

GROUND ZERO



Sombre recovery A body being transported across the river using a rope and pulley by rescue personnel at the landslide hit Chooralmala. THULASI KAKKAT



The bridge is going to make a big difference in the search operation.... It will speed up the rescue and search operation

MAJ. GEN. V.T. MATHEW
GOC, Kerala and Karnataka sub-area

Search teams too had harrowing experiences to report. "When our men entered a mud-covered abandoned house, they were anguished to see the bodies of three children huddling on a sofa under the concrete rubble. Similarly, they found the body of a man lying peacefully on a cot in another house," said a Fire and Rescue Services senior official.

When it rained during the search, people on the site raised worries about a fresh landslide. Toys, books, spectacles, children's clothes, utensils, medicines, framed marriage photos were found in damaged homes. Gas cylinders were seen under the rubble of some houses. "We expect bodies to be trapped under the debris, whether it is concrete or logs," says Sajeer Madasery, a volunteer.

Most bodies retrieved by the search teams were disfigured and mutilated. Identifying them remains a hard task at the Community Health Centre, Meppadi. Forensic surgeons have been brought in from different government medical colleges for postmortems. "We are making sure that postmortem procedures are done as fast as we can to help relatives identify and claim the bodies," says Dr. Reena K.J., Director of Health Services, Kerala.

The identification of mangled bodies is another traumatising experience for the survivors. "There is nothing more painful," says Basheer Saadi, Wayanad district president of the Shanwanam help group that is volunteering here.

Mass graves have been dug at the graveyards of Meppadi Juma masjid, Nellimunda Juma masjid, and St. Sebastian Church at Chooralmala. Mass pyres have been prepared at Meppadi public crematorium. Many funerals were over with none shedding tears, because traumatised survivors and their relatives have been numbed by the tragedy. "The trauma is so deep; it will take a long time for them to recover. We are prioritising counselling for them," says Dr. Reena.

The State and Central governments responded to the disaster by mobilising forces for rescue and search. The State has posted four ministers at Meppadi to supervise the rescue and rehabilitation. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan says, "Counselling and privacy are very important for the survivors now." The Education Department will soon send teachers to the relief camps to teach the children lodged there.

Forest and Wildlife Minister A.K. Saseendran says the government will work on rehabilitation after completing the search operations. "It's going to be a top priority for us. We will use all our experience for it," he says.

Times of trouble

While the Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced ₹2 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 for the injured, the tragedy opened up a debate between the Centre and the State. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the Centre had warned Kerala of heavy rains and landslides on July 23, 24, and 25.

Kerala Chief Minister, even when calling for joint measures to parry natural disasters caused by climate change and extreme weather conditions, refuted Shah's claims. He said that neither the India Meteorological Department (IMD), nor the Geological Survey of India (GSI), nor the Central Water Commission had issued a red alert for Wayanad ahead of the July 30 landslides. IMD issued a red alert for Kerala in the early morning of July 30, a few hours after the State witnessed its worst landslide.

The GSI had however, categorised the Vellarimala region of Wayanad as a highly vulnerable zone after the 2019 Puthumala landslide that took place just a few kilometres downhill from Mundakkai. In an atlas of landslide-prone areas made by ISRO, Wayanad is said to be the most vulnerable in Kerala and is in the 13th position among the country's 147 landslide-susceptible districts.

In 2011 the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, headed by ecologist-author Madhav Gadgil, had categorised the area into three ecologically sensitive zones, with the now impacted Vythiri taluk being one of the most sensitive. In an interview with *The Hindu* after the disaster, he had said, "No development should have taken place in these highly sensitive areas." There are resorts, artificial lakes, and other commercial construction in the area.

Experts say the continuous rain the region witnessed over the last two weeks had softened the soil, triggering the landslides. But they differ on how it happened. According to former GSI deputy director general C. Muraleedharan, heavy rain caused the supersaturated soil to blast like a dam, leading to a debris flow.

According to C.P. Rajendran, professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, deforestation and unplanned buildings too were responsible. A study published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* in 2022 found that 85% of Wayanad was under forest cover until the 1950s and 62% disappeared between 1950 and 2018, whereas area under plantations went up by 1800.75%. However, Kerala Forest Statistics 2020 records show that forest cover in Wayanad stands at 74.18%, and is the highest in the State.

