

OPERATION JALARAKSHA I & II

KERALA FLOODS 2018

Rescue, Relief & Rehabilitation

Work by Kerala Police

A STUDY



Published by the DGP/SPD Kerala Police.
Printed by KSPS, Kochi, 2019





Munroeduruth / Munroe Island - Kollam District
underwater - aerial view

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Kerala Police Department, Trivandrum
First Published 2019

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Every effort has been made to keep the contents as accurate to the maximum possible extent. We apologise for anything missing.

PATRONED AND PRODUCED BY

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Government of Kerala

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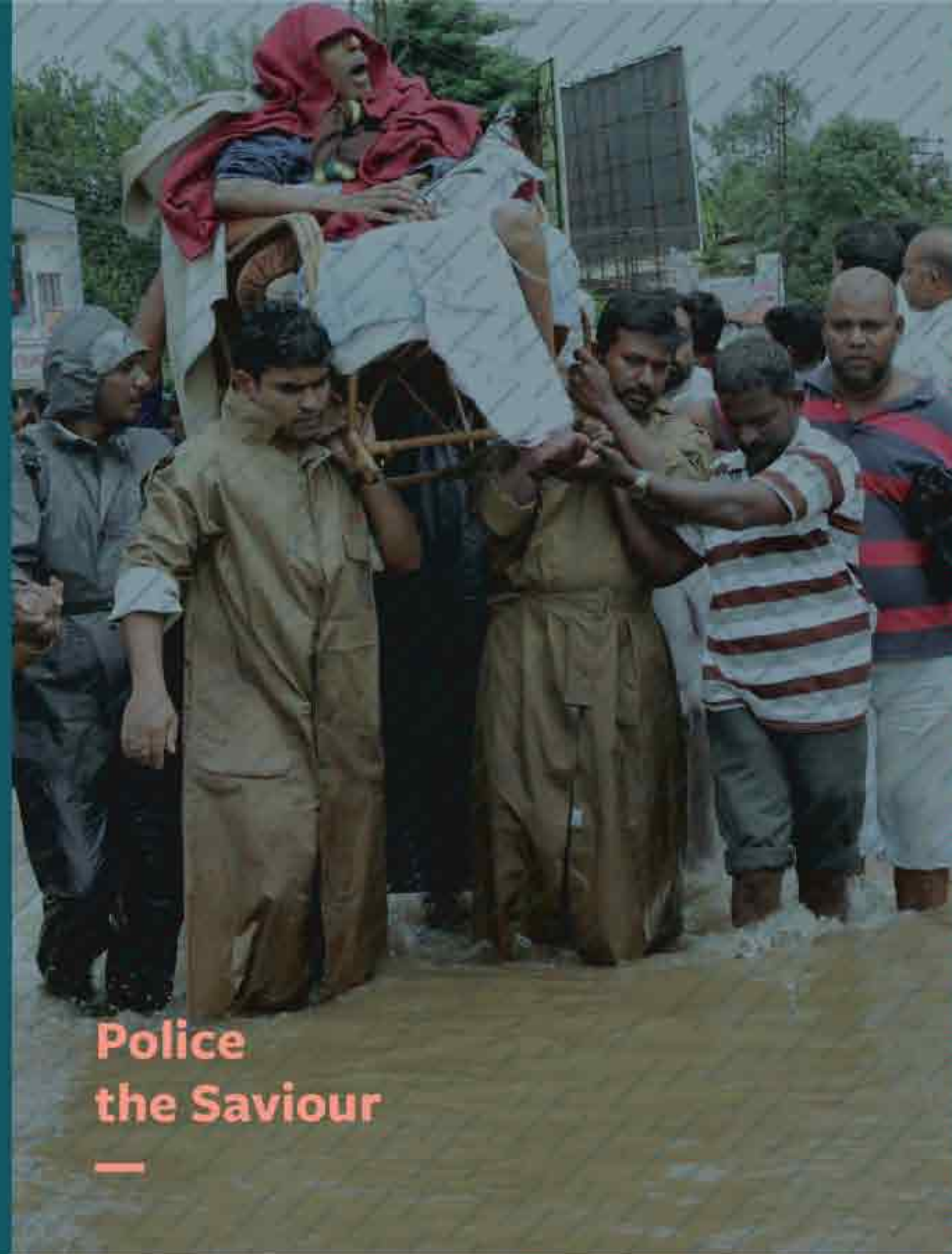
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DGP & SPG is grateful to **Ms. Veena K John**
for the layout and design of the book.



**Police
the Saviour**



The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi visited Kerala to see the Floods situation.

He reviewed with Hon'ble Governor, Hon'ble Chief Minister and other officers of Kerala; He gave directions, advices and suggestions,





The Hon'ble Prime Minister
Shri. Narendra Modi even spoke to
DGP/SPC.

**A moment of pride for
Kerala Police.**





The performance of the Police gave the Government great satisfaction; It earned for the government appreciation at the national and international level. The relief activities and the cleanup programme initiated under the Operation Jalaraksha-2 will find a space in history.

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Sri Pinarayi Vijayan gave away the certificate of Appreciation to Sri. Loknath Behera IPS, DGP & State Police Chief, in the presence of Sri. Tom Jose IAS, the Chief Secretary In an Investiture ceremony held on 01.09.2018 at Thiruvananthapuram.



Hon'ble Chief Minister
Sri. Pinarayi Vijayan
Visiting a Relief Camp



DGP & SPC

Sri. Loknath Behera,
Visiting a Relief camp
in Pathanamthitta District
along with his wife.

From the Hon'ble Chief Minister's Desk



Pinarayi Vijayan
Hon'ble Chief Minister
of Kerala

Kerala faced the worst ever flood disaster in 2018 in almost a century. This experience was unprecedented and hence new to the administrative set-up of Kerala. It was due to the concerted efforts of the people of Kerala that we could tide over the disaster - Kerala Floods- 2018.

The multi-dimensional efforts of the government in co-ordinating the activities of the fishermen, army and central agencies received world acclaim. Labourers, voluntary organisations and youth actively participated in the rescue operation from the very beginning. Significant were the roles of the Revenue department, local self government and the Disaster Management Authority. 'Operation Jalaraksha' was the name given by the Police to this mammoth rescue operation. It was the Police department that played a pivotal role in dealing with the situation. The entire department can be proud of this fact. The timely intervention of the police in a disaster of this magnitude affecting fifty five lakhs of people was indeed effective and praise worthy.

The police are the first to act when such issues crop up in a State. The Fire and Rescue service that forms , also extends their assistance in such situations. The Police force not only did reach the flood hit areas but offered self-effacing service. This humane face of the police was quite different from the usual picture highlighted by the media.

The sole responsibility of the rescue operation rested on the police force. They were acting in honest compliance of the faith pinned on them by Government. By working along with the public in the flood-hit areas, the IGs , SPs and other ranked officers showed a commendable example. Even in areas where the mobile network was snapped, police came to the help of the people and turned out to be the saviours of the public. The supreme examples of the selfless service rendered by the police came out through the social media.

The performance of the police sets before us a new model. If the police are willing to involve themselves in the problems of the locality, the public will accept them as their saviours.

The involvement of the fishermen in the rescue operation was remarkable indeed. The role of the police here too in providing timely assistance to them needs special mention. There was also their role in helping the central force work in the locations of the State unfamiliar to them. Once the rescue operation was over, the police played an equally important role in the relief work. They went on helping the people in cleaning the houses and in making the schools serviceable. They guarded the Relief camps selflessly.

We could complete the rescue operation satisfactorily. We could also successfully carry out the activities of the rehabilitation process. We are now on the path of reconstruction. According to the statistics of the UN, the State has suffered a loss of Rs 31,000 crore. The irreparable damage to ecology, in addition to the monetary loss, cannot be assessed.

Kerala has launched a Rebuild Kerala Initiative. The plan takes into consideration the progress attained by other countries. We organised a Development Conclave seeking assistance for reconstruction. Government of Kerala intends to present before the development partners our basic requirements for the reconstruction of Kerala and to make substantial interference for seeking financial and technical assistance. We can tide over the crisis and proceed further only through constant effort. We must be able to fully engage ourselves in such activities.

This text notes the geographical peculiarities of Kerala: It is a reminder of the deluge of 1924 as well. It deals with the details of the service rendered not only by the Police force but also that of the Fire and Rescue force, Jail department and other departments. There are several other departments that made successful interventions in the effort. They might also document their experiences. This text has to be looked upon as a milestone. The way the police acted in such a situation would help in managing similar disasters in future and also in motivating the police.

As it is a document of the rescue relief and rehabilitation operations of the Police, the intention is to make the selfless service of the police a part of history. It is of paramount importance to record the rescue operation, which does not have a parallel in the history. Posterity will learn many things from this.

We have always lagged behind in documenting incidents and experiences. The handicap was noticed when we tried to understand the deluge of 1924 in the light of the flood of 2018. The activities of the police are very live in the memories of the present generation. But a document is essential for the future generation to comprehend the reality. This would be a handbook of the efforts of the police in tiding over the flood situation. I use this occasion to congratulate all who worked for this.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pinarayi Vijayan'.

Pinarayi Vijayan
Chief Minister of Kerala

Salute to my Force



Loknath Behera IPS
DGP & State Police Chief

The Kerala Floods of 2018 brought unparalleled destruction and devastation in Kerala. In the impact of monsoon, villages and cities, canals and rivers became as furious as the ocean. The 44 rivers of Kerala reclaimed their forgotten courses and gushed forth violently through the banks. The rivers of Kerala swelled and overflowed. People residing in coastal and hilly areas experienced the impact of the flood directly or indirectly.

The humans naturally became the victims of the unforeseen flood and our State resembled a field after the battle. At this critical juncture the Keralites with their self-respect and fighting spirit rose up to the occasion. They became their own saviours. Great people indeed!

The people of Kerala acknowledged in one voice the service-mindedness and commitment of the Kerala Police. The victims of flood in Kerala had no models of rescue and relief operation. The rescue operation of the police was titled Operation Jalaraksha. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala who led the efforts from the front pinned faith on the police and exhorted them to take up the challenge of the rescue operation. It was an unprecedented decision to direct Police to take lead role in rescue operations Police faithfully took it up and did not disappoint the Chief Minister. I also recall the guidance given by Sri. Raman Srivastava IPS (Retd.), the Advisor (Home) to Hon'ble Chief Minister during this testing time.

Such actions that are historically relevant must be preserved and subjected to study. We have tried to document our actions, experiences maximum extent possible. Further the Research Wing of Kerala Police took up a study covering Police stations in the affected districts. The study results are contained in the book in addition to other materials collected and collated. It is hoped that this comprehensive book prepared will definitely be a model for students and the public and for the police themselves in future; the survival model of this great land will be a touchstone for posterity. I am proud of having led the police in this critical period. I use this opportunity to express my gratitude to all those who stood with the police: the CMO, the government departments, agencies, individuals, and the valiant fishermen.

This book has been made possible for the work by Dr. Sandhya IPS, ADGP, Sri. Manoj Abraham IPS, ADGP, Sri. Anup Kuruvilla John IPS DIG, and SHOs of various Police Station among others.

Impressions and Words



Sudesh Kumar IPS
ADGP

My experience during Kerala Floods 2018 was unparalleled. Working in CAPFs for long years gave me that mind to brave the disaster and help the victims. Mobilising the Police, motivating them were challenging – but my men were the best – self motivated and self actuated. They did what none could do.



Dr. B. Sandhya IPS
ADGP Training

The Independence Day celebrations of 2018 were soaked in rain. The threat of disaster loomed large in the atmosphere. From the very next day the shock of the flood and the landslips sent shivers across the State. The younger generation of Kerala today is not aware of the 'Deluge of '99' (1924). We fail to remember the fact that great calamities can recur even after a hundred years. The police had the shocking realisation that the State was sinking into a calamity. Equipped with the courage and strength that they acquired from the experience of the past ten years of the Janamaithri Suraksha Project, they participated in the rescue operation and later on the relief & rehabilitation work.

The officers of the Police Academy and the Police Training College were involved in the rescue and relief operation. The Research Wing of the Kerala Police as directed by Sri. Loknath Behera IPS, the State Police Chief did an extensive study in the limits of affected Police Station Limits. I complement each and every member of the team. The study results have been incorporated in this book.

Dedication
Every police leader had an unique experience and an
different impression. It is a constraints of space. We
are not carrying those words. Apologies.





Anil Kant IPS
ADGP Vigilance
(Former ADGP South Zone)



S. Aananthakrishnan IPS
Excise Commissioner
(Former ADGP - HQ)



T. K. Vinod Kumar IPS
ADGP - Intelligence



Manoj Abraham IPS
ADGP - HQ
(Former IGP South Zone)

The Police are always an unsung hero in all crises, and so generally accolades are far and few. The effort to highlight the role of the Police as a Force, and to recognize the selfless, dedicated and sustained efforts put in by each individual policeman in the field, for the Rescue, Relief & Rehabilitation of the Flood Victims, is worth to mention. Let the lessons be the lessons for our future.

One thing I can state – Kerala Police did the impossible!

Kerala Floods 2018 threw a great challenge to all of us in Kerala Police. We were asked by the Hon'ble Chief Minister to lead the Rescue Operations. Being the Principal Staff Officer to DGP/State Police Chief, I had to manage the State Police Control Room which was opened in 6 hours. Sending resources to the worst affected area was a challenge. A great experience for me. Kerala Police did an excellent job & being a member of Kerala Police, I feel proud.

The Floods of 2018 was one of the most devastating disasters that Kerala had witnessed in its recent history. The closest comparison that can be made is to the great deluge of 1924. While the event of 2018 was devastating, the response of the people and the administration was spectacular. The rescue, relief and rehabilitation of those affected and the quick recovery of the impacted communities are a model for the country and the world. Kerala Police was proudly in the forefront of the efforts. Great leadership, great dedication. The work of the Police would go down in golden letters in the history of the State. I and my team was the collector & collator of all vital information for the Hon'ble Chief Minister & the State Police Chief – we did that work diligently.

It was a tremendous experience for me to co-ordinate the Rescue & Rehabilitation work of Kerala Police in the southern districts especially in Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Ernakulam & Idukki districts, where Kerala Floods 2018 had the greatest impact. It was terrifying to engage untrained Police Officials of every rank in the Rescue Work. They have not been trained to handle such a natural disaster. But they jumped into the rescue work with enthusiasm and showed great dedication. Police personnel became brothers & sisters of common people. I have never seen such appreciation for Police in my career. I was asked by DGP/State Police Chief to arrange fishermen who became the real heroes in rescue operations. I travelled with SPC in the helicopter for relief work. Tremendous experience!



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PREFACE

The people of state raised to the occasion in Unity forgetting the diversities like religion, caste, politics, neighbourhood rivalry, rich or poor, etc. Even the people who resided outside the state also pitched in. At the helm of affairs were the Police Department, which led from the front during rescue and evacuation and coordinated every activity during Relief and Rehabilitation Process.

Just before the onset of monsoon in 2018, as in previous years, Kerala Police had alerted its field formations in the districts to be prepared for any exigency viz to rise of water level in various water bodies, rain related issues pertaining to traffic, road blocks, landslides, etc. When the monsoon rains started, in 2018, abnormal rise of water levels in waterbodies came in; the Police got alerted in the districts of Idukki and Ernakulam Rural. In the district of Idukki, even a few Police Control Rooms were opened to handle any urgent situation. Never we expected the rain will be so heavy and the situation so uncontrollable, especially after 8th of August 2018. It is truly a situation, named as “Mahapralayam”, and the entire State of Kerala got severely affected with this unprecedented calamity. With no proper early flood alert system available in the State, the landslides and the floods caught everyone by surprise. People of Kerala got panic as they are not used to such situations. Police being the first responder to any situation affecting the life and property of the people, it is natural that the Police responded first. The developments were very quick and Kerala Police had to act in the quickest possible way to minimise the damage and loss of property and lives.

The Operation “Jalaraksha Phase I” was launched immediately and the entire Police Force of the State got mobilized to be available at the shortest notice. From 9th of August onwards, the nature’s fury was unmatched but the spirit of Kerala Police was equally unmatched. The Kerala Police conducted the biggest ever operations ever to provide rescue and relief to the victims.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Kerala who was leading from the front during this testing time, reposed his unflinching faith in the Police and directed Kerala Police to be in-charge of the rescue operations and according to him the Kerala Police never let him down.

The kind of work done by the Kerala Police during this period brought in lots of satisfaction in the Government; rich accolades from various quarters, (both national and international) and a pat on the back by no less than the Hon’ble Chief Minister himself, were also received.

The courage, the grit, the determination, the commitment and the dedication shown by the Kerala Police officials, irrespective of the ranks, made me proud to be the State Police Chief of such a great Police force !!

This report is being prepared as directed by the Government. The work was enormous; this small report cannot contain all the activities and operations undertaken by the Police.

When ‘Jalaraksha Phase-I” was concerned about the rescue and relief, the “Jalaraksha Phase-II” relates to the rehabilitation and role of the Police.

It is a matter of great satisfaction for me to prepare this book. This will be a document of memory as well as for posterity.

The devastating rains that lashed across the state of Kerala in the month of August 2018 and the resultant floods, which is now internationally known as #KERALA FLOODS 2018# perhaps does not have any parallel in the last century but for the floods in 1924 (Kolla Varsha 1099). The deluge that engulfed the State was gruesome and its impact was such that 14.6% of the whole land mass of the state was affected in totality. What then the state saw was a Rescue & Evacuation Operation of such a massive scale which it had not witnessed till then. The activities did not stop with Rescue and Evacuation. The Relief and Rehabilitation work which followed was unheard of in the history of the state.

An earnest effort is being made to document the activities carried out by Police Department during #KERALA FLOODS 2018# in the form of OPERATION JALARAKSHA 2018 – Report 1 & 2. When the public and other official machinery were clueless and standstill about the ways and means to tackle the disaster of this enormous volume, it was the Police Force of Kerala which got awakened and vigilant at the hour of need and voluntarily spearheaded the operations, which had huge life risk. The result was 3.8 lakhs of people were rescued to safety which otherwise would have been a disaster unparalleled in the history of the nation too. More than 27000 people affected by floods, landslides and cyclones were shifted to relief camps. It is estimated that as many as 965 villages were affected mostly in the districts of Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur and Wayanad.

Even the Relief materials which flow from across the globe was collected and disbursed to all nook and corner of the state with the active involvement of Police Department. The far flung areas were visited by Police personnel in boats and food materials were distributed for those who were unwilling to leave their houses. The law & order, peace and tranquility was maintained not only in the Relief Camps but also across the state during these days of scarcity. The Relief Camps which were started from 9th August 2018 went on in full fledge and the nos. kept on increasing till August 24th when people slowly started moving towards their abode. Then came the major issue of cleaning their houses and also the public institutions like schools, colleges, primary health centres etc. Here also the Police Department sacrificed the Onam Festival which is the most important in the state, went in massive strength to clean the houses and rehabilitate the people who had at some point of time lost hope of returning back.

Many of them were yet to come out of the trauma of the disaster which they saw so closely. They were counselled, given mental strength to start life afresh. The people began to leave the camp after 24th August when the fury of the flood cured. More than 35,000 police personnel irrespective of rank actively participated in this mission. They were supported by the Recruit Constables, Student Police Cadets, Janamaithri Volunteers etc.

Thus, the Police Force of the State which was once looked upon with suspicion and distrust became the most loved ones and came to be addressed as “BROTHERS IN KHAKHI”.

It is a proud moment for Kerala Police. The directions and the support the police directly received from Sri. Pinarayi Vijayan, the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Kerala will be remembered fondly by the force.

Further the brave policemen ignored the plight of their families affected by the flood/landslides and dedicated their services fully towards others.

Personally speaking it is a great experience for me to have led the force during such a difficult time. The appreciation, the awards and the rewards received from various quarters are all dedicated to all the members of the Kerala Police.

Loknath Behera IPS
DGP & State Police Chief

1

RESCUE & RELIEF OPERATIONS BY KERALA POLICE

Deluge of 99' (1924 Floods)

Flood Relief Activities

Asia

India

Kerala

INTRODUCTION

The Kerala Floods of 2018; the Great Deluge!

It was a great deluge that submerged the entire state of Kerala in an ocean of sorrow: the rivulets, streams and rivers of the state came together to form an ocean.

The flood made us realize the truth about the existence of nature. When we erect buildings, we have to care for Nature, the soil and the surroundings. Or else, whatever we build up will be washed away within no time. It was an occasion when the nature insisted on taking back whatever we have conquered “unlawfully.”

There were several people who helped Keralites overcome the crisis: the fishermen of Kerala, the real sons of this soil who launched their boats into the sea of distress, other Government servants and the general public. The role of the police was that of rescuers, guides and protectors and co-ordinators of the activities.

The flood has no comparison. After the rule of the legendary king Maveli, this was an occasion like the First Onam when all Keralites stood as one. We rose to the occasion to brave the calamity. This was an instance when the people set aside religious, social and political differences and upheld human values. The generation might not have witnessed a similar sight of people of different perspectives and political loyalties joining hands as one.

It was the norm that when natural calamities rocked other parts of the world, we thought that we were safe. Keralites had the feeling that such calamities were peculiar to those parts of the world. We were hence thoroughly unaware of the precautionary measures to be adopted on such occasions. We hadn't thought about the ways to reduce the loss of human lives and the colossal destruction of resources. Each natural calamity explains us how helpless we are. Each flood gives us the message of the level of alertness that we have to maintain in future. The flood of 2018 has given us also the invaluable lesson of sustainable living: the necessity to live in harmony with our surroundings.

The flood that occurred in 1924 which is known as ‘the flood of 99’ is the only precedent occurrence known in Kerala. There might not be many today with vivid memories of the flood of 99. The rescue operations of police under the title ‘Jalaraksha-I’ and the cleaning-up activities titled ‘Jalaraksha-II’ during 2018 will ever be remembered as indelible marks of the true spirit and mission of the police force. The police did excellent rescue, relief and rehabilitation and coordination work. On Onam and Bakrid holidays, the police were busy with the cleaning-up programme, active in getting houses ready for habitation again. In addition to this, they were in the forefront distributing kits of essential supplies.

The Research Wing of the Kerala Police under Dr. B Sandhya IPS was directed to conduct a study and submit a report. The study comprehensively covers the performance of the police in various dimensions such as the activities of the police in the critical situation, the challenges faced by the police in the face of danger, the potential of the police in dealing with such disasters

in future and the scope of the disaster management systems of the Police. As part of the study, the Research Wing collected data directly from the flood hit areas, Relief camps, Police stations, Soil research centres, Irrigation department, Kerala forest research centre, Collectorates, District emergency operation centres, Fire force and Media centres.

The report reveals supreme examples of sacrifice, unity and secularism. The primary objective of the study is to create a comprehensive document that analyses how the people dealt with the situation collectively, how posterity should deal with such situations, the situations confronted by police officers in the face of this disaster, and of course, their limitations. As the focus of the study is on the activities of the police, other areas are not comprehensively dealt with.



The Deluge of '99 (Floods -1924)

The deluge that occurred in Kerala in the months of July and August in 1924 was the most dreadful one of the last century. As it occurred in the Malayalam Era 1099, it is known as the deluge of 99. Though it was not so massive as the floods of 2018, it was almost equal in intensity. After the floods, the state of Kerala, God's own country became zone of tragedy.

From press reports and available documents of those days, we get only an rough picture of the calamity.

The low lying areas of the state were totally submerged by the torrential rain that lashed across the State for about three weeks from the first of Karkidakam (Malayalam month). The flood affected Central Travancore and South Malabar. Transportation by road and rail came to a halt. Postal service was cut off. People fled from flood affected areas to seek refuge in elevated places. History records that even the Karinthiri Hills were washed away.

After the assault of the water, the consequent battery of poverty and misery hit the people as never before.

The majority of districts of the then Travancore - Kochi state, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Idukki and Kottayam were terribly affected by the floods. Kundal valley railway, and the narrow gauge railway in Munnar were swept away in the landslip. Far more intense was the gravity of the flood situation in Central Travancore. Water rose to the height of twenty feet. Torrential rain and the raging seas together wreaked havoc on land. South Malabar was completely submerged in floods by the 16th of Karkidakam. The majority of places in Kozhikkode town were also submerged. Nearly two thousand houses were destroyed. Dead bodies bobbed along the Kanoli canal. The deluge of 99 brought about drastic changes in the landscape and course of rivers. Devaki Nilayangod recollects the loss of the 'Agni' kept apart for rites in the illams [priestly Namboodiri households] on the banks of the Bharathapuzha.



The threat of e waste was not even imagined during the flood of 99. But after the 2018 flood, chemicals from the accumulated mountain of electronic waste seeped into the water sources and the lead and mercury content in water can cause far reaching environmental and health hazards.

The tea estates of Munnar situated at a height of 5000 to 6500 feet were not spared by floods. A dam had been naturally formed by uprooted trees and soil deposited by landslides at the spot in Mattupetti where two hills met. (At present there exists a manmade dam.) The landslide following the incessant rain destroyed the bund. The resultant fury of floods laid waste in the town of Munnar. It destroyed the railway station and the entire railway line.

A dam had been formed at Changamanad on the exact spot where the main dam is now situated. On the sixth day after the rain started, the dam burst. In the fury of floods, a broad stretch of six thousand acres was converted into a large lake. When the flow and fury of water subsided, 200 acres of land had been swept away in Pallivasal. This changed the geographical shape of Pallivasal.

The areas affected by floods in 2018-Thrissur, Ernakulam, Kottayam and Munnar roads-were the same ones affected in 1924. Though official records are not available, it is believed that the death toll then was about one thousand. Tens of thousands of cattle were also lost.

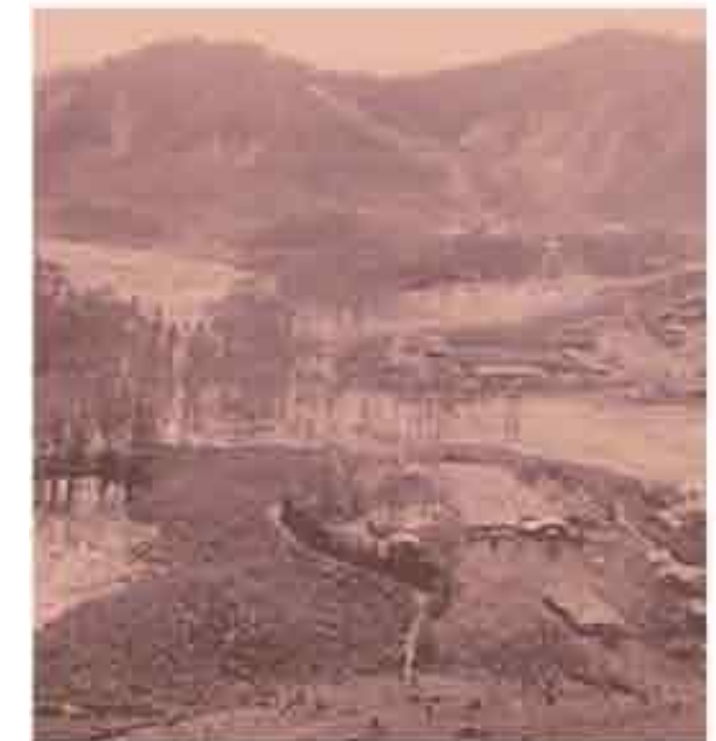
Flood Relief Activities

Government of Travancore started emergency flood relief activities and constituted a flood relief committee. In the month of August itself, hundreds of flood victims and their families reached the relief camps. Their number in Ambalapuzha was 4000, Alappuzha 3000, Kottayam 5000, and Paravur 8000.

The Forest Department had given orders to supply bamboo and other materials to the poor for construction of houses. The government constituted a house construction fund and took steps to regulate the prices of food materials.

There were floods in 1939 and 1961, though not of the intensity of the floods of 1924.

In place of 2087.67 mm rain expected between 1 June and 15 August, in just three weeks the rainfall was 3368 mm. Dams were very rare in those days. The flood of 99 came 29 years after the Mullaperiyar dam was constructed. Now there is a considerable increase in the number of dams. The total number of small and big dams stands at around 58.



Floods 99



Asia

Rains usually occur in South Asia in the months of June to September. Studies indicate that around 2000 people die every year on account of floods in the last two decades. Floods are usual in South Asian countries such as Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan between July and September.



In the 64 years from between
1953 and 2017

1,07,487
people died in India in heavy
rains and floods.

Paharganj, New Delhi/India during 2010 Aug 14 Flood

India

Floods occur in India in every region. Due to the influence of rivers originating from the Himalayas, floods are common in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Earthquakes and landslides obstruct the flow of water. The floods affect the North and west parts of India such as Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh mainly due to the water currents of the Narmada, Chambal and

Tapti rivers in Central India and the peninsular base. When the period of monsoon extends itself, the banks of Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri usually get flooded. There are several causes for the flooding in India. The northern part of India is located in the central region of the monsoon map. As a result of this, we get heavy rain. Plains on the Northern side, the long stretches in the eastern zones, the rivers and streams in the northern plains, and the low lying areas of the Ganga-Brahmaputra are also areas of flood. Inadequate sewage

systems and the failure of the flood control systems are also responsible. The melting of layers of snow due to global warming too causes floods.

According to the statistics of the Central Water Commission (presented in the Rajya Sabha), in the 64 years from between 1953 and 2017, 1,07,487 people died in India in heavy rains and floods. The loss to agriculture, the damage to houses and the losses to public would have been around 3,65,860 crores of

rupees. An average of 75 lakh hectares of land is affected by floods every year. The largest loss of human lives due to floods occurred in Andhra Pradesh in 1977. More than ten thousand people died (Disaster Management India, Report). Government has to spend 1,805 crores of rupees to meet the expenses of losses, reconstruction of houses and other public needs. The central Disaster Management Authority has set up 226 Flood Exchange Systems across 20 States, 2 Union territories and 19 river bank zones to face the floods.

Kerala

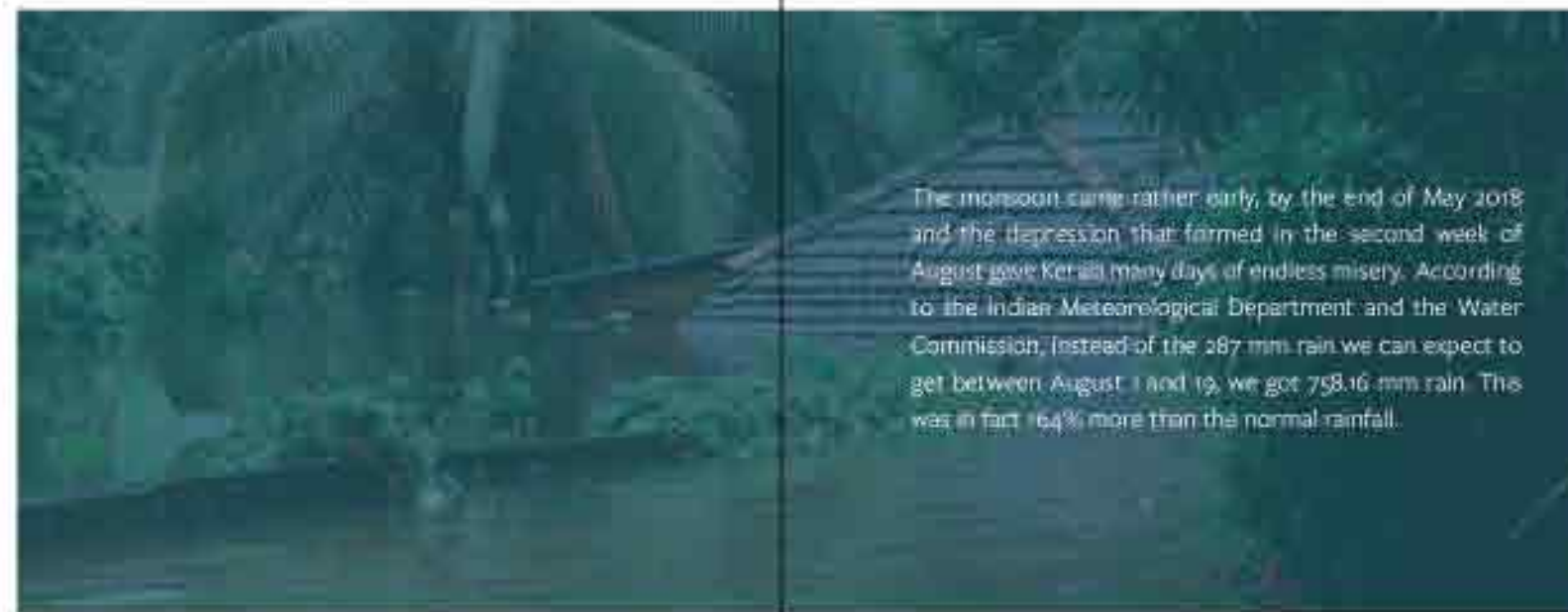
Kerala is a state with diverse peculiarities: a very complex lake system, coastal area stretching over nearly 550 kms, wet tropical forests of the Western Ghats, a rather undulating topography and temperate monsoon climate. The uplands 75 metres high above the sea level,

midlands from 7.5 to 75 metres and the coastal area 7.5m below the sea level are special features of the topography of Kerala. Roughly 60% of the annual rainfall is received from the Southwest monsoon.



The main source of numerous streams, lakes and ponds is the Sahyadri. Of the 44 rivers originating from the Western Ghats, 41 flow southwards and reach the Arabian sea. The other three rivers flow through the state to reach the Bay of Bengal. Wells are the major sources of underground water. There are around 80 dams and standing river banks. Disasters will naturally assume unimagined dimensions in a state like Kerala. Effective disaster management can only become possible with the proper awareness of the specialities of the topography of Kerala and the features of its water resources. Only those who clearly know the locality can take a lead role in the rescue operations.

People in contemporary society know about calamities only by hearsay. The floods that hit Kerala in August 2018 was the most disastrous and the worst of all disasters in recent times. The catastrophe has no comparison. It brought in its wake great devastation.



We did not have the expertise to manage such a colossal disaster during Floods 2018. The people of Kerala could overcome the crisis only with unity and co-operation. The floods brought devastation to houses, agricultural land, and to the sectors of construction and transportation. The people of Kerala set aside their individual prejudices and differences of caste and creed, and joined hands to overcome the situation. The state witnessed a mammoth rescue operation from August 8 to 20: an activity that it had never before witnessed. Kerala Police (Operation Jalaraksha), Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, other Govt. Departments, fishermen, the common man and non-governmental organisations all became integral parts of the rescue operation. Lakhs of people were evacuated to camps: this included people whose houses were submerged and those rescued from the impending danger of rising flood water. Many people in the inundated areas were saved in fishing boats and by airlifting. This considerably reduced the number of fatalities. The role played by the youth was commendable. Their presence was conspicuous both in the rescue operations and in the relief work.

The rescue operations were a proof that the administrative machinery of Kerala could tide over such a disaster. The timely interference of the Chief Minister was instrumental. As the monsoon showed signs of intensifying, 24/7 monitoring cells were opened. The senior officers of central forces and authorities including the Army were ready for service throughout. As a result of this successful co-ordination was ensured.

Evaluation and monitoring meetings were held both in the morning and evening under the leadership of the Chief Minister. The committee appraised the situation and the progress of the rescue operations as it evolved each day. Necessary directions were given accordingly to the district level bodies.

The Collectors had their general responsibilities and also the special responsibilities of the relief activities. The Chief Minister also took the decision to entrust the IAS officers with special responsibilities. District Police officers were given the complete responsibility of the rescue operation in the districts. Other IPS officers were given special responsibilities and deputed to districts. Special care was taken to ensure the participation of the local self governing bodies.



It was remarkable that the Chief Minister took a leading role in monitoring the activities. The office of the CM worked round-the-clock at this stage.

The dedicated service of the police force in unison with the public in the flood hit areas was indeed praiseworthy. The police took a leading role in dealing in a timely and effective manner with the situation in compliance with the directions of the government and the district administrative machinery. They worked with commitment and zeal in the relief camps and rehabilitation centres. The state has not witnessed such a massive rescue operation ever before. Servicemen from the Army, Navy, Fire Force and Air Force, voluntary organisations

and fishermen joined together to save hundreds of people from casualties. Police had no previous experience of a situation like this; nor had they made any prior preparation for this unexpected disaster. But with their indomitable will power, alertness and physical prowess, they braved the adverse circumstances. Even at the initial stage of the flood situation, they brought back hundreds of people to life and hope. The police had a clear idea of the locations and places and they continued the rescue operations day and night giving up food and sleep. The flood-fighting is the supreme instance of the organisational skill and tolerance, the will power and commitment of the police.

The highest spell of rainfall of the deluge of 99 in the months of July and August 1924 was received on 16, 17 and 18 July. Devikulam received 484 mm and 751 mm rain on 16 and 17 July respectively.

| District | Expected | Received | Excess (%) |
|--------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| Alappuzha | 1380.6 | 1784 | 29 |
| Kannur | 2333.2 | 2573.3 | 10 |
| Ernakulam | 1680.4 | 2477.8 | 47 |
| Idukki | 1851.7 | 3555.5 | 92 |
| Kasaragod | 2609.8 | 2287.1 | -12 |
| Kollam | 1038.9 | 1579.3 | 52 |
| Kottayam | 1531.1 | 2307 | 51 |
| Kozhikode | 2250.4 | 2898 | 29 |
| Malappuram | 1761.9 | 2637.2 | 50 |
| Palakkad | 1321.7 | 2285.6 | 73 |
| Pathanamthitta | 1357.5 | 1968 | 45 |
| Thiruvananthapuram | 672.1 | 966.7 | 44 |
| Thrissur | 1824.2 | 2077.6 | 14 |
| Wayanad | 2281.3 | 2884.5 | 26 |
| Kerala State | 1701.4 | 2394.1 | 41 |

(Courtesy Central Water Commission)

The rainfall in Kerala from June 8th, 2018 to 19 August was 2346.6 mm. It was 42% higher than the expected 1649.5 mm. Instead of the 287.6 mm rainfall expected between 1 August and 19 August the rainfall received was 758.6 mm - 164 percent higher.



The following districts in Kerala were especially impacted by the flood of 2018:

According to the report of the United Nations, the loss to Kerala in the deluge of 2018 is around

31,000
crores of rupees.

The details of the loss suffered by various sectors as assessed by the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) of the UN are given below

| No. | Sector | Loss of Rupees (incrores) |
|-----|------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Construction Sector | 5,443 |
| 2 | Health | 600 |
| 3 | Education | 214 |
| 4 | Culture | 80 |
| 5 | Agriculture Animal Husbandry, Fishing | 4,498 |
| 6 | Drinking Water, Sanitation | 1331 |
| 7 | Transportation | 10,046 |
| 8 | Electricity | 1483 |

(Courtesy: Central Water Commission)



Gandhiji wrote about the relief work of the flood of 99 (Kerala Floods 1924) in Navjeevan and Young India.

Collect fund for the victims of flood by giving up food once a day or by avoiding milk as food. In Navjeevan he referred to a girl who brought 3 paise to contribute for flood relief.

He exhorted the women to sell their jewellery to contribute to the food and safety of the flood victims. Till then he had collected Rs 6994, 13 annas and 3 paise.



THE POLICE & THE RESCUE OPERATIONS

Kerala Floods 'Mahapralayam 2018'-

Onset of Rains

3 Lakh+

people were rescued
in the venture shows the
significance of the intervention.



“Mahapralayam 2018” - ONSET OF RAINS

The Indian meteorological department had predicted on May 31, 2018 that monsoon in Kerala would be “below normal”. The heavy rains that lashed Kerala in the month of July and August, 2018 were not anticipated by anyone.

Due to the unprecedented rainfall, all the major 35 odd reservoirs were full and had no buffer storage to accommodate the heavy inflows from 10th August, 2018.

The Indian Meteorological Department in its press release dated 19.08.2018 says, “Kerala so far received 2346.6mm against normal of 1649.5mm (above normal by 42%).

The highest excess rainfall is recorded over Idukki District (92% above normal) followed by Palakkad (72% above normal).”

The cumulative rainfalls for Kerala during south-west monsoon starting from 1st June 2018 till 15th July was below average in Kerala. For a week it was on the border line and from 10th July onwards rains started intensifying with above average rainfall. The departure from normal was over 20% between 10th July 2018 and 10th August 2018. The trend is almost similar for most of the districts except Kasaragod.

Then came the unprecedented heavy downpours between 10th and 19th August. It led to the disastrous flood situation and severe landslides in the State.

The bulletin of IMD dated 19.08.2018 says the rains were except led to the flood disaster. Due to the unprecedented rainfall, all the major 35 odd reservoirs were full and had no buffer storage to accommodate the heavy inflows from 10th August, 2018. The IMD added, “The continued exceptional heavy rainfall in August (with 170% above normal so far) in the catchment area had compelled the authorities to resort to heavy releases downstream into the rivers. Such a scenario that continued for almost a week now has caused overflowing of all river banks leading to widespread flooding almost all over the State.”



Pralayam before Mahapralayam:

Police being first responders were the first to reach the disaster location in all events that took place during the devastating floods in Kerala. The devastating landslide in Kattipara in Kozhikode Rural, to the floods and land slide in Wayanad and Idukki Districts to the floods in the three river basins of Kerala, the Police were there with the people in the events preceding the disaster, during the disaster, and in the post disaster phase.

The landslide at Kattipara resulted in the deaths of 14 persons. The police rescued 4 persons and shifted them to Medical College Hospital Kozhikode.

In the floods and landslides in Wayanad there were 3 deaths, 16 injured, and 6587 persons rehabilitated to camps. Police played a vital role in rescue operations and helping displaced persons to reach camps as in the initial phase all roads to the district were cut off, preventing arrival of rescue personnel, and the only

forces available for responding to the district were the police and the fire force. Some areas of Kannur district were affected by landslides and floods. There were 2 deaths and 564 individuals were relocated to seven rehabilitation camps. Similarly, in Kozhikode, other than the deaths at the Kattipara landslide, there was 1 death and 372 persons were relocated to 7 camps. In these incidents police played a vital role in rescue and rehabilitation.

The Period from 8th August saw widespread devastation in the districts of Idukki, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Kottayam, and Alappuzha. The death and destruction were mainly located in the Pampa, Periyar, and the Sholayar-Chalakudy River basins. The Police Department had meticulously mapped and informed the areas in different police stations where water would rise and floods could occur along the Periyar River.

In the period prior to the flooding, the police in all the affected districts went to localities likely to be impacted and informed through house to house visits, spoke directly to people and made announcements through public announcement systems regarding the issue of the Red Alert. Police also alerted ward members over phone so that they could inform the people living in their wards regarding the impending floods.



Mobilisation of Police Assets and Deployment

Kerala Police conducted one of its biggest operations, in recent times, to provide rescue and relief, to the flood-ravaged and landslides victims of Kerala. Police deployed, on an average, a total force of more than 10,000 officers and men, every day w.e.f. 08.08.2018, who were involved exclusively in the whole rescue and relief operations.

The highest manpower of about

33,000

was deployed on 23.08.2018

Total police personnel deployed across the 19 Police Districts

| Date | Police Personnel deployed |
|------------|---------------------------|
| 08.08.2018 | 2,518 |
| 09.08.2018 | 2,900 |
| 10.08.2018 | 2,863 |
| 11.08.2018 | 2,682 |
| 12.08.2018 | 2,856 |
| 13.08.2018 | 2,897 |
| 14.08.2018 | 4,051 |
| 15.08.2018 | 7,821 |
| 16.08.2018 | 10,267 |
| 17.08.2018 | 11,033 |
| 18.08.2018 | 12,511 |
| 19.08.2018 | 12,003 |
| 20.08.2018 | 11,797 |
| 21.08.2018 | 20,467 |
| 22.08.2018 | 24,777 |
| 23.08.2018 | 33,104 |
| 24.08.2018 | 30,116 |
| 25.08.2018 | 22,567 |

This included the local Police who were the first responders, followed by the Armed Battalion manpower which was rushed to the spots.

Later as the situation turned worse the Coastal Police, the RRF, the Thunderbolt Commandos, the Women Battalion personnel, Women Commandos, officials from all special units of Police like CBCID, KEPA, SCRB, etc. were also pressed into operations. Officers of all ranks from Police Constables to ADGP level Officers did field work.

In the Phase-II of Operation, Jalaraksha, the manpower deployed was to the tune of

10,000 - 15,000

per day, who got involved in various rehabilitation work.



Police Assets Mobilisation

The Police have also mobilized Police vehicles, boats and tipper lorries for rescue and relief operations. Between 14th and 20th August 4153 man days of boats, 3868 man days of tipper lorries and 6596 man days of police vehicles were deployed for rescue and relief work.

Most of the police vehicles were deployed for rescue and relief operations. From less than 100 vehicles during the first week of August, on an average of 850 vehicles were deployed during peak rescue work between 14th and 25th August. On 23rd August, 2017 vehicles were on road ferrying rescue teams and people affected by floods.

Number Of Police Vehicles Used For Rescue Operation

| Date | Police Vehicles Used |
|------------|----------------------|
| 08.08.2018 | 156 |
| 09.08.2018 | 178 |
| 10.08.2018 | 173 |
| 11.08.2018 | 176 |
| 12.08.2018 | 169 |
| 13.08.2018 | 167 |
| 14.08.2018 | 305 |
| 15.08.2018 | 321 |
| 16.08.2018 | 830 |
| 17.08.2018 | 867 |
| 18.08.2018 | 939 |
| 19.08.2018 | 915 |
| 20.08.2018 | 830 |
| 21.08.2018 | 902 |
| 22.08.2018 | 1400 |
| 23.08.2018 | 2017 |
| 24.08.2018 | 1903 |
| 25.08.2018 | 1376 |

The police also mobilised tipper Lorries and other trucks from private parties for rescue operations. On an average, between 15th and 20th August, 617 Tipper Lorries were used on a day for rescue operations. A maximum of 989 Lorries were deployed on 17th August.

Number Of Tipper Lorries Used For Rescue Operation

| Date | Tipper Lorry Used |
|------------|-------------------|
| 08.08.2018 | 19 |
| 09.08.2018 | 19 |
| 10.08.2018 | 20 |
| 11.08.2018 | 19 |
| 12.08.2018 | 17 |
| 13.08.2018 | 19 |
| 14.08.2018 | 52 |
| 15.08.2018 | 270 |
| 16.08.2018 | 609 |
| 17.08.2018 | 989 |
| 18.08.2018 | 947 |
| 19.08.2018 | 581 |
| 20.08.2018 | 311 |
| 21.08.2018 | 321 |
| 22.08.2018 | 300 |
| 23.08.2018 | 300 |
| 24.08.2018 | 316 |
| 25.08.2018 | 112 |

The police also enlisted ambulance services throughout Kerala for carrying the needy. Between 8th August and 27th August, 305 people lost their lives and 11 have gone missing. The bodies had to be retrieved and Inquest and Post Mortems were conducted on them. The close relatives of the killed people were informed and last rites performed. The police were also in search of missing persons. Although only 73 got injured, hundreds and thousands of people have to be given first aid and emotional support.

