

Puducherry News Articles

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Puducherry: Infrastructure projects created for fishermen welfare

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/infrastructure-projects-created-for-fishermen-welfare-lying-idle/article65950959.ece>

"Fishermen feel the money could have been utilised for enhancing the livelihood of fishermen in a better way. The government could have used it to provide necessary fishing equipment and safety gadget for the fishermen. Two projects — an ice plant and Effluent Treatment Plant — set up at Thengaithittu remain unused for years even after completion of work. Both the projects were taken up almost 10 years ago by the Project Implementation Agency as an effort to enhance the livelihood means of fishermen.

The ice plant was constructed by PIA under Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project at a cost of around ₹5.5 crore. The production capacity of the plant was projected at 50 tonnes per day. After completion of work, the plant was handed over to the Fisheries Department in 2015.

“The department once tried to operate the plant but the production could not be commenced due to technical issues. After that the plant remains idle,” Kadhivaran, a fisherman belonging to Veerampattinam hamlet said. According to an official, the operations were shut after leakage of ammonia gas and low load in suction plant. The plant was never operated after 2017, said the official.

The ETP was constructed by PIA under Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction Project at a cost of around ₹ 3.5 crore. The plant was to treat the sullage generated at the fish auction halls at the Thengaithittu harbour. Though the work was completed, the plant could not be operated as there was non-availability of minimum required sullage to operate the plant, sources said. The plant was constructed to treat around one million litres per day but the availability of sullage was only around 2,000 litres per day. The ETP has been idle for almost three years now, said an official.

“The money could have been utilised for enhancing the livelihood of fishermen in a better way. The government could have used the amount to provide necessary fishing equipment and safety gadget for the fishermen,” said Elango, another fisherman from Vaithikuppam.

The CAG in its 2020 report has categorised the amount incurred for both the projects under the head of “unfruitful expenditure.” When contacted Director of Fisheries D. Balaji said steps have been taken to utilise the facilities at the earliest. “The government has initiated certain measures to restart both the projects. In two to three months, the ETP will be made functional,” he said."

Puducherry: Pudukuppam residents grapple with sea erosion

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/pudukuppam-residents-grapple-with-sea-erosion/article65905571.ece>

"Groundwater aquifers have started turning saline and fisherfolk and farmers have been losing land, what with the construction of a groyne at Thazhanguda in Cuddalore district. For the past few months, residents of Pudukuppam, a coastal hamlet in Puducherry, have been facing the brunt of sea erosion. The groundwater aquifers have started turning saline and fisherfolk and farmers have been losing land to the sea, what with the construction of a groyne at Thazhanguda, a coastal hamlet in the neighbouring Cuddalore district in Tamil Nadu, say environmentalists.

While strong waves have been lashing the coast for some time, the situation has worsened recently with seawater entering houses and damaging structures along the coastline. This has endangered the lives of residents, especially the fishermen, said a Pudukuppam resident.

According to V. Chandrasekhar, president of Bangaru Vaickal Neeradhara Kootamaippu, a water-users' association, "Habitations in Pudukuppam have been facing the brunt of erosion due to dumping of boulders by the Cuddalore district administration at Thazhanguda. The construction of a fishing harbour at Thazhanguda has disrupted the littoral drift, resulting in rampant erosion and ingress of seawater."

He added, "Beaches north of Puducherry have eroded because of the Puducherry port. Now, the fishing harbour at Thazhanguda is bound to do the same, causing erosion of sand dunes and ingress of seawater into the coastal aquifers." According to Aurofilio Schiavina, an expert in coastal management and member of PondyCan, a civil society organisation, "The groyne is bound to cause coastal erosion south of Puducherry. The fishermen, presumably those from the mechanised sector, are unfortunately looking at their own interest. This doesn't serve the larger public, environmental and economic interests. It is also not serving the interests of the artisanal fishermen who depend on the beaches."

The tourism sector of Puducherry should also be worried because there are several beach resorts to the south of Puducherry that are likely to get affected. But the erosion caused by the groyne is not irreversible. The Tamil Nadu government should ensure that the sand is bypassed around the groyne. The eroding beaches in Puducherry should be nourished and stabilised. This will allow everybody to enjoy the benefits of the groyne and of the beaches, Mr. Schiavina said.

According to Probir Banerjee, member of PondyCan, "The construction of the groyne is also in violation of a recent order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which had directed all the States and the Union Territories not to raise hard structures for controlling erosion, as they cause an adverse impact upstream or downstream. The structure will transfer the erosion, and the impact would be very severe on the adjacent coast."

Mr. Banerjee said all activities such as the construction of hard structures like groynes were only ad hoc and mediocre reactions. The coastal communities would wait for the beach to come to their doorstep and raise an alarm. Then, the government would put up a groyne. "They don't consider anything and wait until the crisis happens and then go in for manmade structures."

"The construction of a groyne by the Villupuram district administration at Thandarayankuppam to the north of Puducherry has resulted in rampant erosion of the coast. A study revealed that about 70 metres of the beach had eroded three months after the structure came up. Initially, erosion will happen slowly and then gather momentum. The groynes must be removed, and there must be a scientifically designed submerged structure to address the environmental and social impact in future," he added. When contacted, Cuddalore Collector K. Balasubramaniam said the groyne was designed by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras to reduce the impact of instant wave energy and arrest sea erosion. The construction was progressing."

Puducherry: Fishermen object to fishing harbour project in Cuddalore

<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=998281>

"Fishermen in Puducherry have objected to the construction of a fishing harbour at the mouth of Thenpennai River as severe coastal erosion has commenced along the Union Territory's southern coast. According to people residing in the fishing villages of Moolavalli and Pudukuppam, the sand has started eroding heavily in the area after rocks were dumped for the construction of the fishing harbour.

V. Chandrashekhar, President of Bangaaru Vaickal Neeraadhara Kootamaippu, a movement for protection of water bodies, told IANS that the rocks have blocked the littoral drift of coastal sand movement and this led to the erosion. The social activist said that this would lead to farmlands being saline and infertile and would also affect all the fishing hamlets.

Local fisherman Swaminathan Sankaran told IANS that ""the sea has already come closer by 200 metres due to erosion over the last few years and now it is happening faster. If the sea comes closer, then we cannot go fishing"". The proposed fishing harbour, according to fishermen, will worsen the situation further and completely erode the sand dunes of the region causing saltwater intrusion into the coastal aquifers.

In places like Muthialpet, Solainagar and Vaithikuppam in Puducherry, the TDS level (total dissolved solids) of water is above 3,000, when TDS levels above 300 render the water not good for drinking. Activists also said that only a scientific approach could prevent erosion and if one structure is created, it will have a cascading effect leading to erosion of sand in areas north of it."

Puducherry: Ice plant and storage for Rs 3.09 crores remain unutilised for over five years
<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2022/aug/30/ice-plant-and-storage-for-rs-309-crores-remain-unutilised-for-over-five-years-2493046.html>

"The Ice plant and storage plant created for the preservation of fish at a cost of Rs 3.09 crore in December 2015 has not commenced commercial operation even after more than five years of completion due to defective implementation of the project.

The Project Implementation Agency (PIA) under the control of the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management, UT of Puducherry (Department) in order to meet the present requirement of 53 metric tonnes (MT) of ice for the preservation of fish, set up of an ice plant along with storage. The production capacity of the plant is 50 MT of ice per day. After completion of work, the Ice plant and storage plant was handed over to the Fisheries Department in August 2015 and December 2015 respectively.

Audit observed in January 2021 that the facilities created for preservation of fish could not be operationalised or put to commercial use till date due to frequent technical snags/faults i.e., smoke in chill plant, leakage of ammonia gas and low load-in suction plant. The audit also observed that due to frequent snags, the Ice plant was temporarily closed in September 2017. The department also incurred an expenditure of 3.31 lakh on its repair/maintenance in December 2018.

The Ice plant was constructed by a contractor who had no experience relating to the establishment of Ice plant, observed the CAG. The Ice plant could not achieve the rated capacity of 50 MT per day against the projected normal time of 24 hours mainly due to inadequate provision of a cooling coil by the contractor.

Against the cooling coil requirement of 3,200 running feet, as envisaged in the agreement, the actual measurement of the coil installed by the contractor was only 1,600 running feet (50 per cent of the agreement requirement). This resulted in a longer cooling time for formation of ice. It was also seen that plant is actually producing 35 MT ice against the envisaged requirement of 50 MT ice per day.

The Department handed over the Ice plant/Storage plant to the Puducherry Fisheries Harbour Management Society for early operationalisation of the ice plant. The society in response proposed leasing out the chill plant for 12 months at a cost of 730.89 lakh. However, despite a lapse of two years, this proposal was yet to materialise for want of approval from the competent authority."

Puducherry: Renovated fish auction hall, floating jetties proposed in Budget

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/renovated-fish-auction-hall-floating-jetties-proposed-in-budget/article65797758.ece>

In a slew of measures targeted at the welfare of the fishermen, Chief Minister N. Rangasamy announced the renovation of the fish auction hall at Panithittu, floating jetties in Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam, in addition to various subsidy sops and soft loans. Presenting the Budget for 2022-23 in the Assembly, the Chief Minister said the 'Efforts' app being developed by the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare with the technical assistance of National Informatics Centre, for the implementation of schemes in a time-bound manner and easy access for the stakeholders would be put into public domain shortly. The fish auction hall at Panithittu, Poornankuppam– Pudukuppam will be reconstructed at a cost of ₹ 80 lakh and special repair works carried out on 13 existing work shelters at Puducherry at a cost of ₹ 40 lakh. A techno economic feasibility study will be conducted to establish a mini fish landing centre at Panithittu.

Floating jetties are to be constructed at Thengaithittu Puducherry (₹9.81 crore), Pattinacherry, (₹5.83 crore), Arasalar river (₹9.14 crore) and Yanam (₹9.43 crore) under Sagar Mala scheme. To provide alternative livelihood to fishermen, it is proposed to conduct the feasibility study for identification of potential sites and suitable species for seaweed culture in Puducherry and Karaikal. A detailed project report in this connection with an estimated cost of ₹97 lakh was received from the Central Institute. On approval from Government of India, necessary study will be conducted and implemented, Mr. Rangasamy said. Repair works on the existing ice plant at big market in Puducherry will be carried out at an estimated cost of ₹40 lakh.

A techno-economic feasibility report for dredging the river mouth of Thirumalairajan river and for construction of a mini fishing harbour at T.R. Pattinam at Karaikal by approaching the Government of India and a similar study for construction of Bait curve in the fishing villages wherever required in the Union Territory of Puducherry will be undertaken, the Chief Minister said. Communication equipment like transponders will be fixed in all the registered mechanised boats in the Union Territory of Puducherry for safety and security of the fishermen. Induced Breeding Centre (IBC), Thirunallar at Karaikal will be made fully operational with the technical assistance of Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA), MPEDA, Sirkazhi.

Subsidies would be provided for the purchase of drag nets and fibre reinforced plastic catamaran for fishers in Karaikal. In order to support the artisanal fishermen, fishing nets worth ₹5,000 will be supplied to all registered, non-motorised fibre cattamaram owners in the Union Territory at a cost of ₹42.50 lakh, the Budget stated. Expeditionary action will be taken to commence operations at the fishing harbour in Mahe on completion of the construction of the Project, the Chief Minister said. Under the PMMSY Central sector scheme, four Fish Farmer Producers Organisation (FFPO), one each in Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam region will be set up

to economically empower the fishers and fish farmers.

