



Arthik Samata Mandal
in
Hard Rains



River Krishna Flood Relief Work, 2005

Chief Functionary's Message :

The last one year 2004-2005 witnessed a great tragedy in the lives of the communities who are living on the coast as well as riverine. First the Tsunami and then the torrential rains all over India and in particular the flooding in both urban and rural areas of Krishna District which resulted in the loss of lives, livelihood and property of the marginalized sections of the society. I am proud that ASM could respond immediately to the plight of the urban and rural communities affected by the flooding.



We are grateful to OXFAM G.B. and PLAN International which have come forward to alleviate the suffering of the flood victims in rural parts of Krishna District. The attempt was to address the food security and health needs of the communities so that they could get back to the normalcy once the flood water recedes. I am also thankful to ASM staff and volunteers who are highly trained & experienced in addressing such humanitarian concerns. The village sarpanches, teachers, youth, women groups and CBOs also have participated in the process of the response, thereby helping in reaching out quickly with little delay. The Government Mandal Revenue Officers, Mandal Development Officers and other Government Departments also helped in optimum utilization of resources so that there is no duplication. It was also a good recognition of collective effort which attracted the attention of the Honorable Governor of Andhra Pradesh who has presented an Appreciative Memento to ASM for its Flood Relief & Rehabilitation Efforts.

I also thank Vasavya Mahila Mandali, an advocacy & networking NGO specialized in HIV AIDs CARE & Support for extending support by way of deploying its volunteers and in the identification of slums which required special attention in Urban Flood Relief Work initiatives. My extended gratitude to International Volunteers from German Freethinkers Association, Project Trust U.K., and Coady International Institute, Canada. I also am thankful to Dr, Vijayam, Executive Director, Atheist Centre, Ms. Nau Gora, Executive Secretary, ASM, Mr. Ch. Satyanarayana and Mr. Hari Subramanyam, Project Directors, ASM-PLAN, Dr.G. Samaram, Mrs. Rashmi Samaram, Secretary, Vasavya Mahila Mandali, Dr. Deeksha, Medical Director, VMM and to Mr. Vikas Gora, Director, Disaster Management Wing of ASM for preparing this report and coordinating the efforts. I am grateful to the Vijaya Krishna Super Bazaar, Vijayawada and other local Rice Mills and grocery stores which have provided the necessary relief material on time and for their staff who have extended their help to make the relief effort a great success.

I once again thank OXFAM GB and PLAN International for responding to the humanitarian emergency situation which had helped in reviving the lives of communities who might have otherwise lost their hopes.

In order to further reduce the vulnerability of these riverine villages on the banks of River Krishna and the Lanka Lands, greater help is required so that in the long run people are better prepared and security is provided in terms of habitat and livelihood for which your generous support is greatly needed.

-- VEERAI AH

Chief Functionary
December 30, 2005

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS



The sudden depression in the Bay of Bengal in fourth week of September, 2005 resulted in continual rainfall touching 50 cms in the Krishna District and the neighboring districts leading to flooding in Krishna and Budameru Rivers. On the other hand, Krishna River was in full spate because of heavy rains in Maharashtra and all over Andhra Pradesh. The backlash of these rains from September 20th to 23rd, 2005 were felt in the urban and rural areas in Krishna District. Vijayawada being on the banks of River Krishna and River Budameru, was one of the worst affected cities in Andhra Pradesh. Whereas, the Lanka Lands and the riverine & island villages in River Krishna were the worst hit in the rural parts of Krishna District.

In the Urban Areas:

More than 50,000 people have been rendered homeless in Vijayawada, the commercial capital of Andhra Pradesh, as heavy rains and floods battered the coastal parts of the state for nearly three days. Infact, the floodwater overflowing from the Budameru riverlet has submerged 10,000 houses in nearly 30 residential colonies in the area. In the urban areas, the affected people were primarily from the lower middle class, landless migrants, daily labourers belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Scavenger communities, who have been previously evacuated from the road margins and canal bunds and other encroached areas and provided resettlement in the new areas, which were low lying making them further vulnerable. With this result, the people had to wade in water which was 5 to 6 feet deep. Their houses got submerged, as they were caught offguard as the floods occurred during the nighttime. Most of the people lost all their belongings including clothes, utensils, houses, livelihood options and savings. The displaced people were sheltered in schools, railway station, bus station, Ajit Singh Nagar Flyover on the railway line and other public places with no protection from rain and other hazards. The public sanitation condition was very poor.

