

Aluva, After Flood, Flood Victims, Worry about Returning Home

Residents worry about returning home

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Aluva: With water starting to recede, residents of Aluva and nearby towns who had taken refuge in relief camps are now worried of returning to their homes after snake menace getting reported from many locations.

On Saturday, a 35-year-old woman who went home from a relief camp at Eloor was bitten by a snake and was rushed to a private hospital at Angamaly.

The woman, Deepa of Eloor, had gone home to clean the house after water receded on Saturday morning. According to hospital sources, the woman is out of danger but is being kept under observation.

"Most of the houses which got inundated here are now left with mud. Apart from the snake bite case, another person also found a snake at his home on Satur-

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day afternoon. We are planning to send inmates of the camps back to their homes only after proper clean up. Efforts are also on to spray garlic mixture at the houses to keep snakes away," said Eloor municipality chairman CP Usha.

Speaking to the media after visiting relief camps at Aluva, chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan also addressed the issue.

Inundation had led to snake menace in several areas and hospitals would be made ready to immediately treat such cases, he said.

On Saturday, residents chose to remain at relief

camps even as water level started to subside. "We can now walk in to many houses as water level has receded. However, it is too early to move back in. While some have chosen to stay at a relative or friend's place, many are staying back at the camp," said Rajan Chengamanad, a coordinator at a relief camp at Chengamanad.

Friday night was quite stressful for some inmates at the camp set up at Government High School, Chengamanad, after a five-year-old girl got sick overnight.

"She was having mild fever during the day and by around 2am on Saturday the temperature shot up. Since, all of us were here together, someone brought a car and took her to the hospital. She is better now," said Babu Tharyilthara, father of the girl at the camp.

MES Eastern School, Eloor — where 400 people

are staying — is a display of unity in diversity.

"Inmates are from different backgrounds. There are Hindi and Tamil-speaking people here. Ample amenities, including toilet facilities and sleeping mats, are provided by the camp organizers," said Ramlath Hamza, an inmate at the camp.

For Joseph Kunnumel, whose house at Chengamanad was partially flooded, Saturday was a cleaning day. Joseph had managed to keep appliances in the first floor of the house before water entered the ground floor.

"I guess the tides were in our favour and water receded quite quickly. We have drained out the water. Luckily, our house is on a comparatively higher ground. Apart from water rising from an adjacent field, sewage or other waste didn't enter the house," said Joseph.