River ranching of common carp seeds will be carried out and released in the existing bed dams in the Union Territory of Puducherry to enhance the fish stock. An Aquatic Referral Laboratory will be established at the Estuarine fish farm at Thengaithittu and in Karaikal at an estimated cost of ₹1 crore. To ensure the safety and security of the fishermen at sea, it is proposed to procure four 5 tonne rescue-cum-patrolling boats for the Puducherry Marine Police at a cost of ₹7.82 crore. A sum of ₹124.93 crore has been allocated to the Department in 2022-23. The Budget also touched on the agriculture, horticulture and poultry and dairy schemes. PONLAIT in coordination with State Bank of India (SBI), has launched SAFAL (Simple and Fast Agriculture Loan), for meeting the dairy farming needs of Puducherry farmers.

It is proposed to distribute 4,000 milch animals at 25% subsidy for general beneficiaries and 33% subsidy for Scheduled Castes beneficiaries. Implementation of 'Integrated Horticulture Development Programme through Diversification in Agriculture' under the scheme 'Distribution of Vegetable Seeds at 50% Subsidy' and a mobile veterinary clinic with call centre facility are proposed. In addition to upgrading the Central Forest Nursery in Puducherry and Karaikal, five Sea Turtle Hatcheries will be set up along the coast of Puducherry region to conserve the Olive Ridley Turtles, which is a Scheduled-I species of Wildlife Protection Act 1972. It is also proposed to set up Van Vigyan Kendra (VVK) in Puducherry and Karaikal in coordination with the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore. A 'Bio-diversity Management Committee (BMC),' under National Bio-diversity Authority (NBA) and scientific study on supply and demand on wood and wood based products is proposed.

Puducherry: Fishers in dire situation due to climate change and pollution

<https://www.newsclick.in/puducherry-fishers-dire-situation%20due-climate-change-pollution>

"The union territory of Puducherry is a combination of four regions; one of them is the district of Puducherry on the east coast along the Bay of Bengal. The district has 17 fishing villages, and the fishers here are adversely affected by climate change and pollution from unplanned tourism.

With no support from the government to overcome the livelihood distress, fishers are heavily debt-ridden and are looking for other livelihood options. The NewsClick team visited Pudukkuppam fishing village to learn about their condition. Excessive flooding in recent monsoons has driven large amounts of plastic garbage into the sea along the Puducherry district's shoreline. Plastic gets accumulated in the Chunnambar river and enters along with the river into the sea at Nonankuppam. The massive amounts of plastic have deteriorated fish yield along the coast.

“The plastic appears bright inside the water, and fish breeds in places that appear dark like a forest. Also, fish eat worms from the marshes, but plastic settles on the floor, preventing access to worms. Moreover, the growth of algae is excess in the water, which changes the water quality and makes it appear dirty. Fish won’t stay in places like these,” said fisher Ayyanarappam.

He also said, “The government should clean up the coast. Every twelve hours, there are high and low tides. During low tides, the sea can be cleaned using modern technology. It is not impossible.” Jeyakodi, another fisher, said, “In the summertime, we used to spot fish from the shore. That is no longer the case. There is no income in fishing. Hundreds of boats are standing still on the shore. This is because of plastic.”

Two types of boats are used among fisherfolk of the Puducherry district - the key boat and fibre boat. The bigger key boat owners are provided with a diesel subsidy, but the smaller fibre boat owners are not eligible for it. Fisher Kalignanam said, “We spend around Rs 1,000 a day to venture into the sea. But, we do not get fish worth Rs 1,000. If four of us go fishing, only if we catch fish worth Rs 2,000 we will each earn at least Rs 200. So, if we get a diesel subsidy, it would be good.”

He further said, “We are not driving the boats on the road. We should be given diesel without road tax.” Fibre boat owners of neighbouring Tamil Nadu are eligible for diesel subsidies. Moreover, Pudukuppam village borders a Tamil Nadu village and fisherfolk get the subsidy there.

The registration process for the boats in Puducherry is incomplete, and the fisherfolk have been demanding its completion for four years. Only if they are registered, and the boats are insured will the fishers be eligible for compensation in case of an accident. Neither the earlier government nor the present one has processed it. “Nowadays, due to climate change, we are unable to predict rains and floods. If we are in the sea and an accident occurs, only if our boats are registered and insured will we get compensation; even if a boat drowns, we cannot claim anything,” said Kalaiganam.

A harbour-cum-port project stands abandoned in Pudukuppam. Puducherry has only one harbour, and fishers are demanding the completion of this project. “When a harbour was proposed in our area, some farmers protested. But they later accepted that Moorthi Kuppam harbour would be useful for all. But, the government is dilly-dallying, citing lack of funds,” said Jeyakodi.

“Our then constituency MLA Radhakrishnan was the one who brought this scheme. The present CM Rangasamy laid the foundation for the jetty. We have approached him several times,

but he is not listening," said Ayyanarappam. He further said, "Every year, the sea advances 15 to 20 metres inland, and now, the space between the main road and the sea is merely 30 metres. We all own fibre boats 30 metres in length. To pull them, we use tractors requiring 20 metres of space. It is very disheartening. Because of this, we don't feel like going fishing. If the harbour is completed, the boats can be docked in the jetty, and they need not be pulled into the shore."

The lack of support from the Puducherry government to overcome their livelihood distress has pushed fishers into debt. Jeyakodi said, "Around 30 years ago, the sea was 200 metres inside. Even in those less modern times, the income of the fisherfolk was sufficient. Now, in these advanced times with engine boats, we are unable to make any progress. This is because of the price rise." One of the younger fishermen, Kalaiarasan, said, "You can't find a fisher who is not debt-ridden here." Another young fisher, Akash, said, "Last month, my brother left for Qatar to work in a tourist boat. My mother has set up a petty shop; she earns around Rs 100 to 200 daily, and she runs the house with that. My father is dead."

The lack of fish has affected businesses dependent on seafood. Gopi, a dry-fish vendor, said, "Earlier I bought one kilo dry of fish for Rs 40-50, now it has doubled. It is difficult to get quality dry fish for Rs 100. We used to circulate around 500 to 1,000 kilos of dry fish/week, but it has reduced to 100-150 kilos now. Due to the lack of fish, we are pressed to look for other work."

Although there are schemes for fisherfolk, the fisherfolk are unable to access them. "For women fish sellers, there is a two-wheeler loan. There are loans for Tata Ace and battery vehicles. There are loans for knitting our nets yearly. But the Puducherry government is not making use of them. We don't know why," said Ayyanarappan..."

Tamil Nadu and Puducherry: Fishing in uncertain waters, in conversation with fishers

<https://science.thewire.in/environment/tamil-nadu-puducherry-fishers-uncertainty-distress/>

"Even before dawn, at around 3 am, fisherfolk on the coast of Puducherry and Tamil Nadu venture into the sea. A cumbersome workday follows, often more than 12 hours long. In this time, they disentangle nets, prep boats, catch fish, auction the catch and visit fish markets. Men and women both toil, and often exchange roles. Despite several technological advancements that could make their lives easier, the trade and vocation of fishing here still depends very much on manual labour and traditional knowledge.

When my father used to fish, he navigated in the sea and found the directions using the direction with which the wind blows. We used to know at what time the wind will blow during the day. We have eight different types of winds based on the direction it blows – for example, vaadai kaathu blows from north to south and kacha kaathu blows from south to north. — Mukesh, a fisherman from Chinna Mudaliyar Chavadi

Our team at the Centre for New Economics Studies at O.P. Jindal Global University conducted an ethnographic research project. We interviewed fishers across the shores of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry – specifically, Thandiraayan Kuppam, Chinna Mudaliyar Chavadi, Vaithikuppam and Kurichikuppam.

We interviewed members from the community to inquire about their trade, fishing techniques, collating income-consumption patterns, their lived experiences from the pandemic, and understand how pollution-climate change is affecting their vocation and trade. The study also aimed towards highlighting the emerging business patterns and trends within the trade and educated young (jobless) workers are turning to fishing as their “last preferred choice of work”

Fishing is not an isolated practice and has been significantly affected since the advent of the Anthropocene epoch. A once-tranquil coast is increasingly overcrowded with people and materials. Fishing sites are often swarming with fishers and, more recently, tourists, after the government began advertising quaint beaches and picturesque towns as good places in which to kick back.

The amount of waste has thus increased as well – and exponentially so.

We often catch plastic in the tonnes. When we measured the weight of the plastic that got caught in the net two days back, it was close to one tonne. We caught more but we had to throw it back into the sea as the boat would not take that much weight. That day, we caught no fish. Just plastic. That is why I haven't gone fishing for the past two days. — Muralidharan, a fisherman of 40 years from Vaithikuppam, Puducherry

Ten to 15 years back, we caught only 10 plastic bags if we drew the net over a distance of 2 km. Now I get 10 plastic bags if I draw the net over a distance of just 10 metres. — Mukesh, a fisherman from Chinna Mudaliyar Chavadi

It's common to find fishing sites with heaps of plastic litter on the surface, taken there by a sewage pipeline that opens into the sea. Plastic waste often includes disposable water bottles, tarpaulin and abandoned or lost fishing gear. Plastic in the seas have also affected the lifecycle and well-being of the fish. Every fisher admitted to catching plastic along with the fish. In fact, eight of 10 individuals said they caught more plastic. Plastic affects the quality of the catch but also makes the already-strenuous fishing process more so. Disentangling plastic from fishing nets takes up most of the fishers' time – a resource they already have very little of.

Fishing has become more arduous in the Anthropocene epoch, with tourism, marine pollution, state apathy and climate change colluding to deepen fishers' uncertainties.

The fishers recalled the 2004 tsunami as a one-time shock but think of the pandemic as a rolling disaster. And they persist with their long working hours and harsh living conditions.

Despite several technologies that could make their lives easier, the trade and vocation of fishing here still depends very much on manual labour and traditional knowledge.

A team of researchers from O.P. Jindal Global University recently spoke to fishers across the coast of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry on their lives after the pandemic.

Another issue that affects the local fishing community here is the exploitation of the fish population. Some 55% of the fisherfolk reported that in their lifetimes, the size of their catch had progressively dropped. They also said the populations of some species, like the kaarai (Indian silver belly fish) and the sudumbu (white fish), had dwindled more than others.

In an attempt to reduce overfishing and keep the fish from becoming locally extinct, the Puducherry government imposes a near-complete two-month fishing ban from April to May. This when the fish reproduce and their newborns explore the waters. In this time, only fishers with sanctioned fibre boats can venture into the sea, for a fixed amount of time, and what they catch they are required to sell on the beach itself. In this time, the fish markets make do with an assortment of fish imported from Andhra Pradesh and Kerala..."

Puducherry: Government's bid to revive mini harbour-cum-port project in Pudukuppam sparks outrage

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/puducherry-govts-bid-to-revive-mini-harbour-cum-port-project-in-pudukuppam-sparks-outrage/article65416172.ece>

"The Puducherry government's bid to revive the mini harbour-cum- port project at Pudukuppam near Bahour here which was twice rejected for violation of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms has sparked outrage among environmentalists and farmers.

The decision to revive the project came to light after the Directorate of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, in its recent reply to the concerns raised by a water user's organisation over the project, had pointed out that the "cut opening" of Mullodai river mouth and provision of retaining walls perpendicular to the harbour, was a long-pending demand of fishermen to anchor their fishing boats during natural calamities.

