These islands source of
^Pondicherry varsity's Coastal Disaster Management department
S. Dorairaj

PUDUCHERRY: "The Andaman
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*and professor of Coastal Di-
, saster Management Depart-
ment of Pondicherry

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University in Port Blair N.
Ramanujam.)
He told The Hindu here on
\ Sunday that the university,
which opened the depart-

ment in June last year, had
already established a well-
equipped remote sensing lab-
oratory in Port Blair, besides
sanctioning Rs.3 crore to pro-
cure sophisticated geophysi-
cal equipment.
Highlighting the signifi-
cance of the activities of the
Coastal Disaster Manage-
ment department, he said a
majority of the Indian States
had been affected by natural
hazards such as earthquakes,
tsunami, landslides, floods,
drought, cyclones and coastal
erosion.

In recent years, the fre-
quency of natural hazards
had increased manifold with
the developing countries es-
pecially in the Asian region
bearing the brunt of these di-
sasters, he pointed out.The

great 2004 Andaman earth-
quake, which was responsible
for 2,30,000 fatalities and
huge loss of property had pro-
vided a great deal to the scien-
tific community to learn
more about the tectonic im-
plications with socio-eco-
nomic development of the
nation, Prof.Ramanujam
said.

Disaster prevention
Experts had underscored
the need to focus on disaster
prevention and mitigation
rather than disaster re-
sponse, he added. Many
countries had recognised that
disasters must be identified
locally and the community
must be well-informed about
disaster preparedness and
alert in time, he said.

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tectonic information
sets up a remote sensing laboratory in Port Blair

Submergence of land in south Andaman owing to tectonic activities.
- PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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