

HOW THE SITUATION IN IDUKKI COMPARES WITH PAST FLOODS

Kochi: James Wilson, and expert on dam safety and an officer



at the Kerala government's special cell on the Mullaperiyar Dam water dispute, gave his perspective on the Idukki dam situation through a series of tweets on Sunday. 'Express' compiled his view on how the rising reservoir level at Idukki compares with the past floods.

1924 FLOOD

In July, 1924, Peermade Residency recorded a rainfall of 120 inches, ie., 3,048 mm in a month. Four lakh cusecs of water were discharged to Aluva, which submerged the entire Aluva-Perumbavoor Road. If 16 TMC (thousand million cubic feet), contained in 13 days from July 15, 2018, was to be discharged to Vembanad wetland (which has less than 2 TMC of storage), upper Kuttanad would be fully submerged. That is Idukki's (dam's) hidden benefit.

1961 FLOOD

The worst flood Kerala witnessed before Idukki and Idamalayar reservoirs came into the picture was in 1961. The first week of July, 1961, saw around 40.5 cms of rain in just 24 hours.

2005 FLOOD

During the 2005, CWC gauging station at Kalady recorded an inflow of 84,437 cusecs of water.

Mullaperiyar started spilling.

Idukki & Idamalayar absorbed 47,493 cusecs.

If Idukki & Idamalayar dams didn't exist, 1,31,930 cusecs of water would have flown into Periyar. Kochi would have been worst hit than Mumbai.



A chill will pass through our spines reading old records of 1924 flood ...Are we ready to negotiate even half of that flood? How will Kochi survive such a flood in future?
— James Wilson

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Compares with Past Flood 1924