"The issue was also raised by legislators in the Assembly. As this is a persistent demand of MLAs as well as fishermen of southern fishing hamlets such as M. Pudukuppam, Narambai, and Panithittu, the Directorate has initiated action for a scientific study of the "cut opening" of the river mouth by the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery, Bengaluru," an official said.

According to Probir Banerjee, member of PondyCan, a civil society organisation, and Alliance

for Good Governance (AGG), “Coastal erosion is a big problem and all States should come up with Coastal Zone Management plans to handle the erosion problem. But in Puducherry they are creating another erosion problem.

“The existing Thengaithittu harbour has caused huge devastation on the coast from Puducherry right up to Auroville in Tamil Nadu. The entire water aquifers have become saline, which is a huge threat to our water security. However, the government does not understand the long-term impacts of this project.”

He added, “Instead of trying to see and learn from the mistakes caused by the previous harbour in the city, they are creating another disaster, which will further destroy the environment, and livelihoods and result in huge economic loss. The mini harbour will have a cascading effect on the remaining coast of Puducherry from Nallavadu to Thengaithittu.”

Mr. Banerjee pointed out that the mini harbour project was twice rejected by the Ministry of Environment of Forests (MoEF) and the World Bank. An expert member deputed from the MoEF had rejected the project due to its serious environmental impacts. “For the second time, the authorities revived the project by approaching the World Bank for funding.

However, the World Bank withdrew funding and rejected the same after concerns were raised by environmentalists”, he said. According to V. Chandrasekhar, president of Bangaru Vaickal Neeradhara Koottamaippu, a water users’ organisation, “The proposed project is in complete violation of CRZ rules and will result in irreversible destruction of agricultural lands upstream of the Mullodai channel.

No Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) had been carried out so far and the government should not go ahead with the project.”

According to T.P. Raghunath, Director of Svarnim Puducherry (Sri Aurobindo Society), “The mini harbour project is a disaster in the making in the name of fishermen who are not told that the very same harbour will erode their coast completely resulting in intrusion of salt water into the shallow aquifers of the coastline.” He added, “For a sustainable coastal management plan, such knee-jerk projects without proper studies should not be taken.

What we need is a calculated, scientific and rational solution to the issues of fishermen and not end up creating artificial groynes, sand bypassing, which the government will be happy to push as they are perpetual money-making projects which offer no solutions.

“The government should have a healthy debate on the developmental agenda for Puducherry and

not hire experts from outside who have no knowledge of what happened to Puducherry post the existing port.””

Puducherry: Union Minister holds discussion with Pondy CM on fishermen welfare

<https://theprint.in/india/union-minister-holds-discussion-with-pondy-cm-on-fishermen-welfare/949347/>

"Union Minister of State for Fisheries L Murugan called on Puducherry Chief Minister N Rangasamy here on Monday and held discussions on welfare measures for fishermen. Murugan later held interactions with Speaker R Selvam, PWD Minister K Lakshminarayanan, Agriculture Minister C Djeacoumar and legislators of constituencies in the coastal belt, a release from the Chief Minister's office said.

The legislators urged the Union Minister to take steps to facilitate implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes for welfare of fishermen in Puducherry.

Murugan explained about various measures taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take care of fishermen. He said that a separate department for fisheries had been created by the NDA government headed by Modi.

The minister assured that the Centre would consider the grievances expressed by the legislators for the welfare of fishermen here. Officials from Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, and Chief Secretary Rajeev Verma were among those who were present."

Puducherry: Fishermen focus on landing sashimi quality tuna

<https://www.thehindu.com/life-and-style/food/fishermen-focus-on-landing-sashimi-quality-tuna/article65374935.ece>

Fisher turned entrepreneur M Muthu Vel of Puducherry has trained the fishing community to land high quality Tuna, which now fetches record prices. The whopping \$145,000 paid for 211 kilograms of bluefin tuna at the first Tuna auction of 2022 in Tokyo, may have no immediate impact on M Muthu Vel in Puducherry, or his bank account. But, he uses the news to inspire fishermen in his area to land good quality tuna. "See: It can fetch record prices," he

Since 2018, fisherman-turned-entrepreneur Muthu Vel has been training a group of around 150 fisherfolk to handle the fish, prized by Japanese chefs, to improve the quality of what is brought to shore. "The quality of Tuna which lands in India is poor. That's because our fishermen are not trained in handling the fish, their small boats are ill equipped and do not have the wherewithal to keep the catch fresh," says Abdus Samad, Principal Scientist, CMFRI in Kochi. In 2015, Muthu Vel opened Aurofish, in Muthiyalpet, Puducherry, along with his wife Anitha, which offers fresh seafood. He introduced Saku Block, the premium tuna used for Sushi, in November 2021 and was feted for this by the Ministry of Fisheries, Government of India, in the Best Innovation/

Infusion Technology category. Muthu Vel has since joined online auctions to get the best price, (₹1,250 for 500 gm) for his quality Saku Block.

Yellow-fin Tuna in Indian waters

India is one of the largest producers of yellow-fin tuna, with an annual catch ranging from 32,000 to 35,000 tons. Used in high-end Japanese cuisine, the meat of the fast-moving predatory fish is also used in a vast range of foods, from gourmet meals to canned and pet food. The price is decided by the quality of the meat, which can range from as low as ₹ 100 for a whole fish to ₹ 3,000 for a kilo. Sashimi grade Tuna comes from fish, which have been caught by longlining, a technique that makes use of baited hooks. The fish is caught below the Thermocline, a distinct layer of water of a different temperature.

Premium yellow-fin Saku is popular with Japanese cooks because of its uniformity, making it ideal for sashimi and other sliced presentations. “We catch a lot of tuna but only the good quality meat fetches a premium price. That’s the only way fishermen can benefit,” says Muthu Vel, adding that tuna quality depends on how the fish is handled after it’s caught and before landing. Muthuvel believes in sustainable fishing and, as part of the training, provided ice and ice boxes to the fishing boat. He has also taught local fishermen how to keep the catch as fresh as possible. “Catch live fish, bleed and chill it.”

“Quality is assured if the fish is handled scientifically,” says Muthu Vel who learned to make Saku Block or rectangular fillet slices from a Japanese buyer. The expertise comes from experience and also requires a special knife. He recalls catching a huge 85-kilogram tuna, 60 nautical miles off the Puducherry waters and points out that the Bay of Bengal is rich in this species. Tuna follow their food in the oceans be it a shoal of anchovies, mackerels, sardines or such and migrate long distances

Another champion of sustainable tuna fishing is Kochi-based Tarun Kurushingal, who has been training the fishers of Pudimadaka village in Andhra Pradesh in onboard handling of the catch. “Tuna can sell for as low as ₹100 for a whole fish to about ₹3,000 a kilogram. To take the fish to that quality where it fetches premium price is the challenge,” says Tarun, adding that the Japanese have a method of retaining the meat’s freshness.

Tarun’s company Cross Currents supports the community with training and provides them with ice, ice boxes, tools and a buyback offer. The catch is graded and processed and the quality meat taken to Thailand for further value addition, which Muthuvel is doing at the source.

“I believe the business should be operated sustainably with smaller boats, smaller quantities of

fish, shorter trips and smaller crews, like how Muthu Vel is doing. The super trawlers clean the waters of all the fish and that's not good for the country or the fishing community. It affects the livelihoods of the fishermen and also dents the water's ecology," says Tarun who moved, Cross Currents, his sustainable community project to Vishakapatnam during the pandemic. This year, he says, they have already managed to process "a few 100 tons of tuna."

Faraz Javeed, Director, Abad Fisheries and founder of Wildfish Seafood Store, a cold chain of gourmet fish, in Kochi, says that the government has made several attempts to train fishers on maintaining the quality of tuna on board. "The quality cannot be regained on landing," he states, adding that the four varieties of tuna common in the Indian waters are Big eye, Yellow fin, Albacore and Skipjack.

Onboard Handling of Tuna

Sashimi grade tuna comes from fish that has been caught by longline and that weigh a minimum of 25 kilograms

The fish is landed onto the boat on a soft surface like a mattress to avoid bruising of the meat

It is clubbed to avoid it trashing about and also to avoid formation of lactic acid.

Incisions are made to bleed the fish and the fish dies.

Then the gills and guts are removed and the cavity thoroughly cleaned.

The cavity is stuffed with ice and the fish fully covered with ice in the hold. The Tuna is now ready for further processing once it reaches the shore.

Abdus Samad rues that the great potential of yellowfin tuna is not being tapped in India and lauds the small efforts of entrepreneurs like Muthu Vel. While the waters of Lakshadweep and Andaman Islands are rich in it, Kochi and Vizhinjam harbours lead in tuna landings followed by Visakhapatnam and Mangaluru, he adds.

Meanwhile, Muthu Vel recalls the moment when he had a first taste of Sushi at the Japanese Consulate in Bengaluru where he was invited to join in the National Day Reception of Japan on 21 February, 2020. "Feeling happy," he wrote of his thrill at eating the famed gourmet food and posted a picture of it on Instagram. "We fisherfolk now look at Tuna very differently," he says with a laugh over phone from Puducherry."

Tamil Nadu: Port at Puducherry will cause coastal erosion, destroy livelihoods: Water-users association

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2022/apr/28/port-at-puducherry-will-cause-coastal-erosion-destroy-livelihoods-water-usersassociation-2447467.html>

"Flagging environmental concerns, a water-users association on Wednesday opposed the construction of a mini port-cum-harbour at Moorthikuppam - Pudukuppam by cutting open the mouth of Mullodai River. In a memorandum to the Lt Governor, 'Bangaaru Vaickal Neeraadhara Koottamaippu' president V Chandrasekhar stated that the proposed project was in violation of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) rules. This is with the added caution of the NGT telling States to revise the shoreline plan to restore TN's coastline.

According to the association, the project will cause irreversible destruction to all agriculture upstream of Mullodai channel, which connects to irrigation tanks, wetlands and fields in Puducherry as well as Tamil Nadu (Kanganamkuppam and Uchimedu). The port construction would restrict sand movement, causing coastal erosion.

The existing Puducherry port is a classic example of the government's failure in preventing coastal erosion and salt water intrusion, said the guild. This had caused a high levels of Total Dissolved Salts (TDS) of 3,000 and above in coastal Puducherry and in TN's Muthialpet and Kottakuppam regions. These areas already suffer from existing erosion.

The president pointed out, the project had not carried out Environment Impact Assessments. He reminded the government Ministry of Environment and Forests Bengaluru Regional Director Dr U Sridharan inspected the site and rejected the project. When the same project was submitted to the World Bank for funding, it was rejected again due to environmental concerns.

In a reply, the project officer P Meera Saheb said, ""The Directorate of Fisheries initiated the project based on a long-pending demand from people's representatives and fishers. It has initiated action for the central institute of coastal engineering for Fishery, Bengaluru's scientific study of the project by cutting open the river mouth."" While preparing the feasibility report, the issues will be discussed in a public hearing, Saheb added.

Besides, the Forest Department has been approached for protection of mangrove vegetation at Mullodai River, added the project officer. However Chandrasekhar maintained that this will not stand as a valid reason for violating laws and Supreme Court judgements, CRZ norms, and rules regarding the protection of sand dunes.

According to the guild president, ""With no alternatives, just that quoting 'people' demand such unsustainable projects is irresponsible."" The fact that the proposed port will take away livelihoods is being hidden from fishers, he added.

