

Field Survey of 2004 Tsunami in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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An estimated 1, 925 number of people have lost their lives and 5, 555 people were missing in Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the historical devastating great tsunami event occurred on December 26, 2004. The Nicobar group of Islands namely Great Nicobar, Katchall, Teresa, Nancowry, Trinkat, Car Nicobar and others were severely affected by tsunamis as they are closer to the epicenter and also smaller in nature surrounded by the sea all around. The impacts on Andaman group of Islands were less except on Little Andaman due to their geometry and nature of topography. Since the settlement in South Andaman Islands is largely confined in sheltered areas like bays, and they are far from the coast and more importantly the settlement areas are in elevated areas except in certain low elevated far inland locations like Sippighat area, there were almost no loss of life, but damage to properties especially to fishing vessels were considerable high in most of the area, where seawater inundated the land completely. The field survey conducted in 26 locations indicate that Little Andaman passenger jetty area recorded the highest run-up of 17.26m and the inundation 500m was the highest in Chidiyatopu area and it also supports that the low lying areas of Little Andaman has been severely affected by the tsunami waves due to the low slope. This research is financially supported by the KSGP of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries. Keywords: tsunami, field survey, run-up, inundation, Andaman and Nicobar Islands