

Now, share your woes with collector

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: District collector K Mohammed Y Safirulla on Saturday took to his Facebook page 'Collector Ernakulam' to launch an initiative (Parayu Collectorodu) under which those living in flood-affected areas and relief camps can write their concerns, grievances as well as suggestions on his FB page.

RAIN-RELIEF WORK

"Due to the opening of shutters of the Idukki and Idamalayar dam, the water level in Periyar has increased. District administration is doing everything it could to help those living in flood-affected areas as well as to shift them to relief camps. Our aim is to find a solution to the problems faced by the people in the present situation as soon as possible. Pe-



A grab of collector's FB page

ople can present their complaints regarding the living conditions in camps, commuting and transportation woes as well as disruption in power and water supply," wrote the collector. The post evoked positive responses. Majority of them wrote to the collector that encroachments of canals on various parts of the district has resulted in flooding and demanded that district administration should immediately intervene in this regard.

K A Shuhaib, a ward member of Kadungalloor grama panchayat wrote to the collector to evict the encroachment on 'Baduva Canal' at Uliyanoor Kunjunnikkara, a small island situated on the banks of Periyar. Shuhaib in his post said that the rampant encroachments had blocked the natural flow of water in the canal and the nearby water bodies and it has resulted in severe waterlogging in Uliyanoor Kunjunnikkara.

The collector replied that he would take necessary steps to revive the canals as soon as possible and promised to carry out an eviction drive to dismantle illegal encroachments.

School and college students also asked their collector bro as to how can they take part in the flood-relief activities. Vishnu V Nair, an engineer-

ing student at Mar Baselios Institute of Engineering, Kothamangalam wrote: "I am an NSS volunteer. We are ready to do what all we can do for people who are affected by floods. Please give us necessary information in this regard."

Collector replied that at this stage Army, NDRE, fire force and police were carrying out rescue and relief activities but added that he would surely seek help from NCC units in case of an emergency. Some people wrote suggestions to the collector on how his administration could speed up the rescue and relief operations carried out in the district.

Jitesh R Kamath, a teacher wrote, "Sir, taking all the conditions into consideration I would like to suggest enabling water ambulances as a matter of emergency in the lower topographical regions."