He urged the L-G, the Ministry of Environment, Central Institute of Coastal Engineering and

Fishery, Bengaluru to protect farmers' livelihoods and their land. The project is in complete violation of rules that exist for protection of the environment and ground water, Chandrasekhar said."

Puducherry: Enhancing the livelihood of fisherwomen in Mudasalodai village

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/nabard-inaugurates-solar-dryers-established-by-mssrf/article65335185.ece>

"The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) inaugurated six solar dryers established by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), aimed at enhancing the livelihood of fisherwomen in Mudasalodai village in the district. According to a press release, the project was formally launched by Chief General Manager of NABARD T. Venkatakrishna, here on Monday.

The project funded by NABARD with a grant of ₹23.29 lakh is the first of its kind in the country and is aimed at livelihood enhancement of 45 fisherwomen in Mudasalodai village, he said. Deputy General Manager of NABARD Vijay Neehar highlighted the importance of the project. Principal Scientist of Fish for All Research and Training Centre, MSSRF, Dr. S. Velvizhi said the open sun drying technique, which is followed by fisherwomen, impacted the quality of the final products.

The solar dryer technology is an alternative to this method and the implementation of this technology will support the fisherwomen in producing quality dry fish. Products from the solar dryer will have added value because of its hygiene and standards, she said. Deputy Director of Fisheries Department, Cuddalore, Velmurugan participated."

Puducherry: Fishing ban period in UT to begin from Apr 15

<https://www.uniindia.com/story/Fishing-ban-period-in-UT-to-begin--from-Apr-15>

"A 61-day long fishing ban period in the Union Territory of Puducherry will start from Friday. A release from Puducherry Fisheries and Fishermen Development department on Wednesday said that the fishing ban period this year will be from April 15 to June 14.

During this period, fishing with mechanized vessels is banned. However, fishermen could go for fishing on catamarans, the release added."

Puducherry: Fish vendors of Goubert Market protest moving to East Coast Road

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/fish-vendors-of-goubert-market-protest-move-to-east-coast-road/article65311364.ece>

"Supply of fish was disrupted at Goubert Market on Monday following a strike by fish vendors opposing the Puducherry Municipality's move to shift them to a modern market on East Coast Road (ECR).

The fish vendors shut their stalls and staged a protest inside the market, demanding withdrawal of the decision to shift their business to ECR. For some time now, the fish vendors at Goubert Market have been at loggerheads with the municipal authorities.

After talks failed between the two parties, wholesale and retail vendors on Monday decided to shut their business. The government has been trying to shift the sale of fish from Goubert Market to the modern market constructed using funds allocated under the Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme. While the government was able to relocate a section of vendors to the complex on ECR during the peak of the pandemic, a large number were still opposed to the idea as they believed shifting their business from the heart of town would not be in their best interests.

The police and municipal authorities are keen to shift the market as part of their efforts to decongest the town. The municipality faces difficulties in the upkeep of the surroundings of Jawaharlal Nehru Street due to the fish stalls at Goubert Market.

Talks were held several times with fishermen organisations in this regard, an official said, adding that the government had planned to renovate Goubert Market under the Smart City Project."

Puducherry: Victims of 2004 tsunami remembered

<https://www.orissapost.com/victims-of-2004-tsunami-remembered/42>

"Puducherry Assembly Speaker R Selvam led the Union Territory Sunday to pay homage to those killed in the tsunami in 2004. PWD Minister K Lakshminarayanan and Home Minister A Namassivayam, and heads of fishermen associations and officials of the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen's Welfare poured milk in the Bay of Bengal here in remembrance of the victims of the catastrophe. Puducherry and Karaikal regions bore the brunt of the havoc in 2004 rendering several fishermen families homeless and claiming lives of several people.

Puducherry: Sewage, plastic waste a threat to Thengaithittu mangroves

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/sewage-plastic-waste-a-threat-to-thengaithittu-mangroves/article37973144.ece>

"Lack of proper waste disposal system has resulted in untreated sewage being discharged into the Thengaithittu lagoon, posing a serious threat to the mangroves and marine life, activists say. Dumping of solid waste, including plastics, add to the problem. The lack of concerted action on the part of enforcement agencies was evident in raw sewage from different areas entering the lagoon, they allege. The Thengaithittu fishing harbour, which is located close to the lagoon is

also swamped with waste. At the confluence point of the Uppar drain and the Grand Canal that carries the city's sewage, untreated wastewater is illegally released into the lagoon that directly flows into the sea. Fishing vessels berthed at the harbour are surrounded with waste washed up from the estuary. It consists of mainly plastic carry bags, liquor bottles, glass and straws that get entangled in fishing nets, fishermen lament. "The main source of pollution in the Thengaithittu lagoon is the large amount of untreated sewage and solid waste that flow into the lagoon, brought by the Grand Canal, the Uppar and Murungampakkam drain," says Aurofilio Schiavina, an expert on coastal management and member of PondyCan, a non-governmental organisation. "Due to the pollution in the lagoon, every once in a while mass fish deaths occur, where thousands of fish wash up on the shore. All kinds of solid waste wash up on the shore and choke the roots of the mangroves," he says.

"The pollution of the Thengaithittu estuary is a problem not only for the environment but also for the health of a large number of people living close to the lagoon and those using it," he says. The Puducherry Government has been promoting the lagoon as a tourist destination by offering mangrove and boating tours. "This is a very good initiative and hopefully will incentivise the government to value this natural and beautiful lagoon and also allocate necessary funds to clean it up and restore it, which is the need of the hour," he adds. According to M. Selvamanikandan, president of Puducherry Environment and Mangrove Forest Development and Protection Society, "Sewage from places, such as Nellithope, Boomianpet, Reddiarpalayam, Mudaliarpet, Anna Nagar, Engineer Colony (Velrampet), Olandhakeerapalayam, Uppalam and Vambakeerapalayam has been directly running into the sea in and around the Thengaithittu lagoon."

"The mangrove forests are located in close proximity to the fishing harbour and the untreated sewage has severely affected the mangroves which function as a protective barrier during natural calamities. The mangrove forests near the estuary are very fragile and it is important to conserve them. A plan must be put in place to prevent discharge of untreated waste water and to take up periodic cleaning of solid waste, including plastic waste in various areas," the expert says. According to an official, the Public Works Department was directed to set up grit chambers at a few locations in the Thengaithittu lagoon to reduce the quantity of solid waste entering the sea. "But these grit chambers are not working now," he said, adding that a comprehensive sewage treatment plant had been proposed to cover the areas surrounding the lagoon.

Tamil Nadu and Puducherry: 'Thunderstorm with heavy to very heavy rain' predicted

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/tamil-nadu-puducherry-weather-today-thunderstorm-with-heavy-to-very-heavy-rain-predicted-schools-in-chennai-shut-details/836103>

"The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast ""thunderstorm with heavy to very heavy rain"" at isolated places over Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts in Tamil Nadu on

Monday. "Thunderstorm with heavy rain is also likely to occur at isolated places over Thoothukudi and Ramanathapuram districts. Thunderstorm with moderate rain is likely to occur at most places over rest Coastal Tamilnadu. Light to moderate rain is also likely to occur at most places over Interior Tamilnadu districts," read the IMD prediction. Chennai's schools and colleges were closed on Monday due to incessant rains and water-logging in several parts of the district. The order was issued by Chennai District Collector Dr Vijayarani. In Puducherry, heavy rains continued to lash the union territory today, impacting normal life. Puducherry recorded 11.2 cm of rain during the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 am on Monday, according to official sources. All schools and colleges in Puducherry and Karaikal regions will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, announced Education Minister A Namassivayam. The IMD had last week said that isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall will likely take place over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal from 26th November to 29th November. On Sunday, the rain continued to fall in multiple parts of Tamil Nadu and the neighbouring Puducherry, inundating many areas.

Several roads and subways also were flooded, affecting people's routines. Aside from inspecting flooded areas such as Tiruverkadu in Tiruvallur District, Chief Minister MK Stalin interacted with local residents as he sipped tea along the roadside and listened to their grievances. He also gave flood relief assistance to over 300 people in a suburban school, as he reviewed the flooding situation with officials. Taking to Twitter, the CM expressed confidence that "we will come out of the aftermath of the heavy rains". According to the Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai, Cuddalore, and neighbouring Puducherry experienced moderate to heavy rainfall on Sunday, while scattered, light to moderate rainfall was reported in other parts of the state. Cuddalore-Puducherry belt recorded 7 cm of rainfall until 7.30 pm, whereas Chennai recorded 6 cm (Meenambakkam) and 1 cm (Nungambakkam), respectively, the RMC said.

Many reservoirs in the state have received inflows from monsoon showers, and surplus water is being released throughout the state as a result. Residents of low lying areas have been evacuated and shelters have been set up. According to the government, 15,016 people have been sheltered in 188 camps in Kanchipuram, Cuddalore, Tuticorin, Perambalur, Tiruvallur, Chengelpet, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Ariyalur, Ranipettai, Tiruchirappalli, Tirupattur, Tiruvannamalai and Vellore districts. "In the past 24 hours, two people (one each in Cuddalore and Tuticorin) districts died in rain-related incidents," said the government in a statement. Nearly a lakh packets of food were distributed to more than 1,000 people living in the relief centres here. Rains caused water-logging in and around the coastal town of Cuddalore. A majority of roads in Chennai and the surrounding suburbs were inundated, and several subways were closed while excess water was released from reservoirs. Diversions were enforced at several points here and road users were cautioned with barricades. State-run bus services were disrupted, but suburban rail services were not affected. There were several roads covered in water in this area, stranding vehicles, mostly two-wheelers. Powerful motor pumps were deployed to remove stagnant water.

Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh: Extremely heavy rains on November 10-11; Chennai, Puducherry, Karaikal on Red Alert

<https://weather.com/en-IN/india/news/news/2021-11-09-tamil-nadu-andhra-pradesh-in-for-extremely-heavy-rains>

"Following a very wet weekend, which saw the city of Chennai witness its rainiest day since 2015 on Saturday, November 6, the state of Tamil Nadu as well as its capital city will be in for another bout of extremely heavy downpour this coming week. Coastal Andhra Pradesh, too, will experience similar conditions, all thanks to a new system that is currently brewing in the Bay of Bengal. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a cyclonic circulation over southeast Bay of Bengal is set to influence the formation of a low-pressure area in the same region during the next 12 hours. Upon formation, this system will move west-northwestwards, concentrate into a depression, and reach the northern coast of Tamil Nadu by early Thursday morning, November 11. Its presence will bring widespread light to moderate rains across Kerala, south Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu for the entirety of this week. However, the impact on Tamil Nadu and south Coastal Andhra Pradesh will be more severe, as they will experience isolated heavy to very heavy showers today, followed by heavy to very heavy rains at a few places along with isolated extremely heavy falls on Wednesday and Thursday. Squally weather, with wind speeds reaching 40-50 kmph and gusting to 60 kmph, will prevail over southwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal, while also bombarding the south Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu coasts for the next three days.

Therefore, fishermen have been advised not to venture into these areas for this forecast period. In view of these predictions, the IMD has issued an orange alert ('be prepared' for rough weather) over Tamil Nadu for today. For tomorrow and the day after, the advisory over Tamil Nadu will be upgraded to a red warning ('take action' to keep safe from the extreme weather), while an orange alert will be placed over Andhra Pradesh. Within Tamil Nadu, the districts of Puducherry, Cuddalore, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, Karaikal, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Kallakuruchi, Ariyalur and Perambalur will be on a red warning on Wednesday, as per the IMD's regional met centre in Chennai. Come Thursday, the red warning will be shifted on to Chennai, Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Puducherry and Cuddalore districts.

