

दिनांक को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)

The Tribune (Chandigarh)

The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)

The Times of India (Mumbai)

The Telegraph (Kolkata)

हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)

The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)

Central Chronical (Bhopal)

Traffic crawls on highways & floats near Sion

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: On Monday, heavy rainfall wrecked vehicular movement across the city but the situation on the Sion-Hindmata stretch and Eastern and Western Express Highways was exceptionally bad with commuters being stranded for hours.

With heavy rainfall expected to continue over the next few days, traffic situation is not likely to improve. "The Sion-Hindmata route was submerged and jammed with vehicles. I took two and half hours from Chembur to Parel," said a motorist. Approximately 2,000 traffic policemen were on the streets regulating vehicular movement.

Kings Circle had bumper-to-bumper traffic. A BEST bus was stuck for hours while smaller cars were marooned. An ambulance navigated with difficulty to reach Sion Hospital. The Eastern Express Highway was clogged from Kurla to Kanjurmarg.

According to motorist Sachin Sangoi severe water log-



Vehicles were stuck on water-logged roads across the city

ging was reported at WEH Metro station, leading to traffic jams. He said until last year, the BMC had installed pumps to clear the water so there were no problems. Another motorist, Puneet Kabra, tweeted that potholes on the south-bound arm of WEH, just before the domestic airport flyover, caused snarl-ups from Kandivli to Vile Parle.

SV Road was impacted too. "Ram Mandir junction on SV Road was closed without any in-

timisation. There was no diversion given either," tweeted a motorist, Jigisha Dwivedi.

The SCLR was jammed from Tilak Nagar police station to Hotel BKC Palace. Snarl-ups were reported at BKC Road, between Seepz and MIDC, near GTB Monorail station, Powai towards Sakinaka, Wadala on Eastern Freeway, LBS Marg between Vikhroli and Kanjurmarg, Sion flyover and Kurla depot bridge to Kapadia Nagar.

Auto and taxi fare refusals add to woes

Refusals by auto and taxi drivers were rampant outside stations, near markets and malls, and in commercial hubs during Monday's downpour. Some commuters also complained on the RTO helpline.

"Refusals have become common during monsoon and despite RTO's surprise checks and suspension of licences, there is no end to the menace. Errant drivers are back and now they are in large numbers," said Vishwas Shinde, an office-goer who takes autos from Andheri. Another commuter, who was at a mall in the eastern suburbs, said he was refused by at least six auto drivers and he finally took a bus.

Several cabbies were back to operating in cartels on Monday and demanding anywhere between Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 for a drop at airport, commuters said. A kaali-peeli driver demanded Rs 1,300 for Thane to CSMT, when this should cost around Rs 500. Commuters were left fuming as cab aggregators too surged rates 1.5 to 2 times. **TNN**

Need help? BMC has a 'Rain Dost' list for you

In an attempt to help people during heavy rainfall, the BMC's Twitter handle @mybmc launched its first social media initiatives called "Rain Dost" on Monday. In a tweet, the civic body said: "#RainDost is an initiative to bring together the #HeroesOfMumbai who have always volunteered to help the city in time of crisis. We hope to enable the #RainHosts help those in need better, by aligning them to concerned wards #MumbaiRainsLive."

They added, "Heroes of Mumbai step up every time the city needs them. This monsoon, we're setting up a ward-wise list of all #RainHosts so that we can help the city better together. All interested, may please tweet & share details at MCGMRainDost@gmail.com to be Mumbai's #RainDost." They have got around 300 complaints on Twitter so far.

Desilting only on paper: Chembur man

VijayV.Singh@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: "The BMC spends over Rs 200 crore on desilting work every year. But instead of improving, the situation worsens. Desilting work has been done only on paper," said 53-year-old Chembur resident Sanjay Kokane on Monday.

Chembur fire station recorded 151mm rainfall in 12 hours starting 8pm on Sunday, which caused waterlogging in several areas in the vicinity. It recorded 72mm rainfall between 8am and 6pm on Monday.