Number of Life Jackets used by Police

| Date | Life Jackets Available |
|------------|------------------------|
| 08.08.2018 | 168 |
| 09.08.2018 | 173 |
| 10.08.2018 | 173 |
| 11.08.2018 | 173 |
| 12.08.2018 | 173 |
| 13.08.2018 | 173 |
| 14.08.2018 | 227 |
| 15.08.2018 | 359 |
| 16.08.2018 | 569 |
| 17.08.2018 | 825 |
| 18.08.2018 | 954 |
| 19.08.2018 | 960 |
| 20.08.2018 | 940 |
| 21.08.2018 | 930 |
| 22.08.2018 | 1000 |
| 23.08.2018 | 1010 |
| 24.08.2018 | 1010 |
| 25.08.2018 | 868 |

Mobile communication in most of the districts got struck and became stand still. Since electricity was not available due to incessant rains, mobile towers had become defunct. The only communication available was the police communication through wireless sets. Local control rooms were set up in flood affected areas and hand sets were distributed to all the officers, most of the vehicles involved in rescue and relief operations.

The shortage of life saving equipment and accessories was the single-most hurdles in search and rescue operations. Total available Life Jackets in Kerala Police were only 155. In order to expand the rescue operations, life jackets were borrowed from different agencies. On 23rd August police used 1010 Life Jackets.

First Responders

The State Police along with the State Fire Force were the first responders to the incidents of Disaster (Landslides and Floods). As soon as the information was received on the chances of flooding due to the opening of the dams (all the dams' Shutters were opened), Mike announcements on Police Jeeps, alerting persons staying in low lying areas to move to higher areas or to Relief camps, were the first work undertaken by the police and that is the main reason for the low casualties in the initial stages. Scores of people staying in low lying areas were moved to the Relief camps/safer places.



Rescue Operations

When the flooding started, the Police Department, which was made responsible for the rescue operations, swung into action and Police boats, coastal police boats, commandoes, Women Battalion personnel, Coastal police, RRF, Thunderbolts along with Paramilitary forces from BSF, CISF, NDRF and the Armed forces, worked hand in hand in the affected areas to save lives and to give essential food and water and medicines to the marooned persons. Senior Police officers of rank of IGP/DIG/SP were posted in all locations to co-ordinate and supervise the rescue work, and they were continuously monitored on an hourly basis by the State Police Chief. The Police Department coordinated the efforts of all departments including Revenue, Navy, Air force, Army, NDRF and various paramilitary and State forces that came to assist the State Government in the rescue efforts.

The rescue operations undertaken by the Police were unique and largely different from such operations undertaken by the defence forces and the paramilitary forces of Union of India. The Kerala Police had unique advantage of knowing the topography and knowing the people. At the same time, it had the disadvantage of not having that expertise in rescue operations nor having the proper machinery and logistics. But, the indomitable spirit in each and every Police official helped them in overcoming the gaps or deficiencies and they could save the lives of lakhs of people.

The Police conducted the rescue operations in the following manner:-



(a) One or two Police official(s) going for individual rescue operation, in which the Police official saved one person. Such instances are in thousands.



(b) Police officials going as groups, either by vehicles or by boats or even by swimming and rescuing people.



(c) Police provided assistance to the paramilitary forces and defence forces, going along with them and assisting them in rescuing.



(d) Police mobilized maximum fishermen and their boats, worked along with them to rescue people.

The Police took the rescued people to the relief camps. They also took some of them to the houses of their friends and relatives. Some people were also taken by the Police to Hospitals.

Another unique feature about the rescue operations of Police is worth mentioning. Some of the people after their houses being inundated did not leave the houses, they sat on the roof tops or on the higher floors. Supply of food and medicines, even by air-dropping, by using private Helicopter, reaching them with medicines, giving them emotional support to stay alive, boosting confidence to fight for survival, etc., were done by the Police officials.

As stated earlier, as operations were carried out on a larger scale and because of machinery and logistics supports were minimum, the Police had to use unconventional methods which will be described in the next Chapter.

Rescue of Foreigners: A host of foreigners were stranded in the floods in various tourist locations of the State (like Munnar, Thekkur, Shoranur, Ernakulam, etc.). Desperate calls were received from various embassies for the safety of these stranded foreigners. Kerala Police also embarked on a targeted rescue of these stranded foreigners in various hotels and resorts of the State and Nationals from Italy, US, UK, Russia, Spain, Turkey, Australia among others were secured and transported to safer locations. A British couple was evacuated from Munnar. A French mother with her children were saved and taken to Kozhikode.

Number of Persons

Rescued directly by Police

alone in different Districts

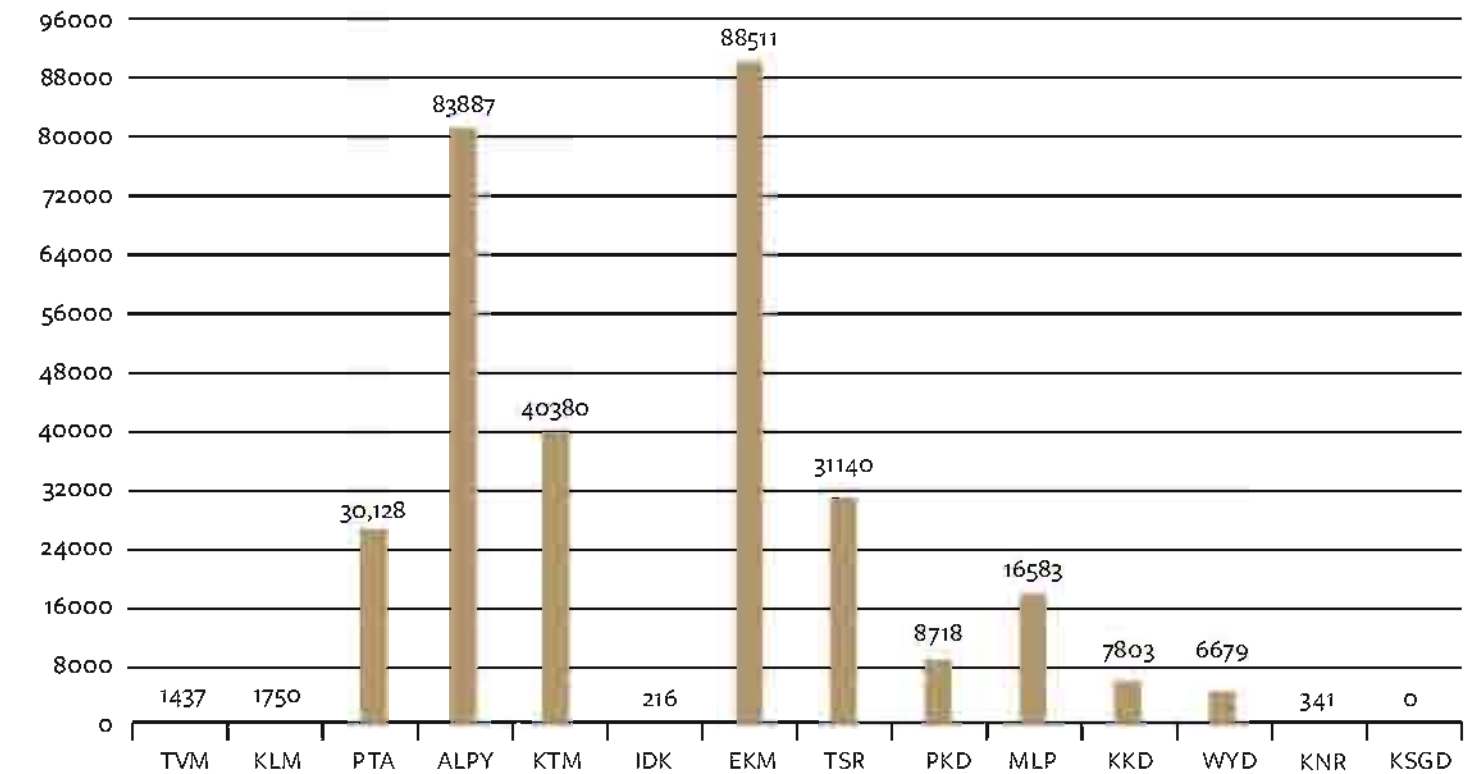
of the State

3,17,573

[It is worth mentioning that the number of rescued persons directly by Police and by Police in association with other agencies is 6,71,489]

While the number of deaths was large (305 till 27th August) and unfortunate, the number of people rescued was a testimony of the efficiency of the rescue operations. The details of the number of persons rescued in different districts are shown in Graph-1. The role of the police in the rescue is immense as is reflected in the large number of rescues conducted by the police in comparison with other rescue agencies (See the graph on the next page). In all of the areas police were the first to reach and help the victims, and in some locations wireless were the only communication system available to understand the levels of problems and respond to the disaster.

No. of persons rescued by police in various districts



No. of People rescued by various rescue agencies

| Rescue Agencies | Coast Guard | Airforce | Indian Army | Indian Navy | NDRF | Police |
|-----------------|-------------|----------|-------------|-------------|--------|----------|
| No. of People | 2015 | 368 | 15,791 | 16,005 | 17,454 | 3,17,573 |

The rescue operations were conducted along the hills of Idukki, the banks of the Periyar, in the upper reaches of the Pampa River in Pathanamthitta district, and in the low-lying areas of Chengannur and Kuttanad. In many areas the rescued persons were old and were unwilling to be rescued as they did not comprehend the magnitude of the impending calamity or were not able to undertake the arduous rescue process because they were ill or were pregnant. Police had to handle all these cases with care and caution but with the single-minded determination to save as many lives as possible.

Unconventional Rescue Methods

During disaster when the rescue operations are carried out on a larger scale or when logistic support is less, it is not possible to rely on conventional methods of rescue and evacuation alone. Due to this reason, the Kerala Police along with the various forces, fishermen folk and common public devised various techniques to rescue and evacuate the people affected by flood. Some of these techniques were indigenous, powered by local wisdom and suiting the circumstances prevailing at that time. Few of these techniques are underlined as below:




Enlisting the assistance of Local Fishermen and Tipper Lorries

knowing very well that the boats are crucial in the rescue operations, Kerala police in the night itself organised five boats from the coastal areas of Kerala. The Police officers from districts of Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Thrissur, Kannur and Malappuram organised more than 500 boats from the Coastal areas and these were sent to the affected areas in trucks in the night itself. These boats were extensively used in rescue and more than 1,00,000 persons were rescued by the Police directly or in these boats, organised by the Police. The fishermen later said "We came because of Police"

Total police personnel deployed across the 19 Police Districts

| Date | Boats Used |
|------------|------------|
| 08.08.2018 | 7 |
| 09.08.2018 | 13 |
| 10.08.2018 | 6 |
| 11.08.2018 | 5 |
| 12.08.2018 | 5 |
| 13.08.2018 | 8 |
| 14.08.2018 | 48 |
| 15.08.2018 | 239 |
| 16.08.2018 | 581 |
| 17.08.2018 | 1018 |
| 18.08.2018 | 955 |
| 19.08.2018 | 783 |
| 20.08.2018 | 467 |
| 21.08.2018 | 499 |
| 22.08.2018 | 514 |
| 23.08.2018 | 560 |
| 24.08.2018 | 660 |
| 25.08.2018 | 602 |

Co-opting fishermen and Mobilisation of Boats
The search and rescue operations were supported by the fishermen enlisted and commandeered by Police through 'Kollam Jajitha Samithies' and Coastal Security. The Police actively mobilized fishermen and boats from the unaffected/less affected districts for carrying out rescue operations. The Coastal Police Stations mobilised 400 boats. Apart from Coastal Police, the District Police Chiefs in co-operation with 'Kollam Jajitha Samithies' were also able to mobilise large number of boats (around 450). The number of boats used for rescue operations increased to 1,018 in number. Between 14th and 20th August 12,299 man days of work was undertaken by the fishermen.

|  Name of the Coastal Police Station | No. of Boats mobilized | | | | | | Total |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| | 15.08.18 | 16.08.18 | 17.08.18 | 18.08.18 | 19.08.18 | 20.08.18 | |
| Poovar | 3 | 6 | 8 | 7 | - | - | 24 |
| Vizhinjam | - | 19 | 21 | - | 10 | - | 50 |
| Anchuthengu | - | - | - | 5 | - | - | 5 |
| Neendakara | 7 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 9 | - | 41 |
| Thottapally | - | 7 | 13 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 62 |
| Arthunkal | - | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 11 | 36 |
| Fort Kochi | - | 15 | 17 | 17 | 19 | - | 68 |
| Azheekode | 5 | 10 | 16 | 17 | 21 | - | 69 |
| Munakkadavu | 4 | 6 | 6 | 5 | - | - | 21 |
| Ponnani | 6 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 26 |
| Bey pore | 16 | 10 | 16 | 15 | 13 | 9 | 79 |
| Elathur | 14 | 14 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 64 |
| Vadakara | 7 | 3 | 2 | 3 | - | - | 15 |
| Thalasserry | - | 27 | - | - | - | - | 27 |
| Azheekkal | - | - | 15 | - | - | - | 15 |
| Thrikkarippur | - | - | - | - | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Bekal | 10 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 15 | 9 | 66 |
| Kumbala | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | 3 |

will be used as rescue boats. Use of by Kerala police. These boats used in Police Station. Special boats were allocated from POC for the purpose of relief of all the boats. Paramilitary forces, fishermen and Red Cross for rescue efforts was enlisted by the District Police. Their assistance including their boating and fishing.

Number of Fishermen involved in Rescue Operation

| Date | Fishermen Involved |
|------------|--------------------|
| 08.08.2018 | 0 |
| 09.08.2018 | 0 |
| 10.08.2018 | 0 |
| 11.08.2018 | 0 |
| 12.08.2018 | 0 |
| 13.08.2018 | 0 |
| 14.08.2018 | 163 |
| 15.08.2018 | 676 |
| 16.08.2018 | 2605 |
| 17.08.2018 | 3324 |
| 18.08.2018 | 3008 |
| 19.08.2018 | 1923 |
| 20.08.2018 | 600 |
| 21.08.2018 | 614 |
| 22.08.2018 | 695 |
| 23.08.2018 | 1,128 |
| 24.08.2018 | 2,012 |
| 25.08.2018 | 2,016 |



Operation by Coastal Police in flood Rescue and Relief

When the magnitude of the problem became clear it was realized that there was a need to operationalize maximum number of boats for rescue and relief. The Coastal Security wing of Kerala Police took up this task and swung into action without any delay. On 15/08/2018, DIG Coastal Security alerted SHOs of all Coastal Police Stations and instructed them to procure maximum number of boats for rescue and relief operations from the coastal areas. All the SHOs rose to the occasion and a massive mobilization of fishing boats was done on all coastal fishing areas. The fishermen were extremely co-operative and pro-active in offering their boats and the fishermen themselves voluntarily accompanied to take part in rescue operations along with the boats. All the DPCs were alerted to provide immediate transport and other supply arrangements for reaching the boats

to the flood hit areas. Lorries and Trucks capable of carrying boats were commandeered and essential fuel was sourced and the boats were dispatched. In an operation which lasted throughout night of 16/08/2018 and during the next 3 days. A total number 679 boats and crew were mobilized for various area and these boats and the fishermen saved thousands of lives through daring rescue operations facing extreme danger and risking their lives in the flood hit areas. It is estimated that more than 1.5 lakh persons were rescued and rehabilitated by these boat teams.

7.2 The police teams deployed in these areas worked in close co-operation with these boat teams as also the Fire and Rescue Services and various other forces engaged in the rescue

operations. Since in many areas of Ernakulam Rural it was impossible for the boats of NDRF, Army and Navy to operate due to extreme currents, Twin-Engine fishing boats which could negotiate the dangerous waters were brought by police and rescues done. The 5 Tonne boats of the Coastal Security were also deployed in these areas to overcome the problem raised by the currents.

More than 2,000 fishermen participated in the search and rescue operation from 15th August, 2018 to 25th August 2018. During the heavy downfalls 1331 boats, 2884 fishermen including 706 in Alappuzha, 343 in Ernakulam were involved in the rescue operation.

Along with Kerala Police including Coastal Police and Fire Force uniformed personnel from Army, Navy, Air Force and NDRF were also deployed for search and rescue operation. 1300 members of NDRF in 57 teams with 435 boats were deployed for rescue and relief operation. Five companies of BSF, CISF, RAF have also been deployed. The defence forces deployed 38 helicopters. Apart from helicopters 20 airplanes also deployed for evacuation. The commandos consisting of 790 personnel in 10 teams were deployed along with 10 engineering task force. The 80 teams of Navy and in 42 teams of Coast Guard were also deployed with 2 ships and 2 helicopters from August 9th and 18th, 2018.

Gallant Service by Student Police Cadets

Kerala is on its path of recovery after combating the worst flood that it has witnessed in the last nearly 100 years. Millions of selfless helping hands with bold spirit has been working tirelessly to rebuild the lives of hundreds of our fellow beings who turned homeless over a night.

Student Police Cadets (SPC), enabled by the rigorous training imparted to them, with the aim of nurturing them as the responsible, capable and compassionate citizens of our country, has been dynamically occupied in the rescue as well as relief activities since day one.

The SPC force which took part in the relief action consists about 40,000 cadets currently participating in the SPC program, 15,000 cadets who have graduated to their XII grade after successful completion of the two year training program and 5,000 SPC alumni members.

After supporting the rescue operations in the first phase, they have been actively organising and assisting relief activities in camps as well as homes. These include:

1. Active presence in the camps
 - a. to distribute food and refreshments in an organised manner.
 - b. providing a helping hand to the senior citizens for their basic routine.
 - c. organising opportunities for the camp inmates, especially children in fun and amusement activities.
 - d. clearing and ensuring hygiene in the camps.
2. Responsible waste management and disposals in camps.
3. Accompanying camp inmates during their shifting back to homes, to assist them in cleaning and educating on health related matters.
4. Visits to challenging tribal territories affected by landslide to rebuild homes, re-establishing drinking water facilities, assisting in the care of the bedridden, in those dwellings and ensuring a compassionate presence among the relatives of those who have lost their kith in kin, in the calamity. They took special care to engage tribal children by providing peer support and distributing study kits to these children.



Monitoring and Control Rooms

The State Government setup a Disaster Management Control Room in the Government Secretariat with key government officials monitoring various aspects of the rescue. The State Police Chief appointed ADGP (Coastal Security) as the State Nodal Officer for co-ordinating rescue and relief operations being undertaken by the police. The ADGP (Coastal Security) monitored and co-ordinated the police forces with the other central and specialized forces from the State Control Room. He maintained constant contact with the various forces operating with regard to troop arrival, movement and deployment.

The Central Police Control Room was set up in the Police Headquarters to which State Police Chief himself provided leadership. The State Police Monitoring Room (SPMR) of SB CID functioned as the primary source of information to the State Police Chief and the Government utilizing the state-wide network of officers and men of SB CID who worked round the clock from 09.08.2018 throughout the troubled days. The Police Chief Control Room (PCCR) provided operational support to the PHQ Control Room.

Each District Police Control Room operated under the charge of District Special Branch DySPs controlled and monitored the rescue and relief operations at the district level.

Realizing the need for special attention at some areas facing grave danger due to the floods requiring senior level leadership and pro-active rescue measures the State Police chief set up Special Control Rooms.

- Sri.Shefeen Ahamed.K IPS, DIG (APBn.) was given the charge of Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha Districts.
- Sri.Vijay Sakhare IPS, IGP Kochi Range led the relief operation in Ernakulam district.
- Sri.Ajith Kumar IPS supervised the rescue operation in Thrissur district. Each area was assigned to different SP level officers:
- Aranmula, Thiruvalla and Ranni – Sri.K.G.Simon, Commandant, KAP-3 Battalion
- Chengannur and Kuttanad areas – Sri.Reji Jacob, Assistant Director, KEPA

- Aluva and nearby places – Sri.Karthikeyan Gokulachandran IPS, Commandant, KAP-5 Battalion
- Chalakkudy –Sri.K.S.Sudharshan, SP, Analysis Wing, CB CID
- Vadakkekkara, Paravoor, Kodungalloor, Valappad – Sri.Sabu Mathew, SP, CB CID, Ernakulam Regional Control Rooms were also established in all the major flood affected areas:
- Aranmula, Thiruvalla, Ranni and other affected areas of Pathanamthitta and other nearest places – Sri.K.T.Chacko, Dy. Commandant, KAP-3 Battalion
- Aluva and nearby places – Sri.K.K.Aji, Assistant Director, KEPA
- Chalakkudy –Sri. P. S. Gopi, Assistant Director (Admn), KEPA
- Vadakkekkara, Paravoor, Kodungalloor, Valappad – Sri. P. V. Raju, Dy. Commandant, KAP-1 Battalion.

These officers provided creative and commendable leadership to the rescue and relief operations in these areas through which thousands of lives would be saved and tens of thousands of people could be relocated away from danger.

Control Rooms:

Kerala Police, as mentioned above, opened Special Police control rooms at the most affected places, where all the calls were handled and information was passed on to the regional units and rescue boats for action. An emergency State Control Room of State Police Chief was opened in PHQ. The Intelligence Control Room (SPMR) was strengthened. As per the available records the State Control Room and the Regional Control Rooms handled more than 6 lakh calls including calls from abroad and messages in the days of rescue.



Security

Kerala Police also provided security to all abandoned houses left out by rescued people; ensured security. Police provided security for transport of all material and manpower transported for Relief duty. Security for the locked houses in the water was a challenge. Local boats were equipped with torch lights for patrolling in the night to prevent such thefts. Patrolling in Chalakudy, Aluva, North Peravur, Kuttanad was a challenge and Police ensured the houses are not burgled.

Security to Equipments

Another major task of the police was to ensure the movement of troops and essential rescue equipments to the affected areas. Consignments of such equipments were sent to Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi airports and Kerala Police provided escorts and pilots to all such vehicles and ensured that they reached their destinations safely and without any loss of time.



Protection of Abandoned Houses and Relief Camps

Kerala Police was active throughout the post rescue relief operations. Operation Jalaraksha included policing rehabilitation centres. All the 3400 relief camps housing 1, 70,000 families were provided adequate Police security. Police Help Desks consisting of at least one CPO/SCPO and one WCPO/WSCPO was established in all the camps. The mobile numbers of the personnel detailed in the Help Desks were made available to all local officers and were also published in police website and WhatsApp groups. The Help Desks were responsible for maintaining the general order and ensuring that disputes are resolved through appropriate interaction. Wherever the Help Desks could not be established due to shortage of manpower, mobile patrolling was conducted. The Help Desks were functioning round-the-clock to take care of over a million people sheltered at relief camps on different days.

The police patrolled in vehicles and in boats along the abandoned roads and houses submerged in the flood waters to ensure that the properties in the abandoned houses are safe. Thousands and thousands of houses were abandoned by the people to seek relief in the camps. The police conducted patrolling in the boats, with only torch lights to secure the abandoned houses.

Protection to Relief Centres:-

Once a Relief Centre/Camp became operational, the security of the Relief Centres was also taken over by Kerala Police and in all major Relief Centres, women Police were also posted. Vehicle patrolling was also organised among a cluster of relief camps to prevent any anti-social activities near the camps.



Communication Support

One or two days after the flooding began, the mobile phone communication towers went out of operation especially in districts such as Idukki, Wayanad and also in flood affected parts of Chalakudy and other nearby areas in Thrissur district. Landline facilities of the BSNL also got disrupted. The communication facilities in various Power Houses and Dams such as Idukki, Idamalayar and Mullaperiyar were also disrupted. The Telecommunication unit of Kerala Police swung into action by providing emergency Wireless Communication facilities to these critical installations.

The Kerala Water Authority requested for providing alternate communication facilities at 21 critical locations which was provided by the Police Telecommunication unit.

The Telecommunication unit also set up and kept ready a Reserve Channel for State wide communication for using in case of total disruption of communication in the State.

120

Total number Telecommunication Police Personnel Deployed

350

Total number of Handheld and other sets deployed

54

Total number of Control Room Personnel of Telecommunication

8000

Total number of Calls attended by Telecommunication

9

Total number of Dams covered only by Wireless

21

Total number of Water Authority Installations Covered

In addition to this, Telecommunication have provided Communication in Helicopters, Boats etc. worked along with Navy, Air Force, NDRF and Fire Force.

75

Total number of Tahasildars and other officials connected using wireless

Traffic Diversions

The flood hit the road network in the early morning hours. The major National Highway and other roads were flooded, leading to the road traffic becoming stranded. The traffic police and other police immediately taking the action and started the traffic. At the same time, the police started the traffic control and the traffic started moving. The police started the traffic control and the traffic started moving. The police started the traffic control and the traffic started moving.

Traffic Control

The police started the traffic control and the traffic started moving. The police started the traffic control and the traffic started moving. The police started the traffic control and the traffic started moving. The police started the traffic control and the traffic started moving. The police started the traffic control and the traffic started moving.

Restoring Traffic

The police started the traffic control and the traffic started moving. The police started the traffic control and the traffic started moving. The police started the traffic control and the traffic started moving. The police started the traffic control and the traffic started moving. The police started the traffic control and the traffic started moving.



Social Media Intervention

The State Police Social Media Cell, the Police Information Centre, Cyberdome and all Cyber cells in Districts, used the social media to pass information to the public on various safety measures and helpline numbers. Efforts were made to quell rumours and action was also initiated against fake messages aimed at creating panic. Also many panic messages received through social media, were passed on to Regional Control Rooms for further action. Thousands of rescue requests received through WhatsApp - in addition to those received over phone - were also processed by the DG Control Room, Police Information Centre and Social Media Cell.

A watch was also kept on social media against their possible abuse. The Traditional media also were kept informed on all updates state level through Police Information Centre at PHQ and from the District Police HQs at the district level.



Relief Material Supply

Kerala Police activated its welfare wing also and relief materials were collected in loads from police families and others sent to the affected areas. It is estimated that 236 truckloads of material worth more than Rs.8.4 crores were collected and sent to the affected areas.

Food Drops

Kerala Police also organised food drops in affected areas in tie up with some aircraft companies and these activities continued for some days.



Co-ordination at the Trivandrum Airport – Relief And Welfare

Heavy and continuous downpour in Kerala resulting in landslides and flash floods swept away many villages and towns. As many parts of flood affected areas were inaccessible even by the rescue boats and totally cut off from the mainland having no access to basic livelihood, airdropping of essential items like food materials and medicines was the only alternative left for saving the lives in marooned places. As majority of the police force was deployed for rescue operations across Kerala, Smt. Nishanthini IPS, CMT Women Battalion, was deputed to monitor the immediate relief measures including the collection of relief materials and airdropping the essential items like food, water, medicines etc., for the victims of flood. She was deputed to the Technical Area, Thiruvananthapuram Airport to co-ordinate the relief operations carried out by the Indian Air force officials.

Starting from 17th August more than 50 sorties airdropped approximate load of 96.12 tons which included ready to eat food materials and medicines at various places in the flood affected areas like Chengannur, Tiruvalla, Pandanad, Pandalam and Pathanamthitta. Dry rations were also airdropped at the co-ordinates of the marooned relief camps having cooking facilities which accommodated around 500-600 people. With the help of dedicated volunteers working both in the technical area and various collection centres in Trivandrum ready to eat food materials to be airdropped were packed. These packets including water were airdropped at various locations of inundated parts of Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta districts. The main task at the airport was to ensure that materials which reach the technical area are dispatched promptly in co-ordination with the district officials to the places and people in need after getting the coordinates (Lat, Long) of the areas from field level officials.

It was heartening that a number of Police officials and civilians all of a sudden approached the PHQ to help them in collecting relief materials from people and from various institutions. Immediately, the Commandant of Women Police Battalion was directed to mobilize a few officials from APBn. and they involved in collection, packing, loading and sending of the relief materials received from various sources. She was also drafted for duty in Thiruvananthapuram International Airport which became the hub of relief materials received from India and abroad.

It was a herculean task for her to mobilize volunteers who have no expertise to do this work and reach these relief materials to the remotest relief camps all over the State. In fact there are comments that the District Collector of Thiruvananthapuram and the Commandant Women Battalion were like two sisters in a house to help the people.





State Level Monitoring by the Hon'ble Chief Minister

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri. Pinarayi Vijayan started State Level Crisis Management meetings from 10/08/2018. Meetings were conducted twice a day during the initial days. All force commanders including the State Police Chief, The Intelligence Chief, The Commandant General of Fire and Rescue Services, State Police Nodal Officer, Commanding Officers of Army, Navy and Air Force, Coast Guard, NDRF, BSF, CRPF and other senior level officers in charge of various aspects of relief and rescue including the Chief Secretary attended the meetings. The rescue and relief operations were co-ordinated and directed appropriately through critical analysis of the work being done by various agencies/Departments and the constantly changing flood scenario and requirements on the ground. The decisions were quick and implementations constantly reviewed.

The meetings helped the Police to co-ordinate better and approach the issues in a holistic manner, along with other stake holders.

Role Of Police In Cleaning Activities

During the recent floods lot of mud and silt was deposited in the houses, schools, offices across the affected area. The cleaning of these places was very much essential to make it inhabitable so that the inmates can return back to these places. The Police Department decided to take the lead wholeheartedly in carrying out these cleaning activities.

The advantages of the involvement of Police Department are as follows:-

1. The Police being a uniformed force, the entire operations were carried out in a disciplined manner.
2. There were no complaints of loss or theft of valuable items from the houses/ offices since police was involved.
3. The efficiency of the entire operation was high due to the presence of police personnel.
4. The cleaning activities if carried out by 2-3 persons in household would take lot of time to complete. The Police personnel operate in groups and hence takes lesser time to complete cleaning of individual household.
5. More no. of houses was cleaned due to the operation of police personnel in larger groups.
6. The cleaning activities were done so neatly that no further cleaning by inmates were necessary.
7. The fear of reptiles, snakes which normally common man has while reopening a closed house were assuaged.
8. The fear of thieves, anti-socials inside closed houses were also done away with due to the presence of police personnel.
9. When the Police Department joined for cleaning activities, the hesitant local public also started joining enmasse forgetting differences if any they had with their neighbors.
10. The Police personnel were able to handle post flood management situation, by consoling the inmates, removing their fears, did trauma care and assured them of all possible support in their endeavor to restart normal life.

For the above-mentioned reasons, Kerala Police was inducted into the cleaning activities as decided by the Government. The main focus of cleaning was the affected districts viz. Thrissur, Ernakulam, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Idukki, Malappuram and Palakkad. 25,000 police personnel including 3000 Recruit Trainee Police Constables participated in the cleaning process in the initial days. The Kerala Police after its sincere efforts during rescue further won the hearts of the common men of Kerala with such an initiative. They indeed proved that they are indeed brothers and sisters in Khakhi.



Investigation & Law And Order

The disaster brought in death and destruction. The Police addressed each of the deaths reported. The Police registered FIRs, conducted inquests, postmortems were got conducted in each of the cases in which FIRs were registered, which were done without any delay and the families were helped in

conducting the last rites. This underlines the service orientation of Kerala Police. Four suicides were also reported in the State, which was promptly attended to by the Police. The date wise death toll during the period across the State is indicated in the Graph below.

Death Details



■ Total Death ■ Date ■ Death Per Day

Similarly, Crime Cases were registered to maintain order and discipline in the Relief Camps, in the disaster affected areas for maintaining L&O. The list of cases is given below:



Details of Law and Order issues Reported at Camps (upto 27.08.2018, 6.00 AM)

| District | PS | Cr. & Sec. of Law | Remarks |
|----------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PTA | Pandalam | Case not registered | Issue among the inmates of the camp regarding supply of materials at Marthoma English Medium School, Arthimukku |
| APY | Chengannur | Case not registered | Issue among the inmates of the camp at Chengannur SN HSS Aala |
| | Kayamkulam | Cr. 2266/18 U/s 294(b), 341, 323 IPC and Sec 3(i) (10) of SC/ST Act | Issue among the inmates of the camp at Krishnapuram UPS, Kayamkulam |
| KTM | Ayarkkunnam | Cr.693/18 U/s 294 (b), 323, 354, 451 IPC | Accused person assaulted the complainant and her son at Punnathara St. Joseph LPS |
| | Chingavanam | Cr. 1774/18 U/s 143, 147, 149, 323, 341, 294(b), 34 IPC | Accused persons assaulted the complainant while she was working at the Relief Camp (registration matter) |
| EKM C | Cheranalloor | Cr.825/18 U/s 143, 147, 353, 506(i), r/w 149 IPC & 119(b) of KP Act | The accused obstructed the official duties of the Tahsildar |
| TSR | Mala | Cr.341/18 U/s 323, 324 IPC | Clash between BJP and DYFI workers at Kundoor UP School |
| | Kodungalloor | No case registered | Argue between SDPI and DYFI workers at St. Antony's Kottappuram |
| | Cherppu | No case registered | Argue between CPI activist and DYFI activist at Chewoor St.Xaviers School |
| | Ollur | No case registered | Argue between BJP and CPM Activists at Puthoor GHSS |
| | Peechi | Cr.787/18 u/s 102 CrPC | The flood relief articles from Tamilnadu was diverted to Thrissur Fruit & Vegetables Co-op. Society by a group lead by EX. MLA Sri. M.P. Vincent |
| KNR | Kelakom | Cr.825/18 U/s 143, 147, 353, 506(i), r/w 149 IPC & 119(b) of KP Act | SDPI activists assaulted the complainant at IJM HSS. |
| | Kelakom | Cr.340/18 U/s 143, 147, 148, 447, 353, 332 r/w 149 IPC | SDPI activists assaulted the social workers at IJM HSS. |
| | Kelakom | Cr. 341/18 U/s 143, 147, 148, 427 r/w 149 IPC | 20 identifiable persons damaged the vehicles parked near Neendunokki Mosque. |

In the difficult time, the Police has not forgotten their basic duties!

Brave Hearts of Kerala Police

When Thomas, a well built and energetic young fisherman was enlisted by Thumba Police, he never thought that Police Officers would be his primary team members. Thumba SI and policemen helped him load the boat in a truck. For a man going to sea on a regular basis, the waters of Pamba in Pathanamthitta should be an easy ride. Nonetheless when the boat carrying him and CI of Police G. Sunil Kumar rode across the Pamba waters, the sight of submerged houses terrified him. They were in search of a house from where they received a distress call. As they approached the house, another boat came from opposite side and enquired. The latter told them in the local accent that the house is unapproachable. They have failed and so was a helicopter rescue. The CI of Police dared to go ahead despite hitting the compound wall. The house was surrounded by trees and outgrowth and thick vegetation prevented them from going ahead. CI got into the waters and cutdown every obstructing vegetation to move towards that house. It took time. It was hard. As they reached the house, they found an 85 year old grandmother, a feeding child, three other women and a boy in the house. Taking them in to the boat was strenuous. All had to be lifted one by one. The joy of the family is indescribable.

Perumbavoor faced the wrath of heavy rain that lashed the area submerging houses. Over a hundred people made distress calls from a locality. They could not find any policeman coming for their rescue. No khaki was found. Only a man alone on a boat wearing only a piece of towel around the waist was rescuing them. He moved the boat closed to each house, swam and got the people one by one on the boat rescuing over hundred people. When everyone was moved to the safe place, they started complaining and cursing that no police help is received and only a local man in towel was rescuing them. The man in the towel told them that he is T.M. Soofi, SI of Police who had come to rescue them. Hats off to Soofi!

Shri.Shaji K.D has always hated and feared Police. It was ingrained from childhood stories of police highhandedness. As he grew up the prejudice held on. He has never been to a police station nor has any close acquaintance with any police officer. The rescue and relief operations changed that all. The flood that ravaged the Periyar delta area submerged his house at Kalady. With two elderly parents he sought refuge in a camp. As soon as waters receded, he came with his family to home. He was utterly shocked to find the house was stacked with slurry and debris. His eight feet compound wall has collapsed in and recent decorated house in shambles. He even thought of committing

suicide as he was penniless. Fortunately, he says that the Circle Inspector of Kalady PS Shri. Saji Marcose, Policemen from Kalady PS and battalion police came in helped him clean the house and surroundings. He says that he was shocked to find the police men cleaning his house and surroundings which he himself found repulsive and difficult. He emotionally informs that even during flood situation, he did not cry but on witnessing the relief work of Police he felt tearful. He feels he is now close to police and his prejudice has gone. Police a good friend!

Kunduvvara was one of the most affected places in Thrissur City. Police personnel including Sri. Sudharsanan, SP, Analysis Wing, CB CID who was called on special duty arranged boats along with 25 fishermen and rescued around 400 persons till late night on 16.08.2018. On 17.08.2018, they rescued 2 pregnant women from West Chalakkudy area with the support of Army Officers. Sri. Sudharsanan, SP, was directed involved in these operations along with Capt. Thiwari of Indian Army.

At the Northern part of Chalakkudy, there was as Cattle Farm at Konnakuzhy. There was heavy mud slide in that area and around 40 Cattle disappeared in the mud. The staff and people at that area were in a severe mental trauma. The Police Team led by Sri. Sudharsanan, reached the spot and gave moral support to the people to overcome the situation.





“Mridu Bhave Dritha Kritye”

Police But Firm

Motto of Kerala Police

The actions of the police, in fact, reflected the age-proverb “Mridu bhava dritha kritye” (Soft in temperament and strong in action). The police officers, regardless of rank, took part in the venture as volunteers or regulars, and the thrust of their mission being security and protection of the public.

It was the Chief Minister of the state who gave leadership and necessary directions to the police. He held frequent meetings every day and gave necessary instructions for implementation. The touch of the Chief Minister was palpable in the directions. The enthusiasm and commitment of the police earned for them an enviable position in the hearts of the Keralites. They became the brothers and sisters of the people of Kerala.

The selfless services of the police in the station limits were without parallel. The detailed picture is yet to come out. Some of these activities have been covered by the media, but it is of paramount importance to record the activities of the police, especially as one among the people.

Epilogue

The damage and destruction is limited caused by the flood, we have achieved the lot of relief and relief to the affected people. Kerala police stood as a moral and support for and with the people at the time of crisis by being present, saving the lives and accompanying them in their painful journey back to their homes. At times, it was required the police to rescue them by immediately taking up the task of clearing their homes. Police contributed in clearing of walls by demolishing and repairing the houses. Police also identified public areas such as schools, offices and hospitals that needed protection and acted in restoring their structures. Additional personnel were deployed and organisations such as the Indian Police Force were deployed or helped in the post-flood.

Police enforces law in association with the people, for the people - Police is good friend for a citizen.

Kerala Floods-2018 has motivated Police to the people.

Some Important Statistics



Number of persons rescued
by police

31,75,73

Directly

67,14,89

in association with other



Number of Police
Control Rooms

6



Number of
Casualty

73



Number of
Missing

11

Number number of boats
used by Government and
Police in a day

1018



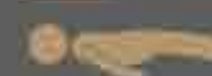
Number of telephones call
Number of Operation
"Operation"



6.5 Lakhs

Number of boats
(Government and Police)
used in a day

11



Police Work in Nutshell

1. Highest mobilisation in recent time and their deployment-All wings of Kerala police deployed. Maximum personnel on duty in a day - 33,000 - Rescue Operations
2. Mobilisation of Fishermen and their boats - looking after their welfare.
3. Opening of one centralised Control Room and 5 Regional Control Rooms handled- 6.5 calls.
4. Traffic Diversion, Traffic Control, Restoration of traffic
5. Rescue Operations
6. Emergency Communication - Wireless
7. Safety and Security for abandoned houses - of Relief camps - security of equipments
8. Relief material supply, food drops
9. Mobilising Tipper Lorries for rescue and evacuation
10. Social media intervention
11. Investigation of 305 death cases and other L&O cases in the disaster affected areas.
12. Cleaning, Relief and Rehabilitation, Mitigation, emotional support - Student Police Cadets' help for the victims.



RELIEF & REHABILITATION EFFORTS BY POLICE

I. Relief Camps

II. Relief Support

III. Rehabilitation

IV. Good work done as party of community welfare

V. Appreciation /Award / Acknowledgement of the good work of Police by Community

Epilogue



RELIEF & REHABILITATION EFFORTS BY KERALA POLICE

Police led from the front not only in the rescue operations during the floods, but also in the rehabilitation efforts thereafter. Police were active also in the rebuilding of houses that had been destroyed in the disaster.



I. Relief Camps

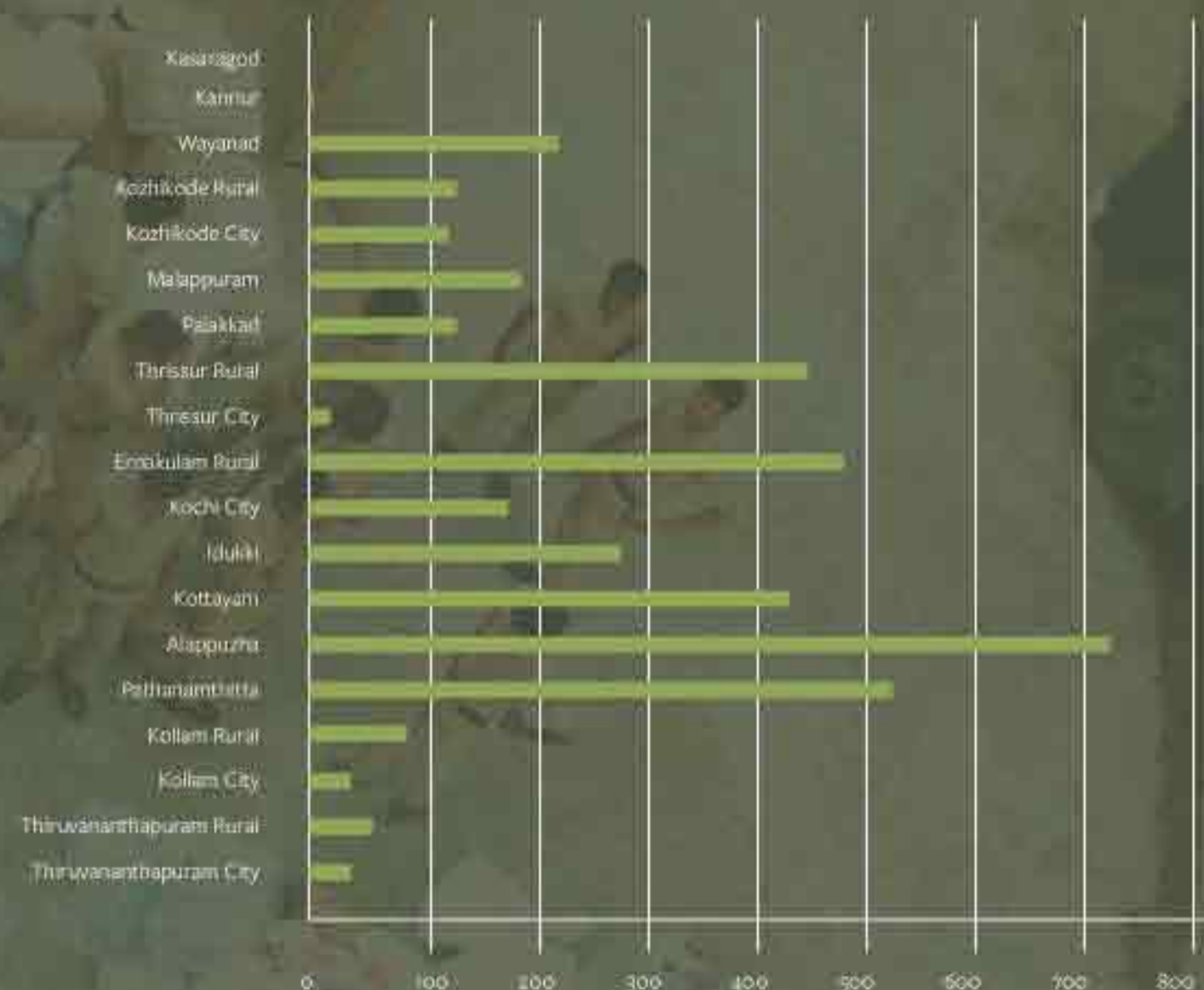
I. ACTIVITIES/DUTIES

There were 4056 relief camps opened and around 2,00,000 families were provided shelter in the inundated districts. Thousands of Police Personnel including RPOs worked hard in the camps. The service of the women police also helped to the old age, children and pregnant ladies which adorned golden feather to the hat of the Force. Strict screening and scrutiny were done by the Police in relief camps was also a prestigious step. Checking of proper distribution of food items, drinking water, clothes etc. in the camps were done by concerned police stations. Proper patrolling was done by each relief camps for monitoring and preventing anti-social activities in the camps and hence ensuring the life and security of the people in relief camps more better. Kerala Police provided proper transportation for the inmates of the camps to return their house.

A remarkable role was done by the Janamaithri police, who have collected food and essential articles with the co-operations of the Residence Associations and distributed to the deserving people. Police help desk were functioned in 24 hours in all the relief camps.

II. RELIEF CAMPS IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS

Police personnel collected food and other essential items from various agencies and distributed equally to the people staying in relief camps. For the sake of uniformity in the relief camps have been coordinated and controlled by the higher officers in this department.





III. DETAILS OF RELIEF CAMPS

| Sl. No. | Police District | No. of Camps |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Thiruvananthapuram City | 30 |
| 2 | Thiruvananthapuram Rural | 49 |
| 3 | Kollam City | 33 |
| 4 | Kollam Rural | 82 |
| 5 | Pathanamthitta | 529 |
| 6 | Alappuzha | 710 |
| 7 | Kottayam | 429 |
| 8 | Idukki | 274 |
| 9 | Kochi City | 178 |
| 10 | Ernakulam Rural | 486 |
| 11 | Thrissur City | 15 |
| 12 | Thrissur Rural | 455 |
| 13 | Palakkad | 119 |
| 14 | Malappuram | 184 |
| 15 | Kozhikode City | 115 |
| 16 | Kozhikode Rural | 140 |
| 17 | Wayanad | 223 |
| 18 | Kannur | 04 |
| 19 | Kasaragod | 01 |
| | Total | 4056 |

IV. DETAILS OF POLICE PERSONNEL DEPLOYED FOR RELIEF DUTIES

As part of the security arrangements, strict screening was done by the police in all the relief camps. The police department vehicles were arranged for the collection and transportation of relief materials from different collection centers. The new Women's Battalion was also pressed into service.

| Sl. No. | District | No. Of Police Personnel Deployed |
|---------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Thiruvananthapuram City | 30 |
| 2 | Thiruvananthapuram Rural | 49 |
| 3 | Kollam City | 33 |
| 4 | Kollam Rural | 82 |
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| 15 | Kozhikode City | 115 |
| 16 | Kozhikode Rural | 140 |
| 17 | Wayanad | 223 |
| 18 | Kannur | 04 |
| 19 | Kasaragod | 01 |
| | Total | 18325 |



II. Relief Support

25 Loads of food and other items distributed among various camps in the district of Thiruvananthapuram Rural and around 100 Tons of relief materials were sent to other districts from Thiruvananthapuram City by the City Police. In Kollam City 23 Vehicles including Police Buses and Lorries with full of food materials and other items were sent to flood affected areas in Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Ernakulam Districts and 15 Loads of food, clothes and cleaning materials were supplied to the relief camps in the Kollam Rural. More than one ton rice and adequate provision items, food items such as bread, chappathis, milk powder, instant food items, drinking water etc were supplied among 300 badly affected families in Kottayam district. Pathanamthitta was supplied with 3 Tons of rice, water, other groceries and clothes to Kollam City. 2 Tons of Rice, water and other groceries to Kollam Rural. 1 Ton of Utensils has been supplied by the ADGP (HQ) and 1 Ton of Food articles were supplied by Wife of State Police Chief along with the wives of some Senior officers. Kerala Police Association (KPA), Thiruvananthapuram Rural supplied 2 Tons of Food articles.

