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1. Call to preserve natural barriers in coastal areas

The Hindu dated 17th January 2007- Karaikal reported that The Children's Education and Development Alternative (CEDA) Trust called for preserving the Coastal natural barriers like mangroves, sand dunes, casuarinas and conducted a children's mela at Keezhaiyur Vadakutheru. L.Antonymsamy, chairperson of CEDA trust explained in detail the importance of preserving natural coastal barriers of mangrove forests and sand dunes that prevented major damage during the tsunami attack in December 2004. He appealed the farmers to go in for organic farming in changing the salinity of the soil in the tsunami-hit areas and also for getting a good yield of agricultural crops. An exhibition of drawings and models on organic farming, environment preservation, bio fertilization and the ill effects chemical fertilizers made by children formed part of the function.

2. Minister inaugurates free LPG scheme

The Indian Express reported on the 18th January, 2007 that "Union Minister of state for finance SS Palani Manickam inaugurated the free gas stove and LPG cylinder distribution scheme for the State Government. He pointed out that the free LPG stove and cylinder distribution was pioneering scheme in the whole of India. District Collector Tenkasi S Jawahar who presided over the function pointed out that for the first phase of LPG stove and cylinder distribution, 1000 beneficiaries had been selected from various parts of the districts and a total of 8188 persons will get the stove and the cylinders in the district before the end of the march this year. He also emphasized that the beneficiaries had been imparted proper training on the safe usage of LPG.

3. Nagai tops in Varumun Kappom implementation

Indian Express dated 22nd January 2007 reported that In the implementation of the Varumun Kappom Scheme of Tamil Nadu Government Nagai district leads

other districts in the state said District Collector Tenkasi S Jawahar. Inaugurating Varumun Kappom camp at Kilvelur, the collector said that so far nearly 3500 persons have undergone medical checkup through the camps. Tests like blood test, urine test, ECG, x-ray, cholesterol test and similar tests were being performed free of cost in the camps he said. He also appealed to the people in the rural areas to make use of the opportunity and prevent disease by undergoing proper medical checkup in the camps.

4. Fish landing centre to be constructed at Nagore soon

Hindu dated 23rd January 2007 reported that a fish landing centre to would be set up at a cost of Rs.2 crore with World Bank assistance at Nagore in Nagapattinam district, K.P.P.Sami, Minister for Fisheries has said. He was speaking at a function on Sunday after inaugurating an exclusive diesel bunk at Nagore to provide diesel for fishing boats at subsidized rate to help 400 fisher men. Dredging work would be carried out at the Kaduvaiyar River on the Nagapattinam coast to help the fishermen bring their boats easily to the fishing harbour.

5. Tsunami shelters gutted

The New Indian Express dated 24th January 2007 reported that For the third time within a year a major fire broke out at MGR Nagar in Karaikal early and as many as 32 tsunami temporary shelters were destroyed. Tsunami survivors resorted on a road block were arrested by the police. Last year fire broke out twice during June and July nearly 70 shelters were destroyed. For the third time within a year another fire broke out early 23rd January 2007 morning in which 32 shelters were gutted. The cause for the fire is yet to be ascertained.

6. Pat for TN Tsunami rehab efforts

The Indian Express dated 25th January 2007 reported that “Multilateral funding agencies and the United Nations have commended several aspects of the tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes undertaken by the Tamil Nadu Government. In a joint report the World Bank, United Nations and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which has between them more than 703 million US dollars for tsunami reconstruction and relief have in particular commended the State Government’s coordination with non governmental organizations (NGOs). “There has been a strong collaborative relationship between NGOs and state level government, which serves as an exemplary example of Public private partnership in disaster reconstruction, the report said with regard to provision of shelter, water and sanitation in the post tsunami reconstruction period. “The speed, process and scale of land acquisition by the state laid foundation for a rapid transition from relief to reconstruction... With a few exceptions all land been acquired for Cuddalore and Nagapattinam the most affected districts in India,” the report said. The following were also pointed that,

- Tamil Nadu accounted for nearly 67 per cent of the total number of houses damaged or destroyed by the country.
- More than 23000 houses had been constructed and over 20000 of them had already been handed over.

- Efforts of the funding agencies, the government and the NGOs, a culture of safe building practices had emerged not only in the tsunami affected areas but also in private construction sectors.
- Significant progress has been made in the area of waste, hygiene and environmental sanitation.
- The Shelter-based wastewater management programmes and hygiene promotion campaigns had resulted in the increase in the use of toilet and hand washing to 60 per cent—“ a remarkable achievement given that toilets were rare among the coastal communities.”

7. Post tsunami action in farm sector

The Hindu dated January 26th 2007 reported that The M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation commissioned a study. The bio-village approach recommended in the study:

- Low volume high value agriculture to be promoted.
- Organic farming to be encouraged in all the islands of the archipelago
- Production of organic manure locally to be favored
- Demonstrations and training organised for farmers on techniques of organic manure production
- Farmers/entrepreneurs to be motivated for setting up organic manure units.
- Marketing information systems to be strengthened
- Post-harvest management infrastructure to be fine tuned
- Logistics for processing and packaging to be provided.

8. Health Insurance scheme for tsunami survivors

The Indian Express dated 27th January 2007 reported that District Collector Tenkasi S Jawahar has said that a comprehensive health insurance scheme supported by Prime Minister’s Relief Fund had launched for tsunami survivors in the district. He said that as many as 50,093 beneficiaries had already been identified to avail schemes and the enrolment process would be completed before the end of March this year.

9. Tsunami shelters gutted

The Indian Express dated 27th January 2007 reported that In a sudden fire broke out at Nambiar Nagar in Nagapattinam area around midnight at least 150 tsunami shelters were reduced to ashes. On information fire tenders from many places rushed to the spot and put out the fire after a struggle of more than a hour. District Collector accompanied by officials visited the area and consoled the fire victims. The reason for the fire is yet to be ascertained. Properties worth several lakhs have been destroyed.