"The frequency of landslides has gone up in Wayanad," says Rajendran, suggesting long-term strategies. Imaginative and humane initiatives are the need of the hour for Kerala, which has a high-density population, he says, adding that landslide risk mapping is a must, using all available resources, including satellite images.

Meanwhile, rainfall continues in Wayanad.

Death rains on Wayanad

Over 200 people died, two settlements were wiped out, and one severely impacted, after heavy rains caused a landslide in north-east Kerala's hilly district. **Abdul Latheef Naha** finds a land battered beyond recognition, with about 500 injured and many still missing. Even as support from across India pours in, questions are raised about why this happened

Trigger warning: The following article has disturbing details.

In the early, dark hours of July 30, Nature staged a macabre dance on two sleepy villages in the lap of the Vellarimala hill range in the Western Ghats. In a few minutes, roughly 200 households in the biggest ever landslide in Kerala's history, were wiped out.

When the sun rose in the morning, Mundakkai and Chooralmala, twin settlements in Wayanad's Vellarimala village in Meppadi panchayat had vanished, transforming a landscape of rolling hills into a horrifying trail of havoc. Two landslides, at about 1 a.m. and 4:10 a.m. have killed over 200 people so far and injured about 500. The number of people missing is nearly 300.

The Indian Space Research Organisation's National Remote Sensing Centre would later release satellite images showing that 86,000 square metres of land had simply slipped out of place. The swift flowing debris, from crown to run-out zone, lasted 8 kilometres. The crown zone was "a reactivation of an older landslide," it observed. The landslide plunged into the Iruvazhinjipuzha, one of the tributaries of the Chaliyar river, swollen with the rain. Both raged and burst their banks. The combination of cascading heavy mud and gushing water took its toll.

Now, families count missing loved ones. Every family has losses, some more than others. "I lost my sister Afeeda, her husband Sattar, and their children Filu, Adi, and Sanu at Mundakkai. Twenty-five members of Sattar's family have disappeared," says Sakeer K., a construction worker who had asked his sister to come to his house at Nellimunda, a couple of kilometres away, far from the river. "I feared for them as it was raining unusually heavily that night."

Jitika Prem, a dance teacher from Mundakkai, shudders at the thought of her missing students. She attempts to describe how she and her family ran out of their house to safety when giant rocks and logs flattened their home. She lost her cousins Sivan, Jijina, and Pramodini, who were found in a huddle, in death. Many gathered in a resort near Mundakkai to shelter.

The last time Kerala witnessed devastation like this was during the floods of 2018 that claimed 433 lives and affected over 5.4 million people. The Puthumala tragedy of August 2019 left 17 dead and flattened 58 houses.

Rescue and relief was quick, with over 1,800 personnel coming in, from the Indian Army, Navy, and Airforce; Indian Coast Guard Disaster Relief Team; and the National and State level Disaster Response Forces. State forces from the police, forest, excise, and motor vehicle departments are providing logistical support.

Forewarned but unarmed

The first landslide took place at around 1 a.m. The thunderous sound of the floodwaters woke people up, but many could not get out of their



I lost my sister Afeeda, her husband Sattar, and their children.... Twenty-five members of Sattar's family have disappeared

SAKEER K.
Construction worker

houses in time. Local WhatsApp groups were soon flooded with screams for help. The cry of a woman named Minnath went viral as it was forwarded from group to group. "Many people are stuck in their homes. Please come; help us. The house behind Basheerka's shop is gone. I don't know what happened to my husband." Her cries were heard, and she was saved by local people.

Onapparambil Moidu hung on to a ceiling fan after standing on a cot along with his daughter and her eight-month-old child. The swirling water and mud reached his neck. At that point, he says he made the most decisive move of his life, to get through a half open door. "I stared death in the face. The bypass surgery I recently underwent has weakened me. I mustered all my energy; my daughter hung on to my back, and I held my grandchild over my head. We pushed ourselves through the mud for about 250 metres," recounts Moidu, at a relief camp at Government Higher Secondary School, Meppadi town, about 15 km from the disaster zone. His feet were banded for injuries he suffered during the escape. Two camps in Meppadi of the 82 camps across Wayanad are catering to survivors. They are established in a government and a private school.

