

# Thiruvananthapuram: Kuttanad, 198 Hamlets in State Hit by Flood : Cabinet

## Kuttanad relief measures unveiled

### 198 Hamlets In State Hit By Flood: Cabinet

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Thiruvananthapuram:** The state cabinet on Wednesday announced a range of initiatives for the flood-hit Kuttanad, including infrastructural support and short-term and long-term restoration measures.

The cabinet declared 198 villages in the state as flood-hit, they include all the villages in Alappuzha and Kottayam districts and five in Pathanamthitta.

The government also appointed Alappuzha collector S Suhas as the nodal officer for coordinating various flood relief operations in the three districts. "The collapse of bunds is a major problem in Kuttanad during monsoons. The government will fully fund the restoration of the bunds and 20% of the funds will be released soon," said chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan after the cabinet meeting.

The chief minister said

### ONE-YEAR MORATORIUM ON FARM LOANS

► The cabinet has announced both infrastructural support and short-term and long-term restoration measures

► The state disaster management authority has been asked to set up a system for estimating rise of water levels in rivers by assessing the rainfall in catchment areas

► Elevated multi-purpose buildings with community kitchen and solar power facilities which can be used as relief camps are also under consideration

► Another project on anvil is a permanent drinking water supply system



► The cabinet also decided to provide relief till January for paying power and water bills for those in the flood-hit areas

► Government has also waived off the fee for getting various new certificates for those who have lost them in the flood

**“The collapse of bunds is a major problem in Kuttanad during monsoons. The government will fully fund the restoration of the bunds**

**Pinarayi Vijayan,**  
CHIEF MINISTER

that the state disaster management authority has been entrusted with the task of utilizing technology for estimating the rise of water levels in the rivers flowing through Alappuz-

ha district by assessing the rainfall in the catchment area of the rivers. He said that the government is also considering constructing elevated multi-purpose buildings with com-

munity kitchen and solar power facilities which can be used as relief camps. Also, all houses with flood-damaged floors will be provided coir mats.

The education department is working on ways to make up for the school days lost in Kuttanad and surrounding areas, the chief minister said. He added that a permanent comprehensive drinking water supply system is also on the anvil for Kuttanad.

Vijayan urged those interested in volunteering for cleaning up Kuttanad to get in touch with the district collector. He said that hospitals and health centres will be equipped to provide treatment for snakebites which are likely to be reported in large numbers after the water subsides.

He said that the bridges in Kuttanad will have to be rebuilt in such a way that the boats can pass under them even when the water level has risen. In addition, the roads also will be rebuilt with the assistance from Nabard.

The cabinet also decided to provide one-year moratorium for agriculture loans and also relief till January for paying power and water bills for those in the flood-hit areas. In addition, the government has waived off the fee for getting various new certificates for those who have lost them in the flood.