

# The Hindu

16 July 2018

## Kochi, Heavy Rain, Flood, Waterlogged Roads, Holiday Declared, Educational Institutions

### City drenched in rain as drains remain clogged

Situation worse in West Kochi: flooding hits around 1,500 families at Kammattipadam and P and T Colony

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
KOCHI  
The incessant rain that has been lashing the city since Sunday morning has hit normal life hard.

Many parts of the city were flooded by noon, forcing the Kochi Corporation to press into action its squads for clearing waterlogging. The rain, which began in the early hours of the day, continued through the evening. Heavy wind that swept across many parts of the city added to the worries of civic administrators. Weathermen have cautioned that heavy rain would continue in the State till Tuesday.

The situation was worse in West Kochi as many areas were flooded. The areas that have been hit include Koo-vappadam, Mantra, Thoppumpady, Karuvelippady, Nazareth, Mundemveli and Pallurthy, said K.J. Antony, the CP(M) councillor from the area.

Mr. Antony accused the civic administration of failing



**In deep waters:** Pedestrians and vehicles wade through the waterlogged M.G. Road on Sunday.

to implement the pre-monsoon cleaning works, which resulted in heavy flooding. Major canals in the area, including Rameshwaram, Kalvathy and Boundary canals, were not desilted before the onset of the monsoon, which caused the flooding, he said.

The mouth of the canals, which opened to the backwaters, could not be desilted.

The accumulated silt prevented the rainwater from flowing into the backwaters. When it rained during the high tide, floodwater remained on the streets and drains, leading to heavy flooding, Mr. Antony said.

As the reports of waterlogging surfaced, civic administrators, including Mayor Soumini Jain and Health

Standing Committee chairperson V.K. Minimol, said they were personally monitoring the relief operations.

Ms. Mini conceded that the major canals in the west Kochi area could not be cleaned before the onset of the monsoon as the tender for the job could not be floated on time. She blamed officials for the delay.

Ms. Jain said she had been personally visiting the affected areas in the city since Sunday noon.

At Jose Junction, the flooding was caused by the block in the drains. The dumping of construction materials into the drains for the pipe-laying work of BPCL-Kochi Refinery led to flooding in the area. Officials of the refinery had been asked to clean up the drains immediately, Ms. Jain said.

Teams of officials of the civic body led by assistant executive engineers were directed to attend to the complaints.

Around 1,500 families occupying Kammattipadam and P and T Colony in Gandhi Nagar division were hit by flooding. The rising water level in Perandoor canal is threatening to inundate more areas in the division, said Poornima Narayan, Education Standing Committee chairman, who is representing the area in the corporation council.

Ms. Jain said she had been personally visiting the affected areas in the city since Sunday noon.

At Jose Junction, the flooding was caused by the block in the drains. The dumping of construction materials into the drains for the pipe-laying work of BPCL-Kochi Refinery led to flooding in the area. Officials of the refinery had been asked to clean up the drains immediately, Ms. Jain said.

Teams of officials of the civic body led by assistant executive engineers were directed to attend to the complaints.

### Holiday declared for schools, colleges

**STAFF REPORTER**  
KOCHI

The District Collector has declared Monday as a holiday for all educational institutions in Ernakulam district in view of intense rainfall and alerts sounded by the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) of most parts of Kerala.

Professional colleges too will remain closed on the day. But university exams announced earlier and ITI counselling will be held as scheduled.

#### Warnings issued

Heavy rainfall has been forecast till July 17 in the State. The SDMA has called upon people to curtail travel through hilly areas between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. in view of the possibility of midslides.

Visitors have been warned against venturing into beaches and other waterbodies due to strong waves and increase in water level.

Motorists have been warned against parking vehicles in the vicinity of water channels that descend from nearby hills, due to the possibility of landslip and sudden increase in water flow. Similarly, vehicles must not be parked beneath trees.

Those residing in hilly areas prone to landslip must adhere to directions issued by government officials and move to safer places.

Volunteers and others who are not trained in disaster response must keep away from vulnerable areas.