Indian Express 31 July 2018 Idukki; Before Flood, Shutter opening, Water Level

Alert is out. Countdown begins to shutter opening

2,395-ft

mark was breached on Monday forcing the District Collector to issue orange alert

135.80 ft

is the new water level in the Mullaperiyar dam after it came down from Saturday's 135.95 ft NEJMA SULAIMAN @Idukki

AN orange alert is out, with the District Collector Jeevan Babu K issuing it at 9.10 pm on Monday. Should the rain remain incessant, people settled downstream of Cheruthoni Dam—particularly in the Thadiyampadu, Karimban and Injivarakkuth areas on the banks of the Cheruthoni River—have two or three days to move out of their homes and shelters.

While clarifying there was no need to panic, the district administration issued the alert after the water level ORANGE

crossed 2395 ft. With the catchment areas of the dam receiving heavy rainfall over the past several days, the water level in the dam has been increasing considerably.

"The water level is inching towards the full reservoir mark," said a Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) officer

"It has now crossed 2,395 ft and is going up by 0.06 to 0.08 ft every two hours. The rise in the level by two more feet will lead to declaration of the Red Alert. The full reservoir level is 2,403 ft, but we will start opening the shutters when the water level goes above 2,397 ft. If the inflow into the reservoir continues at the current rate, we may have to open the shutters within two days."

• More on P6