Kokane lives in Meena Towers at Swastik Park in Chembur with his family. His 78-year-old parents live separately in the ground-floor room of a ground-plus-one-storey bungalow in Chandrodaya Society. The flood water entered their room on Monday morning. Kokane said he has been seeing his locality flood since his childhood. "Recently, the local corporator and BMC officials told us that this time our area will not flood as they claimed to have wi-



A car is almost submerged in flood waters in Chembur on Monday

dened a major nullah close by, between Amar Mahal and Suman Nagar Chowki, and even changed its design. But it was a bluff."

Rakesh Gupta, who lives in Latashree building at Postal Colony, alleged that BMC officials told residents that since they live in a low-lying area, "flooding is bound to happen". Gupta said rainwater began to

seep into his ground-floor flat around 2am on Monday. He spent the entire day trying to clean his home. He had bought a pump a few years ago as his flat floods every year. "The BMC had constructed three drain lines. During rains, water from the three drains is unable to reach the main network due to excessive pressure and it rushes back into our colony," he said.

2 pumping stns save Worli from flooding

Mumbai: Two fully operational pumping stations—Cleveland Bunder and Love Grove—at Worli and widening and correction of drains and nullahs have reduced waterlogging in the area since a year. Despite heavy rain on Monday, the area saw little water accumulation, said a resident.

Following Dr Deepak Amarapurkar's death after falling into a manhole at Prabhadevi two years ago, the BMC took several measures, including widening the neck of the drain that carries water to pumping stations, to ensure flooding does not recur. Santosh Gupta, who lives in Mahalaxmi building, said, "Since last year our area does not flood."

दिनांक को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)
नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)
The Tribune (Chandigarh)
The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)
The Times of India (Mumbai)
The Telegraph (Kolkata)
हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)

TOI Visits Spots That Received Over 150MM Rain In 24 Hours Between Sunday & Monday

Dadar & Sion's chronic flooding spots submerge, locals blame civic inaction



A motorist wades his car through a flooded stretch at Dadar on Monday

VijayV.Singh@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Several areas in and around Dadar, Sion and Matunga were submerged on Monday morning following a relentless downpour from Sunday night. "My son and daughter-in-law were unable to leave home for work," said King's Circle resident Nikhil Desai.

Desai, a 67-year-old retired mechanical engineer, said the locality has been a chronic flooding spot for years now. Twelve years ago, said Desai, the Madhav Chitale Committee had said that these areas, especially Sion's Gandhi Market, began to get flooded after a

pumping station was constructed on salt pan land at Mahul.

Desai said, "Since the past 12 years, during monsoon, the BMC and the Central government (the land belongs to it) sends out some correspondence to show that they are working on the problem. But no progress has been made. Citizens continue to suffer. I visit these areas during my walks. More than a dozen areas in the vicinity flood every year, and they were flooded on Monday too."

His locality comes under the jurisdiction of the BMC's F-North Ward office which recorded 167mm rainfall in 12

hours starting 8pm on Sunday. The waterlogged area saw traffic congestion on key roads in the morning. The situation began to improve through the day as rain slowed. The ward recorded 58mm rainfall between 8am and 6pm on Monday.

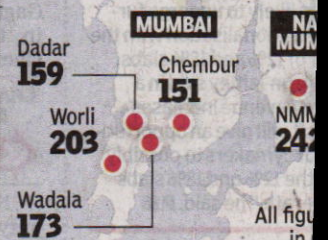
"The railway stations in the vicinity flooded too. The BMC, the railway and the government have not made any serious attempts to address these issues. Even our public representatives are aware of these flooding spots and the problem caused by them during monsoon but they do not raise the issue before the appropriate authorities and we citizens suffer," said Desai.

