## Asia rushes to bury the wictims

nber 29 Associated Press Banda Aceh, Decen touched do-laid on Wedn-CARGO PLANES wn with promised

eady, bearing everything from lentils to water purifiers to help survivors facing the threat of epidemic after this week's quake-tsunami catastrophe. The first Indonesian military teams reached the devastated west coast of Sumatra, finding thousands of bodies and hiking southern Asia's death toll to more than 80,000.

Town after town along the Sumatran coast was covered with mud and sea water, with homes flattened or torn apart, an AP reporter saw on a helicopter overflight with the military commander of the island's Aceh province. The only signs of life were a handful of villagers scavenging for food on the beach.

Western Sumatra suffered a double blow in Sunday's disaster, shattered both by the most powerful earthquake in 40 years and perhaps the deadliest tsunami in recorded history, which wreaked destruction across a dozen nations. The damage is truly devastating," Mai. Gen. Endang Suwarya said. "Seventy-ty-five percent of the west coast is destroyed and some places it's 100 per cent. These people are isolated and we will try and get them help."



A tag is placed around person's wrist so the k identified among hund Phuket on Wednesday

the

ed more than 22,493 people dead, India close to 11,000 — with 8,000 missing and feared dead. Thailand put its toll at more than 1,829. A total of more than 400 were killed in Malaysia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Somalia, Tanzania and Kenya.

the disaster, contending with hunger and the threat of this-ease, which the UN health agency said could double the At Banda Aceh, the recked capital of Indonesia's ceh province, bulldozers dug Aceh province, bulldozers dug nass graves for thousands of corpses lining the streets and seeing no evidence of large-scale deaths of animals, sug-gesting they had safely made it to high ground. "Maybe what we think is true, that animals have a sixth sense," said Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne, whose Jetwing Eco Holidays runs a Aid groups struggled to mount what they described as the largest relief operation the hotel in the Yala National Park

One official on Tuesday estimated that as many as 10,000 people were dead in Meulaboh alone. From East Africa to southern Asia, chances faded of finding more survivors of Sunday's said. Currently, 26 Germans have been confirmed dead. Sri Lanka on Wednesday listmassive, quake-driven walls of water. Tens of thousands of peo-ple were still missing. German Chancellor Gerhardt Schroeder said 1,000 Germans were unac-counted for "We have to fear that a number of Germans clearly in the three-digit numbers will be survivors of Sunday's e, quake-driven walls of

lawns as authorities hurried to get the dead in the ground. Wildlife enthusiasts in Sri

ia epidemics that could break out where water supplies are polluted with bodies and debris.

The first military teams reached the devastated fishing town of Meulaboh on Sumatra's coast, finding some 3,700 bodies — bringing Indonesia's toll to more than 45,268. That toll was likely

Millions were homeless in

Lanka noted their surprise in seeing no evidence of large-

### After the waves, Rich and famous hit alike Agence France-Presse Hong Kong, December 29 come thugs

A girl is comforted by her family during the cremation of a relative in Thap Lamu, 900 km south of Bangkok, on Wednesday

THIEVES DISGUISED as police and rescue workers are preying on southern Thailand's Khao Lak beach, where the tsunami may have killed up to 3,000 people, wit-

cova clung to a palm tree for eight hours in the devastated Thai resort of Khao Lak after being hit by a wall of water in Sunday's deadly tidal waves, her publicist in New York said.

Her British boyfriend, fashion nesses said on Wednesday.
With most police in the area dedicated to search and rescue operations, the thieves are emp-tying tourist luggage, looting ho-tel safeboxes and robbing vil-lagers on the beach north of Phuket island.

and kids were screaming all over the place, screaming 'help'. And after a few minutes you didn't ural disaster and thugs," said the owner of one of the dozens of resorts and hotels on the beach.
"Some pretended to be police and walked inside some hotels fishermen who crew many of the boats in Thailand's vast fishing fleet. "We've been hit by both natlocals blamed Burmese Some

photographer Simon Atlee, is missing "People were screaming

missing.

and broke open safeboxes for guests," he said. "Money was taken from tourists' bum bags and their baggage was left open with nothing inside." "Please send police here," an elderly woman told a Bangkok televiphone on Khao Lak.

Reuters, Bangkok

when the waves struck. "It's a national tragedy," said a grim-faced PM Thaksin Shinawatra.

British actor and film director







Li with his wife (left) and Czech supermodel Petra Nemcova who escaped by sheer luck. SURVIVORS File photographs of Jet

Richard Attenborough was also in mourning after the death of his grandaughter in the Thai ca-tastrophe. Attenborough's eldest daughter Jane is missing, as is her mother in law, Jane Holland. Chinese action hero Jet Li sur-

hear the kids any more," Nemcova told *The New York Daily News* 

her hospital bed in Thailand

There was no lucky escape for Bhumi Jensen, the 21-year-old grandson of Thai King Bhumi-bol Adulyadej who was killed at

postcard Maldive islands, sustaining minor injuries when the tidal wave swamped the hotel where he was staying. Li grabbed his four-year-old daughter when their hotel room started to vived the horror on the picture

Stars of the sporting arena were also caught up in the tsunami

nightmare that has left more than 55,000 people dead. A number of Italian football players were also holidaying in the Maldives when the full force of the tidal wave hit, Gazzetta dello Sport reported. Among them were AC Milan's Paolo Maldini, Alessandro Nesta, Filippo Inzaghiand Cristian Brocchi, and Jughan ventus defender Gianluca Zambrotta. Sri Lankan cricket spin king Muttiah Muralitharan declared himself "lucky to be alive" after narrowly missing one of the tsunamis that killed over 17,000 people in his home country.

'Stingy' US doubles tsunami ali

Reuters Washington, December 29

day more than doubled to \$35 million its pledge of aid for THE UNITED States on Tues and rejected suggestions that rich nations were being "st

Calling the new pledge pre-liminary, State Department sp-okesman Adam Ereli said: "We it's going to require massive This was a disaster of almost unimaginable dimension, and support for some time.

first time since Sunday's earthquake. "It's just beyond President George W. Bush said today that he has formed with other nations to respond to the massive tsunami disas ter. Bush interrupted his vaca tion at his Texas ranch to speak with reporters for the our comprehension to think about how many lives have

about now many twee have been lost," Bush said.

He announced that the US has "established a regional core group with India, Japan and Australia to help coordinate relief efforts. I'm confident more nations will join this core group in short order."

Secretary of State Colin Powell acknowledged the in-

REUTERS

ultimately have to give billions of dollars in aid but he rejected comments from a top UN of ficial that rich nations were ternational community

"stingy" with their aid.
Asked on Monday about the response of rich nations to crises like the tsunami, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland said: "It is beyond me porters: "I've been misinterpreted when I yesterday said that why are we so stingy, really." But he rowed back from the st atements on Tuesday, telling re believed that rich countries

general can be more generous.

in relief efforts or on how many Marines aboard the ships might be used on the ground. sponse to this emergency. We are in early days and the rehas so far been overwhelmingly positive," he said. "The US is not stingy," Powell said. The Pentagon said it orde red 12 vessels to head to the rens had been made on their role particular country or the re

# BIGGEST FEILEF Effort for Worst disaster

Asia News Network & Agencies

CHENNAI, Dec. 28. — Mourners in Sri Lanka buried their dead with bare hands strike that the United Nations said may today, while displaced and hungry islanders in Indonesia turned to looting two days after the devastating tsunami

be history's worst natural disaster. An estimated 55,000 people were dead, including 27,174 in Indonesia and 18,000 But the government put the figure at 4,371. Thailand reported 1,500 deaths. Another 1,500 Swedish vacationers were Sri Lanka. In India, the toll was 8,000.

deaths. However, Tamil Nadu chief minister Miss Jayalalitha put the toll in the state at 4,000. In Kerala, the toll crossed Tamil Nadu and the Andamans, the worst-hit in India, accounted for 4,500 and 3,000 deaths. The small fishing town of Nagapattinam alone accounted for 2,500 150-mark, while 96 people were orted dead in Andhra Pradesh. Officials expect the figures to rise further. reported dead

biggest relief effort. "This is unprecedented," said Mr Yvette ed," said Mr Yvette Stevens, an emer-gency relief coordinator at the UN office Eleven nations, in a band of destruction tallied corpses as they filled beaches and choked morgues. The International Red Cross feared malaria and cholera may add to the toll, as aid agencies mounted what UN officials said would be the world's officials mounted a loudspeaker on a fire engine to call upon residents to spanning from South-east Asia to Africa, for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Sri Lanka's severely hit town of

took burial efforts with forks or bare

### CASUALTIES THAILAND BANGLADESH: SRI LANKA: INDIA: INDONESIA: MYANMAR:

reach isolated coasts in Sumatra, which was closest to the epicentre of Sunday's aid workers and survivors who attempt to return to what's left in the affected areas. In Indonesia, rescue workers battled to island nation, threatening to kill or maim

undersea quake.

with "many billions of dollars of damage," said the UN under-secretary in charge of emergency relief coordination.

