

Hindu

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Kochi, Heavy Rain, Disaster

Rain spells another day of hardship

Traffic comes to standstill at Vyttila Junction; damage to property, agricultural crops across district

STAFF REPORTER
KOCHI

Rain-induced woes, traffic being the worst, continued to plague city life on Wednesday even as damage to property and agricultural crops caused by monsoon mounted across the district.

The situation was at its worst at Vyttila Junction and adjoining areas, bringing traffic to a standstill on many occasions forcing the traffic police to devise off-the-cuff solutions. Its impact was especially felt on the national highway and Ponnuruni.

When traffic turned especially worse in the evening, the police opened up a hitherto closed entry to the Ponnuruni underpass directly from the national highway, leaving it absolutely clogged. Much to the chagrin of motorists, the police banned a right turn from the underpass except for buses, forcing others to proceed



A culvert that caved in near Kothamangalam on Wednesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

straight along RAC Road towards the direction of the mobility hub.

Road widening work at the intersection where the side road from the Ponnuruni underpass meets the highway further worsened traffic logjam, leaving the area especially slushy. The gridlock at Vyttila had a cas-

cading effect on traffic along the Ponnuruni overbridge.

Traffic along Kaloorkadavanthra Road came to a standstill after a tree fell near its entry on Subhash Chandra Bose Road in the afternoon. Consequently, traffic to and from Kaloorkadavanthra Road was diverted, further complicating matters

on adjoining roads, including SA Road.

Culvert collapses

Elsewhere in the district, a culvert collapsed in Kothamangalam taluk in the early morning hours, disrupting traffic along Vadattuparabhoothathankettu Road. Traffic was yet to be res-

tored. Since the monsoon picked up steam, 156 houses have been partially damaged, while 15 houses have been completely destroyed across seven taluks in the district. Agricultural crops on 60.86 hectares have also been hit.

Meanwhile, the district panchayat organised a symbolic reception of monsoon as part of undertaking monsoon-related precautions in accordance with the direction of the District Disaster Management Authority. District Panchayat President Asha Sanil inaugurated the event in which block and grama panchayat presidents participated. Vice president B.A. Abdul Muthalib presided. District Medical Officer Dr. S. Sreedevi held an awareness session on precautions to be taken. A district-level chlorination campaign will also be held at Children's Home, Kakkanad.