

Heavy rains cause extensive waterlogging in Delhi, traffic movement affected



(Eds: With additional details)

New Delhi, Jul 27 (PTI) Heavy rains on Tuesday morning led to extensive waterlogging at several road stretches across Delhi, including near Pragati Maidan in the central part of the city and Dhaula Kuan in the southern part, affecting traffic movement.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said 100 mm of rainfall was recorded at the Safdarjung observatory, which provides representative data for the city, in the last 24 hours.

Waterlogging and traffic jams were seen at key road stretches, including Dhaula Kuan, Moti Bagh, ITO, Vikas Marg, Mathura Road, Pul Prahladpur, near Pragati Maidan, Mehrauli-Badarpur Road, Sarai Kale Khan and Rohtak Road.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) had to shut the entry of commuters to Saket Metro station in the afternoon due to waterlogging at the underground station.

“Service Update Trains are currently not stopping at Saket Metro station. Entry/exit gates have been closed due to waterlogging. Services otherwise normal on entire Yellow Line,” DMRC tweeted.

The incessant rain also caused road cave-in near Rajpath-Rafi Marg crossing in New Delhi Municipal Council area. The traffic police had to appeal commuters to avoid the stretch.

“Those going towards south Delhi via Rafi Marg should take Janpath Road or Dr Rajendra Prasad Marg because a portion of road has caved in near Rajpath-Rafi Marg crossing on Rail Bhawan-Sunahri Masjid stretch,” Delhi traffic police said in a tweet.

At many locations vehicles moved with over half of their tyres submerged in water. People took to social media and uploaded videos about waterlogging on roads and localities.

In a purported video on social media, water is seen entering a DTC low-floor bus in Palam area and passengers in the vehicle are seen climbing to seats.

Tuesday’s downpour not only inundated road stretches but residential as well as market areas too. Such places include Defence Colony, South Extension-II, Saket, Vasant Kunj, Som Vihar, Sangam Vihar, Kirari, Lajpat Nagar Central Market, Sadar Bazar, Dwarka sector-8, Maharani Bagh.

Ranjit Singh, president of Defence Colony Welfare Association, said that not only streets in the colony were inundated but water entered many houses as well.

“Houses are getting flooded due blocked drains. Every year we request for desilting of rain water drains. Promises are made by our councillor but evidently no effective action is taken. Roads and houses get flooded. This is a very callous attitude on part of SDMC (South Delhi Municipal Corporation) and the councillor,” Singh, an Indian Army veteran, said.

According to data by three municipal corporations, at least 50 complaints of waterlogging were received on Tuesday. As many as nine cases of tree felling and collapse of portions of two buildings were reported in South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) jurisdiction.

Due to the waterlogging, traffic crawled at many important road stretches and commuters were stuck for a long time in the jams.

“Even the slightest of rains flood our roads resulting in huge traffic jams. I was stuck in jam for over half-an-hour at Vikas Marg due to heavy waterlogging. Such snarls cost people high on their time and money,” a commuter, Kartik Kumar, said.

Public Works Department (PWD) officials said waterlogging complaints were being dealt with on priority.

“Morning rain was of high intensity so a few areas of the city witnessed waterlogging. Our field staff is on the ground and we are closely observing the situation,” a PWD official said.

The Delhi Traffic Police took to Twitter to inform commuters about waterlogging and the areas where traffic movement had been affected.

“Traffic is affected near Qutab Minar Metro Station towards 100 Foota carriageway due to waterlogging.

“Traffic coming from Badarpur towards Mehrauli has been diverted towards Mathura Road due to waterlogging near Pul Prahladpur,” the traffic police said.

In further tweets, they said traffic is affected near Okhla Mandi, from Tamil Sangam Marg towards R K Puram and from Hyatt Regency to R K Puram Sector-12 near CNG pump.

A senior police officer said traffic has also been affected in Dhaula Kuan.

After the rains, the weather turned pleasant in Delhi.

The minimum temperature recorded at the Safdarjung observatory was 25 degrees Celsius, two notches below normal, the IMD said.

The relative humidity recorded at 8.30 am in the city was 100 per cent, it said.

Urban planning experts said that the sad state of affair was mainly because of improper drainage system in the city.

Harish Sharma, Executive Director of Rudrabhishek Enterprises Ltd. (REPL), said, “Waterlogging in Delhi faulty designs of roads, flyovers and underpasses without studying the slope, level and flow of water and improper integration of drainage system add on to waterlogging woes in any city.”

“Water-sensitive urban design and planning; green infrastructure; revisiting or preparing drainage master plans with strict action on encroachment over drain and solid waste management are some approaches to mitigate the waterlogging problems,” he suggested. PTI AKM NIT AMP SMN SMN