Scores of people were also killed in Malaysia, Myanmar and the Maldives. Two people died in Bangladesh. The waves travelled as far as Somalia, where hundreds were reported dead, and Seychelles. Children have emerged as the biggest victims of the tsunami tragedy. The UN The disaster could be history's costliest

agencies to provide relief. Rescue workers dragged out corpses from lagoons, backwaters, ponds and from under shaffered houses on sea shores. In Delhi, the Centre today announced that the Kalpakkam atomic power plant in Tamil Nadu was "safe". A decision was also taken at a The biggest peacetime rescue and relief operation in India gained momentum with sale. A uccision was also taken at a group of ministers' meeting to provide soft the Army, Air Force and Navy joining civil loans to the affected, including fishermen. Alfred Ironside said in New York.

## Tsunami reaches/USA

It moved exactly in the opposite direction from Sumatra, through the Indian Ocean, to crash into the eastern coasts of Africa, tsunami's effect today as it moved eastwards over North and South Pacific Ocean. North and South America felt with water rising over 10 feet.

and was recorded along the west coast of South and North America, the US Geological Survey's website said. This overtakes the 1960 Chile tsunami in terms of making its presence felt right around the world. Tsunami also struck the coasts of Cocos Island, Kenya, Mauritius, Reunion and Seychelles. It crossed into the Pacific Ocean



CONTINENTAL CALAMITY: A wooden statue faces a pyre on the Pathong beach in Thailand's Phuket island. — AFP

dead were children, Unicef spokesman Mr

Stanley Theodore in Hyderabad

As the tsunami reached new areas, the it was Somalia's turn to bear the brunt of nature's fury The Somali President said in the nation located 6,000 km west of Sumatra. The Jamaica Observer said waves travelled 3 km inland, along riverbeds, in some parts. today that entire villages and coastal owns were swept away

The tsunami effect forced Kenya to close down all beaches. The situation was epicentre, where several low-lying areas were flooded. One person died and nine similar in Tanzania, 7,200 km from the reported missing from Seychelles, north-east of Madagascar, 6,500 km from Sumatra, the International Herald Tribune reported today.

29 DEC 2008

### The Wreckage

### 26 countries alerted in 15 minutes, India not one of them

Top world expert Indian Tad Murty: I tried several times, Govt said no money

SONU JAIN &
ROYDEN D'SOUZA
NEW DELHI, GOA, DEC 27

AFTER yesterday's earthquake, there were 90 minutes before the first wave of the deluge crashed into the Indian coast. Within 15 minutes of the earthquake, scientists running the tsunami warning system for the Pacific had issued a cautionary from their Honolulu hub, to 26 participating countries. India was not among them.

This tsunami warning stated: "Revised magnitude based on analysis of mantle waves (8.5). This earthquake is located outside the Pacific. No destructive tsunami threat exists for the pacific basin based on historical and tsunami data... There is the possibility of a tsunami near the epicentre."

The last part of this warning was crucial to India, as it was this very "possible tsunami" that ravaged the east coast.

The irony could not have been sharper. One of the people who helped set up the Pacific Tsunami Warning System and the Canadian Tsunami Warning System three decades ago was a Canada-based Indian, Tad Murty.

dian, Tad Murty.

Now attached to the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Murty says key equipment and computer models could have helped save thousands in southeast Asia on Sunday. He has personally taken up the issue of setting up a 24-hour tsunami warning system

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



### Pushed off map, Nicobar IAF base struggles to come back

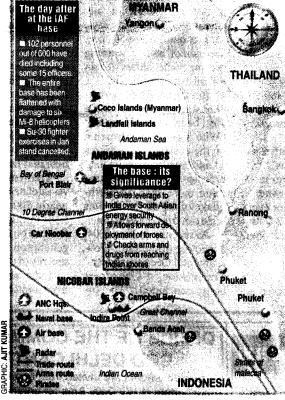
■ Trauma: officer with handycam filmed tragedy and then vanished

SUBRATA NAGCHOUDHURY & SHISHIR GUPTA CAR NICOBAR ISLANDS, NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 27

HE day after, the sea here almost mocks in its ordinariness. The sun blazing, when you look down from the AN-32 on its way to Car Nicobar from Port Blair, there are just tiny white flecks on the calm Bay of Bengal. If you don't search for land, it's as if yesterday didn't happen.

But once you land, you know why this is where an estimated 2,000 are feared dead, this is where once an Indian Air Force Base was.

The base has been pushed off the map by the sea and along with it, have perished over 100 officers and IAF personnel—of the total base strength of 1700. The entire coastline is strewn with trees that snapped like twigs. Those people who survived are so traumatised that even the slightest movement of wind or wave makes them run



out into the open from the Air Force station hangars and other installations which are doubling up as shelters.

This was a plum posting, says Group Captain and Station Commander V Bandopadhyaya. "The officers and men wanted to stay here, wilfully." Because the picture-postcard Air Force colony was drawn along the coastline, dotted with elegant two-storeyed bungalows. The sea was barely 200 m away, the front yard almost a private beach.

But not today.

has his wife and child.

Most of those houses have been flattened. In many spots, even debris is missing, the house swallowed up whole. Standing, then staggering on the debris, Captain P Maheshwar counts himself lucky—he lost everything but

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### 'Can't you smell it? Fish doesn't smell this way'

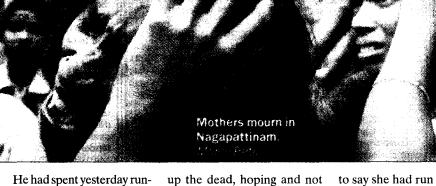
■ Following those who are searching for their missing, and dead

**RAJEEV P I**CHENNAI, DECEMBER 27

PERCHED silently on the wreckage of a canoe that was crushed by the waves yesterday, gazing out into the calm sea, Thyagarajan is worried about tomorrow—"moonram pakkam (the third day)".

He believes in the fisherfolk's myth that if the sea loves you, it will return your body the third day it takes you. And, he is sure the sea loved his mother Pachamma. After all, like most others in Sreenivasapuram, she had lived near the sea for all 65 years of her life. It had happened scarcely a few minutes after he left his mother in their little thatched home on the beach and walked upto the village tea shop in Chennai's Foreshore Estate. Suddenly, there was the din of the huge waves crashing in, flattening everything on the way. Then, the shouts and screams.

An hour later, when the sea was spent and dragging the debris back with it, Thyagarajan managed to reach his battered hut, somehow still left standing. The waters had taken away most of his meagre belongings. And with it, his mother.



He had spent yesterday running all over the beach, hoping the waters would have miraculously thrown her back alive. And then, most of last night hitching rides in goods tempos, going from one city hospital to another where they were piling

hoping to find her among them.

By noon today, he had looked up the last of the eight new bodies that were trucked in. Then, he came back to his

"Maybe, she will come back

to say she had run away when the waves came... but she was too old to run," he says.

A hundred metres away, 12year-old Syed is searching for something to salvage from the remains scattered around a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SERIOUS, SOLID POLITICS: GOING BEHIND THE SCENES AND DE-CODING THE POWER MATRIX FOR YOU

The Economic Times

28 DEC 2004



The situation is bad but there is no need to panic. Nobody could prevent what happened. Pranab Mukherjee, Defence Minister

One-and-half hours is sufficient (reaction) time. But there was no awareness and preparation for such a situation, which caused loss of life.

Sriprakash Jaiswal, MoS, Home

The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited has assured that the Madras Atomic Power Station was brought in safe shutdown condition immediately after a tsunami hit the coast, and that there is no danger of nuclear radiation.

Fisherfolk in several coastal areas are now warv of venomous sea creatures, which have entered the land. Police said a seven-year-old boy had died after being bitten by a snake at Tranquebar in Tamil Nadu on Sunday night. People of the area said not only snakes. but even scorpions were found floating in the water.



### Defence forces step up rescue efforts

SHIV AROOR

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 27

EFENCE forces intensified rescue operations in the quake-ravaged Andaman and Nicobar Islands even as Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Air Chief Marshal S Krishnaswamy reached Port Blair this afternoon in the midst of persisting tremors.

About 56 IAF personnel also arrived on the island today for rescue work. Back on the mainland, an Engineering Corps column in Chennai was dispatched to badly-hit Nagapattinam, while a 7 J-K Rifles column is in Kalpakkam.