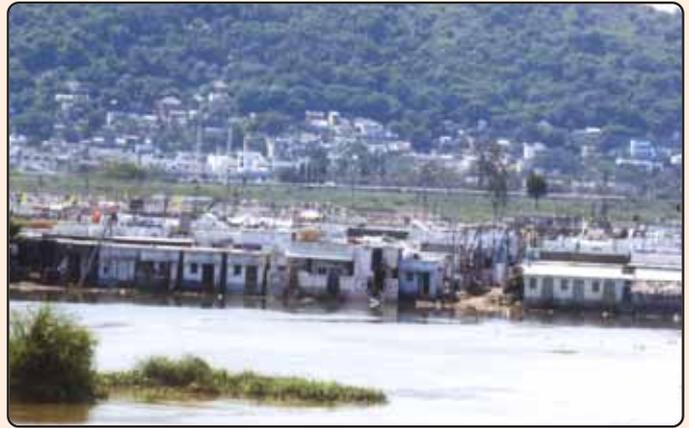
The following areas were declared by the Government as the affected areas due to Floods.

Affected areas due to Budameru River Floods in Vijayawada:

Kotturu, Tadepalli, Shabada, Umbapuram, Nainavaram, KL Rao Nagar, Gollapudi, Urmilanagar, Jojinagar, Winchpeta, Khamsalipeta, Rajarajeswaripeta, New Rajarajeswaripeta, Ayodhya Nagar, Ramakrishnapuram, Vijayadurga Nagar, Milk Project, Ramrajyanagar, Railway Embankments, Kabela, Ajit Singh Nagar, Payakapuram, Pipula Road, LB Nagar, Vombay Colony etc., were affected by Budameru River flooding.

Affected areas due to River Krishna Floods in Vijayawada:

On the other hand, the floods in River Krishna inundated Bhavanipuram, Ramalingeswarapeta, and Yenamalakuduru Area and the suburban areas of Vijayawada which are located on the bank of River Krishna. Krishna Lanka, Ranigari Thota, Ramalingeswara Nagar, Tarakarama Nagar, Bhupeshgupta Nagar, Bhavanipuram etc., were inundated by River Krishna. Another 30,000 people were affected by the floods in River Krishna.



Altogether nearly one lakh people were affected by the Budameru and Krishna floods, which happened in the 4th Week of September 2005.

Riverine Flooding in Rural Krishna District:



The development of cyclonic storm over Bay of Bengal has caused a deep depression over South Chhattisgarh and adjoining Andhra Pradesh on 20th September, 2005. Under the impression of deep depression, wide spread rainfall occurred over Chhattisgarh, north coastal Andhra Pradesh including Telangana region. Squally windspeed reaching upto 45-50 Kms along and off north Andhra coast were experienced at Kalingapatnam as the deep depression weakened affecting Khamman,

East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna Districts of Andhra Pradesh. Subsequently, the heavy rainfall shifted westwards.

In the rural areas, Challapalli, Mopideevi, Avanigadda and Nagayalanka Mandals in Krishna District were the worst affected. More than 25 villages in Krishna District were badly affected due to these torrential rains. As most of the communities are agricultural labourers and tenant farmers, they were caught off guard as the flooding was in a creeping manner and took place in the dark.

The Revenue Minister of the A.P., Mr. Dharmana Prasada Rao said that the death toll of 25 in the State included eight in Krishna district, six in Mahbubnagar, three in Guntur, two each in Anantapur and Kurnool and one each in Nellore, Cuddappa, Nalgonda and Karimnagar.

As many as 1,633 habitations in 103 mandals in 13 districts in Andhra Pradesh were affected due to the rains and 12,358 families were evacuated by the Government from vulnerable places and lodged in relief camps. Hundreds of houses were fully or partially damaged. Crops over an estimated 4 lakh acres of tobacco, rice, vegetables were submerged in rain water.



Infact most of these villages which are on the riverline have been experiencing drought condition for the past 4-7 years due to scanty rains as the Krishna River which was supposedly a perinnial river started to dry out. Due to this situation, people slowly started to temporarily migrate to nearby cities like Vijayawada in search of employment. Some of the villagers started to encroach into the river as it was dry.

