

City drains to be remodelled to prevent urban flooding

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New Delhi: To address recurring waterlogging and urban flooding during the monsoon, Delhi govt has allocated Rs 150 crore under the new 'Remodelling of Drains for Flood Control' scheme. This initiative, managed by the Irrigation and Flood Control department, is part of an overall Rs 603 crore allocation for the department, covering other related schemes as well.

Chief minister Rekha Gupta acknowledged that waterlogged roads and submerged vehicles have become a symbol of the city during the monsoon. "Waterlogging and poor drainage systems are serious issues. Every year, Delhi faces significant disruptions during the rainy season. This project will enhance the water-carrying capacity of drains to prevent waterlogging," she said.

Gupta added that the plan also includes cleaning and desilting open water bodies for better flood control and procuring modern machinery to manage waterlogging more effectively. Waterlogging often causes traffic slowdowns and affects movement across various parts of the city. While desilting is handled by multiple civic bodies, the Public Works Department (PWD) maintains 2,064 km of drains on main roads, while the Municipal Corporation of Delhi oversees 520 km.

Since 2021, the Delhi government has been working on the 'Drainage Masterplan', dividing the city into three basins and hiring consultants to redesign the drainage network to accommodate both current and future needs. These consultants will analyse factors like slopes, depressions, and the existing infrastructure to improve drainage efficiency.

In 2023, unprecedented rainfall caused flooding, with the River Yamuna reaching a record-high flood level of 208.66 metres, surpassing the previous record from 1978. This caused widespread flooding, further highlighting the urgency of improving the city's flood management systems.