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Denver's Sister City Devastated by Tsunami

Indian state official is "grief-stricken by the death and destruction."

Aid for Chennai, India

Anyone wanting to contribute to disaster relief efforts in Chennai can mail donations to:

DSCI
2480 W. 26th Avenue
Suite #20B
Denver, CO 80211

Make checks payable to "DSCI Chennai Tsunami Relief Fund." For more information, call 303-832-1336.

Related Links

- [Denver Sister Cities International](#)
- [Government of Tamil Nadu](#)



JANUARY 03, 2005 -- The death toll in South Asia continues to rise from the devastating tsunami that struck the region on December 26 following a massive 9.0 magnitude earthquake in the Indian Ocean. More than 150,000 people have died, tens of thousands of people remain missing, and millions more have had their homes and businesses destroyed in the 12 countries affected by this disaster.

Indonesia, and particularly Sumatra, was hit the hardest by this event since it was closest to the epicenter of the earthquake. Denver's Sister City of Chennai, India is another area that was devastated by tsunami waves, and more than 7,000 people have been killed in the region. Chennai (formerly known as Madras) is the capital city of the state of Tamil Nadu, and it is the fourth largest metro city in India. The major trade center and sea port is located near the tip of India on the Bay of Bengal.

Chennai became Denver's seventh sister city in 1984. Commemorating this relationship, Denver's "City of Chennai Park" is located on the northeast side of South Quebec Street and Cherry Creek Drive. In Chennai, the "Denver House" provides a place where people from Denver can visit and stay.



Relief workers distribute supplies to villagers.
Photo: Suman Kumar.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Selvi J. Jayalalithaa, said in a press statement on December 28, "The calamity which struck the Tamil Nadu coast on December 26 was unprecedented in its suddenness and ferocity. It was also widespread in scale, affecting villages and towns all along the coastline."

She continued, "A calamity of this nature has never been known. The death toll is enormous...Lakhs [hundreds of thousands] of people have been rendered homeless. It has totally damaged the coastal economy throughout Tamil Nadu. Fishermen have been devastated, losing their homes, possessions and livelihood. I am grief-stricken by the death and destruction."

Denver Sister Cities International (DSCI) is collecting monetary donations to send to Chennai, a city with whom Denver has had a 20-year relationship. Those interested in contributing can mail checks made out to the "DSCI Chennai Tsunami Relief Fund" to DSCI, 2480 West 26th Avenue #20B; Denver, CO 80211. For more information, please contact Denver Sister Cities International at 303-832-1336 or visit www.denversistercities.org.

An international aid effort is underway to help victims in all of the cities and countries affected by the earthquake and tsunami waves. Additionally, President George Bush today announced that his father, George H.W. Bush, and former President Bill Clinton will make a formal appeal to American citizens for direct donations to reputable charities that are already providing tsunami disaster relief aid. Those wanting to make donations can view a list of charities compiled by CNN.com.

Written by Content Developer [Betsy Kimak](#), Customer Information Services.
Photos courtesy of [Suman Kumar](#).

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