Moidu's was a two-storey concrete house, about 50 metres from the Iruvazhinji that flowed through Chooralmala. Nothing of it remains now. "I lost my wife's mother, her sister, her husband, and their children in Mundakkai. Several of my family and friends have disappeared," he says. Then adds, "If the first landslide was a test dose, then the second was nature's prescription."

Deadly deluge

When he heard the news of the first landslide, Wayanad District Panchayat president Samshad Marakkar reached Chooralmala at 2 a.m. along with his friends. "The second landslide came after 4 a.m. unleashing the sound of a dinosaur in a

DTS theatre. It was so huge that it wiped out everything in its path. I retrieved the first body of a man that morning, followed by that of a girl, and took them to hospital," he says.

The landslide took away people in their sleep and brought their mangled bodies to the Chaliyar downstream at Munderi. Many bodies went through the steep waterfalls of Soochippara, Kanthanpara, and Meenmutty before reaching Munderi in Pothukal near Nilambur.

It knocked down a bridge connecting Chooralmala with Mundakkai and Attamala, the Shiva temple of Chooramala, a mosque at Mundakkai, a Government Vocational Higher Secondary School in Vellarimala, and houses and business establishments. A few resorts were destroyed.

"I had several of my friends in Mundakkai and Attamala. They are missing," said Dheera Singh, a tea estate labourer from Madhya Pradesh, as he stands dazed at the site where the Shiva temple had stood. A ficus tree next to the temple site still stands, a witness to what is lost. So does a portion of the large temple auditorium. Temple priest Kumar Swamy's body was recovered and taken to his home State of Tamil Nadu. Mundakkai Masjid Imam Shihab Faizy Qayyoomi's body was retrieved from the Chaliyar at Pothukal. The landslide took away a portion of the masjid in which Qayyoomi was sleeping.

Shailaja K.M., who used to help Kumar Swamy clean the bronze lamps at the Chooralmala temple, says Shiva helped them get out of the chest-deep water. "My children and I gathered in one room as floodwaters began rising. We thought we would die. I sent messages on WhatsApp to my brothers, bidding them farewell," she remembers. They managed to push through the mud to safety. "We climbed to the second floor of our neighbour Azeez's house," says Shailaja.

It was pitch dark as the power lines had snapped. Some with clothes on and some without, ran into the coffee and cardamom plantations nearby to escape. There, they confronted elephants, but remained safe. "We realised that the wild elephant understood our plight. The tusker did nothing to us," whimpers Sujata, who was trapped in front of an elephant in the dark chilly night.

Trauma and support

Until the Army constructed a Bailey bridge across the Iruvazhinjipuzha, using prefabricated trusses on August 1 evening, the search for bodies in Mundakkai was hard, as rescue teams and machines could not make it across the river. "The bridge will make a big difference in the search operation. We have to search the whole area using earth movers and other heavy equipment. It will speed up the search and rescue operation," says Maj. Gen. V.T. Mathew, general officer commanding (GOC) of Kerala and Karnataka sub-area, in charge of the rescue operations at Mundakkai.



People stranded at Attamala after the landslide, being evacuated via a temporary bridge THULASI KAKKAT



Capital outlays at the core of defence capabilities



LT GEN PRADEEP BALI (RETD)
MILITARY COMMENTATOR

14.8 per cent for revenue expenditure, 53.3 per cent for salaries and pensions, and 4.2 per cent for civil organisations under the MoD. To boost indigenous defence production, Rs 1,05,518 crore has been allocated for domestic capital procurement out of the total capital head.

The continuing inimical activities by our northern and western neighbours, the need to ensure maritime security, and having the ability to deter the enemy on land, in the sea and the air, are inescapable realities that narrow down our options. A robust financial outlay for defence is thus imperative for any FM. However, a cursory look at the outlays indicates a largely status quoist approach. Factoring in inflation makes percentage increases largely cosmetic and just about adequate to meet immediate needs. Any attempted dexterity in spending is hemmed in by committed liabilities consuming the larger part of capital outlays.