Several other districts across the South Indian state will remain under an orange alert for the next three days. Meanwhile, since the beginning of the post-monsoon period on October 1, Tamil Nadu has recorded above-average precipitation. Between October 1 and November 8, it has registered 346.1 mm rainfall, marking a 43% 'excess' as compared to its long-term average for this period. The rainfall over Andhra Pradesh in this time frame, at 169.9 mm, has been 18% below average, but perhaps the upcoming heavy rain spell may bring the overall rain figures closer to 'normal' by the end of this week.

Tamil Nadu and Puducherry: Fisherman are advised not to venture into sea for next 4 days

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/heavy-to-extremely-heavy-rainfall-predicted-in-two-states-till-11-nov-imd-s-latest-forecast-11636275705307.html>

"Current extremely heavy rainfall spell over north coastal Tamil Nadu will continue today on (7th November) and reduce thereafter, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday. It, however, said that a fresh spell of heavy to very heavy rainfall with isolated extremely heavy rainfall is likely over Tamil Nadu and south Coastal Andhra Pradesh likely during 9-11 November under the influence Likely formation of a fresh Low pressure area. Heavy to very heavy rainfall with extremely heavy falls at isolated places are very likely on Sunday over north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal and reduce thereafter. "It is likely to be heavy to very heavy at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal on 8th and 9th Nov. Isolated Heavy to very heavy rainfall places also likely over Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam and Rayalaseema on 7th Nov with reduction thereafter from 8th Nov,"" the weather office said in its latest update.

The IMD also said that a cyclonic circulation over Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining equatorial Indian ocean off Sumatra Coast persists and now extends upto 4.5 km above mean sea level. "Under its influence a low pressure area is likely to form over Southeast Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood around 9th November. It is likely to become more marked and move west-northwestwards towards north Tamil Nadu coast during the subsequent 48 hours,"" it said. Fisherman warning Squally weather (wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph) is likely over southeast Bay of Bengal during 9th-10th and over southwest Bay of Bengal and along and off Tamil Nadu and adjoining Andhra Pradesh coast during 10th-11th November.

"Fisherman are advised not to venture into southeast Bay of Bengal during 9th-10th and over southwest Bay of Bengal and along & off Tamil Nadu and adjoining Andhra Pradesh coast during 10th-11th November, 2021. Fishermen out in the deep sea are advised to return to the coast by 09th November, 2021,"" the statement said. The IMD also informed that a depression has formed over eastcentral Arabian Sea. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and maintain the intensity of depression during next 48 hours and weaken gradually thereafter.

Puducherry: Two mini fishing harbours planned

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/two-mini-fishing-harbours-planned/article36995862.ece>

"Union Ministry of Fisheries has given in-principle consent to establish two mini fishing harbours in Puducherry. Following this, the Department of Fisheries identified one site at Pannithittu here and another at T. R. Pattinam in Karaikal region. On Wednesday, Chief Minister N. Rangasamy, Speaker R. Selvam, Minister for Public Works K. Lakshminarayanan, officials from the PWD and Fisheries Department visited the site at Pannithittu. A team from the Central

Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery, a government of India enterprise, would visit the two identified localities and prepare a techno-economic feasibility report. Based on the report, the Ministry would sanction funds for the construction of the mini harbours. Speaker R. Selvam, in whose constituency the site has been identified, said the harbour was a long-pending demand of fishermen residing in the hamlets of Narambai, Pannithittu and Murthikuppam. The harbour would help them berth at least 500 vessels, he added.

Tamil Nadu: Declare Kattupalli as high erosion zone: Tamil Nadu-Puducherry Fishermen Federation

<https://www.dtnext.in/News/TamilNadu/2021/09/30005111/1320535/Declare-Kattupalli-as-high-erosion-zone-Tamil-NaduPuducherry-.vpf>

"In a letter to the director of the environment department, they said that the ports constructed at the southern portion of Kattupalli island are leading to high erosion in the northern part of the island. "This may result in groundwater turning saline and sea engulfing the land areas. If this is allowed to continue further, it will impact drinking water resources, agriculture and fishermen living along the coast of Kattupalli and Pazhaverkadu," they said. They wanted the state to ask the ports to follow directions given in the environment clearance to protect the coasts.

Puducherry: Govt sanctions compensation towards second instalment for fishing ban period

<http://www.uniindia.com/govt-sanctions-compensation-towards-second-instalment-for-fishing-ban-period/south/news/2513066.html>

"The government has sanctioned Rs.1,21,88,000 towards the second instalment of compensation for the fishing ban period for 2021. An amount of Rs 5,500 each will be remitted to the bank account of fisher families from Wednesday. Fisheries Minister K Lakshminarayanan in a release said that 1,260 fisher families in Puducherry region, 762 families in Karaikal, 36 families in Mahe and 158 families in Yanam will get Rs.5500 each in their bank accounts.

Puducherry: Ministers hold meeting with officials to resolve fishermen issue

<https://www.uniindia.com/ministers-hold-meeting-with-officials-to-resolve-fishermen-issue/south/news/2491336.html>

"Puducherry Minister for Fisheries K Lakshminarayanan along with Home Minister A Namassivayam held a meeting with representatives, Senior police officials and officials from fisheries department on Monday to resolve the issue between the fishermen of Veerampatinam and Nallavadu villages. It may be noted that the fishermen of the two villages clashed two days

ago over the issue of the use of Purse seine nets forcing the police to open fire in the air and clamping prohibitory order under section 144 of CrPC in three fishermen villages. According to a release from the office of Mr. Lakshminarayanan, village representatives of Veerampattinam village, senior police officials and officials from the fisheries and fishermen Development Department participated in the meeting.

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Puducherry: Prohibitory order clamped in three fishermen villages

<http://www.uniindia.com/puducherry-prohibitory-order-clamped-in-three-fishermen-villages/south/news/2490306.html>

"Prohibitory order under section 144 Cr.Pc was clamped in three fishermen villages here in connection with the clash between two groups of fishermen and the subsequent police firing in the air to quell the mob, officials said here on Sunday. It may be noted that the fishermen of Veerampattinam and Nallavadu clashed in the sea over the issue of use of Purse Seine net in which two fishermen from Nallavadu were injured. Following this the fishermen of Nallavadu and Veerampattinam villages gathered in strength and were ready to fight when the police fired in the air to disperse them. Heavy police pickets have posted in the villages since, as it remained tense. However, the fishermen again reached the verge of a clash last night and police again fired in the air to disperse them. As the villages remained tense, prohibitory order under section 144 Cr.Pc was clamped in Veerampattinam, Nallavadu and Vambakeerappalayam villages. This came into force from midnight on Saturday night and will remain till further orders.

Puducherry: Fishermen stage black flag demo against Marine Fisheries Bill

<http://www.uniindia.com/fishermen-stage-black-flag-demo-against-marine-fisheries-bill/south/news/2471952.html>

"Fishermen in Puducherry on Monday staged a black flag demonstration to protest against the Centre's Marine Fisheries Bill. The fishermen alleged that the bill will deprive them of their livelihood rights. Fishermen from Solainagar and the coastal village of Thengaiyathittu held demonstrations and urged the Centre to withdraw the Bill. They also alleged that the Bill stipulated that fishing would be permitted only in earmarked areas and in certain limits. Non compliance of the provisions of the Bill would result in imposition of fine and also imprisonment. The agitating fishermen further alleged that the Bill posed a threat to fishing as an occupation.

Puducherry: Fishermen hold demonstration in sea

<https://www.uniindia.com/fishermen-hold-demonstration-in-sea/south/news/2456464.html>

"Fishermen in Puducherry on Friday held a demonstration in the sea in their boats urging the government to impose a full ban on the use of Purse Seine Net (Surukku Vala). It may be noted that though the government had imposed a ban on the use of the net, a section of the fishermen are still using the same and the fishermen resorted to the agitation today for a total ban on the use of such nets. Fishermen in their boats gathered in the sea in front of the chief secretariat and held the demonstration.

Puducherry: Tension prevails as group of fishermen picket Fisheries welfare department director office

<http://www.uniindia.com/tension-prevails-as-group-of-fishermen-picket-fisheries-welfare-department-director-office/south/news/2436576.html>

"Tension prevails as group of fishermen picket Fisheries welfare department director office Puducherry, Jul 1 (UNI) Tension prevailed as a group of fishermen picketed the office of the Director, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department here on Thursday to condemn the permission granted for the use of Purse Seine Net (Surukku Vala). It may be noted that a section of the fishermen here are in favour of using Purse Seine Net and another group was against it. A group of fishermen met Chief Minister N Rangaswamy and Assembly Speaker R Selvam on Wednesday and sought permission for the use of Purse Seine Net. It was reported that oral instructions were given to them to use the same. Protesting against this, the other section of fishermen picketed the office of the Director, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department. The fishermen shouted slogans against the Director and use of Purse Seine Net. Later, the fishermen locked the door of the department with officials inside. Police pickets have been posted.

Puducherry: CM announces relief for fishermen during ban on fishing

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/cm-announces-relief-for-fishermen-during-ban-on-fishing/2090358>

"Chief Minister of Puducherry N Rangasamy announced on Wednesday that each of the 15,983 families of fishermen in the Union Territory would be given Rs 5,500 as cash relief as the fishermen were jobless during the current ban on fishing. The administration would incur an expenditure of Rs 8.79 crore towards disbursement of the relief through the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare, a press release said here. The ban on fishing was enforced for 61 days from April 15 to June 14 in Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam regions while the ban would be in force in Mahe region from June 1 to July 31, official sources said. The relief is meant to mitigate the sufferings of fishermen during the ban period and also to relieve them of hardships caused by the current pandemic situation in the Union Territory.

Puducherry: Indian Coast guard rescues eight fishermen off Karaikal, Puducherry

<https://zeenews.india.com/india/indian-coast-guard-rescues-eight-fishermen-off-karaikal-puducherry-2356842.html>

"An Indian Coast Guard Ship on Thursday (April 22) mounted a rescue operation to retrieve a fishing boat that was drifting deeper into the ocean due to machinery breakdown. Based on a distress message received via radio, Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Ameya, patrolling off Karaikal, rushed towards a drifting fishing vessel and towed it ashore near Nagapattinam. The fishing boat was stranded approximately 15 nautical miles from the coast due to machinery breakdown and was drifting away owing to the weather conditions. During this rescue mission, the officials of Indian Coast Guard Station Karaikal were in constant communication with the boat owner and fisheries authorities. The coast guard states that such incidents highlight the disadvantages of fishing boats venturing out alone and advised the fishing community to venture out in groups, while carrying adequate life-saving and communication equipment.

Puducherry: Annual 61-day fishing ban period begins in UT

<http://www.uniindia.com/~annual-61-day-fishing-ban-period-begins-in-ut/States/news/2371562.html>

"The 61-day long annual fishing ban period began in the Union Territory on Thursday. The fishing ban period will be up to June 14 and during the period no mechanised vessel should venture into the sea. This ban period will be in force in Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam regions of the UT. For Mahe region, it will be from June 1 to July 31. The territorial administration will compensate the fishermen for the ban on fishing. The ban was enforced for “conservation of species propagation” during the breeding season.