The Air Chief said late last night that 20-30 fixed wing aircraft were on standby for deployment to the Andamans, though the IAF is now reworking its rescue strategy. Questions were raised yesterday on

2 8 DEC 2004

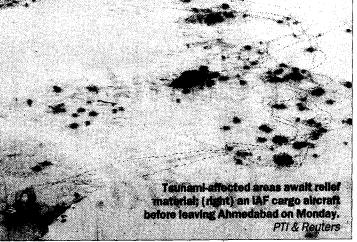
whether Port Blair could accommodate so many aircraft, or have the infrastructure to receive 30 aircraft in succession. The floods destroyed two IAF choppers on Car Nicobar while two others were damaged.

With the entire naval fleet on standby, there is an immediate likelihood of more ships, apart from the 20 deployed yesterday, being pressed into rescue service for what is continuing to unfold as one of the most harrowing and dispersed hunts for dead and injured in the country's history of natural disasters.

Yesterday, the Defence Ministry deployed twenty naval warships, about 100 IAF and Navy helicopters, five aircraft, hundreds of army troops trained in rescue and a lone maritime patrol plane to record the damage from above.

Assistance to Sri Lanka (codenamed Operation Rainbow) included Dornier aircraft sorties with

INDIAN EXE



medical supplies, apart from four Naval ships sent to the Trincomalee (INS Sandhayak, INS Sukanya) and —(INS Sharda, INS Sutlej) ports. The first of three Western Naval Command vessels dispatched to the Maldives yesterday, INS

Mysore, will be reaching the islands at 8 am Tuesday under Operation Castor. INS Udaygiri and INS Aditya will reach on December 29 and December 30 respectively.

Coast Guard vessel Durgabai Deshmukh provided assistance at



Kollam in Kerala today, while two choppers are now in Chennai. Three Coast Guard ships in Port Blair, the Bhikajicama, Akkadevi and Vivek have been sent to Campbell Bay. Several ships are now off the coast of Tamil Nadu, Andhra

Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa.

The Navy has scrambled its Chetak helicopters from the Arakkonam base for rescue operations in some of the worst-hit areas - Pondicherry, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Karrakal. More Chetaks have taken off from a ship on the East Coast for operations in Prakasham, Nellore, Krishna and West Godavari in Andhra Pradesh.

Six naval ships from Port Blair are now at Car Nicobar, Kardeep and Campbell Bay, including a large landing tanker ship. The INS Gharial, on its way back from a joint exercise vesterday was also alerted and diverted to Car Nicobar.

A Navy Tupolev-142 maritime reconnaisance plane will continue to perform observation sorties over the Andamans, while a second Coast Guard Dornier sortie was performed this morning for damage assessment over the Maldives.

**■Vice-President Bhairon** Singh Shekhawat and Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee contributed their one month's salary to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Condoling the loss of lives, Shekhawat announced donation of his one month's salary amounting to Rs 40,000, an official release said.

■ Finance Minister P. Chidambaram donated Rs 1 lakh to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for use in relief r operations to be carried out in ar-

eas hit by the tidal wave. Earlier at the FICCI annual general meeting, Chidambaram appealed to India Inc to donate generously to the PM's Relief Fund to help those affected by the tsunami.

The United States announced an immediate relief of Rs 44.5 lakh for India. In a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Ambassador David C. Mulford announced the relief and expressed condolences on behalf of the people and government of the US to the tsunami-affected people.

■ MPs and MLAs of Congress and PMK from Tamil Nadu have decided to contribute their one month's salary for relief work in the affected districts of the state. MDMK general secretary Vaiko, too, announced a contribution of Rs 10 lakh from the party funds for relief work.



Delhi government announced an immediate relief of Rs 2 crore and appealed to its employees to donate their one-day salary

to help victims. Lt Governor B.L. Joshi has also contributed one month's salary to the relief fund.

■CPI(M) in West Bengal decided to organise a monthlong statewide mass collection drive to raise funds for victims and announced an initial donation of Rs 7 lakh for the affected in TN and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi has donated Rs 25 lakh to the PM's Relief Fund to help victims. The Chief Minister expressed deep sorrow at the loss of lives and property, official sources said in Guwahati on Monday. —- Apencies



Be it known to General Public a Large that my client Sh Bishai Dass S/o Late Sh. Ganpat Ram R o J-1/24, D.D.A. Flats, Kalkaji New Delhi-19 has disinherited his daughter named Ms. Rachna Kumari from his entire movable and immovable properties from this day onwards as she is no faithful to my client and her act is also indifferent towards my client Any person dealing with her will do at his/her own risk and my above

named client will not

(K. S. KASHYAP) Advocate A-11/1, Pandav Nagar, Delhi

responsible in any manner

member of the network, got the information, India did not," Minister of State for Science and Technology Kapil Sibal said.

Sibal reporters here that the devastation that the new system would be linked to existing devices called data buoys which record sea surface parameters.

those killed in the tsunami tidal waves which

struck the coastline. Atomic energy sources said the body of Selvaraj had been already

identified. Meanwhile police sources said the toll in Kalpakkam area was nearly 60 with an unspecified number missing.

shut three producing wells in Tamil Nadu. "The wells have been shut temporarily for three days," a top government official said. He, however, said Sunday's devastating tidal wave had not impacted oil and gas exploration work in the Bay of Bengal and refiner-

ies on the East Coast.

■ Cattle roam the sea shore in search of food in Cuddalore, a day after it was struck by tidal waves. on Monday. With more and more bodies being recovered from coastal areas of Tamil Nadu. the death toll in the state rose to over 3,600 till Monday evening, as normalcy was slowly restored. PTI

### Mumbai keeps date with saint's b'day celebrations

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** MUMBAI, DECEMBER 27

AS THE tsunami torpedoed South-East Asia on Sunday, many invoked the blessings of Baba Makhdoom Shah, the revered saint of Mahim.

The saint's 590th birthday celebrations, Urs (December 26-January 4), kicked off with Mumbai police's traditional offering of sandal, scent and shawls at his dargah on Sunday,

"Baba possesses unlimited healing powers. I am praying for the peace of those who perished in the toofan," said 81vear-old Siddiq Ali, a bearded fakir associated with the dargah for over three decades.

During the next week, more than three lakh people are expected to await their turn at the crowded central Mumbai shrine that's hemmed in by

■ Makhdoom Mahimi traces his lineage to Prophet Mohammed

■ Once his mother asked him for water. As he went to fetch it, she fell asleep. He spent the night holding the jar of water. Seeing his obedience, the mother called him Makhdoom (servant of God). The name stuck. ■ Author of 84 books, Makhdoom's best-known

restaurants, sweetmeat stores and flower-sellers.

work is Al-Tafsir-Al-Rehmani,

a commentary on the Quran.

Earlier, more than 100 serving and retired constables, led by Deputy Commissioner of Police Sandeep Bishnoi, meandered the lanes and bylanes of Mahim.

Clad in white kurta-pyja-

mas, the cops danced to the beats of nagaras (drums), screaming "Makhdoom Shah ki jai". "Every constable who joins Mahim police station must first bow to Baba," said Anand Chavan, Senior Police Inspector at Mahim police station. "Baba resided where the Mahim police station stands today. We have a room dedicated to his memory here."

Chavan has a personal reason to thank the Baba. Two decades ago, he started as a constable. "Thanks to his daya (mercy), I am a Senior PI today. I visit his dargah every Thursday," he said.

As the police procession reached the saint's tomb in the evening, frenzy gripped the stone-walled sanctum sanctorum. Devotees jostled outside even as the police offered prayers inside.

### With no alert system, South Asia is vulnerable

By Andrew C. Revkin

he earthquake that struck northwest of Sumatra, Indonesia, at dawn on Sunday was a perfect wave-making machine, and the lack of a tsunami warning system in the Indian Ocean essentially guaranteed the devastation that swept coastal communities around southern Asia, experts said.

Although waves swamped parts of the Sumatran coast and nearby islands within minutes, there would have been time to alert more distant communities if the Indian Ocean had a warning network like that in the Pacific, said Dr Tad Murty, an expert on the region's tsunamis who is affiliated with the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg.

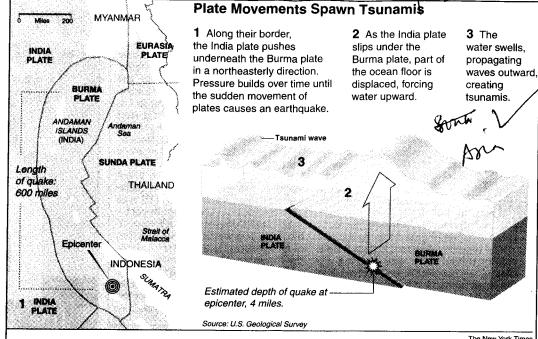
Within 15 minutes of the earthquake, in fact, scientists running the existing tsunami warning system for the Pacific, where such

26 participating countries, including Thailand and Indonesia, that destructive waves might be generated by the Sumatra tremors.

