

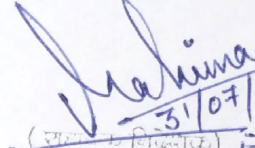
भारत सरकार
Government of India
केन्द्रीय जल आयोग
Central Water Commission
बाढ़ पूर्वानुमान प्रबोधन निदेशालय
Flood Forecast Monitoring Directorate
Tele : 011-29583829, 29583545
e-mail : fmdte@nic.in, ffwcwc@gmail.com

भूतल, विंग 7, पश्चिमी खण्ड-2,
रामकृष्ण पुरम, नई दिल्ली-110066


विषय : दिनांक 31/07/2024 की समाचार की कतरन (News Clippings) प्रस्तुत करने के सम्बन्ध में ।

मानरून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचारों की कतरन (News Clippings) अवलोकन हेतु प्रस्तुत हैं :

सलंजन : उपरोक्तानुसार


31/07/2024
(संलग्न निदेशक) EAD (HM)

उपनिदेशक


31/07/2024

निदेशक (बा.प.प्र.)

KERALA LANDSLIDES



HINDUSTAN

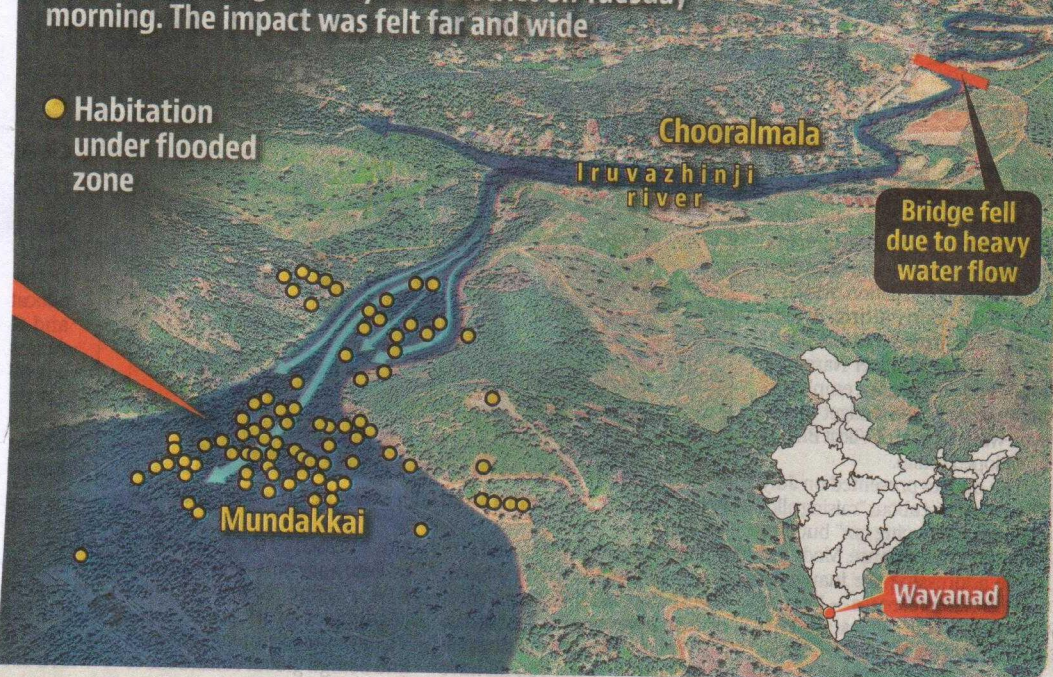
TIMES

31/07/2024

A village wiped away

More than 120 people were killed as two landslides hit Mundakkai village in Wayanad district on Tuesday morning. The impact was felt far and wide

- Habitation under flooded zone



Fog, collapse of bridge hamper rescue efforts

Vishnu Varma

letters@hindustantimes.com

WAYANAD: Incessant rain, dense fog and the collapse of a key bridge over the Iruvazhinji river in spate are among the grave challenges facing rescue and relief workers, desperately trying to reach people trapped after multiple landslides in Chooralmala and Mundakkai areas of Kerala's Wayand district left over 120 people dead and several injured. Multiple agencies, including the Kerala fire and rescue services, civil defence, NDRF, local and emergency response teams, and personnel of the armed forces, were pressed into service to mitigate the situation.

