

Hindu

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Kochi, Heavy Rain, Coastal Life, Sea Erosion Threat

Rain hits coastal life hard

No respite for Chellanam as the village faces serious sea erosion threat

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Continuing rain affected life in the coastal areas of the district on Sunday, while the eastern taluks remained largely unaffected.

The water level in the Muvattupuzha river does not immediately pose a threat, though rain in the upper ranges had earlier triggered fears of a possible flooding of roads in Kothamangalam and Muvattupuzha.

Chellanam, which bears the brunt of the heavy rain, continued to face serious erosion threat as high tides on Sunday evening brought back memories of Cyclone Okhi. A spokesman for Paschima Kochi Theera Samrakshana Samiti (forum for protection of coastal West

Kochi) said houses in Companyppady and Bazaar areas faced the threat of seawater incursion.

However, the cleaning of drainage ahead of the rain had helped in mitigating problems to a certain extent, the spokesman added. The high tide on Sunday saw water breaching sea walls on several stretches along the coast of Chellanam, located on the southern fringe of the district. The spokesman said around 250 geo bags had been ordered, but only 30 had arrived on Sunday. Some bags had been placed to protect a few coastal stretches, but the remaining bags need to be used early to prevent further hardship for the residents.

Around 50 families each

in the Bazaar and Companyppady areas had been affected by seawater incursion, though they have not been officially shifted out of their residences. However, some have already shifted to relatives' homes. A tree fell on a house at Companyppady on Sunday, but no one was injured. The samiti spokesman alleged that neither the MP nor the local MLA had visited the affected areas, though officials of the Revenue Department, including tehsildar and village officer, along with District Disaster Management Committee officials visited the areas.

Collector orders action
Meanwhile, District Collector K. Mohammed Y. Safirul-

la has ordered the cleaning up of storm water drains and erection of geo-bags along the coastal areas of Chellanam and Vypeen, said a press release here.

He has also ordered the Kochi Corporation and tehsildars to make arrangements to cut down trees that pose threat.

Money sanctioned

The Collector has also sanctioned money for repairing and strengthening sea walls in Bazaar, Velankanni, Companyppady, Cheriyakadavu and Alunkal areas.

Health officers have been ordered to check areas where workers from other States are put up and to take up activities to prevent any contagious diseases.