CITY STRUGGLES TO STAY AFLOAT

Several parts of Mumbai city, suburbs and neighbouring areas recorded over 150mm rainfall between June 30 and July 1 (8am to 8am)

THANE
Palghar
340

Keeping to climate observers' prediction that increasingly the city will have more dry days and some days with very heavy rain in a short period, some suburbs saw over 100mm rain in 12 hours from 8am to 8pm: BK (145.8mm), Andheri (144.5mm), and Vikhroli (130.5mm)



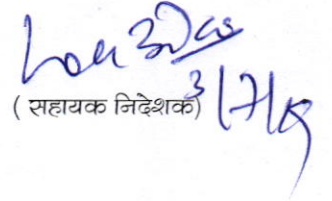
भारत सरकार
Government of India
केन्द्रीय जल आयोग
Central Water Commission
बाढ़ पूर्वानुमान प्रबोधन निदेशालय
Flood Forecast Monitoring Directorate
Tele/ Fax: 011-26106523, 26105274 e-mail : ffmte@c.inffmc@mail.com

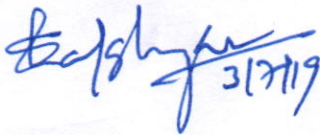
दूसरा तल, दूसरा विंग (दक्षिण), पश्चिमी खण्ड-2,
रामाकृष्ण पुरम, नई दिल्ली-110066

2.7.19 & 3.7.19
विषय : दिनांक की समाचार की कतरन (News Clippings) प्रस्तुत करने के सम्बन्ध में ।

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

संलग्न : उपरोक्तानुसार


(सहायक निदेशक)

उपनिदेशक 
3/7/19

निदेशक (बा.पू.प्र.)

~~कृपया केन्द्रीय जल आयोग की वेब साईट पर अपलोड करने की व्यवस्था करें।~~

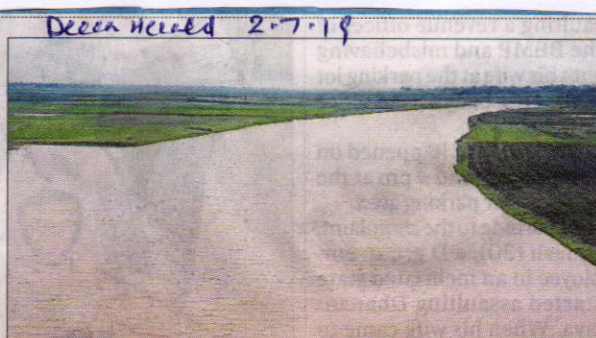
~~निदेशक (तकनीकी प्रबोधन)~~

दिनांक 2.7.19 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)
नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)
The Tribune (Chandigarh)
The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)
The Times of India (Mumbai)
The Telegraph (Kolkata)
हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

✓ The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)



Water cascades down from the crest gates of Tunga dam in Gajanur of Shivamogga district on Monday. (Right) River Malaprabha in full flow near Baihongal of Belagavi district. DH PHOTOS

Water released from Tunga dam Inflow increases to River Krishna and tributaries

SHIVAMOGGA/BELAGAVI: Following the copious rains in Sringeri region of Chik-kamagaluru district over the last two days, water level in Tunga dam at Gajanur near Shivamogga was close the maximum level of 588.24 feet

on Monday. As a precautionary measure, around 5,000 cusecs of water was released from four crest gates of the dam into the river Tunga on Monday evening.

Meanwhile, Shivamogga, Bhadravathi, Hosanagar,

Thirthahalli, Sagar, Shikaripur received moderate rains. Belagavi received showers in the early hours of Monday. Overcast conditions prevailed for the whole day in most parts of the district.

Rains in catchments of River Krishna and its tributaries Doodh, Tungbhadra and Panch-

ganga in the Western Ghats (Maharashtra) has pushed up water levels in the rivers. Three low-lying bridges, two in Chik-kodi taluk and one in Nippani taluk submerged in the river waters. However connectivity had not been affected due to availability of alternative routes.

DH News Service

Officials blame climate change as Mumbai goes under again

540 mm of rain in 48 hours leaves city inundated; More showers forecast

**STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI**

With 540 mm of rainfall over two days, Mumbai woke up on Monday morning to water-logging across the city, inconveniencing officers, school and college students. Inundation was reported at Hindmata junction and King's Circle in Sion for almost six hours.