Kannur District Police and Malappuram District Police supplied one tipper lorry each full of food, clothes and utensils. Alappuzha District Police provided 16000 cases of bottled water, 3000 packets biscuits, 1800 mats, 300 sacks of rice, 1300 kg food grains, 375 kg of wheat powder, 450 kg of rice powder, sanitary napkins and dress materials to various relief camps in addition to three load food and other necessary items from Kollam city and two loads from Kasaragod also.

Idukki district Police received 21 tons of rice, 5 tons of provisions, 3 tons of vegetables, 800 unit clothes and sanitary items, 5000 bottles of Drinking water and the same were supplied to relief camps. 500 unit of food items were received from KAP 4th Battalion. In Ernakulam Rural District the Police supplied 12,140 Kg of Rice, 7,884 Kg of grocery items including Sugar, 10 Kg of Milk powder, 4,380 packets of Biscuits, 1460 packets of Noodles. Cleaning items such as 4,380 nos. of Bath Soaps, 1,460 Kg of Washing Powder, 2,920 nos. of washing soaps were also supplied by the Police. Moreover, 1,500 kgs of Rice was given to Kottayam District.

Kochi district police distributed drinking water, Tons of rice, biscuits, milk powder, juices, baby food, tooth brushes and tooth paste, rusk, noodles, steel utensils, sanitary pads, edible oils, medicines, ORS sachets, footwear, mattresses, bed sheets, buckets etc. to various relief camps.

Thrissur City Police collected essential medicines, drinking water, cleaning materials, packaged food, cloth etc. from various organizations/individuals and distributed in relief camps.

Moreover, Medicines and other items received from Pondicherry Police and Cleaning materials received from Chennai Police were also given to inmates in the Relief camps. Thiruvananthapuram City Police sent packaged food, drinking water and cleaning materials to Thrissur City.

Thrissur Rural Police distributed 40 blankets, 40 mats, 4 tanker drinking water, rice, sugar, beds, buckets, napkins and garments, grocery items, cleaning items such as 1000 ltr. Phenyl and 20 sacks of bleaching powder, household articles etc. and Anthikkad Police Station distributed one day food to Kanjay Centre Relief camp. 4 containers of clothes including T-Shirts, Dhotis and other items received from Tirupur were supplied to Thrissur Rural, Ernakulam Rural, Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta districts by Palakkad District Police. 5700 essential kits were distributed to the inmates of the relief camps by Malappuram district police and they also supplied Bundles of Medicines, Candles, Cleaning Materials, Mineral Water, Department boats, Rice, Dress materials, Food items, Relief Materials among 200 affected families. (Rice 5 Kg each, clothes, Bed Sheets, Plastic vessels, Bathing Soaps, Washing Soaps, Match Boxes, lighters, Paste, Napkins, Under garments, Oil, Sugar, Tea, Rava, etc). In addition to the above relief materials, One tipper lorry full of cleaning materials like detergent powder, wiper, bucket, inner wears, dhotis, shirts, plastic mats, rice, grocery, clothes, sanitary napkins, bed sheets, carpet, brooms, brush, medicine, food kits, bleaching powder etc were distributed among various relief camps. One load relief material including Brooms, Shovels, Cleaning powder, Bleaching Powder, Rice, Sheets, Plastic vessels, Bathing Soaps, Washing Soaps, Match Boxes, lighters, Brush, Paste, Napkins, Under garments, Oil, Sugar, Tea, Rava, 100 Chappals which were received from other units were also distributed.

Kozhikode City Police has supplied 5 loads of rice and provisions to Wayanad District, one load to Ernakulam District and half load to Thrissur District as relief materials (Total 6 1/2 Kozhikode Rural Police provided relief materials such as groceries, clothes, cleaning materials worth Rs.1,80,000/- to Wayanad and Thrissur Districts and the relief materials supplied by other units were directly loads). In addition to this, 6500 pairs of Chappals to Wayanad and Kozhikode District and Clothes worth Rs.2 lakhs to Wayanad District were transported and 1,000 kits containing Rice and provisions distributed in Kozhikode city.

Kozhikode Rural Police provided relief materials such as groceries, clothes, cleaning materials worth Rs.1,80,000/- to Wayanad and Thrissur Districts and the relief materials supplied by other units were directly transferred to the rescue centres located at Collectorates and those were centrally moved to different parts of the state from there.

Wayanad District Police supplied relief materials to Relief centres located at Collectorate and centrally moved to different parts from there. Kannur District Police donated dresses to the

victims. One truck load of food, water and cleaning products were also provided by Kannur District Police.

In Kasaragod District, Police collected relief materials and sent to flood affected areas at Wayanad, Aluva, Changanassery in 13 Lorries (cost worth Rs.2.5 Crores). Kasaragod 'Janamaithri' Police collected medicines worth Rs. 6 lakhs and sent to Kottayam District along with a medical team of Doctors and paramedical staff, through Police help.



III. Rehabilitation

In addition to the Rescue and Relief works, Kerala Police team worked hard for cleaning government buildings like Schools, Hospitals, Anganavadies etc. They also cleaned roads, Worship places and public places. Ministerial staffs of the Police department and Student Police Cadets in various districts took part in cleaning works.

| Sl. No. | Police District | No.of House Holds/ Premises Cleaned | No. of personnel engaged per day | No. of days taken |
|---------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Thiruvananthapuram City | 191 | 34 | 07 |
| 2 | Thiruvananthapuram Rural | 445 | 235 | 06 |
| 3 | Kollam City | 15 | 15 | 14 |
| 4 | Kollam Rural | 18 | 50 | 03 |
| 5 | Pathanamthitta | 2334 | 513Avg. | 05 |
| 6 | Alappuzha | 2634 | 1200 | 14 |
| 7 | Kottayam | 544 | 342 | 07 |
| 8 | Idukki | 315 | 289 | 10 |
| 9 | Kochi City | 1230 | 712 | 07 |
| 10 | Ernakulam Rural | 2864 | 1445 | 15 |
| 11 | Thrissur City | 645 | 1178 | 06 |
| 12 | Thrissur Rural | 995 | 324 Avg. | 09 |
| 13 | Palakkad | 60 | 246 | 12 |
| 14 | Malappuram | 507 | 282 | 09 |
| 15 | Kozhikode City | 296 | 267 | 04 |
| 16 | Kozhikode Rural | 457 | 113 | 04 |
| 17 | Wayanad | 1533 | 286 | 01 |
| 18 | Kannur | 02 | 10 | 02 |
| 19 | Kasaragod | 48 | 42 | 04 |



Logistic/ Infrastructure Support By Police in Rehabilitation

Thiruvananthapuram Rural district police personnel provided Counseling for rescued People including pregnant women, children and Senior citizens. Government HSS Koyilppuram in Pathanamthitta District was taken over by City Police of Kollam. This school was badly damaged due to the flood. Kollam City Police took initiative and renovated the school completely and they repaired damaged furniture and other items. After completing the renovation works the City Police donated new school bags and study materials to all students of that school and gave a computer with printer and computer table and chair to the school. Pathanamthitta District Police provided all Police Department vehicles, Ropes and Asca light for rehabilitation work.

Many damaged roads and bridges were cleared by Police personnel of Idukki District with the help of other department officials and general public.

Alappuzha District Police gave sprayer, bucket, brush and 25,000 Ltr. water also. Ernakulam Rural provided large quantity of cleaning materials such as buckets, brooms, cleaning lotion, bleaching powder, water, plastic mug, dust pan, gum boots, gloves, masks, Dettol, bathroom cleaning brush, hand wash etc. Kochi City Police participated in the cleaning of flood affected houses in Kochi city and Ernakulam Rural areas. Each police station has formed a special team for cleaning the flood affected houses and collected cleaning materials such as Chlorine, Phenyl, Dettol, antiseptic lotions, cleaning brush, buckets, Mugs from different non-profitable organizations and supplied to flood affected houses. The police personnel cleaned the flood affected houses in Kochi city and rural areas and also helped in Electrical, plumbing & painting works. Elour Police station had done a remarkable work by doing the electrical work of 127 houses with the co-ordination of police Personnel and other voluntarily organisations. Waste disposal was one of the major tasks and Kochi City Police had taken steps with the help of respective authorities to collect all the waste from different areas in Kochi City and disposed at Brahmapuram Waste Disposal Plant, Kochi. Counselling classes were arranged in flood affected areas with the assistance of experts to improve the mental health of those who have lost all their possessions.

Police tanker lorries were utilized for the supply of drinking water in Thrissur City. 1 crane, 1 Open lorry and other vehicles were used for cleaning and rehabilitation works in Palakkad.

Malappuram District Police had arranged Lorries for the movement of boats for rescue operations in Thrissur, Ernakulam, Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta Districts. They also arranged Lorries for the movement of men for rescue operations and also to transport goods, medicines, materials, etc. to flood affected areas in Malappuram District and other districts. Training was imparted to the Disaster Management Volunteers of various organizations with the help of Health Department, Vyapari Vyavasai Ekopana Samithi and other interested Persons of Edakkara P.S. Limit in Malappuram district.

Wayanad District Police ensured the police presence in all the relief camps round the clock and their proper intervention ensured all the rescue operations. They co-ordinated the earth movers and ensured the service of JCBs for landslide removal effectively. They used Canoes, boats and pontoons effectively for the evacuation of stranded people.



IV. Good work done as Party of community welfare

Thiruvananthapuram City Police started construction work of a house at Thumba Police station. A house which was damaged completely was re-constructed by the efforts taken by Police Personnel of Sakthikulangam Police station of Kollam District and all supports for the family were given by the police. Government ISS Koppuram was damaged badly in flood and the school was taken over by Kollam City Police and they renovated the school. Kulam Rumi provided medicines to the relief camps.

The flood/ Landslide affected families from various parts of the Idukki district were saved and admitted in the relief camps. 274 relief camps were opened in the district. Sufficient number of police personnel including women police were deployed in all relief camps throughout the flood period. All Asia Lights of the police were lighted and kept at various parts of Periyar Banks, to reduce the fear in the minds of Periyar valley residents. Police made remarkable work during day and night in tracing out the dead bodies of deceased persons and tried their level best to trace out the persons who went missed due to landslide. Dead bodies were entrusted to their relatives without delay after clearing the legal formalities. Muttom Janamaithri Police took over the educational needs of the students who had lost their homes due to landslide within Muttom Police Station limit. On 14.08.2018, Karimalal Police rescued 16 persons including 6 foreigners who were isolated at Karimalal due to road blocks by landslide.

Moreover, 100 passengers including female from Idukki in Thirupuzha who were isolated within the forest were saved and sheltered in the Idukki AR Camp. They were accommodated in the AR Camp for the next few days. Appanatha district police personnel distributed 980 Onam kits to relief camps. Medical camp organized at various Relief camps in association with voluntary organizations and distributed medicines to the inmates in Thrissur City.

Police personnel in Kochi City ~~are~~ helping hand to the flood victims who were returning to their homes from the relief camps. As many as 72 police officers have been deployed for removing mud and waste from the flood-affected houses. The cops are working shoulder to shoulder with the public and charitable organizations. To ensure medical aid to flood victims, the Kochi City Police conducted a free medical camp in

Cheranelloor under the aegis of VPS takes up Hospital and Micro-ma Mobile and with the assistance of Gov. Hospitals, Palliative cares, Red Cross, Nirbhaya members. Medical camps were conducted at various Police Station limits of Kochi city.

All Police personnel in the Thiruvananthapuram District worked hard in flood rescue and relief activities. CPO 6259311, Dinesh & CPO 6859 Sri.Mulath of Kattur Police Station rescued a pregnant woman from flood affected area and carried her to nearby hospital in a cart. The incident was reported in Mathrubhumi Daily. CPO 7303 Sri. Sumesh of Vadanappally Police Station did outstanding work on 16.08.2018. He was on special duty at Chalakudy Over Bridge within Chalakudy P.S. Limits. At that time he saw a man drowning in Chalakudy river and rescued him by taking his life. DVR ASI Sri. Ajikumar of Varantherappilly Police Station Rescued nearly 100 persons including CPO Amilen and family and one boy suffering from Autism from flood hit areas in Nadipuram and Manjeri areas by using a country boat and putting his own life at risk.

In Ponnani district around 3,000 people were trapped at Nelliampathi during the flood as the only road to the area was destroyed and bridge had been washed away in heavy water flow and land slides. Meanwhile a helicopter that left for Nelliampathi from BEML Kozhikode with food, water and medicine had to return due to bad weather. A Temporary bridge was constructed on war footing basis with the help of IAF and local people. Following this the authorities had to send relief workers and provisions on head roads to Nelliampathi. Police Officers with the help of IAF volunteers and revenue officials carried 2,000 kg of relief materials by foot. They travelled nearly 20 km by way. Two Helicopters landed in Nelliampathi and rescued 9 pregnant ladies and 9 aged people. Police identified the suitable places to be used as Helipads and also provided all the help to the Air Force Authorities for the safe landing of Helicopters in the flood affected areas. Police personnel in Kozhikode district conducted rescue operations and rehabilitation work with the help of Fishermen, various socio-political organizations and merchants groups.

Malappuram district Police personnel carried out evaluation with the help of fishermen in the flood affected areas of Vengal. Police station and 4 fishermen boats were engaged in the rescue operation from Parappanangadi to Tanur and the noted

V. Appreciation /Award / Acknowledgement of the good work of Police by Community

During the flood relief operation, Kollam City Police began to help the flood affected victims. This widely earned reputation from many quarters. One of the major achievements was that the Kollam City Police took the initiative in rebuilding the Govt. HSS Kolppuram (as this school was fully damaged due to the flood). Kollam City Police took the school as a great challenge and repaired the school building and its furniture and made school suitable for functioning. This earned wide acknowledgment and on 03.09.2018 the Pathanamthitta District Administration organized a function which was attended by MLA (Aranmula), DPC Pathanamthitta and other distinguished persons and all showered appreciation on Kollam City Police. They gave Mementos and Appreciation Certificates to police Personnel. Smt. Veena George, MLA Aranmula appreciated the Police personnel in Kollam Rural who were engaged the cleaning work and MLA inaugurated the clearing programme and her speech appeared in the social media.

- In Pathanamthitta, 80 Police personnel from Kollam City engaged in cleaning works in Kolppuram Police Station Limit. They cleaned Kolppuram Govt. HSS & other public places in war footing basis. A meeting was held under the aegis of Pathanamthitta District Panchayath to felicitate the Police officials who participated in cleaning drive on 03.09.2018 at Kolppuram Govt. HSS. A memento was presented to the Assistant Commandant, District HQ Kollam by Pathanamthitta District Panchayath President Smt. Annapoorna Devi. Vijayapuram Grama Vikasana Samithi gave appreciation and memento to East and Mararcadu Police for their good work. Kottayam Powravell and Deepika newspaper conducted a meeting and expressed appreciation to District Police Kottayam.

- District Police of Idukki made a commendable work with regard to flood relief activities in the district from 09.08.2018 onwards. Many appreciations have been received from the General public, Visual/Print media and Social Media. Public meetings were arranged at many places for appreciating the police personnel for their remarkable duties in connection with recent flood/landslide disaster in Idukki district.

- In Alappuzha media and public organizations appreciated the efforts of police in the rescue operations to save the life of people in the flooded areas by shifting them from there to safe places and making all other arrangements in connection with the

rescue operations; for keeping peace and safety in their relief camps, for the contribution of police in the cleaning process and other assistances; for the rehabilitation of people who returned to their houses from relief camps.

- Perumbavoor Taluk Office staff appreciated the rescue operations conducted by Ernakulam Rural Police. Juma Masjid Committee, Kanjirakkad, Light & Sound welfare committee Perambavoor, Black & White Sports club Perambavoor, Residents Association, and various social & cultural organizations of Kanjoor, Mekkalady, Madurima, Ettakadavu, Maanikyanattalam, Inchakavala, Malayattoor, Pallupattai, Kalady appreciated the efforts of police personnel of Kalady police station. Chengamanad SHO Ak. Sudheer and police personnel were appreciated by the Aduvasery Pournasamithy and Palagassery powravell. Puthenvelikkara SHO Sri.EVShibu and police personnel were appreciated by Thiruthippuram Church and Kezhooopadam Sadbhudhimatha Church. Pravani Rotary club, Thrippunithura IVA Sports club etc. appreciated the efforts of police personnel in rescue operation. Various Resident Associations in Kochi city appreciated the good work of Police during flood related rescue and rehabilitation duties.

- In Thrissur City, a programme was conducted by Chavakkad Pournasamithy for appreciating the hard work done by the police personnel and fishermen during the floods.

- Sri. Bhodhesh, Inspector of Police, Mala; Sri. Pradeepkumar, SI of Police Mala; Sri.K.A.Faisal, SCPO 4123, Special Branch Officer, District Special Branch, Thrissur Rural and Sri. Biju.O.H, GSCPO 3520, Special Branch Officer, District Special Branch, Thrissur Rural received mementos from Information and Guidance Group (IG Group- Mala) which was awarded by Hon. High Court Judge, Smt. Mary Joseph in the presence of Thrissur Rural District Police Chief, Sri. MK.Pushkaran IPS. In a function arranged at Mala for the commendable work done in connection with rescue operations in Floods 2018.

- On 30.08.2018 Junior Chamber International, Palakkad with MA Ply arranged Felicitation Ceremony for DPC, Palakkad; ASP, Agali, DySP, District SB, Palakkad; DySP, Palakkad; SI of Police, Town North P.S and other Police Personnel at Palakkad. On 09.09.2018 "Kootam" Cultural Centre arranged an Appreciation ceremony at Aduvasery for Inspector SHO, Nemmara P.S and others.

On 10/09/2018 Centre for High Skill Learnings & Rural Development Society, Kollengode has arranged a reception for the Inspector SHO, Nemmara P.S. Sub Inspector of Police, Nemmara and Other Police Personnel at Block Panchayat Hall, Nemmara. On 12/09/2018 "Voice of Mammakkad", gave a reception to Inspector SHO, Mammakkad P.S at Mammakkad Town.

- Kondotty Block Panchayath of Malappuram district felicitated District Collector, District Police Chief and all other Police Officials in a function conducted at Moyinkutty Vellhyar Smarakam, Kondotty for their extraordinary work in flood relief. SI of Police, Vengara and Sri. Jaisal, fisherman, Tanur (Trauma Care Tanur) got many awards/appreciation from public all over Kerala. Police Rescued 4 personnel (2 Poochal + 1 Kottappuram and 1 Olavattoor) within Kondotty and Vazhakkal Police station limits. Social media highlighted the actions of police and it created great impact among the public about the department. Minister Sri.K.T.Jaleel and Hon'ble Kerala Speaker when visited

the disaster camps, public informed them about the remarkable work carried out by the Police in the area and the elected representatives appreciated the good work done by the Police and gave wide publicity in print and social media. Appreciations were received from public for the police personnel working in Tirur P.S. Limits who outstandingly performed in their rescue operations. In addition, the local people overwhelmingly supported police during the disaster.

- The Co-ordination committee of Residence Associations and Kozhikode Corporation Counsellors and ward members appreciated the good work of Marad Police during the floods.

- The Police personnel of Wayanad who were engaged in rescue operations working within Kalpetta LAC, were honoured in a meeting conducted by Kalpetta LAC, organized under "KILA"

- In Kasaragod Media/ Public representatives appreciated the relief works of district police force.



Epilogue

During this unfortunate natural calamity, all the Police personnel become aware and vigilant. Even though so many families of the police personnel faced this flood, they tried their maximum effort to rescue the people who included in this operation which lead to a great success. The quick action and mission task of the Kerala Police lowered the death rate of the people in the inundated area. So many relief camps have been opened and rehabilitated the destitute people in the camp and they have been given food, clothes, medicines etc. And hence the police

personnel made the camps a relief place. The police personnel have tried their maximum effort to reach the people at hospitals when casualty and medical camps have been opened, which lowered the death rate. The coordination among the police personnel were appreciated and over all the mission was a complete success.

FIELD STUDY FROM AFFECTED DISTRICTS

- FINDINGS

& SUGGESTIONS

LESSONS OF THE DELUGE I

- 3.1 Pathanamthitta
 - 3.2 Alappuzha
 - 3.3 Kottayam
 - 3.4 Idukki
 - 3.5 Ernakulam
 - 3.6 Thrissur
 - 3.7 Palakkad
 - 3.8 Malappuram
 - 3.9 Kozhikode
 - 3.10 Wayanad
 - 3.11 Kannur
-

3.1

Pathanamthitta District

Pathanamthitta District under the Great Deluge

Ranni Police Station

Pamba Police Station

Pathanamthitta Police Station

Aranmula Police Station

Koyipram Police Station

Malayalappuzha Police Station

Perunad Police Station

Chittar Police Station

Erath Police Station

Pandalam Police Station

Thiruvalla Police Station

Konni Police Station

Adoor Police Station

Pullikeshi Police Station

Pathanamthitta District

Pathanamthitta district was constituted on 1st November 1982. The total area of the district is 2642 sq. km. The district includes 6 municipalities, 4 taluks, 8 block panchayats, 53 grama panchayats, 5 Assembly constituencies and 1 Lok Sabha constituency. The three rivers of the district are Achankovil, Manimala and Pamba.

Pathanamthitta was the district the worst affected by the flood. The flood left behind a trail of devastation in the district. The geographical peculiarities of the district with the rivers, Pamba, Achankovil, Kallada, Manimala and Varattar, and hill ranges and a

number of ecologically sensitive areas aggravated the floods. The police leapt into action and displayed unusual determination and courage right from the beginning of the torrential rains and landslides. As a result of this the extent of



Dr. B Sandhya IPS, Director, Police Academy, and a team of Police Officers visited Aranmula and Koyipuram and held discussions with the police officers and gained an accurate picture of the colossal devastation by the flood. It should be recorded that Sri. T Narayanan IPS, PB Nooh IAS, District Collector gave commendable leadership to the efforts.

the devastation was considerably reduced. Each and every one of the police personnel worked with social commitment and leadership skills. They handled with patience the countless desperate calls pouring into the police stations and showed the courage to attempt to bring back to life and safety everyone in distress.

Pathanamthitta District under the Great Deluge

The district administration in Pathanamthitta had to open 12 relief camps nearly 2 months before the torrential rain wreaked havoc in the low lying areas of Thiruvalla, Kozhencherry and Konni taluks of Pathanamthitta district. The number of camps was raised from 12 to 106 in July as there was no reduction in the intensity of the downpour. A total of 9050 people from 3,640 families were rehabilitated. By that time 13 persons had lost their lives. The heavy rain brought destruction to agriculture in 1417 hectares of land and roads stretching over 846 kilometres. Due to incessant rain all the rivers, small and large, began to overflow. Dams reached their optimum storage capacity. The situation worsened in the month of August. Transport and communication systems were disrupted. Foreseeing the gravity of the situation, the district authorities issued alert notices to all departments. Anticipating the arrival of thousands of people to the shores of swelling rivers to perform the rites of Karkidaka Vavu Bali, strict safety measures were taken and warnings issued.

The second wing of NDRF and the 39 members of ITBP who reached at night could not bring the situation under control. In the night of 15 August, numerous laments were heard from the marooned in various places. They had lost everything except their lives. Messages poured in from different corners seeking the service of the fishermen, Kerala's own army. The fishermen who rushed from Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram had to travel across many kilometres in lorries with their boats to reach the different locations reeling under the flood. Though they could reach only at midnight, the moment they reached, they joined the relief operations with the police without losing a minute. Though they managed to coordinate the activities very speedily, 5 persons died on 15 August in landslips and landslides in different locations of the district.

Though two navy helicopters flew to the affected areas on 16 August, they could not operate effectively or speedily due to the obstructions of roofing sheets and trees. The operations in the already flooded areas of Ranny could be completed in two days without many casualties. But the low-lying areas of Aranmula and Kozhencherry and the places in Thiruvalla Taluk came under water because of the overflow from the Pamba river. Rescue operations on 17 August was carried out in areas like Aranmula, Kidangannur and Kozhencherry. Around 30 fishing boats were pressed into relentless service. But there were houses inaccessible because of the whirling undercurrents in the Pamba. People explored the nooks and corners where large



fishing boats could not reach, with the help of makeshift rafts. Places such as the famous Aranmula Parthasarathy temple premises and the Police station were completely submerged under water.

Water rose unusually high in the rivers of the district such as Achankovil, Manimala and Kallada submerging places like Konni, Adoor and Mallappally. Pandalam town, which had never before experienced a similar flood, was totally flooded by the night of 16 August. Achankovil river had changed its course and diverted its course to Pandalam making the situation very grave. The situation could be brought under control only by the afternoon of 17 August with the concerted efforts of the Police, Fire force, NDRF and RAF teams. Meanwhile, the situation in Thiruvalla and the neighbouring areas was deplorable. The hurdles to the rescue operation at Thiruvalla area were comparatively larger: the incessant heavy rain and the landslides in the catchment areas. The residents of multi-storeyed buildings who were reluctant to leave their abodes, had taken refuge on the top of the buildings. It was a task to make available food and water to these people. The boats that had been brought for the rescue operation were the only means of transportation. Red alert was declared in the district. Educational institutions including professional colleges were closed down. The gates of Kakki, Anathodu, Kochupamba, and Muzhiyar dams, which were part of the Sabargiri hydroelectric project were opened. The water level of the Pamba rose still higher and the low lying areas of Ranny, Thiruvalla and Kozhencherry taluks were flooded.

By midnight of 14 August, reports of heavy rain and landslides were received from all the surrounding area of the Pamba river. Water rose to a height of seven feet in houses. People ran out in fear to elevated places and terraces. Around 30,000 people were evacuated to safer places. The river overflowed and gushed forth along the thickly populated areas. Within no time electric posts and multi-storey buildings disappeared under water. The Achankovil and Pamba and their tributaries wreaked havoc, battering banks and damaging houses and roads. Initially the police did not wait for the NDRF to come. Though they were ill-equipped, they proceeded with the rescue operation with the support of the public.

Ranny was the first place to be affected by flood. The entire town of Ranny was flooded in the morning on 15 August. The river flowing with fury and violence over the bridge across Pamba river continued to remain swollen for 3 days. The only devices useful for rescue operations were two boats given by two individuals and a makeshift raft. Later the, Forest department made available 24 canoes and the services of 25 oarsmen from Adavi. These were immediately put to use in the Aranmula area with the help of police. The rescue operation was very difficult because of the strong undercurrents and the incessant rain though the rowers were well-trained experts. The 29 member NDRF team reached Ranny in the afternoon of 15



August. They too could not perform successfully because of their unfamiliarity with the place and the presence of strong undercurrents. The air-filled dinghy boat of NDRF struck work on the very first day. By the evening of the same day, a team of 70 soldiers from the Pangode Military Camp and a navy team of 10 navy personnel with 2 boats arrived from Kochi.

By 18 August the number of relief camps rose to 518. In addition to this, the rescue operation had to be continued in some places in Thiruvalla taluk such as Aranmula and Upper Kuttanad. When the situation improved a bit by 19 and 20 August, police and the public made arrangements to supply food and drinking water to the stranded populace. 3683 food packets were distributed by means of helicopter drop. The rescue operation ended officially on 21 August. Police and the local self governing bodies concentrated on distributing the materials collected from across the state and in trying to inject confidence among the flood-hit. The fishermen actively participated in the rescue

operation disregarding their own safety. Twenty one of their fishing boats had minor damages. The number of deaths and casualties could be reduced because the fishermen, army and the general public worked in unison with the police.

Ezhikad colony in Pathanamthitta district, where a number of SC/ST families reside, was worst affected by the flood. The cleanup programme arranged by the police in the colony should be mentioned.



Floors of the Flooded River "Pump"



Ranni Police Station

The information that the water level in Pamba river was rising exceedingly high and the people should be warned against the impending danger of floods reached Ranni Police Station at night on 14 August. Under the leadership of SHO CI Newman, loudspeaker announcements were made and all the ward members were instantly apprised of the situation. But there came repeated phone calls in the early hours of the morning (at 7 am) of 15 August informing about the worsening floods. The same instant, those available in the station, SI Anil Kumar, CPOs Abdul Salim, Vijayaraj and SI Ibrahimkutty ventured forth into a rescue operation with the equipment then available. The police were actually walking out in neck-deep water in the dead of night. A raft made by police and public was the only equipment for rescue. The office and the equipment of Fire Force, Ranni, was completely under water. Their ambulance was also trapped on the road in an attempt to recover the dead body of a lady. Low lying areas of Ranni station were submerged in the morning itself. The seven kilometre stretch from Ranni Police station to Chellakkad was submerged and traffic came to a standstill. GSCPO Anup Raghavan and Jayakrishnan walked through neck-deep water and saved 3 women employees stranded in the Panchayat office. SI Siddique and CPO Jayakrishnan made use of a crude country raft to save a mother and her two bedridden sons, which could have become a hazardous misadventure. The mother, who was reluctant to leave her children who were unable to walk, was ready to embrace death.

Many officers could not report for duty at Ranni from 15 to 17 August as the Blockpady, Mandirampady and Valkom areas were flooded. The transport resumed on the 18th. The CPO of Ranni Police Station, Girijendran went along with fishermen in a fishing boat to rescue 6 KSEB workers and 5 families. On the way back he lost control of the boat in a strong current. Ignoring his safety, the officer jumped into the water and in a very perilous operation he rescued 11 people.

Police could proceed with the rescue operation more speedily on 15th evening. One boat of the Coast Guard, four from the NDRF, two from the Fire Force, one belonging to fishermen from Kollam and 6 canoes from Adavi reached that very evening. Around 3,500 people marooned in several places were rescued by the Ranni police. Seventeen people were airlifted with the help of the Navy. Two unnatural deaths were reported at Ranni Police station in connection with the flood.

A total of twenty relief camps were opened in the villages, Ranni, Angaady and Pazhavangady villages under the Ranni Police Station limits. Food, medicines and drinking water were made available to about 2,405 participants of the camp and to those people who refused to leave their homes.

The mobile phones and land lines had gone out of order. The supply of electricity was cut off. As a result of this rescue operation was all the more difficult. The Police found it difficult to locate the people trapped in houses. The wireless system of the Police, being made serviceable with the help of generators collected from different places was the only means of communication.

The two Police officers used a crude country raft to save a mother and her two bedridden sons, which could have become a hazardous misadventure. The mother, who was reluctant to leave her children who were unable to walk, was ready to embrace death.



Pamba Police Station

The timely decision of the police stood in good stead in saving all the pilgrims, without causing injury to any one of them.

The water level in river Pamba had risen up, on 8 August itself. Necessary restrictions were imposed in view of the pilgrims coming to perform *Kadodawa vavu ritam*. The rains became intense by 13 August and water level rose still higher. Several centres at Sabarimala such as Namamoorathi hall, Hotel complex and Annadawa mandapam came under water; instructions were given to inform the pilgrims and to dissuade them from pilgrimage through news media. The District Collector, Sri P B Nish IAS and District Police Superintendent, Sri T. Narayanan IPS took steps to give alert messages. Meanwhile the river swelled and flowed over the bridges. Huge uprooted trees and carcasses of wild animals flowed down from the hills. The next task of the Police was to ensure the safety and to send back the pilgrims who had reached Pamba for Pooja in Chingam and Niraputham.

Traffic had been obstructed in different places in the places between Nilackal and Pamba due to landslips. The police succeeded in sending near about 1000 pilgrims who had come from Kannur and Tamil Nadu in the buses to Nilackal. The timely decision of the police stood in good stead in saving all the pilgrims, without causing injury to any one of them.

The huge trees flowing down the water hit against pillars of the Namamoorathi hall and it caused the collapse of two of the toilet complexes. Employees of the Departments, KSEB, Forest and other departments vacated the Pamba surroundings fearing for their lives. The Police station was in a precarious state with the river flowing furiously on one side and the threat of landslides on the other side. Though the authorities gave permission to vacate

the place if the situation warranted, none of the policemen left the station. Police received information that the volunteers of the Ayyappa Seva Sangham were stranded on the other side of the Pamba. With wireless assistance three policemen on duty at the Sabarimala Samidhanam were deployed to rescue the Ayyappa Seva Sangham. Police then rescued 16 persons trapped in three buildings on the shore of the Pamba.

Pamba SHO, K S Vijayan, CPO Harikrishnan and the policemen of the Aik camp led this daring venture. Responding to a message from the Collectorate control room that three ailing persons were bedridden at the Samidhanam on the 24th, the Inspector of Pamba station along with a Fire Force team from Seethiathodu crossed the river in a dinghy boat at great risk to their lives and

saved them. It took two more weeks for the water to recede completely.

Around 50 families in Attathodu Colony in the Pamba station limits were moved to the Nilackal and Attathodu tribal schools. The tribals who wanted to collect forest resources refused to vacate. The police provided them food. The food was prepared by the police themselves. They wore only towel, loin-cloths etc. in the rescue operation.

Police station received a message from Arattupuzha Kalarikkod that seven persons including an old woman and an infant were stranded. CI Sunil kumar and his team sped to the spot with an oarsman, Joseph, in his boat. It was a struggle that followed. The intertwined electric wires were pushed aside and catching hold

of the wire, they proceeded forward half a kilometre. The boat soon struck against a wall and came to a stop. The water-soaked wall was demolished by strong kicks, and finally an old woman of 85, a youth of 18 years weighing 110 kg, 3 mothers, 2 children, and an infant of 6 months were all saved.

On the Fourth Day of the Disaster...

Got information that seven people including a 70 year old woman and a seven month old child were trapped in a house near the Arattupuzha bar. We sped in the direction. Thumbakkaran Joseph was at the helm of my boat.



On the way Joseph had a chat with another boatman in the local dialect. They had gone to rescue the same flood victims we were looking for. “Kumbari, go ye not,” he cried, “hear me, a creek. Trees all around. No, No, nothing to be done. Andrew went and came back. Before that, two other boats.” Joseph looked at me and said, “If you are willing, we will bring them.” “Take the boat,” I told Joseph. I had confidence in Joseph’s skill (he had already rescued around 60 people by then). The turbulent Pamba surged on sinking the intertwined electric cables. We proceeded half a kilometre, switching off the boat engine at times, pushing up the intertwined electric cables, clutching on to the cables instead of using the oar, thus we carried on our journey. The strong currents of Pamba prevented access to the house. Sitting in the front of the boat, I made a path by pushing away the branches of fallen trees. Joseph too was pushing the trees away slowly. In half an hour we could proceed only 40 metres. As we came close to the house, chopping away the obstructing trees, a person from the top of the house called aloud, “Sir, there is a compound wall.” The boat now struck against the wall and stopped. The depth of water was almost 12 feet, there were strong undercurrents and the boat had now struck against the wall. We thought for a moment that we could proceed no further. Joseph said, “You look after the boat. I shall kick and batter the wall.” That was my first experience at the oar. Joseph battered the wall after he jumped into the water.

First came an 85 year old woman, then an eighteen year old boy weighing 110 kilos. He stood impassively waiting for me as it was my duty to move him to safety. There were 3 mothers, two young men and finally a six month old baby neatly wrapped in a towel. Seven lives were to be saved from the strong current and brought to the shore of safety. To my great surprise, Joseph went to the baby. He pressed his beedi-stained lips to the baby’s forehead. A drop of tear—a teardrop of intense emotion slowly ran down my cheeks. That was a situation when my mobile phone (with its camera) was lamentably absent. Or else I could have snapped that rare frame. Nothing around us, only water.

CI Sunil Kumar

Aranmula Police Station

Aranmula was completely submerged in the flood. So too its Police station. The district administration had given strict orders on 9 August that the snake boats made ready for the Uthattadi boat race should not be launched on the swelling Pamba. Loudspeaker announcements about the flood were given at night on 14 August. The station began receiving phone calls from different places requesting immediate help. Sub Inspectors Anil, Jibu John and CPOs Bindulal, Arunraj, and Reju began rescue operation at night on 15 August.

They evacuated the old men and children living behind the station area. Melukara, a low lying area, was flooded very soon. People in flats were saved using rafts of plantain trunks. Police personnel stranded on the terrace of a building were saved with the help of a fishing boat. Twenty seven girls stranded in the hostel of Kozhipalam Engineering college and ten persons trapped in the PWD Rest house at Sathrakadavu were saved breaking down the roof.



Koyipram Police Station

Koyipram is another police station in Pathanamthitta district that was submerged in the flood. Rescue operations were done with makeshift rafts fashioned out of plantain trunks and bamboo poles, rubber tyres, tubes, etc., with the help of the local people. Police waded through the water, or swam through it to several places and issued warnings from 15 to 16 August, before the arrival of the army and fishing boats. As a result of

this several people could be saved. The people who preferred to remain on the first floor of their houses could only be brought out with the help of the army and fishing boats. The station was also in water. Several files, records and registers were destroyed. Power failure and the sudden and unexpected onslaught of water hindered the moving of many such articles to the first floor.



The Officers of the Koyipuram Police Station... their Children, not Born to them.

"In the blink of an eye, water rushed into the house from Pamba river. We could not run to any place. As the water rose high up to the waist, I told my daughter not to bother about me. "Save your life." But she did not leave. Dialling a number someone had given, she repeatedly rang the police station. The police collected the details of the house. They asked us not to worry and promised that they would save us. But by that time the house was surrounded by water. We lost all hope. Will anyone risk their own life to save two women whom nobody in this world wants? Stepping into the chest deep water, I mourned aloud, "Please save us." The men folk of our neighbouring houses had by then left their houses. Just then a torch light -a ray of hope-was directed to our house. There came three policemen swimming in search of the two of us, two women whom we thought, nobody wanted. The next problem was to help us reach outside.

Now I tell everyone, in danger, the Police will help you even if God does not help."

We did not know how to swim. That son (Policeman) was telling me again and again " Don't worry, Amma, we will bring you to safety." Finally they brought a ladder from somewhere. We sat on it with difficulty and the three policemen carried the ladder with us sitting on it, on their shoulders and they swam through the strong currents till they reached a relative's house. There was water everywhere. Nobody could distinguish water from land. At times we thought we would fall down. The words of assurance would come, "Don't be afraid. Even if we fall down and get drowned, we will not let you fall." The grandmother continued. "If the three policemen had not come, we would not have come back to life. The mothers who gave birth to these sons are blessed indeed. We do not know their names. When we reached here, I saw blood flowing from a wound in the leg of one policeman. Now I tell everyone, In danger, the Police will help you even if God does not help."

Ammukkuty (82 years) of Karuvelithara, her daughter Molykutty (58 years)



"The flood water coming directly from the river filled our house with water. Not only my house, but the neighbouring houses, roads and buildings were under water by about 3 o'clock in the afternoon on 15 August. I was lying in bed as my leg was bandaged after an accident. We never before had such an experience. So I remained with my wife and two daughters despite the heavy rain. By afternoon the first floor of our house was submerged.

My wife and daughters helped me climb the top floor with great difficulty. The sight I saw through the window was horrible. The entire surroundings of the house were flooded and there was a strong current also. The people who came to help could not approach the house. The children were frightened and began to scream. I, who was to help them in this dangerous situation, could not even move. After some time the policemen came, but they were also helpless against the current. Finally a rope was brought from somewhere and they threw it in the direction of the house and a policeman waded through the neck-deep water and hanging on the rope climbed to the first floor of the house. Nobody dared to come to the assistance of the policeman, fearing the current.

They helped my wife and daughters reach the shore, with the help of the rope. I was unable even to stand up.

Two policemen helped me sit on a chair, but taking me to the other side hanging on the rope was a risky job. But they ignored all thoughts of their own safety and helped me reach the shore the same way as my family."

**Anil Kumar,
Meppuram house,
Kozholikal, Pulimukku**

Malayalapuzha Police Station

Malayalapuzha is surrounded on the three sides by rivers. Transport had come to a standstill on the routes to Pathanamthitta, Kollam and Vadasserikara. Though there was a landslide in Mannarakulam, the casualties were minimised because of the timely regulation of traffic. Moreover, the government employees and the public worked as one to shift goods and articles from shops to safer places. Around 50 families residing in Kadalazha near Kallar were evacuated to the SNOB school at Pothippadu.

The police chained up the school buses parked on the road at Vadasserikara near Kallar to prevent them being swept away.

Perunad Police Station

The low lying areas surrounding the station came under water when the shutters of dams were opened on 14 August. The police gave warnings by loudspeaker announcements. As the water level rose, people were evacuated and relief camps were set up. The devotees who had reached Sabarimala for the monthly pooja were rescued and shifted to the Sabaral Ashramam in Marathumuzhi. The migrant workers stranded in Athikayam and the manager of the Athikayam branch of the South Indian Bank were rescued in a makeshift raft.

Chittar Police Station

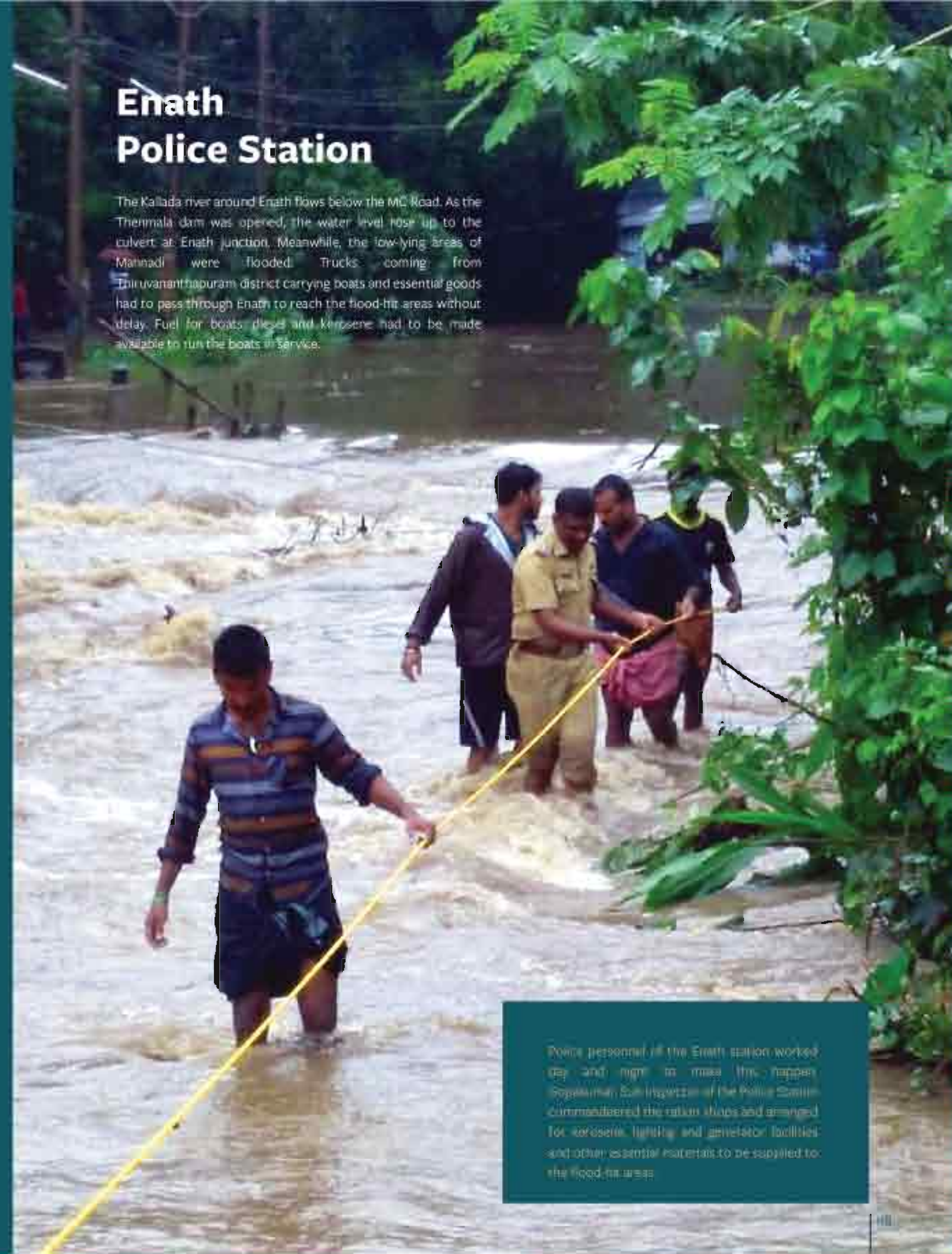
Large scale flooding and landslides occurred in the Chittar police station limits. CPN Asim and Satish were patrolling on bikes on Saturday when a roadblock occurred right in front of them on the Vadasankar-Chittar route. In the unexpected accident, 4 bikes were trapped.

The police began rescue operations without any thought of their personal safety and they saved Jayan, Arun and Nithin, natives of Chittar.

But Asokan died in another landslide. Four persons died in the Vayyartusudha Kollayam valley and in Marudappara, Seethathode on 15 August following the landslide. Assistant Police gave financial assistance of Rs 10,000 to Raju, the SP's sister who lost her house in the flood.

Enath Police Station

The Kallada river around Enath flows below the MC Road. As the Thenmala dam was opened, the water level rose up to the culvert at Enath junction. Meanwhile, the low-lying areas of Mannadi were flooded. Trucks coming from Thiruvananthapuram district carrying boats and essential goods had to pass through Enath to reach the flood-hit areas without delay. Fuel for boats, diesel and kerosene had to be made available to run the boats in service.



Police personnel of the Enath station worked day and night to make this happen. Sopsanman, Sub-Inspector of the Police Station, commandeered the ration shops and arranged for kerosene, lighting and generator facilities and other essential materials to be supplied to the flood-hit areas.

Pandalam Police Station

The canal bank in Aruvakkudavu broke and as a result of this the river Achankovil diverted its course. By about 9.30 a.m. night on 15 August the river gushed out to the residential area of Pandalam. By 10.00 clock, policemen under the leadership of Inspector Vijayakumar began the rescue operation. In the very first hour, hundreds of people were evacuated to the camps. The operation was very difficult because of the non-availability of boats in the area and the absence of power supply. The police turned swimmers along with the Fire Force and fishermen. The local people did not dare to get into the neck-deep water. Police constables, Sanyal Kumar and Dilip Kumar, who could swim, proceeded 30 metres through the water with a large duck and the torchlight of a mobile phone and saved Armini Pappu, an old woman who lived in the middle of a field. They had bound her safe to a plastic chair with a chain and the plan was to carry her on their head.

