

Idukki: Heavy rain, Flood hit, Flood victims, Water level rises, Camps open

Water Rises, Panic Recedes

**6 Dead In 24 Hrs;
439 Relief
Camps Opened**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvananthapuram: On Friday, the discharge of water from all five shutters of Cheruthoni dam reached eight lakh litres per second, submerging most parts of Cheruthoni town and raising the water level at Bhoothathankettu dam downstream by 1.2 metres. The authorities are preparing for possible flooding in Aluva and elsewhere in Ernakulam district, which lie in the path of dam water draining into the Arabian Sea, and have sought the Army's help to deal with the crisis.

The IMD has forecast heavy rains for the next 48 hours and the government has issued a red alert in Wayanad, Idukki, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Palakkad, Malappuram and Kozhikode districts. The red alert will be in force at Wayanad till August 14 and in Idukki till August 13; other districts will be on alert till Sunday morning. Shutters of 25 dams in the state remain open, resulting in considerable rise of



UNDER CONTROL: With all five shutters of Cheruthoni dam being opened, lakhs of litres of water gushed towards Cheruthoni town on Friday morning, threatening to submerge Cheruthoni bridge. Even as locals stayed away from the bridge that bore the brunt of the surging water, a rescue personnel, carrying a sick child in his arms, ran across the structure to take the child to a hospital

Rajnath to visit state on Sunday

Home minister Rajnath Singh on Friday assured the Kerala government of all possible help in rescue and relief operations and said that he would undertake an aerial survey of the state's flood-affected areas on Sunday. "Spoke to Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan and discussed the prevailing flood situation in the state. I have assured all possible assistance from the Centre to the state government," Singh tweeted. AGENCIES

Ernakulam to bear the brunt

As water from both Idukki and Idamalayar reservoirs reaches downstream Periyar River, the banks of the river in Ernakulam district are expected to experience the worst flooding in recent times. After a review meeting, chief secretary Tom Jose said on Friday that Aluva will be the worst affected and as a precautionary measure, people living on the banks of Periyar have been evacuated.

**FULL COVERAGE:
P 2, 6, 7 & 8**

EDIT: Nature's Fury, P 14

water level in most rivers.

The death toll in the last 48 hours has touched 29 – only six deaths happened in the last 24 hours – and four people are reported missing. Twenty-five persons died in landslides while four drowned. Twelve deaths were reported from Idukki, six from Malappuram, four from Wayanad, two from Palakkad and one from Kannur. Three drowning deaths were reported from Ernakulam and one from Thiruvananthapuram. As many as 57 tourists, including 22 foreigners, who were trapped inside a resort

at Pallivasal in Idukki were rescued by the Army by constructing a parallel path that led them to the main road.

As many as 439 relief camps have been opened in the state in which 53,502 people from 12,240 families are staying. Most number of relief camps have been opened in Wayanad and Ernakulam districts – 127 and 68 respectively. Over 10,000 people are staying in relief camps in Wayanad and 7,500 in relief camps in Ernakulam.

After reviewing the flood situation late on Friday evening, chief minister Pinarayi

Vijayan deputed two IAS officers – Mohammed Haneeesh and MG Rajamanickam – to coordinate relief measures in Ernakulam. Land revenue commissioner A T James has been deputed to coordinate operations in Wayanad. The review meeting also decided to streamline supply of safe drinking water in all relief camps. On Saturday, Vijayan, revenue minister E Chandrashekar and opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala will inspect flood-hit areas in a helicopter.

The state police chief has directed all district police

chiefs to provide additional security in places where 'Karkkadaka Vavu Bali' – the annual Hindu ritual for the departed – will be conducted on Saturday.

Those participating in rituals have been requested to refrain from taking a dip in rivers and the sea as is customary.

With chances of Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) suspending operations in the event of a flood, the Thiruvananthapuram international airport has been kept ready to handle flights diverted from Kochi.