The city received 91.9 mm rainfall on Monday alone. The Meteorological Department has warned of "extremely heavy" rainfall in adjoining areas of Thane and Palghar on July 2, 4 and 5. A few places in Mumbai could get heavy to very heavy rainfall Monday and Tuesday, it added.

Private weather agency Skymet said Mumbai is at "serious risk of flooding"



Water-world: Vehicles stuck in the water-logged King's Circle in Sion in Mumbai on Monday morning. ■ PRASHANT NAKWE

between July 3 and 5. "Close to 200 mm or more rain per day is likely during this period," it said.

Meanwhile the civic administration sought to disown responsibility for the lack of preparedness. Municipal Commissioner Praveen Pardeshi said the 540 mm of rain was the highest over a

two-day period in a decade, and blamed "climate change and changed geographical conditions" for water-logging at several places.

In a few areas like Chembur, houses were flooded.

Long distance passenger trains arriving and departing from the city were affected due to two separate inci-

dents early on Monday in Palghar and the ghat section between Karjat and Lonavala. Several intercity trains from Mumbai to Pune and Surat were also cancelled.

Commuters stranded

Though there was a respite from the heavy showers in the afternoon, many suburban trains were running late.

Western Railway tweeted that Railway Minister Piyush Goyal was keeping a close watch on the situation specially on arrangements for safety of commuters.

A huge crowd was seen at the Thane station as rains delayed train services on the Central Railway line.

Crowds increased at stations leading to a near stampede situation at some places.

दिनांक 3-7-19 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

✓ Hindustan Times (Delhi)
नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)
The Tribune (Chandigarh)
The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)
The Times of India (Mumbai)
The Telegraph (Kolkata)
हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)

Rain fury takes heavy toll on Mumbai again

31 DEAD Wall collapse, drowning, electrocution as financial capital faces annual nightmare

HT Correspondents

letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: Thirty one people died and 79 others were injured in Mumbai on Tuesday as the heaviest single-day rainfall in 14 years pounded India's financial capital, inundating its rail and road network, crippling air traffic, and battering its notoriously poor infrastructure in an amplified version of the city's annual struggle with rain.

Between Monday and Tuesday mornings, the coastal city recorded 375.2 mm of rain, the second-highest 24-hour rainfall in July since 1975 that forced the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to admit that it had got the forecast wrong. The highest rainfall, 944mm, fell on July 26, 2005, when more than 1,000 people died in a deluge that is ominously referred to as "26/7".

The torrential showers brought the wall of a government-owned reservoir crashing on slums built on a hill slope in the suburb of Malad late on Monday night, killing 22 people. Two people suffocated to death inside their car that got stranded in a flooded subway, also in Malad. A security guard died in Mulund after the wall of a neighbouring building collapsed on him in the middle of the night. Another wall collapse in Kalyan killed three. Three people were electrocuted to death because of short-circuits on Tuesday morning.

With weathermen saying the



■ People wade through water on the Santacruz-Chembur road in Mumbai on Tuesday. >>P9 KUNAL PATIL/HT

375mm rain, the second-highest July rainfall within a 24-hour period since 1975, battered Mumbai. Waterlogging affected local and long-distance trains and road traffic, stranding thousands of people

22 people were killed when a wall demarcating an urban forest collapsed. Four others died in wall collapses in other Mumbai areas. Two men died after they were trapped in a submerged car. Three people died of electrocution

201 domestic and international flights were cancelled. A SpiceJet flight skidded off the main runway at the Mumbai airport late on Monday. Flight operations were partially restored on Tuesday

downpour will not let up in the next two days, local authorities called in the Navy, who deployed rubber boats to rescue about 1,600 people in low-lying areas of

the city. Municipal authorities also evacuated 100 families in Chandivali after a 300-metre-long stretch of a road caved in. The government declared a pub-

lic holiday in the city and ordered schools shut, asking people to avoid stepping out of their houses. "We need to remain

CONTINUED ON P 6

Continued on Page 3.

2.7.19
दिनांक 3.7.19

को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

✓ Hindustan Times (Delhi)
नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)
The Tribune (Chandigarh)
The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)
✓ The Times of India (Mumbai)

The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
al (Bhopal)

Rain fury takes heavy toll on Mumbai again

alert for next two days," said chief minister Devendra Fadnavis.