The condition of women in any disasters is such that they are doubly disadvantaged as they have to perform productive and reproductive roles both during disasters and in the peace period. Children, differently abled and elderly are amongst the vulnerable as the flood water not only displaced them, but in many cases some people had to cook over their roof tops or in their boats. Some of the island villagers had no place to go as they were surrounded in waist deep water, but had to find safer places within their village for shelter.

It is unfortunate that due to the municipal elections, the government officials were busy in the conduct of elections, whereas the people's representatives were confined to their respective Constituents. However, the Government's response was focussed on forced evacuation and providing immediate food to the victims through food camps. As a part of the rehabilitation, Government also distributed Rs.700-800 for partially damaged houses and Rs. 1200-1400 for fully damaged houses. It also distributed 20 Kgs of rice in the villages. But the worst affected and remote families could not get the immediate relief or rehabilitation. So the remote riverline villages were considered as the main target area in Arthik Samata Mandal's relief efforts.



RESPONSE



Banking on 28 years of disaster management experience, Arthik Samata Mandal plunged into action, both in the urban and rural areas. As the nature and scale of impact and the destruction is different between the two areas, different strategies were used to undertake relief work.

Urban Relief Program:

Before undertaking the relief work, ASM team went to the slums to conduct a first hand assessment of the situation, to identify the gaps of the existing efforts of the government and the NGOs. As the Municipal elections were in full swing, the government human resources were diverted towards conduct of the elections, hence many of the NGOs plunged into action.

ASM's URBAN FLOOD RELIEF STRATEGY:

Partnering with local NGO:

ASM partnered with Vasavya Mahila Mandali, an NGO which works in myriad activities for women upliftment and in particular HIV AIDs Care and Support in the Vijayawada Urban Slums. ASM and Vasavya Mahila Mandali collaborated in terms of identification of the affected slum areas where the flooding had direct impact and which did not receive any external aid.

Volunteer Pool:

ASM roped in local volunteers of Vasavya Mahila Mandali as well as its own international volunteers from Coady International Institute, Canada and Project Trust U.K. representing U.K. Ireland, and Scotland to undertake the relief & rehabilitation work.

Health Camps:

In order to address the immediate health needs, ASM's health team headed by Dr. Samaram and Dr. Deeksha distributed medicines to the displaced population where there were likely chances for water borne disease outbreak.

Distribution of Food:

ASM along with its volunteers and VMM staff, distributed 5000 buns and 3000 biscuit packets to children, women, disabled & elderly. It did not distribute cooked food packets like tamarind rice as



other local NGOs have taken up that responsibility. ASM also did not use plastic water packets or water bottles for distribution so as to avoid plastic pollution which would have further choked the existing bottled up drainages.

Distribution of Water:

Most of the slum members complained the lack of safe drinking water as the inundation has made it difficult for them to fetch water from drinking points. Infact many women complained of Government Water Tanks not reaching them and that before they fill their pots, the vehicle started to move away from them, thereby leaving them high and dry. Further to this, the Government warned people not to drink water from the borewells and other municipal taps for three days, but little did the Government do to supplement the warning. Addressing this concern, ASM hired Water Tanks and in collaboration with Municipal Corporation of Vijayawada along with Vasavya Mahila Mandali volunteers, distributed water to the slums where both the government and other NGOs have not reached. Water was distributed at the most convenient places so that the people could fetch water with minimum drudgery and with ease. The following table reveals the places and the capacity of water distributed:

Date	Place	Time of Distribution	Water in Litres
Sept. 24	Vombay Colony	11.30 p.m.	4800 Ltrs
	Sundaraiah Nagar	1.30 p.m.	4800 Ltrs
	LBS Nagar	3.30 p.m.	4800 Ltrs
	LBS Nagar (High School Rd. & Two Colonies)	6.00 p.m	4800 Ltrs
Sept. 25	Singh Nagar Masid Rd	9.00 a.m.	4800 Ltrs
	Vombay Colony Main Rd	11.00 a.m.	4800 Ltrs
	Vombay Colony Railway Track	1.45 p.m.	4800 Ltrs
	Vombay Colony Huts	3.00 p.m.	4800 Ltrs
	Radha Nagar	5.00 p.m	4800 Ltrs
	Rajeev Nagar	6.30 p.m.	4800 Ltrs
Sept. 26	Vidya Nagar	9.00 a.m.	4800 Ltrs
	Vombay Colony	10.00 a.m.	4800 Ltrs
	Prakash Nagar	2.30 p.m.	4800 Ltrs
	Prajashakthi Nagar	5.00 p.m.	4800 Ltrs
	Vombay Colony	6.30 p.m.	4800 Ltrs

ASM's RURAL FLOOD RELIEF & REHABILITATION WORK



In order to reach out to the flood victims, Arthik Samata Mandal collaborated with OXFAM GB and PLAN International who were very active in recognizing the situation and the dire need of acting with redoubled vigor to reach out to the rural Krishna flood victims.

