

The Hindu

11 July 2018

Kochi, Heavy Rain, Waterlogged Roads, Traffic Crawls

Traffic crawls on waterlogged roads as heavy rain continues

Vyttila traffic situation turns from bad to worse; houses damaged

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Heavy rain made life difficult for motorists in the city on Tuesday with traffic holdups at several places, including at Vyttila Junction where the problem of road congestion appeared to be worse. Motor traffic was comparatively less at Edappally Junction while the Vyttila-Thammanam and Kaloorkathrikkadavu roads witnessed severe traffic disruption during the day.

Traffic congestion at the Vyttila Junction has become worse because of the rain and poor condition of the road has slowed down vehicles, especially large goods carriers. The poor condition of the Kaloorkathrikkadavu road made life difficult as vehicles continued to move at a slow pace throughout the day though a holiday for schools and other educational institutions saw lesser than usual number of vehicles on the road on Tuesday.

The Thammanam-Kathrikkadavu road too saw vehicles moving at a slow pace as waterlogging on the road was seen at several places. The Ponnuruni railway overbridge too was difficult to get through for those moving towards Vyttila hub and onward to Cherthala and Thripunithura.

Meanwhile, the Met Department has forecast heavy rain over the coming days in Ernakulam district. Cumulative rainfall in the district between June 1 and July 10 stands at 686.6 mm against the normal level of 795.6 mm. It is 13.7% deficit, according to the department.

The department has also issued a warning to fisher-



Motorists wading through a waterlogged road at Vyttila on Tuesday. ■ H. VIBHU

men. Strong winds from westerly direction, speed occasionally reaching 35 to 45, gusting to 55 kmph likely along and off Kerala coast and over Lakshadweep area. Sea conditions will be rough to very rough over Southwest, Central and North Arabian sea. Fishermen are advised not to venture into the

sea over the Southwest, Central and North Arabian sea.

Houses damaged

The district unit of the Disaster Management Authority has reported that six houses have been partially damaged in rain-related incidents during Tuesday in different parts of Ernakulam district.

Three of the houses were damaged in Kunnathunad taluk; one house each has been damaged in Kanayannur, Moovattupuzha and Kothamangalam. The authority has warned those living along the Moovattupuzha river to be alert as three shutters of the Malankara dam has been lifted 50 cms each to let out excess water.

Holiday declared

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

District Collector K. Mohammed Y. Safirulla has declared holiday for all educational institutions in Ernakulam on Wednesday in view of the heavy rain. An official release said that the holiday is applicable

for anganwadis to higher secondary level (State, CBSE, ICSE and ISE schools); Kendriya Vidyalayas, colleges, and professional colleges. It is not applicable for the exams conducted by universities and they will be held as per the schedule.

Emergency numbers

The public could contact District Disaster Management Office - 0484-2423513; toll-free number - 1077; control room numbers - 0484-2624052 (Aluva); 0484-2360704 (Kanayannur); 0484-2215559 (Kochi); 0485-2822298 (Kothamangalam); 0484 2522224 (Kunnathunad); 0485-2813773 (Muvattupuzha); and 0484-2442326 (Paravur) for an emergency.