Residents of at least 30 villages of Srirangapatna, Pandavapura and K.R. Pet taluks in the district are living in the fear of floods with water levels in the Cauvery and the Hemavati rising.

The Cauvery has been brimming ever since the crest gates of the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) were lifted on Saturday afternoon.

The rate of discharge, which began at 20,000 cusecs, was augmented to 81,930 cusecs by Monday evening.

Meanwhile, water is being discharged from the Hemavati reservoir in Hassan at the rate of around 28,800 cusecs.

The Hemavati joins the Cauvery in the district after passing through many villages of K.R. Pet.

The rising water level in the Cauvery has already led to the flooding of islets of the Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary near Srirangapatna. Water has entered houses of priests and others in Paschima Vahini in the same town.

The Sai Baba temple on the outskirts of Srirangapatna, the Gowthama Kshetra Mutt near Doddegowdana Koppalu, and the meditation centre ‘Saidhama’ at Bete Thimmana Koppalu near Pandavapura have also been partially flooded. While Gajanana Swami of Gowthama Kshetra is reluctant to leave, the inmates and maintainers of the other two places have been moved to safer areas, said official sources.

Hundreds of banana, guava and other horticultural crops have been submerged in floodwater in farms near Ganjam at Srirangapatna.

Two software engineers from Bengaluru, Sameer Rahman, 29 and his friend Bhavani Shankar, 29, who ventured close to the Cauvery in the quest for a perfect selfie, were washed away in the gushing river waters in Mekedatu in Sathanur on Sunday.