

# Together, towards a safer India

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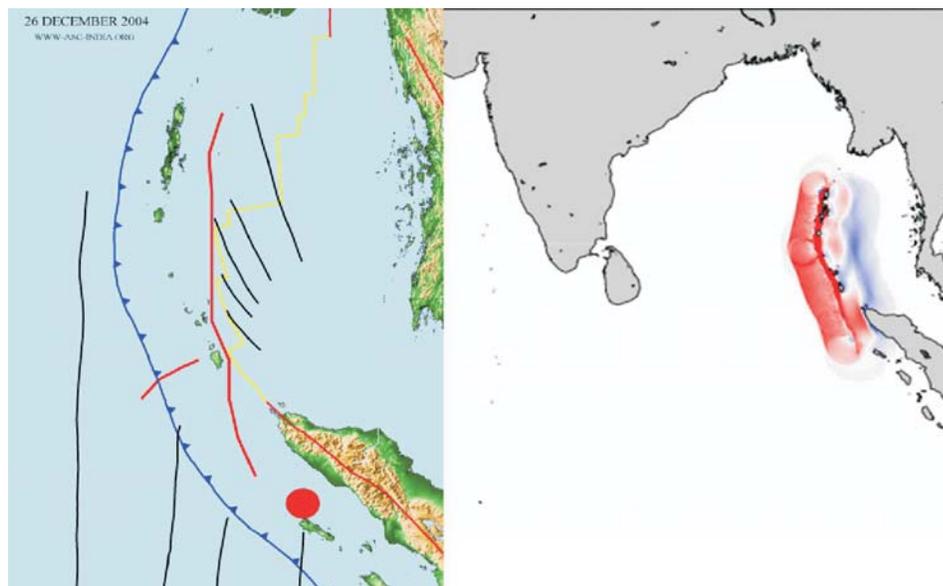
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***National Disaster Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs wishes a very happy, prosperous and disaster-free New Year.***

***Let's resolve to reduce our vulnerabilities and make disaster risk reduction an abiding mindset.***

## ***An earthquake-induced Tsunami batters coastal States and Andaman & Nicobar Islands***

A massive shallow focus earthquake of magnitude 8.6 occurred off the coast of Sumatra (Indonesia) at 0628 hrs. on 26th December, 2004 triggering a massive tsunami tidal wave battering coastlines in South Asia, South-east Asia as well as in Africa, nearly 5,000 kms. away. This was the biggest earthquake in 40 years and the fifth strongest since 1900. Hundreds of aftershocks have since been recorded in the region. The epicenter was located on the underlying Indian plate at a depth of 7-10 kms with thrust type of movement at source.



The earthquake generated massive tsunami waves which traveled at 700-800 kmph, hitting the coastlines with a 3m to 10m high tidal wave causing extensive destruction all along the eastern coast in the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and the Union Territories of Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The tsunami affected a total of 2260 kms. coastline besides the island areas. The tidal waves penetrated into the mainland from 300 meters to 3 kms. The total casualties in the tsunami disaster are estimated to be 10,797 with 5,623 persons recorded as missing and now presumed to have perished. The disaster affected 1,089 villages, a population of 27.5 lakhs and destroyed 1.72 lakh dwelling units.

Among the mainland States, Tamil Nadu was the worst affected with over 6202 people killed and all thirteen coastal districts affected, with Nagapattinam bearing the brunt and recording a maximum death toll of 6,065.