Though the defence expenditure is the largest component of the Union Budget, one sees little result-oriented discussion and informed debates on it. Even the well-thought-out recommendations of the Standing Committee for Defence remain bereft of action. A long-standing recommendation, which had also been projected by the 15th Finance Commission, was the creation of a non-lapsable modernisation fund for defence and internal security. However, this has not matured

THIS calendar year has seen the tabling of two Budgets — the interim one on February 1 and the full one for 2024-25 on July 23. The allocations for the defence sector have not seen any major variation, belying hopes that Modi 3.0 would focus more on capability enhancement of the armed forces. The defence expenditure as a share of the total expenditure has declined from 17.8 per cent in 2016-17 to 13.9 per cent in 2023-24 (revised estimates) and 12.9 per cent for the current fiscal. Overall spending for FY 2024-25 has increased only by 4.8 per cent over FY 2023-24. Adherence to fiscal strictness in government expenditure may partially explain why the Modi government has kept the increase in defence expenditure minimal.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has a total allocation of Rs 6,21,941 crore. Within this kitty, 27.7 per cent is for planned capital acquisitions, aimed at equipping the armed forces with advanced technology and weaponry,



NATIONAL SECURITY: The sine qua non of Viksit Bharat is Surakshit Bharat. ❧

into a working mechanism. The security situation in the neighbourhood as well as globally remains unpredictable. We, however, have been mostly reactive in dealing with any crisis to the extent that even funding is met in an emergency mode.

Building capacities and developing capabilities need time, while intentions can change rapidly. Cost-intensive infusion of high-end technology in military systems and equipment, which in the present day also includes cyberspace, space and unmanned platforms, has to be ongoing. While planning for our defence, we need to clearly understand that capital outlays are the foundation of capabilities.

The 'capital good, revenue bad' analysis is a regular part

of discussions on the defence budget. This is more of a slogan than a cogent analysis. The revenue head includes expenditures on sustenance, operational preparedness, continuing procurement and maintenance of in-service equipment. The situation we face in J&K and on the borders with China and Pakistan makes a manpower-intensive posture imperative and inevitable. Salaries and pensions are a function of the size of the forces needed to be maintained, based not only on operational needs but also on the methods of application in such a scenario. The cost of the human resource required for this is as necessary as any weapon platform. The 'capital versus revenue' argument is not of much consequence outside of account

Any nation keen to raise the quality of life of its citizens requires serious efforts and substantial resources

books. It also needs no reiteration that defence pensions are a sovereign promise to the soldier and his family for his service to the nation.

As much as 75 per cent of the outlay for modernisation will be spent on sourcing from the domestic industry, in line with the focus on *Aatmanirbharta*, and Rs 43,000 crore will be spent on imports dedicated to capital acquisitions. The lead times necessary to develop, produce and deploy critical technologies and weapon systems are considerable. Boosting indigenous production of defence equipment has to be an important pillar of our defence policy, but this will be a long, ongoing process and cannot meet current requirements in an optimal manner. Then again, our indigenisation efforts must be freed from stifling procedures. There has to be a concerted effort for encouraging startups and private players in defence production by an underwritten assurance of confirmed orders for viable products within a clear timeline, failing which the project could be foreclosed.

Unlike in the past, the current defence budget does not spell out distribution of capital expenditure among the three services, on the grounds of fostering jointness. This obstructs the estimation of service-wise share. This also leads to an issue of concern from the past — the lapsing of the capital budget of the Army. While the Navy and the Air Force are plat-

form-centric in their capital inventory, with big budget systems, the Army has a huge inventory of small and medium-level weapons and equipment. The fault lies primarily in procedural delays, over-shooting trial timelines and contractual issues, most of which are beyond the control of the Army HQ directorates dealing with procurement. The acquisition vertical of the MoD should be fully accountable for this and reasons need to be ascertained for missing the expenditure targets.

The defence budget must be capability-driven and not intention-driven. A firm step in this direction would be to make the capital budget 'non-lapsable' and 'roll-on' in nature, with a five-year time span. A non-lapsable military modernisation fund must be created and a Defence Commission constituted to ensure that this is utilised optimally by being the bridge between Service HQs and the Cabinet Committee on Security. A draft Cabinet note for such a fund has been under consideration by the government for quite some time now and needs to be approved expeditiously.

Any nation keen to raise the quality of life of its citizens requires serious efforts and substantial resources. India, too, is engaged in this journey towards development. We must never forget, however, that the sine qua non of *Viksit Bharat* is *Surakshit Bharat*.

