

Kochi, Idukki, Opening of shutter of Idamalayar Dam

Dist readies water release response

Maximum Water-Level Rise In Periyar River To Be Less Than 1.5m

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: The district administration said there is no need to panic as all safety precautions have been taken prior to the opening of shutters of Idamalayar dam.

District collector K Mohammed Y Safirulla has warned people against venturing into Periyar River and its tributaries from 5am on Thursday. The warning comes in the wake of the decision to open the shutters of Idamalayar dam at 6am on Thursday. The warning would stay till official communication from district administration.

According to disaster management officials, more than 200 camps will be set up in six taluks including Kothamangalam, Paravur, Kanayannoor, Kochi and Aluva. "As per official estimate around 40,000 people in the district would be affected when dam shutters are opened. To deal with the situation we have set up country boats for evacuation drive. Tahasildars in six taluks will monitor the situation," said an official with district emergency operation centre (DEOC).

District control room officials in Kakkannad said around 54 gram panchayats in the district will be affected if the dam shutters are opened. Collector warned stringent action against those who spread false information regarding opening of dams. Administration has launched a toll-free number 1077 to connect with DEOC control room.

The irrigation department opened 21 shutters of Puralakkavu bridge-cum-regulator, nine shutters of Manjummel bridge-cum-regulator and 13 shutters of Pathalam bridge-cum-regulator located in Periyar river. The average width of Periyar river is between 100-200m in most places.

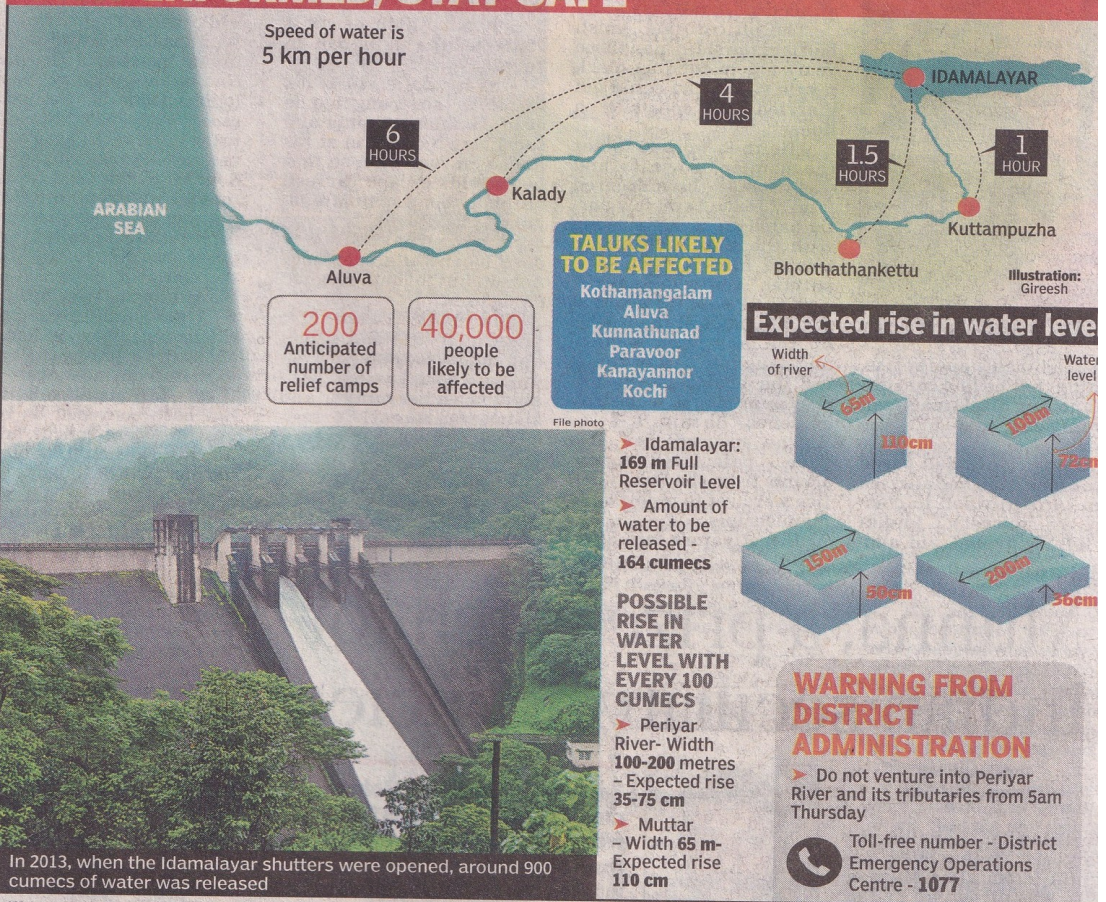
If 100 cubic metre per second (cumecs) of water speeding at 5km per hour is released from the Idamalayar dam, there is high chance of water level in Periyar increasing by 35 to 75 cm. But the average width of Muttar river, which is the tributary of Periyar is 65 m. So, with 100 cumecs of water, Muttar water level will reach up to 110 cm.

If 100 cumecs is released from Idamalayar dam then the water level of Muttar river

will increase (up to 110 cm). In places near Muttar River, including low-lying areas in Eloor and Kalamassery municipality and Karumalloor grama panchayat, there is a strong chance of flooding. Those living on the both sides of Periyar River have been asked to exercise caution.

KSEB said the Ernakulam district administration that 164 cumecs of water will be released when the shutters are opened. With this, the water level in Periyar river will increase by 1m to 1.5m. In 2013, when the Idamalayar was opened, around 900 cumecs of water was released. The released water is expected to reach Kuttampuzha in one hour, Bhoothathankettu in 1.5 hours, Perumbavoor/Kalady in four hours and Aluva in six hours.

STAY INFORMED, STAY SAFE



Central team visits flood-hit areas

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Kochi: A specially appointed inter-ministerial delegation from the Centre visited flood-affected areas in Chellanam and Kunnukara in Paravur on Wednesday to assess monsoon damages.

The team led by B K Srivastava, deputy director, Union ministry of agriculture, Narsi Ram Meena, deputy director, Union ministry of power and V V Shastri, regional transport officer, Union ministry of surface transport, interacted with district administration officials and residents in Chellanam and Kunnukara.

The members of the West

Water enters house, man dies

Kochi: A 67-year-old man died allegedly seeing rain water entering his house at Manikandanchal on Wednesday. The deceased has been identified as Varghese of Thaliyamparambil House.

As Manikandanchal causeway has been submerged due to heavy rain on Wednesday, Varghese relatives could not take him to the hospital. **TNN**

Kochi Theeradesha Samrakshana Samithi requested the team to take immediate

steps to construct seawall and breakwaters in Chellanam coast. The team said that they will submit a report soon.

Prior to their field visit district collector K Mohammed Y Safirulla gave a brief presentation to the team on the losses suffered by the district. Safirulla informed the committee that this year the district received 18.97% excess rainfall compared to previous years.

The officials with revenue department said due to incessant rains and gusty winds 26 houses were completely destroyed and 506 houses were partially destroyed.