

122 dead as landslides flatten Wayanad villages

Mundakkai, Chooralmala and Attamala buried under debris

Swollen river changes course and floods neighbouring localities

Rescue teams and volunteers are struggling in knee-deep mud

Body parts recovered from Chaliyar river in distant Malappuram

The Hindu Bureau
WAYANAD/
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

At least 122 persons were killed and 197 injured after multiple landslides flattened some three villages in Vythiri taluk of the hilly Wayanad district of Kerala early on Tuesday.

The death toll is expected to climb as more persons are feared dead. As many as 25 mangled body parts were recovered from the Chaliyar river near Pothukallu area in Malappuram district and four from Chooralmala in Wayanad.



Wiped out: A rescue operation under way in the Meppadi area of Wayanad in Kerala following landslides on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Kerala government declared a state of mourning on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said an intense rescue effort involving State and Central forces was under way in the Mundakkai, Chooralmala and Attamala

localities. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced an *ex gratia* payment of ₹2 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 for the injured.

The government has identified a waterlogged hillock 6 km from the vil-

lages, which abutted the Iruvanipuzha river, as the origin of the landslides.

The first landslide occurred at 2 a.m. when the residents were asleep. The cascading wave of sodden mud, boulders, and uprooted trees measured

at least two floors in height if the waterline visible on a multi-storey school building was anything to go by. Images showed a wide, muddy slash on the verdant, uninhabited hillside, where the mud had slid down to bury the villages

thousands of metres below. The second landslide occurred at 4.10 a.m.

The moving landmass roared over the devastated locality and plunged into the swollen river, changing its course and flooding neighbouring localities.



Heavy rain, landslips hit Karnataka

MANGALURU
Heavy rains and landslips were reported in many places in coastal Karnataka and south interior Karnataka on Tuesday. A massive landslide was reported near Harle Estate at Sakaleshpur in Hassan taluk on Monday night.

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Rain claims three lives in Coimbatore

COIMBATORE
Three people have died in rain-related incidents in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu on Tuesday. A woman and her granddaughter died in a minor landslip that occurred near Valparai in Coimbatore district. » PAGE 7

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