

Kozhikode, Heavy Rain, Landslides

RED ALERT

State toils to keep head above gushing waters

Seven people die in North Kerala as incessant rain causes landslides, flood

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kozhikode

INCESSANT monsoon rain that lashed north Kerala with a fury since Tuesday triggered landslides and floods, killing seven people, including three children, and saw over 10 people missing on Thursday.

A team of the National Disaster Response Force reached the hilly areas of Kozhikode district and was engaged in relief as well as rescue operations and efforts to trace the missing people. Unusual rainfall, ranging up to 24 cm that lashed parts of Kozhikode and Malappuram in a span of 24 hours, was cited as the major cause of the landslides and floods.

Red alert has been declared in Kozhikode, Malappuram, Wayanad, Kannur, Kasargod and Palakkad districts. Due to the downpour, disaster management authorities have warned of more landslides and floods.

Landslides in Malappuram

A person died in Manjeri and another went missing at Nilambur even as landslides and flash floods were reported from dif-



A scene from Karinchola in Kattippara Village where multiple landslides have devastated a large area, killing six people | T P SOORAJ

ferent places of the district. Another person had gone missing on Tuesday. District collector Amit Meena said he has sought Navy's help to carry search for the missing persons. Meanwhile, 13 families were evacuated following flash flood at Mathilmoola in Nilambur.

Camps in Wayanad

As many as 1,000 people from 300 families have been shifted to various relief camps. Due to the

possibility of landslides, vehicular movement has been banned along the Perumbadi-Makkoottam stretch of the Mysore-Thalassery inter-state highway till July 12. Wayanad District Collector A R Ajith Kumar has also directed authorities to open the shutters of Beechanahalli dam in the wake of water levels rising in rivers and streams. Relief camps have been opened in as many as 15 centres across the district.

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7

people die in North Kerala

10

go missing following rain fury

Orange alert

Orange alert issued in Kottayam, Idukki and Alappuzha districts

Urgent measures

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan instructed the Chief Secretary and district collectors to take urgent measures