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1. **Nagai farmers given Rs.122 cr loan**

The Indian Express dated September 2nd 2006 reported that “Collector Tenkasi S Jawahar had stated that nearly Rs.122 crore had been disbursed as loan to over 71,000 farmers in the district by various banks during 2005-06.

Collector stated that farmers should “Uzhavar Mandrams” which address the grievances of the farmers. He also mentioned that Kilvelur near Nagapattinam has availed as may as 7866 farmers had availed crop loans to the tune of Rs.19.90 crore and 63,414 farmers had been given Rs.102 crore as agricultural loan during 2005-2006.

2. **Sustained information campaign empowers rural power**

Indian Express dated September 3rd 2006 reported that Mr. Deepak Sandhu, Director General, Press Information Bureau (PIB) at T.R. Pattinam, Nagai, while addressing the “Bharat Nirman Public Information”, said that “Information is strength and the strength leads to empowerment. Sustained information campaigns will certainly empower the rural poor.

The Bharat Nirman Public Information was mainly initiated by the Centre to empower the poor and illiterate residing in remote corners of the country by giving them to access to information on proactive basis on various policies and programmes and to make people aware of the rights and responsibilities and ensure their participation in these schemes.

The programme covers road, housing, drinking water supply, electrification, telephony and irrigation besides certain other flagships of programmes of Central government in rural areas, including the mid-day meal scheme, Right to information act, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and Prime Ministers 15- point

programme for minorities, Sandhu also explained how awareness on Government programmes could bring about social transformation. The other units of ministry of information are also coordinating with PIB the followings are the other units.

- Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP)
- Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP),
- Song and Drama Division,
- Doordharshan and All India Radio

M.K.Santhanam, Director- Field Publicity presided over the function who remarked this programme is mainly to bring urban facilities to rural areas. An exhibition was also organised at T.R.Pattinam where the stalls of different central and state government departments, PSUs, NGOs and voluntary organisations displaying various themes of the flagships programmes were put up.

3. Asian Development Bank official to review tsunami assistance project

The Hindu reported on the 4th September, 2006 that “the Director General (south Asia Department) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Kunio Senga was scheduled to arrive on that day to review the banks tsunami assistance programme in Tamil Nadu, after which he would be going to Delhi to finalise the new three year “Country partnership strategy”. The bank is closely working with the Tamil Nadu Government in reconstruction and rehabilitation of vital infrastructure, restoration of income livelihood of those affected by the tsunami and renewal and upgrading of water supply and sanitary facilities in affected areas. As a part of the assistance programme, the ADB is providing \$200 million to Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Under the country strategy, the ADB is likely to lend India more than \$2 billion annually over the next few years. Last year it lent \$1.17 billion. The banks cumulative lending to India stands at \$14.9 billion. It accords priority to upgrading infra structure, agriculture and rural development. Transport projects accounts for the bulk of the lending for infrastructure, followed by allocation for urban sector operations and energy projects.

4. Stalin hands over keys of houses to tsunami survivors

Indian Express dated 5th September 2006 reported that Minister for local administration M K Stalin, who participated in a government function handed over the keys of permanent shelters to as many as 153 tsunami hit families. He also inaugurated several projects, laid foundation stone for several other projects and heard grievances.

He also inaugurated the free medical camp at Valivalam Desikar Polytechnic premises, Stalin convened closed-door meeting at the Collectorate with the Collector and other senior officials to assess the progress of development schemes.

The minister also declared open 303 new buildings in the district constructed at a cost of Rs.33.2 crore and laid foundation stone for 403 new projects to be implemented at a cost of Rs.63.3 crore. He distributed welfare assistance to the

tune of Rs.25.14 crore benefiting as many as 88,400 persons and handed over the keys of 153 permanent houses constructed by NGOs to tsunami survivors.

5. Non-disbursement of subsidy irks ADB officials

On the 6th September 2006, The Hindu Kancheepuram reported that Asian Development Banks have raised concern over the non-disbursement of the subsidy component of the tsunami relief amount to women self help groups (SHGs) in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu .

Women members from Panaiyur Periyakuppam fishing hamlet in Idaikazhinadu Panchayat on East Coast Road informed the ADB officials that subsidy component of Rs.10, 000 had not been credited in to the account of SHG even after it cleared the loan of Rs.40, 000. When they asked the bank manager about the remaining amount, they were told that the subsidy amount Rs.10000 would be credited in to the groups account once they repaid the loan amount with interest. The group cleared their loan account in July this year and requested the manager to credit the subsidy amount into their account. But the request was not heeded she expressed.

Enquiries made

When the project implementation officer, Indian Resident Mission, ADB, Ashok Srivatsa, and the head disbursement IRM, ADB, J.Srinivasan made further enquiries the SHG members said the subsidy component had not been released to any of the nine groups functioning in Panaiyur Periyakuppam. Perturbed by the complaint, the ADB officials decided to take up the matter with the State Government.

6. NGO to start waste recycling plant

On the 6th September 2006 the Indian Express Karaikal, INDP an NGO engaged in tsunami rehabilitation activities in Karaikal district, has proposed to erect a waste recycling plant at Karaikal. In a function held at Thatheru area in Karaikal, a water purification plant constructed by INDP at a cost of Rs. 7 Lakhs was inaugurated by Municipal Chairperson.

It was also said that the water purification plant was capable of purifying 250 litres of water per hour. A similar plant is also inaugurated at Kizhayur area. They have also proposed to erect a waste recycling plant at Karaikal in coordination with the Government of Pondicherry.

7. German multi-purpose hall built for tsunami survivors

Indian Express dated September 8th, 2006 reported that A multi purpose community hall, constructed at a cost of Rs. 30 lakh by a Germany based organisation at Vizhundamavadi village for tsunami survivors has been inaugurated.

Germany based NGO Diaknie Emergency Aid (Germany) donated Rs 30 lakh and Development Promotion Group (DPG), a Chennai based NGO took up the construction work.

8. Tsunami warning system in Andhra Pradesh by next year

Hindu dated September 9th 2006 reported that “The likelihood of any area along the country’s coast being battered by a tsunami in the event of a major undersea earth quake will be fore told once the Rs.125 crore Indian Tsunami Early Warning Systems becomes fully operational here by next September. An interim early warning system is already functioning at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) here since March this year. Imported pressure recorders to be installed in south Bay of Bengal by month end. V-Sat facility to be set up at INCOIS at more than a dozen locations in the Indian Ocean.

9. Rural Job Guarantee Scheme

Indian Express dated 9th September 2006 reported that District Collector Tenkasi S Jawahar stated that the State Government has allocated Rs. 66.62 crore for paying wages to the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme during the current financial year.

He also said that after inspecting the progress of works under the scheme in Nagapattinam and Kilvelur Panchayat union blocks, the Collector said that of 1854 works would be implemented in the 434 panchayats of the district under the scheme.

- ⊕ Out of 1854 works, 79 works had already been completed,
- ⊕ Rs.1.32 crore had been disbursed as wages to the workers so far.
- ⊕ 1, 41,305 people had been given identity cards in the district to work under the scheme.

10. Stalin Inaugurates de-silting work

The Hindu dated September 12th 2006 reported that the Local Administration Minister, M.K. Stalin inaugurated the de-silting and bund strengthening work on the Koraiyar, the Ariyar and the Kudamuritti (in Nagapattinam) on 11th September, 2006.

The Public works department will execute the work at an estimated cost of Rs.5 Crore, as an interim measure, to prevent inundation of low-lying residential colonies along the banks of the rivers, pending execution of the Rs.295 crore flood prevention scheme for which assistance has been sought from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

- ⊕ The PWD has also planned to strengthen the bunds of the three rivers at vulnerable stretches where breaches occurred last year.
- ⊕ Rs.3 Crore will be spent for the work at Koraiyar and the Ariyar.
- ⊕ Rs.2 crore has been earmarked for the Kudamuritti