Gates of 24 Kerala dams opened as water levels rise

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With torrential rain from a renewed monsoon system pounding eastern parts of Kerala, sluice gates in 24 dams were opened as water storage inched towards danger levels. The Idamalayar and Kakki dams were opened on Thursday. By evening, four shutters of the Idamalayar dam were opened and the discharge increased to 600 cusecs after the water level in the reservoir continued to rise.

A shutter of the Cheruthoni dam, part of the Idukki hydel project, was also opened in a trial run after 26 years as water levels crossed 2,398 ft. The Kerala State Electricity Board has issued the red alert saying the shutters of the reservoir could be opened early on Friday.

A State-level 24x7 cell, headed by Additional Chief Secretary P.H. Kurian, was set up at the State Secretariat to monitor the flood situation and coordinate emergency response. District-level cells headed by Collectors were also established.

Boat race postponed

In view of the flood situation, the government on Thursday decided to postpone the Nehru Trophy Boat Race scheduled to be held at Alappuzha on August 11.

More than 10,000 people have been shifted to 157 relief camps in the last two days, the government said.

Six members of a family were killed when flash floods following a series of landslips wreaked havoc across the hilly eastern region of Malappuram district on Thursday.

Faced with the prospect of a worsening floods, the government requested the services armed forces, the Coast Guard, the Military Engineering Service and the National Disaster Response Force (NDFR) for assistance in rescue and relief operations.
Major landslips occurred at Rajapuram and Adimali in Idukki and Thamarassery and Kuttiyadi in Kozhikode, with minor ones reported from Wayanad, Malappuram, Kannur and Palakkad.

**Highest rainfall**

The eastern parts of the State, including Kannur, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Palakkad and Idukki districts, registered the highest rainfall.

Following a request from the State government, two teams of the NDRF, comprising 100 men, reached Kozhikode by a special aircraft of the Air Force.

One of the teams was later airlifted from Kozhikode to Wayanad to rescue tribal families stranded by the floods. Moves were on to airlift rescue equipment for the Army units from Bengaluru to Kochi and Kozhikode, from where they would be transported by road.