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India UNDMT situation report: Earthquake and Tsunami, 26 Dec 2004

EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI

A massive earthquake of magnitude 8.9, hit Indonesia (off the West Coast of Northern Sumatra) today morning at 06:58 a.m. This is the biggest in 40 years and the fifth in Indonesia and it triggered the tsunami waves in southeast Asia and coastal India.

Another Earthquake of Magnitude 7.3 occurred 81 kms W of Pulo Kunji (Great Nicobar) at 9:51:26 AM (IST). A series of aftershock were reported in this region.

These two earthquakes triggered Tsunami in parts of southern India and over 1,000 people have been killed across the country, Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil said.

AFFECTED STATES

TAMIL MADU



Tamil Nadu was the "worst affected" with possibly of over 800 people killed, Home Minister Shri. Shivraj Patil told reporters. As per the latest Government sources, the dead toll in the state is 1298 Nadu with over 100 people dead in Chennai alone. As many as 239 people have been killed in Cuddalore in

Tamil Nadu, while in Nagapatnam, the number of dead has been confirmed as 273. The Nuclear Power station in Kalapakkam near Chennai has been safely shut down after water entered it. The casualty figure could rise further as many fishing villages were submerged in seawater.

ANDHRA PRADESH

At least 42 people were killed and 200 are missing after tidal waves wreaked havoc along the 1,000-km coastline of Andhra Pradesh. The state government confirmed 42 deaths but TV9, a leading Telugu TV channel, claimed 200 people were feared killed in the nine coastal districts. 22 people were killed in Mangenapudi village in Krishna district. Four people each were killed in Ulapalem, Pakala and Uttapatnam villages in Prakasam district, while two were drowned at Vemuladivi in West Godavari district.

200 fishermen from Maypadu village in Nellore district, who had ventured to sea Sunday were missing.

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Residents of Andaman and Nicobar islands felt an earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale at 09:51 AM today. The vibrations led to tsunami and flooding of some areas in the city like Aberden Jetty area as well as some places in Nicobar Islands also. Authorities have launched a large-scale evacuation, relief and rescue operation by pressing Air Force helicopters into action. A series of after shock were reported in the region.

WEST BENGAL

In West Bengal, the quake was felt in the southern districts of Kolkata, North and South 24 Parganas, Nadia, Hoogly, Bardhaman, East and West Midnapore.

KERALA

High tidal waves have hit Azhikel coastal area in Cherthala in Allpuzha district in Kerala killing 85 people and injuring more than 50 others. Nearly, 70 houses in the coastal areas of Azhikel were damaged in sea erosion. Those injured have been admitted to various hospitals at Cherthala. The district administration has opened a relief camp at Azhikel. High tidal waves and sea erosion were also reported from other coastal areas including Kollam, Kannur, Kozhikode and Kochi.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES:

The Union Home Minister, Mr. Shivraj Patil has left for Andhra Pradesh for an assessment of the situation. He is likely to visit Tamil Nadu tomorrow. The Prime Minister has advised Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, Union Minister for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Panchayathi Raj visit the affected areas in Tamil Nadu. The crisis Management Group met in Delhi today morning drew-up and

emergency plan to carry out and relief and rescue operations in the affected regions of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Andaman Nicobar Islands. Two central emergency medical relief Teams have been deputed to Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry. Para military forces and armed forces are already helping state Governments in relief and rescue operations.

The state governments have initiated search and rescue missions in these states and the respective Chief Ministers are personally supervising these missions. Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have already carried out aerial surveys.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Central Control Room. Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
- Media Reports

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