With its previous disaster management experience, ASM tapped its personnel who are highly experienced in the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction work. Apart from ASM staff, the services of the local village volunteers, women Self Help Groups, CBOs, PRI Institutions and Youth Groups were utilized for qualitative outreach.

ASM along with OXFAM GB which is one of the prime signatory of SPHERE International Standards and a relief & development agency, and PLAN International which is the largest child sponsorship organization in the world undertook the relief and rehabilitation work in 22 villages in Krishna & Guntur districts of Andhra Pradesh.

RELIEF WORK WITH THE HELP OF OXFAM GB

ASM undertook relief work through OXFAM in 10 villages covering a population of 7300 in the Krishna & Guntur districts. The main focal point was women headed families (widowed, unwed, deserted etc), worst affected, differently abled and elderly. The following are the villages wherein the relief and rehabilitation work was undertaken:

S.No.	Name of the Village	Mandal	District	Families
1.	Amudalalanka	Challapalli	Krishna	265
2.	Surapanenipalem	Ghantasala	Krishna	151
3.	Dakshina Chiruvolulanka	Avanigadda	Krishna	186
4.	Regulalanka	Avanigadda	Krishna	140
5.	Kokkiligadd Kottapalem	Mopideevi	Krishna	293
6.	Ravilanka	Kolluru	Guntur	86
7.	Lachiganilanka	Challapalli	Krishna	29
8.	Padavalareevu	Nagayalanka	Krishna	145
9.	Voduguvanipalem	Avanigadda	Krishna	70
10.	Pathakota	Avanigadda	Krishna	85
	TOTAL			1450



RATIONALE FOR SELECTION OF THE VILLAGES:

After the Krishna River Floods, ASM immediately conducted field visits to identify the most affected villages. In order to reach out to the worst affected victims, ASM had to come up with the Village Priority Process focussing on the following indicators:

- q Visible impact of the inundation of the flood water on livestock and food security.
- q Over flowing of open tanks.
- q Villages which are remote.
- q No other help has reached the villages.
- q Riverline and Riverbed & Island villages which are on the banks of River Krishna.

RATIONALE FOR SELECTION OF THE BENEFICIARIES:

- q Families which are below poverty line.
- q Women Headed Families.
- q Presence of Old people in the family.
- q Presence of differently abled children and elders in the family.
- q Economically backward communities.
- q Fisherfolk, riverline and riverbed agriculture dependent families.



Pre-distribution Work:

- q Formation of Relief Committee at the Organization Level.
- q Field visits were undertaken by the Relief Committee to get first hand information about the flood situation in the River Krishna so that necessary relief actions could be planned.
- q Formation of a Relief Management Team consisting of Village Volunteers and Orientation to them on Red Cross Code of Conduct, Relief Logistics and Beneficiary Identification Process.

- q Identification of the most affected beneficiaries through door to door survey.
- q Women headed families (widows, single mothers, unwed mothers etc...) as well as the worst affected families to be the receivers of the relief kit.
- q Distribution of Tokens containing information about the recipient's name, number of family members which are like "Tickets to avail Relief Material"



ఆర్థిక సమతా మండలి వరద బాధితుల సహాయం
Arthik Samata Mandal Flood Relief Work

కృష్ణా వరదలు - సెప్టెంబర్ 2005
River Krishna Floods - September, 2005

లబ్ధిదారుని పేరు :
Beneficiary Name

భర్త / తండ్రి పేరు :
Husband / Father Name

టోకెన్ నెం :
Token No.

గ్రామము :
Village

టీమ్ లీడర్ సంతకం
Team Leader Signature



- q Formation of a Purchase Committee comprising of the Chief Functionary, Accounts Personnel, Program Staff and Field Representative.
- q Ordering for Food and Relief Kits of the best quality possible within the allocated resources through Government Cooperative: Vijaya Krishna Super Bazaar in Vijayawada.
- q Labeling and packing of food items with the help of ASM staff, local and international volunteers.