But there was no way to convey that information speedily to countries or communities an ocean away, said Dr Laura S L Kong, a Commerce Department seismologist and director of the International Tsunami Information Center, an office run under the auspices of the United Nations.

Phone calls were hurriedly made to countries in the Indian Ocean danger zone, she said, but not with the speed that comes from pre-established emergency planning. Tsunamis, sometimes referred to as tidal waves but having nothing to do with tidal forces, are generated when an earthquake, eruption or land-slide abruptly moves the seabed, jolting the waters above.

Resulting waves can cross thousands of miles of deep ocean at waves are far more common, sent near jetliner speeds as near-invisan alert from their Honolulu hub to ible disturbances before welling



to heights of 30 feet or more.

But even at such speeds, prompt warnings can provide ample time to evacuate people, Dr Murty and other experts said. The Pacific network of stations gauging wave and earthquake activity is able to alert potential targets within minutes.

Tsunamis have swept the In-

dian Ocean, as well, oceanographers said, noting one that killed several hundred people near Mumbai in 1945 and another—one of the earliest tsunamis recorded in the region—that ravaged what is now Bangladesh and other parts of the Bay of Bengal in 1762. With population densities enormously high in many parts of coastal southern Asia, the region should have started set-ting up such a network long

This caused a vast stretch of ago, said Dr Murty, who is originally from India.

But Dr Murty said India. Thailand, Malaysia and other countries in the region "see this as a Pacific problem". "I have a feeling that after this tragedy

that may change," he said.
The earthquake near Sumatra was the fifth most potent in the world in the last 100 years and the worst in 40 years, registering a magnitude of 9.0. It was followed by more than a dozen aftershocks, but none of those were expected to produce dangerous waves, federal geologists said.

The quake occurred at one of the many seams in the ever-shifting crust of the earth where one plate slips beneath another in an incessant, but spasmodic process. In this case, the quake incessant, was set off by an abrupt slippage along 700 miles of the seam where the plate beneath the Indian ocean slides under the In-

seabed to shift about 50 feet, said geologists at the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colo. NYT News Service

### THE DAY AFTER



Pak sympathy: Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz have sent messages of sympathy to the Indian leadership on the tragic loss of life and property due to tidal waves that struck coastal parts of the country. In his message to President A P J Abdul Kalam, Musharraf said, "I am saddened to learn about the tragic loss of life and property caused by tidal wave and earthquake that struck this morning. The colossal loss of precious lives and property caused due to this calamity is

Rs 25 cr for Pondicherry: An emergency Central assistance of Rs 25 cr will be given to Pondicherry to face the situation following the devastation caused by the tidal waves, Union home minister Shivraj Patil announced on Monday. Patil told reporters that more financial assistance would be given to it after an assessment of the damage was made by the authorities. The local authorities told Patil that over 372 people lost their lives and property worth over Rs 300 cr had



Injured tourists being treated in Thailand

India offers help: India on Monday offered assistance to five countries affected by the tsunami. PM Manmohan Singh spoke over the telephone to Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga and Malidves President Abdul Gayoom. India is sending 20 tonnes of biscuits, milk powder, dry food and PVC tanks, besides medical and surgical teams to Maldives, it was officially stated here.

Rs 44 lakh from US: The US on Monday announced an immediate relief of Rs 44.5 lakh to India for the people affected by Tsunami. In a letter to PM Manmohan Singh, ambassador David C Mulford announced the relief and expressed condolences on behalf of the people and government of the US to the Tsunami-affected people

N-expert killed: Nuclear scientist Dr A Selvaraj, who was attached to the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) at Kalpakkam, was among those killed in the Tsunami which struck the coastline in the area. Sources said the body of Selvarai had been identified.



A tourist at a tsunami-hit Thai beach



REDUCED TO RUINS IN SECONDS: An aerial view of Sri Lanka's Galle district which was devastated by the tsunamis

### More human loss than economic damage

By Alan Wheatley

Singapore: Fishing villages have been wiped out and money-spinning tourist resorts wrecked, but the economic cost of the giant seismic waves that swamped coasts across South Asia will be much smaller than the human toll.

land's important tourism industry will have to pick itself up again after suffering

setbacks from SARS and political unrest. But overall, Asia's economies and markets are likely to suffer at most a glancing blow from the disaster, in which at least 16,000 people died after the strongest earthquake in 40 years on Sunday sent a wall of water surging across the Indian Ocean.

"I do see some near-term impact from the unfortunate event but we're not about to cut growth rates in response to it," said Lian Chia Liang, an economist at JP Morgan Chase in Singapore.

Spending to rebuild smashed hotels and infrastructure could offset lower tourism receipts in the next few months, he said.

As Sri Lanka appealed for aid and global relief agencies swung into action, the International Monetary Fund said it stood ready to help in any way it could. Financial markets, though, only flinched. Some travel shares tumbled and the Thai stock exchange was down 1.6 %, but the Thai baht and Indonesian rupiah lost only a quarter of a per cent while the Bombay Stock Exchange actually

"It will be more of a story of human tragedy rather than economic costs," said Song Seng Wun, an economist at brokerage G K Goh in Singapore.

Ariuna Mahendran, chief economist and strateeast Asia's bourses are dominated by property firms, banks and export-orientated manufacturers. Sri Lanka's economy will be hardest hit and Thai- which will be little affected by the catastrophe.



"I don't think you're going to have a major fallout," he said. But Mahendran, who used to head Sri Lanka's investment board, said the disaster would set back the island's economy by a year and might

even result in negative growth in the next quarter. Sri Lanka logged a record 500,642 tourist arrivals in 2003, boosted after a ceasefire the year before in a two-decade-old civil war, pitting Tamil Tiger rebels and the government.

The government had been hoping to double those numbers by 2010. But the tsunami, which killed 4,900 people in Sri Lanka and left hundreds of thousands homeless, destroyed transport links gist at Credit Suisse in Singapore, noted that South- from Colombo to the main tourist destinations in the south of the island, where a string of luxury

hotels were badly damaged.

"That is a major blow, because tourism was the fastest-growing component of the economv." Mahendran said. "You'll have to rebuild the roads and the railway lines and it'll take about a year'

The timing could not be worse for Sri Lanka because its biggest industry, textiles, is bracing for big job losses when the end of international quotas on January 1 exposes it to the full blast of competition from cheap rival producers China and India.

In Thailand, where 12 million tourists year generate about 6 % of the country's gross domestic product of about \$160 billion (83 billion pounds), Nuchjarin Kasemsukworarat with SCB Securities said the disaster would do more damage to confidence than to output.

"I would say sentiment is hurt very badly," Nuchjarin said.

But Anusorn Tammajai, an economist with BankThai, said tourism was unlikely to suffer as much from the tsunami as it did from last year's outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, when the number of arrivals dropped 7.4 %, or from this year's burst of political violence in the south of the country. Beuters

### Experts scan the seas for more waves

By Laxmi P/TNN

Hyderabad: The killer waves may have receded, but experts are still scanning the seas, for more tsunamis could crash into the coastline. "The worst part of it is that you might see the after effects of such a massive earthquake for six months," Dr R K Cheda of the National Geophysical Research Institute warned.

After Sunday's tsunami battering, triggered by a massive quake on the ocean floor off Sumatra, on Monday, eight aftershocks were recorded along the same coast till 12.30 pm.

The most intense of these aftershocks was clocked at 6.2 on the Richter scale. But none of these sent the oceans rocking. The giant waves didn't form, Dr Cheda said.

In a post-mortem of what happened on Sunday, he said that high tides caused by the moon and earth's gravitational pull could have actually contributed to the fury of the waves seen in Visakhapatnam, Machlipatnam and Singarayakonda. "Remember, Sunday was a full

Elsewhere, a group of scientists at the city's National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) have gone back to the drawing board, working on the possible after-effects of the quake that triggered the tsunamis. For this, they are banking on satellite imagery. These satellites orbit the earth in a particular cycle, but cameras mounted on them have been tilted to track the damage caused by the waves, an NRSA scientist said.

'By Tuesday afternoon, satellite images about the killer waves would be recorded. These images will provide an assessment of the damage. Based on the analysis, efforts would be made to ascertain the possible after-effects," he said.

When surface waves with such energy trapped in them traverse the ocean, it's difficult to detect them. Only when they slam into land at a 5 to 15 metres sweeping away everything that stands in their way, can their impact be gauged, the NRSA scientists said.

