

## Impact of Tsunami on the Indian Sub-Continent – An Overview.

## DR. M. PRITHVIRJ

Scientist F, Earth System Sciences Division, Dept. of Science & Technology, Technology Bhawan, N.Delhi. 110 016.

Our myth that Tsunami, is a phenomena restricted to the Pacific coast and its islands, has been shattered by its devastating occurrence on the "Black Sunday", the  $26^{th}$  December 2004. Triggered by the submarine earthquake at the plate boundary near Sumatra, it took the entire nation by surprise. The calamity and the destruction caused in a fraction of a second has drowned the entire coastal community along the southeastern coast of India, Srilanka and in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands into grief that is insurmountable in the near future. Although there is a very rare likelihood of the tsunami attack on the Indian coast in the near future, still there is a strong need for serious R&D initiatives specifically aimed to address – (a) early warning, (b) zoning norms, (c) coastal protection, (d) contingency planning and finally the (e) post disaster recovery.

Researchers spread over different universities / institutions all along the coast of India were supported to take-up studies in the affected coastal segments to understand the effects of this disaster on the surface / groundwater in the coastal areas, effect on land-use, changes in coastal configuration etc. This paper attempts to review / collate some of the significant findings emerging out of the studies. Further, the paper would deliberate on the long term research goals, training needs, regional co-operations that may help in gathering better perception of the phenomena, improvement in designing of structural and non – structural measures of coastal protection and adopt improved strategies / policies for mitigation of the effects of this disaster, in future.