

KSEB sits pretty, daily internal power generation touches 40 MU

As on Sunday, the hydel dams had enough water to generate a record 3,722 MU of power

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @TPuram

WITH the southwest monsoon turning on the taps in full force over Kerala, internal power generation has touched 40 million units (MU) a day, the highest in recent years. Compare this with the rain-starved summer months when the KSEB goes into frantic conservation mode at its hydel reservoirs, with internal generation is locked at 8-10 MU daily.

On July 27, Friday, power consumption in the state stood at 64 MU of which 40.15 MU was generated internally from hydel and other sources.

With most of the hydel reservoirs full or approaching the limit, hydropower alone contributed 38.35 MU of the total internal generation on Friday. This has

HYDEL DAM STORAGE (IN MCM)		
Dams/Reservoirs	Full capacity	Current storage
Idukki	1,460	1,305.06
Sholayar	149.2	149.23
Idamalayar	1,017.8	931.38
Matupetty	55.2	45.4
Kuttiadi	33.9	32.45
Tharlude	201	201
Peringalkuthu	30.3	30.3

also helped the KSEB to cut down on power imports. Generally the state depends on power purchases from the central generating

Collector: Security will be tightened before opening Mullaperiyar dam shutters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Idukki

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The Collector was speaking

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The Collector was speaking at the emergency meeting convened by him at the Vandiperiyar panchayat hall to discuss and evaluate the arrangements regarding the preventive measures and actions to be taken before the shutters of the Mullaperiyar dam are opened.

He said the shutters of the

dam will be opened only when the water level reaches the maximum storage capacity of 142 ft. "The first warning will be issued once the water level reaches 136 ft. The public will be continuously informed as the water level goes on increasing," he said.

The Collector said the public must not be worried by the false messages spreading through social media. "If the district dam will be opened only when the water level reaches the maximum storage capacity of 142 ft. "The first warning will be issued once the water level reaches 136 ft. The public will be continuously informed as the water level goes on increasing," he said.

The Collector said the public must not be worried by the false messages spreading through social media. "If the district administration plans to open the shutters of the dam, the officials concerned will do it only after officially informing the public," he said.

RDO M P Vinod has been given the charge to coordinate the activities of various departments.

CM WARNS AGAINST SELFIE TRIPS TO IDUKKI

TPuram: Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has asked people to avoid 'selfie trips' to Idukki in the wake of the decision to open the Idukki dam's shutters. "The State Disaster Management Authority has warned against permitting travellers. Hence people are requested to avoid sightseeing and selfie trips to the region," he said in an FB post.

The government has taken all precautionary steps ahead of the dam's opening. Idukki District Disaster Management Authority has been asked to restrict travellers to Vazhathoppu, Mariyapuram, Kanjikuzhi, Vathikudi and Konnathadi panchayats. People should not be allowed in groups at different places and bridges in the downstream and people's presence should be controlled on river banks and bridges with the help of the police, according to safety advisory.

NDRF TEAMS DEPLOYED

Kochi: The State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) has deployed two NDRF teams for rescue operations in the event of any untoward incidents arising out of the opening of the Mullaperiyar dam. While one team is stationed at the Aluva youth hostel, the second team has been positioned at Thrissur. According to the SDMA, one team will reach Idukki late on Sunday evening. Meanwhile, four fully equipped Naval teams are on standby. The Coast Guard too is geared up, with its vessels patrolling the coastline and backwaters. The district administration has opened emergency operations centre at the Civil station. Phone number: 0484-1077, 7902200300, 7902200400, 0484-2423513.

water to generate 3,722 MU, which is also a record in recent years, though it is not an all-time record for the KSEB. Last year, storage had stood at 1,039 MU on the same day. "This, however, is the highest water level ever recorded in July. Usually, in a good year, the storage achieves this level during September-October, during the northeast monsoon," said S R Anand, Deputy Chief Engineer, State Load Despatch Centre (Grid).

The Idukki dam, which has grabbed headlines for its high water levels this monsoon has stored water upto 2402.7 feet, but it occurred at a point when the monsoon rainfall was tapering off. This year, the water levels are already high when a lot more of the monsoon remains.

People of Idukki keep their fingers crossed

NEIMA SULAIMAN @Idukki

IF THE dam was opened, thousands of people will be affected by the swelling waters between Thadyambad, Karimban and Injivarakkuth areas near Cheruthoni that lie on the banks of the Cheruthoni River, through which the released water from the dam should flow.

Though the district administration has identified centres to be opened as temporary shelters, it will be a difficult task considering the large number of people to be rehabilitated. Since a majority of the residents here are poor people, they said they cannot afford a new house and will have to spend sleepless nights at the refugee camps.

Fifty-two-year-old Sulaikha, of Kandathinkaravil house, Cheruthoni, told Express she will have to shift her two daughters to the relief camp once the dam shutters are opened. Sulaikha, who is a widow, has been living here for the past 30 years. She said if the authorities are releasing water all at once, she would lose every-

thing which she has saved through her lifetime.

"When the shutters of the dam were opened last in 1992, our houses and properties were severely damaged. However, we overcame the crisis years after," she said, pointing at her ramshackle house.

It is the same case with many other families living on the banks of the Cheruthoni River.

Sulaikha's neighbour Thankachan said the open well were opened last in 1992, our houses and properties were severely damaged. However, we overcame the crisis years after," she said, pointing at her ramshackle house.

It is the same case with many other families living on the banks of the Cheruthoni River.

Sulaikha's neighbour Thankachan said the open well he dug a few years ago will get filled in the flood, which he will have to dig again after the water recedes. This will be the second time he would be digging since the opening of the dam shutters in 1992. The heavy rain has also resulted in a sudden rise in the water level in the Mullaperiyar dam as well. The water level in the Mullaperiyar dam was 135.09 ft against the full reservoir level of 142 ft on Sunday.

An official of the revenue department said that all precautionary measures have been taken in view of the rising water level in the two dams.



Sulaikha stands in front of her ramshackle house at Cheruthoni, afraid that she would lose her house and property once the shutters of the Cheruthoni dam are opened | RAMESH SIVAN