"In any case, it would still have been difficult to take quick preventive measures. For the waves to Chennai. In such little time, it's near impossible to take precautionary measures," he said.



IN THE DARK: Pune's frequent power cuts ensure

### Shaken, but faith keeps their hopes alive

By B V S Bhaskar/TNN

Visakhapatnam: Hours after monster tsunamis hammered south Asia on Sunday, a group of about 20 people gathered in a small room here and started singing bhajans and praying for the safe return of their near ones who're still at sea.

Their faces gloomy and disturbed, they were finding it hard to control their

feelings. Some broke down and began crying. Others hugged each other trying hard to share the grief and console each other. "She got married only 10 days ago. She's a civilian. She has never gone through such nerve-wracking times before. We can't control her. These periods of uncertainty come in the lives of Navy wives. They're inevitable. But this young girl is far too new to the

fraternity," said the wife of a Navy officer who's at sea. Outside this group of 20, 100 to 200 people from different parts of the city, all from the Navy family, are deeply worried. Their near ones have failed to sail into port at the appointed hour.

"Such situations arise at least once a year. But,

different crisis unfold," said Harpreet Kaur, wife of a Navy officer, who went out to sea 10 days ago.

Within hours of the tsunami strike, the Navy quickly launched a rescue and relief mission and pressed in four to five ships. Other than these, there are three to four ships that had set sail some days before the killer waves came. Each of these has 50 officers and 200 to 250 sailors. These vessels are yet to report to port.

the After crashed in, the Eastern Naval Command communications headquarters sent red alert to all its officers, sailors and crew. The red alert was fol-

lowed by a message saying all ships at sea are safe and headquarters is in touch with the sailors. This gave us some relief," said K Natesan, grandfather of a sailor, who left Visakhapatnam 10 days ago. "Barring going to church, what

else can we do? I know my son is safe. I'm longing to see him back and on shore. Only then will I feel relieved," said David, an old man, whose son is a submariner.

But a senior officer put up a brave face and said: No need to worry. We have seen many more calamities. Our sailors, officers and their families are brave when we switched on the TV sets on Sunday, we saw a enough to face any situation.

### **How Vizag survived wave fury**

**Times News Network** 

Visakhapatnam: The people of this port city were in the grip of panic for hours on Sunday morning as earthquake-triggered tidal waves pushed sea water right into the streets, but in terms of damage and lives lost, this part of the AP coast was let off lightly. No deaths were reported in the three north coastal districts of Visakhapatnam,

Srikakulam and Vizianagaram. However, two boats out at sea are missing with 7-man crews and two big boats berthed in the fishing harbour sank. The Coast Guard has pressed four ships and two helicopters for search and rescue operations.

When the tremors rocked Vizag city at 6.33 am, panic-stricken people rushed out of their houses. After a while, the panic subsided although the seas were turbulent thereafter. Two hours later fishermen sailing near the harbour started shouting as waves began to suddenly rise. On shore, fishermen ran out to the jetty to secure their boats. But the waves slammed into the harbour and upended the boats. The tide reached the main road near full moon tide drowns villages on the shore.

the fishing harbour. After this news was flashed on TV, thousands of residents gathered near Ramakrishna beach and the fishing harbour to watch the turbulence

However, loading and unloading operations at the Vizag Port Trust harbour were not affected. Indian Navy installations and major industries in Vizag city also felt little impact.

The tide rose 5-10 m in the mid-sea off Vizag, diminishing to 3-5 m on the coast, damaging small fishing boats, jettys and catamarans and tearing up fishing nets along the coast at Bheemunipatnam. Regional director of the Cyclone Warning Centre J V M Naidu said the sea off Visakhapatnam is quite steep and this absorbed the impact of the tremors. Moreover, a wide stretch of beach separates the city and there are few fishing villages bang on the coast in this area. Therefore the impact was less than else-

where on the AP coast, he said. He warned that tremors and wave activity in the Bay of Bengal would continue for another 36 hours and advised revenue, Navy and Coast Guard to be on alert lest the

### **TSUNAMI: THE DAY AFTER**

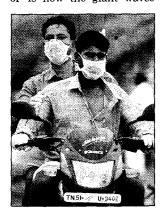
### Nightmare island left with sea of tears

### Shockwaves stalk town

BAPPA MAJUMDAR

Port Blair, Dec. 27: The massive waves have gone, but it has left this picturesque capital of the Andamans a shattered town

Though Car Nicobar has borne the brunt of the destruction, fear and shock has numbed Port Blair. Almost all markets are shut, there is no electricity and water is scarce. People have emerged on the streets, but all they talk of is how the giant waves



Volunteers bring relief to a village near Chennai. (AFP)

lashed the town, taking five

lives and razing buildings. People narrate how 13year-old Joshdin was walking by the beach yesterday morning when he suddenly saw a huge wave about to crash on the beach. He turned and ran. Joshdin thought he had made it to safety when a tree uprooted by the wave hit him on the back ending his life instantly.

In Corbyn's Cove, 59-yearold Bharat Ram's wife Sumita sobs and recounts how her husband's morning walk was cut short by a wave that flung him 10 feet away and squeezed his life out. "I could not imagine that he would not return home," she said.

The authorities said the waters had rushed about 6 km

houses and trees in its path. In Shadipur a building has collapsed, in Janglighat huts have been flattened and in Marina Park people go around collecting bit and pieces of their belongings strewn around the place. "It took us totally by surprise," said 24year-old Lawrence. "We are still looking for things washed away from our homes."

But since this morning, Shakil Ahmed has been making the rounds of the offices of the inspector-general of police and Union territory authorities not to "look for things washed away", but in search of his brother Fakir Ahmed who had travelled to Cachal island two days ago but has been missing since yesterday's devastation.

"There is simply no trace of him," Shakil said. "I don't know whether he is dead or alive or even if he is stranded somewhere and no one here can help me.

Faced with the enormity of the task and the unexpectedness of the tragedy, the Andamans authorities are struggling to cope with the situation and the unending requests and queries from residents and tourists alike.

Pronab Das, who was in Havelock's Dolphin Resort when the waves struck has managed to make his way back to Port Blair and is now doing the rounds to get a passage back to Calcutta, "I saw the 15 feet high waves in Havelock and I have decided that I cannot stay here any longer.'

Arnab Choudhury with his wife and two children have also decided to cut short their stay but are finding it difficult to find seats on the packed flights. "There is no water here, no electricity and nothing left for us to do." Arnab said. "I am desperate to get



A child eats food distributed by a volunteer organisation in Chennai. (Reuters)

### Delhi dips into calamity purse

CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Dec. 27: The Union cabinet has decided to provide the tsunami-hit states Rs 500 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund for immediate relief and appealed to people to donate for the disaster-hit.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has asked his council of ministers to donate a month's salary to the fund and government servants to give a day's pay.

Singh, who was slated to visit affected states tomorrow, has postponed his trip. Instead, he will be in the capital to take stock of the situation in Car Nicobar island, which has been the worst-hit in the country.

**Defence minister Pranab** Mukheriee, who visiting the Andaman and Nicolar islands. will return tomorrow and give the Prime Minister firsthand information about the devastation there, PMO spokesperson Sanjava Baru said.

Finance minister P. Chidambaram has urged India Inc to donate generously to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Members of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) have already responded by committing Rs 2.5 crore.

The cabinet has decided to constitute a committee which will monitor relief and rehabilitation measures on a daily basis. The committee will be chaired by the Prime Minister and in his absence the seniormost cabinet minister, Chidambaram said after the cabinet meeting.

The official death toll in the states hit by the tsunami waves hovers around 3,400, but there is a feeling that the final body count could be twice to thrice this figure, or uation "very well".

even more if the govern ment's worst fears come true in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Reports from the Andamans have tentatively put the toll across the islands to around 3,000 but home ministry officials feel it is bound to increase.

The islands will be considered separately for financial assistance through the home ministry in view of its Union territory status and its special needs.

Minister of state for home Sriprakash Jaiswal spoke of another danger bothering the ministry — that India might lose some islands to the sea permanently. Some 25 low-lying islands in the Car Nicobar region have been submerged, Jaiswal said, giving rise to speculation that they might be lost permanently.

Aerial surveys and satellite images in the last 24 hours have not been able to give the complete picture of the disaster, officials said. So, the damage assessment in the islands could be a long-drawn affair, they added.

"We have been able to establish contact with the Nicobar collector over satellite phone and have started air dropping food, blankets and tentage," a home ministry official said.

The Crisis Management Group that met this afternoon to make a fresh assess ment and review the relief work has decided to concentrate efforts on those islands administered directly by the lieutenant-governor and a team of bureaucrats.