Early on Tuesday, C Arunamala, block panchayat member from Chooralmala, told HT over the phone: "We are at the affected area here in Chooralmala, but we have been unable to advance towards Mundakkai. The rain is heavy and it is hampering our movement. There is dense fog which is affecting visibility, and third and most important, the bridge connecting Chooralmala with Mundakkai was completely washed away in the landslide."

It is the destruction of this bridge which, officials said, has completely cut off Mundakkai, and made any escape or entry into the region difficult. "The Iruvazhinji river is overflowing and it's quite dangerous to cross it. Without the bridge, it is difficult to access the affected areas in Mundakkai."

SEVERAL AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE KERALA FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES, NDRF AND LOCAL AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS, WERE PRESSED INTO SERVICE

Arunamala said that while the region has seen landslides before, notably in 2019 in Meppadi, the scale of Tuesday's disaster is unprecedented. "A lot of homes have been washed away and a portion of the Chooralmala school, which was operating as a relief camp since Monday, has also been washed away," he said.

With time of the essence, multiple relief teams have been sent to the spot, with two ministers of the Kerala government stationed there by chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The army is also involved, with a defence spokesperson saying that a team of 43 personnel, led by the Second-in-Command from the 122 Infantry Battalion (TA) MADRAS, has been mobilised. Besides, the army's engineering group was also sent to Wayanad.

Two Indian Air Force helicopters departed from Sullur in Tamil Nadu, and 67 Defence Security Corps (DSC) personnel, led by six officers, left from Kannur in two KSRTC buses with an ambulance and two truck loads of equipment,

district officials said. Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee chief K Sudhakaran asked the state administration to ensure all necessary aid, including medicine, food, clothing to those affected and also take steps to provide financial aid to the affected families.

NDRF personnel working on difficult rescue operations said the primary challenge was to reach villages such as Vellarmalla on the other side of the river. While rescuers have managed to build a ropeway above the swirling water and used stretchers tied to rods to ferry the critically injured, there are over 200 people still stranded at this particular location, officials said. "The water current is strong, so it is not possible to cross the river. On priority, our teams found 17 critically injured from Vellarmalla and brought them to the other side" said Akhilesh Kumar, commandant of the NDRF 4 battalion.

Simultaneously, the district administration along with the 75 NDRF personnel at the spot are grappling with two immediate problems - finding a sustainable path to these affected villages, and finding ways to send food to those that can't be brought out immediately.

Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin spoke to Vijayan and announced the immediate dispatch of a team to the neighbouring state. He directed the release of ₹5 crore as relief from Tamil Nadu.

With inputs from Prawesh Lama



Rescuers try to reach the affected people using a ropeway, in Wayanad on Tuesday.

AP

572 mm of rainfall in just 48 hours: a battering that Wayanad did not anticipate

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The downpour subsided, but not enough to avert the tragedy that struck Wayanad in Kerala in the early hours of Tuesday. A glance through the rainfall that battered the State reveals that a station called Thettamala in Wayanad received a whopping 409 mm during the 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday.

Even Wadakkancherry in central Kerala received 340 mm during the period, perhaps one of the heaviest the State had seen during the opening months of the southwest monsoon.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in his media address, said that according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast on Monday, the area was supposed to receive rainfall in the range of 64 mm to 204 mm (orange alert) in the 24 hours.

However, the area where the disaster struck recorded 200 mm in the first 24 hours and 372 mm of rain in the next, a total of 572 mm of rain in just 48 hours.

