Heavy Rains in Kerala

Why in news?

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- Southwest monsoon has caused a series of floods and landslides in several districts of Kerala.
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- One of the five shutters of the Cheruthoni dam on Idukki reservoir was opened as waters rose close to the maximum storage level.
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Why is Idukki significant?

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- Idukki is one of the largest arch dams in Asia that was commissioned in 1975.
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- The Idukki lake sprawls across Kerala’s lifeline Periyar river.
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- It was created by the arch dam of Idukki, and the smaller Cheruthoni and Kulamavu dams.
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- The Idukki arch dam has no shutters.
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- The Cheruthoni dam has been opened only twice (1981 and 1992), both during the northeast monsoon.
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- The recent one is the third time and after a gap of 26 years.
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- Notably, this is the first time that the dam was opened due to rains from southwest monsoon.
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How is the southwest monsoon in Kerala?

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- Kerala as a whole has received 15% excess rain and Idukki district got 41% excess until the first week of August.
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- Persistent rain since the onset of the monsoon has left Idukki and other reservoirs downstream overflowing.
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- The dam was opened to ease the pressure of water on the Idukki hydel reservoir.
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- Also, for the first time, shutters of 22 dams including Idamalayar were opened due to heavy rains.
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Source: Indian Express

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