

Rescue & Responses

Being instructed by the Cabinet Secretary, Senior officers of Defence Services, NDRF, NDMA and Secretaries of Civilian Ministries conducted meetings with Kerala Chief Secretary. Following the decisions taken during these meetings, the Centre launched massive rescue and relief operations. In one of the largest rescue operations, 40 helicopters, 31 aircraft, 182 teams for rescue, 18 medical teams of defense forces, 58 teams of NDRF and 7 companies of Central Armed Police Forces were pressed into service along with over 500 boats and necessary rescue equipments. Totally, 60,000 people are rescued from marooned areas and was shifted to relief camps.

Additionally, 52 rescue teams of central forces including units of the Indian Army and the Indian Navy and state governed forces like Kerala Police and Kerala Fire and Rescue Services assisted the civilian administration in rescue work and restoration. In addition to the 10 teams of the National Disaster Response Force, four additional teams were airlifted from Guntur and Arakkonam to assist the Ernakulam district administration. Union Minister for Home Affairs Rajnath Singh conducted an aerial survey of Idukki and Ernakulam districts along with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Fisherman from Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam districts took part in the rescue operations with their boats and rescued several who were trapped in their homes by rising waters. The Kerala Government announced financial aid in return for their support and effort in the rescue mission.

Mananthavady and Vythiri in the hilly Wayanad district have been totally cut-off, with roads washed away.

According to the latest official figures, more than 800,000 people have been lodged in over 4,000 relief camps across 14 districts. On August 19, the state's Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan vowed "to save even the last person stranded."

Animals

Sally Varma of Humane Society International arranged for animals to be rescued and transported to special shelters that housed affected animals. Social media has been used to highlight the rescue of multiple animals - dogs, cats, goats, cows, cattle, ducks and snakes, with animal feed and medicine transported to affected areas.

A worker with the Humane Society International spoke out against the tethering and leaving of pets that occurred. "That became a problem. So many tethered animals just drowned. These animals are natural swimmers, and it is better to keep them free so they can swim to higher ground." According to government records more than 8,000 cattle, calves and buffaloes, 3,297 goats, and 47 dogs have died due to the flooding.

The District Collector of Malappuram, and its Chief of Police have instructed the police force to save any animal that they encounter during rescue operations.

Response

At a press conference on 11 August, Chief Secretary Tom Jose said, "Things are well under control. The government is on top of the situation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi conducted

Rescue & Responses

an aerial survey and offered federal support to Kerala. Chief Minister [Pinarayi Vijayan](#) described the floods as "something that has never happened before in the history of Kerala" and placed some of the blame on neighbouring [Tamil Nadu](#) for not releasing excess water from the State-operated [Mullaperiyar dam](#), which worsened the situation.

The [United States embassy](#) urged its citizens to avoid travelling to the affected areas. The [UAE](#) embassy in India issues warning for its citizens regarding the flood. The embassy also said that the weather agencies in India have given warnings regarding heavy rain fall in the southern state of Kerala. The [President](#) of [UAE](#) His Highness [Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan](#) has instructed the formation of a national emergency committee to provide relief assistance to people affected by flash floods in the Indian state of Kerala. According to Sheikh Khalifa's instructions, the committee will be chaired by the Emirates Red Crescent (ERC), and include representatives from the UAE's humanitarian organisations. [Imran Khan](#), the newly elected [Prime minister of Pakistan](#) expressed his grief at the loss of lives in Kerala floods, and he said his country is ready to provide any humanitarian assistance if needed.^[1]