"Accumulated impact"
Speaking to *The Hindu*, Neetha K. Gopal, IMD Director, Thiruvananthapuram, said: "It's true that we had not anticipated an extreme rainfall event, but had been expecting some intense spells in north Kerala. As per our observation, it was the accumulated impact of the rain that led to chaotic scenes in



Safe hands: Rescuers help residents to move to a safer place after multiple landslides in the hills in Wayanad. REUTERS

Chief Minister says there was only an orange alert for the disaster-hit region in the district

Wayanad. The soil was already in saturated mode during the heavy rain the previous day, and the excess precipitation on that fateful night led to the catastrophe. The IMD is exploring ways to introduce a night-time analysis of the weather parameters during the peak season, considering the pattern of rain in Kerala."

"For instance, during the active monsoon season, high intensity rainfall occurs during the night and early morning due to the effect of various oceanic factors in coastal States. So, analysing the weather parameters, including local factors, during the night will provide some leeway. However, the window for acting during

these situations would be limited, especially in our tropical climate where the atmospheric developments are very fast and quick," Ms. Gopal said.

The heavy rain that had been pounding the State, especially in north and central Kerala, for the past two days is likely to continue for a couple of more days, triggered by an off-shore trough at the mean sea level that persists along the south Gujarat to Kerala coast.

The State is also likely to receive heavy rainfall for the next two to three days, powered by strong westerly and north-westerly winds in the lower levels over Kerala.

An orange alert has been issued for five districts from Malappuram to Kasaragod on Wednesday, warning of very heavy rainfall, and a yellow alert for four districts – Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur and Palakkad – forecasting isolated heavy rain.

Coastal Karnataka hit by rain, landslides

With road network disrupted, many travellers are stranded on NH 75; the Netravathi river, the lifeline of Dakshina Kannada, is in spate; water enters the Mangaluru-Bengaluru National Highway near Uppinangady; IMD declares a red alert for Kodagu for the next 48 hours

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

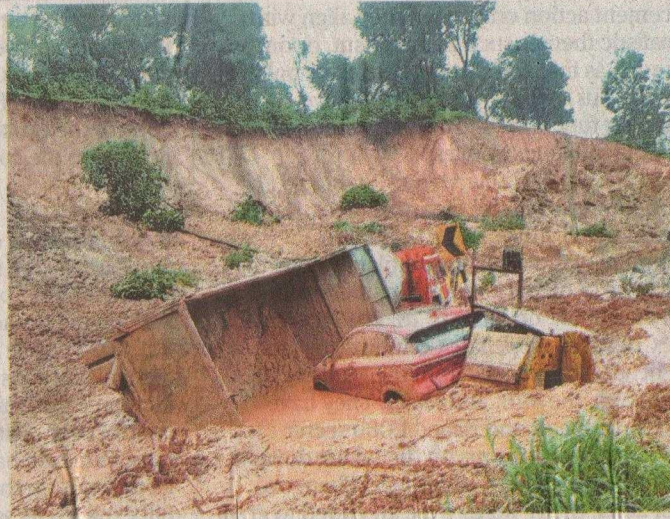
H heavy rain and landslides were reported in many places in coastal Karnataka and south interior Karnataka on Tuesday.

A massive landslide occurred near Harle Estate in Sakaleshpur in Hassan taluk on Monday night. It swept away a portion of the road that serves as an alternative to the Bengaluru-Mangaluru highway, which has seen many similar incidents in recent weeks. The road network in many villages was disrupted, and local people blamed the 'unscientific' execution of the Yettinahole project.

Travellers stranded

Fresh erosion of earth on the Shiradi Ghat stretch of NH 75, at Doddathappale village in Sakaleshpur taluk, left many travellers on the highway stranded for hours on Tuesday. A huge chunk of mud came down the highway during heavy rains. A truck overturned while three other vehicles were stuck in the debris.