Thiruvalla Police Station

Places such as Kakkumbhagam, Pellingam, Kodappu, Nannam and Neerumburam in Thiruvalla village were completely under water. The police succeeded in saving 560 people, hospitalising 152 and providing food and essential medicines to more than 30,000 people in the base areas of the Thiruvalla region, with the help of police departments and organisations and the public.

People who took refuge on the top of buildings and who were reluctant to leave their abode.

The police turned saviours along with the Fire Force and fishermen.



Konni Police Station

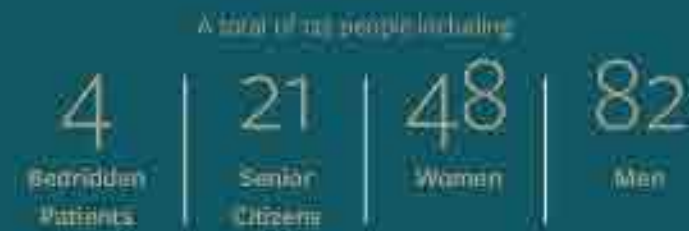
When the floods wreaked havoc in the hilly areas, the Police station at Konni was the only place the people could bank their faith on. In the evening of 15 August, the Muringamangalam, Attachakkal and Aruvappulam areas of Konni were flooded. Soon the police and the members of the Janamathi became active and shifted the people to safe places. Knowing that the electric supply would soon be cut off, the police organised generators and fuel from all available sources to avoid any failure of communications. The first task of the police was to convince the people of the danger. Water was rising high at the point where the two rivers, Kallar and Achankovil meet. Police made announcements over loudspeaker to make people aware of the gravity of the situation. Rubber plantations came under water in one or two hours. Though the first floors of the houses were submerged, the number of casualties could be minimized because of the timely intervention and continued activity of the

Police and the Forest Department. Canoes and oars were brought from the Adavi Ecotourism site. The most risky part of the entire operation was the rescue of 22 persons trapped in a brick factory near Pulimukku. The spot was a dangerous one, with several deep pits that were the result of the digging activity there. The police ventured into the dark with no thought of their personal safety. The inhabitants of the tribal colony at Kakkathod were a group of people who did not get much attention initially. The colony was completely inundated by torrential rain and water flowing down the hills. Their life had been miserable without food, medicines and essential goods. The helping hands of the Janamathi police at Konni came to their assistance. They were provided with food, clothing and the services of three doctors from Ernakulam. Twelve relief camps functioned in the Konni station limits. They were deprived of power supply for around seven days.



Adoor Police Station

When water overflowed from the canal at Pothuvil, a place in the Adoor sugar limits road traffic was obstructed. The three families on the shore of the canal were shifted to Ezhumalai High School and they were provided with essential requirements. Steps were taken to regulate the traffic. On 16 August, one family was shifted from Thengattam area and they were given necessary assistance.



Were evacuated to the safety of the relief camp at Pookkottam.



Pulikeezh Police Station

Ninety five percent of the places in the four panchayats in the limits of Pulikeezhu police station was flooded. Pamba and Manimala, the two rivers flowing on either side of Pulikeezhu, swelled with strong currents. Unprecedented was the level of flood and the strength of the currents. Upper Kuttanad which includes the location of the Police Station was under water. Sixty families comprising 246 persons including men, women and children residing near Mulappetta temple in Kadapra Grama panchayat were shifted to the idle station boat and with much difficulty we rowed through the dangerous current (in troubled

waters the boat was securely tied with rope) and finally reached the safety of an isolated building of the Travancore Sugar factory. Around 450 persons stranded in Parumala, Thevery and Kadappara were rescued in boats or by expert swimmers and they were given shelter in the camps. The phone calls and requests for information were responded to promptly and steps were taken to dispel the fear and anxiety of the people. The flood worsened on 16 August and subsequently the Police Station was flooded and the communications network affected.

People who were reluctant to leave their houses were given good advice and made aware of the gravity of the situation and evacuated to safe camps. Two people lost their lives in the station limits. The patients living in the sugar factory were airlifted to Thiruvalla.

“Me and other senior officers were deputed to coordinate rescue work in the Central office of Matsyafed. Thus I got an opportunity to participate in the rescue operations with the fishermen. Smt Sandhya IPS, ADGP, requested the Matsyafed to make arrangements for a team of police officers from the Police Training College to join the fishermen. Together with them, I too engaged in the rescue work near Parumala on 18.08.2018. When we reached Illikkadavu on 18th morning, we came to know that the boat of Raju and Loyola, two fishermen from Poonthura, had disappeared the previous day and they were not to be seen. No information was available about them. We were very much disturbed. Our team made enquiries of every ferry accessible by road. Watching the channel news, people from far-off places thronged the site. Those entrapped in flood did not know what was happening as there was no phone connection or power supply. After some time our team approached the next ferry. To our great surprise we saw Raju and Loyola involved in rescue work in their boat. Even the Police team who were with us were amazed at the sight. We returned in the morning on 19.08.2018 after the rescue operation was completed.”

V. Rekha
Deputy General Manager
MATSYAFED

Details of people belonging to Pathanamthitta who died in the Deluge:

| Sl.No. | Police Station | No. | Cause of Death |
|--------|----------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Aranmula | 3 | Drowning |
| 2 | Pandalam | 2 | Drowning |
| 3 | Pathanamthitta | 2 | Drowning + well-cleaning |
| 4 | Keezhavoor | 2 | Drowning |
| 5 | Adoor | 1 | Drowning |
| 6 | Vechoochira | 1 | Drowning |
| 7 | Ranni | 4 | 2 Drowning + Electric Shock + ICU Stopped working because of the floods |
| 8 | Chittar | 5 | Landslide |
| 9 | Konni | 1 | Drowning |
| 10 | Thiruvalla | 6 | Drowning |
| 11 | Kaipuram | 2 | Drowning |
| 12 | Pulkeezhu | 4 | Drowning |
| 13 | Kadathuruthi | 1 | Drowning |
| 14 | Pamba | 1 | Drowning |





3.2

Alappuzha District

Alappuzha District

Chengannur Police Station

Vemmani Police Station

Mannar Police Station

Edathua Police Station

Harpad Police Station

Kainady Police Station

Pulinkunnu Police Station

The Activities of Janamathal Police System in the face of Flood

Alappuzha District

Alappuzha, which is known as 'the Venice of the East' was Alleppey in the days of British rule. The town in the central Kerala earned the title because of the criss-cross of canals. Some believe that Alappuzha got the title because of the river encircling the banyan tree (aal) and some others argue that Alappuzha is the land of deep rivers. Banyan tree is significant for worship in Buddhism. In ancient times Buddhism was quite prevalent in Alappuzha.

Geologists believe that the coastal areas of Alappuzha such as Karchikappally, Ambalapuzha and Cherthala were part of the Arabian sea in the past before CE 2 and that they were then on the eastern side of the Vembanad lake.

The literary work Unnuneeli Sandesam of the Sangha period gives a description of the landscape of Alappuzha in those days. This place, lying close to sea level does not have hills or forests. So also the district does not have rivers worthy of mention.

One can hardly believe that this very spot—Pandanaad and neighbouring places—is 5 feet below sealevel. Several such streams and canals have been filled and lost forever. Uthirappillyar, which deviated from the Achankovil river and joined the Pamba now exists only in documents and records. The places along which the river flowed at one time are now valuable plots of land for which tax is now remitted.

Chengannur

The place known in ancient times as 'Shonadri' has in modern times become Chengannur. The place does not have any geographical connection to the coastal places of the district of Alappuzha and Kuttanad lying below sea level. The place filled with hills, valleys, plains and meadows is situated on the eastern boundary of the district. The place has the power of the rivers Pamba, Achankovil and the tributaries of Pamba, Varattar and Manimalayar. Pamba winds its way through the heart of the town. Chengannur Taluk is constituted by 9 gramapanchayats, Ala, Cheriyanaad, Thiruvannandur, Pandanaad, Puliur, Budhannur, Mannar, Mulakkuzha and Venmani.

Chengannur is the most elevated place in Alappuzha district, situated 129 feet above the sea level. But Pandanaad situated 5 kilometres west of the town lies 5 feet below the sea level. This geographical fact is unknown to many.

In the wake of torrential rain and the unplanned release of water from dams and the resultant floods, Shri. B. Suhas IAS, the District Collector and the Chairman of Disaster Management Authority gave orders to suspend the Independence Day parade. In the meeting convened by the Collector, attended by Shri. S. Surendran IPS, the District Police Chief, Shri. Krishna Teja IAS and other revenue officials, the charge of the activities in Alappuzha division was given to Shri. Krishna Teja IAS and that of Chengannur division to Shri. Athul Swaminathan, the RDO. Subsequently District authorities took emergency measures.

Strong warning was issued that torrential rain had made the immediate raising of the shutters at Kakki and Kochu Pamba dams inevitable and that the water level of Achankovil, Pamba and Manimala was likely to swell. The people on the shores of the river were directed to move to safer places. But they were under the conviction that Chengannur would never be flooded. The representatives of people also supported the belief. The decision to start SARAS Fair-2018, despite objections from various corners, was an instance of this over-confidence.

Though this place is linked with water, flood was unheard of in the district except in Kuttanad.

Raja Kesava Das, who was the Diwan of Travancore, was the architect of modern Alleppey. The area of Alappuzha is 1415 square kilometres and the population is 2,12,789. In the district comprising 6 Taluks, 93 villages, 12 blocks, 6 Municipalities and 72 Grama Panchayats, there are 36 Police Stations.

Around CE 1800 Marthanda Varma entered into a war with Kayamkulam state, and the Kayamkulam King was defeated in the battle. With a view to destroying the Budhannur elite, who had declared allegiance to the Kayamkulam King, the course of

the river Achankovil which initially flowed through Pandanaad, Budhannur and Ala was redirected to create a new river through Kollakadavu. Later this new river came to be called Vettiyar. As the course of the river was thus changed, the places in the earlier course of the river came to be inhabited and used for agriculture. With the passage of time, any signs of a river having ever flowed across these places also vanished.

When the worst-affected spots of the 2018 flood are examined closely, one can get an idea of the places through which the river had once flowed. Pandanaad is situated 5 kilometres west of Chengannur, the highest spot by altitude in the entire district.

People had ignored the timely warning given by the police and other Government agencies. This increased the gravity of the situation and made rescue operations very difficult. Police started evacuating people from Puthenkavu, Edanadu and Mangalam on 15th itself. Pandanad and Thiruvandur were the panchayats initially affected by flood. As these places are below sea level, very powerful currents were experienced here. Pandanad later became the emblem of the misery of the whole of Chengannur. Neighbouring places such as Aal, Venmani, Puliur and Budhannur were also submerged by water.

As the water level was rising, the Police, Fire Force, the local people and the Nooranad unit of ITBP started rescue operations. Private boats were used initially. Later more equipment was required. Control rooms had started operation in the Police station.

The MLA of Chengannur, Shri Saji Cherian had been giving leadership to the efforts. Shri Anish V Kora, the DySP and Shri Sudhila, Inspector, were in the forefront leading the rescue operation under the guidance of the District Police Chief.

On receiving information and requests, the Police stations in the coastal areas began sending fishermen and boats for the rescue efforts in the early hours of 16th. Central forces also came forward to provide assistance. Hon'ble Ministers, Shri G Sudhakaran, Dr Thomas Isaac, and Shri P Thilothaman, camped at Chengannur and participated in the rescue mission.

Under the directions of the DGP, Dr Sandhya IPS entrusted Shri Reji Jacob, the outdoor SP of the Police Academy with the charge of controlling the rescue operation along with Shri Surendran IPS. The telecommunication network of the police made communication easier in the flood-hit areas. Everything shut down when the electric power system failed. The telecommunications wing installed an extra repeater and with the cooperation of BSNL, CUG SIMs were activated.

More and more boats from Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Needakara, Karunagappally, Thottappally, Arattupuzha, Thrikkunnapuzha, Purakad, Ambalapuzha, Punnappara and Arthungal reached Chengannur for the rescue operation. The fishermen who struggled every day with the sea for their daily bread stood their ground before the gushing current.

The courage of the fishermen coupled with their dexterity, with the assistance and guidance of the public and the police made the rescue operation a success. Several of the boats were damaged when they hit against concrete walls and trees. These boats which had been the sole means of livelihood of the fishermen had to be abandoned. The broken boats are still grounded in Venmani and Pandanad even now. Apart from the fishermen, the concerted efforts of the NDRF, Navy, Air Force, CISF and Fire Force units of Odisha and Tamil Nadu were instrumental in saving the land.



Chengannur Police Station

The fishermen came with fishing boats from Kollam, Neendakara, Paravur and Chali on 16 August itself, but police could not provide necessary directions or lead them to places where their service was required.

The police took complete control of the rescue operation from the 16th. The Janamaithri Beat officers who were quite familiar with the places, and local persons were deputed to each fishing boat and were soon sent to specific locations. Around 68 fishing boats were thus assigned by the police for rescue operations at different locations. It was an untiring job to rescue several people and evacuate them to the camps.

This is an occasion to identify the real heroes. Shri Satheesh Kumar and Shri Athul Raj, Civil Police Officers of Chengannur Police Station, crossed the furious Pamba and rescued more than 200 people.

S. Sathish
Chengannur Inspector SHO



The services of the policemen Sathish Kumar, Rajagopal, Sunderlal of the Chengannur Police Station and Pratapachandra Menon of the Veeyapuram Police Station were praiseworthy. Both rescue operation and relief work had to be carried out simultaneously in Chengannur. The people stranded at different places had to be rescued. At the same time arrangements had to be made to supply food to people who had sought temporary shelter in multi-storeyed buildings. Food and drinking water were stored in boats that went for the rescue operation. Several tipper lorries and Taurus vehicles were commandeered by the Chengannur RTO and used for this purpose. The camps functioned in the town. Meanwhile food and clothing collected and sent by voluntary organizations from within the State and

outside it, were arriving in huge quantities at the Engineering College and the Christian College, Chengannur. The police and revenue officials took receipt of these and distributed them to the victims of the flood. Articles received at the Taluk Offices were loaded and unloaded by the police and voluntary organizations.

The NCC cadets of the Engineering College, Chengannur, did stellar service under the leadership of Mr Biju, their teacher. They went to each room of the camp and distributed essential goods. They also did the cleaning work in the camp. Women constables were also deployed.

It was a colossal task to retrieve the spirit of Chengannur that had sunk deep in the flood. A massive cleaning campaign was implemented in which ministers, the entire district administration under the leadership of the District Collector, Senior Police Officers, Womens' Batallion, members of the SAP, and the KAP 1,3,5 batallions actively participated.

Venmani Police Station

Water reached Pulikkadavu, first of all, since it lies at the lowest level. Later in the afternoon places like West Thuruthi and East Thuruthi situated on the banks of Achankovil river were flooded. Soon rescue operations began in these places. Relief camps were opened in Kollakadavu, Punthala and St Jude School. Residents of East Thuruthy were evacuated to camps. Around 36 families in West Thuruthy took refuge in the office of the Young Men's Association and neighbouring houses which were situated at a higher altitude. The service of the youth of the area was commendable. They saved all the cattle of the locality and helped them reach the places near the camp. By evening water level was still rising. Essential things such as life jackets, boats and other equipment were not available.

The rescue operation here was very risky, as the boat had to move in reverse gear against the current.

The SHO contacted the fishermen of the coastal area of Cheriyazhikkal and arranged for one fishing boat and 4 fishermen. The first operation was at East Thuruthy, from where all the remaining people had been shifted to the camp at St Jude

School. The rescue operation here was very risky, as the boat had to move in reverse gear against the current. The long experience and skill of the fishermen was indeed a blessing.

Boats from Chengannur reached Venmani on 17th. The rescue operation was made easier by the timely intervention of the police and the young men of the locality. The Station SI had a very good support with the youth of the locality. The Janamaithri Youth Club had been working very methodically under the guidance of the SI. Hence he could bring them all together.



Mannar Police Station

Mannar Police Station includes the extensive paddy fields lying to the west of Chennithala and Mannar Panchayats. It is a place naturally surrounded by water with paddy fields and marshy land. The paddy fields of Upper Kuttanad, the puncha fields, Budhannur panchayat and numerous canals and streams fall within the limits of the Police Station. The special geographical features of the place makes around 50% of the residents perennially vulnerable to floods.

The Police in Mannar Police Station, at the outset, ventured into the floods equipped with the rubber tubes used as playthings by children in the quarters. Small boats arrived soon. The rescue operation on the 15th was ill-equipped. The situation became worse on 16th. The rivers Achankovil and Pamba overflowed to submerge the entire place in water. Ninety percent of the locality was flooded. The people of the locality used private boats in addition to rubber tubes and small boats to evacuate people to

the camps. Later fishing boats came from Azhikkal, in the Thrikkunnappuzha Police Station limits.

Relief activities started on 18th. Different organizations worked with a competitive spirit to supply food and drinking water to the camps. The police took the initiative to collect food at the station to be distributed promptly to the needy. In areas inaccessible to small vehicles, the service of tipper lorries was availed for the distribution. The service of youngsters from Kollam and Karunagappally areas was really great. They were in the forefront in making food and clothes available to the camps. The SPC cadets of Mahatma School also did excellent work in cleaning and waste disposal, under the leadership of the ASI, Shri Aji Prasad.





Edathua Police Station

The Police Station was thoroughly unprepared to meet the flood situation. The Police at first made use of the two available boats of the Fire Force. In addition to this, the public also assisted. By 16th evening fishing boats began arriving from Purakad, in the limits of Ambalappuzha station. These boats were made use of and the rescue operation became active.

The rising level of water and the strong current were impediments to the rescue operation. Reports came that several old people and patients were entrapped in Thayankari. Soon a team comprising Police officers, Vinu and Jithin moved in that direction. But the attempt failed as there was insufficient space for the boat to pass under the bridge due to the rising water level. The next attempt was to proceed in small boats through small canals ignoring the obstructions of small bridges. Another hindrance for the rescue operation was the unwillingness of the old people to leave their houses. They got into the boat only when the Police used strong language. Around twenty people

were rescued and helped to reach Thayankari bridge. The strong current prevented large boats from reaching the area. The people could not be shifted from the bridge even during night time. The situation of a group of the aged and the patients remaining on the bridge in rain was indeed pathetic. The Police was waiting with them. Some of the people turned against the Police. Information was sent from the Police Station to wait there as the situation was adverse. But by 11 o'clock two engine boats were sent from the Police Station and they were carried to Pacha, a place in Ambalappuzha-Thiruvalla State Highway and from there to camps.

The Police Station was under water on the 17th. The swelling Pamba submerged the Highway and flowed through the Police Station. It was located below the road and because of the strength of the current the magnitude of damage was immense. The wireless system was affected. Furniture was partially damaged. When the entire locality was under water, the primary

preoccupation of the Police became the protection of their own workplace. Articles like files, registers, computers and accessories, evidence to be produced in court, and the wireless equipment were shifted to the SI quarters. Wireless system soon stopped working. As a result of this the communication with Chengannur was snapped. Subsequently, the communications to this station was sent to nearby stations like Ambalappuzha and Veeyapuram. This created delay in the rescue operation. Still it was an advantage that the Police could reach everywhere. Moreover, as a place located in the coastal area, more boats could be sent when the situation came to be known. As a result of all this image was minimized.

Though Edathua is part of Kuttanad, it is under the Chengannur Sub Division. The place that first experienced floods in the district was Lower Kuttand. The houses of around ten of the policemen working in the Police Station were flooded.

In compliance with the directions of the Police, the public address system of the places of worship were availed of for making warning announcements.

Haripad Police Station

Floods were under control in Haripad and northern side of Karuvattu by the evening of 15th. With the intervention of Haripad Station BRC and with the Co-operation of 50 Sahayas, the teacher of Mangalam Higher Secondary School, small boats were made with thermocol and these boats were sent to Payapatt and Muvatt. Meanwhile steps were taken to bring larger fibre boats. Since bringing boats along lines takes time, wires were summarily cut and these were loaded with buses and sent to Karuvattu, Payapatt and Edathua along with Bahadram.

The Northern side of Karuvattu remained isolated. There were about a thousand families in the place. Roadways connecting them on the southern and northern sides of Karuvattu from Karuvattu was not easily accessible because of the absence of roads or bridges. Hence when the place was flooded, it was not possible to reach there. The only available railway bridge was vulnerable. The rescuers could reach there in the boats of Vengalooram Police Station and from Thalakudy. The boats were sufficient to meet the needs. Some fishermen came with their boats and rescued all the people to safe places and later to the camps at Haripad and Ambalapuzha. The Inspector endorsed the fact that they could not be saved through any other means.

A group of Ex-service men were a source of inspiration to the rescue operation. Joining hands with the fishermen, they did excellent work. They worked with the Police and in the absence of the Police they worked alone. They were well trained to carry victims on their shoulders and to walk across the flood water. They could help people get over the crisis because of the training they got during their service and their methodical life.

Manoj, Inspector SHO



Kainady Police Station

Kainady Police Station is located in the north eastern border of Alappuzha district. Majority of places of Lower Kuttanad come under the limit of the Station. Land area comprises only 30%. The remaining portions are paddy fields, and areas made cultivable by filling lakes. The place being surrounded by water, flood management has become the style of their life.



There were places that were submerged by the floods in July itself. By the arrival of deluge all the houses were flooded. Two-storeyed buildings are very rare in this area. The people could not properly heed the warning of District Police authority and Disaster Management Authority. The reason was that the available roads were only limited - a road from Kainadi to Kavalam, a second from the eastern side of the Police Station to Kottayam district via Neelamperoor and a third from Neelamperoor junction in the direction of Alappuzha - and they were all adversely affected by flood. The Police vehicles were parked on the bridge and thus protected from danger. Police made warning announcements using all available Police boats and boats of individuals. It was a hard task for the Police to evacuate people. As the Police Station was sinking in water, Police struggled hard to remove the electronic devices and wireless system to elevated areas. A majority of people fled from their homes, collecting what they got and holding on to them like a treasure, to the relief camps at Changanassery and Kottayam.

Pulinkunnu Police Station

To reach Pulinkunnu Police Station one has to travel 17 kilometres eastward from Alappuzha to Block Junction and from there 500 metres northward. Kuttanad village office is close to Pulinkunnu Police Station. Areas surrounding Pulinkunnu had to face many difficulties in the flood in the month of July. The place was gradually recovering from the situation when on 16 August Pamba river started swelling uncontrollably. The Station is under the charge of SHO of Pulinkunnu Police Station. This is a very old Station in Alappuzha district. The main entrance to the Station is from the northern side of MC Road. As the road was adversely affected by flood in July itself, the traffic had been obstructed for two months. As most of the areas are surrounded by water, the main means of transportation is boat. The buildings at elevated places are KE Carmel School, St. Joseph's School and Pulinkunnu Engineering College. The Engineering College at Pulinkunnu is situated at the most elevated spot in Kuttanad.

Around a thousand people from the locality and students from other States took refuge in the college. But thousands of residents found it very difficult to manage, because of power

failure and the lack of drinking water and also the insufficiency of basic amenities.

Following this the young men, students and local people made arrangements to bring the water transport boat and managed to help them reach camps at Alappuzha and Cherthala within two days.

Athul Nandaswarup, a student of the electrical wing of Pulinkunnu Engineering College reached the houses of the poor people around the college and took steps to repair electricity connections and electrical equipments.

The Activities of Janamaithri Police System in the face of Flood

The Janamaithri Safety Scheme was launched by the Janamaithri Police with the objective of preventing and reducing criminal activities, ensuring better cooperation between the public and the Police and mutual cooperation in the safety zone. When the entire State was reeling under the floods, the Janamaithri members voluntarily came with their support and their activities were praiseworthy. The mutual cooperation between the Police and the public was cemented during the flood situation. The Police Stations at Chengannur, Venmani, Mannar and Edathua under Chengannur division were all hit by flood. Chengannur Police Station, situated at the heart of the Chengannur town was very active in Janamaithri activities. When the floods were submerging the places surrounding Chengannur, only the Fire Force personnel were there to assist the Police at the initial stage. Soon the members of the Janamaithri realized that it was their duty to save the lives of their fellow beings and cooperated with the Police in the rescue operation.

The activities of Janamaithri members at Kodamthuruthu, Mangalam and Idanadu were the best examples of Janamaithri service. The beat officers of Janamaithri Police knew the isolated places very well and hence they could direct the fishing boats to those areas. The honours received by Shri Rajoob Khan, the Janamaithri CRO Sub Inspector show the magnitude of the rescue operation undertaken by Janamaithri. The influence exerted by Sri KK Vijayakumar, Janamaithri PRO of Edathua Police Station increased the speed of rescue operation in the Edathua Police Station limits. As Haripad and Veeyapuram were sinking, the PRO of Police Station contacted the authorities concerned through Janamaithri system and arranged the School auditoriums and auditoriums of worship centres. Boats and boat houses of individuals came to assistance at Ambalappuzha and the places under the Alappuzha Police subdivision such as Kainadi, Ramankari, Pulinkunnu, Nedumudi and Ramankari mainly because of the excellence of Janamaithri Safety Scheme.



Janamaithri Relief Activities – 'Sandvanam'

The leadership of Smt Sandhya IPS, ADGP (Training) in the flood rehabilitation activities was a source of inspiration to the Janamaithri Police set up. The scheme Sandvanam worked as a helping hand to the flood victims of Kuttanad and Chengannur. The objective of the Sandvanam scheme was to help reach the

hands of the deserving people, the essential goods for daily use, lotion and power essential for cleaning purposes, household utensils and cooking devices. The scheme was inaugurated in Chengannur by Shri. Saji Cherian, MLA. The programme Sandvanam organized by the Police with several programmes like songs and games was with a difference. It went deep into the minds of the camp residents, who had lost everything except their life, as a solace. Indeed it promoted a sense of unity among people.

As part of the Janmaithri safety Scheme drinking water was made available by boat to the totally isolated places of Pulinkunnu and Nedumudi. As part of cleaning campaign, plastic and waste materials were removed from Vembanad Lake and surrounding areas.



Chengannur and Kuttanad are the areas in the Alappuzha District worst affected by floods. The gates of reservoirs had to be opened all together. When the flow surged in all its fury towards Arabian Sea, Chengannur, the beautiful village was slowly sinking. The next target of the violent flood was Kuttanad, a place lying lower than the sea level, and a place the scenic beauty of which is praised world over. The earnings and savings piled up over entire lifetimes were washed away with a single day's rain.

In the fury and violence of river Pamba and Achankovil, the dreams, hopes and happiness of poor kids also were washed away. In the floods they lost many invaluable possessions: small toys, models, beloved puppets and learning equipment. The kids are not still free from the fear and mental agony of the terrifying situation. The District Police at Alappuzha has started a new

Unknown Good Samaritans of Sustenance

The world has come to know about the selfless service of those who worked in the rescue operation from the visual media and social media. They have received social approbation and acceptance. But there are others in every nook and corner of the State, where the media could hardly reach. There are thousands still unknown, who struggled hard, without food or clothing or even the necessary equipment for rescue. They have done very risky work disregarding their life and saved the lives of hundreds of people. They still do the job expecting no reward. Some of them consider it is their duty: to some others it is a vocation.

venture, 'HOPE -2' with the hope of weaving together the dreams of children and regaining the lost happiness. The programme is the brainchild of Shri S Surendran, the S P of Police, Alappuzha district to offer a helping hand, a hope, to the kids who live in the mental agony, the leftover of the floods.

There is no doubt that the humans who forget the great lessons taught by the great deluge are likely to forget these poor people also. But it is a necessity that the posterity should know about them: they are the leaders of the locality, not known to anybody. They are the good Samaritans of Alappuzha, yet unknown.

When Satheesh Kumar reported for sentry duty on 16th he could hardly know that he would have to face a disaster of this magnitude. He was on station duty on 15th and 16th. He started the work along with three fishermen and a teacher Siva. There came a message from the Control Room that people were entrapped in the interior areas of Parambathurpadi. Boats had not reached here because the boats coming for rescue had to be diverted in response to the helpless laments of people in distress in other areas. Thus the state of the people in interior areas was quite miserable. As the PRO of the Station, Satheesh Kumar was familiar with each and every place. The very first people whom he saved were a mother and her two children. They had been entrapped since 16th. They managed their hunger with guava fruit. The next attempt was far more dreadful. When Satheesh and his team reached there, they were hanging for safety on the railings of the window. Remaining in that posture for about 30 hours, they had faced death in front of them. They seemed to have lost their mental balance. They were speaking without any connection. The team had reached there travelling against the current for about four kilometres. It was impossible to make a return trip. They were brought to safety on the second floor of another house. The next operation was in a colony situated in the southern side of Parambathurpadi. The paddy fields in this area were filled with water and it resembled a river in full spate.

Several people were brought back to life during the operations from 16th to 19th August. To some of them it was more or less a second birth.

No boat had reached there. Nearly 200 people were present there. They were evacuated by turns, because there was a limit for the number of persons that could be carried at a time. They were sent to the Illimala bridge in the Pulikeezhu Police Station limit.

Satheesh Kumar
Civil Police Officer



Sunderlal, Civil Police Officer

Sunderlal, a native of Pandanad was an officer from District Police Headquarters attached to Chengannur Police Station since June 2018. The place was familiar to Sunderlal. He managed to save 68 lives. He could bring several people back to life because of his knowledge of the place and the places likely to be isolated during such a situation. Rescue operation was made all the more difficult because of the unwillingness of the people to leave their homes despite the warning.

It was on 17th that Sunderlal could reach Pandanad. The decision of the Station SI to depute Sunderlal to the area was also crucial. People who had been entrapped since 15th were desperately waiting for some help.

They spent the three days drinking rain water and eating the coconut that flowed down to them. Among them was Ambili, a pregnant woman and 6 bedridden patients. They spent the days in the rain and mist on the terrace holding a plastic sheet above their head.

It took four hours for Sunderlal and his team to evacuate them to the first floor of the neighbouring Primary Health Centre. They had entered the first floor after breaking open the lock as the ground floor of the hospital was submerged. Another instance of the advantage of Sunderlal's familiarity with the place is in saving Gopalakrishnan, the ex-serviceman and his wife, Sarojini. Sunderlal sensed danger when Gopalakrishnan could not be found among the people thronging the terrace of the house. Sunderlal and the team did not waste a minute. The team broke open the roof of the house to find the two of them holding on to the rails of the window. Their house situated as it was near the fields, was full of water in no time.

They were shifted from the hospital to the relief camp at Patumala, the next day itself. Sunderlal did not forget to give Ambili financial assistance. Later Ambili delivered a girl child at Medical College, Kottayam.

The names of the fishermen were heard throughout this journey. The report would be incomplete without referring to their services. They are a lot who fight with the shoreless sea in the endless fury of the torrential rain, the scorching heat of the month of Medam and the freezing cold of Makaram. The colossal devastation of Tsunami and later of Okhi did not dispirit them. The undaunted courage and indomitable strength of the fishermen will always be a model for Kerala in tiding over the disaster in the days to come.

When the rivers were roaring forth in the torrential rain, the fishermen courageously pressed their oars into the troubled waters, moved across the flood and saved thousands of people. They know the intensity of the disaster, because they have always been the victims of calamities. The stretch of wilderness of the flooded area was not strange to them; the sea with its never ending wilderness had ever been their school and playfield. They took up the rescue operation as their life's vocation. They came forward, exerting themselves when the people remained dumbfounded in the face of the calamity. It was easy for them to reach Kuttanad, the place always associated with water. But the case of Chengannur was different.

The instruction received in the Police Stations of the coastal area was to load and send the necessary number of boats to Chengannur area. Accordingly boats were sent from Arthunkal and Thottappally to Chengannur. Necessary lorries and larger vehicles were made available by the Motor Vehicles Department.

The boats that attempted rescue operations in the initial stage encountered difficulties in getting fuel. They worked day and night without proper food. The Police and the locals gave them the necessary guidelines. As per directions of the Coastal DIG,

The fishermen folk, who remained undaunted in the face of disasters like Tsunami and Okhi, are the real role models for Keralites who are struggling hard for survival in the wake of the flood. Rowing against the surging current of the rivers, they brought back to life thousands of people.

around 84 fishermen and 5 policemen from Arthunkal Police Station reported at Munambam and later worked in Chendamangalam, Puthenvelikara and Muthakunnam.

Several people have become part and parcel of the rescue operation, but have not come to the limelight. 'We haven't done anything to let the world know,' they say with true rustic simplicity. Ratnakumar, a native of Arattupuzha was one among them. He belonged to a very poor family. He was severely injured when an arecanut tree coming in the strong current hit his abdomen. 43 stitches were required to close the wound. He is gradually recovering.

The fishermen were active in the rescue operation till 20th August. They did not have proper food. They managed at first with the coconut and tender coconut they received from the flood. Moving against the current and making use of the narrow alleys, there was no place that they failed to reach.

On several occasions, their boats got damaged, hitting against trees or compound walls. They could not attend their routine duty during the days they attended the rescue operation and till they got their boats repaired. The condition of their houses on these days was very miserable.









3.3

Kottayam District

Kottayam District

Changanasserry Police Station

Erattupetta Police Station

Erumeli Police Station

Gandhinagar Police Station

Mundakkayam Police Station

Pala Police Station

Thalayolaparambu Police Station

Vaikom Police Station

Vellur Police Station

Kumarakom Police Station

Ettumanoor Police Station

Kottayam East Police Station

Kottayam West Police Station

Ayarkunnam Police Station

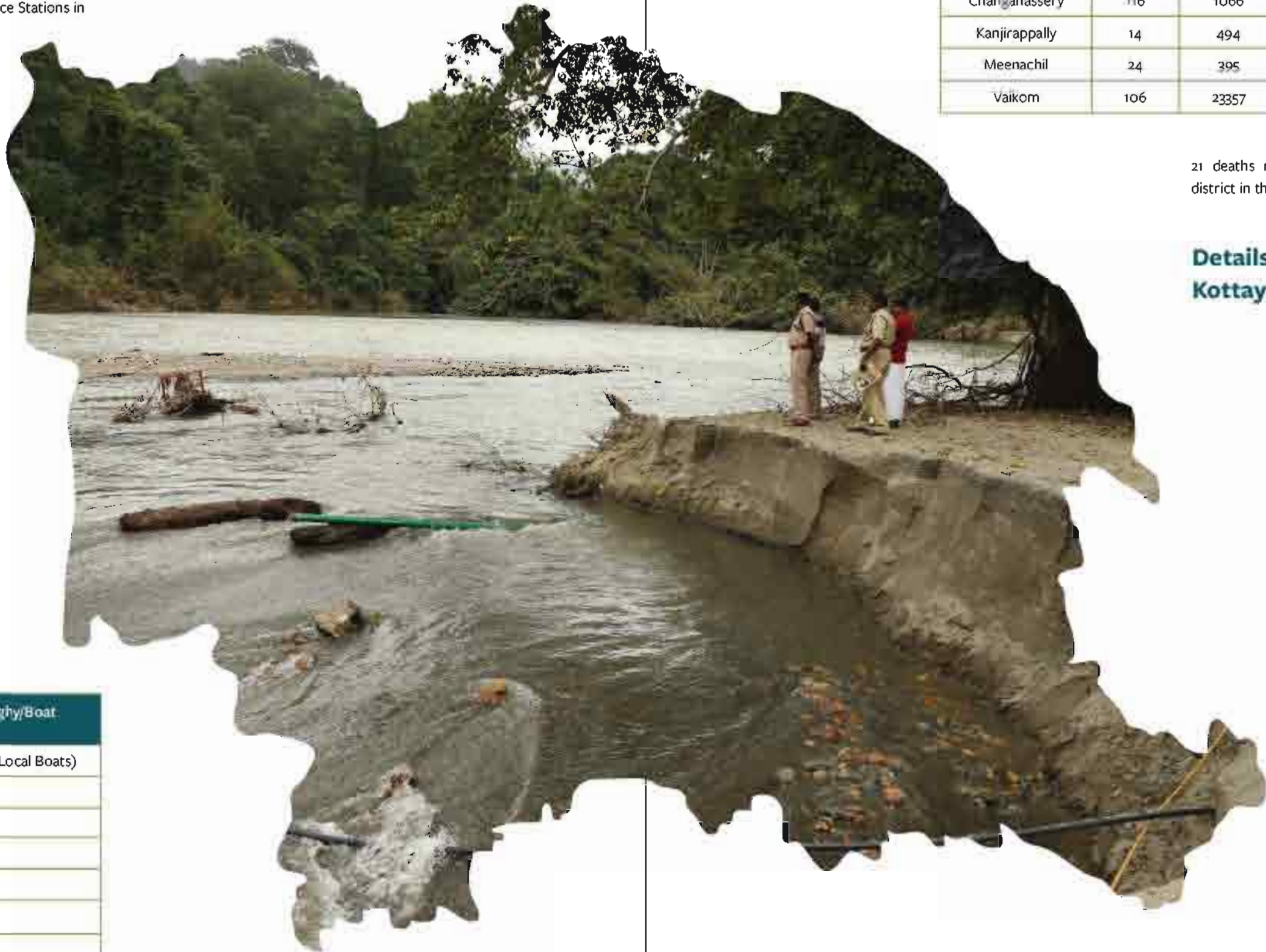
Kottayam District

Kottayam district was officially constituted on 1st July 1949. The total area of the district is 2208 square kms and the Police unit is divided into 5 subdivisions, Kottayam, Changanassery, Kanjirappally, Pala and Vaikom. There are 33 Police Stations in Kottayam district including one Women's Police Station and 2 traffic sub-units.

The worst affected stations in Kottayam district in August were Kumarakom, Vaikom, Changanassery, Kottayam West, Kottayam East, Erattupetta, Pala, Gandhinagar, Thalayolaparamabu, Erumeli and Mundakkayam. In Erattupetta and Mundakkayam stations, along with the flood, landslides caused fear among the people.

In Kottayam district, 1209 personnel from various departments participated in the rescue operation.

| No. | Description of Force | No. | Dinghy/Boat |
|-----|----------------------|-----|------------------|
| 1 | Police | 809 | 35 (Local Boats) |
| 2 | NDRF | 40 | 20 |
| 3 | Navy | 42 | 4 |
| 4 | Odisha Fire Force | 112 | 28 |
| 5 | Andhra Fire Force | 50 | 8 |
| 6 | Kerala Fire & Rescue | 136 | - |
| 7 | Coast Guard | 4 | 2 |
| 8 | BSF | 16 | 2 |



Relief Camps

In the Flood Relief camps in the 5 Taluks of Kottayam district, there were 1,59,134 residents.

| Taluk | No. of Camps | No. of Families | Male | Female | Children | Total |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------|-------|--------|----------|-------|
| Kottayam | 243 | 13203 | 16414 | 18974 | 6230 | 41618 |
| Changanassery | 116 | 1066 | 14149 | 15623 | 5358 | 35130 |
| Kanjirappally | 14 | 494 | 644 | 638 | 433 | 1715 |
| Meenachil | 24 | 395 | 360 | 334 | 160 | 854 |
| Vaikom | 106 | 23357 | 32544 | 39232 | 8041 | 79817 |

21 deaths related to floods were reported from Kottayam district in the month of August.

Details of the houses damaged in Kottayam district

19

Number of persons who lost both house and land

584

Number of houses completely damaged

17427

Number of houses partially damaged

Changanassery Police Station

Changanassery Municipality in Kottayam district comprises Vazhappally East, Vazhappally West and Chethippuzha villages. Police made announcements going around in vehicles in areas likely to be flooded such as Poovam, Puthuval, Thuruthy, Layikad, Cheeramchira, Kumaramkary, Paral and Vettithuruthu on 15-08-2018. People residing in low lying areas in the station limits were shifted to camps by noon.

Water level was uncontrollably rising in Kuttanad area in Alappuzha district. Sub Inspector Abhilash received information that a family was stranded near the SNDP building in the Ramankary Police Station limit of Alappuzha. In response to this information, Sub Inspector, Abhilash together with SCPO Shibu, and CPO Ajithkumar arranged a large boat and rowers, filled fuel and moved for about 45 minutes and reached the spot concerned. The family along with their neighbours, numbering about 120 people were brought to the boat jetty at Changanassery.



Though the floods have not created much destruction on a large scale, the rescue operation conducted in the station limits does not have a parallel in the history of Kerala.

Thousands of victims were rescued from Kuttanad area of Alappuzha district and shifted the Police Station at Changanassery. It was in this Station limits that the largest number of relief camps functioned.

Abhilash Sub Inspector
Changanassery

Alappuzha-Changanassery road was flooded and the traffic came to a halt. The water level at Ramankari and Kidangara reached unprecedented heights and people desperately took refuge in the elevated places and bridges along the route. The moment the news reached the Police Station at Changanassery, they contacted the construction company at Palathara and arranged 5 Taurus lorries. Following this, with the help of the labourers of the construction company, Police saved around 1500 people stranded on bridges and elevated places and they were moved to safe camps.

There was an unhappy instance of the people residing on either side of the Alappuzha-Changanassery road obstructing the road, saying that the movement of lorries caused greater water flow into the houses and it might damage their houses. Police explained to them the gravity of the situation. Those who continued to be recalcitrant were removed by force. The people rescued in vehicles were dropped near Kondur bridge on the MC Road. They were given refreshments by voluntary organizations and then they were moved in KSRTC buses and sent to different camps with the help of revenue authorities.

The condition worsened on the 17th and the entire area of Kuttanad was under water. Following this a control room was opened in the DySP office at Changanassery. Rescue operation team was divided into two. Rescue operation by road was entrusted with SI Abhilash and deployed at Kondur. Charge of the operation on water was given to Inspector Vinod KP who was deployed in the boat jetty area. Under the leadership of the Police Officer Vinod KP, service of 3 boats of the State Water Transport Department was availed of and with the help of the

Policemen deputed to the boats, several people in the Kidangara area were brought to safety without any confusion or casualties. In addition to this with the help of voluntary organizations, Police made use of small boats and saved many people stranded in the Kuttanad area. Meanwhile SI Abhilash got his leg caught under a slab as he was helping the victims get down from the tipper lorry. Eleven fishing boats of fishermen and 6 boats of NDRF arrived on 20-08-2018 and the Police provided fuel and gave all assistance to them. They also provided assistance to the SSB and Odisha Fire and Rescue Force.

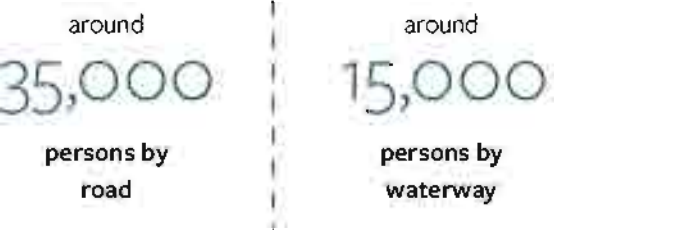
The Changanassery Police played the lead role in rescuing around 35,000 persons by road and around 15,000 others from Boat Jetty, Mulackamthuruthy by waterway till 20-08-2018.

As the rescue operation was progressing, Police took care to organise relief camps. There were quarrels in some camps over the distribution of relief materials. Police made timely interventions and solved the issues. Knowing that liquor might create trouble in camps, dry law was declared for three days in the Station limits. Round the clock patrolling was also ensured to tackle any likely law and order problem.

The SHO of Police and other officers arranged a cleaning campaign in the following schools functioning as relief camps: Puzhavad UP School, Puzhavad NSS UP School, St Josph LP School, Layikodu, Govt UP School Perunna and Govt UP School Poovam. The Municipal hall also was cleaned by the Police.



The Changanassery Police played the lead role in rescuing



Erattupetta Police Station

Erattupetta Police Station limits include Erattupetta Municipality, Thalanad, Thikkoy, Poonjar, Poonjar South, Thalappalam and Munnillav Grama Panchayats. These areas suffered huge loss in landslide and flood. The largest number of deaths in the district of Kottayam was reported from Erattupetta Station. Five deaths have been reported in the Police Station limits. There was heavy downpour on 15 August and the check dams overflowed. Seeing the alarming rise of water level, the DySP took necessary precautions. Service of Fire Force and swimming experts were ensured. The Police made loudspeaker announcements going around in their vehicles asking people to vacate themselves to safe places. It was heard that a landslide had occurred in Theekoy. Pathampuzha was flooded by then.

On 15 August, there occurred 4 landslides, both major and minor, on the Mangalagiri road in Theekoy. In a powerful landslide, a bike rider was suspected to be missing. Sub Inspector Sudhir made enquiries and found that Joby Mathew, a government employee was reportedly missing. Later his dead body was recovered. Road traffic was blocked on Wagamon route due to landslide. A JCB was arranged and with the help of the people the obstruction was removed and traffic resumed. It was reported at 10.15 in the night that in the landslide that occurred at Ottayiti, a place on Erattupetta Wagamon route, a family of seven members were trapped under the earth. Within no time Sub Inspector Sudhir and a team of officers rushed to the spot. The road was obstructed due to landslide. The team parked the vehicle and proceeded on foot. Soon there was another landslide near the parked vehicle. The SI and his team had just narrowly escaped. Rescue operation was very difficult because of the absence of electric supply.

Landslide was repeatedly occurring at Theekoy. Adivaram was a place far more vulnerable to landslide. We walked 5 kilometres on foot, reached there and apprised the people of the situation, but they refused to come to the camp.

Sudhir
Sub Inspector, Erattupetta

They proceeded with the rescue operation in the light of mobile phones and torches. Police saved the lives of three. Four people died.

In light of the repeatedly occurring landslides in Theekoy area, Police contacted the Panchayat authorities, made announcements that very night and started relief camps at Vellikulam school. People were evacuated.

Five relief camps were working under the Police Station at Vellikulam, Vellani, Mangalagiri, Velathusseri and Plassanal. Mobile Patrolling was arranged connecting five camps with a view to preventing law and order issues. While Sub Inspector Sudhir was on duty at Erattupetta, his house at Ernakulam was under the threat of water and his family members were in the relief camp.



Erumeli Police Station

Erumeli Police Station in Kottayam district includes Erumeli South village and Erumeli Grama Panchayat. Manimala and Pamba are the main rivers here. Idakadathi, Kanamal and Angel Valley on the banks of Pamba were the worst affected in the flood in August. A death was reported in the Station limits. Forty five year old Joseph Mathew, a resident of Vadyamala had died in connection with flood.

The suspension bridge at Idakadathi area was swept away by the flood. As a result of this Arayanjilimon, the village in the Erumeli Vechoochira Police Station limit was isolated. The residents here were in distress. Police and the people of the neighbouring areas tied a strong rope connecting the two sides, and essential articles including food were sent along the rope.



The Police received information that the shopkeepers were hiking prices arbitrarily. Immediately they made public announcements in the area giving strict warning that stringent action would be initiated against those who charge exorbitant rates.

