

# Floods, landslides kill at least 28 people in southern India

October 18 2021, by Aniruddha Ghosal

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Rescuers search for bodies of victims amidst the debris of a landslide following heavy rains at Koottickal in Kottayam district, southern Kerala state, India, Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021. More than two dozen people have died in the state due to intense rains which have triggered floods and landslides. Credit: AP Photo

Officials predicted more rain as the death toll from floods and landslides

in the southern Indian state of Kerala rose to 28 on Monday.

Since the ferocious downpours began last week, swollen rivers have decimated bridges, and vehicles and homes have been swept away. Several dams were nearing full capacity.

K.J. Ramesh, one of India's top meteorologists and the former chief of the weather agency, said the increased rainfall was linked to [climate change](#) and warmer oceans.

"This is definitely a sign of things to come," he said.

At least 23 people died in Kottayam and Idukki districts, among the worst hit. More than 9,000 people have taken shelter in over 200 camps across the state, officials said.

The [heavy rainfall](#) resulted from a low-pressure area that formed over the southeastern Arabian sea and Kerala. It was expected to ease Monday, but the Meteorological Department warned that new rain-bearing winds would hit the region starting Wednesday, bringing more precipitation.

Heavy [rainfall](#) is also predicted across several northern and eastern Indian states.

The National Disaster Response Force and the Indian army deployed teams in Kerala to help rescue efforts.

"I pray for everyone's safety and well-being," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Twitter.





Rescuers try to pull out the body of a victim from beneath the debris of a landslide following heavy rains at Koottickal in Kottayam district, southern Kerala state, India, Sunday, Oct.17, 2021. More than two dozen people have died



in the state due to intense rains which have triggered floods and landslides.  
Credit: AP Photo



Rain clouds fill the sky as people travel in a ferry in Kochi, Kerala state, India, Monday, Oct.18, 2021. Credit: AP Photo/R S Iyer



Rain clouds fill the sky as a man walks on fishing boats that are anchored in Kochi, Kerala state, India, Monday, Oct.18, 2021. Credit: AP Photo/R S Iyer

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