As the entire road was covered by mud, vehicles on the busy road, which connects the coastal region and Bengaluru, could not move. KSRTC buses were stuck for hours.



Rain fury: Vehicles stuck in the debris following a landslide at Doddathappale village, and, right, a massive landslide swept away a portion of the road at Harle village in Sakaleshpur taluk of Karnataka on Tuesday. PRAKASH HASSAN

Heavy earthmovers were hired to clear the debris. With the Shiradi Ghat stretch closed for traffic again on Tuesday and the train connectivity between Mangaluru and Bengaluru suspended since July 26, Mangaluru is again facing connectivity issues.

Now, the coastal city is connected through Charmadi Ghat on NH 73 (Mangaluru-Chikkamagaluru) and through Sampaje Ghat on NH 275 (Mangaluru-Madikeri-Mysuru). Both are vulnerable to landslips and face the threat of closure. A police official said movement of heavy vehi-

cles on the Charmadi ghat section has been banned as a safety measure.

Netravathi river, the lifeline of Dakshina Kannada, was in spate, and water entered the Mangaluru-Bengaluru national highway near Uppinangady.

Traffic between Mangaluru and Madikeri too came to a halt for sometime on Tuesday following a landslip at Shekhamale. It was cleared around 2 p.m. Incessant rain in Kodagu for the last 10 days has wreaked havoc in the district. Multiple incidents of mudslides were reported on Tuesday while six persons, who



were stranded in flood waters, were rescued in a village in Virajpet taluk.

The district administration has relocated people in Karadigodu village on the banks of the Cauvery and many of them were shifted to Siddapura. A relief centre has been opened at Kashi Math in Bhagamandala, where seven people from two families were shifted. The India Meteorological Department has declared a red alert for Kodagu for the next 48 hours.

Meanwhile, the inflow into all major reservoirs has been increasing, forcing the authorities to release excess water

to the river. The crest gates of Bhadra reservoir at Lakkavalli in Tarikere taluk of Chikkamagaluru district were opened as the water level reached the maximum level. The officers have issued an alert in the downstream.

The cumulative discharge from both the KRS and the Kabini reservoirs crossed 2.3 lakh cusecs on Tuesday evening, and hence, the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd. has issued a flood warning to people living in the downstream region to move to safer locations.

(With inputs from Shivamogga and Mysuru)

THE HINDU
31/07/2024

Heavy equipment, rescue dog teams airlifted to Wayanad

Defence Minister's office says additional teams from Army and Navy, and helicopters from Air Force have been mobilised; Coast Guard has sent disaster relief teams comprising highly trained personnel and a dedicated medical team for support

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Hheavy engineering equipment and rescue dog teams were being airlifted, and disaster relief teams had been dispatched by the Indian Coast Guard to provide aid to people after a series of landslides in the hilly areas of Wayanad district in Kerala early on Tuesday.

"As tragic disaster struck at Wayanad in wee hours today, Indian Armed Forces swung into immediate action and 300 Military personnel were moved forthwith to commence rescue operations. During the day, additional columns of Army, Naval teams and helicopters from Air Force were mobilised to assist the rescue and relief efforts," the office of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh posted on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter).

The Minister's office al-



When the ground shakes: A landscape transformed overnight for the worse by a sudden upheaval of earth at Chooralmala in Wayanad on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

so said all-out efforts were under way as additional troops, heavy engineering equipment, rescue dog teams, and other essential relief stores were being airlifted by service aircraft from Thiruvananthapuram, Bengaluru, and Delhi.

Earlier in the day, his of-

fice also said in a post on X that the Defence Minister had on Tuesday spoken to the Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, to take stock of rescue and relief work being undertaken by Army units.

The Coast Guard district headquarters for Kerala

and Mahe and station in Bepore had dispatched disaster relief teams to the landslide-affected areas, the Ministry said.

The teams comprising highly trained personnel and dedicated medical team have been mobilised to provide immediate relief

and support to the communities impacted by the disaster, it said.

