

# Spiritual organizations render selfless service

TOI



Volunteers of Isha Foundation engaged in relief activities with minister Ramachandran Kadannappally at Aranmula in Pathanamthitta district

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Thiruvananthapuram:** A host of spiritual organizations are actively involved in the flood relief operations in the state. Volunteers of spiritual organizations reached the state from different parts of the country with truckloads of relief materials and visited worst-hit areas of the state.

Isha Foundation volunteers, stationed in various parts of Kerala, have intensified rehabilitation operations. In the first phase, they had managed a helpline to locate and rescue stranded people. The focus of Isha volunteers is to rebuild houses of elderly people who have been the most affected and left with no support. Volunteers are largely engaged in service at Chengannur and Aluva. Mobile medical vans that came from Isha Foundation's headquarters in Coimbatore have so far treated over 6,000 patients, with consultations happening often until midnight every day, said a press note from the foundation.

In his Onam message, Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, founder of Isha Foundation, had given thrust on the need for rebuilding Kerala. "It is one of the most challenging times for the people of Kerala and the nation. This Onam is an opportunity to rebuild Kerala. May the best be with Kerala," said Sadhguru.

Sathya Sai Seva organization has also launched a slew of initiatives to help flood-hit people. Volunteers of the organization took up cleaning activities in Pathanamthitta and Chengannur. "We have distributed She kits for women in distress areas.

Goods worth Rs 60 lakh were distributed by volunteers in the first phase. Now, cleaning work is in progress and we focus on regions which are very remote and usually miss the eyes of authorities," said O P Sajeew Kumar, district president of Sathya Sai Seva.

The Bharat Sevashram Sangha, founded by Acharya Swami Pranavananda, sent volunteers from Thiruvananthapuram and Kanyakumari branches to carry out relief work in Kozhikode district. Devotees and volunteers from Hyderabad sent essential items and food materials to Kerala which were distributed among 3,000 families in Kozhikode. Relief operations were led by 20 monks from different centres. Brahmachari Sukdev, who heads Sangha's Thiruvananthapuram chapter, said they aim to provide complete school kits for 400 students.

United Sikhs also flew in relief materials and volunteers to the state. "Our children and elders are most at risk of contracting diseases and deadly health issues, especially if they do not have access to proper vaccines and medicines they require. Through our Sikh Aid programme, our duty is to ensure we help those in need, even in the most remote and far-reaching corners of the earth," said Mohinderjit Singh, United Sikhs disaster relief coordinator.

Joined by a team of physicians and healthcare professionals led by Dr. Abhishek Aggarwal, United Sikhs carried out the first phase of relief by providing medical assistance to more than 100 residents in tribal hamlets of Wayanad.