Although the devastation is widespread, home ministry officials said there was no need to declare the calamity a "national disaster" as the states were managing the sit-

### N-plant safe, but workers move out

M.R. VENKATESH

Kalpakkam, Dec. 27: Nearly 2,000 people have been evacuated from near the shoreline in Kalpakkam, which was hit by tsunami yesterday in the wake of the devastation, though the nuclear plant escaped damage.

"The nuclear power plant (Kalpakkam has two units of 220 MW each besides a research reactor and the Fast Breeder Test Reactor at IGCAR) is absolutely safe as. within minutes of the undersea earthquake striking Sumatra in Indonesia, the plant was shut down as our seismograph can pick up these signals," said a scientific officer at Kalpakkam.

The situation in the residential colony, which was cut off from the rest of Kalpakkam, is a different story.

Pudupattinam, where several scientific officers of the Madras Atomic Power Station and the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research live, re-

sembled a graveyard today. Two thousand people, including employees of the nuclear plant and their family members, were transported to a makeshift camp at Anupuram — a short distance from the Kalpakkam plant — where quarters had been constructed for officers and scientists



Sonia Gandhi comforts a tsunami victim in Parka village on Car Nicobar island. (AFP)

cluding the prototype fast

Most residences close to

working in new projects, in- the shoreline in Pudupatti- tion authorities to move out to nam were locked early today as people had been advised by

either the less affected part of the residential colony or the camp at Anupuram. the Madras Atomic Power Sta-

"Fortunately, the army and the Central Industrial Security Force took charge last night and prevented antisocials from plundering our houses," said Arun, a scientific officer.

The receding waters left behind a trail of destruction overturning scores of cars and trapping two-wheelers in

the silt. The ground-floor homes were covered in silt pushed in by the tsunami. Furniture, electronic appliances and other household items were mostly damaged

### Sonia's team chips in with salary

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Dec. 27: Congress president Sonia Gandhi has directed her party members and the frontal organisations to mount a major relief operation as the magnitude of death and destruction caused by yesterday's tsunami began to unfold today.

Sonia, who cancelled her two-day visit to Kerala, directed the more than 200 Congress MPs to contribute one month's salary (Rs 12,000) towards relief. Party MLAs and MLCs across the country were also asked to contribute one month's salary.

The Congress president, accompanied by defence minister Pranab Mukherjee and narty general secretary Ambika Soni, rushed to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which is feared to be the worst affected, to survey the situation and assess relief requirements. Sonia will visit Tamil

Nadu tomorrow and then go to the other affected states, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, said the chairperson of the Congress media department, Giriia Vvas. Before leaving for the An-

damans, Sonia directed Congress leaders to set up a control room to direct the party's relief work A committee, including the party's treasurer and gen-

parts of the country. eral secretaries, supervises the relief activities. They will coordinate with control rooms that have been set up at the state and district levels in the affected states. The state Congress committees will function as relief panels. The party's central relief

committee, which held its first meeting today, urged general secretaries in charge of affected states to rush to their regions. Sonia asked the Karnataka Congress to take the leading role in relief work in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Maharashtra unit in Pondicherry and the Andhra unit in Tamil Nadu.

### Singh ships out help to Lanka & Maldives

**OUR SPECIAL** CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Dec. 27: Manmohan Singh today spoke on telephone to Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga and President Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives, two island nations devastated by yesterday's killer tsunami waves.

them that India was ready to assist in whatever way needed Sri Lanka needs help in locating hundreds of missing fishermen. The Indian Navy is

The Prime Minister told

already on the look out for boatmen needing assistance. Last evening, India sent in a Dornier aircraft laden with 600 kg of medicines and a

team of doctors. Today, the navy launched Operation Rainbow. It sent out four ships to Sri Lanka. INS Sharda and INS Sutlej are headed for Galle in the south, an area badly hit by the waves. Two more ships, the INS Sandhayak and the INS Sukanya, have set off for

Trincomalee, the headquarters of the eastern province. All the four vessels have helicopters and divers on board. The ships are carrying medical teams, supplies and relief equipment. The air force has also chipped in with a searchand-rescue operations team.

For the Maldives, the navy

will launch Operation Castor, involving three ships. INS Mysore, INS Udaygiri and INS Aditya are preparing to set out later today. INS Mysore has two helicopters and the other two have a chopper each. INS Aditya is carrying water and has a purification plant. Medical teams, supplies and relief equipment are also on board. INS Mysore is expected to reach tomorrow, INS Udaygiri

on Thursday. In a show of bonhomie, Pakistan has expressed willingness to offer assistance to India. Indian foreign secretary Shyam Saran, appreciating Pakistan's gesture, said he would convey Islamabad's

on Wednesday and INS Aditya

offer to Delhi. He pointed out that if there was any area in which India needed Pakistan's help in this regard, it would ask for it.

The external affairs ministry has also written to the heads of the Indian missions in the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia to find out about Indians who may have be stranded there.

So far, one Indian woman was reported dead in Thailand and another injured in Phuket, a holiday destination in that country. National Conference leader Omar Abdullah, who was also in Thailand, is safe. The Indian mission in Bangkok has flown consular officials to Phuket to provide assistance to Indians who may be holidaying there. The external affairs ministry has activated a control room in Delhi. The affected missions are also operating control rooms. In New Delhi, additional secretary, administration, Talmiz

### **OUR SPECIAL** CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Dec. 27: The major telecom operators in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, which were hit by tsunamis, said their networks are functioning normally, though call drops and busy tones continued to irritate those calling from other

AirTel said their systems had been functioning normally even in the wake of the tsunami and the damage in the coastal areas of the country. The undersea cable, mobile and fixed-line networks of the company were also functioning normally, it said. The network claimed that there has been no damage to its telecom infrastructure.

"AirTel is also undertaking measures to ensure connectivity on its congestion-free network throughout the crisis. We have taken all precautionary measures to ensure that our networks continue to be

### **Phone** lines spared

operational and the company's employees and partners are trying to do all that is possible to help the affected," company spokesperson

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, the biggest operator in the three states, said network congestion was experienced for a few hours yesterday afternoon but the situation was normal by evening. The same congestion was witnessed early today.

"The network congestion was due to the heavy calling to the network in the affected states. This was temporary and communications systems are normal," said a senior BSNL executive.

A Tata Indicomm spokesp-

erson said the company's telecom network has not been affected and its subscribers have not experienced any problem in making or receiving calls from the affected states. Some service providers are

Ahmad is the coordinator.

also making special efforts to help those affected. An AirTel team and channel partners have set up crisis call stations in the affected areas in Tamil The call stations will en-

able people to contact friends and relatives and aid rescue operations and relief workers in affected areas

People can make calls from these stations for three minutes without charge. The stations, which will use AirTel wireless infrastructure, have been set up close to affected areas near the seashore in Thiruvarur, Kairakkal, Kalpakkam, Cuddalore, Pondicherry and Kanyakumari.

AirTel is setting up more such stations and has constituted special teams to undertake these relief measures.

**TENDER** 

TIME EXTENSION

THE time for downloading for the work 'Construction of Games Village for National Games-2005 at Guwahati 10:01 hrs. on 27.12.2004 Assam on Turn Key Basis' has been extended

**TENDER** 

to 10:01 hrs. on 27.12.2004. Details may be seen at Websitehttp://pwd.as.nexten-ders.co.in and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours from

**TENDER** up to 17.30 hrs. on 29.12.2004

Sd/- A. C. Bordoloi Chief Engineer, PWD

(Bldg)

The Telegraph MORE TENDER AND CLASSIFIED ADVTs. ON PAGE 2

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### **Economic toll will be less**

Singapore, Dec. 27 (Reuters): Fishing villages have been wiped out and money-spinning tourist resorts wrecked, but the economic cost of the giant seismic waves that swamped coasts across south Asia will be much smaller than the human toll.

Sri Lanka's economy will be hardest hit and Thailand's important tourism industry will have to pick itself up again after suffering setbacks from Sars and political unrest.

But overall, Asia's economies and markets are likely to suffer at most a glancing blow from the disaster.

"I do see some near-term impact from the unfortunate event but we're not about to cut growth rates in response to it," said Lian Chia Liang, an economist at JP Morgan Chase in Singapore.

Spending to rebuild smashed hotels and infrastructure could offset lower tourism receipts in the next few months, he said. As Sri Lanka appealed for aid and global relief agencies swung into action, the IMF said it stood ready to help in any way it could.

Financial markets, though, only flinched. Some travel shares tumbled and the Thai stock exchange was down 1.6 per cent, but the Thai



French rescue workers wait to board a plane for Sri Lanka at Roissy airport, outside Paris. (AFP)

baht and Indonesian rupiah lost only a quarter of a per cent.

