

# Rain abates in Kerala, but death count rises to 19

Red alert withdrawn in all districts; orange alert in 12 districts today

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The heavy rain that has been lashing Kerala since Sunday has abated, providing a reprieve to the people, even as the State continues to remain on high alert.

With the rain keeping away from most parts of the State on Wednesday, the overall situation has improved significantly.

## Misery continues

However, the misery of the people in rain-hit areas continued.

Seven people were killed in various rain-related incidents on Wednesday, taking the death toll to 19. Three deaths were recorded in Thrissur, including two fishermen, who went missing in the sea two days ago. The bodies of Maniyan, 46, and Gilbert, 54, of Pulluvila, Thiru-

vananthapuram, who went for fishing from Chettuva harbour four days ago, were recovered. The body of Babu Varghese, 53, of Uzhinjal, who went for fishing in a nearby paddy field, was also recovered.

In Kottayam, two deaths were reported. The deceased were identified as Dasan, 75, and Amal, 18. Dasan, a native of Thalayazham drowned while venturing into a river. Amal, a Plus Two student, was swept away by floodwaters while venturing into an inundated rubber plantation near Manarcaud.

In Pathanamthitta, Kasi-nathan, 16, was killed when his head banged against a rock while diving into a temple pond near Thiruvalla.

In another incident in Kollam, the body of Noufal, 21, of Anugraha Nagar, who went missing in the Pallimon



**Furious yet beautiful:** Athirappilly falls in full glory as water was released from the Peringalkuthu reservoir. ■ K.K. NAJEEB

lake while taking bath, has also been recovered.

The Revenue department has opened as many as 178 camps across the State accommodating 5,168 inmates. Around 30 houses were destroyed and 198 houses were damaged in the heavy rain.

Meanwhile, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has withdrawn the red alert issued for nine districts on Thursday with the weather improving. Orange alert has been issued across the

State, except Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam, where yellow alert has been issued.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan directed officials to make arrangements to shift the tourists who were affected by the rain to safer places. Addressing a meeting of District Collectors here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said there was no need to evacuate people living in tourism centres and resorts unless the situation warranted.

## IMD issues yellow alert in Bengaluru

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Heavy rain in Bengaluru over the last two days has exposed the chinks in the civic infrastructure and lack of preparedness on part of the civic body as residential pockets continued to face flood-like situation on Wednesday. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued yellow alert in Bengaluru for the next two days, raising fears of more travails for its residents.

After Tuesday's rain, at Sai Layout in Horamavu near K.R. Puram – a pocket that was flooded during every spell of rain since May this year – water entered a few houses as drains overflowed.

A senior official from BBMP said that the civic bo-

dy has done a study and found out that a railway bridge being constructed across the stormwater drain was the cause for flooding in this area and the BBMP, along with proper coordination with Railways, would take up the work to avoid flooding.

The control room of the BBMP has received several complaints regarding rain damage from residents on Tuesday and Wednesday.

## Traffic disrupted

Rain caused traffic jam in many parts, especially in the Central Business District (CBD) and key arterial roads.

According to Bengaluru Traffic Police, traffic snarls were also reported along the major roads in the city.