The showers flooded railway tracks, forcing the city's lifelines of Central and Harbour railway networks to shut down for 16 hours, disrupting the daily commutes of millions. Visuals showed cars and buses submerged as people waded through waist- or chest-deep water. Chaos reigned at the airport, where 133 flights were cancelled and another 350 delayed or diverted after a passenger jet skidded off its main runway and got stuck in the mud on Monday night. Airport authorities announced that it may take 48 hours to haul the jet out of the mud, and restore normal operations.

"On Monday, we had issued rainfall warning of heavy to very heavy rain in some areas, but it was not anticipated that extremely heavy rain would occur," said KS Hosalkar, deputy director general, western region, IMD. "This happened due to a cloud patch over the Mumbai suburbs with maximum rain intensity over Santacruz that led to continuous extremely heavy showers for six hours straight."

Across the city, water logging was reported at 53 spots, accord-

ing to the civic officials. "The disaster management helpline set up at the municipal corporation headquarters received 3593 complaints within 12 hours between 10 pm on Monday, and 10 am on Tuesday, regarding water logging, tree collapse incidents, and short circuits," said additional municipal commissioner Ashwini Joshi.

Flooding has become an annual fixture in Mumbai during the monsoon as reckless construction and garbage-clogged drains and waterways make the city increasingly vulnerable to heavy downpour. A report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), tabled in the assembly on Tuesday, also pointed out major deficiencies in the existing flood-risk management system. The report pointed out that the state has not updated its disaster management plan since 2016, the capacity of city drains was adequate only for rainfall of 25mm per hour, and that numerous obstructions along with poor structural conditions were preventing drains from functioning properly.

But the municipal authorities said work was being done on a war footing, and that little could be done in case of extremely heavy rainfall. They claimed that water levels had started receding within an hour of work beginning on Tuesday with the help of 1,400 dewatering pumps stationed across the city. The total water discharged from pumps into the sea stood at 13,694 million litres, nearly equal to the storage capacity of the Tulsi and Vihar lakes that provide drinking water to the city. Joshi also claimed that six of the eight pumping stations, planned under an action plan put in place after the 2005 flooding, were operational on Tuesday.

Fadnavis announced a high-level probe into the Malad wall collapse and said that strict action will be taken against officials responsible for not only the collapse but also for other such accidents and the delayed cleaning of stormwater drains. But the Opposition slammed the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) - the country's richest municipal body - for alleged irregularities in the drain-cleaning work and delay in construction of pumping stations. The Nationalist Congress Party's (NCP) legislative party leader, Ajit Pawar, demanded a high-level probe into the BMC's alleged misgovernance. "If the need arises, please appoint an administrator for civic body by

dissolving it," he said.

But the Shiv Sena, which controls BMC, defended the city authorities with party leader Sanjay Raut saying the wall collapse was an accident and not a failure of the civic body. Aaditya Thackeray, chief of the party's youth wing, said any city would "crumble" under 400mm rainfall. The Sena also blamed the media in an editorial in party mouthpiece Saamana. "During heavy rain, the 24x7 media rush to the usual low-lying spots and cry hoarse. The media will never show how BMC workers work to remove the accumulated water during the monsoon," the editorial said.

Experts said the city's new development plan (DP) 2034 made it clear that authorities had learnt no lessons from previous disasters.

"Most coastal cities maintain flood plains. Mumbai's DP does not even demarcate flood plains. Instead of maintaining these as no go areas of mangroves, wetlands and salt pan lands, we have constructed on them and plan to open them further. The BMC's entire exercise of augmenting drains is an exercise in futility. Augmenting capacity of drains will work in cities with higher elevation and not for Mumbai, a city below sea level," said Stalin D, an environmentalist.



