

# Rain batters Kerala, toll hits 12

Heavy downpour triggers landslips in many places; three persons missing

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The resurgent monsoon caused widespread havoc across Kerala with heavy rain triggering minor landslips in many places, leaving a trail of destruction in the hilly stretches of the State.

As many as six people, including a toddler, were killed in various rain-related incidents, including landslips, on Tuesday alone, taking the death toll to 12 in three days. Three more people were reported to be missing in various rain-related incidents.

As many as 95 active relief camps are operational in the State, accommodating 2,291 inmates. Among the districts, the highest number of 21 camps was in Kottayam with 447 inmates, while 15 relief camps were opened in Thrissur, accommodating 657 people. A total of 27 houses were destroyed while 123 houses were damaged in the rain that began on Sunday.

The body of three-year-old Numa Thaslin, daughter



An elephant caught in the strong water current at Chalakudy river at Pillappara, near Athirappilly ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of Nadeera, a native of Chennannur, who had gone missing in Peravoor, was recovered following a search led by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team and local people.

Nadeera had stepped to the backyard of her house with Numa on hearing the rumbling sound of the landslide, but the child was swept away in the currents triggered by the landslide near the building.

The body of Rajesh of Valara Colony, Poolakutty in Kannur, who was also mis-

sing since last night, was recovered in the morning.

## More bodies recovered

In another instance, the body of Riyaz, who had gone missing in the Manimala river at Koottickal, near Mundaikayam, was also found on Tuesday. The bodies of Poulose, who went missing in a forest at Urulanthanni near Kothamangalam, and Aneesh, who had been missing at Mulanthuruthy in Ernakulam, were also recovered on Tuesday.

A wild elephant that was

caught in the middle of the raging Chalakudy river for several hours near Athirappilly in Thrissur finally managed to get out of the river after close to five hours of its valiant attempts.

## Holiday declared

The district administrations have declared a holiday for educational institutions in Kozhikode, Thrissur, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Malappuram, Idukki, Palakkad, Pathanamthitta, Wayanad, Kottayam, and Thiruvananthapuram.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has declared a red alert in 10 districts on Wednesday, warning of extreme heavy rains.

The intense rain triggered by a monsoon trough is likely to continue for three more days. An orange alert has been declared in the remaining four districts – Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Kasaragod – warning of very heavy to heavy rains.

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