

Kochi: Heavy rain, Climate changes, Flood hit

Dist readies to handle extra water

Tight Security Arrangements In Place For Vavu Bali On Banks Of Periyar Today

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Kochi: Ernakulam district is bracing up to face one of the largest floods in recent history with Idukki reservoir releasing water from all five shutters of Cheruthoni dam.

To help the district administration handle the crisis, two IAS officers, both former Ernakulam district collectors, have been entrusted with the task of coordinating relief operations in the district.

Cochin Smart Mission Ltd (CSML) chief executive officer A.P.M.Mohammed Hanish and Kerala state IT infrastructure managing director M G Rajamanickam will coordinate the relief operations.

Ernakulam district administration is geared to face any eventuality and has shifted people from vulnerable areas on river banks, which would be affected by the opening of the Cheruthoni shutters.

The 'Karkadaka vavu bali' on Saturday where people congregate on river banks



HARD REALITY: A 93-year-old Kurumba dries her documents which got soaked when water entered her house at North Paravur in Kochi, on Friday. She has been moved to a relief camp at Kuthiyathodu

like the famed Shivaratri Manappuram in Aluva is another cause for worry

The officials have appealed to the public to go by the instructions of police and the

district administration. Authorities said the situation is under control.

District collector K Mohammed Y Safirulla said tight security arrangements have been put in place for 'Karkadaka vavu bali' rituals scheduled to be held at Aluva Manappuram on Saturday.

A red alert has already been issued in the district in the wake of rising water level in Periyar resulting from release of water from Idukki (800 cubic meter per second) and Idamalayar reservoirs.

A 37-member national disaster response force (NDRF) team has been deployed at Aluva Manappuram in this regard. A 60-member team of police and fire force personnel is also camping here. A 14-member disaster response team of Coast Guard has been deployed at Chelamattom region coming under the Muvattupuzha division.

The district administration has intensified security at Chelamattom Sreekrishna Swamy Temple. The temple authorities have shifted the place of 'bali' offering from the river side to an auditori-

um.

Relief camps were opened at Paravur taluk (37), Aluva (16), Kanayannoor (5), Kunathunadu (2) and one each at Eloor, Kunnukara and Karumalloor.

District medical officer N K Kuttappan said that a health team has been deployed in each camp to monitor the health conditions of inmates.

"We have made sure that all the camps have sufficient doctors and health workers to ensure that inmates are living in a healthy and hygienic atmosphere. We are providing special care and attention to the health of women and children residing in flood-relief camps," said the DMO.

In addition, four mobile medical teams have been stationed at Aluva district hospital. A mobile medical team comprises a doctor, a staff nurse and a junior health inspector. A 24/7 additional control cell is also functioning in the district hospital at Aluva.

Public can contact the control room in 0484-2623540, 2631527 round-the-clock.