The teams are equipped with essential disaster-relief materials, including rubber inflatable boats for rescue operations, diesel-driven pumps to manage water and drainage issues, life jackets for safety, raincoats and gumboots for personnel protection in adverse weather, and earth-clearing equipment for removing debris and accessing affected areas, the statement said.

Aid delivery

The Coast Guard also dispatched food materials, drinking water and other essential supplies to support the affected population. The distribution of these supplies is being coordinated with the district disaster management team to ensure efficient aid delivery, the Defence Ministry said. The force is working closely with local authorities to mitigate the impact of this disaster.

हिन्दुस्तान

31/05/2024

बारिश-भूस्खलन के बाद रोते हुए लोग बोले-मकान हिल रहा है, बाहर आने का रास्ता नहीं

मलबे में दबे लोग फोन पर लगाते रहे मदद की गुहार

तबाही

वायनाड, एजेंसी। केरल के वायनाड जिले में मंगलवार को भूस्खलन से तबाह हुए मकानों और मलबे के ढेर के नीचे फंसे होने के बाद लोग लगातार फोन कर मदद की गुहार लगाते रहे। टेलीविजन चैनलों ने कई लोगों की फोन पर हुई बातचीत प्रसारित की जिसमें वे रो रहे थे और खुद को बचाने का अनुरोध कर रहे थे।

प्राकृतिक आफत के बीच चूरलमाला की एक महिला को जोर-जोर से रोते हुए यह कहते सुना गया कि कृपया कोई आए और हमारी मदद करे। हमने अपना घर खो दिया है। हमें नहीं पता कि नौशीन (परिवार का कोई सदस्य) जीवित है या नहीं। वह दलदल में फंस गई है। एक और व्यक्ति ने फोन पर बातचीत के दौरान रोते हुए कहा कि उनका मकान अब भी हिल रहा है और उन्हें नहीं पता कि क्या किया जाए। हमारे पास बाहर आने का कोई रास्ता नहीं बचा है।



वायनाड में मंगलवार को चूरलमाला इलाके में बारिश और भूस्खलन के बाद बचाव अभियान में जुटे एनडीआरएफ कर्मी। • एएनआई

शवों के बीच अपनों को दूढ़ते नजर आए लोग

भूस्खलन की घटना के बाद एक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र में शवों की कतार के बीच लोग अपने प्रियजनों को दूढ़ते नजर आए। परिजनों के शव देखकर जहां कुछ लोग फूट-फूटकर रोने लगे, वहीं कुछ ने किसी अपने का शव ना पाकर उनके सकुशल होने की आस में राहत की सांस ली। मेप्पाडी गांव के सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र पर मंगलवार को कुछ ऐसा ही दृश्य देखने को मिला। एक युवती ने रुंधे गले से बताया, भूस्खलन के बाद उसके परिवार के पांच सदस्य लापता हैं, जिनमें दो बच्चे भी हैं। उसने बताया कि वह अस्पताल आई है कि कहीं किसी ने उसके परिजनों को यहां तो भर्ती नहीं कराया है।

पीड़ितों की दास्तान

1 बात मानते तो बच जाते
हादसे में बाल-बाल बचे लोग अपने कुछ क्षणों को याद करते हुए सिहर उठते हैं। एक बुजुर्ग दंपती क्षेत्र में कीचड़ भरा पानी बहता देख रात 11 बजे ही घर छोड़कर भाग निकले थे। बुजुर्ग ने भावुक आवाज में कहा, हमने पड़ोसियों से हमारे साथ आने का आग्रह किया था, लेकिन उन्होंने मना कर दिया।

2 रिश्तेदार का फिर फोन नहीं लगा

एक अन्य महिला ने रोते हुए कहा कि उसके रिश्तेदार ने उसे फोन किया और कहा कि वे अपने बच्चे को लेकर घर से भाग रहे हैं। उसके बाद से उनका फोन नहीं लगा। उस परिवार का अभी तक पता नहीं चल पाया है। हम बच गए पर हमारा सबकुछ तबाह हो गया।

