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Palakkad, Malampuzha Dam, Shutters Opened, Flood

Palakkad town flooded again

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Palakkad: After shutters of Malampuzha dam were lifted by 1.5ft on Monday, some parts of Palakkad town, especially Kalpathy and Shankuvarathode, were submerged. On Thursday – when dam shutters were opened by 1.5m, many houses in town were submerged and people were moved to relief camps. When some of them returned home on Monday, the dam shutters were opened due to heavy rain and landslides in Malampuzha.

At the same time a demand arose that operation and maintenance manual of reservoirs must be followed to avert disasters like the flooding of Palakkad town that happened for the first time in 63 years due to sudden lifting of dam shutters. The shutters, brought down to 4cm for the past two days, were again lifted by 32cm on Monday due to heavy rain and landslide in the catchment areas, causing panic among people.

Dam authorities maintained water at near-FRL level (115m) and when landslides and heavy rain were reported in catchment areas, shutters were opened suddenly by 1.5m at midnight, catching people unaware and flooding many residential colonies for the first time in 63 years, said former governor K Sankaranarayanan. He urged the government



Mukkai bridge, across Kalpathy River, was submerged on Monday

‘to leave the management of reservoirs like Malampuzha to experts as sudden lifting of shutters flooded Palakkad town, putting thousands of people in hardship’. ‘Authorities should have brought down the water level to 114m when there were warnings of heavy rain,’ he said.

Meanwhile, BJP district secretary E Krishnadas demanded a high-level inquiry into the circumstances that led to the sudden opening of all shutters of Malampuzha dam. He said that dam shutters were opened by 3cm then 6cm and suddenly to 1.5m, causing flooding. It is a man-made disaster. The mismanagement of dam shutters could have affected its safety, he said.

“While Malampuzha dam authorities did not follow real-time integrated operation manual of reservoirs, TN authorities followed it while open-

ing shutters of Parambikulam and Aliyar dams, averting flooding of Chitturpuzha,” said a senior engineer of water resources department.

Meanwhile the third warning on the opening of Chulliyar and Meenkara reservoirs were issued on Monday evening by the department as water level (156.36m) almost reached the full reservoir level (FRL) of 156.36m. In Chulliyar dam, the water level stood at 153.39m against FRL of 154.08m

CHIMMONY DAM SHUTTERS OPENED FURTHER

Thrissur: Shutters of Chimmony dam were raised further on Monday in view of the increase in water flow. According to irrigation department officials, the shutters were raised from 7.5cm to 12.5cm. However, the officials said water flow from Peechi and Vazhani dams remained steady.