

Indian Express

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Kochi, Heavy Rain, “A Flex for a Roof” Campaign, NSS

NSS’ ‘A flex for a roof’ campaign tastes success

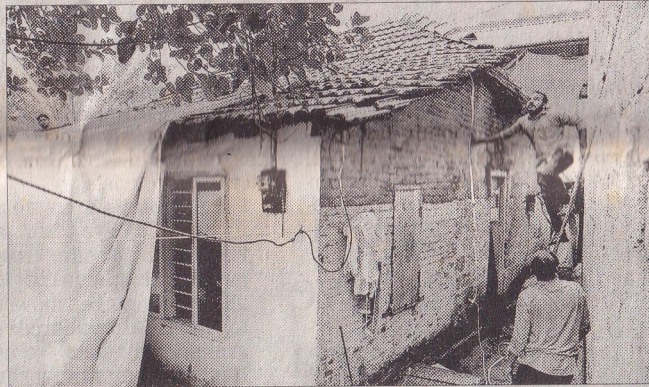
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Kochi

IT has been raining cats and dogs in the city for the past two days. The roads have got inundated, making life miserable for every resident.

However, those living in houses with leaky roofs are hit the hardest. Divakaran is one such person.

With no money to replace broken tiles and an invalid son to look after, Divakaran and his family of four had to make do with using vessels to collect the rainwater which leaked, or rather poured, from the roof.

However, after reading a news report about how National Service Scheme (NSS) Technical Cell volunteers were putting a roof over houses like his, Divakaran approached them. Lo and behold, his house today boasts of a fine, new covered roof, albeit one made of an advertisement flex.



Volunteers of NSS technical cell placing a flex on the roof of a house at Kaloor in Kochi on Tuesday | MELTON ANTONY

Blesson Paul, a member of the NSS technical cell, said the volunteers were helping people in and around the city in repairing the roofs of their houses using flex boards.

“Divakaran approached us after reading a news report. We didn’t understand the gravity

of his situation. When we arrived there, we realised the entire roof was unstable, meaning, we couldn’t climb up and cover the roof with a flex,” said Blesson.

After struggling a bit, the volunteers managed to cover the roof on Tuesday.

“It is sad. If this the situation of those living right in the middle of the city, one can only imagine the state of those living on the outskirts,” he said.

While the students were at work, an elderly woman came enquiring whether they will help her out too.

“I live all alone and the roof of my house is leaking terribly,” Khairunissa, who lives in Manapattiparambu, said. Upon visiting her house, Express found the walls were cracked and the rainwater was leaking into the electricity mains.

“I am afraid to touch the walls,” said the 80-year-old whose husband passed away around 24 years ago. The NSS volunteers promised to repair her house’s roof using flex sheets.

“We have been receiving good response from everywhere and people are coming forward to donate flexes that no longer have any use,” Blesson said.