below the low tide level. Placed at a depth of 3-7 metres, it will block waves more than one metre high, leaving only small waves to wash the shore. A fairly tranquil basin will be created for fishing boats. It will function as a small harbour area and the fishermen can take their boats out through the surf zone. According to experts, the reef would enable stabilisation of the beach and generation of a wider beach, which can stay throughout the year. The funds have been made available to Kerala Tourism from the Centre's tsunami rehabilitation programme.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/11/22/stories/2007112260990300.htm>

B.A.Coutinho, who called on him at his office, he told reporters that the government had also pleaded with the Centre to expedite the grant of additional funds to the tune of Rs.100 crore for taking up projects in the Public Works Department.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/30/stories/2007103052350300.htm>

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Boom time in the Andamans: "Tourism is booming; business hasn't been this good in a while," says the manager of a luxury resort on an absolutely perfect day in Port Blair. White sands, palm trees, breathtakingly blue waters and coral reefs, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have got it all. Tourism in the Indian Ocean islands took a big hit after the tsunami in 2004, but signs are that tourists are once again flocking back to the islands. Airlines and hotels

are looking to cash in. There are about 14 different flight services out of Port Blair, and hotel developers are increasingly turning to the Islands to set up leisure resorts. Industries and the Government suggest that this drive for tourism will ultimately bring economic benefits and accelerate development in the Islands. But the locals aren't convinced.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/11/17/stories/2007111752580500.htm>

Coastal Matters

Call for integrated approach to coastal zone management: Puducherry: The need for an integrated approach to coastal zone management in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry was stressed by speakers at a consultative meeting on 'Restoration and protection of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coastlines,' in Auroville on Saturday. The speakers also called for a joint meeting of members of the Coastal Zone Management authorities of the two States. C.V. Shankar, Officer on Special Duty, Relief and Rehabilitation, in his address, said the Tamil Nadu Government was initiating an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan with assistance from the World Bank. The plan was

being prepared now and Danish Hydraulics Institute (DHI) had been appointed to conduct a study. The Government was trying to understand the coastal ecology in a better manner.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/11/04/stories/2007110460680600.htm>

Tidal waves hit Alappuzha coast: Alappuzha: Several areas on the Alappuzha coast were hit severely by tidal waves and sea erosion with four houses being damaged completely and nearly 20 houses damaged partially. Areas including Aryad South, Kanjiramchira, Thrikkunnapuzha and Arattupuzha were among those affected by the

sea's sudden change in behaviour, attributed to climatic variations.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/31/stories/2007103151710300.htm>

Even before the cyclone struck: Unprecedented sea swells struck parts of coast in AP on 13th November 07 at 10 PM. The waves with unusual magnitude struck the coast in some pockets in Kavali and Aluru Mandals in Nellore District, Kothapatnam Mandal in Prakasam District, Allavaram, Uppalaguptham, U. Kothapalli, Thondangi Mandals in East Godavari District and Payakaraopeta, Nakkapalli, and S Rayavaram Mandals in Visakhapatnam District. Catamarans and FRP Boats were washed away. This is apparently due to the impact of a deep depression present in the Bay of Bengal and the cyclonic storm Sidr.

[SIFFS Regional Office, Kakinada](#)

Rough tides wash away houses: Chennai: About 10 houses at Appar Nagar in Tiruvottiyur along the coastline were destroyed by 'swell waves' on Thursday morning. However, there was no casualty. Residents of Apparsami Koil Street said the incident occurred between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Several residents had sensed the danger and moved out of their houses on Wednesday night. Seawater entered 10 other houses along the coast, they added. Most of the groynes on the coastline were also washed away. According to the Meteorological department, the 'swell waves' were caused by the cyclonic storm, 'SIDR,' that is likely to cross the West Bengal and Bangladesh coasts east of Sagar Island on Thursday night.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/11/16/stories/2007111660580100.htm>

Cyclone creates high tide along Chennai coast: Huge waves and high tide with surging seawaters along Chennai's coastline due to a severe cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal Thursday led to a panic in the city, reminding many of the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004. The tidal waves reached up to a height of three metres, as coastal communities in Kanyakumari, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore and north Chennai in Tamil Nadu prepared to take cover. As many as 14 fishing villages in Ennore, Tiruvottiyur, Kasimedu and Ernavur areas were evacuated.

http://www.kalingatimes.com/national_news/news/1/20071115-high-tide-along-chennai-coast.htm

