

SUMMARY

Kerala is facing one of the worst flood in a century. Over 82000 people in Kerala have been displaced due to the floods that have ravaged the state over the last few days. The floods didn't discriminate between people and property. At last count, 357 people lost their lives, and the floods destroyed roughly 906,400 hectares worth of crops. The cost to the state and its people stands at a staggering Rs 19,512 crore. For the state's oldest living generation, this was take two. The last rival to a flood of this scale and severity in Kerala was in 1924, where monsoons pelted the hapless state with 3,368 mm of rain. At the time, over 1,000 people are said to have lost their lives, not to mention an enormous toll on livestock. The 2,086 mm of rainfall this year is nowhere near as bad, but still 30 percent above the annual average. And the monsoon is far from over.

The state was forced to throw open the gates of 35 of its 39 dams, knowing full-well what was to come. Residents were forced to flee, on important roads that happened to be engulfed in floodwater and landslides.

And things only got worse from there. The intensity of the rains meant that two dozen more dams in states nearby were forced to follow suit. The dam gates were opened and a torrent of hell was unleashed on God's own country.

Kerala was one of four other districts in the country with rains more severe than predicted in 2018. The rains saw a steady increase since 2015, culminating in the 'large excess' seen this year. Records from the India Meteorological Department from the start of the torrential rains in Kerala – between 9 August and 15 August – show a 255 percent departure from the norm in the state's hotspots.