- q Identification of days, time and places of distribution which is convenient to the villagers.
- q Transportation of Material from Vijayawada to Srikakulam and to the Villages.

The Relief Kit:

OXFAM GB maintaining the International Sphere Standards designed the relief kit to meet the Food Security and Health Concerns of the local communities in an emergency situation so that the communities basic needs are met with so that they can recoup themselves.

The kit was divided into three components:

1. A Rice Bag
2. A sack containing pulses, edible palm oil, chilli powder, salt, potatoes and tamarind
3. A bucket with a lid which included bathing soaps, washing soaps, mug, Zeoline Water Purifier, tooth powder, hair oil, comb and sterilized cotton bandage.

OXFAM FAMILY RELIEF KIT **Food and Nutrition Items**

S.No.	Item	Quantity
1.	Rice	20 Kgs
2.	Pulses	7 Kgs
3.	Edible Palm Oil	1 Litre
4.	Chilli Powder	200 Grams
5.	Salt	1 Kg
6.	Potatoe	3 Kgs
7.	Tamarind	500 Grams

Water and Sanitation Items

1.	Bucket with Lid	1
2.	Mug	1
3.	Sterilized Cotton & Bandage	1
4.	Comb	1
5.	Hair Oil	200 Grams
6.	Bathing Soaps	4
7.	Washing Soaps	4
8.	Tooth Powder	200 Grams
9.	Zeoline	150 ML.

During the Distribution:

- q Organizing a Public Meeting in the village and explaining about the source of help, what the kit contains and how to use Zeoline and on general health awareness.
- q Calling out 10 names as a batch to guide them to the point where the kit as being distributed so that chaos is avoided.
- q Second verification of the beneficiary by way of collecting the Tokens and cross-checking of beneficiaries by the Local Committee Members & ASM staff.
- q Handing over 3 items (Rice Bag, A packet containing other food items and A bucket with a lid containing hygiene items).
- q Helping out the old, differently abled and aged by way of handing over the kits in their homes



Pregnant and lactating mothers: In order to address the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating mothers in emergency situations, special kits containing rice, groundnuts, jaggery, tamarind, sunflower oil and wheat flour were provided to 45 pregnant women & 95 lactating mothers in 8 villages.

POST RELIEF PERIOD:

Health and hygiene awareness through village cleaning:

- Identification of villages that require disinfection with the help of local volunteers and village elders.
- Calling for a village meeting to address the issue in a collective manner.
- Buying of supplies required for disinfection.
- Setting dates for village cleaning work.
- First step was cleaning the village drainage system so that the water is drained out.
- Spraying of disinfectants in the areas where mosquito nests are visible.
- Encouraging participation of village youth, children, women & men irrespective of gender bias.
- Cutting down branches of trees that are potential threats to the safety of the villagers in the event of a future disaster.
- Special attention paid in cleaning near the drinking water source points.



Village Cleaning Work



The village cleaning process was initiated as a part of the OXFAM Post-Flood Relief Work, which brought out good response among the communities as they realized the need to work collectively to address their own concerns, especially during and after a disaster period.

PROCESS:

- ◆ The villages where the relief work was conducted were identified as the needy areas for further cleaning work.
- ◆ In order to carry out this activity, ASM identified village volunteers as the source points who in turn were responsible for roping in a cross section of people at the village level to participate in the cleaning process.
- ◆ A particular date was fixed for the work.
- ◆ Disinfectants were given to all the villages.
- ◆ With the support of the Village Sarpanch, School Teacher, Village Elders and the Village Volunteer, the community undertook the cleaning work.

GROUND WORK:

- ◆ With the help of village volunteers and the teachers, meetings were organized in the villages to create a general awareness on health and personal hygiene, nutrition, general awareness to pregnant and lactating mothers and the need to keep their surroundings clean.
- ◆ Representatives were identified from SHGs, Youth, Children, Elders, so that a collective responsibility is initiated.
- ◆ Identifying areas which required immediate cleaning.
- ◆ Culling down of branches and bushes which were over grown.
- ◆ Draining of water from the stagnated points.
- ◆ Cleaning the drainages.
- ◆ Spraying of disinfectants in the villages especially in the places where the chances of malaria outburst is expected.
- ◆ Cleaning the places around the hand pumps and water pumps which are the main source of drinking water
- ◆ Cleaning of areas where open defecation takes place.
- ◆ Cleaning of school premises and low lying areas in the villages.