Puducherry: Karaikal fishermen call on L-G

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/karaikal-fishermen-call-on-l-g/article34193471.ece>

"The 16 fishermen from Karaikal, who were held by the Sri Lankan Navy for “illegal fishing” on their territorial waters and later released, called on Lt. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan at the Raj Nivas on Monday. The fishermen from Karaikal were part of a larger group of about 54 Indian fishermen apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy for territorial violations and detained on three islands. The fishermen wanted to convey their gratitude to the Lt. Governor, the Ministry of External Affairs and authorities for prompt efforts taken by them in securing their release. The families of the fishermen said that they were comforted by the personal efforts taken by the Lt. Governor on the matter. The Lt. Governor advised the fishermen

to be safe at all times when they venture into the sea. It is also important for them to take proper care of the family, especially the children, she said. The fishermen had reached Karaikal port late on March 27.

Puducherry: Fisheries dept cautions of stringent action if fishermen use 'Surukku Valai'

<http://www.uniindia.com/fisheries-dept-cautions-of-stringent-action-if-fishermen-use-surukku-valai/south/news/2337169.html>

"The Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department here on Sunday cautioned of stringent action if fishermen use 'Surukku Vala' (Purse Seine Net) for fishing. An official release said, in spite of several efforts by the department to prevent fishing using purse seine net, some fishermen villages are still using it. Stringent action against those who use the banned net will be initiated under the Puducherry Sea Fishing Regulator Act 2008, the release said. Purse Seine Net is banned to ensure the livelihood of all fishermen and to protect the marine resources and hence, the fishermen should cooperate with the department.

Puducherry: Fishermen in Puducherry to get transponders at subsidised cost

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2021/jan/28/fishermen-in-puducherry-to-get-transponders-at-subsidised-cost-2256320.html>

"Transponders would be provided to fishermen at a subsidised rate by the Fisheries Department as a measure to keep fishermen safe at deep sea. It would help them to pass information to boat owners or to the department whenever they faced hardships during their operations. Using the transponders, fishermen at sea can contact the department or owners during cyclones or any other calamity at sea, Secretary Fisheries Purva Garg said. The cost of each transponder is Rs 15,000 and the government would provide Rs 5,000 as subsidy. Various centrally sponsored schemes for the welfare of fishermen involving an investment of ₹34.85 crore is being implemented in Puducherry by the fisheries department. The department has also launched a helpline for fishermen. The number (0423-222 7289) can be used to know details of incentives and financial benefits and welfare schemes available for them, she said.

Tamil Nadu and Puducherry: Cyclone Nivar To Hit Tamil Nadu, Puducherry At 145 Kmph After Midnight: 10 Points

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/cyclone-nivar-to-hit-tamil-nadu-puducherry-with-winds-at-145-kmph-2329807>

"Coastal Tamil Nadu and Puducherry are bracing for Cyclone Nivar, which has intensified into a "severe cyclonic storm", expected to intensify further and is barrelling towards the southeast coast. The powerful cyclone is likely to hit the coast by midnight or early tomorrow, the Met department said. The cyclone could hit the coast between Mamallapuram in

Tamil Nadu (which is around 56 km from state capital Chennai) and Karaikal in Puducherry. Nivar has brought with it heavy rain and strong winds in coastal Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. On Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted to assure the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry governments - both have said today is a public holiday - of all possible support. - The cyclone will bring extremely heavy rainfall and winds between 120 and 130 km per hour, with gusts of up to 145 km per hour, the Regional Meteorological Centre in Chennai has advised, adding that coastal areas could receive heavy rain till tomorrow. 1, 000 cusecs surplus water will be released from the Chembambakkam lake outside Chennai this noon. The discharge is likely to increase the water flow in Chennai's Adyar river and people living in low-lying areas along the river are being evacuated. Authorities, however, said there is no need for panic at the moment. Around 2,000 people have been evacuated to higher grounds from Tamil Nadu's Cuddalore district. - Bus services in seven Tamil Nadu districts have been suspended. The state government has said that those involved in essential services will continue to work. Chief Minister Palaniswami appealed to people to stay indoors as far as possible and said over 4,000 ""vulnerable"" locations had been identified and local officials have been told to ensure peoples' safety.

- ""Spoke to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Shri Edappadi K Palaniswami and Puducherry Chief Minister Shri V Narayanasamy regarding the situation in the wake of Cyclone Nivar. Assured all possible support from the Centre.

I pray for the safety and well-being of those living in the affected areas,"" the Prime Minister tweeted in English and Tamil.

- With memories of the 2015 floods still fresh, Tamil Nadu is also monitoring four reservoirs - Poondi, Cholavaram, Red Hills and Chembambakkam - in anticipation of a rapid rise in water levels. Revenue Minister RB Udhayakumar, who heads the state Disaster Management Department, told NDTV: ""We are ensuring clear channels for smooth flow of water and safe storage in large lakes"".

- Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy told NDTV today that the union territory anticipates damage to crops, thatched roofs, and old buildings, besides power and communication lines. On Wednesday, Puducherry banned large gatherings and public movement till 6 am Thursday.

All non-essential shops and services have been shut; only milk booths, fuel stations, hospitals and pharmacies, and government offices will be allowed to open. Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi appealed people this morning to stay indoors and move to safer places. Puducherry has installed "Number 7 storm warning cage at port areas", which means the port will experience severe weather from a storm of light or moderate intensity that is expected to cross over or near the port.

- Around 1,200 National Disaster Response Force personnel have been deployed in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh as well, NDRF chief SN Pradhan told PTI. 12

teams are in Tamil Nadu (six in Cuddalore district and two in Chennai), seven in Andhra Pradesh and three in Puducherry. An additional 20 teams will be on standby in Odisha's Cuttack, Vijaywada in Andhra Pradesh and Thrissur in Kerala.

- The Indian Navy has said it is closely monitoring the movement of Nivar, and is in constant touch with officials of both Tamil Nadu and Puducherry governments. Naval ships, aircraft and rescue and diving teams have been kept on standby.

- State governments expect widespread damage to power lines and communication networks, with fears that houses in rural areas will be destroyed and trees will be uprooted. Both governments have also sounded warnings to fishing communities and relocated thousands of people from coastal and low-lying regions, which may be hit by tidal waves up to a metre in height. An alert has been sounded at the Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS) in Tamil Nadu's Kalpakkam, which is around 20 km from Mamallapuram. Authorities are closely monitoring the weather to take action as required, officials told news agency PTI.

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jaganmohan Reddy has also sounded an alert. The state is expected to receive heavy rainfall as Nivar moves inland. Nellore and Chittoor districts are on alert, as are parts of Kadapa, Kurnool and Anantpur, with between 11 and 20 cm of rain and wind speeds of up to 75 km per hour expected. Fishermen have been advised not to go out to sea and low-lying areas have been warned of flooding.

- In May, ""super cyclone"" Amphan ravaged several districts of south Bengal, killed 98. Amphan caused large- scale destruction to property, flattening villages, destroying farms and leaving thousands without electricity.

Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh: India's southeastern coast braces for powerful cyclone

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/11/25/indias-southeastern-coast-braces-for-powerful-cyclone>

"Local Indian authorities banned public gatherings and closed shops as more than 1,000 rescue personnel mobilised against a powerful cyclone barrelling towards the southeastern coast, bringing heavy rains and strong winds. Cyclone Nivar is set to cross the coasts of Tamil Nadu state and the small territory of Puducherry as a " very severe cyclonic storm late on Wednesday, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said. Parts of Andhra Pradesh, a coastal state north of Tamil Nadu, are also forecast to be slammed by the cyclone. A " very severe cyclonic storm is the fifth-strongest category on the IMD's scale of seven storm types.

The heavy rains and strong winds were likely to damage houses and roads, uproot power lines, destroy crops and break trees along the coast of northern Tamil Nadu and southern Andhra

Pradesh, the weather office said in a statement. “ This will slowly intensify, maybe tonight or tomorrow, and turn into a very severe cyclonic storm with wind speeds of around 120 kilometres per hour (75 miles per hour) and gusting up to 145 kilometres per hour (90mph), IMD's Director-General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra told reporters in New Delhi. More than 1,000 personnel from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been deployed to assist local efforts on possible evacuations of residents from vulnerable coastal areas. Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami declared Wednesday a public holiday and said it could be extended. “

People living in regions vulnerable to the storm and in houses deemed not safe should be immediately shifted to relief centres, Palaniswami said. The Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry Kiran Bedi said public gatherings would be banned from late Tuesday until early Thursday. Shops in Puducherry, except those for essential services like pharmacies and petrol stations, were to be shut until the cyclone passes. In parts of Mahabalipuram, about 60km (37 miles) from Tamil Nadu's capital Chennai, local fishermen dragged their boats to safety along the coast.

The cyclone's centre is expected to pass some 175km (108 miles) northeast of Sri Lanka's northernmost Kankesanthurai coastal town early on Wednesday. Fishermen in the northern area were advised not to go out to sea. No evacuation orders were issued but heavy rains were forecast, particularly in the island nation's north. More than 110 people died after “ super Cyclone Amphan ravaged eastern India and Bangladesh in May, flattening villages, destroying farms and leaving millions without electricity.

Tamil Nadu and Puducherry: ‘Nivar’ to strengthen as very severe cyclone by evening

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/pick-of-the-day/weather-nivar-ratchets-up-as-severe-cyclone/article33174505.ece>

"India Meteorological Department (IMD) has clarified that the peak wind speeds at the time of impending landfall of prospective very severe cyclone ‘ Nivar' would be 120-130 km/hr gusting to 145 km/hr, attributing an upward revision in an intervening bulletin to an inadvertent error. Severe cyclonic storm ‘ Nivar' was located at 240 km East-South-East of Cuddalore and 250 km along the same bearing to Puducherry; and 300 km South-South-East of Chennai, the IMD said in a noon bulletin on Wednesday, restricting the potential landfall area to less than 200 km-stretch on the Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coast. ‘

Nivar' is expected to intensify further into a very severe cyclonic storm this (Wednesday) evening as it approaches for an eventful landfall between Karaikal and Mamallapuram around Puducherry during midnight and into the small hours of Thursday as a very severe cyclonic storm with wind speeds of 120-130 km/hr gusting to 145 km/hr. Extremely heavy rain warning Extremely heavy rainfall has been warned of over Myladuthurai, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Cuddalore, Villupuram. Kallapurichi and Thiruvannamalai districts and Puducherry today (Wednesday). Heavy to very heavy rain may lash Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Trichy,

salem, Erode, Namakkal, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Vellore, Tiruppur, Ranipet, Chengalpattu, Kanchipuram, Chennai and Tiruvallur districts.

Meanwhile, global model forecasts mostly agreed with the IMD timeline of landfall for the very severe cyclone by midnight into the early hours of Thursday as also the area of landfall, though a few indicated that the landfall area could extend a little further, from the South of Cuddalore to the South of Chennai. Global model views on 'Nivar' track The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) seemed to be locked into Marakkanam as the landfall area (2.30 am on Thursday) while the ECWFM-IRES-HRES indicated a comparatively stronger system delaying landfall around the same location between 2.30 am and 3.30 am. The ICON model signalled to a landfall at 2.30 am while a few others suspected that the landfall could take place anytime during a window that is open as early as 9.30 pm tonight (Wednesday) and 1.30 am with a majority going for the 11.30 pm slot and into early Thursday hours as the IMD. The other look-outs ranged from; the GFS (landfall at 9.30 pm); the UKMO (rapid intensification until 5.30 pm and slight weakening with landfall at 11.30 pm); the APREGE (11.30 pm); the GEM (landfall South of Cuddalore at 11.30 pm); the ACCESS-G (landfall at 1.30 am on Thursday); the CMA (landfall South of Cuddalore at 11.30 pm); and the GDAPS-UM (landfall at 2.30 am on Thursday South of Chennai).

