

TSUNAMI EVACUATION PLAN, PURAKKAD GRAMA **PANCHAYATH**

Purakkad Grama Panchayat is running a tsunami-ready program to help them train and be able to act immediately if another tsunami strikes. The program aims to improve the preparedness of coastal communities to respond to tsunamis, protect lives and property, and reduce damage caused by tsunamis. On Saturday, June 22, 2024, a training, and awareness program was launched in Purakkad in collaboration with various departments throughout the district. The program started at 10:00 a.m. At the state level, one LSG from each of the nine coastal districts was chosen to pilot the tsunami evacuation program, allowing them to become prepared for disasters through a range of activities and earning them a tsunami-ready certificate.

Sri. A S Sudharshan, President of the Grama Panchayat, and the District Disaster Management Authority coordinated the program's implementation. Sri Ramamoorthy, Junior Superintendent of Disaster Management, gave the standard introductory address and explained the concept behind the tsunami evacuation plan. The inaugural lecture was given by Smt. Chinthu, the Hazard Analyst for the Alappuzha District. Dr. Mithila Mallika, the State Project Officer, presented the main sessions. Members from several departments joined and contributed to this event, including the Fire and Rescue, Medical Officer, Revenue, Fisheries, Social Justice, Women and Child Development, PWD, Asha workers, Haritha Karma Sena, and Ward level other members including members from NGOs. They also promised to assist in preparing Purakkad for Tsunami Ready certificate by contributing their assistance. DM Plan Coordinator of Alappuzha Rahul Kumar S, delivered the vote of thanks.

Decisions and proposals based on discussion

- A school safety training has been recommended to the government schools in Purakkad Grama Panchayat as part of the Tsunami Ready program.
- Hospital safety Programme.
- Reinforce the 13th working Group, Disaster Management, and climate change working group and strengthen the Emergency Response Team under LSG.
- As part of the highway development, the underpass is being constructed only at Purakkad Junction and Ottapanna. The lack of an underpass in this area will hinder the evacuation of people.
- Collaborate with departments and to make a better response plan and evacuation plan.

- Conducting transect walks by research institutions and placing different warning signs along the coastal route to facilitate an efficient evacuation.
- To conduct community Mock Drills across the panchayat with the participation of various Departments.