KNEE-DEEP: A flooded Palghar station on Monday

Rain causes blast at pharma firm

Rainwater entered Veera Pharma premises in Palghar on Monday, leading to a gas leak and a blast. No injury was reported. The company makes water purification tablets for animal use. Boisar MIDC police will file a case after the director of industrial safety and health (DISH) submits its report. TNN

ent has been instructed to issue an alert in case Surya dam is opened to let out water. All district level officers have been asked to maintain a vigil. Officials have been told to put up warning signposts at tourist spots.

Some 16 mobile pumps were pressed into service by Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation.

Times of India 2/7/19

5

दिनांक 3-7-19 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)
नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)
The Tribune (Chandigarh)
The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)
The Times of India (Mumbai)
The Telegraph (Kolkata)
हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)

14 yrs after 26/7, drainage system unfinished



■ Workers clean a drain in Andheri on Tuesday. SATYABRATA TRIPATHY/HT

Tanushree Venkatraman
tanushree.venkatraman@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: The civic authorities may have blamed unprecedented rainfall for disrupting normal life in Mumbai, but experts have blamed an unfinished drainage project for the chaos the city faces annually because of monsoon rains. The Brimstowad Project, which was started after the 2005 deluge killed 1,094 people, is aimed at overhauling Mumbai's 19th century drains. It is yet to be completed. The Mumbai civic authorities have stated several reasons for the delay, including encroachment and litigation.

Experts from the Mumbai Vikas Samiti, a group of retired engineers and experts say that the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) must finish the project on a war footing to prevent the city from coming to a standstill annually. Of the 58 works of widening drains and augmenting the drainage planned over two phases, 27 have been completed and rest remain

unfinished, according to the BMC flood guideline report 2019.

Civic officials have blamed encroachment along the drains as a major reason for the delay.

The BMC is also yet to procure land for two of the eight pumping stations planned under the project for draining water in Mahul and Mogra, according to civic officials. Officials say unless the Mahul station begins to work, preventing flooding in areas like Sion, Kurla and Matunga is impossible. Citizens had to wade through waist-deep water in these areas even on Monday.

A storm water drains department official said the land for Mogra pumping station is under litigation as there is a dispute between two owners. "The court asked us to pay the value of the land, ₹42 crore, which will be given to the owner after the dispute is resolved. As for Mahul, the land is in possession of the salt commissioner and we are in talks with higher authorities for procuring the land," said the official on condition of anonymity. The

officer added after procuring the land, BMC will have to undertake the process of survey, soil investigation which will take long time.

The capacity of the drains will increase from withstanding 25mm rainfall per hour to 50mm rainfall per hour only when the Brimstowad Project is complete, according to officials. On Monday, Mumbai's western and the eastern suburbs received an average rainfall of 329 mm and 309 mm. The cost of Brimstowad Project was estimated to be ₹1,200 crore in 2006, it has now crossed over ₹4,000 crore, according to BMC reports.

Mumbai Vikas Samiti member, AV Shenoy, said the project should have been undertaken on a war footing and completed in five years. "Today, it has been 14 years and there has been tremendous growth in the suburbs where natural waterways have reduced and percolation is less causing flooding on roads. Completion of the project is the only permanent solution to this problem."

4

दिनांक 3.7.19 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

✓ Hindustan Times (Delhi)
नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)
The Tribune (Chandigarh)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)
The Times of India (Mumbai)
The Telegraph (Kolkata)

The Deccan Herald (Bengaluru)
The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)
Central Chronicle (Bhopal)

HT-3.7.19
HEAVY RAIN Wall collapse kills 22, flooded subway leaves two dead inside car as India's financial capital fights to remain afloat

Mehul R Thakkar and
Swapnil Rawal

letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: For 12 hours, rescue personnel painstakingly cut through slabs of concrete to rescue a family of five buried under the rubble of a government compound wall that came crashing down on an overcrowded slum in the packed Mumbai suburb of Malad. As they worked with gas cutters and crushed piles of bricks, heavy rainfall pounded them at night.