IIT atlas alert for Orissa coast: Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara declared tsunami-prone: The tsunami travel time atlas, published by IIT, Kharagpur, has

identified Orissa coast to be prone to tsunami, said state disaster management minister Manmohan Samal. According to a decision taken at the high-level meeting, chaired by the state chief secretary Ajit Kumar Tripathy, 328 villages situated within 1.5km of the coastline in six coastal districts have been identified as tsunami-prone, said the minister. While 63 villages of Balasore district have been identified as tsunami-prone, 41 villages in neighbouring Bhadrak district have been enlisted as vulnerable. Similarly, 64 sea-side villages of Kendrapara district, 28 coastal villages of Jagatsinghpur district, 88 villages of Puri and 44 villages of Ganjam district have been identified as prone to tsunami.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1071121/asp/frontpage/story_8573443.asp

Plantation to save coastal areas in Orissa: The State Government of Orissa has asked for Rs. 23 crores from Ministry of Environment & Forests to save the coastal areas of the State from losses due to sea tide. As per the information made available by the National Disaster Management Authority, the Government of India has formulated a National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP) to be implemented with World Bank assistance. One of the investment proposals received under the Project from Government of Orissa is on "Shelterbelt Plantation" in Balasore, Bhadrakh, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapada Districts at a total cost of about Rs.23 crore. The Project is yet to be posed to the World Bank for their appraisal and funding. This information was given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Shri S. Regupathy in a written reply to question in the Rajya Sabha today.

<http://pib.nic.in/release/release.asp?relid=33004>

A village gets groynes after 22-year wait: Thoothukudi: The fishermen's demand for a breakwater protecting Therespuram fishermen hamlets in Thoothukudi bore fruit after 22 long years. The construction of groynes was started on Friday. Therespuram, which has 1,200 fishermen families, was vulnerable during high tide and the absence of any protective structures used to routinely damage the over 600 country boats of the fishermen. Since 1985, fishermen had been demanding a protective wall along the coast. On Friday, the work was started in the presence of Animal Husbandry Minister Minister Geetha Jeevan and district Collector R Palaniyandi.

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IE920071124013621&Page=T&Headline=A+village+gets+groynes+after+22-year+wait&Title=Southern+News+-+Tamil+Nadu&Topic=0>

FOCUS ON CZM

Fishworkers walk out of national level meet: Mumbai, November 23 The national level meet between the Union Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) and various NGOs, to discuss a concept note for the new Coastal Zone Management Notification — better known as the Swaminathan report — faced a lot of turmoil on Friday. The representatives from the National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) staged a walkout, and other eminent NGOs labelled the entire meet as an "eyewash." The meeting, attended by Meena Gupta, secretary of the MoEF, and about 50 representatives from various organisations, was organised by the MoEF to discuss a concept note for a new set of coastal zone management plans. However, representatives from various NGOs and the fishermen community from other parts of the country claimed that despite it being touted as a national level meet, several relevant organisations had not received invitations. "Of the 82 invitees, 76 are from Tamil Nadu alone. Others, who enjoy a long coastline, like Gujarat, West Bengal, Goa, have been insignificantly represented. How is this a national level discussion then?" asked an agitated ND Koli, General Secretary, NFF. The forum's members marched out shouting slogans soon after. Others, who had come to discuss the plight of the fishing communities and the coastline in the light of the proposed changes in the Coastal Regulation Zone notification of 1991, claimed that they had come to attend it through word of mouth publicity or sheer chance.

<http://www.expressindia.com/latest-news/Fishworkers-walk-out-of-national-level-meet/242817/>

NGOs shun coastal regulation meet: Mumbai: Chaos reigned at the hearing on the proposed revision of Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) notification held at Indian Merchants' Chamber here on Friday as environmentalists strongly opposed scientific revision and appointment of foreign consultant for the job, while the fisher folk delegates staged walk-out alleging non-transparency in the matter. Debi Goenka of Conservation Action Trust (CAT) said, "We can not accept complete revision and replacement of CRZ". Criticising the the government decision to convert CRZ into CMZ, he said, if the government intended to better the management of coasts, it should have widened scope of management norms in existing CRZ notification. Once the modifications incorporated in the notification, it will lead to severe problems. Land mafia will grab entire

coastal area of the country and fisher folks who are traditional dwellers of the coasts would be rendered homeless, he alleged.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/report.asp?newsid=1135123>

Scrap Coastal Zone Management notification, NCPCC tells Centre: Cuddalore: The National Coastal Protection Campaign (NCPCC), an outfit espousing the cause of the coastal community, has urged the Centre to scrap the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) notification-2007. The NCPCC stated that the CZM notification had redefined the coastal zone i.e. the region comprising the coastal areas falling within the jurisdiction of the local bodies and 12 nautical miles offshore. Earlier, putting up of any permanent structure within 500 metres from the high tide line was barred. This conditionality was strictly enforced even for the construction of permanent houses for the tsunami-hit fishermen. However, with the introduction of a new concept "setback line," which could be drawn anywhere, the earlier clause was bypassed. The NCPCC felt that it was an attempt to push the fishermen beyond 1,000 metres from the shoreline.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/11/26/stories/2007112658671000.htm>