Puducherry: Cyclone Nivar: Karaikal fishermen stranded at sea, Puducherry to come under Section 144

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2020/nov/24/cyclone-nivar-karaikal-fishermen-stranded-at-sea-puducherry-to-come-under-section-144-2227445.html>

"Fishermen from Karaikal in 30 boats remain stranded in the deep sea, out of a total of 83 boats that set off for fishing. The Coast Guard has been alerted and are searching for them so that they can be taken to safety, Minister for Revenue MOHF Shajahan said. The remaining 53 boats have been brought to safety, with 48 in Kozhikode and five in Andhra Pradesh. Addressing a press conference, Shajahan along with Secretary cum Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner A Anbarasu and other officials said that the deep depression over the south of Bay of Bengal intensified into cyclonic storm Nivar and lay centred at about 410 km east-south east of Puducherry. It is very likely to cross in and around the coastal region of Puducherry region on November 25 as a severe cyclonic storm with a wind speed of 100-110 kmph gusting to 140 kmph as projected by the IMD.

The Puducherry administration has set up a total of 196 relief camps in Puducherry region and 50 in Karaikal region to provide shelter to people residing in vulnerable and low-lying areas. As many as 16 coastal areas in Puducherry have been identified as vulnerable areas. In all, 16 Emergency Support teams have been constituted by line departments and agencies for coordinated and cohesive disaster management along with SOPs and quick response teams. Further, teams have been constituted by the revenue department for immediate response at the

village level. Three units of NDRF teams, two in Puducherry and one in Karaikal, have been deployed. Each team comprises 45 personnel. They will work along with IRB battalion and fire service personnel in rescue and relief operations.

The NDRF team is already in the field to study the vulnerable areas. Orders under Section 144 of the Cr.P.C. prohibiting the presence or movement of persons in public places and closure of shops and establishments from 9.00 pm on November 24 to 6.00 am on November 26 have been issued by the District Magistrate Puducherry as a preventive measure. All classes for school children are suspended on November 24 and 25. Commercial establishments and bus service will be closed from the night of November 24 and November 25. Government offices/ institutions (except those essential services and departments concerned with cyclone relief work) will be closed on November 25. Instead, all government offices will function on December 12 (Saturday). Essential supply of milk, pharmacies and petrol bunks will function. People can contact Helpline numbers 1070 and 1077 for assistance.

Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry: Cyclone Nivar is expected to hit on Wednesday

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/cyclone-nivar-heads-towards-south-coast-list-of-major-cyclones-in-india-since-2019/story-xuP9iVNniTmXcZLZ6OzVnK.html>

"Cyclone Nivar, which is brewing in the Bay of Bengal, is moving towards the southern states and Union territory (UT) of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Expected to make landfall on Wednesday, Nivar is likely to cause heavy rainfall in these places. However, it is not the first major cyclone which will have hit a state this year or in the last 12 months.

Here are some major cyclones to have occurred in India since 2019:

1. Cyclone Amphan: India's first major cyclone of 2020, Super Cyclonic Storm Amphan caused major damage in West Bengal, as well in the neighbouring country of Bangladesh. Odisha, another eastern state, was also hit by Amphan though it was spared the sort of damage that the cyclone caused in West Bengal. Formed on May 16, Amphan dissipated on May 21, leaving widespread destruction in its trail, claiming over 100 lives, most of which were from West Bengal.
2. Cyclone Nisarga: Severe Cyclonic Storm Nisarga struck the Indian subcontinent within just two weeks of Amphan, most severely affecting India's financial hub of Maharashtra, where all fatalities due to the cyclone-six-took place. The state of Gujarat and the UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (DNHDD) were also put on high alert though both escaped Nisarga's wrath. Formed on June 1 and dissipated on June 4, Nisarga was the strongest tropical cyclone to strike Maharashtra since June 1891.

3. Cyclone Fani: Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm Fani caused major damage in Odisha, being the strongest tropical cyclone to hit the state since 1999. Though Fani also affected other states like West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, as well as neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka, it was Odisha that bore its brunt. Fani, which formed on April 26 April 2019 and dissipated on May

5, claimed 89 lives in all. Odisha was praised by the United Nations for its handling of the crisis.

4. Cyclone Bulbul: Another cyclone which affected both West Bengal and Bangladesh, Bulbul was a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm. A tropical cyclone, Bulbul began forming on November 5, 2019 and dissipated on November 11 and claimed a total of 41 lives. Only the second to make it to category 3 hurricane strength, with the first instance being in 1960, Bulbul also affected neighbouring countries like Myanmar and Thailand, besides Bangladesh.

5. Cyclone Vayu: Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Vayu was a strong tropical cyclone which claimed a total of eight lives in June 2019. Vayu was the strongest cyclone to hit Gujarat's Saurashtra region since 1998. It formed on June 10, 2019 and dissipated on June 17.

Vayu, which was named by India after the Sanskrit and Hindi word 'vayu' or wind, impacted more than 6.6 million people in the northwestern parts of the country. 6. Cyclone Maha: Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm Maha mainly affected the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Kerala. Maha began as a depression, further intensifying to become Cyclonic Storm, Very Severe Cyclonic Storm and, finally, Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm. Formed on October 30, 2019, Maha dissipated on November 7.

Puducherry: Plea to ban purse seine fishing nets along Puducherry coast, Madras HC seeks report from govt

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2020/aug/10/plea-to-ban-purse-seine-fishing-nets-along-puducherry-coast-madras-hc-seeks-report-from-govt-2181584.html>

"A Puducherry based fishermen's association has moved the Madras High Court seeking to ban pair deep-sea fishing with purse seine nets in the territorial waters of the Union territory. The indiscriminate fishing has led to the large-scale depletion of marine resources, it said. Noting that the issue is very serious which if not addressed would affect the entire marine life, the High Court has directed the Puducherry government to file a detailed report by August 25.

According to the petition filed by Pavadai Raj, executive member of the Kadalsar Meenvala Paathukappu Kuzhu, fishing with purse-seine nets has been already banned in many states including Tamil Nadu. However, if the nets are allowed to catch fish in the inshore area, there will be no movement of young fish towards the coast. Mechanised nets like purse seine if used will cause irreparable damage to the entire ecosystem, said the petitioner. The two-member bench of justices MM Sundresh and R Hemalatha hearing the plea of the fishermen association observed, ""This is a serious issue since it involves damage to the environment.""

The bench then directed the Puducherry government to file a report by August 25. The petitioner also said big fishing boats and mechanical trawlers are involved in deep-sea fishing, which is not in accordance with the Puducherry Fishing Regulation Rules 2009. Fishermen in big boats also attack smaller catamaran fishermen resulting in harassment. Though several complaints have been made, the authorities have turned a deaf ear, he said. As per the act, irrespective of the size and power of the boats, the usage of purse seine nets is completely banned in the entire coastal area to preserve fishing resources.

Puducherry: Government to disburse ban relief to fishermen by July 1

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/government-to-disburse-ban-relief-to-fishermen-by-july-1/article31947940.ece>

"Dropping the proposal for a means tested approach to distribution of welfare aid, the Government will disburse a ban relief amount of Rs.5,500 per fisher family to all beneficiaries by July 1. This follows an amendment in the rules under the Welfare and Relief for Fishermen During Lean Season and Natural Calamities' scheme that removed a provision to filter out families receiving old age pension from the list of beneficiaries. " The fisheries department is committed to disbursing the assistance to all beneficiaries as quickly as possible, Purva Garg, Fisheries Secretary, told a press conference. The amendment helps fishermen whose livelihood and income were affected during the ban period and the relief would be paid through the direct benefit transfer scheme to their bank accounts.

The aid would reach an estimated 19,000 beneficiaries. The government has set apart Rs.12 crore to pay the relief to fishermen. " The total allocation under this head for 2020-21 is Rs.12 crore. As of now, we will process around Rs.7 crore. Further, a sum of Rs.1.7 crore is being disbursed under the centrally-sponsored savings-cum-relief scheme, Ms. Garg told The Hindu. A. Kangeyan, former president of Puducherry Fibre Boat Owners Association, welcomed the removal of restrictions on access to the benefit. "

The proposal to deny benefit on the ground that the head of the family or family member is a recipient of old age pension was unjust to start with when you consider that it is meant to help fisher families see through the entire ban period, he said. On Friday, over a thousand fishermen protested against Lt. Governor Kiran Bedi for imposing conditions in disbursement of relief. They staged a protest aboard their fishing vessels in the Bay of Bengal against the denial of relief to fishermen getting old age pension and the delay in payment of cash benefits under the savings-cum-relief scheme.

Puducherry: Govt to disburse Rs 12 cr to fishermen under relief scheme

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/pondy-govt-to-disburse-rs-12-cr-to-fishermen-under-relief-scheme/1878341>

"Kiran Bedi has approved of the scheme to disburse relief to fishermen who have been rendered jobless during the month-long ban ending June 15 on fishing operations. A release issued by Secretary to Fisheries Department Purva Garg on Thursday evening said the Lt Governor had approved of the amendment to the scheme for Welfare and Relief for fishermen to be paid during the lean season and natural calamities. The release stated that benefit under this scheme shall not be denied only on the ground that the head of the family or family member is a recipient of old age pension. This amendment would help fishermen whose livelihood and income were affected during the ban period and the relief would be paid through the direct benefit transfer scheme to their bank accounts. The government would disburse Rs 12 crores to pay the relief to fishermen. Each of the fishermen families would be paid Rs 5,500 as relief for loss of job during ban period. There were protests against the earlier decision of Bedi to deny the relief during ban period to fishermen, in case they were getting old age pension. Legislators belonging to the opposition had also held protests holding placards seeking the relief to fishermen without adopting any condition. Meanwhile, a group of fishermen on Friday staged a protest aboard their fishing vessels in the Bay of Bengal against the denial of relief to fishermen getting old age pension and blamed the Lt Governor for the non availability of the relief. The relief has since been granted by amending the rules.

Puducherry: Govt amends scheme rules for disbursal of ban relief assistance to fishermen

<http://www.uniindia.com/govt-amends-scheme-rules-for-disbursal-of-ban-relief-assistance-to-fishermen/south/news/2054181.html>

"The Government has amended the scheme rules of “ Welfare and Relief for Fishermen during Lean season and natural calamities for disbursal of ban relief assistance to the fishermen. Ms Purva Garg, Secretary (Fisheries) in a release on Thursday night said, with the approval of the Lt.Governor, a sub-clause “ Benefit under this scheme shall not be denied only on the ground that head of family or family member is a recipient of Old Age Pension (OAP), is added to the scheme. The amendment has been done subject to the condition that the benefit should be released by DBT mode.

Puducherry: Bans roadside sales of fish

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/puducherry-bans-roadside-sales-of-fish/article31810689.ece>

"Auctioning of fish shall be carried out only in the Modern Hygienic Fish Market, officials said. The Puducherry government has prohibited the retail sale and auction of fish in Goubert Market, to regulate the movement of people, in order to contain the spread of COVID-19. According to a senior official, the decision was taken following overcrowding incidents being brought to the notice of the administration. “ Though the Modern Hygienic Fish Market was commissioned on ECR in Lawspet in 2014 and the allotment of shops/stalls was done in

2018, the facility is under-utilised with no auctioneer available, leading to unfruitful expenditure. The administration has now decided to make use of this facility, the official added.