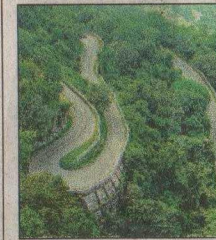
3 छत पर पत्थर गिरे, पत्नी गायब है

एक घायल बुजुर्ग ने बताया, हम घर में सो रहे थे। अचानक एक तेज आवाज सुनाई दी। हमने बड़े-बड़े पत्थर तथा पैडों को हमारे मकान की छत पर गिरते देखा। घर में बाढ़ का पानी घुस गया, जिससे दरवाजा टूट गया। उन्होंने बताया किसी ने उन्हें बचाया व अस्पताल पहुंचाया पर पत्नी का कुछ अता-पता नहीं है।

सावधानी

दक्षिण भारत में भूस्खलन के लिए कई क्षेत्र संवेदनशील

मानसून के दौरान दक्षिणी भारत में भूस्खलन के लिए कुछ इलाके अधिक संवेदनशील हैं। इन इलाकों में पर्यटकों को विशेष सावधानी बरतनी चाहिए, मानसून के दौरान होने वाली बारिश से खतरा अधिक रहता है।



मुन्नार

चाय के बागानों और घुंघु भरी पहाड़ियों के लिए मशहूर मुन्नार भूस्खलन का हाटस्पॉट है।

तमिलनाडु

नीलगिरी

ऊटी, कुन्नूर और कोटागिरी जैसे हिल स्टेशन खूबसूरत हैं। लेकिन खड़ी ढलानों और भारी वर्षा से भूस्खलन का खतरा रहता है।

केरल

इडुक्की

इडुक्की आर्क डेम का घर। ऊबड़-खाबड़ इलाका और ऊंचाई भूस्खलन के खतरे को बढ़ाती है।

वायनाड

वायनाड हरियाली से भरपूर है। लेकिन इसके पहाड़ी इलाके और भारी बारिश से यहां भूस्खलन और

बाढ़ का खतरा अधिक होता है।

गावी

यह पंजा घाटी में बसा है। घाटी पहाड़ियों और जंगलों से घिरी हुई है। पर्यटकों के लिए यह अच्छी जगह है लेकिन भूस्खलन के नजरिए से यह अतिसंवेदनशील है।

कर्नाटक

कोडागु (कूर्ग)

कर्नाटक का यह क्षेत्र, केरल की सीमा से लगा हुआ है। यहां भी भूस्खलन काफी अधिक होता है।

हिन्दुस्तान

31/07/2024



वायनाड में विनाश



मदद

केरल के वायनाड में मूसलाघार बारिश और भूस्खलन के बाद हर तरफ तबाही का मंजर नजर आ रहा था। गांवों और मलबे में फंसे लोगों को निकालने के लिए सेना को भी लगाया गया।



मशक्कत

वायनाड में मंगलवार को मुंडक्केई के पास भूस्खलन के बाद गांव में फंसे लोगों को निकालने के लिए राहत और बचाव अभियान चलाते एएनडीआरएफ के जवान। • प्रेर

हिन्दुस्तान

31/07/2024

वायनाड में विनाश, 123 जिंदा दफन

वायनाड, एजेंसी। केरल के वायनाड जिले में मंगलवार तड़के भारी बारिश विनाश लेकर आई। इस कारण पहाड़ी इलाकों में जबरदस्त भूस्खलन हुआ, जिसमें चार गांव बह गए और 123 लोग जिंदा दफन हो गए। इस आपदा 128 घायल हो गए, जबकि कई लोगों के लापता होने की आशंका है।

