

16 July 2018

Kerala, Heavy Rainfall, Widespread Damage

It's pouring; more rain in store; holiday declared; warning issued

'Heavy rainfall'

T'Puram: The IMD Centre here has issued a heavy rainfall warning for the state till Wednesday. 'Very heavy rainfall' (12 cm to 20 cm) is likely to occur in one or two places in the state on Wednesday, the IMD said in a bulletin.



2 people died in rain-related accidents in the state on Sunday

Avoid trip to high range

The State Disaster Management Authority has advised the public to restrict travel to the high range between 7 pm and 7 am in view of landslide threat. The public has also been warned against visiting beaches.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ T'Puram

TWO people died and normal life was sent into disarray as incessant rain lashed most parts of the state on Sunday. There seems to be no respite as the IMD has issued a heavy-rainfall warning till Wednesday.

Subhadra, 62, from fishermen colony at Makkekkadavu, Alappuzha was electrocuted in the morning. Sithara, 20, of Aryaparamba was killed on the Iritty-Peravoor road after a tree fell over an autorickshaw in which she was travelling in with her parents at Kallerimala near Kannur.

The State Disaster Management Authority has warned people living on the banks of the rivers and canals about rising water levels. In many districts, shutters of dams have been lifted. People living in the high ranges have been warned to be on guard against landslides. They have also been asked to follow official instructions regarding evacuation when required. The members of the public have also been warned against visiting spots where floods or landslips have occurred. Several low-lying areas in the state were inundated while traffic got disrupted at many places.

A holiday has been declared for educational institutions in eight districts — Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Idukki, Ernakulam and Thrissur on Monday in view of the forecast. P5

With a lamp in hand, they burn the midnight oil

A SATISH @ Palakkad

MAYBE because they are doing their work so meticulously and quietly that we do not know there exists such a group of men. But for a railway track maintainer who night-patrols during monsoon with a hand signal (HS) lamp being his lone companion, every minute is significant.

For his job is tough and responsible, as a minor lapse can put the lives of hundreds on the line. While the maintainers are quite aware of it, they are disappointed as they feel the authorities concerned are not acknowledging the sincere work they

have been doing braving hostile conditions.

Night-patrolling is done for a 75-day period from the first week of June to alert the trains on waterlogging and falling of trees on tracks. Patrolling is done during daytime for the rest of the year.

A track maintainer has to walk a total of 8 km. While there is only one trackman during day, night shifts have two.

"The rule says if one maintainer does a night shift, he should be rested the following day. But we're now made to work for 7-8 nights at a stretch due to lack of adequate staff," said a maintainer at Palakkad division. • More on P6