Local people were alerted to the collapsed wall, which belonged to a Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) reservoir, after 15-year-old Sanchita Nanaware cried out for help in the middle of the night. "Please rescue me," she could be heard, even as personnel from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Mumbai Fire Brigade (MFB) attempted to help her father, Laxman (40), mother Rani (30) and siblings Parshuram (3) and Deepa (12). At one point, she even called for a drink of water. When she was finally pulled out of the rubble around 2.30pm on Tuesday, she was the only person in the family still alive and in a critical condition. On her way to the hospital, she succumbed to injuries. The Nanawares were among 22 people who died in the wall collapse in Malad.

"Access to the site was difficult for staging rescue equipments, crowd management as well as intermediate rainfall was major hurdles for carrying out rescue equipments. The operation for rescue was still done using portable generators, hydraulic cutters, petrol operated saw and rotary cutters. Search for people who may be trapped is still ongoing," said PS Rahangdale, chief fire officer, MFB.

According to residents, the wall was built around three years ago and blocked a culvert. With no outlet for the rainwater, it accumulated near the wall, putting pressure on it and leading to the collapse, they claimed. Chandrakala Jadhav, a resident from the slum who lost two members from her family in the incident, said, "I have been living in this area for more than 20 years. It floods every monsoon, but we somehow manage to survive. On Tuesday, the water crossed the

ना)
wall and started flowing in our houses. Subsequently, the wall collapsed, sweeping away people."

The BMC said the hutments were illegal. "We will inquire into the incident. It was a compound wall of a BMC-owned reservoir. The land around the area is forest land, and illegal hutments settled on it. The wall fell on these hutments in the middle of the night when everyone was asleep, and hence the number of casualties is high," said additional municipal commissioner Ashwini Joshi.

Similar tragedies played out in other parts of Mumbai on Tuesday as torrential rainfall battered India's largest city. Two friends—Gulshad Mumtaz Ali Shaikh, 40, a businessman, and Irfan Shaibanbaaz Khan, 38, a driver—suffocated in their car in the Malad subway after water levels rose suddenly, jamming the automatic doors of the vehicle.

Visuals showed people looking on helplessly, and the duo seen kicking the door and window, but finding no way to escape. Khan's aunt Sana Baig, who raised him after his parents died years ago, said, "Their car got stuck around 11.15pm. They were not able to come out as the doors got locked and jammed. Irfan called Abid, who called his wife, who then called me. I rushed to the spot and saw the subway submerged. The fire brigade and the police came much later and did nothing for four hours, even as my relatives and I kept screaming. When we shouted at them, they shouted back at us. They feared if they jump in, they will either drown or get electrocuted."

As the municipal authorities rescued people in low-lying areas, several said they were reminded of the deluge of July 26, 2005, when 944 mm of rainfall drowned Mumbai and killed at least 1000 people. Several residents of Malad and Ghatkopar were forced to live out of their houses the entire night after water level in their ground floor flats rose above four feet. Rameshchandra Badani, a resident of Ghatkopar (West), said they were facing water logging issues for more than 40 years. "We have been complaining about this problem for years now, but to no avail. During July 26, the water in our area was around 3-4 feet."

HT-3.7.19
Major deficiencies in BMC's flood management system, says CAG

Faisal Malik and Surendra Gangan

htmetro@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: As the city faced a flood-like situation, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), in its report, pointed out major deficiencies in the existing flood risk management system of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

The CAG found ambiguity in the state's plan to deal with disasters. It pointed out that the state has not updated its disaster management plan since 2016. "Due to flat gradients, drains are affected by tides. The system is heavily silted and major outfalls discharge much below mean sea level [between high and low tide mark]. Stormwater drains discharge directly by gravity through outfalls, as floodgates have been provided in only three of the 45 outfalls. As the outfalls discharge below mean sea level, tidal control is possible only at these three places," it said.

Capacity of drains is adequate only for rainfall of 25mm per hour, the report went on to add, stating that numerous obstructions in the larger drains along with poor structural conditions were preventing drains from functioning properly.

The report for the year ending in March 2018, was tabled in both the houses of the state legislature on Tuesday.

It further revealed that the BMC had failed to take action on the guidelines prepared by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), for landslides.

THE CAG POINTED OUT THAT THE STATE HAS NOT UPDATED ITS DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN SINCE 2016 AND MANY DRAINS WERE CLOGGED