

# People rescued from Ranni, Pathanamthitta reach capital

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Thiruvananthapuram:** A total of 4,647 persons were shifted to relief camps in the district on Thursday. As many as 1,330 families are being housed in 71 relief camps.

In Thiruvananthapuram taluk 1992 persons are housed in 32 relief camps while 1,810 persons are housed in nine relief camps in Neyyattinkara taluk. At the same time 1,094 persons from five camps are located in Chirayinkeezhu taluk while camps at Kattakada, Nedumangad and Varkala have 1256, 475 and 49 persons respectively.

Thiruvananthapuram taluk has the most number of relief camps. The camp functioning at Vivekananda bookstall has the highest number of people, 52 families are housed in this camp. Taluk offices have been entrusted with distribution of food and water. The service of medical teams is also being ensured.

The district administration has banned mining activities in the district and tourism in hilly and waterbodies. Emergency repair teams of KSEB and PWD are ready and administration has directed tahsildars and village officers to open more relief camps if necessary. The supply officers have been directed to stock 100kg rice, 50kg green gram, 10 litre coconut oil and 75 litre kerosene.

Meanwhile, people who were stranded in flood-hit areas in Pathanamthitta were airlifted and shifted to Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday morning. Government Model Boys Higher Secondary School, Chalai has opened relief camps to accommodate rescued people

of Ranni and Pathanamthitta.

As many as 20 residents of Ranni - who were saved by the Army after flood water inundated their building - reached here safely at around 9.30am on Thursday. They have been accommodated here at the school in Chalai. The rescued people - includes a group of 18 boys, six from Kerala, eight from Odisha, one from Mumbai and one from Bengaluru - aged between 15 and 20 years. Two staff are from the Father's House Theological Studies, Ranni.

"Over the past few days, heavy rain was lashing Pathanamthitta. Since Wednesday morning, water entered two-storeyed building of seminary-cum-hostel. Within hours water level increased and by the time we shifted with necessary things including our documents and clothes from the ground floor. We tried many helpline numbers, posted messages on social media, WhatsApp groups. We saw death up close. From midnight, we waited for rescue officers to come and save us. By 7am helicopter came and rescued us," said



Samuel, a Bengaluru resident and a student of Father's House Theological Studies.

He added that other four members of the seminary were still stuck in the opposite building. "Four people, including two students, and two faculties of seminary were stuck in the opposite building. The men who came to airlift us said that it was not possible to save the stranded people, since the building they were stuck was surrounded with trees. They said a boat will come and rescue them, we hope they are safe," said Subin, a resident of Erumely.

The representatives of district administration, village office, school officials, political representatives and residents of the capital city have reached the site. "We came to know that these kids from Ranni have reached safely here. Now it's our duty to support them mentally and physically. We have bought necessary things to help them," said Priya a resident of Killipalam who visited the relief camp.



## TWO KILLED IN RAIN-RELATED ACCIDENTS

**Thiruvananthapuram:** An 83-year-old man died at Chirayinkeezhu on Wednesday after the wall of his house collapsed on him during heavy rain. Gopalan, a resident of Kollamkavi Vila House at Mudapuram under Chirayinkeezhu police station limits, is the deceased.

Police said the incident occurred around 3am on Wednesday while he was fast asleep in his room. His wife Sathidevi, who was in the room, survived the accident with injuries, police said. Besides his wife, Gopalan leaves behind 10 children.

In another accident, which might have occurred owing to working in adverse climate, a 35-year-old man, engaged in painting at a highrise building at Sreevaraham in the city, fell and died on Thursday. Jayakumar, a resident of near Madathil Temple at Pappanamcode, is the deceased.

Fort police said the mishap occurred around 11.30am on Thursday. Jayakumar was working on the eighth floor of Sri Nidhi Apartment complex at Sreevaraham. His father Raghunathan Nair, along with a few other workers, were engaged in work there when Jayakumar fell.

Police said that the exact conditions that led to his fall were unknown. A probe was launched to find whether workers were using safety equipment stipulated by the labour department. There was rain at the time when Jayakumar fell. A wet and slippery surface might have led to the accident, the police said.

Medical College Hospital staff said that Jayakumar was brought dead to the hospital.

# All dams in T'puram district beyond maximum capacity

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**Thiruvananthapuram:** The excess monsoon rainfall in the district has filled all dams to the maximum capacity. For the first time in its history, the water level in Peppara has risen over the maximum permissible level of 107.5 meter on Wednesday night. The water level at Neyyar dam too almost touched near the maximum level of 84.75 metres.

The water level of Peppara dam touched 109.02 metre on Wednesday night, much beyond the maximum permissible level. The full reservoir level of the dam is 110.5 metre. Though the water went beyond the maximum level, KWA did not raise the height of two shutters, which were open, as a sudden rise in water level could create flood-like situation downstream. The KWA raised its two shutters to 50 cm each and opened another shutter. After shutters were further raised, the



water level came down to 108.5 metres. All shutters of Aruvikkara remain open, said KWA officials.

The rise of water level in

Peppara dam could lead to inundation of tribal settlements in areas such as Podiyakala.

District collector K Vasuki has warned off waterlogging in the city due to opening of shutters of Peppara dam. Vasuki said that people should co-operate if government officials ask them to evacuate from the location.

The situation in areas downstream of Neyyar dam also turned worse on Tuesday after water level touched 84.6 metres. The full reservoir level is 84.75 metres. The shutters were raised to 12 feet on Wednesday. All four shutters have been lowered to two feet each on Thursday. The level has been reduced to 83.9 metres on Thursday evening.

The district received 43.21% excess rainfall till Thursday. Against a normal rainfall of 643 mm, the district has so far received around 920.83 mm rainfall.



Pic: Ajjilal