Reports reached Erumeli Police Station that a lady in an advanced stage of pregnancy was undergoing labour pain in the Arattukayam area of Angelvalley and she was in need of conveyance. The two bridges to this route were submerged under water and the entire area was surrounded by water. The Police immediately contacted higher authorities and a helicopter was made available. The lady was saved and shifted to Government Hospital at Kanjirappally, where she delivered a boy child. The selfless service of Sri Sreejith, the CPO is worth mentioning.



There were about 5 relief camps and 209 members of 47 families in the Erumeli Station limits. Mobile patrolling was also implemented connecting the 5 camps to prevent any law and order problem. All activities of the camp were managed by the Police. At the initial stages police collected a sum of money from them to buy food and clothes to be distributed to the inmates of the camp.

The Police conducted awareness classes for people returning from camps about the precautionary measures to be adopted when they reached home. In addition to this, following the request of voluntary organizations, drinking water, rice and other essential articles were made available to people at Ranni, the worst-affected place in Pathanamthitta district. The service of the Student Police Cadets were also availed of in the cleaning work.



Gandhinagar Police Station

The villages of Mumbalad, Alputara, Kappurath and Athiravilal and some parts of Kottayam Municipality come under Gandhinagar Police Station. The deluge of 2018 had directly affected nearly 30,000 people. Moreover, the places in Arpakam, Kanchayanilam encountered large scale destruction of agricultural crops. Two deaths in connection with flood have been reported in the Police Station limits. Legendra Mar (34 years) while swimming across the field to reach his house met with his death. Ruteesh (15 years) son of Sri Raseel constable of the Control Room, Kottayam, slipped and fell into the Meenachil river near Puthettu, Suryaswamy mana, and drowned.

A total of 2300 people had been staying in an relief camp for one week. The activities of the camp were monitored by Jaganmathi members, Panchayat members and voluntary organisations. Around 25 Police Officers were deployed for several duties connected with relief work such as rescue work, rehabilitation, camp patrolling and help desk. Two deaths by drowning were reported in the Station limits.

By then rain intensified and subsequently red and orange alerts were declared. The places where the tributaries of Meenachil river flowed were now dangerous and the Police traveled in vehicles and issued warnings to people of Puthettu, Parambuthu and Nattassery and asked them to vacate to safer places and the houses of relatives. They gave proper assistance in this regard with the help of Jaganmathi members, Panchayat members and volunteers.

On 10th, when reports reached the Station that the roads in Parambuthu and Nattassery areas were submerged and hundreds of residents were isolated, SHO Anoop Jose and ASIs Naushad and Anil Kumar were deputed for the rescue operation. They sprung into action immediately. Soon they arranged for the boats of Sri Joseph and Radhakrishnan and saved about 90 people by turns and helped them reach camps. The operation continued till 9:30 in the night. If they had not continued the rescue late into the night, casualties would have grown. The activities of the Police in this area received the attention of the media and the appreciation of the public.

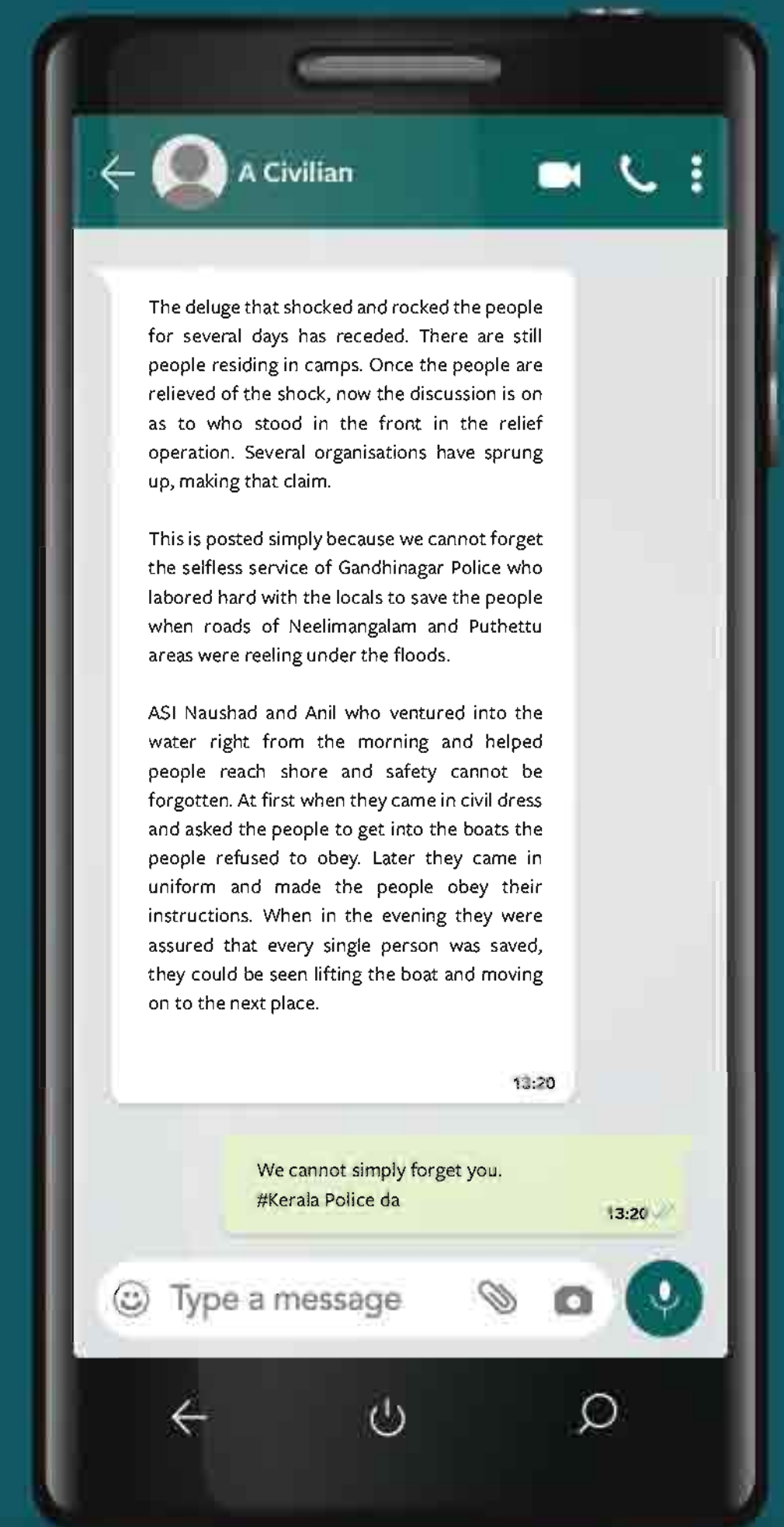
In response to a report from Kuttanallur that 5 members of a family were trapped in a house, Police reached the spot. But the powerful stream surrounding the house prevented any access to the house. Being afraid of the current the local public were hesitant to help the Police. There came a group of enthused young men from local ready to take up the challenge. With the help of ASI Naushad they tied the boat with a rope and very courageously reached the house and saved the people.

The CRC coordinated the post flood cleaning campaign. Under the leadership of Gandhinagar Police, 3 schools and 60 houses were cleaned. Police constables, Student Police Cadets, and Sisters of the Holy Cross Hospital participated in the cleaning programme. The clearing of the public road under the Sankarath railway overbridge (road) with crease was a remarkable service that they undertook.

The timely intervention of the Police in the rescue operation and in the rehabilitation work created a sensation and it became a topic of discussion in the social media.

Those who witnessed the adventurous and humane rescue operations of the Police were ready to change their attitude to the Police.

Message posted on WhatsApp



Mundakayam Police Station

Mundakayam police station limit includes Mundakayam, Parathodu and Kuttickal villages in Kottayam district. The Police sensed the danger likely to be created by Azhutha and Manimala rivers flowing in the Station limits. As a precautionary step the Police gave safety warnings using department vehicles and through the public address system of religious institutions. A death related to flood was reported in the Station limits.

It was the threat of landslide rather than the flood that spread fear in the Station limits. People of the Kuttikkal area which is geographically similar to Idukki district had joined hands even in the past to help prevent major hazards of the landslide.

7

The rescue operation was a bit delayed. The Ilamkadu - Kolahalamed road had been swept off by the landslide. In order to reach Vagamon, in the border of the Station limits, one had to go around the entire Idukki district.

Santhosh Kumar K
Sub Inspector, Mundakayam



In the landslide that occurred at Meledam area in Kuttikkal Panchayat seven families were trapped. On receiving this information, the Police sought the help of Fire and Rescue Wing

and the families were shifted to safe places. On the same day, following a landslide at Mangappara, steps were taken urgently to open camps at Sea View School. The strange phenomenon of

earth drying up and forming cracks on the surface was a cause of anxiety amidst the misery of floods.

Pala Police Station

Pala Police Station of Kottayam district comprises Pala municipality, and the panchayats, Kozhuvanal, Mutholi, and Karur. Meenachil river, its canals and streams swelled in the heavy downpour and landslide on 15th. Two camps were opened in the Station limits.

The timely warning and announcements given by the Police were beneficial to the public. They could move their household articles and domestic animals to safe places to a certain extent. By 2.30 in the afternoon, Meenachil river overflowed and the nearby canals and ponds also began to overflow. The houses on the banks were all submerged in water. In the first phase of floods, the business centres suffered heavy losses. But this time, as the warning was given in time, goods could be shifted from shops sufficiently early. Hence a huge loss could be averted.

Around 5000 students of Brilliant Study Centre, Pala were staying in several private hostels and houses in Mutholi. These students were isolated following floods. Forty students were rescued in air-filled tubes of vehicles and small boats from the hostels situated near Alphonsa College. It was indeed a risky job.

The Police reached the nuns convent at Vellappad on the banks of the Meenachil river on 16th, following the information that the nuns were in danger. The Police along with the auto workers went along roads that had become very deep ditches, worked till 8.30 in the night and rescued around 40 nuns from two convents.



Thalayolaparambu Police Station

Vadayar, Kulasekharamangalam, Chembu and Vellur villages of Kottayam district constitute the station limit of Thalayolaparambu. The places worst affected in the flood of August 2018 were Vadayar, Thevalakad, Pazhampatty, Korikkal, Idavattom, Palamkadavu, Manakkunnam, Thonnalloor and Maravanthuruthu. Muvattupuzha river had changed its course. The people living on the banks and shores of the river and its tributaries were affected by the flood. The Janamaithri Police of Thalayolaparambu played a key role in rescuing the people and bringing them back to normal life. Due to the timely intervention of the Police, no casualty was reported in connection with the flood.

There was an unusual rise of flood water on 17-08-2018. Suresh Kumar, PRO received information that 20 persons aged between 80 and 90 were remaining isolated in the Amritanandmayi Geriatric Care centre at Thalayolaparambu. Responding to this CPOs Girish and Nagi, were deputed to rescue them. It was difficult to help them climb the boats. They were hence allowed to sit on chairs or in huge cauldrons and rescued. Malayala Manorama covered the news live and on watching the news several youngsters and volunteers came to the Station to take up the duty.

Since the shops in Thalayolaparambu remained closed, there arose the problem of providing food to the volunteers working in the Station. Janmaithri committee members found a solution to this by preparing food and providing it to them.

Eighty percent of the places, excluding the place where the Police Station is situated came under water by 18th. All the houses in Maravanthuruthu were inundated and the inmates were rescued by the Police. The people rescued in small boats were brought to the station, given food and drinking water and then sent to relief camps in tipper and Taurus lorries.

Thousands of people were rescued from Pazhampatty, Korikkal, Idavattom and Palamkadavu and sent to camps. Nineteen official camps and 2 unofficial camps were functioning in Thalayolaparambu Station limits. The cattle of the flood victims, accommodated in the camp premises were given cattle feed and leaves and the service of a veterinary doctor was also ensured.

It was informed that an inmate of the camp was stricken by chickenpox.

The Police intervened without delay and made available medical aid. The Police deputed a constable to the aid of a cancer patient in the camp at St. George School.

The Police came to know about the shortage of drinking water for the people returning home. They sought the assistance of the Panchayat and supplied drinking water in tankers to the houses. The Police did not forget to invite and felicitate the Asha workers who had tirelessly worked in the camp and Sri Sabu VP, the driver of the tractor used in the Station during the floods.



Vaikom Police Station



When red alert was declared in the State, Police at Vaikom commandeered 10 boats well in advance of the requirement and sent them to Pathanamthitta and Aluva. We are proud of the fact that we were the first to send boats to several districts for rescue operations. Moreover, under the auspices of the Vaikom Janamaithri Police, two houses are being constructed for two poor families who lost their houses in the flood.

K V Santhosh Kumar:
ASI

In the flood that occurred in August 2018, the Police participated in the relief activities and supplied essential food materials, clothes and mats to several camps in the Station limit. They took the full charge of the camp at Kodyattu. At the orders of the District Police Chief, Kottayam, necessary assistance was provided to the camps. They also supplied rice and other essential materials to the residents of the colony who were in misery. The relief activities of the Police were excellent. Three deaths were reported in the Station limits in connection with the flood.

The two vehicles of the Vaikom station were damaged. The Police hired 5 private vehicles and tractors to make announcements. In anticipation of the worsening situation 10 boats were commandeered. At the direction of the District Police Chief, 2 boats were sent by vehicles to Pathanamthitta district, 2 to Aluva and 2 boats to Pala for rescue operations.

As the Police team under the lead of Inspector Binu was conducting patrolling at 11 o'clock at night in Vadayar, they noticed a person walking in neck-deep water in the light of a mobile phone. On enquiry, he told them that 5 persons were trapped in a house. Inspector Binu, CRO Santhosh and CPO Sajeev walked in the direction braving the current in one metre deep water. Making use of a raft made of plantain trunks tied together, they saved a mentally challenged 72 year old lady, her 80 year old husband, their son, his wife and two children.

News reached the Station that a bed-ridden patient and his wife were stranded in Thuravelikunnu area. Inspector Binu reached the spot in a boat and rescued them.

Sixty official camps and 40 unofficial camps were functioning in Vaikom Station limits. Following a law and order issue, a case was registered and two persons were taken into custody. The District Police Chief, Kottayam, arrived in a tractor and visited the camps. Those people who assisted the Police in the rescue operation by providing boats, lorries, Taurus and tipper lorries and tractors were invited to the Police Station, felicitated and honoured. Police also gave financial assistance for the repair of the damaged boats that helped in the rescue efforts in Pathanamthitta and Aluva.

Vellur Police Station

Vellur Police Station limits include the villages Vellur and Mulakulam in Kottayam district. The flood brought destruction on the banks of the Muvattupuzha river. When red alert was declared in the State on 15th, Police made announcements about the necessity of vacating the houses in the areas surrounding the river, using megaphones. Those who refused to go to the camps were made aware of the danger and sent to camps.

When the Police received information that a mother and a baby 10 days old were stranded, a team under the leadership of Sub Inspector Manju Das reached the spot and ignoring the powerful current, rescued them and brought them safely ashore.

The water level was found to be rising unusually high at the camp in Mulakulam Government UP School. The inmates of the camp were shifted to elevated places, St Mary's Church Parish Hall at Kayurickal and KAM UP School after obtaining the permission of the Church authorities and the Manager of the School.

As the water level in Muvattupuzha river rose still higher on 18th, water filled the ground floor of two storied houses. Twenty seven persons who sought refuge on the first floor of a house were saved by Sub Inspector Manju Das by boat. The women in the camp were provided with clothes, mats and sheets with the help of voluntary organizations.

Police, together with Janamaithri members and SPC, arranged the cleaning of several Schools and main junctions. The house of Maryamma Pulyat, a widow staying alone was also cleaned with the help of SPC and neighbours.



Kumarakom Police Station

Kumarakom Police Station includes the western areas of Kottayam district such as Thiruvarpu and Kumarakom. Four houses in Thiruvarpu Panchayat area were completely destroyed, 37 houses have become uninhabitable and 1329 houses were partially damaged. In the case of Kumarakom Panchayat 23 houses were completely damaged, 195 houses have become uninhabitable and 1514 houses underwent partial damage. In the Station limits, 40 official camps and several unofficial camps functioned. More than 16,000 persons were brought to the shore of safety under the supervision of the Police. The ground floor of the Station was under water. The files, computers and inverter had to be shifted to the upper floor.

The Police tirelessly worked to persuade the reluctant people to leave their houses making them aware of the danger. It was reported that a bed-ridden lady, with belt fastened to her waist, and her husband had to be rescued. The SHO, Rejan Kumar came to rescue them by boat and to bring them to a safe place. By evening the currents of the river became strong and all the roads in the Station limits came under water.

Kumarakom was cut off because in some parts of the road the depth of the water was more than 6 feet. At the direction of the District Police Chief, a large boat was to be sent in the direction of Chengannur area. CPO, Sudhir, who had a boat driving license, was entrusted with the duty. By 3 o'clock in the afternoon the boat was sent by lorry to Chengannur. When the lorry reached Thiruvalla, the people obstructed the lorry and the boat had to be unloaded and they had to start rescue operations at Vallamkulam. It was from Kumarakom Police Station that the first boat was made available in Thiruvalla.

One death was reported from the Station limits. Anilkumar, aged 41, a native of Thiruvarpu was electrocuted. Anilkumar and the seven members of his family had already been rescued and sent to relief camp. But Anilkumar went back to his home on 17-08-18 to shift his household articles and it was then that he was electrocuted. The people of Kumarakom Station limits set aside their political affinities and loyalties for a while, joined hands like brothers and braved the flood situation. Several people had been rescued using the two speed boats of the Police Station and the Kumarakom Tourist Station. As there were 4 Policemen who had a boat driving license, the rescue operation by boat was very successful.

The people who refused to leave the houses even after warning announcements sought the assistance of the Police when the water level reached their upper window sill. Following this, under the leadership of SHO, a special boat was arranged and around 400 persons were shifted to the camps.

Kumarakom is a place vulnerable to floods during the monsoon. But the 2018 flood was unforeseen and unpredicted. 90% of the places including the Police station was flooded. The service of the Janamaithri volunteers and the residents associations working along with them need to be congratulated.

The media persons, and those who provided Tipper, Taurus, Tractor, Boats, and wholeheartedly assisted the Police in the rescue operation were invited to the Police Station on 07-09-2018, were offered a friendly feast and were honoured.



Ettumanoor Police Station

Ettumanoor Police Station includes Ettumanoor, Athirampuzha, Onamthuruthu and Peroor villages. As a result of the heavy downpour and the landslide in the eastern areas on 15th, the major river in the area, Meenachil overflowed and the canals and ponds of the neighbouring areas began to overflow. Twenty one camps were functioning in the Ettumanoor Station limits.

The houses in this area were flooded in the strong current, and when the information reached the Police Station, a team of officers comprising Inspector A J Thomas, Sub Inspector Prasanth Kumar, Senior Civil Police Officers, Roshan Xaviour and K Udayan reached the area and with the help of local people started rescue operations. Around 70 persons were rescued in boats and cauldrons braving the strong current of Meenachil river. Some 35 youngsters assisted the police throughout the day and night.

All the officers of the station worked together in collecting and distributing food, drinking water and other essential goods including food for the victims in misery. The Police cleaned the SKV School Neendoor, JB L P School, St Sebastian School, Peroor, that were functioning as relief camps. In addition to this, the Police also cleaned two houses at Peroor and Kattachira.

The beat officers were told to identify the people in distress after the floods and based on this, 50 people from the most impoverished families were invited to the Station and given the food materials collected by voluntary organizations.



Kottayam East Police Station

The entire area of Muttambalam village and the areas of Vijayapuram and Puthuppally panchayats and some parts of Panachikad and Nattakom villages and 8 wards of Kottayam Municipality fall within the limits of Kottayam East Police Station. Iranjal, Ponpally, Kosamattom and Kalathippady were the places in the Station limits that were slightly affected by floods. The East Police Station constituted an emergency team and started relief work. Under the leadership of Station authorities a total of 496 people were rescued and shifted to relief camps.

It was reported from Ponpally that a woman in the 9th month of her pregnancy was stranded with her family in a flooded house and they were waiting to be saved. Sub Inspector Reneesh TS started forthwith with CPOs, Anish and Suresh arranging a private dinghy boat. It was a herculean task to save the lady along with her two children, aged five and three years, in the boat which had to navigate against the current and tied to a rope. The relatives of the lady informed the Sub Inspector that the lady delivered a girl child after two days.

A lady resident of the Kosamattom relief camp, who was in the 6th month of her pregnancy had an acute pain in her stomach. A Police team under the leadership of the Sub Inspector reached the camp, arranged a canoe, allowed the lady to sit in it, and holding tightly to the boat, the team swam across to safety.

Information reached the same day that the camp at Kosamattom school was flooded. The Inspector and a team of officers reached there. There was nobody to extend a helping hand to the Police. Shri Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, the MLA, who came that way offered the use of the boat he was travelling in for the rescue operation. Hundreds of people including children were shifted from Kosamattom camp to the neighbouring Carmel School and Thellakam Chaithanya. Around 460 people found refuge in 16 relief camps.

The heroic activities of the Police in rescuing the pregnant women, children and the old people by swimming across the flood water, or reaching inaccessible places in boats with great difficulty have created an indelible impression in the minds of the people.



Kottayam West Police Station

Veloor and Aymanam villages of Kottayam district and 16 wards of Kottayam Municipality come under Kottayam West Police Station limits. The flood had affected 70% of the areas in the station limits. The worst affected areas were Thazhathangady, Thiruvarpur, Kudamalur, Parippu and Pulikkuttissery. The rest room of the Police station was also flooded by the water from Kodur river. Some 32 relief camps functioned in the Station limits in the flood of August.

The Police took the lead role in rescuing hundreds of people in the station limits and sending them to the camps. The Police came to know that a mentally challenged person and his aged mother (65 years) were stranded in a house in Karapuzha, Parakulam area. The police patrolling the area of Thiruvathukkal was immediately sent to there. The mentally challenged person was made to sit on a chair placed on a bus-tire tube filled with air and he and his mother were rescued.



Ayarkunnam Police Station

Ayarkunnam Police limits include the entire Ayarkunnam village, and some areas of Akalakunnam, Kuropada, and Mannarkkad villages. The low lying areas in the station limits such as Punnathura East, Kambanikadavu, Arumanoor, Thiruvanchur, Neerikad and Puvathumoodu were slightly affected by flood. Meenachil river overflowed and the area surrounding its tributaries were completely flooded. Seventeen relief camps functioned in connection with the flood.

The Police officers in the station were divided into two teams and they engaged in relief operation. As there were no canoes and boats available in the station rescue operation by water was delayed. On 19th, the station received a pedal boat from DTPC that could accommodate 7 persons. The boat was made use of in the rescue operation. Police came to know that several people were cut off in Thiruvanchoor Cheenakuzhi area and reached there and rescued old people, women and children with the help of the youngsters of the locality. The people were then shifted to relief camps.

From the areas inaccessible by canoe or boat, people were lifted on strong shoulders and brought to boats. As the SCPO, Abhilash and CPO, Sabu Sunny along with the local people were returning along with the rescued people, the boat lost control and got into a powerful current.

That was moment they saw death in front of their eyes. The situation arose because the person assisting the Police had an attack of muscle cramp and attention was diverted. Nearly 1,350 people sought refuge in the 17 official camps in the station limits of Ayarkunnam.



3.4

Idukki District

Idukki District

Idukki Police Station

Karimanal Police Station

Karijikuzhy Police Station

Karimannu Police Station

Marayur Police Station

Rajakkad Police Station

Santhanpara Police Station

Vellathuval Police Station

Devikulam Police Station

Munnar Police Station

Murikkassery Police Station

Adimaly Police Station

Kattappana Police Station

Vandiperiyar Police Station

Thankamony Police Station

Kumily Police Station

Nedumkandam Police Station

Upputhara Police Station

Idukki District

Idukki district came into existence in 1972. The place abounds in agricultural crops such as tea, cardamom, pepper and lemon grass. The downpour and the flood almost crushed the district to pieces and its progress was arrested. The fruit of human labour and ecological foundations were smashed to smithereens. The summer rain received in 2018 was in excess by more than 39%, which was unprecedented. Monsoon started in the month of May itself. There was unprecedented rise in the water level of dams with the heavy rain received in June and July. The major cause of the disaster in Idukki, a place with higher hills and hillocks than other districts, was landslip and landslide. When the towns and residential areas of the districts of Pathanamthitta, Ernakulam and Kottayam were reeling under the floods, Idukki district experienced the tremors of landslide. A channel was constructed in Periyar at Cheruthoni town to divert the flow of water.

The news that seven persons had reportedly died in the two landslides that occurred in the Adimali station limit of Munnar subdivision after August 18 sowed fear in the minds of the people of the High Range. District Collector, Shri Jeevan Babu IAS, and District Police Chief, Shri K B Venugoopal IPS, led the rescue operations of the district.



Idukki Police Station

Idukki Police Station limit includes Idukki dam, the second biggest arch dam in the entire world, Cheruthoni dam and Painavu, the district headquarters. The water level in Idukki dam had risen considerably in the incessant monsoon rain.

Subsequently a combined review meeting of Dam Safety Authority, Police, Fire Force and other departments was held under the chairmanship Shri MM Mani, Minister for Electricity. The meeting discussed in detail, the likely impact of the release of dam water, monsoon disasters, and the precautionary safety measures. It was decided to declare orange alert when the water

level reached 2,393 feet. On the basis of the meeting held on 30-07-2018 by Shri Roshy Augustine, MLA, Idukki at Taluk Office, Idukki, notice was served to Grama Panchayats and Revenue authorities to issue warning to the people residing on either side of Periyar and to evacuate them to safe places on 1st ,2nd and 3rd July.



The sight of the spot where landslide occurred in Thannikandam was pathetic. Two vehicles were completely covered under earth. The heads buried under soil, two cows could be seen struggling hard for life kicking their legs. The rescuers were about to save them. A loud wailing was heard from a house, part of which had been swept away. The five members of the family including an expecting lady were frightened and they were lamenting for help. The pregnant lady implored at least to save her two year old child. It was dangerous to walk on the muddy soil which could devour any number of people. The team wasted no time. They separated the asbestos sheets from the roof of the nearby house, spread them on the muddy soil and the five members including the expecting lady walked on the sheets and they were rescued.

**Joshi
Civil Police Officer, Idukki**

The district administration declared red alert after the water level reached 2,397 feet. Efforts were on to evacuate people on either side of Periyar, such as Cheruthoni, Thadiyambad and Karimpan to safer places. At 12.30 in the afternoon, the shutter was opened in a trial run.

The evacuation process was going on. Police officers from different zones, District AR camp and the 5th battalion of KAP were all assigned duty. Traffic through Cheruthoni, Thadiyambad and Chapath, was blocked. The incessant rain created a situation preventing the closing of the shutters which had been opened for a trial run. Several instances of landslides were reported from different parts of the Police Station limits. The vehicle of Inspector Sri Sibichan Joseph was stranded in his attempt to save five persons trapped in Thannimood area. Sri Murukan and his team saved many including an expecting lady quite courageously. Six persons were reportedly missing in the landslide. Two days later, their bodies were recovered. There occurred another landslide at Perumkala at 6 o'clock in the evening and the residents were evacuated to camps. Four persons were lost in the debris. Their bodies were recovered the next day.

Three deaths were reported in the Karimpan area in the landslide on 16th. As the search for the people missing in the landslide at Upputhodu in the Thankamony station limits went on, the occurrence of another landslide adversely affected the rescue operation.

In the post- flood situation a meeting of District collector, Shri Jeevan Babu IAS, Dr B Sandhya IPS and Sibichan, SHO, Idukki, was held at PWD Guest House, Idukki, to discuss the details of the calamity and the rehabilitation. The situation was hazardous. The soil was like water-soaked sponge liable to slip at any time. Discussions were going on at the same time in connection with the opening of the shutters of the dam as the water level had risen to an alarming level. The general public, to whom the opening of dam was a matter of curiosity at first, had to face a terrifying situation when it was opened.

Crises

In order to reach Gandhinagar, a landslide spot, which was actually 150 metres away, one had to traverse 8 kilometres. Since all the roads had been damaged by landslips, transport was very difficult. In an unnecessary aggravation of the crisis, police had

to counter the spread of fake news on social media that the Mullaperiyar dam had broken down.



Karimanal Police Station

Karimanal Police Station was opened to safeguard law and order during the stages of construction of lower Periyar Power Station commissioned in 1997. The station limit includes only the first ward of Kanjikuzhy Grama Panchayat and the total number of families is about 300. On the Neriya Mangalam - Idukki State Highway that passes through the Station limits, in a stretch of 20 kms, landslips and landslides occurred in 28 places. Fourteen houses were completely damaged and twenty one partially damaged and uninhabitable due to landslips. Immediately after the Police who were on guard duty at the Power station were shifted to safe places in the afternoon of 14th, a landslide occurred and the sentry post and the power house were covered in soil. A major casualty was averted because by that time Police on guard duty had stopped work at the

Power house and vacated to safer places. Information reached the police station that in the torrential rain, landslips and uprooting of trees, 12 persons including 6 natives of Oman and three vehicles were stranded. In the heavy rain that night, rescue operations could not be conducted. The next morning the rescuers proceeded half a kilometre through the thick bamboo forest and reached the top of the landslide spot. They then went down and rescued all of them.

Three relief camps were opened in the station limits. The Policemen who went to attend the parade on 15 August were stranded on the way at Keerithodu due to a landslide. More landslides were reported from Manyam, Thattekkanni, Thukkupara, Pambala, KSEB area, Kaduvakkuzhi, Kudakkallu, Audit 1-2, and Anathara.

Kanjikuzhy Police Station

There were both landslips and landslides in Panamkuttu, Keerithodu, Chelachuvad, Attikalam, Pazhayarikandam, Vanchikallu, Varikkamuthan, Venmany areas in the station limits. Agasthy (71), and Elikutty (70), died in a landslide on 9-8-18, after they had moved to another house when their house was washed away in the floods. Sarojini died on 15-8-2018 following a landslide in the Keerithodu area. Six relief camps were opened and 80 families were shifted to the camps. In connection with the opening of the dam, people residing in the 15 kms stretch were evacuated. Janamaithri members, public servants and the authorities of Revenue and Panchayat actively participated in the relief operation.

Karimannu Police Station

The Police personally reached almost all areas of the station limits, especially Malayinchi, Chelakad and Velliyani where landslides had occurred in previous years and issued timely warnings. They compelled 30 families to leave to safe places, after which several houses were swept away. The timely intervention of the Police averted many calamities and casualties. They evacuated about 200 families to the camps in the neighbouring schools. Nine relief camps were opened in the station limits. As a precautionary measure for the rescue operation, torches, sword, knife and fuel had been stored in advance and JCBs procured. The place witnessed the full success of the Janamaithri Police. Police could ensure the active participation of all the people in the safety mission because of this very reason.



Marayur Police Station

Marayur is a place that receives the lowest rate of rainfall in the State. The place did not face any other serious problems before August. There was excess rainfall and landslides occurred in Karthaloor, Kuviladavu and Thalayan. Six girls going from Tamil Nadu to Palakkad were stranded at Marayur. The Police helped them reach Mettupetty and they were then sent along with their parents.

Rajakkad Police Station

Landslides occurred at Panayankutti, Josephi, Mulakkulam, Marjukurly and Veliyavandam. In a recent landslide at Panayankutti near Konnathada, commercial buildings and roads were destroyed. Three houses were completely damaged and 11 houses partially damaged in the area. Around seven camps were opened by the 19th.

Santhanpara Police Station

Though there was heavy rain from the first week of August, no serious danger or destructions occurred in the station limit. Major and minor landslides occurred at Chermannar, Sreevarada, Pampapara, Meachenmannar, Jandanappu, Walimettu Road, Mangathicci, Shalappu Pan, Cherhar and Mysadumpara and this resulted in crop damage. Two houses were completely damaged, One vehicle was holed and 4 houses collapsed. Seven relief camps were opened from 6-8 am to 14-8 am 13.



Vellathuval Police Station

Vellathuval Police Station limits was one the places worst-affected by the disaster. Panniyar and Vellathuval power houses went out of order with earth covering the entire area. The calamity that took place in Vellathuval has no parallel in its history: landslide, landslip, loss of agricultural crops and cattle, devastation of roads, sinking of the earth, and to top it all, the death of 8 persons. The rural township disappeared into oblivion. Small scale landslips were reported in the station limits in the first half of July. Traffic was obstructed at S-Valavu on the Vimala city – Rajakkad route due to landslips that occurred five times. Following this; many serious landslides and landslips occurred in Salyampara, Thottappura, Uthupara, Ambazhachal, Anachal, Muthuvankudy, Ellackal, Puthalanirappu, Pothupara, Vellathuval, Vimala city, S-Valavu, Panniyarkutty, Marakanam, Konnathady, Purayidam city, Kailasom, Bethel, Mullarikudy, Ancham mile, Kallarkutty, Muthirapuzha, Inchapathal, Mukudam, Kambilikandam, Parathodu, Mankuva, Chinnar, Panickankudy, Perinchamkutty and Thinkalkadu in the first two weeks of August.

A total of 34 camps were opened by 14 August. Eight persons died in the landslip that occurred in the station limit on 9,10,13, 15 and 16 August. In the landslide that occurred in S-Valav in the early morning of 16-08-2018, 5 members of 2 families died, one person was injured and 4 houses destroyed. The dead bodies of 3 persons have not yet been recovered. The damaged roads were repaired and reconstructed in several places by Police, local people and village authorities. Five JCBs were on permanent duty to remove earth from the roads. Four jeeps were hired for the Station use. Police were deputed to petrol pumps for duty to ensure availability of fuel.



As road transport was obstructed, several Police officers had to walk an additional distance of 14 kilometres for about a week to attend duty in the Station. A person trapped in the debris of a landslide at S Valav was rescued but because of the delay in reaching the hospital he died after two hours. Eight deaths were reported on 9, 10 and 16 August. Electricity and telecommunication connections remained snapped during the rescue operation.

“Landslide occurred on all the four sides of the house. My daughter in an advanced stage of pregnancy and I began to wail. Thomas Chettan, Mercy Chechi and some others came and rescued us. The next day our house was completely swept away. We stayed in the camp. Minister Maniyaasan came. Promised to give us a house. We have faith in the Government.”

**Beena
Panniyarkutty**



Devikulam Police Station

Devikulam, Lockhart and Vadavatta received heavy rain from 8 August. There were landslides at different places from the 14th. Flex boards with warning messages were displayed at several spots on Devikulam-PHC road, Devikulam-Munnar road, Devikulam-Munnar bypass road, etc. The first relief camp was started in Devikulam Govt HS.

80 families were sent to this camp under the supervision of the Police.

There was heavy downpour and landslide at Devikulam and Irachippara on 16th. Three persons died. It was quite perilous that the Police and the local people saved two male adults and a lady.

Madhu, an employee of the KSRTC Depot, Munnar, was trapped neck deep in soil, following a landslide. While attempting to save Madhu, another landslide came and all the rescuers fled for safety. If they had not escaped, it would have been a great tragedy. Fifteen personnel of RRE were with the Police. Hitachi, JCB and other equipment and vehicles used for the construction of Highway and five hired jeeps were part of the rescue operation. Electric connection was cut off for a week. VHF was the only source of communication. But the availability of fuel from Munnar was ensured. As the houses of constables, Sanjay and Rajeshkumar were destroyed in the landslide, they sought refuge in the relief camp.

Munnar Police Station

Places like Munnar, Pallivasal, Rajamala and Mankulam received heavy rain from the first of August. The Police had sent messages of warning directly and through WhatsApp groups and people's representatives to the people residing on the shores of rivers Muthirapuzha, Nallathanni, and Kannimala and also people residing in estate layams to evacuate. They equipped the Anganwadis and auditoriums to receive the victims. Five relief camps were opened in the station limits. People from areas under the threat of landslips were compulsorily shifted to relief camps.

By the 10th, College Junction, Nallathanni, Munnar town, Headworks dam, Parts of NH and several areas of Munnar-Mankulam road were damaged in landslide. Landslide was reported in Idamalakudy road and Pallivasal road. Kannimalayar overflowed, Periyavara bridge was shattered by the current. Vehicle Transport on Munnar- Udumalai road came to a standstill. Electricity connection and communication network stopped. VHF was the only source of communication. Five JCBs were brought to restore transportation. Other implements and equipment were collected with the help of Fire

Force and transportation was restored. KSEB road to Plum Judy resort was damaged on 12th and several people were stranded in the resort. The Police and Fire Force rushed to the area, saved the tourists, both natives and foreigners, and sent them to safe places in government vehicles. Joseph died on 14th after he fell into a nearby canal at Mankulam Pamapukayam and Madankumar, a native of Tamil Nadu died in a landslide. Four members of a family met with their death in a landslide at 3 o' clock in the morning of 16 August at Munnumuri layam, Nallathanni estate. The building of Arts College on the Munnar Devikulam road was completely destroyed by the continuous landslide from the nearby hill on 15, 16 and 17 August.

The Police acted in time and averted a crisis when some people tried to snatch away the food materials brought for the relief camps and saw to it that it was distributed in the camp. Under the leadership of the Police a mammoth cleaning campaign was organised. They cleaned up the town, the premises of the relief camp, a 3 kilometres stretch of National Highway, Muthirapuzhayar, the Bus stand, the Stadium ground and several estate layams in Munnar.



Murikkassery Police Station

Relief camps were opened at four places, Murikkassery, Rajapuram, Bethel, Kaliyarkandam and the people residing in vulnerable areas were shifted to the camps. Road transportation was made impossible by the landslide in Rajapuram, Bethel, Perinchamkutty, Melechinnar, Kallippara, Chinnar and Chappath. Parts of Murikkassery-Chelachuvadu road were completely damaged and it took three weeks to repair it and make it suitable for traffic.

Three persons were buried in the debris of the landslide in the morning of the 9th at Rajapuram and at Senapathy, an old man, Joseph (70) died in the landslide at his house. The Police hired a JCB for removing obstructions and two jeeps for transportation. Availability of fuel was ensured at Murikkassery petrol pump. The equipment and machines essential for rescue operation were either hired or organised locally by the Police.

Adimaly Police Station

Heavy downpour started from the first week of August. The stream flowing down from Thalamaly overflowed. The Police instructed the residents on the banks to leave for safer places. On 6 August, and slipped behind a tea shop near Ambaiappady area and a lady trapped in a toilet was saved with injuries all over her body after a lot of several hours by the Police and local people. In another instance five inmates of a house including two infants died in the landslide at Ettumuri. Earth sank down at almost the same time in the tribal colony at Korangatty and two members of a family died, Kunjumo, who was under treatment after a landslide-related accident, died after a month. The number of deaths mounted to 8 in the Adimaly Police Station limits.

The worst affected areas on the National Highway were those between Nerianmangalam and Iruttukanam. Conveyance was obstructed by uprooted trees and landslip. The Police worked continuously round the clock, removed the obstructions in time and took steps to restore transport. Due to the landslides in two spots near Valara waterfalls, larger vehicles were directed to the Pambala route. The attempt of NH authorities to restore vehicle transport by reinforcing the walls with the help of iron girders and rock succeeded. Some 40 relief camps were started in the station limits and around 300 families were evacuated following a landslide in the early hours of the morning of the 6th. The Fire unit was active in clearing the road at Adimaly, Vellathuvai, Ponnudi, Rajakad, Elakal areas. The Fire Force from Kothamangalam and Muvattupuzha participated in the relief work at Adimaly. They worked hard with the Police and locals to save five members of a family trapped at Ettumuri. Normal life was paralysed at Kallarhatti, Kattippara, Naikkunnu, Odickal, Vadakke, Ayiramekkad, Kumpanpara, Machiplavu, Chattupara, Iruttukanam, Valara and Jathihottam areas by the landslips occurring on several days.

The level of water began to rise in Adimaly town and the neighbouring areas. Mannamkale, Mukambika Nagar, Camco junction, Ambalappady Bhagom, Kiriikulam, Vivekananda Nagar, Polina Palam, Vayadeepthi Bhagom and Eastern Factory areas as the downpour intensified on 12 August. Several houses came under water. Around 150 families were shifted to relief camps. A three storey building near the National Highway sank down 50 feet. As part of the rescue operation at Mukambika Nagar area the Fire Force personnel proceeded towards a transformer without knowing that there was power supply. But danger was averted when they noticed the indicator light on the switch board of the next house; they informed the matter to the KSEB.

The Janamaithri canteen at Adimali gave Onam kits to more than 300 people.

Kattappana Police Station

Landslides occurred at Pattayar and Velayemudy areas of Kattappana Police Station limits on 10th and 13th August and following this four relief camps were opened. A base camp was functioning at Kattappana to provide food materials to the camps functioning in other station limits.

The shops and commercial centres in Kattappana town were closed due to heavy rain and food was made available to rescuers and public by the Janamaithri canteen.

Vandiperiyar Police Station

Many people on the banks of Periyar flowing along Mullaperiyar to Idukki were evacuated following the opening of the gates of the Mullaperiyar dam.

Seven camps were opened in the station limits.

Road transport was obstructed on the Kumily-Kottayam route because the areas from Kakkilavala to Vaad were flooded. The newly constructed church at Keerikara was shattered in a landslide.



Thankamony Police Station

Upputhodu, in the station limits of Thankamony, had to face the largest landslide in the district at 9.30 pm on 17 August. Three members of a house and their neighbour lost their lives. The body of Rajamma has not yet been recovered. Large areas of agricultural land were lost in the landslide. Prabhakaran who was on his way to the medical college, Idukki, died on the way in the landslide. Road transportation was disrupted for days together at Kamakshi, Pandippara, Mariapuram areas in station limits due to landslide and also on the Kattappana - Idukki and Thankamony - Murikkassery routes.

Kumily Police Station

Thekkady, a tourist centre of international importance was isolated in the heavy rain. Vehicle transportation on Kumily-Tamil Nadu and Kumily-Vandiperiyar routes were obstructed due to landslip and flood. A major landslip occurred near the camp. The district administration had instructed to stop the boat service on Thekkaday lake from 9 August as part of the safety measures. Minor landslides were reported from Sasthamnada and Arupatham mile.

Nedumkandam Police Station

Following the very heavy monsoon rain, three members of a family at Pathuvalavu Bhagom died in a landslide. The other two members were rescued courageously by Police and Fire Force. Fourteen relief camps were started at different areas of the station limits from 9 to 14 August and 502 families comprising 1,818 members were shifted as part of the safety measures. The estate owners were instructed to stop work during these days in fear of the danger of branches of trees falling down. Transportation was obstructed by landslips and uprooted trees. All the obstructions were removed and traffic was restored.



Upputhara Police Station

Thekkady, a tourist centre of international importance was isolated in the heavy rain. Vehicle transportation on Kumily – Tamil Nadu and Kumily – Vandiperiyar routes were obstructed

When the water level in Mullaperiyar dam rose to 142 feet, the shutters were opened. Following this Santhipalam, Chappath and Upputhara areas were flooded by the water from Periyar. Santhipalam and Chapath were completely under water and the banks on either side were isolated. More than a hundred houses and shops at Chappath on the banks of Periyar were cut off by

the floods. As the families had been shifted in advance, danger was averted. The Upputhara bridge across Periyar went under water for the first time in history and hence several areas were cut off. As a result of this the rescue mission was obstructed in many places.

due to landslide and flood. A major landslide occurred near the camp. The district administration had instructed to stop the boat service on Thekkady lake from 9 August as part of the safety measures. Minor avalanches were reported from Sasthamnada and Aruvamthi.

Seven flood relief camps were opened in the Upputhara Police station limits and the Police monitored and ensured the essential services in all the places. Police also distributed the food and clothes obtained from Thodupuzha and Elson valley areas to the tribal areas of Mennar. The team of NDRF was very active in the Upputhara police station limits.



| Death Rate | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------|-------|---------------|-------|
| Cause of Death | | | | | |
| No. | Taluk | Landslide | Flood | Fall of Trees | Total |
| 1 | Idukki | 27 | 1 | 1 | 28 |
| 2 | Devikulam | 17 | 2 | 2 | 19 |
| 3 | Udumbanchola | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 4 | Peerumedu | 0 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 5 | Thodupuzha | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Total | | 48 | 8 | 8 | 59 |

| Details of Persons Missing in Idukki District in the Floods | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| No. | Taluk | No. of Persons missing |
| 1 | Idukki | 5 |
| 2 | Devikulam | 1 |
| 3 | Peerumedu | 1 |
| Total | | 7 |

| Details of the damage to houses | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| No. | Taluk | Houses Completely destroyed | Houses Partially destroyed |
| 1 | Idukki | 564 | 2062 |
| 2 | Devikulam | 315 | 2788 |
| 3 | Udumbanchola | 407 | 2196 |
| 4 | Peerumedu | 248 | 250 |
| 5 | Thodupuzha | 97 | 331 |
| Total | | 1631 | 7627 |

3.5

Ernakulam District

Ernakulam District

Puthenvelikara Police station

Vadakkakara Police station

North Paravur Police station

Varapuzha Police station

Chengamanad Police station

Binanipuram Police station

Angamaly Police station

Aluva East Police station

Aluva West Police station

Nedumbassery Police station

Njarackal Police station

Perumbavoor Police station

Kalady Police station

Kuruppampady Police station

Muvattupuzha Police station

Ramamangalam Police station

Kuttampuzha Police station

Pothanikad Police station

Piravom Police station

Eloor Police station

Kalamasseri Police station

Thrikkakara Police station

Palarivattom Police station

Cheranallur Police station

Ernakulam District

Consequent on the heavy flow of rainwater into the Periyar, Chalakudi and Muvattupuzha rivers, parts of the Ernakulam District (Rural) were fully or partially submerged.



The water level rose in many areas due to the overflow from drains and waterways over many kilometres.

According to the list of the Disaster Management Authority, 7 villages were totally destroyed.

The official reports of the district administration give the figure of 28 deaths and mention 3 persons who suffered grievous bodily injuries. The fishermen of the district joined hands with the police force to save the lives and belongings of many thousands of people.

The commendable service, leadership and courage of the District (Rural) Chief of Police, Sri Rahul R. Nair inspired the entire police force of the area. The 19 member team of diving experts of the Kerala Armed Police Battalion-I were on constant alert for rescue activities. The services rendered by the police to the public after the floods is inestimable. The police worked selflessly to ensure that the donations received and collected by organizations from philanthropists and the funds from the government reached the hands of those who needed them most. After the floods, the police took up the challenge of rebuilding and rehabilitation in addition to the extremely important activity of cleaning-up. Approximately four hundred thousand people were moved to relief camps during the deluge.



