

DAE organisations put in brave efforts to cope with the devastating effect of Tsunami on the residents of DAE Colony

Last year, on December 26, around 9.15 hours, a Tsunami tidal wave had struck Kalpakkam Township of DAE.

Parts of the residential colony near coastal line had got damaged, and some people were got trapped in the tidal water. This event had caused loss of precious human lives and damaged property of the residents. However, the efforts made by everyone concerned helped to contain, to a large extent, the sufferings and hardships of the employees and the members of their families.

Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, AEC was in constant touch with the authorities to monitor and expedite the relief measures. Senior officials of DAE and its various units had also rushed to the affected area of Kalpakkam for relief work.

The Kalpakkam Management Committee had immediately swung into action and organised emergency measures with the formation of a Crisis Management Group which included participation of Central Industrial Security Force, associations, workers and officers in Kalpakkam campus.

Immediate relief was rendered to the affected people. The residents were shifted from the affected areas to a safer Anupuram township and relief camps with food, water,

shelter, and medical care were arranged.

Fleet capacity was enhanced and round the clock service was provided to meet the demands for medical and transportation of the affected persons. Electrical and communication systems were normalized within the shortest possible time. Restoration of bridge between Sadras to Pudupattinam was built by civil engineers with the help of contractors.

Necessary measures were taken to avoid epidemic diseases. The damaged hospital was revived and shifted to Anupuram with the mobilization of more medical and paramedical staff to attend to the affected people of DAE as well as local people of surrounding villages. Doctors of the Indian Council for Medical Research had joined the DAE medical force. Financial assistance was also given to the employees affected and to the families of those who lost their lives.

As a result of the concerted efforts, normal life returned to the affected area very soon.



In aid of the victims of Tsunami, a cheque of Rs. 5 crore was donated by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Employees of the DAE also donated their one-day salary to the Fund.

Seen in the picture are Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Shri S.K.Jain Chairman and Managing Director NPCIL while presenting the cheque to Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, on January 10, 2005 in New Delhi.

Nuclear Power Plants remained unaffected by Tsunami



In nuclear power plants the whole spectrum of natural calamities, and highly improbable accident conditions, are factored in site selection and design. The calamities such as earthquakes, flooding, tsunami and cyclones are considered during site selection and design of nuclear power plants. The grade level of the plant is kept well above the maximum expected flood level.

When the tsunami of December 26, 2004, struck the east coast of India, Unit-1 of Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS), at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu, was already under long shutdown for major refurbishment and modernization. Unit-2 of MAPS, in operation at that time, was brought to safe shutdown state. While the water level remained below the grade level of the plant, water ingressed through the sea-water intake tunnel causing submergence of some of the sea water pumps. The shutdown core cooling systems remained operational and the core was maintained in safe shutdown condition. A detailed inspection of the plant and its systems both by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), was carried out and the plant was restarted on January 2, 2005.

Two Nuclear power plants of 1000 MWe each, under construction at Kudankulam, are about 22 kms from Kanyakumari. The tsunami remained well below the grade level of the plant. Even the temporary structures erected at the shore of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant were not damaged or breached, during the tsunami and there was no damage to the plant.

S.N. Ahmad,
Executive Director (CS), NPCIL

AERB's Inspection of Nuclear Reactors at Kalpakkam

To assess the status of the health of the nuclear reactors at Kalpakkam, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) had deputed a senior level team that visited the site on December 29, 2004, and inspected the affected areas.

At the time, the Tsunami struck the Kalpakkam coast, Unit-2 of the Madras Atomic Power Station was operating. Following entry of sea water into the pump house, this reactor was tripped and brought to a safe shutdown state. Unit-1 of the station was shutdown for some time for refurbishment.

The AERB Team had inspected all the important areas of the plant including the reactor building, control room, turbine building, pump house, jetty, fire-water pump house and outer peripheral areas of the service building. All systems, services and structures were found to be in good condition. All radiological conditions in the plant remained normal. The AERB team also noted that the operator response to the event had been correct and timely.

The Fast Breeder Test Reactor and other facilities in the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research at Kalpakkam were also inspected by the team. They had found no impact on these facilities.