सेना के दो जेसीओ और 40 जवान बचावकार्यों में जुटे हुए हैं। वायुसेना के दो हेलीकॉप्टर भी मदद के लिए भेजे गए हैं। केरल में दो दिन का शोक घोषित किया गया है। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने हादसे पर दुख जताया और मारे गए लोगों के परिजनों को प्रधानमंत्री राष्ट्रीय राहत कोष से दो लाख रुपये और घायलों को 50 हजार रुपये की अनुग्रह राशि देने की घोषणा की है।

चार घंटे में तीन भूस्खलन: अधिकारियों ने बताया, भूस्खलन का सिलसिला देर रात दो बजे शुरू हुआ। सुबह छह बजे तक भूस्खलन की तीन घटनाएं दर्ज हुईं, जिसकी चपेट में चार गांव आ गए। लोग सोए हुए थे, जिससे उन्हें संभलने तक का मौका नहीं मिला। भूस्खलन से कई मकान नष्ट हो गए, वाहन बह गए, जलाशयों में बाढ़ आ गई व सैकड़ों पेड़ उखड़ गए। प्रभावित गांवों में मुंडक्कई, चूरलमाला, अट्टमाला व नूलपुझा शामिल हैं। 34 मृतकों की पहचान हो गई है, जिनमें से 18 के शव परिजनों को सौंपे गए हैं।

आपदा की भयावहता का पता इससे चलता है कि नदियों व कीचड़ में लोगों के क्षत-विक्षत अंग मिल रहे हैं। इधर, रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने सेना प्रमुख उपेंद्र द्विवेदी को फोन पर राहत कार्यों पर बात की।

➤ विस्तृत कवरेज P15



वायनाड के पहाड़ी इलाके में मंगलवार को विनाशकारी भूस्खलन के बाद राहत कार्यों में जुटे बचावकर्मी। • एजेंसी

128 लोग घायल हुए, कई की हालत गंभीर



वायनाड में हुए भूस्खलन से व्यथित हूं। मेरी



संवेदनाएं उन सभी के साथ हैं, जिन्होंने प्रियजनों को खोया है और

जो घायल हुए हैं, उनके जल्द स्वस्थ होने की प्रार्थना करता हूं।

— नरेंद्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

121 killed, hundreds missing as landslides batter Wayanad

Vishnu Varma

letters@hindustantimes.com

WAYANAD: At least 121 people were killed, 128 were injured and hundreds remained missing in Wayanad district of Kerala after days of ceaseless rain triggered a series of landslides early on Tuesday that wiped out and isolated much of a remote hamlet, caked neighbourhoods in mud and swept away roads, a bridge and other public infrastructure, as the state's worst monsoon disaster since 2018 underscored the disproportionate brunt of the climate crisis that ecologically sensitive regions bear.

The northern Kerala district was pummelled by 572mm of rain on Monday and Tuesday, precipitating two landslides between 1am and 4am in Chooralmala village that sent fierce currents of water and mud into Mundakkai village downstream and snapped a bridge between the two hamlets. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had only forecast between 64mm and 200mm of rain for the region during this time.

The army and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) deployed several teams to rescue people, but relief efforts were significantly hobbled by the destruction of infrastructure, continuous rain and the swelling waters of the Iruvazhinji river, prompting forces to trek through treacherous terrain, even as two Indian Air Force choppers made their way

continued on →17



Rescue operations at Chooralmala in Wayanad on Tuesday.

