

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Flood Relief Activities 2018

2018 remains a dark chapter in the history of Kerala. The state witnessed an unprecedented flood which devastated several lives and resources. The floods occurred in the last week of July and followed till the third week of August. Other than heavy rainfall, thirty five out of the fifty four dams were opened. The worst affected areas include Chengannur, Pandanad, Edanad, Aranmula, Kozhencherry, Ayiroor, Ranni, Pandalam, Kuttanad, Aluva, and Chalakudy. According to the Kerala government, one-sixth of the total population of Kerala had been directly affected by the floods and related incidents. The Indian government had declared it a Level 3 Calamity, or "calamity of a severe nature". It is the worst flood in Kerala after the great flood of 99 that happened in 1924. Heavy rains in Wayanad and Idukki have caused severe landslides and have left the hilly districts isolated.

Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, Fire Force and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), fishermen, NGOS, Student Volunteers, the public etc. worked nonstop and actively engaged in rescue and relief operations. Most of the sick were transferred to shelter houses and were fed through community kitchens. More than one million people were displaced and more than 370 reported deaths in a few weeks saddened everyone. Most were deprived of food. Elderly women were carefully taken in chairs and boats, in some places there was airlifting too. The immense loss was mainly due to the opening of the dams.

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The entire nation has come forward to lend a helping hand to the Kerala flood victims. Central Government, State Governments, Union Territories, Multi-National Corporations, Big Business Houses, Celebrities, Sportsmen and women, schools, colleges, and common people have contributed to Kerala's Chief Minister's Relief Fund generously. The Government of Kerala started a donation website for flood victims.

As the Asia's largest voluntary organization, NSS took a leading role in the post disaster relief and rehabilitation activities on a war footing basis. About 1200 NSS Units across state were fully involved in the relief activities. The NSS volunteers collected money, medicines, clothes, cleaning materials and other necessary items for distribution in the relief camps.



Fig: Flood Relief material collection of Govt College Kariavattom

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Immediately after the disaster, the entire college community under the leadership of the Principal, collected Rupees One lakh and necessary items and our students sent the same to the affected area by hiring a Lorry. Our 85 volunteers served as collection agents in the different collection centres (SMV School, Corporation Office, Women's College, Kariavattom Campus and Mathrubhoomi Office). Volunteers also served in the Sankumukham Helipad for lifting collected materials.