

Heavy rain continues in Kerala, 3 dead

Yellow alert issued for eight districts today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Heavy rain continued to lash parts of Kerala on Monday affecting Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Kottayam districts the most, resulting in the death of three persons and widespread damage to property.

The India Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for eight central and northern districts for isolated heavy rain on Tuesday. They are Kottayam, Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod.

The State Disaster Management Authority informed that in the last 24 hours, three lives, including that of two toddlers, were lost.

In all, five persons have



No trace: A flooded municipal stadium in Pathanamthitta district on Monday. • LEJU KAMAL

died in rain-related incidents in the State since November 10.

Parts of Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha continued to battle waterlogging on Monday. Pathanamthitta has 69 relief camps, accommodating 2,410 people, while in Alappuzha 619 people were housed in 26 camps.

Across the State, 12 houses were fully damaged and 229 partially since November 10. Between October 12 and November 15, the State reported crop loss on 62,991.41 hectares, affecting 1.43 lakh farmers. The Upper Kuttanad region has been hit hard.

The water levels at the Mullaperiyar and Idukki re-

servoirs were rising slowly on Monday, despite Tamil Nadu increasing the tunnel discharge from Mullaperiyar and the opening of a shutter of the Cheruthoni dam of the Idukki reservoir on Sunday.

The IMD has forecast a reduction in rain after Tuesday.

(With PTI inputs)

'Will ensure safety of pilgrims'

STAFF REPORTER
PATHANAMTHITTA

Health Minister Veena George, who assessed the flood situation in Pathanamthitta district on Monday, said the safety of Sabarimala pilgrims would be ensured. A team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been positioned at Kulanada.

The temple opened for the Mandalam-Makaravilakku season on Monday.

The Pampa is flowing turbulently. Most roads in the Konni-Achencoil region, which form part of the pilgrimage circuit, are unnavigable. The police are diverting vehicles to alternative routes.