Need more govt colleges, job avenues to rein in coaching culture



PREM CHOWDHRY
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the BJP are blaming each other for the Delhi mishap. This political blame game has drowned out the cries of the aggrieved families and the protests of the vulnerable students. There are hundreds of coaching centres in Delhi-NCR. Many of them operate under unsafe conditions. Commercially motivated, they are least bothered about the safety of the students. A handful of coaching centres operating in violation of the rules have been sealed, encroachments over drains bulldozed and a high-level probe committee set up. Arrests have been made in connection with the incident, and several protests have been held. The need of the hour, however, is to understand the problem and find long-term solutions.

In January this year, in view of the rising cases of student suicide, the Ministry of Education had issued guidelines for the regulation of coaching centres. However, as the senior secondary stage (a two-year academic phase followed uniformly across the country) covers classes XI and XII — which have students aged between 16 and 18 years — it is considered the responsibility of the states and union territories concerned. They were instructed to take necessary steps to regulate coaching centres falling under their jurisdiction in order to ensure the safety and securi-

THE death of three young IAS aspirants in the flooded basement of a coaching centre in Delhi's Old Rajinder Nagar has turned the spotlight on glaring irregularities in the functioning of such 'teaching shops'. These centres cater to students preparing for NEET (National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test) to get admission into undergraduate medical programmes and the exams conducted by the UPSC (Union Public Service Commission) for the recruitment of officers to the All India Services and the Central Civil Services. The centres are thronged by millions of career-conscious students. Cashing in on the aspirants' desperation, the institutes charge them exorbitant fees but fail to ensure even basic facilities, as seen in the Delhi tragedy. Most of these centres rent cheap accommodation to teach students and admit far more of them than their premises can accommodate.

The AAP government and



DELHI TRAGEDY: A handful of coaching centres operating in violation of the rules have been sealed, encroachments over drains bulldozed and a high-level probe committee set up. TRIBUNE PHOTO

ty of students and save them from being exploited. The National Education Policy-2020 had warned against the 'coaching culture' and its harmful impact. It had even suggested reform in the existing system of board and entrance examinations to eliminate the need for coaching classes. It also proposed viable models of board exams that could reduce pressure and check the coaching culture. A high-quality common aptitude test and specialised common subject exams in the sciences, humanities, languages, arts and vocational subjects at least twice every year were recommended. Such exams were

There are hundreds of coaching centres in Delhi-NCR. Many of them operate under unsafe conditions.

meant to test the conceptual understanding of the students and eliminate the need for coaching for the exams. Students could choose the subjects of their interest.

The set of guidelines issued in January made it mandatory to get prior permission to establish a coaching centre. It also laid down the norms for infrastructure, fire and building safety, medical assistance or treatment facilities, emergency services, etc. The coaching centre buildings are required to be fully electrified, well ventilated and have sufficient lighting arrangements in each classroom. These centres are also

advised to involve counsellors and psychologists for providing psychotherapeutic help to students suffering from stress or depression.

In case a coaching centre violates any of the terms and conditions of registration or general requirements, it is liable for penalties — a fine of Rs 25,000 for the first offence, Rs 1 lakh for the second violation and the revocation of registration in case of subsequent breaches.

These guidelines have reportedly not been implemented. The Delhi tragedy was a result of that. It is time for the government to ensure that such centres are properly regulated. A minimum amount of space required for students must be maintained. If possible, the fees should also be regulated. All aspects of such centres must be periodically monitored and those not conforming to the guidelines must be shut down.

However, mere implementation of the guidelines will not fix the problem. The solution lies in setting up more government colleges. That would arrest the trend of a rising number of candidates vying for a limited number of seats. Although there has been an 82 per cent rise in the number of medical colleges from 387 before 2014 to 706 in early 2024, it is still not enough, given the huge number of candidates and

the fact that many of these institutions are grappling with faculty shortage and infrastructural issues. The rise in the number of institutions also means an increase in the teaching faculty. To address these challenges, the government should not only strengthen the infrastructure and adopt advanced technological interventions but also work to reduce the level of competition in these examinations by creating more employment avenues.

