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1. Tamil Nadu tops in getting foreign funds

*The Hindu* dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2006 reported that "Tamil Nadu tops the list of recipients of foreign funds with Rs.1, 190.64 crore coming through 2,990 associations in 2004-05. According to the official handbook of the foreign contribution (Regulation) act, 1976, released jointly by the FCRA Wing of the Union Home ministry and Standard Chartered Bank on Friday, a total of 18,540 associations received foreign contributions amounting to Rs.6,256.68 crore. World Vision of India, Tamil Nadu, received the highest amount of Rs.133.57 crore, followed by the Rural Development Trust, Andhra Pradesh (Rs.118.75 crore), Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Andhra Pradesh (Rs.77.57 crore), Caritas India, Delhi (Rs.65.30 crore) and Foster Parents Plan International Inc., Delhi received Rs.64.91 crores. Reeling out the statistics at a news conference, D.S.Mishra Joint Secretary (Foreigners), Union Home Ministry, said in 2004 – 05, a total of 70 associations received foreign contribution in excess of Rs.10 crore, 112 associations between Rs.5 crore and Rs.10 crore, 985 associations between Rs.1crore and Rs.5 crore and the remaining 17,373 below Rs.1 crore.

*The States and Union Territories that received are as follows*

Tamil Nadu - Rs.1, 190.64 crore,  
Delhi – Rs.1, 075.23 crore,  
Andhra Pradesh – Rs. 913.17 crore,  
Maharashtra – Rs. 552.41 crore,  
Karnataka – Rs. 511.99 crore.

*The districts in different states are as follows,*

Chennai – Rs. 560.40,  
Banglore – Rs. 376.97 crore,  
Mumbai – Rs. 321.82 crore,  
Ananthpur - Rs.287.70 crore,  
Kolkata - Rs. 206.35 crore,  
Hyderabad – Rs. 178.11 crore.

## **2. New building for Panchayat union middle school**

*The Hindu dated 5<sup>th</sup> October 2006 reported that* The People Development Association (PDA) a Madurai based NGO engaged in tsunami rehabilitation works and reconstruction activity in the district on Wednesday handed over a new building with two classrooms to the Panchayat union middle school at Manalmedu, a tsunami hit village. Lorenzo Murgia representing CGIL a trade union in Toscana and Piemonte region of Italy , inaugurated the new buildings and formally handed over the keys. CGIL of Italy contributed Rs. 7 lakh for the construction of two class rooms.

## **3. Efforts taken to protect mangrove forests**

*The Hindu reported on the 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2006 that* “All efforts have been taken to protect the mangrove forests in the coastal belt of Nagapattinam district with active participation of the people in the nearby areas, S Jawahar, Nagapattinam Collector said here on Friday.

Addressing the national level committee meetings on mangrove and coral reefs, Mr.Jawahar said that restoration of degraded mangroves were being taken up regularly and they were protected through the reduction of biotic pressure. The mangroves would be protected through restoration measures and institution building. He also said that Nagapattinam district had a 187 km length of coastline and it stretches from Kodiampalayam to Kodiakarai and the district accounted for about 15 per cent of the total length of coast in Tamil Nadu.

B.S.Parsheera Additional Secretary Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, Veena Upadhya, Joint Secretary, Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, Sukh Dev Chief Wildlife, Warden Chennai, senior forest officials from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa also participated in the meeting.

## **4. Entrepreneurship training camp**

*Indian Express dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 2006 reported that* A training camp on entrepreneurship development and paper bag manufacture was organised. The camp was organised by the entrepreneurship Guidance Cell of the Rotary Club and Government Arts College for women. S.Prithviraj, President Rotary Club, in his presidential address said, the first phase training for members of girls SHG was provided under Magalir Thitattam. Presently they are given entrepreneurship training and efficiency promotion training. Participants in the training may choose avocations of their choice and apply loan assistance, along with project report. The club would help them getting the benefit.

## **5. Insurance cover for 20000 milch animals**

*On the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2006, Indian Express reported* that as many as 20000 milch animals are to be covered under a special Livestock Insurance Scheme before the end of march next year, according to Dr. Stalin, divisional manager of the United India Insurance Company Limited here. Vellore is one of the 100 districts in the

country which has been selected to implement this pilot project. While 50 per cent of the premium would be provided by the central government the balance would be borne by the insurers.

Giving details about the scheme he said that under this scheme a maximum of two animals , female cattle buffalo yielding at least 1500 per liters of milk per lactation are to be considered high yielding and hence can be insured under the scheme for a maximum of their current market value. The government of India has authorized the UIIC to accept the insurance for the animals in the district. The sum insured value of the animal would be decided by a team of veterinary doctors, assessors and the insurance agent based on the market trend, for a period of one and three years as desired by the farmers. The milch animals should be within the age group of 2 and half years to eight and half years. The claim would be settled within a period of 15days.

#### **6. Tsunami shelters reduced to ashes**

*On the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2006 Indian Express,* In a fire mishap at Tarangambadi in Nagai district at noon as many as 18 tsunami shelters were reduced to ashes. Property worth Rs. 3 lakh was destroyed. In Tarangambadi – Mannickapangu road about 200 tsunami hit families are living in temporary shelters built by the Hope Foundation, New Delhi. Around 2 PM a fire broke out in a shelter owned by one Kanakaraj and it soon spread to shelters nearby.