"It will be more of a story of human tragedy rather than economic costs," said Song Seng Wun, an economist at brokerage GK Goh in Singapore.

Arjuna Mahendran, chief economist and strategist at Credit Suisse in Singapore, noted that Southeast Asia's bourses are dominated by property firms, banks and export-orientated manufacturers, which will be little affected by the catastrophe. "I don't think you're going to have a major fall-out," he said.
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But Mahendran, who used to head Sri Lanka's investment board, said the disaster would set back the island's economy by a year and might even result in negative growth next quarter.

Sri Lanka logged a record 500,642 tourist arrivals in 2003, boosted after a ceasefire the year before in a two-decade-old civil war pitting Tamil Tiger rebels and the government.

The government had been hoping to double those numbers by 2010. But the tsunami, which killed 10,200 people in Sri Lanka and left hundreds of thousands homeless, destroyed transport links from Colombo to the main tourist destinations in the south of the island, where a string of luxury hotels was badly damaged.

"That is a major blow because tourism was the fastestgrowing component of the economy," Mahendran said. "You'll have to rebuild the roads and the railway lines and it'll take about a year."

The timing could not be worse for Sri Lanka because its biggest industry, textiles, is bracing for big job losses when the end of international quotas on January 1 exposes it to the full blast of competition from cheap rival producers China and India.

In Thailand, where 12 million tourists a year generate about 6 per cent of the country's gross domestic product of about \$160 billion, Nuchjarin Kasemsukworarat with SCB Securities said the disaster would do more damage to confidence than to output.

"I would say sentiment is hurt very badly," Nuchjarin said.

# India adopts Cica curb-terror catalogue said eliminating the menace through a "comprehensive and sustained effort"

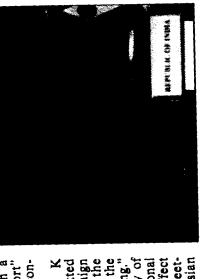
to strengthening the global campaign against terrorism and underlined the "Our foremost common concern should Addressing the gathering, Mr K Natwar Singh, said India was committed need for all countries to "go beyond the old ideologies and ways of thinking." "The common threat to the security of terrorism. How we deal with it will affect our collective future," he told the meeting of 16-member grouping of Asian our peoples and states is international should be the "foremost common concern" for all nations. countries. (CICA), attended by external affairs minister Mr K Natwar Singh among others, adopted a catalogue which prescribes cooperation among the member states in Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia light against the menace in all its forms and manifestations should be "compre-hensive" and not "selective." The 17-Decrying "double standards" in dealing terrorism, 17 Asian countries, including India, today asserted that the ALMATY (Kazakhstan), Oct. 22. ministerial meeting member

threat to all Asian countries, India today Describing terrorism as the

curbing terrorism and preventing sepa-

prehensive and sustained effort," Mr Singh said. The catalogue on CBMs included cooperation in military-political

be to root out this menace through a com-



Mr K Natwar Singh addresses the Cica meet in Almaty on Friday. — PTi

and threats, and in the area of economic, dimension, fight against new challenges enviromental and human dimension.

essary, develop mechanism to combat their activities. The meeting emphasised the centrality of the UN in promotion of dence and sovereignty" of Iraq, political Afghanistan and expressed concern over rorist, separatist, extremist activities and international peace, favoured "indepen-It asked the member states to exchange organised criminal groups and when necinformation concerning fight against tereconomic reconstruction

selective or discriminatory and should The meeting adopted a declaration say-ing that the threats posed by terrorism, separatism and extremism "undermine the very foundation of international peace and security" and stressed that the comprehensive and sustained and not fight against these should be "global avoid applying double standards." situation in West Asia.

THE STATESMAN 2**3** OCT 2004

# Almaty meet slams selective terror war

Vinod Sharma Almaty, October 22

3

THE TERRORIST threat to civil societies in Asia and across the globe was the dominant theme at the ministerial meeting here on Friday of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures (CICA), which adopted a catalogue of CBMs, including measures to combat terror, strengthen confidence in the military political sphere and push socio-economic bonding of member countries.

The catalogued CBMs were recommendatory in nature, meant to be applied on a gradual and voluntary basis. In the military-political sphere, the conference proposed an exchange of information on defence budgets, component of armed forces, military exercises and presence of foreign contingents on territories of CICA states. The document called for consultation mechanisms covering unexpected and hazardous military incidents — especially when they occurred in close proximity to the border areas of member countries.

areas of member countries.
Likewise, the catalogue contained information exchange on terror, separatism and organised crime and development mechanisms, when necessary, to combat such activities. It underscored – in equal measure – cooperation to deal with proliferation of WMDs and their means of delivery, fighting drug-trafficking, money-laundering, organised transborder crime, human-trafficking and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

Among the 17 CICA Foreign Minis-

ters at the meeting were India's K. Natwar Singh and Pakistan's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Machdoom Khusro Bakhtyar.

Makindoom Anusto bakinyat:
In a declaration, the participants condemned terrorism — and violent separatism — in all its forms and manifestations. They said: "We have agreed to enhance our bilateral and multilateral efforts in fighting such threats, which undermine the very foundations of international peace and security".

peace and security".

In line with the Indian position, highlighted by Natwar Singh in his address, CICA declared that the fight against terror had to be global, comprehensive and sustained, not selective or discriminatory. In the context of dangers inherent in the proliferation of WMDs, the declaration advocated multilateral measures to prevent such weapons and their delivery systems from falling into the hands of terrorists and criminal groups.

"But international efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation should not affect the rights of states to access and use nuclear technology and materials for peaceful purposes in accordance with agreements with the IAEA", the CICA states implored.

Dark , the CACA states imported.

On UN reforms, the member countries, being watched from the sidelines by observers from the US and the UN, decided to work together to make the system more responsive to traditional and new challenges. In addition to China and Russia, CICA members include Afghanistan, Iran, Israel, Palestine, Egypt and Turkey. Not surprising,

External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh at a ministerial meeting in Almaty, Kazkhstan, on Friday.

therefore, that the conference document pointedly referred to political and reconstruction processes in Afghanistan and Iraq, while dilating on West Asia and the Korean Peninsula. It identified multilateral and individual initiatives for dialogue between civilisations as one of

the principle instruments in fighting terror and intolerance to promote the peace among adherents of different religions and cultures.

Equally comprehensive were CI-

Equally comprehensive were CI-nancia CA's economic, environmental and inhuman CBMs: A common database promo and a system of data exchange on tric and

ade and commerce, common environment protection programmes in the border areas, information exchange on tourism, suspicious financial transactions and natural and industrial disasters, besides promoting contact between scientific and educational institutions.

THE HIDUSTAN TIMES

23 not 2004

# Isians in agreement: Talks better than discords

Thaksin pushes own agenda

ed to intensify political to create a "harmonious and stable" environment dialogue and enhance mutual trust as also coordinaregional issues and work tion on international and - Embarking on a initiative, India, OINGDAO (China), June 22. — Embarking on a ers from 19 other coun-China, Pakistan and lead-

Press Trust of India

"While recognising differences and seeking common ground, we will move a closer cooperation," the forward hand-in-hand for 13-point declaration said. in the region. tries today agreed to move "hand-in-hand" to build a better Asia and pledged to

Mr K Natwar Singh led the ACD which was also attended by his Pakistani Indian foreign minister Indian delegation for the them through dialogue to preserve peace and securiresolve disputes among ration" adopted at the end of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue here, they decid-In a five-page declaration on "Āsia Coope-

ty in the region.



The Thai PM addresses the

take the prestige position. "If you ask on the part ACD on Tuesday. — AFP

Kasuri and leaders from host China, Japan, Bangla-

dech Malaysia, Sri Lanka,

of Thailand, I think, for Asia's sake, I may relucof my most able Cabinet ister, to make himself available for the position," the post of UN Secretary tantly have to sacrifice one Mr Thaksin said. "It has been more than 35 years since the last Asian held ministers, my foreign min-General," he added. Speaking at the ACD here, Mr Thaksin said it QINGDAO, June 22. — Thai Prime Minister Mr nomination of his foreign minister as the next UN Thaksin Shinawatra today used the Asia Cooperation Dialogue to push for the was time for an Asian to

- Nation/ANN

pledged to make efforts to "expand and deepen" Asia nations ACD

Thailand, Vietnam, Qatar, South Korea, Kuwait, Bahrain and Cambodia.

cooperation in all areas under the principles of quality, reciprocity, mutual benefit and gradual progress and to build a new Asia where lasting peace and prosperity prevails.

trade arrangements.

and They decided to intensify political dialogue and enhance mutual trust besides stepping up ecopromoting the regional nomic cooperation integration process.

decided to promote sustainable development of food security and safety as

negotiations, they decided to "vigorously" develop intra-regional trade, promote investment activity While taking active part in the new round of WTO

iative" on energy co-operation, pledging to stock-pile strategic energy reserves and a regional issued a "Oingdao Initenergy transportation net adds Daily/ANN. work. for bilateral and regional cial infrastructure, the dec-laration said the members economic development and encourage regional To improve financial stability, particularly through the development of finan-

ducers and consumers

allow Asian countries to cesses so that all of them can benefit from the solu-Wenke, deputy director of tions," said Mr Han the Energy Research Institute with National "This document will share challenges and suc-Development and Reform Commission, agriculture and to ensure well as to promote Asia's

### **Energy pact**

balanced development.