Unemployment needs to be tackled urgently. According to the India Employment Report 2024, the share of youngsters with secondary or higher education in the total unemployed youth has nearly doubled from 35.2 per cent in 2000 to 65.7 per cent in 2022. Employment opportunities have to be created, as less than 1 per cent of the students qualify for government jobs. This means that the economy has to be opened up. Government jobs are coveted because there are inadequate employment avenues in the private sector, where the lack of job security is another key factor. Incentives must be provided for the creation of private-sector jobs for aspiring candidates. Let's hope the current crisis will prompt much-needed reforms in this sector.

<h3>QUICK CROSSWORD</h3> <p>ACROSS 1 Robbery on the high seas (6) 4 Deceitful person (3-5) 9 Negligently inert (6) 10 Uncomplimentary criticism (8) 12 Egress (4) 13 Strained (5) 14 Merriment (4) 17 One who talks too much (12) 20 Incredible (6,6) 23 Peak (4) 24 Take without right (5) 25 Predisposition (4) 28 Autocrat (8) 29 Deep shade of blue (6) 30 Wolfgram (8) 31 Optimistic (6)</p> <p>DOWN 1 Casual onlooker (6-2) 2 Act of retaliation (8) 3 Insincere moral talk (4) 5 Achieves remarkable results (5,7) 6 Stable gear (4) 7 Able to move freely (6) 8 Preferably (6) 11 Stern unsympathetic nature (5,2,5) 15 Peer Gynt's author (5) 16 Exorbitant (5) 18 Causing disagreement (8) 19 Branch (8) 21 Brigand (6) 22 Guiding light (6) 26 Be accepted as adequate (4) 27 Break suddenly (4)</p> <p>Yesterday's solution Across: 1 Exact, 4 Transit, 8 Pit, 9 Repugnant, 10 Who's who, 11 Lower, 13 Reason, 15 Preach, 18 Hitch, 19 Artisan, 21 Battleaxe, 23 Has, 24 Tenuous, 25 Dotty. Down: 1 Empower, 2 Astronaut, 3 Throw, 4 Tiptoe, 5 Angular, 6 Spa, 7 Tutor, 12 What's what, 14 Othello, 16 Honesty, 17 Harass, 18 Habit, 20 Tread, 22 Tin.</p>	<h3>SU DO KU</h3> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td> </td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td> </td><td>1</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td>3</td><td> </td><td>9</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>3</td><td> </td><td>8</td><td> </td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td>2</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>9</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td> </td><td>9</td><td> </td><td>3</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>9</td><td>7</td><td>5</td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </table> <p>V. HARD</p>		2	5		1				3		9			3		8		7	9				2			4	1	6	9		1					8	4		9		3			4	5					9	7	5			<h3>FORECAST</h3> <p>SUNSET: SATURDAY 19:34 HRS SUNRISE: SUNDAY 05:43 HRS</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr><th>CITY</th><th>MAX</th><th>MIN</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Chandigarh</td><td>34</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>New Delhi</td><td>34</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>Amritsar</td><td>34</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>Bathinda</td><td>35</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>Jalandhar</td><td>34</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>Ludhiana</td><td>34</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>Bhiani</td><td>34</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>Hisar</td><td>34</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>Sirsa</td><td>34</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>Dharamsala</td><td>29</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Manali</td><td>26</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>Shimla</td><td>25</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>Srinagar</td><td>27</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>Jammu</td><td>29</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>Kargil</td><td>31</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>Leh</td><td>31</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>Dehradun</td><td>32</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>Mussoorie</td><td>23</td><td>17</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <h3>CALENDAR</h3> <p>AUGUST 3, 2024, SATURDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaka Samvat 1946 Shravan Shaka 12 Shravan Parvishte 19 Hijari 1446 Krishna Paksha Tithi 14, up to 3.51 pm Vajra Yoga up to 11.01 am Punar Nakshatra up to 11.59 am Moon in Cancer sign <p>TEMPERATURE IN °C</p>	CITY	MAX	MIN	Chandigarh	34	28	New Delhi	34	26	Amritsar	34	27	Bathinda	35	24	Jalandhar	34	27	Ludhiana	34	26	Bhiani	34	29	Hisar	34	26	Sirsa	34	28	Dharamsala	29	20	Manali	26	17	Shimla	25	17	Srinagar	27	20	Jammu	29	24	Kargil	31	18	Leh	31	15	Dehradun	32	24	Mussoorie	23	17
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Leh	31	15																																																																																																															
Dehradun	32	24																																																																																																															
Mussoorie	23	17																																																																																																															