District Collector T. Arun has directed the Fisheries Department, Police and Municipalities to ensure that auction and sale of fish at the Goubert Market is prohibited immediately. Auctioning of fish shall be carried out only in the Modern Hygienic Fish Market. The Department of Fisheries will monitor the sale till the time a tender for finalising an auctioneer for the auction hall is finalised by the Oulgaret Municipality. The sale of fish is also prohibited at roadsides in the Puducherry and Oulgaret municipal limits and will take place only in designated places earmarked by the local bodies. Those who fail to adhere to the instructions would face action under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, officials said.

Puducherry: Fishing craft resume operations in Puducherry

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/fishing-craft-resume-operations-in-puducherry/article31754647.ece>

"As many as 120 big mechanised boats and over 2,000 small boats with outboard engines resumed operations on Friday, after over two months. A day after the Department of Fisheries issued orders allowing fishing activities, fishermen in Puducherry resumed operations, adhering to strict physical distancing norms. Fishing activities in the Union Territory had remained suspended for over two months due to the ban period and lockdown restrictions. The fishing harbour at Thengaithittu was buzzing with activity on Friday, with fishermen loading fishing nets and ice bars and venturing into the sea in mechanised fishing boats and trawlers with the hope of a good catch.

As many as 120 big mechanised boats and over 2,000 small boats with outboard engines resumed operations. The Fisheries Department has issued a circular asking fishermen to follow certain conditions while going out fishing. According to an official, the day's catch would be sold through auctions at the fishing harbour from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. and only wholesale fish dealers from Puducherry and neighbouring States would be allowed to participate in the auction process. The fishermen have also been instructed to maintain a distance of one metre from one another. Masks have been made mandatory for all fishermen and the general public will not be permitted to buy fish in the harbour. They can buy fish at decentralised fish markets across the UT, the official said.

Puducherry: Allow small fishermen to resume operations: Forum urges Puducherry government

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/allow-small-fishermen-to-resume-operations-forum-urges-puducherry-government/article31451666.ece>

"The National Fisherfolk Forum (NFF) has appealed to the Puducherry government to allow small fishermen with catamarans and boats with outboard motors to go out fishing during the lockdown. M. Ilango, former MLA and chairperson of NFF said that the move would bring in big relief to thousands of fishermen experiencing hardships due to the COVID-19 lockdown and the annual fishing ban in force on the East Coast. Small and marginal fishermen usually operate within 2 to 4 nautical miles. The catch would also be sold in local markets, which would help families to sustain their livelihood during the lockdown. The Puducherry government's decision to restrict all fishing activities within 12 nautical miles has caused immense hardship to the families, he said. The Puducherry government should immediately permit fishermen with catamarans and boats with fixed small engines to venture into the sea. The catch from the fishermen could be entrusted for marketing in a regulated manner at the temporary fish markets. The NFF has also appealed to the government to provide cash relief for fishermen families as many of them did not have incomes since March.

Puducherry: Confusion prevails over fishing ban during lockdown in Puducherry

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/confusion-prevails-over-fishing-ban-during-lockdown-in-puducherry/article31337048.ece>

"While the Chief Minister had announced that fishermen could carry on with fishing during the lockdown, the Department of Fisheries has said the annual fishing ban will come into force from April 14. Is there a ban on fishing during the lockdown period? This question has cropped up among fishermen communities in Puducherry because of the confusion caused by two different announcements -- one by the Chief Minister V Narayanasamy and another by the Department of Fisheries in Puducherry. While the Chief Minister had announced that while extending the lockdown on Monday evening that fishermen could carry on with their vocations and they would not be governed by the lockdown, the Department of Fisheries has come out with a clear circular that the annual ban will come into force from April 14 and no fishermen should venture into the sea for the next 61 days.

These two announcements on fishing have now led to confusion among the fishermen communities in Puducherry. According to M. Ilango, former MLA and chairperson of National Fishers Forum (NFF), the Union Home Ministry has exempted fishing activities including harvesting, sale and marketing activities from the purview of the lockdown. While NFF has welcomed this announcement, the Department has come out with another announcement on the annual fishing ban.

The government should make it clear whether fishing is permitted during the lockdown. It is also the duty of the concerned State Governments and Department of Fisheries to facilitate Personal Protection Equipments (PPE) and ensure strict enforcement of norms pertaining to social hygiene and distancing practices. “ Even though the government has permitted fishing, very few fishermen are ready to venture out in the sea as selling fish would become a big problem. The

sale of fish has to be regulated as a massive crowd will gather on the shores while fishermen return with the day's catch. This will result in a major problem and the police will further curtail our activities, he said. Puducherry has over 80,000 fishermen families and lakhs are dependent on them. In the wake of the lockdown, fishermen have abstained from venturing out into the sea, losing their livelihood. “

We want the government to provide compensation of ₹6,000 to each family during the lockdown as had been announced for farmers and other sections, as the fishermen are dependent only on their daily catch. However, this should not be clubbed with the relief amount the government would give during the annual fishing ban' Mr. Ilango added.

Puducherry: National Fisherfolk Forum demands declaration of fishing as an essential service

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/national-fisherfolk-forum-demands-declaration-of-fishing-as-an-essential-service/article31248661.ece>

"In a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, former MLA and Forum chairperson M. Ilango said that fish was a cheap source of protein for a large section of population in the country The National Fisherfolk Forum (NFF) has demanded the declaration of fishing as an essential service, facilitating fishermen with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while venturing out into the sea to eke out their livelihood during the lockdown. In a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, former MLA and NFF chairperson M. Ilango said that fish was a cheap source of protein for a large section of the population in the country.

Fish is an essential component in most of the States along with cereals, pulses and vegetables. In the wake of the current lockdown, fishermen have abstained from venturing into the sea, losing their livelihood. The NFF has already sought a monthly allowance of ₹6,000 each for fishing households as a temporary measure due to impending losses in the fishing sector and the impending monsoon season trawling ban, he said. Mr. Ilango said that fishing should be declared as a essential service. An announcement in this direction will not only protect their livelihood but also ensure the required supplementary food to the poor and needy sections of society to increase their immunity levels, he said.

Puducherry an early warrior in COVID-19 battle

https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/health/puducherry-an-early-warrior-in-covid-19-battle-70208?utm_source=Mailer&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Down%20To%20Earth-1460433

"In India's ongoing battle against the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, Puducherry seems to have stood out. The union territory (UT) with a population of 1.5 million and a thriving foreign and domestic tourism industry was significantly untouched by the virus (SARS-CoV-2) till last week. It was on April 1, 2020 that two men, who returned after attending Tablighi Jamaat congregation in New Delhi, tested positive and were admitted in state government hospital. “ The government's cluster containment plan to contain the spread of the infection is active, said a senior officer from Pondicherry district administration. He added that family members of the affected are under quarantine. The UT's first COVID-19 patient, a 68-year-old woman in Mahe district, has tested negative now, according to S Mohan Kumar, director of health services and mission director of national rural health mission, Puducherry. The government was quick to swing into action to curtail infection spread even before the World Health Organization declared it a pandemic.

It tightened its four-border checkpoints East Coast Road, Tindivanam Road, Cuddalore Road and Morattandi well before the country started border checks. It was in the first week of March itself when people at checkpoints were asked to provide their travel and contact history. Those having travel history to other countries were compulsorily put in 14-day home quarantine. More than 2,000 people have been quarantined and over 300 kept in isolation wards in hospitals so far, said Kumar. NRIs have also been asked to self-isolate for two weeks. “

We are making multiple visits to Auroville. Not a single case has been reported from there so far. It's a township having a mixed population of domestic and overseas residents, said the senior district administration officer. As 4,000 foreign tourists visited Pondicherry district between February and March first week, the government had an uphill task at hand. In the first week of March, hotels were asked to implement a guest check-in declaration form. The form helped in identifying guests who had travelled to any high-risk country recently or displayed symptoms. Swift action Setting up of inter-district cell comprising health, revenue and other government officials, was another great initiative.

The machinery could work closely with other districts such as Cuddalore and Villupuram to ensure safety measures are implemented. At a time when there is a mass exodus of migrant workers from cities, the Puducherry government stalled the migration of more than 4,000 workers. The government started producing face masks and hand sanitisers by the second week of the month. With the help of women self-help groups (SHGs), more than 20,000 bottles of hand sanitisers were made. The lockdown has, however, left the tourism industry in shambles. Tourism industry is a critical contributor to the UT's economy and is facing massive revenue losses.

Puducherry: Hamlets along Puducherry's north coast face threat of erosion

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/hamlets-along-puducherys-north-coast-face-threat-of-erosion/article30552578.ece>

"Report from the NCCR shows that around 57% of Puducherry's coast exposed to risk; environmentalists blame fishing harbour. With the Puducherry government yet to come out with any lasting solution to tackle coastal erosion, fishermen in hamlets located to the north of the coast especially Solai Nagar, Kuruchikuppam and Vaithikuppam are now facing a grave threat with the sea inching ever closer to their doorsteps. The sea has turned rough over the last one month and fishermen from Solai Nagar are finding it extremely difficult to navigate their boats into sea. Already, a substantial portion of the seawall and groynes erected along the coast have caved in due to advancing seawaters. “

The seawater has now started coming close to habitations in Solai Nagar. Many fishermen have been keeping away from the sea for the past few days as the risk of boats running aground in the waters is very high. The net mending shed in Solai Nagar north has been heavily damaged due to erosion. The problem is acute from the months of November to January, says M. Murali, a fisherman from Solai Nagar.

A report by the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences said around 57% of Puducherry's coast was eroding. Puducherry is second only to West Bengal which recorded erosion at 63.5% followed by Kerala at 45% and Tamil Nadu at 41%. Cumulative analysis The report shows that long-term cumulative analysis of the coast from 1990 to 2016, indicates that 57% of the coast has eroded, 35% was in a stable condition and only 8% under accreting condition. Artificial structures play a major role in promoting erosion along coasts. Coastal hamlets to the north of the harbour, including Kalapet, face consistent erosion, according to the report.

The steady erosion of Puducherry's coastline, which originally extend almost 100 m into the sea, is believed to have begun with the establishment of the fishing harbour in 1989, say environmentalists. The problem started in 1989 when the Puducherry government constructed two breakwaters. The construction of the harbour, with its wall projecting into the sea, blocked the movement of sand from the south towards the north. Though a sand bypassing system was provided at the harbour to regularly shift the sand from south to north, this has not been done resulting in erosion along the northern side.

The harbour has already eroded an estimated 10 km of beach sand and continues to erode the beaches along the Tamil Nadu coastline Starved of sand According to Pondicherry Citizens Action Network (PondyCan), the sand movement along the coast is said to be one of the highest in the country. The net displacement of sand northwards has been calculated at 0.5 million cubic metres a year. Beaches on the northern side of the coastline are now starved of sand and have started disappearing. Puducherry has been losing 0.5 to 1 km of beach every year. According to Aurofilio Schiavina, an expert on coastal management, “ The erosion of the coastal hamlets to the north of the harbour is not clearly visible because the beaches have already eroded and all one can see is a seawall. But at the base of the seawall (under the water), the erosion continues and the seawall keeps sinking. Reason for relevance “

As the erosion continues, the sea gets deeper and larger waves keep coming close to the hamlets. At the same time the seawall also keeps sinking, further exposing the hamlets to the waterfront. The beach restoration project has only slowed down the erosion but it has not reversed it. The fight against beach erosion is still very relevant, he added.