The 22 member nations of the ACD — both oil pro-

> 23 His

THE STATESMAN

### Flunct in control: UN Rome/Hañoi, Feb. 5 (Reuters): Three IIN agencies admonished try's 11th bird flu victim. Thaiin Rome the chance the vir

Rome/Haňoi, Feb. 5 (Reuters): Three UN agencies admonished Asian countries infected with bird flu today for being too slow in sounding the alarm and warned that the epidemic, which has now killed 16 people, was still not under control.

The virus has ravaged poultry flocks in 10 countries and spread in China, home to the world's biggest poultry population. Authorities there said they faced a tough fight to defeat the disease and state television reported that the virus may now have spread to 13 of the country's 31 provinces.

try's 31 provinces.
South Korea reported its 19th outbreak, and Vietnam's Hospital for Tropical Diseases said tests showed that a 16-year-old girl from southern Soc Tran, province had become the coun-

try's 11th bird flu victim. Thailand, which has reported five deaths, said it had two more suspected cases, a two-year-old boy and a 67-year-old man. It now has 19 suspected cases of infection by a virus believed to be spread by migrating birds.

Health experts say the human victims have caught the flu from sick chickens and the virus is not being passed between people, but there are fears the bird flu virus could combine with a human flu virus and mutate into a new infectious disease.

World health bodies said in a joint statement after a meeting

in Rome the chance the virus could spread to other countries, "including those in distant regions, is likely to remain high" unless the right methods were used to stamp it out.

The virus was not under control, said the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the world animal health body, OIE.

Without the implementation of appropriate methods of disease control the risk of epidemic spread to further countries, including those in distant regions, is likely to remain high," it said.

### China reflects WHO urgency

### Bird flu 10 close ranks

Bangkok, Jan. 28 (Reuters): The 10 Asian countries hit by the rapid spread of bird flu, which has killed at least eight people and threatens to develop into an epidemic worse than Sars, today promised to fight it together.

Details of what they agreed were sparse as their task loomed even larger now that the lethal virus has struck in China, the world's most populous country, the birthplace of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and home to a vast poultry industry.

But the WHO said the oneday meeting in Bangkok, also attended by EU and US officials, was a good start. "This meeting is the beginning of the process. Quite clearly they're going to start to work together now," said WHO spokesperson Peter Cordingley, who described some delegates as clearly shaken by the rapid onslaught of the H5N1 avian flu virus.

Chinese President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao reflected the urgency displayed by the WHO which, with two other international organisations, has called for money and expertise to launch an all-out war on the bird flu virus. "Any epidemic must be

eradicated as soon as it occurs to prevent it from spreading," the Chinese leaders were quoted by state television as saying. "Such an epidemic must be contained in one spot and cut off to prevent it from infecting humans."

China is slaughtering poultry around three farms in three regions where bird flu was confirmed yesterday, the latest of the quick fire eruptions across Asia from Pakistan to Japan which the WHO says has no historical precedent.

The Bangkok statement said that was the right thing to do and "rapid culling" was the preferred solution to an outbreak, something Indonesia said it cannot do because it doesn't have the money to compensate farmers.

The statement promised a regional animal survey system to be plugged into the health network to make it easier to tackle diseases such as bird flu and Sars which leap the species barrier.

The great fear is that the H5N1 avian flu virus might mate with human influenza and unleash a pandemic among people with no immunity to it. So far, there is no evidence of transmission between people.

THE TELEGRAPH

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### arm in Vietnam as ree die of bird flu

Hanoi, Jan. 13 (Reuters): Asia faced a new health scare today after three Vietnamese died from "bird flu", but the WHO industry is said there are no signs yet an outbreak that has ravaged the region's poultry industrespreading between people. faced a new health

human transmission," Dr Shigeru Omi of the World date is that Health Organisation said in a human-to-"The evidence to there is no sign of

people, who statement.

But he said the consequences would be dire if the virus latched on to the human influenza virus and spread among have little immune

against the strain.

"The ensuing virus would then be highly pathogenic and transmissible," said Omi, the WHO's regional director for the Western Pacific.

In a region already alarmed by the return of Sars, health officials say they are worried by the rapid spread of H5N1 avian influenza, or bird flu, in Japan, South Korean and Vietnam.

d world ani-OIE said it would send scientists to Asia to investigate the outbreaks, which it said could pose a serious threat to humans under certain The Paris-based mal disease body (

provinces. Eleven of the 13 chil-

ne WHO said a Hong Kong ned that bird The OIE group would start in Vietnam, where the

they were exposed to the same

people died in Hong Kong in 1997 during an outbreak of avian in The H5N1 avian flu virus fluenza and last year it infected a father and son in the crowded but rarely infects humans. Six spreads rapidly among poultry

it had been struck by a fast-spreading bird flu that has hit other countries in Asia, which Hanoi declared last week that has a vast poultry industry.

more than a week today, dashing hopes the outbreak was subsiding. Hundreds of people living in affected areas have been given blood tests, although a health official said today no one had shown symptoms of the disease. South Korea, which has already culled nearly two million chickens and ducks, reported its first new case of avian flu in

In Japan, where the first bird flu outbreak in years was report-ed yesterday, the government ready worried about the safety of vowed to protect consumers albeef, fish and eggs.

flu killed one adult and two chil

An officer inspects chickens and ducks on sale at a market in Ho Chi Minh City. (AFP)

Thailand, which produces about one billion chickens a year, said it was free of bird flu but was battling an outbreak of poultry cholera. "I would like to insist that Thailand is free of bird flu," Nirundorn Aungtragoolsuk, director of the agriculture ministry's Livestock Disease Control Division, said. dence so far linking the remaining cases to the flu virus that has killed nearly one million chickens in Vietnam. But investigators are exploring the possibility dren from the Hanoi area.

They were among 14 people who fell ill with influenza in Hanoi and surrounding dren and the mother of one of the children died.

Omi said there was no evi-

Beijing, Jan. 13 (Reuters): China debunked rumours today boomtown of Shenzhen was a possible Sars case, but a Hong Kong television report said one of two earlier suspected cases had been confirmed as having the deadly virus. that a sick man in the southern

Shenzhen garment trader Chen Xiaohe, 38, had Sars-like symptoms a month ago, but doctors determined he was suffer-ing from a form of bacterial Xinhua pneumonia, agency said

The Xinhua comment came as Asia faced a new health scare in bird flu, with the World Health Organisation (WHO) confirming that the disease had killed three as pneumonia, respiratory fail-ure and failure of other organs in the chest", the agency said. His condition was now under 10 for "respiratory distress, coupled with other symptoms such people in Vietnam. Chen was put into intensive care on January

followed the requirements for reporting set by the World Health Organisation," Zhou Jun'an, Shenzhen City, was quoted as saying. "There has been no conhead of the health bureau of firmed or suspected Sars case in "Shenzhen City has strictly Shenzhen since winter.

Shenzhen is a special econrurant former British colony of Hong Kong. Guangdong and the

In Guangzhou, the capital of waitress had been confirmed as having Sars, Hong Kong Cable Television said, the country's second confirmed case of the deadly disease in just over a west of Shenzhen, a 20-year-old Guangdong about 90 km north

### China battles

### Sars report

week. The television station quoted sources from China's health ministry as saying a formal announcement would be Last week China confirmed its first Sars case since the WHO declared an end to the last out-break in July. That victim has made later.

dong, working with the health ministry, are examining all pos-sible sources of Sars infection — Guangzhou. WHO researchers in Guang-35-year-old

now recovered and left hospital Yesterday, China reported third suspected case of Sars in

ronment. The government has ordered a cull of civets — weasel-like animals that are a pect - in hopes of averting an local delicacy and the prime susoutbreak

on to infect more than 8,000 people in nearly 30 countries, killing nearly 800. The virus first emerged in Guangdong late in 2002 and went

the temperature of school stu-dents this week to guard against a fresh outbreak of the deadly Singapore will start taking respiratory illness, the govern ment said yesterday

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