

Thiruvananthapuram: Idukki, A Decision On the Trial Run At Idukki Dam

State Disaster Management Authority Yet To Take A Decision On The Trial Run At Idukki Dam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Thiruvananthapuram:** With heavy rain making a sudden comeback, KSEB and district administrations concerned have sounded red alerts to people living in the downstream areas of Idamalayar and Kakki hydroelectric dams. Since water in these dams have crossed the safe storage marks, excess water will be released in a restrictive manner on Thursday morning to maintain water at a safer level.

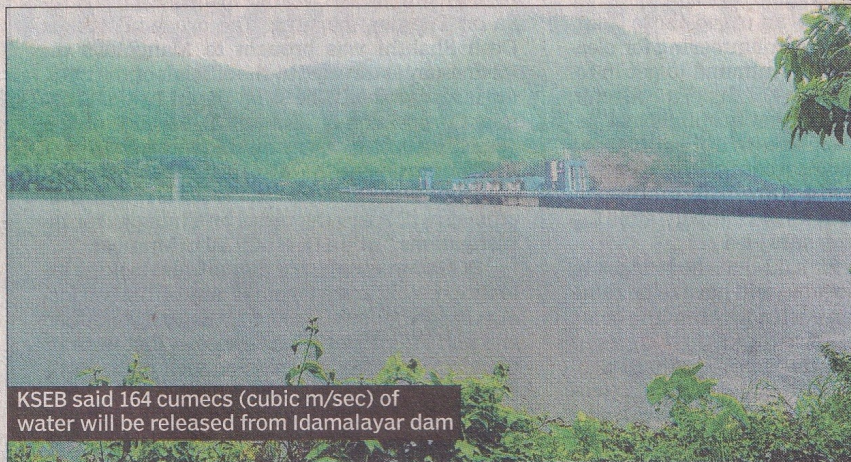
The executive committee meeting of state disaster management authority, chaired by chief secretary Tom Jose, on Wednesday evening reviewed the arrangements in place for draining the excess water and assessed possible impact after the dam shutters are opened. Since water level in Idamalayar dam is increasing steadily, a decision was taken to prepone shutter operations from 8am to 6am.

KSEB said 164 cumecs (cubic m/sec) of water will be released from Idamalayar dam and water level in the Periyar is likely to go up by 1-1.5m. "The released water may reach Aluva in five to six hours," said KSEB in its red alert. The shutters of the dam were last opened in 2013 to release 900 cumecs. "If water level rises to 170m before 6am on Thursday, only one shutter will be operated and 82 cumecs of water will be released. Water level increase due to this limited release is estimated to be contained within the river banks," assessed the disaster management authority.

No decision was taken on Idukki dam which is also gravitating towards a red alert situation. Though a decision was taken last week to perform a trial run when the level touched 2,398ft, the disaster management authority decided that the same would be considered only after assessing the situation on a concurrent basis. "Since there is a red alert for the Idamalayar dam situation, trial run decided earlier for Idukki reservoir at 2,398ft will be decided after assessing the situation on a concurrent basis. It will be announced, if necessary," said sources.

However, as a preliminary step, the board is likely to perform a trial run at Idukki dam in the next couple of days. As per a decision taken at a high-level meeting chaired by chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan last week, KSEB may perform a trial run for four hours and see how the water flows downstream. Red alert, in the case of Idukki dam, would be issued only if water level crosses 2398ft.

"Water level in Kakki dam (part of Sa-



KSEB said 164 cumecs (cubic m/sec) of water will be released from Idamalayar dam

WATER LEVEL IN HYDRO-ELECTRIC DAMS

Dam	FRL	Current level
Idukki	732m	730 m (93%)
Pamba	986m	982m (96%)
Sholayar	811m	811m (100%)
Idamalayar	169m	169m (100%)
Kuttiady	758m	757m (93%)
Thariyode	775m	775m (100%)
Peringal	423m	423m (100%)

barigiri hydel project) has crossed 980.9m. Since it is likely to cross the full reservoir level (FRL) of 981.46m in a few hours, third phase of the red alert is declared. The shutters of Anathode dam will be lifted and excess water will flow to Kakki/Pamba rivers," said officials. "Considering the rain in catchment area and water inflow to the dam, around 154 cumecs will be let out. Consequently, water level in Kakki/Pamba rivers is likely to go up by 1.5m," said the red alert issued by KSEB. Opening of Kakki dam is likely to be less troublesome as KSEB indulges in such exercise often to regulate the water level in the Pamba during Sabarimala pilgrimage season.

With heavy rain in the catchment areas of Banasura Sagar dam in Wayanad causing excess inflow of water into the reservoir, KSEB has opened all the four shutters of the dam. KSEB said 162 cumecs will be released to maintain water level at full reservoir limit of the dam.

Three killed in rain-related mishaps

**Kannur/Alappuzha:** Two people were killed following a rainfall-induced landslide in Ayyankunnu panchayat under Karikkottakkari police limits in Kannur on Wednesday evening. According to authorities, the deceased were identified as Kizhanganam native Immattikkal Thomas and his daughter-in-law Shyni Jaison.

Peravoor MLA Sunny Joseph, who led the rescue operations, said the mishap happened around 6pm after their house collapsed in the landslip, following which a concrete slab of the house fell on them. The bodies have been shifted to Iritty taluk hospital.

Meanwhile in Alappuzha, a 92-year-old woman drowned in a small canal adjacent to her house at Paravoor, Punnapra on Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Meenakshi from Punnapra North grama panchayat. She was reported missing early on Wednesday. Family members, neighbours and fire and rescue personnel conducted a search to locate her. The body was found around 9am. Her body was handed over to her kin after completing legal and medical formalities, police said. **TNN**