

# Monsoon fury grips many parts of Kerala

Six dead so far in State; widespread damage to property, relief camps opened in several districts

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The heavy spell of rain that has been lashing Kerala, combined with coastal erosion for the past four days, has claimed as many as six lives so far and caused widespread damage to property, forcing the administrations of several districts to relocate scores of families to relief camps.

The body of a 22-year-old man, identified as Akhil in Idukki, who went missing while fishing, was retrieved by Fire and Rescue Services personnel on Thursday.

Blocks of huge rocks fell onto the Adimali-Kumily stretch of the National High-



A man watching the rough sea taking away a coconut tree from the shoreline in Thiruvananthapuram. ■ S. MAHINSHA

way near Kallarkutty from the upper part of the road, blocking the traffic for a while.

In Kozhikode, a search was under way to trace a 17-year-old boy who went mis-

sing at the Pathankayam waterfalls, Thamarassery, on Monday.

Four new camps were opened after the rain gained strength, taking the number of camps operational in the

State to 12.

In Thiruvananthapuram, two shutters of the Aruvikkara dam and four of the Neyyar dam were opened following a rise in inflow to the reservoirs.

## Fear of landslips

In Alappuzha, three families in Ambalappuzha taluk were shifted to relief camps following rough seas.

In Thrissur, an orange alert was issued in the Poringalkuthu dam, while two shutters of the Poomala dam were opened in the wake of heavy rain. The residents in the Veerankudi colony in Malakkapara were shifted to the Malakkapara community

hall after fears of landslips.

In Malappuram, 26 families in Ponnani taluk were shifted to the houses of their relatives after the coastal areas were hit by strong sea erosion. A 13-year-old boy, Muhammed Migdad, drowned at the Ramanchira rivulet in Kondotty.

A holiday has been declared for all educational institutions in Kannur and Kasaragod districts and Devaikulam taluk in Idukki owing to the rain alert.

The weather bulletin issued by the India Meteorological Department sounded an yellow alert across Kerala except Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam on Friday.