Fishermen mobilising support of people's representatives: Berhampur: The traditional marine fishermen of Orissa are trying hard to build up support base among elected representatives and bureaucrats of the State against the implementation of the Swaminathan Committee recommendations. A 20-member delegation of Orissa Traditional Fish Workers' Union (OTFWU) is now in Bhubaneswar to meet MLAs, Ministers and bureaucrats related to the Fisheries Department. Their aim is to meet MLAs of the coastal region. But they are also meeting key MLAs of all parties to support them in their fight against implementation of the Swaminathan Committee recommendations. They would also meet the speaker of the State Assembly, Maheswar Mohanty, who represents costal constituency, Puri. They met Fisheries Minister Golak Nayak on Monday, who promised that the State Government would protect the rights and livelihood of traditional fishermen.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/11/20/stories/2007112053460300.htm>

Protests mar World Fisheries Day in Tuticorin: Tuticorin: The World Fisheries Day celebration in the town on Wednesday was marred by protests

by non-Governmental organisations against the proposed move by the Centre to legislate Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Notification. Anton Gomez, president, National Union of Fishermen, alleged that the decision to introduce a new notification to replace Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification 1991 was taken without consulting fishermen community in the coastal hamlets. "Considering that the Government had amended CRZ Notification 1991 on as many as 19 occasions, the introduction of CZM Notification was unwarranted," he added.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/11/22/stories/2007112253500300.htm>

Implement coastal zone notification: fishermen:
Nagapattinam: Fishermen and women of Nagapattinam district under the banner of National Coastal Protection Campaign (NCPC) on Wednesday demanded the Centre to strictly implement Coastal Regulation Zone Notification in its original form and give up the move to implement the Coastal Zone Management Notification 2007. Addressing a public meeting on the occasion of World Fishermen's Day here on Wednesday, members of Fisherwomen's Federation of Nagapattinam district and members of the Vanga Kadal Meen Thozhilalar Sangam rejected the M. S. Swaminathan Committee report on fishermen. They also demanded the Centre to enact a legislation ensuring that the coast and the sea belonged to fishermen.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/11/23/stories/2007112361490600.htm>

Mangalore: Merge port, fisheries ministries to solve problems: Mangalore Nov 22: "Majority of the problems pertaining to ports and fisheries have remained unsolved as the said two ministries have been given to two different people from two different parties," said Karnataka Karavali Meenugarara Kriya Samiti President Pramod Madhwaraj. Addressing the World Fisheries Day celebrations at Mangalore Wharf on Wednesday, Mr Madhwaraj said that the segregation of two allied ministries has created lack of co-ordination and hence the problems that have been haunting fisheries and port are left unsolved till date. Samiti Honourary Principal Secretary Vasudeva Bloor delivering the keynote address said that though November 21 is celebrated as World Fisheries Day, the Samiti will celebrate it as a day of protest by demanding the Government to fulfil the problems pertaining fishermen. Mr Bloor informed that Ministry of Environment and Forests is organising a meeting with the NGOs and fishermen at Mumbai on November 23 to discuss the concept note for replacing Coastal Regulation Zone notification of 1991 to new Coastal Management Zone notification. He said that CMZ will be devastating for local fishermen as it will displace fishermen. He said that the meeting to be convened does not include any concerned delegates or fisheries representatives from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Gujrath and of those who have been invited from other states are from sectors distantly connected to fisheries.

<http://mangalorean.com/news.php?newstype=local&newsid=58797>

About Us

TRINet, the Tsunami Rehabilitation Information NETWORK was set up in March 2005 as a response to the broad information requirements in the state of Tamil Nadu for tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction phases to help in sharing information between different groups working on various aspects in the different districts of the state.

Initiated by SIFFS: South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies, ICSF: International Collective in Support of Fishworkers and the Bhoomika Trust, the members of TRINet include the NGO Coordination and Resource Centre (NCRC) in Nagapattinam, Auroville Tsunami Rehabilitation

Knowledge Centre and the Kanyakumari Rehabilitation Resource Centre (KRRC), Nagercoil, and the information Centres in Chennai, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli and Kerala set up by SIFFS.

This is the thirtieth TRINet Newsletter since it was launched in July 2005. TRINet brings out a weekly e-digest of news on tsunami rehab in all the affected countries as well as a Tamil newsletter called "Alayathi", aimed at the communities in Tamil Nadu. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please write to us at info.trinet@gmail.com. Please visit www.trinet.in for updates.

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