RELIEF WORK WITH THE HELP OF PLAN INTERNATIONAL



ASM with the support of PLAN International further expanded its flood relief activities in 12 flood inundated riverline & island villages in the Lanka Lands which were one of the worst affected areas in the Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh, India. ASM's relief work with the help of PLAN International spread across Krishna and Guntur Districts to reach out to 1774 families in 4 Mandals covering approximately 9000 population. The process of identification of beneficiaries & distribution method is the same as mentioned earlier in the report. The following are the villages which were covered under the relief program supported by PLAN:

S.No.	Name of the Village	Mandal	District	Families
01.	Bassumantla	Avanigadda	Krishna	85
02.	Malapalli & Pallipalem	Mopideevi	Krishna	180
03.	Paataedlalanka	Avanigadda	Krishna	307
04.	Pallepalem	Avanigadda	Krishna	282
05.	Mattigudem	Challapalli	Krishna	189
06.	Medilanka	Avanigadda	Krishna	21
07.	Patakota	Avanigadda	Krishna	150
08.	Pallepalem	Kolluru	Guntur	88
09.	Patamalapalli	Kolluru	Guntur	130
10.	Kottagudem	Kolluru	Guntur	99
11.	Chinnamalapalli	Kolluru	Guntur	153
12.	Kottamalapalli	Kolluru	Guntur	90
	TOTAL			1774



The point of distribution of the relief material was at Arthik Samata Mandal's Srikakulam Campus, Krishna District as the campus is centrally located to all the villages. The PLAN International's Relief Kit included 25 kgs. Rice, 2 Kgs Cereal (Dal), 1 Kg. Tamarind and 1 Kg Oil.

Milk Distribution:

In order to ensure that children could maintain their nutritional intake especially during disaster period, ASM came out with an initiative of distributing milk to 1000 families. Four litres of milk was distributed per family to 1000 families per day with half litre per day for 8 days. Distribution was carried out through the local committees which included people who had milch animals so as to promote greater community responsibility during humanitarian response. This also ensured that the families which distributed milk received income during the period apart from providing the service.

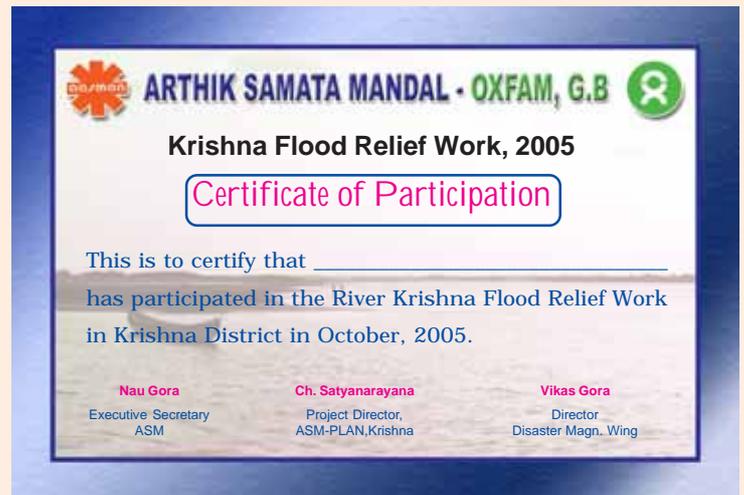
Government Recognition of the Relief Work:

The Government of Andhra Pradesh recognized the efforts of ASM in terms of its relief work and an Appreciative Memento was presented by Mr. Sushil Kumar Shinde, Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh on October 6, 2005. Mr. Naveen Mittal, Krishna District Collector and other MLAs and M.Ps are present on the stage. The local Government officials and departments have extended commendable help to ASM all through the relief work.





COLLECTIVE EFFORTS



MEDIA OUTREACH





Thank you all... now it is time for me to go back to school !

ASM is a non governmental Gandhian Organisation founded by Gora and J.C. Kumarappa, well known Gandhians. ASM is registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 in 1978.

Regd. No. : 45

FCRA No. : 010260025

ARTHIK SAMATA MANDAL

Atheist Centre, Benz Circle, Vijayawada 520 010, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA

Ph: +91-866-2476264

Fax: +91-866-2493830

Email: arthiksamata@yahoo.com

Website: www.arthiksamata.org