



Rescuers carry a body.

Chooralmala, India

Deadly monsoon: At least 166 people were killed and scores more were missing after extreme rains triggered massive mudslides in the southern Indian state of Kerala this week. Rescue workers scrambled to save people trapped beneath mud and debris after waves of earth, boulders, and water rolled down steep slopes lined with spice and tea plantations and into the towns of Chooralmala and Mundakkai. Homes were buried, trees uprooted, and roads cut off. “Nothing is left,” a man said in Mundakkai. Climate experts blamed extreme monsoon rainfall fueled by warming in the Arabian Sea for the scale of the disaster, the state’s worst since floods killed nearly 500 people in 2018. A 2011 report by ecologists warned that much of the scenic region was “fragile” and argued for a ban on “environmentally hazardous” human activities like mining, construction, and deforestation. Politicians rejected the recommendations, arguing they’d hurt the local economy.