AT 1AM, A VILLAGE IN DEEP SLEEP WOKEN BY DEATH, DESPAIR

Vishnu Varma

letters@hindustantimes.com

WAYANAD: 1am. Chooralmala village was fast asleep. It had rained for more than two days, but there was little to set it apart from other nights for 33-year-old Safna Tutu and her family. But then, her phone rang. It was her neighbour, breathless and frantic. Minutes later, they heard a roar and the earth shook beneath them. →P12

RESCUERS STARE AT DAUNTING TASK IN RACE AGAINST TIME

WAYANAD: Incessant rain, dense fog and the collapse of a key bridge over the Iruvazhinji river are among the grave challenges facing rescue workers after multiple landslides in Chooralmala and Mundakkai villages. →P12

Houses washed away; many still missing

Vishnu Varma

letters@hindustantimes.com

WAYANAD: Those frantic hours were a whirlwind, fresh in 33-year-old Safna Tuttu's mind. Her family — her husband Nishad and their 14-year-old son — were all fast asleep in their single-storey house in Chooralmala in Kerala's Wayanad district. A little after 1am on Tuesday, her phone rang. On the other end was her neighbour, breathless and frantic, the first indication that something was gravely wrong. "She was standing on the terrace, the ground floor completely inundated by swirling water. Our house was not affected till then because we were on slightly higher ground, and we ran over and rescued her family," Safna said.

In many ways, that phone call saved them. Minutes later, they heard a roar and the earth shook beneath them. "We quickly ran out on the main road," Safna said. The power was out, and community Whatsapp groups had sent warnings in the morning of a herd of elephants roaming around in the neighbourhood. "We didn't know what to do," she said.

By this time, with the rain incessant, and the water pouring past the village, they knew they were in the middle of a landslide. "Our home is closer to Chooral-



A framed photograph lies partially covered in mud at a damaged house in Wayanad district of Kerala on Tuesday. AP

mala town, so we felt safer here. But we couldn't sleep," she said. A little after 4am, just as Safna lit the stove to make some tea, there was another roar, louder and even more ominous. "It sounded as if chunks of metal were being unloaded from a truck right next to you. We were really shaken this time," she said.

The family ran out of the house, just as many others did, and together, they took an old village road to climb to higher ground. They left for her mother's house at 6am, only returning home at 10am. Before her was a village devastated.

Homes that sat on the edge of the Iruvazhinji river had disappeared; the 30-year-old bridge on the river was washed away and most of the buildings of the Government Vocational Higher Secondary School (GVHSS), Velalmala, where her son studied, lay in pieces.

In that moment, Safna knew she was fortunate; she had survived the night. At least 121 others hadn't.

Forty-year-old Vijayan P, for instance, was inconsolable on Tuesday morning. His home in Mundakkai had disappeared in the swirling water. As had his mother and sister.

"My mother's hand slipped from my hand when I was holding her, and I saw her slipping into the slush and mud below me. I have still not found her remains," he said.

NK Sukumaran, a local body member from Attamala who took part in relief efforts on Tuesday, told HT that at least 30 people from his ward were relocated from late on Monday night. "Seeing the intensity of the rains, we knew something could happen and we quickly asked them to shift to a relief camp on higher ground. We asked others also to move, but many refused our calls. They thought their homes were safe. Almost all of them are now dead," he said.

Describing the scenes at the site of the landslide in Mundakkai and Attamala, Sukumaran said, "There are just bodies everywhere, some buried under rubble of their homes and others flowing in the river. It is a terrifying situation. If we had been able to access Mundakkai in the morning itself, we could have rescued several people. But the state of the river was dangerous. There was heavy rain and dense fog. It was only around 3pm that rescue personnel were able to enter Mundakkai," he said.

Days of frantic relief and rescue, and a scale of tragedy only beginning to unfold itself, lie ahead.

Major incidents over the years

2017: Cyclone Ockhi lashed the Indian coast in December 2017, leaving 89 dead

89 people killed

2018: Floods hit Kerala in August, claiming over 480 lives and displacing more than one million

480 people killed

2019: Over 120 people killed in floods and landslides on Aug 8

120 people killed

2020: Over 104 people killed in the first week of August

104 people killed

2021: Twin landslides in Kootickal and Kakkayar panchayats in Kottayam claimed 21 lives in October

21 people killed

1924: Munnar received 485mm of rainfall. About 1,000 people died in flooding in 12 districts of the southern state

1,000 people killed