Police Stations Submerged Under Water

- Kalady
- Vadakkekara
- Ayyampuzha
- Eloor
- Puthenvilakara
- Muvattupuzha

Flood-Affected Police Stations in Ernakulam Rural

- 1. Kalady
- 2. North Parur
- 3. Puthenvelikara
- 4. Ayyampuzha
- 5. Muvattupuzha
- 6. Vadakkekara
- 7. Nedumbasseri
- 8. Njarackal
- 9. Varapuzha
- 10. Aluva West
- 11. Aluva East
- 12. Piravam
- 13. Ramamangalam

- 14. Perumbavoor
- 15. Kodanad
- 16. Kothamangalam
- 17. Pothanikad
- 18. Kuttampuzha
- 19. Kuruppanampady
- 20. Binanipuram
- 21. Munanbam
- 22. Oonukal
- 23. Thadittaparambu
- 24. Chengamanad
- 25. Kottapady
- 26. Angamaly

Police Stations Partially Submerged Under Water

- Nedumbasseri
- Njarackal

486

No. of Flood Relief Camps

3949

No. of Police Deployed

Worst-affected areas

- Palarivattom
- Cheranalloor
- Thrikkakara
- Eloor
- Kalamasseri

Puthenvelikara Police Station

It is believed that the village of Puthenvelikara was formed by the ebbing action of strong tides. The main areas in the flood zone of Parur taluk come under this station. Chalakudy river merges with the Periyar in Elenthikara. Puthenvelikara station is located on the banks of the Chalakudy, Periyar and Kottapuram backwaters. The floods caused by rising tides and incessant heavy rain submerged the police station and the surrounding areas. The water level in the police station rose to as high as five feet above ground level. When this began on the 15th of August, the S.H.O., E.V. Shibu, who had gone to the hospital with his own child, went back to the station as directed by the District (Rural) Police Chief and saw to it that the equipment and files were immediately moved to the top floor. The telephone and related instruments were also moved upstairs and the station continued to function from there. His direction that all calls relating to flood-rescue should be recorded in writing was followed with due diligence. A Whatsapp group of the leaders of people's organizations and panchayat members, 'Ready to Move' was formed. As many as nine relief camps were started and when six of these camps were affected by the floods, the inmates were moved to other camps. The floods in the station limits started on the 15th and the water began to drain away only around the 20th.

To quote Sub-Inspector E.V. Shibu...

“ We rescued a kidney patient who was stranded in a double-storey house and brought him out in a wheelchair. When the station was inundated under four feet of water, we swam to the house of a man named Joshy and rescued him with the help of strong rope. H.S.A. Balakrishnan, myself, and local volunteers transported people on our backs to the relief camps that were some two kilometres away. A pregnant woman was rescued and transported in our police vehicle. 70 people were stranded in the Fatima Mata Church in Cherukada. Just then (at around midnight) we received a call from the Chengamanad Police station unit that a woman was in an extremely perilous situation in the church in Kuthiyathodu. H.S.A. Balakrishnan and other officers immediately went to Kuthiyathodu to rescue the lady. On their way back, their boat overturned at the Kanakkumkadavu bridge.

The rescue operations had been conducted using a boat the Munambam S.I. had somehow managed to procure. The people in the Fatima Mata church at Cherukada were rescued in smaller boats. Six people were killed when the hillocks around the St Francis church in Kuthiyathodu (in the Chengamanadu station limits) caved in. At the request of the Chengamanad S.I., combing and rescue operations were initiated in this area by a team comprising members of the local police, the navy, the coastal police and the army.

The inmates of the Karunyalayam Home for Nuns and the Aged were taken to safe shelters. H.S.A. Murali managed to transport a snake-bite victim by boat and police vehicle to the Little Flower Hospital in Angamali, surmounting all obstacles. The rescue operations carried out by Rino attached to K.A.P. 1, and Umesh, CPO of Puthenvelikara station were remarkably praiseworthy. Three deaths occurred in the police station limits during the floods. The police officers who took part in the rescue operations were affected by skin infections and minor hazards.

Police Sub-Inspector E.V. Shibu, with gratitude the services of S.I. Shibu, H.S.A. Balakrishnan, C.P.O. Umesh, and others, in rescuing and transporting the aged women and the nuns including her own self who weighed over a hundred kg from the Karunyalayam Old Age Home in Puthenvelikara police station limits, in neck - deep water, on their shoulders and backs to safe relief shelters.

A Whatsapp group called 'Kochuveedu' [Small Cottage] comprising the police and the local people was formed to rebuild thirty homes that were destroyed by the floods.

10 of these houses have been rebuilt so far. A sum of two hundred thousand rupees which had gone missing from a relief camp was recovered after police investigation. The police did their best to ensure the return of lost boats and cattle to their rightful owners. They also helped in the conduct of the last rites of those who had died in the floods.



The services of A.S.I. Shibulal who led the rescue operations is particularly praiseworthy.

Moreover, the services of H.S.A. Balakrishnan, C.P.O. Sumesh, and other police officers were highly commendable.

—Sri Jose
Ward Member

The army and navy officers who participated in the rescue operations were dedicated teams well-equipped and trained for such emergencies. However, the Kerala Police who rose to the occasion without any such training or equipment and used the help of common people and whatever was available to rescue the stranded, was commended by the entire populace of the state.



Vadakkekara Police Station

Water entered the police station to the level of four and a half feet. On the morning of August 15th, even before the water rose to alarming levels in Veliyaperumballithuruthu and Cheriyaaperumballithuruthu, people were moved to the relief camps. The continuous stream of hoax calls and messages were a constant headache to the police. Four deaths occurred in the relief camps. An individual who had been rescued by an army helicopter later fell into the currents at Chendamanagalam bridge and drowned. The police joined hands with the army, the fire force, the NDRF and local volunteers to conduct relief operations in Chendamanagalam, Thattukadavu and Chittethukara limits. As large numbers of people had turned up for relief operations, the police initiated the co-ordination of relief and rescue activities rather than direct rescue and relief. The police also had to investigate cases of goatstealing and suchlike during the floods.

North Paravoor Police Station

The police station limits were inundated by the floods, road transport proved impossible, and the region was isolated. 31 camps were started. 6 of these were affected by the floods and the inmates moved to other camps. The pillars of the Chemmayam bridge were washed away by the floods.

Varappuzha Police Station

The distress caused by the floods in Varappuzha station limits could be compared to that of the great deluge of 1924. Two deaths occurred. The major operation was co-ordination. The police also took over the entire responsibility of rehabilitation and distribution of relief materials. Even outside the station limits, within the limits of the Binanipuram station in the Kongorpilly region, rescue operations were conducted with the help of boats and lorries. Boat patrol and distribution of food materials was done with the help of the coastal police. Police took the initiative to bury the remains of dead animals and to

supply drinking water to these areas. Moreover, one hundred Onam kits were distributed for the state festival. On August 16th when some of the camps were affected by the floods, around 8000 people were transported to three camps in Ernakulam, Kalamasseri and the Infopark.

Relief workers rescued around 6500 people from Alangad, Binanipuram and Karingamthuruthu. The navy helped in the rescue operations in the Pizhala region.

Around 1200 people including pregnant women, children, youth, and elderly men and women, who had been stranded for over 72 hours without even sufficient food in the Kovoov Kongorpilly HSS were rescued on August 17th using available boats and vehicles and co-ordinating the services of the local people and other volunteers. Some food materials were filched. Some utensils that had been stored in a Christian church as merchandise for a festival were stolen, and these were recovered and restored with the help of the police.

Rescue operations were carried out in boats in Puthenpally, Valanad, SNDP Junction, Varappuzha, Koonammavu, Chanthapadi and Kocharal. Fishermen who comprised the majority of the people in the area had themselves moved away in small boats. A jankar was made available to the police.

**To Sri Soni Mathai,
S.H.O.**

**All along there was a superstar
single-handedly coordinating with
multiple people and departments.
I don't know if this Sub-Inspector
of Varappuzha (Soni Mathai) was
trained in disaster management.**

by Gopinath Parayil,



Chengamanad Police Station

The largest number of deaths in the Aluva sub-division occurred in the Chengamanad police station limits. The police began rescue operations along with the members of the Kunukara panchayat in the Ayiroorpadam Kuthiyathodu region. Road transport was affected by the overflow from the Periyar and Chalakudi rivers. This overflow had started with the heavy rains on the 6th. Although the waters receded, when the water-level rose again, relief camps were again started on 14th morning. The water level was at its highest on the 15th because of the overflow from the Periyar and Chalakudi rivers and the rising tides.



In the words of Sub-Inspector Sudheer:

In many areas by the morning of the 16th, the water level had risen to submerge the ground floor of houses. Moozhikulam region was isolated by the water. Communications had stopped. By evening, the water level had risen to about 8 feet. Relief camps were started as early as the 6th because the water level had risen thrice before. The river water overflowed over 8 kilometres of land. Taurus and country boats were procured with the help of panchayat members and the public. Reports came of a person hugging on to a tree in Puthenthodu region. A police team braved the strong currents and sped to the young man's rescue in a boat. At one point, he almost drowned, but because he swam on without losing heart, he was saved. Telecommunications were totally disrupted. Only an area of 15 kms around the police station was spared from the rising water. Relief operations were co-ordinated from this relatively safe area.

50 persons died when the St Francis Church in Kuthiyathodu collapsed. The undercurrents and the floods prevented entry into the area on the 17th and the 18th. At night on the 19th, the army and personnel of the Puthenvelikara police and Chengamanad police reached the spot at around 2.30 am, and recovered two bodies from the debris of the collapsed church. By evening of the next day, two more bodies were recovered.

12 camps were started. By the 17th of August, the water had risen to a level of 12 feet. St Francis Church, Kuthiyathodu, had collapsed, resulting in the death of 6 people.

Strong undercurrents and floods obstructed all ingress and egress in the region on the 17th and the 18th. On the morning of the 19th a joint force comprising personnel of the army, the Puthenvelikara police and the Chengamanad police reached the site of the collapsed church at 2.30 am, and recovered two dead bodies.

Later the next evening, two more bodies were recovered. The dinghy boats of the army proved extremely useful.

The houses of 24 of the 39 police personnel in the station went under water. Police took part in the rescue operations wearing T-shirts and Bermuda trousers. Volunteer youth and representatives of 'Adam Traders' participated actively with the police in the rescue efforts.



Binanipuram Police Station

In the Binanipuram police station limits, the places severely affected by the floods were Kadungalloor East, Kadungalloor, Panaikulam, Kongorpilly, and Muppathedam. The houses of thousands of people were damaged. Water entered most places except the police station. Dinghy boats, Taurus, small country boats and other boats were made use of for rescue operations.

Police conducted relief operations in many places without wearing their uniform. Therefore the misunderstanding arose that the police were not involved in the relief work. Some materials were transported from the Consumerfed godown, ostensibly to the camp. On the basis of a complaint, police arrested nine persons after investigation. Merchants who arbitrarily raised prices of goods were prevented from doing so by the police. After the floods, the public organized ceremonial functions to honour the police.

The police joined hands with the armed police and voluntary organizations to clean the houses in the area. Police played a major role in transporting essential materials to camps, and in rehabilitation.

Around 10000 people sought refuge in the relief camps. Two women died. One youth committed suicide alarmed by the rising water levels. Telecommunications ceased. Apart from a few law and order problems due to minor quarrels, no other untoward incidents happened. SCPO Santhosh swam to his own house from the station to rescue his mother.



Angamaly Police Station

In Angamaly police station limits, water rose to high levels in Mambra, Elavoor and Paalupuzha areas in Parakadavu panchayat, and in Angamaly municipality, Peechanikad and Thuruthu. The people in four households in the Ezhattumugham locality who refused to move from their houses despite the rising water, were forcibly removed to a safer location, following which their houses were washed away in the overflow. A shop in Angamaly was opened and food and other materials valued at around two lakhs were distributed.

Two flood-hit women who were too old to walk-87 year old Puthenveetil Thresiakutty from Maniyankuzhi, Angamaly, and 81 year-old Rosamma - were carried to the Holy Family Relief camp by Sub-Inspector Ansi, ASI Mathew, and CPO Pramod.

The pavements constructed on either side of the Manjali canal in the Angamaly station limits, obstructed the free flow of water.




Aluva East Police station

Thuruthu, Ilayoor and Kuzhupatti areas in the Aluva East police station limits were totally cut off by the floods. Compayyandi, Thottumukham and Keshadasadi regions were also submerged. On 17 August 2018, CPO Rajeev, who was attached to the Aluva East police station rescued an entire household comprising two septuagenarian women, two elderly men, two children below the age of ten and a housewife who had been stranded on the upper floor of a house in Malappuram, Thottumukham. On their way to the camp, the boat capsized near the camp office, and they were trapped in eight-foot high water. CPO Rajeev dove into the water, brought up an old man and a child, and seated them on the ledge of a wall. He managed to tie the capsized boat to a post, and used the rope to help two older people and the housewife to the ledge of the wall. Then he swam with one of the old men on his shoulders and moved him safe to a nearby flat. He took off his own life-jacket, and gave it to the family whom he transported in another boat to a safe location. Rajeev and the head of the household, finally were able to find shelter for themselves only after two and a half hours. Moreover, CPO Rajeev and Subbar and a few others were able to save a eight-months pregnant woman from a flat on Thiruvethi Road where she had been stranded for three days, and pushed her seated in a tyre - tube across neck deep water to the hospital.

Aluva West Police Station

The water level rose high in the following areas in the police station limits: Mambra, Naalucettu, Vokko, Veliyathuuthu, Karumalur, Puzhappillyavu, Manjil, Mottupuram, Kottapuram, Alangad, Thiruvethi, Mallamppeedika, Cheththad and Neethikodu. These areas were totally cut-off. Water had risen over as much as 95% of the areas in the police station limits. Only over roads from Cherack remained open. All the other areas were under water.

In order to arrest the spread of contagious diseases, activities like distribution of preventive medicines and awareness sessions were organised with the help of the medical team based in Parur. The flood-damaged houses of the public and police personnel were cleaned in operations managed by the police station. One house in the station limits was completely washed away. The police initiated the construction of three houses for the needy. The festival celebrations of the Marad church which had been delayed by the floods was carried on in the camps where the police disbursed the food.



Nedumbassey Police Station

Heavy rains commenced from August 16th in the police station limits. Most of the areas in the station limits, including Avanamkodu, Thuruthisseri, Nayathodu, Thuravumkara, Chovvara, Kondotty, Pattoorkunnu, Colonybhagom, Athani, Moozhiyar, Akaparambu, Aarucentu colony, and Kuzhupailom colony, were affected by the floods.

When the waters overflowed the Chengal canal near the Coast Guard Quarters in Thuravumkara, police reached the location instantly in boats and rescued the people.

In the areas surrounding Chengal canal, the water level rose to around eight feet and consequent to the strong currents the eastern walls of the International Airport collapsed. Water entered the airport.

During the rescue operations police managed to save from drowning a group of eight people whose boat had capsized in the currents.

9406 people from the region were rescued and relocated to safety.

Njarackal Police Station

Njarackal is a place of unique geographical diversity, with coastline, backwaters and rivers. Fisherfolk abound here. They joined forces with the police to rescue a number of people. In the station limits, the water rose especially high in Kuzhupilly, Vachakkal, Aniyal, Nedungad, Puthenkadappuram, Kudungassery, Valiyavattam, Manjanakad, Arattuvazhi, Perumpilly, Elamkunnapuzha, Pallampilly, Pookad, Karuthedam, Ochenthuruthu and Valappu.

A youth by the name of Midhun Kumar who had gone on rescue operations and whose boat capsized was seen no more. Station Inspector M.K. Murali sent fisherfolk in as many as 35 boats to other station limits for rescue operations in tandem with coastal authorities.

An unidentified boat that had been beached at the time of the Ockhi storm and which had been safeguarded in the station was put to good use. As many as 250 people including 34 police personnel took part in the rescue operations. 56944 people belonging to 17303 households were given shelter in 43 camps. Police rescued around 2000 persons. As it was an area under constant attack from the sea, there were permanent relief camps attached to the village offices in Nayarambalam and Elakunnapuzha in the station limits.

Perumbavoor Police Station

In the Perumbavoor station limits, Ockalthuruthu, Parappuram, Vallam, Rayonpuram, South Vallom, and Kochangadi were cut off by the floods. Moreover, water rose in Chelamatton, Thannipuzha, Mudickal, Paathipalam, Thandekad, Palakkatuthazham, Kandenthara, and Saddam Road. All the roads except Perumbavoor-Kothamangalam MM Road were submerged in water. Water flowed over the station limits from the 14th to the 18th of August.

Despite the warnings, people in double-storey houses in Chelamattam, Perumattam, South Vallam, Onampilly, Mudickal and Madampilly refused to move. Rescue operations had to be undertaken in these areas again on the 16th and the 17th. Around twenty vehicles including four boats of the navy, tippers and Taurus lorries were put into service here. As water flowed into 6 of the 18 camps, people from those camps had to be relocated again. As part of the station limits were bounded by the Periyar, the water overflowed in those areas and some damage occurred. It was reported that people were stranded in a building near the Chelamattam temple.

Consequently, SI Faisal led a team to the location in a fishing boat, braving strong currents. All the stranded persons, including two ladies in highly advanced stages of pregnancy, were rescued. The two pregnant women were moved to the hospital. The news and visuals of Perumbavoor Crime Branch Sub-Inspector Soofy, who took part in the rescue operations wearing but a towel as a loin-cloth, in the Vaarapetty Inchiyoor region on the banks of the Periyar, were flashed across the media.

Seeing that the rescue operations in the Kalady area were not making much progress, Inspector Baiju Paulose took the initiative to organize a few fishing boats from Alappuzha. Later, on the 17th, Sub - Inspector Soofy distributed food materials in the worst - affected places in Kalady with the help of two fishermen. They distributed food and drinking water to the houses that had been cut off by the floods.

Some 28 relief camps operated in the Perumbavoor station limits. The police were present in the camps, supervising the activities the entire time. Police made their presence felt in such activities as cleaning and food-distribution.



In the words of Sub-Inspector Soofy,

Thousands of people who had sought shelter in the Kaipatoor church were stranded there when the water covered the entire ground floor. Food materials were transported to the church and the nearby houses in boats that had to stop at a distance, and then by individual relief workers who would swim to the shelters with the food.

I borrowed a towel from one of the volunteers and joined the rescue operation, wearing the towel as a loin-cloth.

The children, the weak and the elderly were taken to Thannipuzha in boats, and from there in Taurus lorries to the hospital in Perumbavoor town. When a group of youths in Mekaladi tried to rescue a woman in an advanced stage of pregnancy, at one point, she slipped into the dangerous current.

At that time Perumbavoor CI Baiju Paulose and I reached there. With the help of fisherfolk, the pregnant woman was moved to a boat, a sheet was drawn up and held above her head to protect her from the heavy rain. Using the wireless, we managed to procure an ambulance to take the woman to the hospital.

Kaladi Police Station

In the Kalady station limits, the following places were isolated by the floods - Malayattoor, Nileeshwaram, Kottaram, Mekaladi, Gandy station, Kappattoor, Manikyamangalam, Kalady town, Chengal, Kanjoor and Thattai. Moreover, extensive flood-related damage to property occurred in Madurima Junction, Neduvattam and Compangyadi areas. Following this, 33 camps were started, and when water rose in three of these camps, the inmates were relocated. The water had begun to rise on the evening of the 14th in the Kalady region. By 15th night, the files, weapons and equipment in the police station were moved to a safe location. On the evening of the 16th a navy boat arrived for rescue operations. On the 17th, boats from Alappuzha began to arrive. By the evening of the 18th, the water had begun to recede. When the water receded, the houses were left with dirt around two and a half feet high.

As the rivers had changed their course, almost all roads were submerged, and transport was at a standstill. Moreover, the bridge near the Federal Bank on the road to Kanjoor was completely destroyed. Kalady police station was for some time under nearly six feet of water. Some untoward incidents attributable to drinking occurred in a few camps. CPO Robert attached to the Kalady station suffered snake bite while engaged in rescue work, and was given treatment for the same. CPO Josh underwent surgery for an injury to his eye. CPO Anil was grievously injured in the leg. When the water rose very high on the 15th in the station limits, road transport against the current proved impossible. More and more people were stranded in houses, and requests for help and relief piled up.

The police and the public joined hands to rescue the stranded using whatever was available, including oversize cooking utensils.

Kuruppampady Police Station

In the Kuruppampady station limits, Panamkottay, Kariyall, Kochupureckal kadavu, Society pealam, Paaniyeh, Mekkeparia, and Asamandol were totally cut off by the floods. Also, landslides occurred at two sites in the Pongichuvadu estate colony. The bridge in the colony was washed away in the floods.



Muvattupuzha Police Station

Muvattupuzha station is situated some 300 metres away from the banks of the Muvattupuzha river, at a height of some 10 metres above the water level. The station is in Central Travancore and comprises the eastern area of Kochi. During the floods, consequent on the overflow of water from the Thodupuzha, Kaliyar and Kothayar rivers, the heavy downpour and rising tides, the water rose above the Muvattupuzha municipal bridge.

In the Muvattupuzha station limits, flood-related damage occurred in the following areas: in Muvattupuzha municipality—Thottunkalpedika, Pallikavu, Petta, Larha Stand, Kathakkalara, Maniamkulam kavala, Randar, 3rd Junction, Murickkallu, Kavumpady Road, Kaacherithazam, Kitcheripadi, Vejoorokunnam, Vazhapilly, Kadati—in the following places in

Arakkudi panchayat—Thottalara, Arakkudi Panchayat Office region, Valikada, Peringazha, Perumbalur—in the following places in Avoli Panchayat area—Rackod, Melodambal, Cheru, Oorayam, Valakam, Peruvamoothil, Avidas—and, in Perumattambagom in Kunrakal Panchayat.

The water rose as high as 50 feet in the station. Muvattupuzha town was submerged in the incessant rains that began on the 15th. As many as six deaths occurred.

When the dinghy boat of the navy was engaged in rescue operations, although Sub-Inspector Yakub was flung overboard an air-boat that struck the roofing-sheets of a house, he leapt into the water, climbed on to the top of a building and saved twelve persons using a strong rope.

Ramamangalam Police Station

In the Ramamangalam station limits, Ramasa, Idalam, Kothumal, Doramana, Vettimann, and Nattipallem were totally cut off by the floods. The suspension bridge between Ramamangalam and Thennamattam was totaled. Ramamangalam police rescued around 40 persons. On August 16th, the Muvattupuzha river began to overflow its banks. 14 houses in Kayamada in Maradi Panchayat were isolated. Here the river flowed breaking itself into two parts.

Around twelve houses were cut off in Doramana. By the night of the 16th, the water entered the police station. The documents and equipment in the station had already been removed. In Arakkudi, police rescued a family comprising a husband and wife, their son and a two-year-old child in a fibre boat.



Kuttampuzha Police Station

Kuttampuzha is a forest zone in Kollamangalam taluk. Adivasi tribes and various other people live in this region. The floods caused the greatest damage in inchathottu, Pooyamkuttu, and Chappathi. Although boat facilities had been available earlier, the posts had perished from lack of regular use and maintenance. Timely and efficient police action helped the people overcome the ill effects of the flood. As Adivasi families were spread over

some 40 kilometres, the police found it difficult to execute rescue operations in the region. As these regions were not accessible by police jeeps, police had to rely on private jeeps and other facilities to travel to and within the area. Mankandanchath, Kallimedu tribal colony, and Waryam were totally cut off. It proved impossible for the police to reach these areas. Flood damage had occurred in inchathottu, Mankandanchath and Vellankunnu. Chappathi was completely under water. Crops were damaged on a large scale. Two flood-related deaths occurred.

Pothanikad Police Station

Floodwater entered the station limits in Valloor, South Pannamattom, Pothanikad, Pulanthanai, Kadampadi, West Pannamattom and Vallakadavu. In 2013, seven persons had died following a landslide. The three-storey building which had been constructed near the police station as a shelter for disaster-stricken people after this event, proved extremely useful during the floods.

Piravom Police Station

Pottambalam, Mulakkulam, Kakkad, Kalmboor, and Palachuvaddu areas in the station limits were totally submerged. The Piravom police station was surrounded by water. All the major roads were under water and transport came to a standstill. The river overflowed its banks to the backwaters three kilometers away. As the shutters of the dam in the station limits were opened on the night of the 16th, it proved even more difficult to evacuate the people. Two boats and twelve canoes were in service for the rescue operations. There was total destruction in two or three wards. As the Janamathi programme was being implemented successfully, relief and rescue were quite smooth. When police arrived at the house of

Dr. Sunil who worked at the Piravom Government Hospital following a request for assistance, the water had risen above the level of the first floor. The doctor's family was evacuated to safety. In the days that followed, Dr. Sunil accompanied the police with his medical kit to take care of the sick and the injured in the camps. The Kalady police took upon themselves the responsibility of cleaning 4 roads, 12 angamavadis and around 150 houses. The police of Piravom station took the initiative to construct two houses for those who had lost their homes.

Eloor Police Station

Foreseeing the prospect of flooding, 8 camps commenced operations in the station limits on the 10th. After two days, the water began to recede, and all the camps except two were closed on the 13th. Still, the Janamathi police called for public meetings on the measures to be taken in the event of the opening of the shutters of the Idukki and Edamalaiyur dams. The police had cautioned the people to be prepared to obey an evacuation order, if issued. On the 14th, the Municipality convened a meeting of all departments and took necessary precautions.

Of the 51 wards that are within the Eloor station limits, 30 were affected by the rising water. 80% of the areas under the station were thus affected. Five houses were totally destroyed and 845 dwellings suffered partial damage. Police took the initiative to clean 127 houses and also engaged in the chlorination of the public roads. Police took steps in collaboration with service-minded volunteers to organize electricians for repair work in 110 houses. Around 30 houses were rebuilt.





Kalamasseri Police Station

Kalamasseri police station area was one of those worst affected by the floods in Ernakulam district. The greatest impact of the floods was in NAD, Vidakkuzha and Edapally. Following the warning of the City Police Commissioner on the 6th that heavy rainfall and floods were likely, the Municipal Chairperson convened a meeting of all concerned on the 7th. Rescue operations and co-ordination was enabled. Many thousands of lives were saved from danger because the entire public engaged in the effort as one. A temporary control room manned by a three-member group was started in the Pathadipalam Guest House. 9 rescue teams were on alert in the police station.

The duties connected with relief and rescue were classified in two categories. One group was dedicated to rescue operations alone. The other group involved themselves in evacuation, providing security in camps, in ensuring the availability of food materials and in patrolling. Around 18 camps were set up in the station limits. Around 3,000 people lived in the camps. Two deaths occurred.

The police had to put up with some rudeness from the public. Those officers who went to rescue the dwellers had to face some bitter experiences. When water entered the relief camps in Cheranalloor, North Parur, Aluva and Eloor, the inmates had to be relocated to the 18 camps in the Kalamasseri area. Police vehicles and school buses were used for this purpose.

Thrikkakara Police Station

In the Thrikkakara station limits, water entered Balan Menon Nagar, Cherumattapuzhakara, Thuthiyoor, Kariyil colony and Keerelimala. 19 houses in Kariyil colony were swamped by the flow of water. In Keerelimala, there are seven houses in the foothills and eight on the hilltop. As the houses did not have concrete walls, it was quite possible that landslips could occur. Police consulted with and assisted the revenue authorities to commandeered schools and other buildings that could serve as relief camps. Since the police took timely precautions, the impact of the floods could be minimized.

Landslips occurred in the Keerelimala region. The equipment and vehicles needed for rescue and relief, the medical team, the fire force, revenue officials, volunteers and municipal councilors, all were on ready alert. When the camps in Cheranalloor, Eloor and North Parur went under water, the inmates were safely evacuated to 28 camps in the Thrikkakara station limits. Moreover, police took the initiative to clean the colonies and public spaces, the relief camps and the dwellings in the Kariyila colony, Koikkappaadam, Parur and Pathalam region with the help of public-spirited people and members of voluntary organizations.

Palarivattom Police Station

The worst affected areas in the Palarivattom station limits were Chalikavattam, Vennala, Koothapaadi and Ponnurunni. It was possible to conduct safe and smooth relief operations without loss of life because of the timely and efficient actions of the police and the public. There were 3147 persons in relief camps. Most of them had been evacuated from areas under the limits of other police stations. Palarivattom police station functioned as a collection centre of food materials.

Cheranalloor Police Station

As in other areas, the incessant heavy rain and rising water levels caused extreme distress in the Cheranalloor station limits too. There were 9 relief camps in the station limits. Around 7000 people were evacuated. Rescue and relief activities by road were not possible.

Abdul Jaleel who lived near the Indrajith Nagar bridge leapt into the water and saved two migrant labourers. After their rescue, when he was trying to get out the water, he drowned and his body was recovered two days later.

3.6

Thrissur District

Thrissur District

The Floods in Thrissur District

Chalakudy Police station

Attirapilly and Malakkapara Police stations

Varandarappilly Police station

Peechi Police station

Chavakkad, Valappad and Vadanapilly Police stations

Maia Police Station

Koratty Police station

Puthukad and Kodagara Police stations

Vellikulangara Police station

Aloor Police station

Immjakkuda Police station

Kattoor Police station

Cherpu Police station

Mathilakom Police station

Anthikad Police station

Kodungalloor Police station

Kaipamangalam Police station

Kumarakulam Police station

Azhikode Coastal Police station

Pavaratty Police station

Erumapetty Police station

Vadakkancheri Police station

Cheruthuruthy Police station

Guruvayoor Police station

Chetakara Police station

Pazhayanoor Police station

Chittur Police station

Thrissur Town West Police station

Kuruppampady Police station

Thrissur District

Thrissur, which goes by the name of Thirusivaperoor is the cultural capital of Kerala. The district of Thrissur came into existence on the 1st of July, 1948, as part of Travancore- Cochin as the state was then called.

The district is marked by its geographical diversity, with the mountain ranges of the Western Ghats to its east, and the valleys and plains and the Arabian sea-coast to its west. Parallel to the sea there are numerous backwaters and lakes. Most of the rivers from the east flow into these back-water lakes. These backwaters open into the sea at the river-mouths in Chettuva and at Kottappuram in Kodungalloor. Thalapilly taluk which is the northern boundary of the district is a range of small hills.

The Chalakudy river and Karuvannoor river which have their origin in the Kodasserry hills flow to the south of the district. The main rivers that flow along the district are Bharathappuzha, Karuvannoor puzha, Chalakudy puzha, Kechery puzha, Kurumalipuzha, and Vadakkancheripuzha. Thrissur district is spread out over 3032 square kilometres across 255 villages in 7 taluks. There are 86 gramapachayats (including 10 block panchayats), a city corporation and 7 municipalities in the district. For administrative convenience, Thrissur district was divided into the Thrissur City Police district and Thrissur Rural police district on the 3rd of March 2011 with 45 police stations altogether.

Thrissur City police district has a total of 24 police stations in the Thrissur, Guruvayoor, and Kunnankulam sub-divisions. There are 21 police stations in the Irinjalakuda and Chalakudy sub-divisions of the Rural police district. Munakkadavu police station in Thrissur city district and Azhikode station in the Rural police district are coastal police stations.

The Floods in Thrissur District

When one follows the course of the floods in the district, as in other parts of the state, one hears about the 'floods of '99'. The walls of the Sree Narayanavilasom School at Elthuruthu in Kodungalloor bears a record of the great deluge of 1924, known as the 'floods of '99' in local parlance.

The inscription on the wall of the school at a height of approximately five and a half feet reads 'Flood Level 1099.' Although the original inscription had been made on the wall of the then main building, which had to be demolished with the passage of time, the inscription was carried over, precisely and accurately to the wall of the renovated building. It is a record of the impact of the great flood that had followed three weeks of incessant rain and led to the sight of a convoy of corpses flowing along the Canoli Canal and the other water-bodies of the region. Massive landslips and damage had then occurred in Akamala in Vadakkancheri which was then part of Travancore-Cochin state (Source: Mathrubhumi, 5 August 1924).

In August 2018 when the deep depression that had formed in the Arabian sea caused incessant heavy rain and rising levels of water in the Idukki dam, orange alert was declared on the 10th. From that date, cautionary warnings were announced in the Kodungalloor zone in the district. The continuous rainfall on the 15th caused the rivers, canals and kole fields in the district to overflow. Meanwhile, the catchment areas of the dams received heavy rainfall and the water-level in the storage area approached dangerously close to the maximum capacity for intake. By afternoon the shutters of all the dams in the district had been opened, to ensure dam-safety. As a consequence, the rivers and canals soon began to overflow.

As the rivers began to change their course and spread disaster around a larger area, large-scale damage and extreme hazards occurred in Chalakudy and Mala. Many of the camps in the district that had been set up in haste, had to close due to the inflow of water and be relocated elsewhere. When Karuvannur river (into which flow the Chalakudy and Karmali rivers) overflowed its banks, the bunds at Illickal and Ettumuna were destroyed. This worsened the flood situation in the western parts of the district. As this was a time of ebbing tides, water did not flow to the sea, aggravating the situation. Although the rains began to weaken on the 16th, the water level did not fall. The water began to recede only on the 19th. People started to return to their houses on the 20th. However, the majority of the dwellings were not habitable because of the water, silt and filth inside. A large number of houses were completely or partially destroyed. People lost their means of livelihood with the damage to crops and farms, and the loss of cattle and poultry.



A number of lives were lost following the landslides that took place in Thekkumkara, Desamangalam, Aattoor, Mullurkara and Kurumala villages in Talapilly taluk of the district, and the landslips across Kodassery, Kuttichira, Killanoor, Madakkathara, Peechi, Panancheri, Puthur and Kainoor.

The Mathrubhumi report of 5 August 1924 records that during the 'Floods of '99' too, widespread landslips had occurred in the Akamala region of Vadakkancheri, resulting in the cessation of train services and other forms of transport. The largest figures of loss of life was reported this time around following the landslide in Kuruvancheri in the Vadakkancheri station limits. 19, including women and children lost their lives there.

Rescue Operations

Rescue operations in Thrissur district were conducted from the 14th of August to the 20th. The maximum flood-related damage occurred within the limits of the Chalakudy, Mala, and Kodungalloor police stations. Cautionary announcements were made in the areas that fell within the limits of riverside police stations from the 14th. As a precautionary measure, many people were evacuated to safer locations from the 15th. The first rescue operations using locally available resources such as rubber tubes, basket boats, huge kitchen vessels, plastic drums, banana stems and the like were somewhat slow and ineffectual. Flood damage occurred in the limits of the coastal police stations too. The coastal police had already initiated rescue operations within their own station limits. Moreover, in collaboration with the local Coastal Safety Groups, they organized boats, canoes, and fishermen for rescue operations in various other regions, providing a fillip to the statewide rescue effort.

The Thrissur Range Inspector General of Police Sri M.R. Ajith Kumar I.P.S. led the rescue efforts camping in the worst-affected regions in the Chalakudy zone. The IGP also sprang into action to co-ordinate the reconstruction of the bunds that had collapsed in the Irinjalakuda sub-division.

Sri G.H. Yatheesh Chandra IPS led the rescue operations in the Thrissur City district and Sri M.K. Krishnan I.P.S. led the operations in the Rural district. The Rural district suffered more damage in the floods than the City. The City and the Rural police fought the floods as one.

In the initial stages, the police, the fire force, and the public were engaged in the rescue operations. By the evening of the 16th, the services of the NDRF, and on the 17th those of the Navy and the Indian Army were available. The Fire Force in Thrissur rendered competent service under the leadership of the District Fire Officer Asharaf Ali and the Palakkad Regional District Fire Officer Siddha Kumar.

No. of Personnel of various services involved in rescue operations

| Army | BSF | CRPF | NDRF | Fire Force | MSP | KAP 4th | KEPA | WP Bn | IR Bn | Fisher Folk | Total |
|------|-----|------|------|------------|-----|---------|------|-------|-------|-------------|-------|
| 112 | 80 | 300 | 375 | 373 | 70 | 272 | 250 | 75 | 75 | 713 | 2695 |

Besides these, five teams of the Navy, five Chetak, 24 sorties of the Air Force and Officers of the local police stations also took part in the rescue efforts

Most important of all was the fact that the police were able to involve the public too in the rescue efforts. Apart from the rescue operations conducted by the police, the joint efforts of the police, revenue authorities, and the public were successful in evacuating 1,36,343 people to places of safety.

The police were able to win the co-operation of the public on this scale because of interaction with the public in projects like the Janamaithri Police, Coastal Safety Groups and Student Police Cadets. The police and the public worked with all their might day and night to rescue as many of the stranded as possible.

No. of People rescued by teams of the forces in various parts of the district between the 15th and the 20th.

| Indian Army | Indian Navy | Air Force | NDRF | Fire Force | Police | Total |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|------|------------|--------|-------|
| 1363 | 269 | 57 | 3690 | 17000 | 34781 | 57160 |

Post Flood Operations

A large number of volunteers turned up to collect, provide and distribute food, clothing, drinking water and medicines in the camps. Though people returned to their homes from the camps, the task of making their dwellings clean and habitable, and providing the essential facilities required proved quite arduous. These activities in the district were undertaken jointly by police, local self-government representatives, voluntary organizations and other departments. A collection and distribution camp was organized in the Thrissur Indoor Stadium at the initiative of the Collector to distribute relief kits in the camps in the district. People from all walks of life, and even schoolchildren turned up as volunteers in this effort. Police officers and trainees from the Police Academy and the Battalions actively participated in this endeavour for days at a stretch.

Flood-related deaths in the district

51 persons lost their lives in the floods and the landslides that occurred in the district. 27 of these deaths were on account of landslides, including the one in Vadakkancheri that claimed 19 lives. Three persons who were trapped in a collapsed house in Kuruvancheri were rescued by the Fire Force using a hydraulic cutter. Ten individuals died of natural causes in the camps. Three persons died in flood-related electrocution, three others died when their building collapsed, 17 drowned to death, one person who was riding through Kuthiran in a car died in a landslip, and another lost his life under a falling tree. The inhabitants of 19 houses in Anakkayam colony in the Malakkapara station limits had a providential escape when the landslide appeared to divert itself from what would have been its natural course and descended without causing any significant harm.



Relief Camps

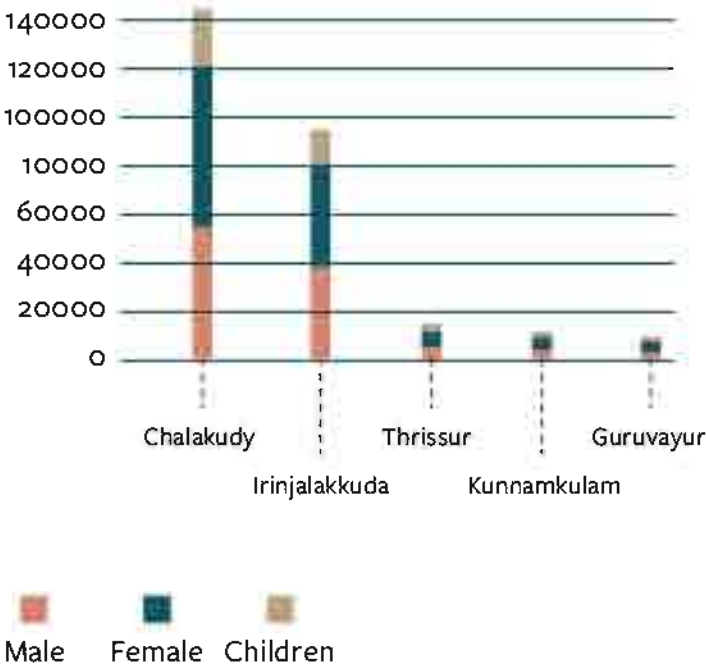
171 of the 256 villages in Thrissur district were affected by the floods.

742 relief camps were opened in the district.

2,54,775 individuals, including 1,00,146 men, 1,13,610 women, and 41,019 children, sought refuge in the camps.

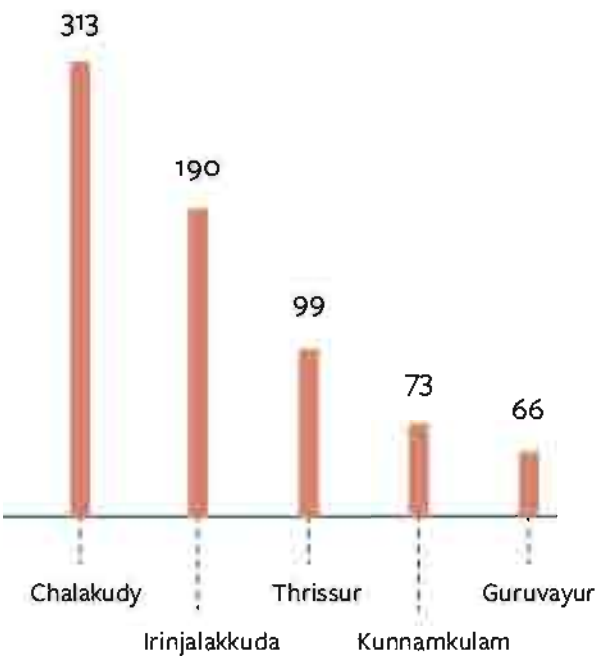
Fact File of the Relief Camps

People in Relief Camps;
Sub Division Details



133481 persons took refuge in the 313 camps in the Chalakudy sub-division. The largest number was in the Kodungalloor station limits. People from Puthenvelikara and Parur in Ernakulam district were evacuated to safety to the camps in the Kodungalloor station limits. Following the requests by the District Collector Smt. TV. Anupama IAS, the police and various voluntary organizations on social media, a large number of volunteers turned up at the camps with food and other essential requirements. Dr. B. Sandhya IPS, Director of the Kerala Police Academy and State Janamaithri Police Nodal Officer, inspected

No. of Relief Camps



the flood-affected areas and the relief camps, and gave necessary directions to the police. 87 individuals in the district lost house and land in the floods, the dwellings of 3670 persons were totally destroyed while the houses of 21,102 others were partially destroyed.

Police maintained a significant presence in all the camps. Various disputes arose in the relief camps and most of these were amicably settled by the police, but in some places criminal cases had to be registered.



Chalakudy Police station

Chalakudy station limits experienced some of the worst effects of the deluge. Largescale crop-damage occurred in the station limits. One person died in a house-collapse. Transport came to a standstill on the State highway. There were landslides in Chalakudy. On the banks of the Chalakudy river, the water level rose to up to 20 feet in low-lying areas and to 3 feet in the higher regions. Following the floods, in the station limits, the DySP Office, the Circle Office, the Police Quarters, the Taluk Hospital, the KSRTC bus station, the private bus-stand, the railway station, post offices, village offices, schools, colleges, places of worship, financial institutions, merchant and other establishments, agricultural areas, farms, etc. were submerged.

Police rendered the most praiseworthy of services in the rescue and relief operations, and in the cleaning and rehabilitation work that followed.

Advocate Sunilkumar, Chalakudy.

Inspector Haridas and Sub-Inspector Jayesh, who had gone to Athirappilly on L & O duty, were briefed on the possibility of floods by the Athirappilly Sub-Inspector. Since precautionary announcements were issued the same day, and a large number of people evacuated to safety, the impact of the deluge was reduced considerably. Personnel of the Indian Navy, the Tamil Nadu Fire Force and the BSF arrived in Chalakudy. Rescue operations were carried out using available resources such as canoes, rubber tubes, large kitchen utensils and vessels, rope, cords and the like.

Twin Challenges of Rescue Operations



The delay in procuring boats and other equipment in time.



The undersides of boats and canoes were damaged by contact with the sharp grills atop the gates and walls of houses submerged in the flood.



Athirappilly and Malakkapara Police stations

Landslips and landslides abounded within the limits of these hill-side police stations on a larger scale than anywhere else. A woman lost her life when her house in the Athirappilly station limits collapsed. The water in Peringalkooth Dam overflowed over a level of three feet. Trees, branches and bamboo flowed down and were trapped in the top of the dam, and in its shutters and reservoir. The entry of tourists into centres such as Athirappilly, Vazhachal and Thumburmuzhi was stopped to prevent untoward incidents.

Landslides in the Cattle Rearing Centre of the Veterinary University in Konnakuzhy resulted in the deaths of 39 cows. The entry of helicopters into hilly areas like Athirappilly was quite difficult. The inhabitants of 19 houses in Anakkayam colony in the Malakkapara station limits had a providential escape when the landslide appeared to divert itself from what would have been its natural course and descended without causing any significant harm. It could have easily become one of the worst disasters of the floods of 2018.

The first packets of food distributed by helicopter in Athirappilly landed in the water and was inaccessible to anyone. Police relayed this information by wireless to the control room, and the food supply was carried out successfully the second time.

Malakkappara, which is at the outskirts of the district, was totally isolated by the floods. The plantation-workers and adivasis of the region had to undergo untold misery because of landslides and water avalanches from the hills. Transport over most parts of the Athirapilly-Malakkapara State Highway came to a standstill for around two weeks. Food, medicine and clothing were made available here from regions such as Valpara and Tirupur. The fact that around 60 people were trapped in the Sholayar Power House quarters was known only because KSEB Assistant Engineer V. Jose traversed seven kilometers of the forest on foot to the station to relay the information. The police were then able to evacuate them to safety.

As the Tribal Janamaithri Suraksha Programme is being implemented in an admirable manner in the Athirapilly police station limits, a cordial relationship between police and public is being maintained. For that very reason, no sooner did the people of the adivasi colonies such as Kadar Colony, Puliylappara and Vazhachal get the instructions from the police to move to places of safety than they did as directed.

**-SCPO Bijuraman
Athirapilly Station Writer**

Varanthirapilly Police station

Three persons lost their lives in the floods. Landslide occurred in the forest area of the 13th block of Aechipara Chinivila Kundai Mupliyam estate, and a landslip occurred in Pulikanni. Cracks rendered three houses in the area uninhabitable. Many areas in the station limits saw water rise to the level of 15 feet, causing destruction of roads, houses and crops.

On the evening of the 15th, police and public began rescue operations under the leadership of Sub-Inspector Anoop in Manackalakadavu, Varanthirapilly, Pallikunnu, and Noorukulam. Although a 15 member team of the NDRF reached Vettingapaadam in Varanthirapilly in an engine-less boat by midnight, they could not begin rescue operations because of the strong currents. On the morning of the 16th a 10 member team of the Fire Force arrived in a motor boat (engine-intact) and evacuated around 250 people from Vettingapaadam and Kaarikulam. Two engine-powered boats of the NDRF with a team of 25 personnel arrived at around 11 am and conducted rescue operations in Velupadam, Pulikanni, Manjoor and Attupilly. However, not everyone in these areas could be rescued because of the strong currents. Three engine-powered boats from Kannur manned by fishermen arrived on the 17th. A woman named Leelamma had been missing in the water from the 14th. On the 17th her body was recovered from Kallai.

Around noon on the 17th, ASIs Girijan and George and SCPO Baiju evacuated an ailing female dialysis patient from Palapilly in a raft to Pulikanni and thence by jeep to the Jubilee Mission Hospital in Thrissur. Even after learning that his own family was stranded in the first floor of their house, DVR ASI Ajikumar remained engrossed in his work of rescuing other people and evacuating them to safe locations.

Police came to our house at midnight and woke us up. If they had been delayed even slightly, my house would have been submerged and I and my family would have perished. The police acted like angels of God in waking us up and bringing us to safety.

