

# THE HINDU

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### Amrita varsity students to assist in relief

By Our Staff Reporter

COIMBATORE, DEC. 31 . A large number of students and staff from the Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham Deemed University left Coimbatore on Wednesday, to assist in the relief operations in Cuddalore and Nagappattinam, badly hit by the killer tidal waves on Sunday.

A release said that students were already carrying out relief work at Ervanoor, Kottilamedu, Karimbukattukuppom, Kovalam and other villages in the suburbs of Chennai.

Three truck loads of rice and other food items, emergency supplies, medicines and clothes left the university campus on Tuesday, for Chennai, where the Mata Amritanandamayi Math has been providing food to 18,000 people daily, since the disaster.

#### Medical team

Besides three full meals a day, the math has provided refugees with potable water, blankets, sarees, dhotis and other clothes. The math is cooking food at a central kitchen and transporting supplies through math vehicles to the relief camps. A medical team is also rendering service and prescribing medicines wherever necessary.

These efforts began on the day of the disaster, when Mata Amritanandamayi instructed all her ashrams in Chennai, Coimbatore and Pondicherry to contribute and participate in the relief operations.

In addition, the math has planned to build houses for the victims. Under the Amrita Kuteeram scheme, the math has already built 30,000 houses all over the country for the poor, tribals, slum dwellers and needy people. This scheme would be extended to the tsunami survivors.

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Amritapuri at Kollam, the headquarters of the Amritanandamayi Math, has become the centre for relief operations by the organisation, in Kerala. Over 10,000 village people were staying in relief camps on the Amrita



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University campus, and at other places. They had been given food, medicine, clothes and blankets.

In one of the worst affected villages, Azhikkal, where every house has been damaged, the ashram sent emergency food and supplies on hearing that no relief had reached the survivors.

Six ambulances from the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences in Kochi visited the relief camps every two hours, provided treatment and distributed medicines. Students from the Amritapuri campus are also participating in the relief operations.

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