

Wayanad, Monsoon Havoc

Day six: Wayanad still reeling under monsoon havoc

Kozhikode: The grim situation in Wayanad continued for the sixth day on Monday with over 13,000 flood-affected people forced to remain in 124 relief camps due to continuing threat of landslides and incessant rains in the district.

Meanwhile fresh landslides were reported from Kurichiyar Mala in Pozhuthana panchayat early on Monday. At least three acres of forest land and acres of agri land were wiped away in the landslide. However, no injuries or casualties were reported as almost all residents from the area were evacuated to a nearby relief camp on Thursday after the area witnessed a major landslide. Another landslide was reported near Navodaya school at Pookode on Monday.

The open shutters of Banasura Sagar Dam were increased from 90cm to 170cm at 10.10pm in three phases following increased inflow into the dam due to continuous rain. Shutters were raised to maintain water level at FRL of 775.6 MSL. A 24-hour control room was opened to monitor and coordinate the opening of dam's shutters in the wake of complaints that dam authorities opened shutters on last Wednesday and Thursday without issuing proper warning.

"Yesterday night we didn't sleep for a second as there were

loud sounds of landslips from Kurichiyar mala. Fortunately, all families from the area had moved to relief camps. On visiting the area, we found instance of fresh landslides. We fear returning home," said Arif Puthiyarambil, a resident.

Displaced people face an uphill task of cleaning up the slushy mud at their home. The meeting of people's representatives held at the collectorate decided to constitute ward-level committees to undertake the task of cleaning up flooded houses. District adminis-

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tration is now focussed on making houses liveable as most of the relief camps are functioning in schools. Accommodation will be provided to those who have lost their houses at the panchayat-level once schools start functioning. Kalpetta MLA C K Saseendran, special officer MG Rajamanickam attended the meeting.

At the same time fresh landslides were reported at Adyanpara near Nilambur on Monday afternoon. Two minor landslides occurred inside forest region at Mooleppadam and Vellarimala. No casualties were reported. The region recorded heavy rain during the past 24 hours and water level in the Chaliyar and its tributaries rose alarmingly. TNN