

Youth Congress demands arrest of SI for SC couple's assault

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kollam

THE YOUTH Congress has called for the immediate arrest of Kattakada SI Manoj, who is allegedly involved in the assault of a SC man and his wife in Anchal last month.

"Suresh and his wife are innocent victims who were brutally beaten by the SI. The government must arrest Manoj immediately and terminate his service. The Kerala Police has lost its people-friendly character, and the state has become a haven for pro-

tecting criminal policemen, said YC state vice-president Vishnu Sunil Pandam. He further said, "Police authorities' disregard for the law, despite the brutal attack on an innocent couple, is unacceptable."

Parties ramp up protests over Mullaperiyar dam's future

NCP announces vehicle rally from Mundakayam to Chappathu near Kumily today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Idukki

DESPITE a decline in the water level at Mullaperiyar due to reduced rainfall in the catchment areas, political parties are escalating their protests, demanding the decommissioning of the 128-year-old dam. The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has announced a vehicle rally from Mundakayam to Chappathu near Kumily on August 15 to draw attention to the issue.

Simultaneously, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Thodupuzha Constituency Committee will hold a one-day hunger strike on Independence Day, demanding the decommissioning of the dam and the construction of a new one. The hunger strike will take place from 10am to 4pm, with AAP state president Vinod Mathew Wilson, C P Roy, Russel Joy, and C R Neelakandan addressing the gathering. Meanwhile, the LDF District Committee, in an official release, accused other political parties of spreading baseless rumours about the dam's

condition for political gain. The release stated that the Mullaperiyar dam issue, currently under Supreme Court consideration, must be addressed through legal means with expert consultation. The government is reportedly making every effort to construct a new dam to ensure the safety of local residents. The LDF also criticised the state's MPs for their inaction on the matter in Parliament over the past five years, urging against spreading unnecessary panic. As of Wednesday, the water level in the Mullaperiyar dam has decreased to 129.65 ft, below the permissible limit of 142 ft. Rainfall in the catchment area was minimal, with Periyar receiving 6.4mm and Thekkady only 2mm.



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Orange alert in Kozhikode, Wayanad districts today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @TPuram

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted continued heavy rainfall of up to 20 cm at isolated locations across the state on Thursday. An orange alert has been issued for Kozhikode and Wayanad districts, while a yellow alert is in effect for Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur, Palakkad, and Malappuram districts. In response to the intense rainfall predictions, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has instructed the revenue department to implement precautionary measures akin to those for an orange alert in districts under yellow alert.

More caution needs to be exercised in hilly areas and regions that received heavy rains in recent days, he said in a press briefing on Wednesday. In Wayanad, several areas received heavy rainfall over the past 24 hours, with Puthumala in Mepadi panchayat being particularly affected. As the area is prone to landslides, residents were shifted to relief camps, said the chief minister. The IMD has issued a flash flood risk outlook, highlighting the high risk in districts including Kanur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Ernakulam, and Kottayam until Thursday noon. Additionally, thunderstorms with lightning and winds reaching 30-40 km/h, gusting up to 50 km/h, are likely to occur in isolated areas across the state until August 18. Fishermen are advised to avoid venturing into the sea during this period.

Government of Tamil Nadu Highways Department Superintending Engineer (H), Chennai Metropolitan Development Plan Circle, Saidapet, Chennai -15. Tender Notice No: 02/2024-25/CMDP/DO/ dated.13.08.2024 (Online only)

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