

# Indian Express

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## Thiruvananthapuram, Heavy Rainfall, Flood Havoc

### Flood havoc continues, rain claims 4 more

Situation grim in Kottayam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha districts; more than 200 relief camps opened Compensation

KERALA BUREAU  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With the Meenachil river in spate and large tracts of paddy fields and even homes getting submerged in floodwaters, the situation following incessant rain of the past few days remained grim in Kottayam, Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha districts on Tuesday.

Four more deaths being reported from different parts of the State on Tuesday.

The body of Deepu of Bangalowparambil House, Kanjirappally, who went missing in the Manimala river was retrieved on Tuesday. Baiju, 31, of Vallicaud who drowned in the river Achencoil, was fished out by the Fire and Rescue Services team on Tuesday afternoon. Ramakrishnan of Mavelikara and Narayanan of Melattoor in Malappuram were the other persons who lost their lives in rain fury on Tuesday.

The whole of Pala town in Kottayam was under the waters for almost the whole day as the Meenachil river breached its banks. At many places, the water rose nearly five feet in living areas, making mobility next to impossible.

Two teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) were pressed into service in Kottayam and were engaged in rescue operations for the whole day.

In Alappuzha, coastal areas such Cherthala, Ambalappuzha and Karthikappally came under relentless battering from waves.

In Pathanamthitta, the worst-hit areas were Upper Kuttanad and the low-lying areas of Thiruvalla, Mallappally, and Kozhencherry taluks.

Train services were disrupted for some time as the railway tracks between Ernakulam and Kayamkulam came under threat from the rising waters.

In Kottayam, 147 houses sustained damage and 8,577 persons from 2,300 families in Kottayam, Changanassery, Vaikom and Meenachil taluks were moved to 104 relief camps.

In Alappuzha, the floods forced 21,458 people from 4,977 families to move to relief camps. The district administration also took steps to supply gruel from 123 centres to the affected families.

Traffic on the Alappuzha-Changanassery (AC) Road

was disrupted for the second consecutive day on Tuesday due to flooding.

Floodwater also submerged parts of the Ambalappuzha-Thiruvalla Road.

A holiday was declared for all educational institutions including professional colleges in Kottayam on Thursday and MG University postponed all examinations scheduled for Wednesday.

In Alappuzha, a holiday has been declared in Kuttanad and Chengannur taluks. Meanwhile, Health Minister

K.K. Shylaja has directed the Director of Health Services and the Director of Medical Education to arrange special facilities in hospitals to meet any exigencies which might arise due to incessant rain or related disasters. Preventive measures should be strengthened to ensure that infectious diseases do not break out.

She directed that special mobile medical teams be sent to the relief camps where flood victims have been housed.