

# Hindu

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## Kuttanand; Flood Relief operation, Bio toilets and floats

### Relief operations stepped up in Kuttanad

Efforts on to equip camps with essentials and provide medical aid to families

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Alappuzha district administration on Tuesday stepped up relief activities in the waterlogged areas of Kuttanad. Efforts were on to equip relief camps with essential commodities and provide medical assistance for the stricken families.

Biotoilets and floating toilets have been deployed and bottled drinking water were being supplied in the affected areas. The National Disaster Response Force and the Navy deployed boats and trucks to distribute two loads of bottled water to various waterlogged areas in Kuttanad.

One hundred packets of bread, 25 packets of bun, 500 litres of water and essential medicines were also rushed to the relief camps in Kuttanad and Veeyapuram. As many as 68,597 persons belonging to 1,699 families have been shifted to 270 camps.

The administration is also supplying food to more than 29,000 families through 464 outlets. An official press note issued here on Tuesday said efforts were on to ensure that relief camps were provided with food, medical assistance, drinking water and



Relief being reached to the flood-hit in Kuttanad on Tuesday.

LPG cylinders. Medical camps have been organised and arrangements made for health check-up, supply of medicines, sanitation facilities, water purification and cleanliness. The camps have also been stocked with preventive medicines against leptospirosis. Director of Health Services R.L. Saritha is coordinating the effort.

A water ambulance, three floating dispensaries and 11 boats had been deployed for the medical teams to reach out to the people.

A control room has been opened at the Alappuzha district medical office.

### Bodies of TV crew retrieved

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOTTAYAM

The body of K.K. Saji, a member of the TV crew who had gone missing in a boat accident in Vembanad Lake, near Mundar, while on duty reporting the flood situation was retrieved by divers a few km away from the accident site on Tuesday morning. The body of driver Bipin Babu who also went missing was retrieved late in the day.

The crew of Malayalam

news channel *Mathrubhumi News* had gone to Erumathuruth on Monday to report on the flood situation there.

Their country boat overturned near Mundar on the way back from a camp. While two of the crew members were rescued by local people, Saji, the local stringer, and Bipin Babu had gone missing.

The funeral of Saji was held in his house compound on Tuesday evening.

### Bias charge: probe on

STAFF REPORTER  
ALAPPUZHA

A team led by Kayamkulam Deputy Superintendent of Police R. Binu has launched an investigation into the allegations of caste discrimination at a flood relief camp in Pallippad grama panchayat here.

On Monday, the police registered a case under various sections of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act against 20 people who could be identified.

Earlier, 56 members of a Dalit community, belonging to 23 families, had registered a complaint with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and District Collector S. Suhas stating that members of the Christian community had humiliated them at a relief camp at Anjilimoodu Lower Primary School. "Prima facie it is not a case of caste discrimination. The people of two communities had a dispute over sharing foodgrains brought to the camp by authorities. This has snowballed into a major controversy," said an officer.