**-
Najeeb
Chimmini Estate**

Peechi Police station

There were more of floods than landslides in the station limits. Fields, roads and bridges were destroyed. Trees were uprooted in landslide. Agricultural areas were left waste, and transport came to a standstill. Around five vehicles were buried in the landslide. Soil and other objects falling on a running car in Kumbhari resulted in the death of the driver.

Viyyur Police station

Two deaths occurred in a landslide at the foot of the Poornima hills. The police had the arduous task of evacuating 1200 patients and their relatives when water flowed into the Daya Hospital. Every single patient was evacuated to safety by 6.30 pm by police, youth and other volunteers in upper torries, pedal boats and improvised rafts.

As the water had risen very high over Peringavu, Pandavuvu, Manalarkavu, Kalladimpola and Chandhi Nagar, police and public could reach these places only in country boats and tubes that had been transformed into improvised rafts, using which they rescued a large number of people. Police and public had to demolish the walls of the Poori Home and adjacent buildings near the Kattachira temple to effect the risky rescue of a large number of old and ailing and feeble inmates. As more than a hundred residents of a flat in Pulackal Corporation were stranded in no immediate danger but with no possibility of egress, police took supplies of food and clothing to the flat.

The 'Arai' festival of the Thanakudani Devi temple is observed when the deity is immersed in water flowing in from the river. At that time, devotees too immerse themselves worshipfully in the water. Devotees flocked to the temple for the festival this year when it was submerged under water on the night. However, when the water rose to enormous levels, the police advised the devotees to desist from the customary immersion and convinced them to leave the premises. When the temple and its surroundings were soon under water, the police persuaded the temple authorities to lock the temple gates, considering the hazards.

'My house on the poramboke beside the canal collapsed in the rain. The police came and took us to the camp. The next day, water flowed into the camp. By evening, we were evacuated to the Devamatha school. I have no other place to stay. Police came to the camp to oversee the situation there.'

**-
Yasodha
67 years, Peringavu**

Chavakkad, Valappad and Vadanapilly Police stations

The police stations in the coastal regions of Thrissur district showed their might be not only conducting rescue operations locally but also by joining hands with the Coastal Safety Authorities to organize boats, canoes and fisherfolk for rescue missions all over the state.

'In the beginning, since boats had been sent without fisherfolk on board with the technical knowhow to operate them, in some places at least they could not be used for rescue operations. Later when we went to the beaches looking for 15 fishermen to navigate the boats, as many as 55 volunteered for the work and they were transported in police vehicles to the locations that required their service.'

Anil Mathew

ASI. Chavakkad Police station





Mala Police station

Following the incessant downpour from the 14th to the 18th, the shutters of the dams in Lower Sholayar, Upper Sholayar, Peringalkoothu and Boothathankettu were opened. The Chalakudy river overflowed after this on the morning of the 15th and diverted its path by as much as half a kilometre. By the afternoon of that day, an area of 1 km around was under 4 feet of water. When the shutters of the Idukki dam were also opened, water flowed in from Kanakkenkadavu where the Periyar and the Chalakudy rivers come together. The ebbing tides during the lunar eclipse prevented the flow of river-water into the sea. For around 2kms around Chalakudy river, the water rose to the height of 6 feet.

In the nearby regions such as Poovathussery, Kochukavu, Kundoor, Alamattam, Kuzhoor and Eravathoor, water first entered the fields and then the houses. In the Vynthala Thekkutam area, the river diverted its course and flowed in parallel streams. Along Vennoorpaadam the floodwater flowed to the regions lying to the north-west such as Edayattoor, Meladoor, Vennur and Kodavathukunnu, and thence via Mala some 10 kms towards Poyya, Konchithara, Komathukadavu, Thirutha and Madaththupadi, leaving the people of these regions in utter misery. Cattle and dwellings, merchant establishments, government institutions and many acres of agricultural fields were devastated. The floodwater destroyed most of the roads

either completely or partially, and traffic was obstructed. Food was distributed by helicopter and by volunteers on the ground.

Many who had been stranded in isolated regions within the station limits were taken to the relief camps with the help of the NDRF. Voluntary organizations took upon themselves the task of food distribution. Three boats and a team of volunteers arrived from Kannur in lorries on the 18th. CPO Shiju MX of Mala Police station engaged in hazardous rescue operations by raft and canoe from the very beginning.

Two persons died in the avalanche of water from the hills and four others died in the camps in the station limits. The station was informed by the office of the Inspector General of Police (Ernakulam) on the 18th that a French lady named Priya Angel was stranded at Athikadavu in Poyya. She was rescued with the help of the Fire Force.

When Dr. B. Sandhya IPS, ADGP (Training), State Nodal Officer of the Janamaithri Suraksha Programme launched in connection with 'Operation Jalaraksha-2' visited the flood affected areas, she saw heaps of plastic and other waste being burnt in the Mala Police station limits and gave on-the-spot instructions to the Station House Officer about the proper means of waste-disposal.

Koratty Police station

Most of the places in Meloor, Muringoor, Vadakkumuri, Thekkumuri, Kizhakkumuri, and Kaloar villages in the Koratty station limits were affected by the floods. Houses, government institutions and offices and roads were damaged. Lakhs of rupees were lost in damage to agricultural crops. The inhabitants on the river-sides were rescued and evacuated to places of safety. Around 3000 people were rescued in 20 boats including 8 of the NDRF, 5 of the Navy, 7 of the fisherfolk, and Naval helicopters. In Valoor, Cheruvallloor, Kathikoodam and Thekkudam, where the rescue operations involved great danger, the personnel of the Fire Force joined hands with the police, unawed by the perils.

Vellikulangara Police station

Vellikulangara station limits encompasses the panchayats of Mattathoor and Kodassery and the villages of Mattathoor, Kuttrippa and Vellikulangara. When the shutters of the dams in Chirappal and Peringalkoothu were opened following the incessant rain, water overflowed the station limits and caused great damage. 17 employees who were stranded in the Vasupuram Drinking Water Company were rescued by police, the Fire Force and the public.

The floods caused extensive damage to houses and agricultural fields. When water flowed into the Kaarikadavu adivasi colony, 14 households were safely evacuated to the Sasthapuram Community Hall. Landslides occurred within the station limits in Arichankuzhi, Varankuzhi, Choolakadavu hill, and Balanpeedika. Two houses in the area were totally destroyed. In Randukai, Choolakadavu, Kuttichira Pallom and Koorkamattam, the Kappathodu canal overflowed to a height of 12 feet, bringing the Koorkamattam seminary under water.

Puthukkad and Kodagara Police stations

By the afternoon of the 14th of August, following incessant rain, the Panthalloor (Kurumali) river overflowed its banks and diverted its course. Consequently, in the Parappukara gramapanchayat area, the region of Vayaloor was totally submerged and so were Nelayi and Panthalloor, as well as the Mattathoor Padinjattumuri region in Mattathoor gramapanchayat. Moreover, in the same station limits, the western region of Kodakara town, the fields of Kuzhikani and the surrounding areas and the low-lying regions of the Kanakamala zone were cut off by the flood. A large number of houses came under water. When the Pantallooor river overflowed off-course, the traffic on the National highway between Kulathoor and Nelayi junction came to a complete stop.

Aloor Police station

In the heavy downpour that followed the deep depression, water overflowed into 6 villages in the Aloor station limits, destroying roads, houses and fields. When water hyacinth and other aquaflore debris accumulated under the Thommanapaadam bridge on the Irinjalakuda-Chalakudy State Highway obstructing the free flow of water, the water rose above the road-level, and Aloor was completely cut off from Irinjalakuda.

GISs Reghu and Gladwin of the Aloor police station guided the NDRF team who had come with 8 boats from Kannur and the six member team from Palakkad with a huge watertraversing truck to the centre of rescue operations in Mala. Moreover, they rescued a woman in the final stages of pregnancy with her mother from the flooded regions of Thuruthiparambu by boat and took them to their home in Kottanielloor in a police vehicle.

My house which had been submerged in the floods, was cleaned by the Aloor police. It is they who made it possible for me to sleep again in my own home. I will always remain indebted to the Aloor police.

—
Thresia Paulose
85, Aloor

I was stranded in my home when water flowed into the road and into my house on the 15th. At that time, Gladwin sir, and Vimal sir of Aloor police station swam to my house in neck-deep water and rescued me.

—
Thommankutty
74, Aloor

Irinjalakuda Police station

Because of the heavy rains and the opening of the shutters of the dam, water flowed into the station limits on the 15th. Roads and houses were totally or partially destroyed. In the beginning, the rescue operations progressed at a very slow pace, owing to the unavailability of boats and the lack of boats. Therefore, when ISHO MK Suresh contacted the coastal stations for boats, the small boats that could be procured gave a fresh impetus to the rescue efforts.

The station got the information that food was scarce in the camps in the Chalakudy station limits. Sub-Inspector Subashini led a team in two vehicles along waterlogged roads at immediate risk and delivered two truck-loads of food to the camps. This was but one instance of the heroism of the staff of the Irinjalakuda station. It was also noted in Irinjalakuda that those who were closely associated with the Jansamithi police programme immersed themselves with utmost dedication in the rescue operations and in the relief activities in the camps.

Kattoor Police station

Most of the places in the station limits were affected by the floods from the 15th. Houses and workshops were destroyed or damaged in the region. Large-scale losses were incurred in merchant establishments and other workshops. There was loss of property and a large number of domestic animals perished.

The rescue operations had to be undertaken with mainly available resources: jerrycans, bamboo stem rafts, rubber tubes, PVC pipe rafts and large lifebuoys. On the 16th the overflow of water caused the Thattassery canal bund (KUDC) to break and the surrounding areas were submerged. For various reasons the canal and other water bodies had been reduced in area. Because of the heedless exploitation of the Canal canal and because of the existing silt that began at Adittam, the National Highway was washed up by the relentless floods for quite a long time. The impact of the flood was compounded by the fact that most of the canals and waterways in the station limits had earlier been reclaimed or reduced considerably.

Cherpu Police station

Because of the tremendous overflow from the Karuvattur river, the masonry dam at Ettumanaikkudi collapsed. Low-lying areas such as Chokki and Indrasuli then came under water. Karuvattur river overflowed its banks. On the 16th the Arinjikulam bund road was destroyed. Consequently, 12 villages in the station limits — Kadanbor, Venghasseri, Pallipponam, Panzham, Kurumbay, Indrasuli, Cherpu, Ikkalam, Chavoor, Vellathra, Arattupuram and Pallappuram — bore the brunt of the floods.

Two persons drowned to death in the floods in the station limits. Another died of heart attack in the relief camp. A team of doctors from Aithya camped in the Cherpu government school, examined the ill, and also distributed food and medicine and other necessities. Students and teachers of technical institutions such as the Government Engineering College, Thiruvananthapuram, Technological Institute, Universal Engineering College, Christ Engineering College, and others, undertook the re-wiring and repair of electrical equipment in houses after the floods, rendering stellar service.

Mathilakom Police station

As a result of the heavy rains and the opening of the shutters of the dam in Chennam and Periyar, Pappinayakan, Kollam, Padinjare, Vemulakom and Alapattangal village areas in the station limits were affected by the floods. 104 villages in Pappinayakan village were completely destroyed and 18100 others suffered partial damage. In Alapattangal village 175 houses were completely destroyed while 113 suffered partial damage.

Anthikad Police station

After the Ettumana bund broke on the 16th, water overflowed into the fields and the canals and the eastern regions of the police station limits came under water. After various dams were opened, the Canoli canal overflowed and brought the western regions of the station limits too under water.

Water began to flow into the station limits by the afternoon of the 15th. In the beginning the rescue operations were undertaken using ready-to-hand materials such as banana stems, mats, large kitchen vessels, PVC pipes, tubes and utensils. The flood impacted 16 villages in the station limits causing considerable damage. An aged woman named Mallika was evacuated to the camp from her dwelling in Kallidavazhi by CPO Sony of the Anthikad Police station just a day before her house was completely destroyed in the floods. Transport came to a complete standstill when water overflowed on to the roads in Perumbuzhapaadam and Cherupuzhapaadam. The vehicles that had been submerged in the floods on the roads in the Kanjani region were removed by the police. The police started distributing food to the camps from the stadium opposite to the police station where a wedding had taken place and the food donated for relief.

The police took the initiative to organize public efforts to clean the land of Mallika who had been brought to the camp with her aged mother, and to build them a temporary shelter costing sixty thousand rupees.

The water began to enter my house at 3.30 am on Wednesday. Sony came and helped us out at that time. Everyone in this area was hallooed and incited to leave. The very next day, my house collapsed. After the flood receded, the Anthikad police built a shed for me and my mother to stay in.

**Mallika
60, Anthikad**

After three days of rescue operations, without any information about the well-being of his own mother in Parur, CPO Sony was granted permission on the 18th to go to Parur. However, on his hazardous journey by boat to Parur, when he came to Kottapuram bridge, he responded generously to cries for help from the little isles all around. In this manner, he continued to rescue as many people as he could along the way, and reached his own home only on the evening of the 19th. Only then did he know that his mother and other relatives were stranded on the top floor of their house which was still under construction. It was only then that Sony could evacuate his own household to the safety of the camps.

The first food distributed in the relief camps by the Anthikad police was the food ordered for a wedding - reception in the auditorium opposite to the police station.

Police rescued a number of people using the boat 'Marine 4' belonging to 56-year-old Muhammed Abdul Rahman of Anthikad. When Muhammed Abdul Rahman accompanied the police on their rescue operations in the boat, he was injured and had to undergo surgery.



Kodungalloor Police station

Kodungalloor station limits are surrounded by the sea-coast, rivers and lakes. In 80% of the station limits, water rose to the height of 4 feet between the 15th and the 18th. Police issued cautionary announcements and spread awareness about the necessary precautions among the people living by the side of the Canoli canal in Pullut and close to the banks of the Kanjirappuzha in Kottappuram. The local people say that the impact of the floods was heightened by the fact that the ebbing tides prevented the inflow of water to the sea.

The misery was compounded when water entered the relief camps too. People from Parur in Ernakulam district were rescued and given shelter in the Kodungalloor relief camps.



We went to a house to the east of Asoka theatre in Kodungalloor on hearing that an elderly man was stranded there. The senior citizen who was a retired government officer, insisted that he would leave his house only if he was assured a room of his own and a tender coconut for food. Finally, we managed to procure a tender coconut from somewhere and brought him to safety with some difficulty.

Sub-Inspector Mukundan,
Kodungalloor Police station

When water entered the relief camp set up in the Kalyanidayani Sabha in Anapuzha on the 16th, hundreds of inmates who had taken shelter there had to be transferred to another building of the Kalyanidayani Sabha in Kodungalloor.

The fisherfolk who depended for their livelihood on inland lakes and rivers played a major role in rescue operations and in the transportation of food to the relief camps in areas like Thuruthipuram and Poyya, which had been totally cut off by the water. Although the fisherfolk of the sea were given credit for their selfless service, these inland fisherfolk who dedicated themselves to the rescue and relief operations in their country boats and makeshift vessels were stars away from the limelight.

Rajeev, KSEB



Kaipamangalam Police station

Following the incessant rain that started on the 14th in the Kaipamangalam station limits, the Canoli canal overflowed its banks. With the help of the public, people were taken to schools, madrasas and other buildings that functioned as relief camps. The assistance of the fisherfolk and other essential services were made available. Police transported 1,200 people to the relief camps, and made arrangements for the transportation of around 10,000 others. The essential requirements of this group were also provided. Due to illegal encroachments on the Chirakkal Cherupuzha canal, various parts of Thampuratty canal, and a number of places on the Canoli canal, the width and depth of these canals had reduced considerably. This contributed in no small measure to the distress at the time of the floods.

Kunnamkulam Police station

The areas that bore the brunt of the floods in the Kunnamkulam station limits were Choondal, Kecheri, Pazhanji, Kattukambal, Aduputty, Vaduthala, Keezhoor, Chiraparambu, Korattikara, Paranoor, and Chemmanur. Following the incessant downpour from the morning of the 16th to the 19th, there was intense flooding. Major disaster was avoided because of timely intervention by the police in organizing boats for rescue operations without any delay. Two duck farmers were carried away by the water in the Chiraparambu fields. On receipt of this information, search-operations were carried out in the flowing currents on 16th afternoon. The sixty-two year old duck-farmer from Alappuzha, Vijayan, who had been clinging on to a coconut frond for dear life after his boat had capsized, was rescued by the police. However, Vijayan's colleague, 58 year old Maniyan lost his life in the currents.



Azhikode Coastal Police station

For the first time, the police team led by Inspector Bijoy and assisted by a large number of fisherfolk, were able to use fibre boats to rescue around 4000 persons. The Azhikode Coastal police were also able to organize as many as 17 boats and a number of fishermen and send them on rescue operations to various parts of the state for the Fisheries department. Azhikode coastal police played a major role in the rescue operations in Aluva.

Seeing the boat of the Azhikode coastal police station lying anchored and inactive, some locals and others who misread the situation had posted their criticism on Facebook and other new media. However, such boats were only suited to rescue operations in the sea. If such boats which could be navigated only in water at a depth of at least three metres had been used in the flooded regions on land, they would have been unfit for further use and destroyed, and the resultant loss would have amounted to crores of rupees. Therefore the coastal police procured fibre boats from the local fisherfolk and used these in their rescue efforts. Those efforts were a complete success.

Bijoy, Inspector,
Azhikode Coastal Police Station

Erumapetty Police station

Water flowed into government buildings in the station limits such as the Pazhavor Village office, Erumapetty Forest station, Thayyur Jananidhi Pump-house, Vellatanjoor Village office, Puliyanoor school, and Thayyur No 90 Anganawadi. Following the heavy downpour and the opening of the shutters of Vazhani dam on the 15th around 80 persons were evacuated from Kottappuram and Kuttamcheri, and another 30 when a landslide warning was issued. 70 persons from Puliyanoor and around

Pavaratty Police station

The low-lying regions in the Pavaratty station limits came under water when the Ettumana bund was broken. Water-logging also occurred in many areas in the station limits when the water overflowed the Enamavu Idiyanchira bund, aided by the fact that it was a time of ebbing tides. Five fishermen from Chavakkad with their boats, rafts and canoes, and the 'Nagoor Andavan' boat from Blangad beach joined the police in the rescue efforts. A thirtyfour year old inmate of a relief camp, Prakasan, lost his life when he slipped into the water on his way to find out the state of things in his own home.



Vadakkancheri Police station

Although the station was established in 1882, there are no records relating to the Great Kerala Flood of 1924. In the landslides that followed the heavy downpour of August 2018, 19 persons, including 9 women lost their lives in Kurancheri and one person died in Kanjirasseri in Mulloorkara gramapanchayat.

Following the heavy rains there was a landslide in the southern parts of the Machadu hills on the Kurancheri-Nayarangadi road at 6.30 am on the 16th. Three houses on the southern foothills were completely destroyed. The vegetable shop beside a house, a petty shop and the bus stop to the east of the Vadakkancheri-Thrissur State Highway were buried in the landslide. In the heavy rain and landslips, rescue operations were carried out under the leadership of the police, fully aware of the hazards and the possibility of further landslides. The people at the site were evacuated to safety to prevent further loss of life. Commendable co-ordination of efforts at the initiative of the police who organized around 40 tipper lorries, 13 dredgers and 9 ambulances helped to rescue 7 individuals and recover 19 dead bodies from the debris. Night-time inquests, which are rare occurrences, were conducted. On learning that every member of 2 households had perished, the police took the initiative to conduct the last rites. Police rendered stellar service in making the Vadakkancheri-Thrissur State Highway traffic-ready in 7 days.

In the interest of documentation, the Director of the Forest Research Institute in Peechi, Dr Syam Visvanath, and the Deputy Director of Soil Research in Thrissur, Smt. Ambika, were consulted about the reasons for the landslides in Kurancheri and the reports received from the Soil Research Department, the Forest Research Institute and the Geology Department have been studied. The major findings were the following. Water from the incessant heavy rain seeped down into the ground, and because there were not enough trees with strong taproots in the region, the pressure of the underground water mixed with the surrounding alluvial soil caused the landslide that robbed 19 lives in Kurancheri.

Moreover the ill-planned changes in land-utilisation and the felling of the natural flora of the region aggravated the soil-erosion. The experts cautioned that people be evacuated from the region because of the possibility of further landslides and the active railway-tracks and quarries in the region, advised the reintroduction of traditional outlets for the flow of water, and suggested the large-scale afforestation of the region with traditional flora such as bamboo and ramacham.

“ Soil covered our house. Sundarettan was in the bathroom. Our two-year-old daughter Vaiga, was asleep in the side-room. Sundarettan came to the back of the house, removed a few of the roof-tiles, entered the house, and ran out of the house with the child in his arms.”

Rakhi

45 years

who narrowly escaped the Kurancheri tragedy

Cheruthuruthy Police station

As people had been evacuated from the Pallom region of Kottambathoor on the 15th in the interest of abundant caution, a great disaster was avoided. However, Harinarayanan (aged 38), Sivadasan (35), Sajiv (36) and Ranjith (25) lost their lives and Sudhakaran (38) was grievously injured in the landslips and avalanche caused by a landslide after they left the camp at around 6.30 am on the 16th, to collect their ration cards and other identifying documents from their homes. Their bodies of the dead were recovered only on the 16th, the 17th and the 19th by a team led by Sub-Inspector VP Sibeesh. The rescue and recovery was conducted braving the heavy rain and the landslips.

Guruvayoor Police station

Guruvayoor station was one of the stations in Thrissur district submerged under water. Water rose to the level of four feet inside the station. Station files and equipment were damaged.



Chelakara Police station

The heavy downpour of August 2018 resulted in floods in which water entered the police station premises and various places within the station limits, bringing a number of houses and fields under water causing damage to business establishments, transport and communication facilities and leaving the people of the area in great distress. In certain areas, landslides and landslips caused great damage to houses and crops.

Pazhayanoor Police station

In the limits of this station, located to the northwest of Thrissur district, large-scale damage occurred on account of the flood and landslides. Although the station was established in 1912, no records of the 1924 floods have been found.



Ollur Police station

The greatest impact was experienced between the 15th and the 17th in the station limits. The incessant downpour and the opening of the shutters of Peechi dam were the major cause of the floods. People suffered great hardships in landslides and landslips. A landslide occurred at Ettamkallu in Mandamangalam on the 15th. Landslips occurred in Panampadi, Kolaamkundu, Thampurattimala, Ezhamkallu, Chembamkandam and Kokkaath the same day. The rescue operations led by the police were assisted by the members of the Janamaithri Council, the taluk employees, the Vyapari Vyavasayi Samithi, voluntary organizations and the public.

On 16th morning when no boats were yet available, a police team led by Inspector Benny Jacob rescued 65 persons including women and children in makeshift rafts braving strong undercurrents over a treacherous two kilometres stretch of water. Since these rafts were not sturdy, in the afternoon two fibre-boats were procured and used for rescue. When one of the boats found it difficult to navigate the current it had to be moored. The second boat triumphed over the strong undercurrents and managed to rescue 64 persons to the safety of the relief camps.

SCPOs Radhakrishnan and Thulasidas spent the entire night of the 16th in the rain and the floods providing succour and encouragement to the people of the little Puzhamballath islets and assisting them in hazardous rescue operations.

On learning that 138 persons were cut off by the floods in Puzhaballath and that they were facing starvation, a team of policemen led by SI Sinoj fought their way there braving the treacherous currents, with supplies of food and drinking water for the stranded. The next morning, all the 138 persons, including women, children and the aged, were rescued in two boats and taken to the relief camps.

In Mannavu, police officers Jomon, Reghu, Sangeeth and Vineeth, used strong tug-ropes to rescue 19 persons from the currents. During this endeavour, Jomon slipped and fell into the water and was swept away to a distance of some 60 metres, but he was fortunate to catch hold of a telephone pole that drifted his way. His colleagues were able to rescue him with the help of the rope.

An isolated house at Thengumthara was inaccessible even by boat, blocked by fallen trees for a distance of 1500 metres. Equipment needed such as wood-cutter and rope were taken there by boat, the obstacles were cleared, and the people rescued safely by the police. On the 17th a team led by SI Vijayarajan used a basket-boat to traverse two kms of neck-deep water in Puthoor and Kainoor, and attempted to rescue people who were stranded in the Kainoor temple auditorium, the Ezhuthachan Samajam, the NSS auditorium and on the top floor of houses in the area. However, when the people refused to move, they were provided with food and clothing and medicines. That evening the people were made aware of the gravity of the situation and they were transported to Mulayam safely by basket-boat or on strong shoulders (and in the case of dialysis patients, on stretchers)—the count of the rescued was 480, including the ill and the aged. From there, they were taken in police and other vehicles to the relief camp in Poochatti.

On hearing that people were stranded in the Idakunni sandbank, the police reached there, and brought 20 persons to safety wading through half a kilometre of neck-deep water. The bedridden and ailing Meenakshi (86 years) was seated in a chair and carried across the water on the shoulders of four policemen.

While engaged in rescue operations in Mannavu at Marathakara, the strong currents caused engine-failure of the 'Nagoor Andavan' boat which went out of control. Police swam against the current to the boat, tied strong ropes to it, and pulling the boat to the land, rescued the people in it.

Sri. Murali Gopalan, Commanding officer of the Indian Army who had come on leave to his home in Koorkencheri accompanied the police in boat and water in Puzhamballam, Kenoor and Thengumthara, and helped rescue a number of people. Moreover, he made his car available for the rescue efforts.

Thrissur Town West Police station

The station limits, which include kole fields, underwent intense flooding. Severe damage to person and property occurred in various places in the Thrissur West station limits.

In Pullezhi at the eastern tip of the Aenamavu bund in the border of the station within the Corporation limits, strong currents of water flowed into many houses on the 18th. A large number of houses in the station limits were submerged by water. People abandoned their houses and sought refuge in the houses of their relatives or the relief camps.

Christina Home, which sheltered around a hundred women including the mentally and physically challenged, orphans, and infants—two of whom were hardly 36 and 90 days old, went under around five feet of water in the morning of the 18th. Police and the local youth strove hard to rescue them all to safety with the help of small boats, tubes and large kitchen utensils.



Kuruppampady Police station

In the Mannuthy Police station limits, water entered the houses in the villages of Mulayani, Kozhukuli, Madakkathara and Ottukkara.

3.7 Palakkad District

Palakkad District

Nemmara Police station

Maniarkad Police station

Alathur Police station

Palakkad District

In a New Year's gift, Palakkad, abounding in 'paala' trees became part of Kerala state in 1957. It is indeed the 'granary' of Kerala, rich in paddy fields. History has chronicled the fact that the land known as 'Palakattussery' in many works of the Sangam era, later came to be known as 'Palakkad.' Along with its geographical diversity, Palakkad offers a rich cultural mix, a true variety of different cultures. It is the largest of all districts in Kerala with an area of 4480 square kilometers, 40% of which is forest land. The major tribal settlements of the state such as Attappadi and Nelliampathi are located here. To Palakkad which had grown accustomed to rising temperature, 'flood' was a somewhat unfamiliar word and concept. Apart from a few minor landslides and landslips, natural calamities were relatively unknown. However, the heavy rains that battered the land in the month of August left in their wake tales of great damage and destruction. Such tales came to be heard from every corner of the district that had heretofore been unaccustomed to any precautions against the calamity of heavy rain.

As a result of the heavy rains, the water in the 12 major dams in the district including Malampuzha, Mangalam, Pothundi, Parambikulam and Kanjirapuzha exceeded catchment capacity and the authorities were forced to throw open the shutters. In the incessant rains and the overflow from the dams, the Kalpathi, Chittur, Kunthi and Kanjirapuzha rivers overflowed their banks. When all the branches of the Bharathapuzha too overflowed, the bridges at Pattambi, Mayanoor and Cheruthuruthi went under water, and transport in the district, and in neighbouring districts came to a standstill. When traffic on NH 544 which was the main highway connecting Thrissur and Palakkad was barred completely, the entry of the Disaster Relief Force and other volunteers faced unavoidable delay.





Flood:
Death, Grievous Injury

Following the heavy rains on August 8th, landslides occurred in the district in Akalavaaram within the Malampuzha station limits, and at Kottamudi in the Walayar station limits, after which an alert warning was issued across the district.

Police engaged in rescue operations with the support of the public and co-ordinated the disaster management efforts. The landslides that occurred in Cherukad and Kaaradiyodu colony claimed a number of lives and caused the destruction of a large number of houses.

15 persons lost their lives in the floods in Palakkad district. This number would have been much higher were it not for the timely intervention of the police, other government departments, and the public which resulted in the evacuation of people from disaster-prone zones to places of safety. The police, the Fire force and other agencies rendered stellar service.

Table of Lives Lost

| Sl. No. | Police Station | No. of Deaths | Cause of Death |
|---------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | Nenmara (Cherumkad) | 10 | Landslide |
| 2 | Annarkad (Kaaradiyodu) | 3 | Landslide |
| 3 | Pattambi | 1 | Drowning |
| 4 | Alathur | 1 | Collapsed Wall |

Moreover, a number of houses in these regions were washed away in landslides. The situation in Nelliampathi, one of the major hilly areas of the district, was quite alarming. Most of the population in this area devoted to the cultivation of tea, coffee and oranges, are plantation labourers. A single forest path provides the only means of ingress.

Around 3000 persons were therefore cut off by the heavy rains that started on Friday the 17th of August 2018. Roads and bridges disappeared from sight in the heavy rain and the resultant landslips. Transport and communication facilities came to a standstill. The helicopter that set out for Nelliampathi on the 19th from Bimala in Kanjikode with food, medicine and drinking water was unable to land. Later, the Rapid Action Force together with the police and the public constructed a makeshift bridge and transported headloads of around 4000 kits of essential materials over 20 kms to the stranded populace of the region. Afterwards, 9 pregnant women and a group of nine aged persons were evacuated by helicopter from the area in two sorties on the 21st and the 22nd.

Besides, in continuing efforts to rescue the stranded, the services of two helicopters was requested of the Southern Air Command at Suloor in Coimbatore, and these were quickly made available.

To provide some relief to those who were forced to evacuate their houses without even a spare set of clothes, the District Chief of Police sought the assistance of the Tamil Nadu police to transport from Chennai, Coimbatore and Tiruppur the clothes collected by a number of voluntary organizations and these were then distributed in Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Thrissur too.



Nenmara Police station

Nenmara police station serves the panchayats of Vallangi, Nenmara, Ayilur, Thiruvazhiyad, and Kairadi in the Alathur division and all the estates in the Nelliampathi region. As these areas in the station limits were surrounded by hills, heavy losses occurred due to heavy rains and landslips.

These areas, which had begun to receive heavy rains from the first week of August woke up to shocking news on the 16th. A landslip had occurred in the Aluvassery-Cherumkad region in the station limits, in which three houses had been completely destroyed and 10 lives lost.

However, the police acted with lightning speed, reaching the spot in five minutes and rescuing five persons who were immediately taken to the hospital. The police also effectively controlled the crowd that had begun to gather there on hearing the news.

Police also immersed themselves in the task of recovering the bodies from the debris, a task which took 80 hours to complete.





Mannarkad Police station

Mannarkad police station falls under the Shoranur sub-division and serves the panchayats of Mannarkad, Kumaramputhur, Kanjirapuzha, Kottoppadam, Thenkara, Karimbuzha and Karakurissi.

As there are a number of low-lying areas along with hilly regions, many of the areas in the station limits had always been flood-prone. When Kunthipuzha overflowed its banks following the heavy rains in August, many parts of Mannarkad fell under water. The landslide in Karasiyodu colony was the cause of the greatest alarm. Karasiyodu is a colony area in Ambalapara in the Mannarkad station limits. Three persons lost their lives in the heavy downpour and landslips and a large number of people were totally isolated. The police had to strive long and hard to rescue the stranded and bring them to the relief camps.

Alathur Police station

Alathur Police station serves the panchayats of Alathur, Erimayoor, Kavasseri, Tharoor and Melarcode in the Alathur sub-division and some of the areas in Thenkurissi panchayat. The police were somewhat successful in mitigating the impact of the flood. The proactive presence of police from Alathur and

Vadakkancheri stations on the National highway at Kuthiran connecting Thrissur and Palakkad proved helpful in managing the smooth flow of traffic in the heavy rain. The heavy downpour had brought Padur and Thonikadavu under water. Alathur police strove manfully with the help of three fishing boats, two Friends

Club boats and a Fire Force boat and rescued around 150 persons. Moreover, the police in an extremely hazardous operation, succeeded in rescuing three persons in a pick-up van that had turned turtle and fallen into the river.

Table of Police Efforts in Relief and Rescue

| Operation | No. of Persons |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Rescue and Relocation | 10635 |
| Relief Camps | 119 |
| No. of Police Personnel in action | 1300 |









3.8

Malappuram District

Malappuram District

Karuvarakundu Police station

Vengara Police station

Parappanangadi Police station

Ponnani Police station

Vazhakad police station

Tirur Police station

Malappuram Police station

Pothukal Police station

Nilambur Police station

Edakkara Police station

Malappuram District

Malappuram district is bounded by hills and mountains in the east and by the sea in the west. Large areas of Malappuram district were affected by the flood of August 2018. 120 of the 138 villages in the district bore the brunt of the impact. Of the 48 deaths reported at the time, 28 were the result of landslides and landslips. Although the rescue and relief operations were hindered by the forces of nature and the susceptibility of the terrain, it must be said that timely warnings and evacuation of people to places of safety considerably mitigated the extent of the possible disaster. It could be said that a far greater disaster was thus prevented. 24734 were evacuated to the safety of 243 relief camps. 550 houses were completely destroyed and 4531 others faced partial destruction. The first figures speak of crop damage over 5550 hectares of land.

Three rivers provided the main cause of the water overflow in the district-Bharathappuzha, Chaliyar and Kadalundipuzha. The largest overflow of water was in the path of the Bharathappuzha, and the number of people who had to be rescued by boat were the people of these very regions-Tirur, Purathoor and Ponnani. When the Bharathappuzha diverted from its usual course, it created problems in the rescue operations. Further disaster accompanied the overflow of water from the Chaliyar in Vazhakad and from the Kadalundipuzha in Malappuram.

The flood and related suffering mainly affected the people living within the limits of 11 police stations of the district. Although the areas within the limits of the other police stations too were affected, the extent of the damage was not as severe. The police stations that bore the brunt of the floods were the following:



Karuvarakundu Police station

In the natural disaster of August 2018, within the limits of the Karuvarakundu station, in two stages, major and minor landslides, landslips, and floods occurred in the following regions that are in the buffer zone of the Silent Valley—Kalkundu, Kerala Estate, Manjalanchola, Puttala colony, Atti, Panthra, Pandenpara, Koombanmala, Cheri and Iringattiri. The impact of this was borne directly or indirectly by around 400 families.

At the panchayat level, the rehabilitation committee formed with the President of the Panchayat as the Chairman and the Karuvarakundu SHO as Convenor started two relief camps which provided shelter to 516 distressed persons belonging to 159 households. They were provided with good quality food and other essential amenities. 25 persons belonging to the Scheduled tribes were inmates of these camps.

25 families whose houses were completely destroyed and who had no other relatives to help them were rehabilitated in suitable dwellings either at no rent or, in some cases with the rent for the first six months borne by the committee.

To quote Jyotheendrakumar, SHO Karuvarakundu Station, who led the rescue and relief operations in the station limits:

“Karuvarakundu was one of the places in Malappuram district that bore the greatest brunt of the floods and the landslides. After the very first landslide, we sent alert messages and requests for assistance to various clubs and Whatsapp groups such as the Cherambu Volunteers Group, the Trauma-care Group, and others who had been cooperating with the police initiatives that had been established as part of the Janamaithri Police programme, with the result that around a hundred youthful volunteers were ready for action right then. Six persons who refused to move out of their houses in Kalkundu insisting that no harm would come to them, were coaxed out somewhat forcefully. In the landslide that occurred the very next day, their house and the vehicles parked in front of it were washed away.

The fact that I could save 42 lives in these two incidents made the experience unforgettable for me in my career as a police officer.”



Vengara Police station

Water rose over Palachiramadu, Kallackayam, Illiplackal, Pandikasala, Muthalamadu, Mambeeri, Kooriyad and Purackad and other regions in the Vengara station limits on 15th August. As rescue operations were hindered by the strong currents, and knowing that the police vehicles would find it impossible to navigate the terrain, contact was immediately established with all the available local fishermen and their services requested for the rescue efforts. Vengara was in fact one of the first places in the state to recruit local fishermen in the rescue operations. Trauma-care volunteers, members of voluntary organizations, fishermen, members of the Janamaithri council and the general public too participated in the endeavour. Around 3000 persons were housed in 7 camps.

On learning that people were stranded in their houses in the aftermath of the August 2018 floods in our neighbouring village of Vengara, we fishermen immediately went there in our boats. However, when we went there we found that the situation there was far more precarious than even the sea-storms that we were used to. Unable to gauge the depth of the water, three of our boats were destroyed. However, the timely instructions of the local people and the police were extremely helpful.

When I saw an aged lady struggling to get on a boat and I bent my body for her to use as a stepping-stone, it turned out to be the most memorable experience of my entire life. I will always be proud of the fact that we fishermen could rescue thousands of people from the flood.

Jaisal

Post Flood Operations

The timely efforts of the police at the time of the floods gained the force great popular recognition. Moreover, the contributions of the police to the post-flood cleaning efforts went a great deal to reduce the distance between police and public. As part of ‘Operation Jalaraksha - 2’ it was possible to clean up more than a hundred houses, and with the help of the Revenue department and the general public to distribute kits to all who were affected by the floods.



During the flood, Jaisal, who was the administrator of the area, was seen by the fishermen as a stepping stone for an aged woman to board the house boat was active in the rescue operations in Malappuram in the Vengara station limits.

Parappanangadi Police station

The rescue operations in Parappanangadi were led by Station House Officer SI Ranjith, a native of Kuttanad in Alappuzha, where the floods had unleashed their worst fury. It is remarkable that, even as rescue operations in the Parappanangadi station limits were being carried out, a team of 60 fishermen in six boats led by an Additional SI was deployed for relief and rescue to North Parur.

Parappanangadi is a coastal region in Malappuram district. Floods occurred when the Kadalundipuzha overflowed its banks. The floods caused the greatest damage in the natural course of the river at Attachangadi, Ullanam, Kootumudachi and other areas. As the flow of the water was quite strong, rescue operations were hampered and the services of fishermen was obtained on request from areas such as Chettipadi and Kadalundi in the station limits. Rescue operations were thus conducted in places inaccessible to police vehicles, using canoes and fibre-boats. Since there were a large number of people in the station limits who depended on fishing for their livelihood, rescue operations could be conducted without delay. 7784 persons sought refuge in 14 camps.



Ponnani Police station

The water that overflowed from the Bharathappuzha was the source of problems in the police station limits. In the first overflow of water on the 9th of August, water entered nine shanties built on public land on the banks of the Bharathappuzha, near the Ponnani Civil Service Academy, but the inhabitants returned to their dwellings on the 13th after the water had receded. However, when floods followed an even stronger downpour on the 15th, their sheds were destroyed and all of them sought refuge in the camps. When water flowed into the first camp too, they were again transferred to a safer camp in vehicles provided by the police, who also took care of their essential requirements.

The fact that the police and the public shared the task of rescue and relief during the floods and the cleaning-up operations thereafter not only helped to bring police and public closer, but also helped to create a peaceful atmosphere all around.

When water flowed into our dwellings on August 9th, we had moved out to safer places and returned on the 13th after the water receded. However, when the water rose again on the 15th our houses were destroyed and all our belongings washed away in the flood. We immediately sought refuge in the camp on the premises of the Civil Service Academy. However, by night-time, water began to flow into the camp, sending us all into a panic. Then the police team led by the Ponnani Inspector Sir took us all in a bus to the safety of a nearby school.

Ramla, Ponnani



Kondotty Police station

Kondotty station limits are particularly prone to landslips. The highest number of deaths in Malappuram district occurred in the limits of this station. Kondotty, which has neither coast nor river, gets its water from the canal which has its origin in the Urakam hills and flows along the town to Ramanattukara. When the water rose to very high levels, Kondotty National highway and the regions around Pulickal and Ayikkarapadi were flooded. In the Thaitthottam zone, a number of houses went under water. A child that had gone to bathe in the Kuzhisseri Kuzhlyamparambil canal was washed away in the current. In Kottapuram and Poochal 12 persons lost their lives in landslips. Although the inhabitants of this region marked by small and large hills had been evacuated fearing the possibility of landslips, a group of nine neighbours who had returned to repair a hen-coop lost their lives in the landslide that occurred 167 while they were engaged in that unfortunate endeavour. Moreover, 3 persons in Poochal died when their house came under an avalanche of soil in a landslide. Poochal and Kottappuram are situated in Pulickal and Ayikkarapadi, places where hills had been demolished in quarrying work for the renovation of the Kanpur airport and the Kozhikode bypass, and for the construction of the Indian Oil Corporation plant. Since land that has suffered such destruction is relatively cheap, more and more houses are built in these disaster-prone zones, thus compounding the danger. Three people died in Poochal on August 15th, when their house collapsed. There were 295 persons staying in 7 camps in the station limits.

Kondotty was one of the areas worst-hit by the floods in Malappuram district. 13 people of this region lost their lives in similar but largely unrelated incidents. Landslips that aggravated the flood situation were the major cause of these incidents. Although people had been evacuated from flood-prone zones, nine persons in a group that had returned home just to repair a hen-coop, tragically lost their lives in the landslide that occurred while they were engaged in that activity. Rather miraculously, one person was rescued, the sole survivor of that ill-fated team effort, a tribute to the never-say-die rescue efforts of the police. Although the terrain was extremely hazardous, the police could rescue the survivor only because they managed to get there before it was too late.

Vazhakad Police station

With the very first rains on August 9th, most of the regions in the station limits came under water. A camp was then started in Azhivilam. However, with the strong downpour that occurred on August 15th, water entered the camp too. As the area had always been prone to flood during heavy rains, the people had taken precautions, considerably easing the anxiety of the police. Police reported for duty at the station in small canoes and country boats as the water in the surrounding area had risen to between five and six feet. Besides the police boat 'Chaliyar Rakshagan' (Saviour of the Chaliyar) locally available resources like rubber tubes and country boats were also made use of in the rescue efforts. Around 1500 persons were housed in 13 camps.

On August 15th, on learning that Vazhakad station was under water, we sped there in the 'Chaliyar Rakshagan' [Saviour of Chaliyar] police-boat. As the currents were too strong, we were forced to abandon the attempt. We then went to other areas and rescued a number of people including pregnant women and infants.

— Badarul Civil Police Officer

Tirur Police station

This was one of the areas most badly affected by the floods in Malappuram district. The floods were caused when the Bharathappuzha overflowed and diverted from its normal course. The flood caused the greatest damage in the course of the river through Thirunavaya, Purathoor, Channavattam, Muttannoor, Mangalam, Pullooni, Eloor, Kavilakad and such places. As signs of flooding were noticed in these regions on the 9th of August, a large number of people from low-lying areas had been evacuated to safety. However, when the water rose without warning on the 15th of August, many others were left stranded in their homes.

As the river had diverted from its normal course, the police could rescue people from their houses in Purathoor only with great difficulty and at great peril to their own safety. The police team had embarked on the rescue operations in huge lorries, braving the strong currents. Fishermen were then contacted and their help was sought in the rescue efforts.

Around 6000 persons were rescued from there. Meanwhile an ailing householder had to be coaxed out forcibly when he refused to be rescued to safety. Tirur station Sub-Inspector Sumesh Sudhakar led the police rescue team on a life threatening rescue mission across places that even the local populace feared to tread.

Regions inaccessible to other vehicles were navigated for rescue with the help of small canoes and fibre boats. As there were a number of fishermen in the station limits, the rescue operations were not delayed. The fact that there were excellent swimmers among the police aided to rescue efforts. Besides fishermen, Trauma-care volunteers, members of voluntary organizations, members of the Janamithri council and the Coastal Safety council, and the general public too participated in the rescue efforts. By the time the Army arrived, the police had already evacuated the entire populace to safety.

More than **12000** persons were housed in 25 camps in the station limits.

In the heavy downpour on the 15th, when water overflowed the Bharathapuzha, we got the information that a number of people in the Purathoor region were stranded, and we instantly sprang into action and reached the spot. Water had also begun to enter the first camp in which people had sought refuge after the first heavy rain. The heavy currents prevented the use of small vehicles. Later we procured a huge lorry for the rescue efforts and managed to reach the low-lying

areas purely because of the presence of mind shown by the driver. After we reached, we contacted the fisherfolk and sought their help in the rescue efforts. We were then able to rescue around 6000 people from that single spot.



Malappuram Police station

The landslide that occurred in Karuvarakundu, Nilambur and the overflow of water from the Kadalundipuzha river after the heavy rains caused floods in Malappuram, Kizhakkethala, Kavungal, Valyangadi, Pattarkadavu, and Thamarakuzhi. Most of the houses in the region came under water, and household utensils were washed away. Water began to rise in these areas on the 15th of August. Police rescued a number of people stranded in various establishments at great peril to their own lives.

The rescue of 25 children including a 4 month-old infant from the Kattungal CWC, and a group of 150 students of nursing from the flooded Orchid Hospital were feathers in the cap of the police.

As the river had diverted from its normal course, most of the houses below the Collectorate were submerged under water.

Moreover, when the National Highway went under water, people turned up from everywhere to witness the spectacle hindering in no small measure the rescue efforts of the police. Excellent swimmers in the police force, however, provided a fillip to the operation. These officers rescued 20 persons including women and children from Valiyaparambu, and 420 persons including 20 migrant labourers from Malappuram, and took them to the relief camps.

1200

individuals were given refuge in y camps.



Edakkara Police station

The natural disaster of August 2018 wreaked great havoc in the Edakkara station limits. In various places in the station limits, such as Kattadi, Onnampotti, Kunnath, and Muttakadavu, the water rose to a height of 2 metres, causing great damage to crops and destruction of houses. Police evacuated to safety around ten families from Kattadi, eight households from Kunnath, eleven individuals from Onnampotti, and 19 migrant labourers from Muttakadavu. Many roads in the station limits were water-logged, and the traffic had to be diverted.

Nilambur Police station

Nilambur region was assaulted both by floods and landslides in the natural disaster of August 2018. Tragedy struck in the form of landslides in the hilly regions in the station limits such as Chaliyar, Akampadani, Pongalloor and Moolepadani, and by water overflow into areas like Nilambur, Idvanna, Ramarkoodu, Karimbuzha, Chanthakunnu, and Namboorpotti. On August 8th, water flowed into various parts of Nilambur, blocking the flow of traffic.

On August 19th, many of the places in the station limits came under water and many landslides occurred. A large number of houses went under water in Namboorpotti when the river diverted from its normal course. Police used boats to rescue three families stranded here. As many of the people in the areas where the landslides occurred had been evacuated in previous operations assisted by the Fire Force, there were no fatalities. The evacuation of 63 persons from the landslide-prone Vettikakali colony with the help of the NDRE helped prevent a horrendous tragedy in the area. Such precautionary measures helped avoid considerable loss of life or limb. Water rose in an uncontrolled manner in the low-lying regions of Nilambur because much of the wetland had been reclaimed and houses built thereon. 1355 persons sought refuge in 16 camps in the station limits.

