

# Indian Express

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## Alappuzha, Heavy Rainfall, Flood

### ALAPPUZHA SINKS AS CLOUDS OPEN UP

Many parts of the district recorded rainfall of more than 50 mm on Sunday. Rain in hilly dists off Kottayam, P'thitta and Idukki added to Kuttanad's woes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Alappuzha

AFTER two days of relative calm, the rain has gathered strength in the district causing waterlogging in low lying areas. Many parts of the district recorded rainfall of more than 50 mm on Sunday. The district administration has declared a holiday for educational institutions, including professional colleges on Monday.

The water level has risen in Kuttanad by nearly 3 ft due. The rain which lashed in the hilly districts of Kottayam, Pathanamthitta and Idukki districts have also created hardships for Kuttanad residents.

The rising water level in Pampa and Achankovil Rivers left many areas flooded. Many village roads in Kuttanad were inundated, including the Alappuzha-Changanassery (AC) state highway. Waterlogging appeared in Poovam, Pallathuruthy, Mankombu and other areas of the road. The

people living on the outer bunds of paddy polders are also facing hardship due to rising water level in canals.

The waterlogging is causing difficulties for people mainly in Kuttanad, Cherthala and Ambalappuzha taluks. Village roads are inundated in Kainakari Thalavadi, Chambakulam, Muttar, Pulinkunnu, Edathua, Thakazhi and other panchayats of Kuttanad. Waterlogging affected traffic on the Kidangara-Muttar road and Edathua-Vezhpara road. Many paddy polders in the district were also under water. The Thekkethollayiram paddy polder, Muttel colony in Pulinkunnu panchayat and byroads in Mankombu have flooded over, said Krishnan, a native of Chambakulam.

"The water level in rivers and canals increased in two days. Many houses in the Lower Kuttanad area flooded in heavy rain. The water level in Pampa has increased by around two to three feet in two days. Waterlogging has affected life in Bhajanamadom, Island, Pattalam, Ooralathussery and other areas in Kainakari panchayat," Krishnan said.



Children swimming in the flooded Alappuzha-Changanassery Road at Poovam in Alappuzha on Sunday | ARUN ANGELA