

Times of India

13 August 2018

Kochi, After Flood, Relief Camps Closed

More than 30 relief camps closed in Ekm

Residents, Volunteers Have Tough Time Cleaning Houses Situated On The Banks Of Periyar

TC.Sreemol@timesgroup.com

Pics: R K Sreejith

TC.Sreemol@timesgroup.com

Kochi: As the water receded in Aluva and nearby towns, more than 30 relief camps in the district were closed and over 4,000 people returned home on Sunday.

As many as 75 camps were opened in the district to accommodate people from houses situated on the banks of Periyar in view of heavy rain and flood situation. Of these, nine camps were closed on Saturday. Currently, only 35 camps remain open.

Many houses were filled with sediments and insects, and most of them have not insured their houses against flood, said an official of the district disaster management authority.

"Our house is filled with silt and even wells got polluted. Despite removing the sediment, we could not sleep here due to odour emanating from the deposit. My husband is a heart patient and it has been a harrowing experience for us. Health workers have sprayed bleaching powder in our wells on Sunday morning," said Chandrika Volayudhan, a resident of Chengamanad.

Several residents and volunteers belonging to various organizations had a tough time cleaning houses and compounds situated on the banks of Periyar.

As many houses remained flooded from Thursday to Saturday, knee-deep sediments have accumulated. Volunteers use pressure washers to remove sediments.

Inmates of a relief camp at Eloor have decided to go home only after volunteers cleaned their houses. On Saturday, a woman was bitten by a snake when she went to clean her house at Eloor.

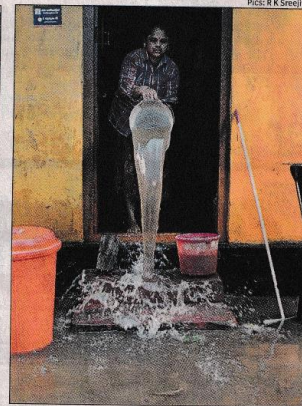
"Eloor municipality has provided us a pressure washer, while a student organization sponsored two washers to clean houses. We have cleaned around 40 houses at Eloor till Sunday afternoon. During our cleaning, we have noticed a snake and many insects inside houses. We have collected waste outside houses and local body should remove it from the area. Lots of people supported us by giving cleaning equipment," said Amaldev P V, leader of youth wing leader of a political party at Eloor.

Students and teachers of an aided college took up the task of cleaning houses at Aluva on Sunday.

"Cracks developed in our toilet wall. It took six to seven hours to clean our house. Following the opening of the fourth shutter of Idamalayar dam on Sunday, we have not brought down electric items to the ground floor from the first floor," said Manaparambil Jayan of Alangad.



Inmates of a relief camp at Elanthikkara wait for home minister Rajnath Singh and CM Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday. (R) A woman drains out water from her house at Eloor



Pics: R K Sreejith