Pothukal Police station

Pothukal station which is situated at the eastern tip of the district is noted for the presence of several divasi colonies. On August 8th, the first landslide in the station limits occurred in the Pettiyampara colony. 7 houses were completely destroyed and 4 others suffered partial damage. Moreover, 6 lives were claimed by the landslide. That very night a team led by the SI, Pothukal, went to the colony and evacuated all the remaining inhabitants to safety.

On the 10th, the six bodies were recovered from the debris. In Mathimoola colony in the 4th ward of Chaliyar panchayat in the floods that resulted from the overflow of water from Kanjirapuzha, 57 houses went under water and the residents were left stranded in the colony. They were evacuated to safety with the help of the Fire force and the public. Two relief camps were started on the 9th.









DISTRICT CRIME RECORDS BUREAU
MALAPPURAM
ജില്ലാ ക്രൈം റിക്കോർഡ്സ് ബ്യൂറോ
മലപ്പുറം

പ്രമുഖ ദുരൂഹത ബാധിതർക്ക്
കൈത്താങ്ങു
MALAPPURAM DISTRICT POLICE
KPA, KPOA, KPSOA & KPA TELE
MALAPPURAM

3.9

Kozhikode District

Kozhikode District

Thamarasseri Police station

Thiruvambady Police station

Mukkom Police station

Kodeacheri Police station

Balussery Police station

Koorachundu Police station

Thottipalam Police station

Kozhikode District

Kozhikode district comprises four taluks—Vadakara, Kailandi, Thamarasseri and Kozhikode. The greatest damage and loss of lives occurred in villages such as Koodaranji, Thiruvambadi, Kodencheri, and Poorappadi in Thamarasseri taluk. 34 persons lost their lives in the natural disaster that struck Kozhikode district from June to August.



Thamarasseri Police station

In the Thamarasseri station limits, widespread landslides and avalanches of water from the hills occurred in two phases in Karinjolamala, Mattikkunnu and Kanappankundu. 15 persons lost their lives as a result of this. On the 14th of June, a landslide in Karinjolamala claimed the lives of 14 persons, caused considerable crop damage, entirely destroyed 5 houses and left two houses in a state of partial destruction. On getting information of the landslide, Thamarasseri police sped to the site and conducted rescue operations with the help of the Fire Force and the public.

While 5 houses were completely destroyed, and all the inhabitants of four of these houses were covered by the debris, and the police initiated immediate rescue operations, it was a difficult task to recover the bodies.

On learning that there were more persons trapped under the debris, the help of the National Disaster Relief Force was sought and a Control Room for co-ordination of rescue efforts was established in a house near the site of the tragedy. Sri P. Prakash, District Coordinator of the Haritha Kerala Mission whose contributions to the rescue and recovery efforts were immense, and who chalked out the guidelines for the search and recovery, deserves special mention. Dredgers, the dog squad, and the latest technology including ground-penetrating radar were all made use of.

Thamarasseri SI Sayooj Kumar and his team were engaged in rescue operations in Kaithapoyil in the station limits where water had flowed into houses after the heavy downpour on the 8th of August. While engaged in this action, the team received the information that a landslide and an avalanche of water from the hills had occurred in Kannappankundu in the Puthuppaadi panchayat. A police team sped to the spot in Kannappankundu and with the help of the Fire force and the public, rescued those who had been stranded in their homes. Meanwhile, minor and major landslides occurred in around 18 places in Mattikkunnu, as a result of which the force of the water avalanche from the hills became stronger and the houses and shops in the region were submerged under water. Following this, Rijith Mon, 24 years, who had been riding along Mattikkunnu bridge in a car was trapped in the currents inside the vehicle and his body recovered from the river near Valliyodu Angadi in the afternoon of the 9th. At 2.30 pm on the 14th, landslide struck Kannappankundu again, and four families who had been cut off by this event were rescued to the safety of the relief camp. Those who had lost their dwellings in the disaster were helped by the panchayat to acquire rented accommodation.

The words of Ushakumari,
Member of Mattikkunnu ward,
The 2nd ward of Puthuppaadi panchayat, reflect her sincere
gratitude.

**“Although momentarily taken
aback by the ferocity of the sudden
landslide and avalanche of water
from the hills, the police, voluntary
organizations and the public were
quick to seize the initiative.
Although the panchayat started the
relief camp, we were only required
to oversee the co-ordination of
efforts. There was a steady inflow
of help from all quarters. Even
after the relief camps closed the
inmates went back with a supply of
essentials to last them at least a
month. Many who had lost their
houses have been provided with
accommodation rented by the
panchayat.”**



Thiruvambady Police station

Floods occurred in the Cherusserimala, Kalpini, Thiruvambadi bus stand, and the Pulloorambara regions of Koodaranji Panchayat in the Thiruvambady station limits. At 1.45 am on the 16th of August, landslides occurred in Koodaranji and Kalpini, and 2 houses were damaged. Two persons of a family lost their lives. Thiruvambadi police reached the spot instantly and rescued a stranded woman named Bindu. 12 houses in the locality were completely destroyed. Thiruvambady police gave monetary assistance to the people of these households. Police contributed fifteen thousand rupees for repair of the houses of the inmates of the relief camps. In places inaccessible to the Fire force by land, the police conducted rescue operations with the help of private boats.

Mukkom Police station

Landslides and flooding occurred in Iruvazhinjipuzha, Agastyamoozhi, Mambakkam, Aanayamkunnu, Thottumukkam, Angadi, Pallithazham, and Pulpayarambu in the Mukkam municipality, and in the Kodyathoor and Karasseri panchayats in the Mukkam station limits. At around 2 am on the 15th of August, a landslide occurred in Koombara hills, and consequent to this, the Iruvazhinjipuzha overflowed its banks causing floods that brought under water even the Bent-pipe bridge in Mukkam. However, even as the water had begun to rise in the daylight hours of the 14th, timely action by the police, the Fire force and voluntary organizations had ensured the evacuation of the populace of this flood-prone zone to places of safety. Jayaprakash, Leading Fire Officer of the Mukkam Fire Force, opined that the services of the youth and other members of the Rescue Volunteers Team who had been given government training was quite fruitful in the hour of need.

Following the disaster, those affected were given shelter in the 30 relief camps that functioned in the Mukkam municipality, and in the Karasseri and Kodyathoor panchayats, where they were also supplied with their essential requirements.

Kodencheri Police station

In the landslide and related natural disaster in Koolothupara in the Kodencheri station limits, two houses were damaged, and 15 persons from 6 families in the locality were evacuated to the safety of the relief camps set up in Mekkavu Anganawadi and Chemmaruthayi Anganawadi. As the SI of Kodencheri sped with his team to Koolothupara immediately on receipt of the information, and evacuated the inhabitants to safety, loss of life was avoided.

Balusseri Police station

Floods affected Naduvanoor, Mannamkavu, Balussery, Manjapalam, Kottanada, Iyyad, Thuruthiyadu, Wakayad, Nirmullur, Panangad and Nalmanda in the Balussery station limits. Rescue operations by the Balussery police in collaboration with the National Disaster Relief Force, the Fire Force, and the Revenue department helped to reduce the impact of the calamity. A seven-year old boy from Iyyad, Muhammed Yasin, was drowned in the current. Following the floods, those affected were evacuated to 21 relief camps and their essential requirements were provided.



Koorachundu Police station

In the Koorachundu station limits, the floods in Kariyathupara and Koovathumchola, and the landslide in Kakkayam prevented road transport to the Kakkayam dam region. A team led by the Koorachundu SI braved the currents and rescued those who had

been stranded in Kakkayam. 180 families were housed in the relief camps in Koorachundu, Kallanodu, Kakkayam, Kariyathumpara, and Colony mukku. The policemen on duty at the Kakkayam dam who were stranded there when the road collapsed in the landslip, were rescued to safety by the Koorachundu police.

Thottilpalam Police station

Floods and great damage resulted from the landslides and landslips that occurred at Churam 10th Curve, Chungakutti Churam 6th Curve, in the Thottilpalam village of Kavilampara panchayat between the 11th and the 16th of August. 13 families in the Peedikapara colony were evacuated to the government

shelter after the Kadantharapuzha overflowed its banks. On the 14th, when water from the Peruvannamoozhi dam flowed into the Kadantharapuzha at Kanjirolippeedika, causing it to overflow its banks, as a precautionary measure a relief camp was opened in St Joseph's School, Poorampara, and 148 individuals from 48 families were given shelter there.



3.10

Wayanad District

Wayanad District

Turkey Life-savers Society

Rescue And Relief Efforts by the Police

Kambalakad Police station

Thalapuzha Police station

Vythiri Police station

Thirunelli Police station

Padinjarethara Police station

Vellamunda Police station

Panamaram Police station

Wayanad after the disaster

Disaster Management Activities and The Janamaithri Safety Councils

Wayanad District

Wayanad District was the twelfth in the state when it was formed on 1 November 1980. Wayanad is a region blessed with geographical diversity and a salubrious climate. Agriculture provides the foundation for the socio-economic framework of Wayanad. It is also the only district in the state that borders both the neighbouring states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The only river that flows across the district is the east-running Kabini. The total area of the district is 2131 square kms. 38% of this is forest land. The Banasura and Karapuzha dams of the district help provide for irrigation and the production of hydro-electric power.

Diverse tribes inhabit certain parts of the district. Irula, Paniya, Kurichya and the Kattanaicker have lived for generations in its villages and deep forests. The greatest natural disaster that Wayanad had to face since 1924 were the landslides and floods of August 2018. In the heavy downpour, dams, lakes and rivers overflowed and landslips occurred in a number of locations. The tragedy struck a near-deadly blow at the agricultural system that had been the backbone of the district, and turned the general peace and quiet that had reigned over the district into a situation that could have degenerated into sheer chaos. However, the rescue and relief operations that were set in motion were on an unprecedented scale.

38,250

persons were given shelter in
424 relief camps in the district.

Rahul Gandhi
Visiting Wayanad



All government departments, police, around 320 Fire Force personnel, officers of the Revenue and the Health departments, local and external residents, various voluntary organizations, social and community workers, everyone contributed whole-heartedly to every stage of the rescue operations. The supply of essential materials for the relief efforts came from outside the country, as well as from various parts of the nation, and the state. The Revenue department officials took upon themselves the onerous responsibility of providing for 38250 inmates of 424 relief camps. After the floods, medical assistance was provided to around 19190 individuals in the district in the relief camps as well as in 888 medical camps.

The police, Student Police Cadets, IR Battalion, KAP IV Battalion Training cadets, members of the Safety Council, and others played a significant role in the post-flood rehabilitation and cleaning operations too. A number of welfare schemes have been launched by the local self-government bodies to provide financial assistance to agricultural farmers and milk-producers.

A team of officials including the District Police Chief, and others from the Collectorate and the Revenue department led the rescue and relief operations in Wayanad district. 550 personnel of the local police, and teams from the District Armed Police, the India Reserve Battalion, the Home Guard, and Student Police Cadets worked together with commendable efficiency for the success of the rescue and relief efforts in the district. The police worked closely with the local residents at considerable peril in challenging terrain to rescue 7793 persons. Police also took the initiative to procure the equipment and vehicles required for these efforts. Timely action was taken to issue cautionary warnings in areas prone to flood and landslides and to evacuate the populace of such regions. Police also led from the front,

along with the general public and members of the People's Safety Councils, in the post-flood rehabilitation and the cleaning of houses, schools, community halls and government institutions. As most of the police personnel in the district were local residents, they had to take part in the rescue and relief operations even while their own families were facing the fury of the floods.

The police force suffered losses amounting to around Rs. 6,26,099/- in the floods. Besides, the Vythiri and Panmaram stations were completely destroyed. Losses from these two stations alone amount to around Rs. 5, 46, 00,000/-. Moreover police personnel who took part in the rescue and relief have reported other losses including permanent damage to their uniforms and equipment.



Turkey Life-Savers Society

This is a community of youths based in Kalpetta in Wayanad. The members of the Turkey Jeevan Raksha Samithi have shared the valuable lessons learnt from their personal experience of saving people from flood and landslides at great peril to their own lives. The Society has been active as rescuers and relief providers and as angels of mercy in Wayanad for over half a decade.

The Wayanad Social Service Society, Shreyas, M.S. Swaminathan Foundation, Turkey Jeevan Raksha Samithi and other organizations helped in the rescue and relief and in the rehabilitation efforts. It should be specially mentioned that the members of the Turkey Jeevan Raksha Samithi extended stellar service in the hazardous rescue efforts, working closely with the police and the Fire Force to rescue those stranded in flooded areas. It should also be recorded that the voluntary organizations also strove to make a difference to lighten the mental stress of the flood - affected by organizing cultural Programmes in various relief camps.

Rescue and Relief efforts by the Police

| Sl. No. | Action | Number |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | People rescued and evacuated to the camps | 7793 |
| 2 | Roads repaired and made traffic-ready | 208 |
| 3 | Medical camps organized with police assistance | 84 |
| 4 | Clothes and Food distribution camps | 159 |
| 5 | Colonies where food and clothes were distributed | 475 |
| 6 | House cleaned | 1494 |
| 7 | Schools cleaned | 29 |
| 8 | Community halls/ other institutions cleaned | 7 |
| 9 | Police personnel who took part in the cleaning efforts | 630 |
| 10 | Student police cadets who participated in cleaning efforts | 672 |
| 11 | Members of the public who helped in the cleaning efforts | 730 |

Floods-Table of Casualties

| Sl. No. | Police Station | Number | Cause |
|---------|-------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Kalpetta | 1 | Landslide |
| 2 | Vythiri | 2 | Landslide |
| 3 | Thalapuzha | 3 | 1 Drowning, 2 Landslide |
| 4 | Sulthan's Battery | 1 | House Collapse |
| 5 | Thalappuzha | 1 | Drowning |
| 6 | Thirunelli | 1 | Drowning |

Kambalakad Police station

Kambalakad Police station serves the villages of Kottathara, Anchukunnu and Kambalakad in the Kalpetta sub-division. Because there are a number of low-lying areas in it, the severest effects of the floods in the district were recorded in the station limits. Rains occurred in the station limits from the 8th of August. Because of the threat of floods, timely action was initiated the very same day to evacuate people from the adivasi tribal areas to the relief camps. Inhabitants of the Vyshyan colony, Kolavayal colony, Kallatti, Venniyodu and Kottathara were among those evacuated to the safety of the camps. On August 9th, when the shutters of the Banasura Sagar dam were raised, the threat of floods became stronger and a number of low-lying areas in the station limits came under water.

Residents of Mylaady, Cheriya Mottakkunnu, Kolakky Mottakkunnu, Palampoyil, and Kannamvetty colony were rescued in a very intrepid manner. Those who were not able to travel to the camps were supplied with essential requirements by boat and raft. 1365 persons were evacuated to the camps. Policemen were assigned to provide for their security. Day and night patrolling was effectively set in place.

We strove very hard during the floods to evacuate those who lived near the river banks and in the inner villages to the safety of the relief camps. With the help of the public and the members of the Janamaithri Suraksha Samithy, we managed to supply food and other essentials to those who could not move to the camps.

K.V. Ajesh,
Sub-Inspector
Kambalakad



Thalappuzha Police station

Thalappuzha Police station serves the villages of Tavinjal, Peria, and Walad in Wayanad district. The station limits received heavy rainfall from the 7th of August, and strong currents flowed along the lakes and canals. In various places the normal flow of water in the canals was disrupted by landslides and the low-lying regions soon came under water. Transport on the Mananthavady - Thalassery and Mananthavadi - Iritty roads came to a standstill because of landslips. Police procured JCBs and tipper lorries and managed to partially clear the road for traffic with the assistance of the public. Landslides occurred in Walad, Makkimala and Thalappuzha, and flooding in Alaatil, and Peria.

Fatalities were few because of the rescue efforts by police and public and because the people of distress-prone regions had been evacuated to safety as a precautionary measure in good time. Relief materials were distributed to the residents of Walad, Iruvanthoor, Peria, Alaatil, Vayyodu colony, Mundiyyath colony, and Abhayanagar colony. Night-time patrol was made quite effective. Thalappuzha Police station was also successful in gaining the support of the public and People's Safety Council in the relief efforts.

Vythiri Police station

Vythiri Police station serves the ecologically significant villages of Achuranam, Chundel, Kannathikavala. In the heavy downpour on the 8th of August, a landslide occurred right above the station at 11pm, and the station was filled with dirt and filth. By the timely action of the police, the residents of the four houses in the neighbourhood and the police in the station escaped unscathed.

By dawn on the 9th, landslides had occurred in various places in the Vythiri station limits and road transport had come to a complete standstill. Transport was blocked in around 9 locations by fallen trees and landslips. The Mysore-Kozhikode Inter-state highway was closed to traffic. The rising floods in Kavinmoola and the landslides in Vythiri hindered the rescue operations of the police. Still police were able to spearhead the disaster management operations with the assistance of the public.

As a holiday location which provides a perennial attraction for tourists from India and abroad, it became necessary to evacuate travellers from the accident-prone areas, and to introduce restrictive measures in tourist sites such as Pookodu lake. The police acted with commendable efficiency in providing security to the flood-relief camps, and in setting up patrol units in various places.

What happened that night in the Vythiri Police Station.

Pramod Papappachen and Policeman Rafeek, who were on customary sentry duty, on noticing a uncontrolled upflow of water and dirt from below their feet, and comprehending the danger, ran uphill to warn the residents of that area and helped evacuate children and the ailing with the help of the public, to safe locations. People could only look on as a part of the hill collapsed on top of the police station with a sound as loud as an explosion. Five of six people who had been buried under their houses that had same time, were collapsed at the rescued from the debris.

A number of lives were saved in this timely action by the police.



Thirunelli Police station

Thirunelli police station is nestled within the Tholpetty Wildlife Sanctuary where Waynad district borders the state of Karnataka. In the heavy downpour on the 8th of August, when the Baveli river overflowed, various places in the station limits were cut off. 12 relief camps were opened in the station limits and 557 persons stranded by the floods were evacuated to the safety of the camps. Police personnel had to negotiate the difficult forest paths of the landslide-prone terrain to successfully accomplish this feat. The 25 police personnel of the station took part in the rescue efforts as one.

Although the landslides in four locations affected transport and hindered the rescue operations, equipment such as JCB, woodcutting saw, and rope were put to use to clear the roads and re-establish traffic. The help of the public at the sites, and the procurement of the necessary equipment helped the progress of the rescue efforts. Necessary facilities for the accommodation of the inmates of the camps were made available by police and public.

Police were assigned duty in the camps night and day to provide the necessary security. In addition to strengthening the customary night-patrol, the disaster-prone areas were under constant police surveillance.

Our main challenge was to evacuate the adivasi tribals from the inner forests to safe locations. We managed to remove all the obstacles in our path such as fallen trees and heaps of displaced soil, to bring the populace to safety. We were also able to transport essential materials to the relief camps, with the assistance of the public.

ASI Muhammed,

Thirunelli Police station



Vellamunda Police Station

Vellamunda station serves the villages of Vellamunda and Pannigalwode. A number of places in the station limits fall close to the catchment area of the Banasura Sagar Dam. As there are a number of adverse colonies close to the forest land, this was the area worst affected by the disaster.

On receipt of information from the police station, the inhabitants of the regions close to the Banasura Sagar Dam were evacuated to safety by measures that were undertaken in collaboration with the Revenue department and voluntary organisations. As the fire force possessed only a limited number of boats, police procured boats from several sources for the evacuations.

When transport stood, the Mananthavady-Kottadi road was disrupted by fallen trees, timely action was taken with the help of the fire force and woodcutters to clear the road for traffic. The vehicles were then taken to the schools at Palayana, Tharuvana, Pullickal and Cheralang in vehicles of the police and private individuals.

The relief camps were visited regularly and the supply of essential materials to the camps was carried out in the early stages with the assistance of the public. Essential materials were also made available to those living in isolated regions of the inner forest. A massive supply of relief materials was received at the station from voluntary organisations and individuals and steps were taken to distribute these among the needy.

Padinjarethara Police Station

The region was hit by the natural disaster in Wyanad district for within the limits of this police station, which serves the villages of Padinjarethara, Kuppladillara, and Tharayodu. Many ecologically significant areas including the Banasura Sagar Dam and its catchment areas are located here.

On the 11th, when the flow of water increased, and the slotters of the dam were opened to a height of 3.85 metres, the water rose to alarming levels over areas such as Madakupara, Varanpatta, Parganjikoll, and Pappusseladawa and a large number of houses went under water. Mudslides, landslides and landslides at various places in the villages and the inner forest caused damage to houses and obstructed transport.

Padinjarethara police station rendered stellar service all these days. Boats belonging to the Forest department, the Banasura Hydro-Electric Project and the ITTC Kottadi were procured and with the help of local residents, people who had been stranded by the floods were transported to the safety of the camps. The services of local volunteers were coordinated to make JCBs and wood-cutting and other equipment available wherever required.

People in the camps in regions that had been cut off by the floods, such as Palampatti, Northkudi and Parganjikoll were given a steady supply of food and other essential supplies.

Police took the initiative to ensure the steady supply of essential materials to the camps from the beginning. Police personnel were assigned the duty of providing security to the camps, and day and night patrolling was intensified in the disaster-prone areas. Timely action by police, voluntary organisations and the public helped in the co-ordination of rescue efforts without any loss of life or limb. Police conducted a number of post-flood medical camps and co-ordinated the distribution of the relief materials collected by various organisations. Those who had suffered damages in the floods were asked to fill a form for compensation by the village authorities and a committee was set up by the Janamathi Council to provide assistance to them in the endeavour. Padinjarethara police rendered prompt service giving priority to the complaints whenever it was time.

Thondernadu Police Station

Thondernadu Police station was infuscated from Vellamunda station in an inaugural function on the 11th of September, to serve the villages of Thondernadu and Karijangad. A large number of people in the station limits suffered the after-effects of the overflow of water from the opened slotters of the Banasura Sagar Dam. From the inaugural day, the focus of the station has been on relief activities. The relief camps were visited regularly and a constant supply of essential materials was ensured. Particular care was taken to supply food and other essential materials to the tribals who lived in the inner forest. Steps were taken to organise medical camps at various locations in the station limits.

Police took the initiative to distribute the food and clothing collected by voluntary organisations and individuals among the inhabitants of the 28 colonies in the station limits. Police participated in and provided full support to the post-flood cleaning activities organized by voluntary organisations and the public in houses, school and community halls and similar locations.

Panamaram Police Station

This station, in the Kappetta sub-division serves the village of Panamaram, parts of the Kaduvayal village and certain regions of the Cherukuttor village. Most of the local police come then livelihood by means of agriculture and related occupations. Large-scale flooding occurred in Manthourveya, Panamam and Panamaram town. Panamaram police station which is situated beside the river, came completely under water. During the rescue operations, police issued timely warning announcements over loudspeaker in various places in the station limits. Vehicles such as JCBs, tipper lorries and jeeps required for the rescue efforts were procured and deployed as required in the disaster hit areas. In places where transport had been obstructed by landslides, police took ad hoc measures to clear the roads for traffic. Timely action by police and public helped to remove valuable station documents and equipment to safe locations. In an audit conducted after the floods, it was observed that the rented building in which the police station had functioned was rendered unusable and the loss from damage to government property in the station zone amounted to four lakhs of rupees. Janamathi volunteers from various places were brought together for the rescue efforts. More and more people from flood-prone areas were evacuated to the relief camps.

Police, voluntary organisations and the public also collaborated well in rehabilitating those who had been displaced by the floods.

Police took the initiative to distribute the relief materials collected from various sources wherever they were required, including all the adivasi colonies. Those who could not go to the relief camps were supplied with relief material through the Janamathi councils. Police also led and co-ordinated the efforts of various voluntary organisations in the cleaning of houses, schools and community halls. Two village officer employees who tried to divert the relief materials meant for the camps for their private use were booked by the police and a case was registered against them (Cr. No. 298/18). The accused were arrested and taken to the magistrates court.

To quote Chacko as a representative of the tribal community, the socio-economic group worst hit by the tragedy,

The six of us work in the fields and eke out our daily existence with the little money that we get. For the last two weeks, we could not even stir out of our homes because of the continuous rains and the floods. We managed to survive because of the supply of food and other materials that good people somehow brought to us in canoes and country boats.

Wayanad after the Disaster

The most notable fact is the change of climate in the district after the floods. Many places grow unconsciously warmer. Crows of earthworms squirmed up to the surface of the earth to drain places such as Salim's battery and Pulpaly. The water level of the major rivers in the district dropped drastically. In Meenungad and Kumbalangi, parts of the ground sank as fast down. All told, the disaster has caused extensive damage to the ecologically fragile environment of the district. This has thrown the farming community who depend on a reasonable expectation of climatic stability into an abyss of misery. As the socio-economic structure of the district rooted in agriculture, the disaster has had a severe impact on most of the local populace. The floods began when dry cultivation (depending on artificial irrigation) had just begun. For that very reason, the paddy crop was destroyed by the uncontrolled inflow of water. Sunk are banana and jackfruit that had been planned for harvest. Cattle also perished. Many houses farmers had taken loans from banks and private individuals. Moreover, those who worked as coolies also found themselves out of work after the floods.

Around 2423 hectares of crops were destroyed in various parts of Wayanad.

58598 domestic animals that had been the source of livelihood of many farmers perished.

In animal husbandry alone, Wayanad has suffered losses amounting to 1.61 crores of rupees. Most of the paddy farmers in the district had continued with the loss-making practice of cultivation knowing that they would not make a profit, and hoping only to break even, if possible.



Disaster Management Activities and The Janamaithri Safety Councils

Ever since the Janamaithri programme was begun, People's Safety Councils had been set up within the limits of each station and excellent programmes introduced in the adivasi colonies. For this very reason there exists a very cordial relationship between police and public in many places.

The data collected from every house personally by beat officers as part of the Janamaithri programme proved to be an invaluable source of information about the houses in each area. Janajagratha Samithy (People's Safety Councils) meetings had been regularly conducted, in even the forest areas inhabited by the local people. Police received precise and timely information regarding the nature, location and extent of the disaster by mobile phone from the members of the Councils and from the public who had participated in the meetings. The members of the Councils and the public acted in a timely manner especially in places that were relatively difficult to access. Police acted promptly to pass on the mobile phone messages and to co-ordinate the activities. The services of the members of the councils of the worst-hit areas such as Padinjarethara, Vellamunda, Vythiri, Mananthavady, and Panamaram stations were co-ordinated successfully in the rescue, relief and cleaning efforts. The members of the councils also helped the police in clearing the roads that had been blocked and making them traffic-ready.

This report which has been prepared on the basis of data collected from the various police stations in the district, from the inhabitants of residences and the inmates of relief camps will go a long way to help the police force in their efforts to manage disasters and will boost their morale and confidence in no small measure. The sincere efforts of the police to rescue and provide relief to those who had been displaced by the floods and landslides of a monsoon gone awry is indeed commendable.





3.11

Kannur District

Kannur District:

Cherupuzha Police station

Sreekandapuram Police station

Itty Police station

Karikottakiri Police station


Kelakam Police station

Relief Camps: Fact Files

Kannur District



Damage occurred in various parts of the district in monsoon-related incidents that happened between the months of June and August 2018. Major losses followed the strong landslips and landslides in the hilly areas of the district within the limits of the police stations of Cherupuzha, Sreekantapuram, Iritty, Karikottakari, and Kelakam while damages to a somewhat lesser extent resulted from the natural disaster within the police station limits of Alakode, Kudiyaanmala, Payyavoor, Thaliparambu, Ulikkal, Mattanur and Koothuparambu. The damages that were the result of landslips and landslides in the hilly regions of Kannur district occurred mostly in June and July. Between June and August, 9 persons in the district lost their lives in the disaster.



Police reached the spot immediately
and rescued

93

persons who had been stranded on
the other side of the Kaariyamkodu river,
with the help of the Fire Force
and moved them to safety.

Cherupuzha Police station

The worst-hit area in the Cherupuzha station limits was the Kanamvayal colony in Pulingom village. The water level rose to threatening heights in Kanamvayal on the 16th of August 2018. Police reached the spot immediately and rescued 93 persons who had been stranded on the other side of the Kaariyamkodu river, with the help of the Fire Force and moved them to safety. As the Kanamvayal bridge had been submerged by the water that overflowed from the Kaariyamkodu river, a makeshift wooden bridge had to be put in place for the rescue.

Cherupuzha police took the lead to evacuate the stranded populace to the relief camps organized by the Revenue department and the Cherupuzha panchayat, to ensure a regular supply of food and other essential materials to the inmates of the camps and to provide them security and support.

Sreekandapuram Police station

The flood-affected regions within the limits of the Sreekandapuram station in the Taliparamba taluk of Kannur district were the Chegalayi gramapanchayat and Sreekandapuram municipality. The worst-hit areas were Madambam, Podikalam, Kaniyaarvayal and Kanjileri in Sreekandapuram municipality, and Koyyam, Mungam, Perungonnu, Thavarol and other parts of the Chegalayi gramapanchayat. On receipt of the information regarding the floods, Sreekandapuram police sped to Mungam and evacuated 248 individuals from 42 families to the Chengalayi U.P. School with the help of the Fire Force and the public, and ensured the supply of essential materials to the camp.

Iritty Police station

Following the landslides and avalanche of water in the forest areas of Karnataka state, transport was disrupted in Vilamana village and on the Maakuttam Churam road in the limits of the Iritty station and the inhabitants of the region were isolated. Police and Fire Force sped to the spot and evacuated the stranded to the safety of the camp in the Kiliyanthara St Thomas high School in Vilamana village. The camp functioned from the 12th to the 17th of June 2018. Chandy, an 88 year-old resident of Maakuttam lost his life in the avalanche of water from the hills and the resultant floods in Iritty river.

Widespread losses also occurred due to the landslides in Idakanam, Wayapara, Parakkamala. Following the landslides that occurred on 8th August, 8 families from Kacherikadavu and Parakkamala were evacuated to the St Thomas U.P. School. The police team led by the Iritty SHO Rajeevan Valiyavalappil rendered sterling service in the rescue.



In the floods across the border regions of Karnataka, landslides occurred simultaneously at various points along the Maakuttam Churam road beside the forest and transport came to a standstill. Iritty police rescued the stranded populace evacuated them to the safety of the camps, and provided them with essential facilities and requirements. Timely action of the police helped reduce the spread and the impact of the disaster. It must be admitted that the force manifested evidence of lack of experience of disaster management and insufficient training.

Training programmes that incorporate aquatic training modules will certainly help the force to perform much better in similar situations that could arise at any time in the future.

- Rajeevan Valiyavalappil
Inspector of Police, Iritty Station

Karikottakiri Police station

Widespread damage resulted from the major landslide that occurred on the 8th of August at Mundayanparambu in Ayyankunnu village. The stranded populace was evacuated to the relief camps set up in the St Thomas U.P. School, Karikottakari, and the Unnimessiah Church Parish Hall in Vaniampara.

Two persons lost their lives in Mundayanmparambu when their house collapsed in the landslide on the 8th of August. Police co-ordinated the rescue operations in the station limits, making good use of the services of a company of DSC jawans and the Fire Force.

Kelakam Police station

The largest incidence of nature's fury in the Kelakam station limits was in the month of August. Although a number of major and minor landslides occurred in the Ambayathodu region in Kottiyoor village since the 8th of August, the most disastrous of these were the landslides and landslips that occurred on the 15th of August. A major tragedy was avoided because the people of the locality had already been evacuated to safety after the earlier occurrences. Following this, the Bavelipuzha overflowed its banks and the houses in the locality were submerged. Consequently, transport was disrupted for days on end and electric power system failed. After the Kottiyoor landslide, transport on the Pachuram road to Wayanad came to a standstill for many days. On the 17th of August 2018, when the Kottiyoor Pambarappan bridge suffered damage blocking the flow of traffic, a team led by the Peravoor Police Inspector repaired the damage and opened the bridge to traffic.

Relief Camps: Fact Files

| Place | Camps | Families | Persons |
|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| Kottiyoor | 6 | 367 | 1086 |
| Ayyankunnu | 5 | 154 | 520 |
| Vilamana | 1 | 17 | 73 |
| Chengalayi | 1 | 42 | 245 |
| Cherupuzha | 1 | 35 | 93 |









4

AT THE END

Efforts Of Other State Govt. Departments/units In Notshell

Efforts By Central Government Agencies, Units & Others

Limitations

Research Methodology

Findings & Suggestions

EFFORTS OF OTHER STATE GOVT. DEPARTMENTS/UNITS IN NUTSHELL

Fire Force

The Fire force collaborated in the rescue efforts of the police mainly in areas that had suffered the onslaught of landslips. They helped in the rescue operations in ways that include the sawing and removal of fallen trees. The Fire Force helped secure the lives of the people after landslides, landslips, house-collapse and floods. The equipment provided by the Fire force, such as long strong rope, life jackets, life-belts, and small and medium-size woodcutting saws were extremely helpful to the police in the rescue efforts.

Jail Department

The inmates of jails shared the responsibility of supplying food and water to the relief camps. The staff of the jails provided leadership to this effort.

KSEB

KSEB rendered invaluable service during the floods. Due to the landslips and floods, and on account of falling trees, electric posts were destroyed and conducting cables snapped in many areas. The KSEB staff turned up to repair the broken lines in the heavy rain and helped the rescue efforts also by regulating the supply of power as required.

Revenue

The rescue efforts in each district are co-ordinated by a team of Revenue officials led by the District Collector. The operations were managed in a centralized manner in the Disaster Management Cell of the Collectorate. A 24/7 control room was set up. The control room staff responded to calls even from within the district and outside it to pass on the required information and instructions.

Officials of the Revenue department sincerely worked hard for days to organize relief camps for the disaster-hit populace and to provide the camps with all the necessary facilities. The efforts of the Revenue department in collaboration with other government departments in rescue, relief and rehabilitation helped to bring the people out of the abyss of misery that could have swallowed them whole otherwise.

Not only the District Collectors who led the team of Revenue officials, every single officer including Tahsildars, Village Officers and other staff worked wholeheartedly for the success of the entire operation. To garner the support of social activists and voluntary organizations, the district administration had requested help using the new media. Food, clothing, drinking water, medicine, cleaning material and all other essentials were collected and distributed to every corner of the districts. During and after the floods, the contributions received from within and outside the state were sorted and distributed to the needy by teams of officers led by the Collectors of the districts. The Revenue department also worked hard to deploy the volunteers for cleaning operations who had turned up from various parts of the state wherever their services would be of the greatest use and to collect and distribute the required cleaning materials and equipment.

Around 6.87 lakhs of people sought refuge in the relief camps. 2,55,964 houses suffered damage all over the state. The Revenue department played an important role in providing monetary assistance to them. The camps were provided leadership at the district level by the Collectors. The Revenue department also rendered stellar service in the collection and distribution of relief materials and in co-ordinating the activities of volunteer youth and voluntary organizations. The Revenue department also took up the responsibility of cleaning up the houses of those who had returned home from the camps and in providing them with kits of essential materials. 10,50,837 kits were thus distributed. It was also the responsibility of the Revenue department to ensure the payment of monetary assistance to the needy. Moreover, free rations were provided to those who had been hit by the disaster.



Health Department

A 24/7 medical team was in attendance in all hospitals, ready to act in any situation. Doctors and other health professionals visited the flood-hit areas and the relief camps every day. They provided the police with the necessary support and expertise in the evacuation of the ill and the aged. They also played a leading role in the cleaning-up operations, by giving valuable instructions to the voluntary organizations, social activists and the general public who took part in the cleaning, and in the distribution of cleaning materials through the ASHA workers of the department.

Disaster Management Authority

The DMA, which was on 24/7 duty too played a major part in the operations. They helped set up control rooms and to co-ordinate the activities at the taluk / district / state level. They intervened as required for the assistance of the central forces. The Authority monitored the progress of activities every day and helped steer the operations in the right direction.

Irrigation Department

The lack of drinking water was a major problem in all the flood-hit areas. The Irrigation played a major role in providing a solution to this. The efforts on a war-footing to repair the drinking-water system that had been hit by the floods deserve special mention. The department also worked hard to repair the wells that had suffered damage.

Agriculture Department

The floods laid waste around 2.37 lakh hectares of agricultural land. The loss of crops amounted to around 18,500 crores of rupees. The Agriculture Department strove hard to provide some solace to the farmers. A moratorium was declared on the repayment of agricultural loans. The efforts to provide assistance to ongoing agricultural activities has resulted in a massive increase in the harvest of paddy.

Dairy Development Department

The department was active in providing compensation to those whose cattle had perished in the floods, and also in distributing new heads of cattle among them. The department also took necessary action to repair the damage to stables and helped to construct new stables for domestic cattle.

Fisherfolk

Fisherfolk such as Jaisal who bent his back to provide a stepping-stone to three aged women to climb into a boat while on rescue work in Vengara, Muthalamad and other areas in Malappuram district, worked without sparing a thought for the peril to themselves, and saved a number of lives across the state. Sh. Pinarayi Vijayan, Hon. Chief Minister of the state, himself addressed the brave fisherfolk as 'Kerala's own army.'

Local Self-Government Department

The institutions under the LSG Department acted commendably in the rescue and relief operations. The service of this department in closely associating with the local populace to carry forward the daily functioning of the camps in a flawless manner deserves special mention. The department also played a major role in waste management, especially in the sorting and disposal of waste in the proper way. They also formulated the empathetic and innovative strategy of making available through 'Kudumbasree' loans of up to a lakh of rupees to those who had suffered the loss of household equipment and utensils in the floods.

Almost all government departments and PSUs worked and contributed. We appreciate their efforts, help and assistance. Kerala Police Salute them!



EFFORTS BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, UNITS & OTHERS

Indian Airforce

led by C-IN-C Southern Air Command Air Marshal Sri. Suresh did commendable job in rescue and relief work. Kerala was associated with Indian Air Force. We feel proud. The DGP and other officers even had aerial survey. Participated in all dropping of essential items in the affected areas.

Indian Navy

Southern Naval command Kochi used most of their water, land, air rescue - commendably.

Indian Army

Both Police and army personnel dared to go to the most difficult areas for rescue operations.

NDRF

What a tremendous Rescue operations - very professional.

CAPFs

CRPF, CISF, BSF, ITBP all helped.

Others

Even Odisha Government sent a highly trained Rescue team with resources.



Kerala Police feel proud to work all of them.



LIMITATIONS

The water logging was aggravated by the illegal encroachment on the banks of rivers and streams. Since bridges over some areas had been constructed at ground-level, these were quickly submerged under water leaving the people on either side stranded.

Power failure hindered communication and night-time rescue and relief operations.

Some of the relief camps which were started at the beginning of the disaster came under water in later cloudbursts and landslides and the inmates had to be relocated once again.

The sharp spikes and grills on the gates and walls of houses hindered the progress of boats in the rescue efforts.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The data used for the study of the activities of the Kerala Police Department in dealing with the flood situation that the State encountered in August 2018.



The following data were relied upon for the study of the activities.

- The information collected during the visits of Dr. B Sandhya IPS ADGP (Training) and Director, Kerala Police Academy, and the Research Wing of Police.
- Data collected from the Station House Officers who coordinated the rescue operations.
- Information collected from other Police Officers who were directly involved in the rescue operation.
- Information collected from officers of other forces, Fire and Rescue, Forest, Army and Navy.
- Information received from other voluntary organisations (NSS NCC, SPC, Youth Clubs, Charitable societies, etc).
- Both primary and secondary data have been used for the study.

Methodology



(1) Audio interview



(2) Video interview



(3) Face to face Interview



(4) Papers and documents

Problems

The present environmental issues are the tragic consequences of our own atrocious deeds of battering down hills and hillocks, filling the low lying areas with soil for construction, mining the rocks for quarries, deforestation and illegal sand mining from rivers. Such illegal activities can be bridled with the help of scientific studies and creating awareness among the people. The challenges faced by the water sources, the structural change undergone by the paddy fields and wetlands, and the threats to the ecological balance of the sea and the seashore, all combine to exert pressure on nature.

Objective

Research focused on the precautions and practical steps to be taken in case of a similar future disaster is the need of the hour. Such studies and research will be an asset to future generations.

Relevance

The calamity that the State had to face in August 2018 was the most dreadful one since the deluge of 1924 (ME 1099). The calamity occurred mainly because we did not learn any lesson from the devastation of the flood in the last century. No precautions were taken either. As floods are not daily occurrences, no scientific study or precautionary measure has so far been initiated. Herein lies the relevance of this study.

Scope

The present study conducted by the Police Department is only at the micro level and can only be a preface to the continuous studies that need to be done in the field of disaster management. The issues that are generated by the study will help enlarge its scope. The important areas are the meticulous classification of the danger zones and their details, statistics of the heavy losses incurred, statistics of the areas vulnerable to disaster, the geographical changes that have occurred in places subjected to study and a comparative assessment of the social scenario before and after the flood.



FINDINGS & SUGGESTIONS

➤ Unobstructed encroachment of rivers and backwaters and illegal construction on such land should be prohibited. The rising flow of tide and monsoons and the accumulation of floating sand and debris for construction aggravated the impact of the floods of 2018.

• The impact of the floods was heightened also by the destruction of forests, quarrying of rocks and illegal sand-mining from rivers.

➤ Rubber boots/burners and life jackets provided to the police have to be emergency equipment as used by the police in anti-flood flood-prone regions. Moreover mock drills should be conducted once every three months to ensure that there will be effective response in an emergency.

• Uniform guidelines should be put in place to suit any emergency situation that might arise at any time. Every policeman needs to be supplied with raincoats and other appropriate clothing for rescue operations and cleaning activities.

➤ Through programmes such as Janamaithri and Student Police Cadets, children and adults should be trained (awareness) on the presence of and in an emergency situation and to provide first aid to the absence of medical professionals.

• Knowledge of disaster management techniques and awareness of likely disasters should form part of the curriculum. Portable aska lights or similar equipment should be supplied to every police station.

➤ Machines should be maintained in advance in the limits of each station considering their suitability to function in relief camps and rescue stations in the event of an emergency.

• Members of the Janamaithri council and of the various residents' associations in the limits of each station should be given training on the proper response to natural disasters and emergency situations.

➤ At the boats damaged in earlier Assessment, at present cannot be used across narrow streams or canals. Smaller fibre boats should be made available for the purpose.

• It should be an urgent priority to construct wash-rooms on the top floors of police stations in flood-prone areas.

➤ The kinds of natural disasters to which various areas might be prone to should be clearly represented on the maps of police stations. The disaster-prone regions should be studied carefully and proper disaster maps should be marked.

• State of the art telecommunication facilities should be put in place to provide for emergency situations. The shortage of handsets should be addressed on a priority basis.

➤ Emergency fund should be made available to all police stations, well in advance of the actual requirement.

• Special footwear to be used in times of disaster should be made available. To protect police personnel deployed for duty in high water from contracting diseases such as leptospirosis (rat-fever) or skin disease proper footwear and skin-fit uniforms are an urgent requirement.

• Community-based needs to be strengthened. The Red Cross who turned up voluntarily for rescue and relief operations, mainly be compensated for the losses they would have incurred in the course of such activity. Every police station should draw up a Disaster Management Plan, if such a plan is put in place in the event of a future disaster, full information regarding relief camps, relief supplies, vehicles, services and activities and so on should be ready to hand.

• The police station building and its premises should be in a safe location. It should always occupy more than one floor on a property.

• Because the rescue operations of the police were not being taken as high-priority, most of the emergency efforts of the police have not become known by the general public. Every station should have a videography/documentation team. Although some members at the Force possess videography skills, a secure section facility for video files is still lacking.

• The methods of house-construction in Kerala obstruct the use of helicopters for rescue. Helicopter rescue was hindered in various places by the kind of roofing that is now common on the terraces of buildings. Therefore guidelines for house construction need to be put in place in flood-prone areas.

➤ Equipment such as special boats and clothing like jacket, lifebelts, knives and torches, food and drink medicines for the sick and the sickening of a medical team are required.

• Neither police nor public were familiar with the concept of systematic alerts. Awareness programmes are therefore essential to make up for the lack. Climate-related information of the meteorological agencies should be shared with the police without the slightest delay.

➤ Residents of flood-prone areas should be made aware of the steps to be taken by them in the event of heavy floods. Counseling should be provided to those in need.

• Wherever the free flow of natural water has been obstructed, the hindrances should be cleared and the depth and capacity of canals augmented, and the water bodies cleared.

➤ Mangroves should be nurtured as the natural buffer. Banks both of rivers and coastal canals with through boats should be planted on the banks of rivers and on the coasts and islands to act as a natural buffer against erosion and erosion.

• Regulator-cum-bridges should be made more effective.

➤ It is suggested that cyber-bullying by the Cyber Cell, Cyber Crime and the Police Cell be strengthened by first and second the spread of learning how to use social media and profiles on the internet.

• If every police station is equipped with life-saving equipment such as headlights, torches, life jackets, cutting tools and heat resistant dress, in times of emergency the police can leap into rescue mode without having to wait for the arrival of the Fire Force.

➤ An official website and a mobile app should be created to provide help to the disaster-hit. Facility should be provided to automatically update the locations and messages of those who request help and for the rescue team to update their emergency to the affected or to other agencies that could provide support.

• To prepare for natural disasters, every year in April/May, there should be a joint meeting of local self-government officials, and officials attached to the Irrigation, Forest, Dam Safety Authority, Electricity Board, Police, Fire Force and Health departments, who should also visit the disaster-prone regions and take necessary precautions.

➤ Because it was seen that the base of the shanty houses used by the Fire Force were damaged when they came into contact with the sharp pointed structures on the gates and walls of flooded houses, the use of latest technology to reinforce the base of such bases may be initiated upon.

• To stem the flow of rumours and fake news the presence on social media of the Janamaithri and Janajagratha councils should be strengthened, making them a effective means to spread the truth of things among the people.

➤ Every station should keep a record of the contact details of local experts such as the master and of the owners of equipment such as industrial manufacturing, agricultural, producers, missing children, social, flood victims and NGOs.

• The details of the floods of August 2018 should mandatorily be recorded in SOH Part IV.

➤ Disaster Management Committee should be set up in the limits of each station and neighbourhood and others should be part of the committee.

• The geographical peculiarities of each region should be carefully noted and a safe route through it should be mapped and ready to hand.

➤ Through the Janamaithri and Student Police Cadet programmes, children and adults may be taught to see the disaster from afar.

• In places without the facility of an inverter, two 12 volt batteries used in vehicles can be adapted to provide 230 watts electric current with the help of an AC-DC converter for emergency use.

➤ A list of persons with burn skills should may be maintained in the station and such help can be requested in such settings in the event of any disaster.

• The mountain of electronic equipment that turned into electronic waste during the floods could cause grave environmental damage if chemicals such as lead and mercury were to seep from them into the water. Government should seriously consider putting in place a proper waste-management system to avoid a man-made disaster.



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